



Explore the Unexplored Gaddi Tribe of Jammu and Kashmir: Educational Issues and Challenges

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Abstract

Education is the only weapon through which we change the socio-economic scenario of people belonging to different tribes. The education of tribal becomes a challenging issue due to topographical factors. Tribal development as a subject has remained a significant area of discussion at present scenario at state, national and international level in the context to raise their educational status. The constitution of Jammu and Kashmir notified twelve tribes as the Scheduled Tribe in the state. Balti, Beda, Bot, Brokpa, Changpa, Garra, Mon and Purigpa these eight tribes live in Ladakh region and were accorded their status in year 1989. Bakarwals, Gujjars, Gaddis and Sippis however were notified as the scheduled tribes vide the constitution (scheduled tribes) order (amendment) act, 1991. Gaddi tribe is one of backward tribe on the basis of education. They are very poor socio-economic status and live in hilly area. Gaddi tribe is semi-nomadic tribe and faced lot of problems like educational infrastructure, electricity, road connectivity, grazing land and slow internet speed. This paper is based on my personal experiences, review of journals, dissertation, research article, newspaper analysis belonging to Gaddi tribe people. The main objective of this paper is to highlight the problems faced by the Gaddi tribe people in Jammu and Kashmir followed by suitable suggestion.

Keywords: Gaddi tribe, Educational challenges and suggestions.

Introduction

India is the second largest country after South Africa, having a very big population of scheduled tribes. There are 533 Scheduled tribes as per notified scheduled under article 342 of the constitution of India in different states and union Territories of our country. In Jammu and Kashmir there are different types of tribal communities which live in different district but one common problem in all tribals is their educational and social status is very low. The cultures and traditions that these tribals carry make this state different from the rest of the states of our country. The constitution of Jammu and Kashmir notified twelve tribes as the scheduled tribe in the state. Balti, Beda, Bot, Brokpa, Changpa, Garra, Mon and Purigpa these eight tribes live in Ladakh region and were accorded their status in year 1989. Bakarwals, Gujjars, Gaddis and Sippis however were notified as the scheduled tribes vide the constitution (scheduled tribes) order (amendment) act, 1991. All the twelve scheduled tribes were enumerated officially for the first time during census 2001 recording the population of 1,105,979. The Scheduled tribes accounts for 10.9 percent of the total population of the state and 1.3 percent of the tribal population of the country. Most of these tribes in our state live in Ladakh region of the state. However, Gujjar and Bakkarwal tribes are mostly concentrated in the district of Poonch, Rajouri and Kathua of the Jammu Province and in the districts of Anantnag, Baramulla, Pulwama, Kulgam and Kupwara of Kashmir valley.

Gaddi tribe of Jammu and Kashmir

Gaddi tribe is one of backward tribe on the basis of education. They are very poor socio-economic status and live in hilly area. Gaddi tribe is semi-nomadic, semi-agricultural and semi-pastoral tribe. They move with their livestock from one place to another with seasonal changes-moving to hilltops in summers and plains in winters. The term “Gaddi” is derived from “Mount Kailash” which symbolizes a seat or throne (Gaddi) of Lord Shiva. The people who found refuge and settled in Bharmour (in district Chamba), the territory of Lord Shiva, were named as “Gaddi tribe”.

According to census 2011, the total population of Gaddi tribe in J&K is 46,489. The educational status of Gaddi tribe is very low in Jammu and Kashmir. According to the Census 2011, the literacy rate of Gaddi tribe was 28.6%. The male and female literacy rate was 37.6% and 19.6% respectively.

Educational issues and challenges of Gaddi tribe in Jammu and Kashmir

The following points indicated the educational problems of Gaddi tribe are as under.

