

- c) **The Mongoloid:** The Mongoloid type is to be found in the belt along the Himalayan region including North-East Frontier, Nepal and Burma. Their chief features are broad head, dark complexion with yellowish tinge, and scanty hair on face. They have short or below average stature.
- d) **The Aryo-Dravidian:** This type of tribe is considered to be the inter-mixture in varying proportions of the Aryans and the Dravidians. They are found in U.P., parts of Rajasthan and Bihar. Their complexion varies from light brown to black, noses range from medium to broad and their stature is shorter than that of the Indo-Aryans.
- e) **The Mongolo-Dravidians:** This type is a blend of the Dravidians and Mongoloid elements. They are found in Bengal and Orissa. They are characterised by broad and round heads, dark complexion, plentiful hair on face and medium height.
- f) **The Scytho-Dravidian:** This type is a mixture of the Scythians and the Dravidians. They are found in the western region of India extending from Gujarat to Coorg. They also include people from Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. This type has low-to-medium stature, fair complexion, broad head, and moderate fine nose.
- g) **The Turko-Iranian :** This type is present in Afghanistan, Baluchistan and North-Western Frontier Provinces (N.W.F.P., now in Pakistan). They are regarded to be formed probably by the fusion of Turkish and Persian elements.

### Economic Classification of the Indian Tribes

The Indian tribals have also been classified on the basis of economy. The nature, man and spirit all function to give a particular way to the tribals. They are interdependent and interact within this framework. Therefore, we can classify the tribals of India into five types on the basis of their economy.

- a) **Forest-Hunting:** The tribals of this type engage in hunting, food gathering and fishing. There is an absence of technological aids. They also live in deep forest.
- b) **Hill Cultivation:** The tribals who live in hilly areas practice shifting cultivation. Shifting cultivation or *Jhum* cultivation is an age old institution among the Indian tribals.
- c) **Plain Agriculture:** These tribals live in undulating plateaus and are predominantly dependent on plough cultivation.

#### Do You Know ?

Shifting Cultivation is known by different names in different parts of the world.

|                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| <b>Jhuming-</b> | North-East India |
| <b>Milpa-</b>   | Mexico           |
| <b>Roca-</b>    | Brazil           |
| <b>Ladang-</b>  | Malaysia         |

- d) **Simple Artisan and Folk Artist:** The tribals who engage in handicrafts and their folk arts to eke out their subsistence come under this category. These tribals depend very much on the local market and village people.
- e) **Industrial and Urban Workers:** The tribals who have accepted industrial life come under this category. Primarily the tribe may be an agriculturalist or a forest hunting type or so on.



### Classification of Indian Tribes Based on Levels of Integration

The tribals are an integral part of Indian population. Though they have maintained their ethnic identities, they have adjusted well to the non-tribal people after coming into contact with them. They have adapted to the situation.

According to L.P. Vidyarthi and B.K. Rai, the Tribal Welfare Committee constituted by the Indian Conference of Social Work in 1952 divided tribes into four main divisions:

- a) **Tribal Communities:** Tribals who confine themselves to original habitats and are still distinctive in their pattern of life.
- b) **Semi-Tribal Communities:** Tribals who have more or less settled down in rural areas, taken up agriculture and other allied occupations.
- c) **Acculturated Tribal Communities:** Tribal communities those have migrated to urban and semi-urban areas are engaged in “modern” occupations such as working in industries and have adopted some of the traits and culture of the host population.
- d) **Totally Assimilated Tribals:** These are tribals who have adopted Hindu religion in terms of their orientation toward the Hindu social order. B. K. Roy Burman has classified such tribals into the following categories:
  - Tribes which have been incorporated in the Hindu social order.
  - Tribes which are positively oriented toward the Hindu social order.
  - Tribes which are negatively oriented toward the Hindu social order.
  - Tribes which are indifferent toward the Hindu social order.

There are seven major tribes such as *the Gonds, the Bhils, the Santhals, the Minas, the Oraons, the Mundas and the Khonds* which account for a population of a lakh or more. A brief description on *The Gonds, The Bhils* and *The Santhals* is given below.

