

## Tribes Education: Parity, Disparity and Trend

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**Abstract:** Sustainable and inclusive growth are the key aspects of welfare policies. Social inclusion is comparatively depends on level of education and results may possible if employment opportunities which again directly related to education. This paper presents macro view of education level, gross enrollment in different level of education and gender parity index of Indian scheduled tribes. Gender parity index indicates potential of human capital base of a community. The analysis is made on aggregate educational status of scheduled tribes with focus on gap and trend

**Key words:** Gross enrollment, GPI, socio-economic development, inclusive growth

### 1. Introduction:

In India, tribal communities are varied in their socio economic development. There are many policies are made and implemented for this community but only small portion or say number of tribal people have been benefited by the policies and programmes meant for specially this community. This shows an imbalanced progress and uneven process of change and development in their occupational structure and their standard of livings. Scheduled tribes are locally known as 'Adiwasi'. The term ST- scheduled Tribes is first appeared in the Constitute of India. The definition of scheduled tribes is given in article 366(25) as " Such tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under article 342 to be scheduled tribes for the purpose of this constitution." Article 342 prescribes procedure to be followed in the matter of specification of scheduled tribes. Success of socially inclusive growth of any region or nation is depends on development of marginalized section.

The term workforce is also called as labour force which indicates total supply of labour or worker in the economy at a particular period of time either they are employed or unemployed. The socioeconomic development of any community is depends on favourable change in structure of occupation or workforce engaged in more productive sector. This situation is related with level of education. There is close and direct relationship between education, workforce engagement and socioeconomic development. Well designed and successfully implemented education policy, skilled human capital and required adequate training facility develops workforce so that they obtain job on one side and creates favourable environment for sustainable economic progress ultimately.

### Gender Parity Index:

GPI that is Gender parity index is an indicator which indicates relative access to education of male and females. This index is released by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization i.e. UNESCO. It is measured by using quotient of the number of females by the number of males enrolled in given stage of education. The stages of education are primary education, secondary education, higher

secondary education and higher education. GPI value equal to one indicates that there is equality between male and female. If the numeric value of GPI is less than one then it indicates that females are away from educational opportunities and if the GPI is more than one then it indicates that it is in favors in female than the male.

## 2. Objectives:

1. To know education status of ST in India
2. To understand educational index of ST in India.

## 3. Research Methodology:

The approach of the paper is descriptive and exploratory. The information and data is collected from secondary sources.

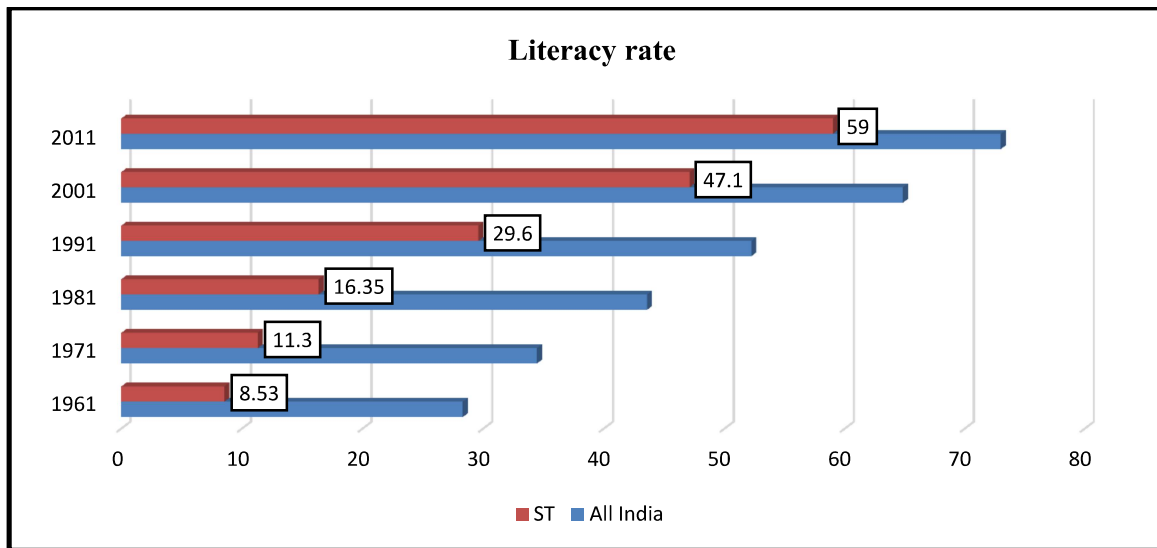
## 4. Scheduled Tribes in India

The Tribal communities have social and cultural importance in India. There are near about 550 communities comes under tribes. A tribe is a social division in a traditional society consisting of families linked by social, economical and religious ties, with a common culture. These communities possesses certain qualities and characteristics that make it a unique cultural with social and political entity.

