

INCLUSION THROUGH DIGITAL USAGE - AN ANALYSIS OF KATTUNAYAKKAN TRIBE IN THE NILGIRIES, TAMILNADU

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ABSTRACT

India is one of the largest tribal populated countries in the world after Africa. Tribes are categories into two major groups such as Primitive (Vulnerable) Tribal Groups (PTGs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). There are around 705 Tribal groups are living in India. Tribal population is mostly concentrated in the central belt of India and parts of the North-East. According to 2011 census of India the tribal population is constituted 8.6% in the total population of the country. They are differed among themselves in respect of language and linguistic traits and ecological settings. They are spread over the length and breadth of the country in the state like Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal. Tribal society is characteristically distinct because of their culture, lifestyle, occupation and alienated from the mainstream. The tribes in India have been deprived of opportunities because of many factors. Among these education, economic and health status are significant factors for their development. All these are interconnected in the developmental aspect. Education is widely accepted essential tool for the attainment of the developmental goals and political consciousness, awareness of rights and duties among the people. The economy of the tribes is generally based on forests and sea. Tribal economy is act as small size and operation. But due to the shifting occupations from tradition to modern and global changes, they are unable to compete with the current situation and it leads to the tribal communities as 41% are living in below poverty line. The tribal community lags behind the national average on several health indicators, with women and children being the most vulnerable. Therefore in this condition application of ICTs particularly the usage of cell phone by tribal youth is integrated all the above developmental indicators and empower their life condition. In this platform, this research study focuses on accessibility of ICTs by the Kattunayakkan tribes which is one of the important tribal communities in Tamil nadu having a modest empowerment and how it has led to social inclusiveness of the community. This empirical research work was conducted in the Panthalur taluk of the Nilgiris district of Tamilnadu.

KEYWORDS: Tribes, inclusion, empowerment, Digital, ICTs, Kattunayakkan