## Major Tribes

### The Gonds

- One of the largest tribes in the country.
- Believed to belong to the Dravidian group.
- Found in Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, etc.
- Speak Gondi dialect and Chhattisgarhi also.
- Depend on agro-forest economy. A few groups still practice shifting cultivation.

### The Bhils

- Another large tribal group, also known as Bhilala.
- Found in Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Tripura.
- Speak Bhili dialect.
- Main source of livelihood is agriculture.
- Holi is one of their very important festivals.



The Gonds



The Bhils

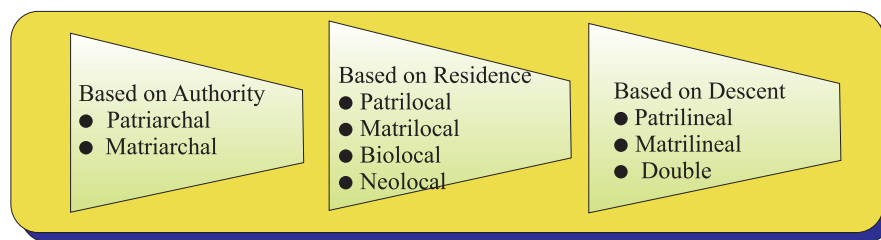
### The Santhals

- The Santhal is the largest tribe of India.
- Found in Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Orissa.
- Speak Santhali language. Also speak Oriya language of Orissa, Bangla of Bengal and Hindi of Bihar.
- Sohrai, the harvest festival is their most important festival.
- They worship Sun God.
- The bride price practice is generally prevalent among them.



### Family System of Tribal Society

Family is the basic unit in all human societies. There is more than one form of family system existing in tribal societies, which are discussed in Box 3:



### Family System of Tribal Society

**Based on Authority:** In tribal society both patriarchal and matriarchal families exist, for instance, among the Kharia and the Garo tribes respectively. In the Kharia tribe the father is the central figure in the family. All the authorities are vested in him and descent is traced through him. This family is based on monogamous marriage. Similarly, the Garos have a matriarchal family system. Mother is the head of the family. All the authorities are vested in her. Descent is traced through her. The proposal for marriage always comes from the women's side. After marriage, the son-in-law comes to live in his wife's parent's house.

#### Based on Residence:

- If the son stays and the daughter leaves her family of birth, and the married couple live with or near the husband's parents, it is called patrilocal residence. This system is found among *the Santhals, the Mundas, the Hos, the Bhils, etc.*



- If the daughter stays and the son leaves, so that the married couple live with or near the wife parents, it is called matrilocal residence, for example, among *the Khasi, the Chenchus, etc.*
- When either the son or the daughter leaves, so that the married couple lives with or near either the wife's or the husband's parents, it is called bilocal residence. In Lakshadweep and central Kerala, a few tribes follow this family system.
- When both the son and the daughter leave and married couple lives apart from the relatives of either spouse we call it neolocal residence, for example, among *the Oraon, the Gadaba, etc.*

#### Based on Descent:

- When descent is traced through father's side it is called patrilineal descent. For example, *the Kharia, the Santhal, the Munda etc.*
- When descent is traced through mother's side it is called matrilineal descent. For example, *the Garo, the Khasi etc.*

Some societies have followed double descent system in which descent is traced through for some purposes from matrilineal kin and for other purposes from patrilineal kin.

## Marriage System of Tribal Society

### Ways of Acquiring Mate

The institution of marriage among the tribals is different from that in the Hindu society. Marriage among the tribals is not a religious sacrament but a social contract with the purpose of enjoyment of sex, procreation and companionship. The forms of marriage, the ceremonies, the taboos and the laws of dissolution of marriage for the tribals are different from those of the civilised society. Mentioned below are some of the tribal ways of acquiring a mate:

- **Marriage by Capture:** This is when a man forcibly marries a woman. This custom of marriage is found among *the Santhals, the Mundas, the Gonds, the Bhils, etc.*
- **Marriage by Purchase:** Bride-price paid either in cash or in kind, is the central theme in this type of marriage. This custom of marriage is found among *the Mundas, the Oraon, the Ho, etc.*
- **Marriage by Exchange:** Under this marriage system two households exchange women with each other and thus, avoid the payment of bride-price. Marriage by exchange is practiced by *the Uralis, the Maria the Gond etc.*