In 1951, the number of scheduled tribes in India was 5.6 percent of total population. As per 2001 Census, it was 8.2% of the total population of India. Census data 2011 shows that the number of scheduled tribes in India is 10,42,81,034. It is 8.6 percent of the total population of India. Since last sixty years, overall literacy rate of India has increased. In case of scheduled tribes the literacy rate was just 8.53 percent in 1961 and in the year 2011 it seems 59 percent of total ST population but it is less than general literacy rate.

Table No. 1 Literacy rate in Scheduled Tribes								
Year		1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011	2021
<b>Total</b>	All India	28.3	34.45	43.57	52.21	64.84	73	NA
	<b>ST</b>	8.53	11.3	16.35	29.6	47.1	59	
<b>Male</b>	All India	40.4	45.96	56.38	64.13	75.26	80.9	
	<b>ST</b>	13.83	17.63	24.52	40.65	59.17	68.5	
<b>Female</b>	All India	15.35	21.97	29.76	39.29	53.67	64.6	
	<b>ST</b>	3.16	4.85	8.04	18.19	34.76	49.4	
<i>Source : Office of the Registrar General, India</i>								

The male literacy rate of scheduled tribes is also increased from 13.83 percent in 1961 to 68.5 percent in 2011 and it is also comparatively low. In side of tribal women literacy the condition was poor in 1961 and rate was just only 3.16 percent and it takes favourable change and the ratio is 49.4 percent.



### Gender Parity Index (GPI):

The Gender Parity Score indicates women's enrolment or success to acquire education at different level of education. The key advantage of the Gender Parity Index is that it enables comparisons to be made over time and among region or communities on the basis of gender.

**Table 2 : Gender Parity Index (GPI) for Scheduled Tribe**

Year	Secondary ( IX-X)	Senior Secondary (XI-XII)	Higher Education
2013-14	1.00	0.93	0.81
2014-15	1.01	0.95	0.81
2015-16	1.02	0.97	0.83
2016-17	NA	NA	0.85

*NA: Not available*  
*Data Source: For School Education: U-DISE), NUEPA For Higher Education: AISHE Reports, MHRD*

On the basis of information collected by Unified- District Information System for Education (U-DISE), NUEPA for school level education and the data available with All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE), MHRD related to higher education gender parity index is calculated. The table no. 2 shows that since 2013-14 Gender Parity Index of Scheduled tribes in India at school level is more than 01 it indicates that the enrolment of female is more than male at this level. In case of senior secondary level of education the score is always more than 0.90 and it is also somehow favour in female. Index related to higher education indicates that there is need to made efforts for providing opportunities to tribal women's for higher education. The data series indicates inconsistency of women education in tribes. In the year 2013-14 STs GPI at secondary level of education is 1.00 and in the next phase of same enrolled candidates GPI is 0.95 and 0.97 for the year 2015-16 and 2016-17 respectively. This gap indicates female dropout at the

level and the dropout rate is increased at higher level of education because it is comes to score 0.85 on the year 2016-17.

Basically tribes are located in hilly area and most of the communities are changing their locations as per their occupation it impacts on the education status of this community in general and on female's education in particular. The factors which reduce school enrolment and drop out in ST community and the GPI less than 1 are illiterate parents, lack of awareness, Poor physical facilities, expensive schooling, lack of teaching staff and punitive practices etc.

To increase enrolment of tribes on all levels of education as well as to sustain GPI up to higher level there is need to provide physical and academic facilities to tribe located educational institutes on one side and on another side efforts to be made on government level as well as with the help of NGOs for to create awareness and provide scholarship like financial facilities. Now it is phase that higher education should provide placements related facilities and active in placement drive so that these newly higher educated employed tribes will be an ideals for their community and they can understand the importance of education with gender neutrality.

### **5. Conclusion:**

Economic Status and education level are closely related. The central and state policies are in support of providing equal and more possibilities for educational improvements in tribes but still there is need of more efforts. GPI of scheduled tribes indicates that there is need of more effective plan for creating equality in education so that it helps to create favorable environment for socioeconomic upliftment of tribes in India

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