

Developmental Issues and Challenges of Tribals in Contemporary India: Evidence from Jammu and Kashmir

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Abstract

The Indian sub-continent is a large, diverse nation. A considerable fraction of the Indian population is categorized as tribal. While the indigeneous people have a distinct lifestyle and prefer to live close to their roots, they have always sought development. The independent nation of the Republic of India has always aimed to work in the direction of tribal development. However, there have been barriers in the implementation of policies and programmes in the under-development of the tribal population. The present study is motivated by the looming question of: why after perpetual efforts and interventions, tribal development continues to be bleak in India? The answer to the question differs based on the region, location and the sub-tribal groups. The present study is a novel attempt to discuss the nature, characteristics, problems, issues and prospective solutions concerning the major tribal group of Jammu and Kashmir, i.e. Gujjars. Based on the primary data collected during the summer of 2024, the study brings forth some novel insights for policy interventions.

Keywords: Education, Health, Polity, Tribal development

Introduction

One of the fundamental and unique characteristics of the diversity that the Indian sub-continent is famous for, a significant one comes from its population. Within the Indian population, a considerable fraction is classified as the tribal population. Under the umbrella of ‘tribalism’ there is a wide diversity of groups

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