- **Marriage by Elopement:** In some cases if the parents do not give consent to the love of the would-be spouses for marriage, they flee away to some other place without any information to the parents. They are, however, accepted by the families after a period of time.
- **Marriage by Service:** This is when the man serves at his father-in-law's house before marriage to avoid the payment of bride-price.
- **Marriage by Intrusion:** When a woman forcibly marries a man. *The Birhor* and *the Ho* are among the tribes who practice it.
- **Marriage by Trial:** Under this type of marriage the man is required to prove himself courageous and brave. After that he is free to choose his life partner. It is practiced by *the Bhil* tribe during their Holi festival.
- **Marriage by Mutual Consent:** In this form of marriage mutual consent is taken for marriage.
- **Marriage by Probation:** It allows a man to stay at woman's place for a week together after which they decide whether or not to get married. Marriage by probation is practiced by *the Kukis* of Arunachal Pradesh and *the Nicobarese*.

### **Economic System of Tribal Society**

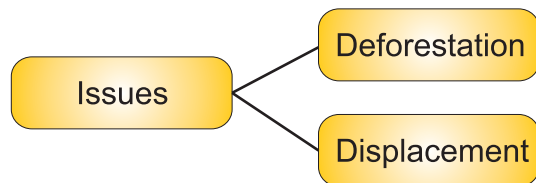
The tribes of India can be classified on the basis of their traditional economic organisation, material culture, and levels of technology. Their economy is small in scale, subsistence or marginal in nature, and makes use of simple technology which fits in well with their ecological surroundings. Tribes are economically independent, with a distinctive division of labour and specialisation, production and consumption patterns.

According to L.P. Vidyarti and B.K. Rai, D.N. Majumdar and T.N. Madan identified various characteristics of tribes:

- a. Use of simple technology
- b. Economy based on the principle of barter and exchange system
- c. Lack of profit motive
- d. Cooperation and collective endeavour
- e. Low degree of innovation
- f. Absence of regular market but existence of weekly markets
- g. Production of consumer goods rather than capital goods
- h. Division of labour based on sex and age
- i. Presence of both individual and communal ownership of property

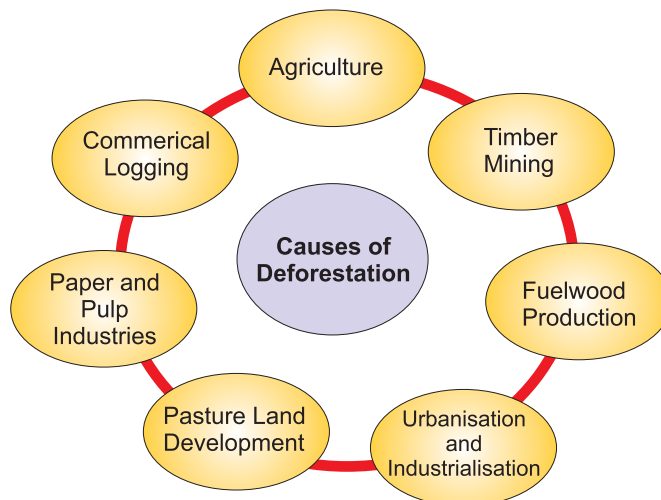
## Issues concerning Tribal Communities

We have discussed above the cultural, social, political, economic aspects and classifications of various tribes. Though they have a rich culture, but they also face certain specific problems, as well, deforestation and displacement being the most prominent of them. Deforestation results in displacement of forest people, particularly the aboriginal tribes and their traditional culture and knowledge which they have inherited from their ancestors and through their own experience while living in the forest. Let us discuss with each of these problems in detail.



## Deforestation

Deforestation is one of the major causes of the environmental degradation. It implies the cutting down of trees. Besides, expansion of cropped areas and pastures are also the major sources of deforestation. During earlier times, the tribals were able to survive because of the availability of forest and natural resources. They were totally dependent on forests for their livelihood. But due to industrialisation, urbanisation, agriculture, commercial logging, increase in population, fuel-wood collection, etc. the deforestation has increased and affected the tribal's livelihood directly and indirectly. The loss of forest covers also influences the climate and contributes to loss of the biodiversity.