- **Lack of higher educational institutions:** In tribal area it is one of biggest problem which is faced from long period of time. For taking higher education Gaddi tribe people faced lot of problems and higher education become only a dream for Gaddi tribe people.
- **Migratory way of life:** Gaddi tribe people moving from one place to another for grazing their sheep, goats and buffalos because it is the source of their economic income. On the other hand it badly effects the education of their children.
- **Poor economic status:** the economic status of Gaddi tribe people is very low. They are not in a position to send their children for higher education. They hardly provide two time food to their children.
- **Early marriages:** Most of the gaddi tribe parents are illiterate. They are lack of awareness about education of their children and got the marriage of their children as soon as possible.
- **Geographical factors:** it is also significant problem which hinder the education of Gaddi tribe people. Gaddi tribe people mostly lived in hilly areas, which remain covered with snow almost for 4 or 5 month in a year.
- **Medium of Language:** in school teachers mostly used Hindi or English for teaching. It becomes a language barrier for Gaddi tribe students. They demand Gaddi language should be used as a medium of instruction and also registered in Indian constitution.
- **Lack of Proper Monitoring:** The schools established in rural tribal areas are not properly supervised by higher authorities.
- **Lack of availability of teacher:** In most of hilly areas school there is lack of teachers. Teachers belonging to urban areas does not like to served in hilly areas due to travelling issue.
- **Lack of hostel facility for Gaddi girls:** There is only single boys Gaddi hostel in Udhampur district in our state. There is not even a single gaddi girl's hostel in Jammu and Kashmir.
- **Lack of awareness about scholarship schemes:** Gaddi tribe people have not fully aware about the scholarship schemes for tribal's people.
- **Lack of proper implementation of centrally sponsored schemes:** Centrally sponsored scheme are not properly implemented in our state.
- **No Gaddi is the member of tribal Board:** In Jammu and Kashmir there is only Scheduled tribe advisory board but all the members are Gujjars and Bakkarwals. No Gaddi is the member of tribal Board in J&K.

- **Lack of internet connectivity:** The speed of internet is very slow in rural areas. The Gaddi tribe people are unable to take online education.
- No use of ICT in tribal area: Due to slow internet facility E-learning is impossible. Modern education is still remained a dreams for Gaddi tribe children in far flung areas.
- Lack of electricity facility in schools and homes.

Suggestion for the educational improvement of Gaddi tribe People in Jammu and Kashmir

- **Establishment of Higher institutions:** Higher educational institution should be opened in the Gaddi tribe areas.
- **Organization of awareness camps:** Awareness camps should be organized regarding the importance of education of their children, scholarship schemes and demerits of early marriage.
- **Inclusion of Gaddi language:** Gaddi language should be incorporate in the curriculum and also used as a medium of instruction during teaching. Gaddi people also demands that Gaddi language should registered in the constitution of India.
- **Proper supervision:** time to time proper supervision of tribal schools should be done. So that Gaddi students are able to take quality education.
- **Establishment of Gaddi Girls hostel:** especially gaddi girls hostel should be established in tribal areas. So that girls are able to take education without any interruption.
- **Proper implementation of centrally sponsored scheme:** centrally sponsored schemes should be properly implemented among the Gaddi tribe people.
- **Inclusion of Gaddi member in Scheduled Tribe Advisory Board:** in Scheduled Tribe Advisory Board there is not even a single member of Gaddi tribe community. So Gaddi tribe member should also be included in the Tribal Board.
- **Internet speed should be increased:** internet speed should be increased in tribal areas so that tribal children are also able to take online education.
- Proper use of ICT in teaching learning process.
- **Establishment of Gaddi tribal Boards.**
- **Special recruitments of Gaddi female teachers:** It is also the demand of Gaddi tribe people so that the enrollment of girls should be increased at primary level of education.

Conclusion

To conclude we can say that Gaddi tribe people are very talented. But they are educationally very backward due to the negligence of govt. They have not got proper educational facilities like higher educational institutions, hostel facility, proper guidance, and availability of teachers, lack of electricity and lack of E-learning. But In spite of that Gaddi tribe people are very peaceful, patriotic, hardworking, dedicated and honest. Through this paper I try to give clear message to the policy maker, administrators and stakeholders please education of Gaddi tribe people should be taken into consideration seriously, So that quality modern education should be provided to Gaddi tribe people of far flung areas

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