## Causes of Deforestation

1. **Deforestation for Agriculture:** Conversion of forest land into farmland is one of the most important causes of deforestation. The forest is usually cleared by the landless peasants for their livelihood. Shifting cultivation is practiced in several parts of the tropical countries particularly by the aboriginal tribal people.
2. **Deforestation for Timber Mining:** Industrial timber mining is the major cause of destruction of the forest. Demand for hardwood to make house furniture and fixtures increased enormously since the industrial revolution. Therefore, the timber was obtained from tropical forests because the hardwood quality was excellent and the labour was cheap.



3. **Deforestation for Fuel-wood Production:** Although fuel-wood gathering rarely causes large scale destruction of forest, people cut down trees from the forest areas to use it as firewood. This is their main fuel supply, both for cooking food and for heat. For this purpose the indigenous tribal people cut down the trees, building stacks of them and make charcoal etc.
4. **Urbanisation and Industrialisation:** Since industrialisation and urbanisation need land, so major portion of forest lands are cleared in order to promote industrialisation and urbanisation. This produces harmful effects on the environment, as well as, on the forests' ecological balance. It also contributes to the tribals becoming homeless.
5. **Deforestation for Pasture Land Development:** Conversion of forest-land into fodder-land to meet the greed of the rich meat-based affluent societies of the world is yet another major cause of deforestation.
6. **Deforestation for Paper and Pulp Industries:** Wood is transformed into paper that serves as an essential tool for communication, commerce, education etc. Paper production and paper use has increased dramatically all over the world for the past several decades. Pulp used in paper making comes from plantations. Therefore, paper and pulp industries are to a great extent responsible for deforestation.



7. **Deforestation for Commercial Logging :** Logging means cutting down forest trees for wood. Commercial logging companies cut down mature trees selected for timber business. Wood is used for many things including construction, building furniture and as firewood.

### Activity 1.2

Observe the causes and effects of deforestation. Discuss its impacts on our environment in your class

Thus, we can say that deforestation has affected not only the ecological system but also social and economic systems of the tribals. At the global level, deforestation has resulted in the release of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Deforestation causes many problems for the tribals such as displacement of the indigenous communities, loss of biodiversity, flooding, food problem, health issues, climate change, etc.

## Displacement

Displacement is defined as the act of uprooting from one area to another. It is also one of the major problems for the tribals. Displacement of people from traditional habitats causes much trauma to the affected persons. The effect of industrialisation and urbanisation has been felt by the tribal population. As tribal areas are rich in natural resources, various measures were taken to exploit those areas for raw materials, power, and irrigation projects. Therefore, the tribals have been deprived of their land and paid meagre amounts as compensation, which they spent on drinking and certain ritual practices. Thus, they became moneyless and landless. For subsistence, they worked as labour in the factories. No doubt, industrialisation initially provided employment opportunities for tribal youth in unskilled jobs, but due to illiteracy and lack of awareness, they are not in a position to take up skilled or semi-skilled jobs.

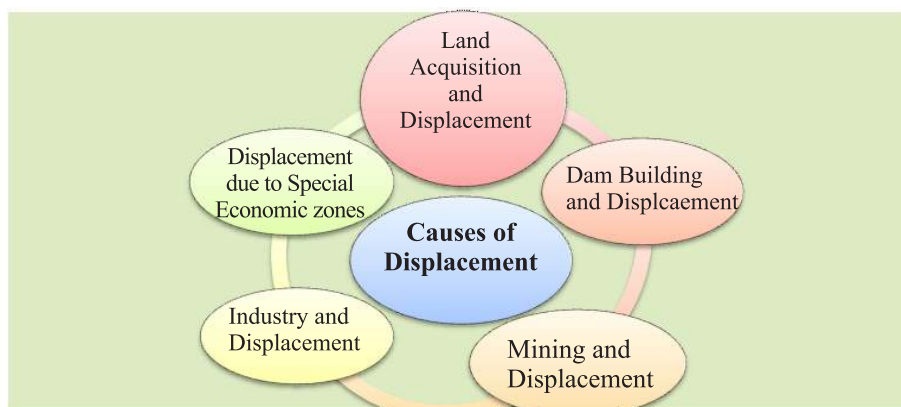
According to Nadeem Hasnain, the major power and irrigation projects, such as the Maithon, Konar, and Panchet in Bihar, the steel projects of Rourkela, Durgapur, and West Bengal are the many undertakings that have resulted in a substantial displacement of the tribals. Very few of them have taken the advantage of the various facilities offered by the authorities. The alternative land offered by the authorities for cultivation was not irrigable and did not offer adequate returns to maintain their families.

The cash compensation given is seldom utilised for productive purposes. It is almost invariably spent on daily living expenses until alternative employment is found.

Besides, no alternative space is provided to the tribal people by the newly constructed factories or townships. The owners of the townships are more interested in setting up their own factories and getting profits at the cost of the tribal people. Having no other alternative, the tribals are forced to set up small dwellings near the outskirts of the townships, which have developed into slums lacking even the basic civic amenities.

### Causes of Displacement

1. **Land Acquisition and Displacement:** Tribal community from whom land is alienated are thus deprived of their livelihood because most of them live in a natural resource based informal economy and depend on agriculture.



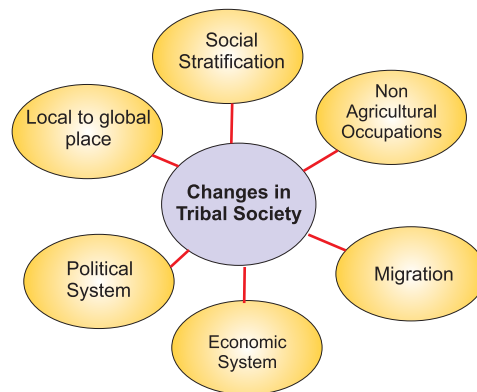
Compulsory acquisition of land for construction of dams and roads and mining operations, industry and reservation of forests for national parks forces people to leave their traditional land. Tribals are the worst sufferers since most development projects such as dams and industries are located in near tribal dwellings. Nearly 50-60 million people have been displaced by development projects in India as a whole and tribes constitute at least 40 per cent of them.

2. **Dam Construction and Displacement:** Dam construction is one of the most important causes of development related displacement. In recent times, large scale industrialisation, privatisation and globalisation for the sake of development have emerged as the biggest threat to the tribal identity. The tribals, their lands and the other resources are now exposed to the exploitative market forces and the numerous projects to exploit minerals and other natural resources. Land alienation of the tribals by the powerful entities has become a common phenomenon.
3. **Mining and Displacement:** In the globalisation era, mining has become another important source of investment and profit for the private sector. Mining Induced Displacement (MIDS) and re-settlement has become a major risk from the point of the social sustainability. In India, most of affected people are the tribal and other indigenous people.

the pipe line for the core of India's land planned development for which large areas have to be acquired. This means people's homes are destroyed resulting in their displacement. In addition, the landowners give up land in the process of acquisition by the State.

### Changes in Tribal Society

Tribes are becoming aware, both socially and politically, in maintaining and preserving their ethnic and cultural identity. They are also trying their level best to protect themselves against exploitation by outsiders. This may, however, result in a new form of ecological-cultural isolation. After independence, lots of changes in political, social and economic sectors have taken place in the Indian society. These changes have promoted interaction and association among various castes, tribes, cultural and religious groups. There are numerous social and cultural changes that have taken place among the tribals which are discussed below:



1. **Social Stratification:** Some studies conducted on tribal societies have revealed that change is taking place in tribal social stratification. The tribals seem to have attained the status of class from that of ethnicity. The difference in material possessions creates new patterns of consumption in food, dress, housing etc., and also other parallel differences, for instance, the level of education, religious orientation and preferences in political life.
2. **Non-Agricultural Occupations:** The tribals in India took to agriculture during the first quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. At that point they had enough land in their possession. Increasingly, the caste Hindus made their entry into the tribal land and since then the tribal land slipped into the hands of these non-tribals. Hence, the tribals experienced land alienation. This has made them employed workers instead of peasants. This process of taking up of non-agricultural occupation is called de-peasantisation.

3. **Migration:** Traditionally, social anthropologists have defined tribals as an immobile stock of people. They hardly move beyond their areas. But the search for employment has pushed them to work in big cities. Today, these tribals are working as migrant groups outside their village. Government jobs have also encouraged them to move from one place to another.
4. **Economic System:** The tribal subsistence economy has become diversified. Tribals were for a very long time dependent on the forests and forest products. They were experts in hunting and gathering. But unlike the caste Hindus, they do not have any hereditary occupations. This has enabled them to take any occupation they may find suitable at a given point in time.
5. **Political System:** Political factors are also causing change among the Indian tribals. The universal right for voting, party functioning and social activism have all initiated a strong process of political socialisation among the tribals. This, along with Community Development Programme for tribal welfare and development has provided opportunities for politicisation and leadership among tribals.
6. **Local to global place:** In the era of globalisation, the tribals cannot be kept in isolation. The small places, that is, the tribal homelands are linked with the region, state, nation and the world. The tribals are no longer an encapsulated mass of people restricted to hill and forests. They have become a part of the larger process of globalisation.

## Conclusion

Thus, it can be concluded from the above discussion that the tribals are an integral part of India. They have been classified by distinguished Indian and foreign scholars on the basis of their origin. Deforestation and displacement are the major issues of tribals. After Independence a lot of social, political, religious, and cultural changes have occurred in tribal society .

## Glossary

- **Animism:** According to Tylor, animism is a belief in the spirit of the dead.
- **Shifting Cultivation:** It is a farming system, which is practiced by most of the tribals in India. It is also known as “Jhum” or “Podu” cultivation in different regions. Under this system the forest slopes are cleared, the fallen trees are burnt, and seeds are sown in covered with ash. Seeds are sown before the onset of the rainy season. After rainfall the crops are ready. Then a new piece of land is selected for the next cycle of cultivation and the process is repeated.
- **Simple Division of Labour:** The tribals have a social organisation based upon a simple division of labour usually based upon age and sex.



- **Subsistence Economy:** A tribal society is simple in character. Their mode of production is based on hunting, gathering, fishing and on forest products. With the subsistence economy, barter system also exists. Their economic activities are not based on the notion of profit. Due to the increase in their population and changed economic conditions, their self-sufficiency has gone.
- **Totemism:** Totemism means when an object or animal or plant is considered sacred by the tribe. Therefore, the members do not touch or eat the totem because they feel it has some supernatural powers and they worship it.



### I. Objective type questions

#### A. Multiple choice questions

- Which is the largest tribe in India?  
(a) Santhal (b) Bhil  
(c) Munda (d) Gonds
- The word tribe is derived from which word?  
(a) Greek (b) Latin  
(c) Greek and Latin (d) Latin or Greek
- Which is not Risley's classification on the basis of race?  
(a) Indo-Aryan (b) Hill cultivation  
(c) Mongoloid (d) Scytho-Dravidian
- Bhil tribe speak which dialect?  
(a) Oriya (b) Chhattisgarhi  
(c) Bhili (d) Gondi
- Which is the cause for environmental degradation?  
(a) Housing (b) Gases  
(c) Displacement (d) Deforestation
- The act of movement of someone from one position to another is called?  
(a) Displacement (b) Mobility  
(c) Land Acquisition (d) Deforestation

### B. Fill in the blanks

1. The Romans identified tribe as a \_\_\_\_\_ unit.
2. The constitution of India has accepted to use the term tribe as \_\_\_\_\_.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are the cultural classifications of tribal society.
4. Shifting cultivation is also called \_\_\_\_\_ cultivation.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are the causes responsible for Deforestation.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are the two major issues of tribal society.

### C. True/False

1. India has the second largest concentration of tribal population?
2. Dr. G.S. Ghurye called the tribals as "Girijan".
3. The Munda tribe speaks Mundari dialect.
4. Tribals have faith in Animism and Totemism.
5. Deforestation has no influence on climate and biodiversity.
6. Land acquisition and dam building are the causes of Displacement.

|  |
|--|
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|  |

### D. Match the columns

#### Column A

Mundari  
Timber Mining  
The Mongoloid Type  
Dam Construction  
Bride price paid in cash

#### Column B

Sir Herbert Risley  
Marriage by Purchase  
Munda  
Deforestation  
Displacement or in kind

### II. Very short type questions.

1. What is the total percentage of tribals in India?
2. Name the mixture of the Scythians and the Dravidians called?
3. Name the tribals which are based on hunting, gathering and fishing called.
4. What are the causes of displacement or deforestation?
5. What are the major causes of Industry, Mining, Dam building, land acquisition ?
6. What do you mean by Tribal Society?
7. Which is the largest Tribe Community in India?
8. The word Tribe is derived from which word?
9. In Indian context who referred to tribes as 'Schedule Tribe'?
10. The Bhil tribe speaks which kind of dialect?
11. Who gave racial classification of the tribal society?
12. 'Sohrai' is the harvest festival of which tribe?

### III. Short answer type questions.

1. Write down three characteristics of tribal society.
2. What do you mean by chieftainship?
3. What is subsistence economy?
4. What do you mean by the Indo-Aryan type tribe?
5. What do you mean by Mongoloid tribe?
6. What is the Santhal Tribe?
7. What is deforestation?
8. What do you mean by displacement?

### IV. Long answer type questions

1. Write a short note on tribal society.
2. Write the Cultural classification of tribal society.
3. Write the Racial classification of tribal society.
4. Write the Linguistic classification of tribal society.
5. Write the Integrational classification of tribal society.
6. Distinguish between the Gond and the Bhil tribes.
7. Write down the three causes of deforestation.
8. Write the three causes responsible for displacement.
9. Write five points of social change in tribal society.

### V. Very long answer type questions

1. What do you mean by tribal society? Discuss its characteristics in detail.
2. Write a detailed note on classification of tribal society.
3. What is deforestation? What are the causes responsible for deforestation?
4. What is displacement? Write a detailed note on it.
5. Write down about social changes which occur in tribal society.
6. Differentiate between deforestation and displacement.

### PROJECT

Make a Project Report on tribal society which includes the economic system on which they are dependent, the religious system which they practice, their marriage system and the kind of division of labour that exists in their society.

# Rural Society

## 2 Chapter

### Highlights

- 2.1 Meaning
- 2.2 Features
- 2.3 Issues
  - 2.3.1 Indebtedness
  - 2.3.2 Impact of Green Revolution
- 2.4 Changes in Rural Society

### Introduction

In India, nearly 70% of the population lives in rural areas, also known as countryside or villages. A rural community is constituted of a homogenous group of people residing in a definite geographical area having low density of population, who lead a simple life, have primary relationships and oral tradition and share a common mode of consciousness, common economy, common way of living, dressing, food habits, manners, etc. Culture is deep rooted in these societies and it is part and parcel of social life. In rural societies, there is a very little scope for occupational mobility because agriculture is still the main occupation of the people. In the ancient literature, the word village was interpreted as group of families dwelling at one place. The leader of village was known as *Gramini*. Robert Redfield mentioned the following features of a rural society: small size, distinctiveness, homogeneity and self sufficiency. However, in modern societies, majority of the villages cannot claim the above features, since these days villages are linked with wider social, economic and political structures.

Mahatma Gandhi is often quoted to have said:

“Real India lives in its villages.”

### Do you know?

Rural India contributes a big chunk to India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by way of agriculture, self-employment, services and constructions, etc.





Villages of India exhibit an enormous deal of inter-state diversity. Different states have different number of villages. The maximum numbers of villages are in Uttar Pradesh and Daman and Diu. The National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) defines 'rural' in the following manner:

- An area with a population density of up to 400 per square kilometres
- Villages with clear survey boundaries but no municipal board
- A minimum of 75% of working population involved in agriculture and allied activities.

#### **Do you know?**

The term "rural" is the opposite of "urban". The term 'rural society' is used almost interchangeably with term 'village'. As per census 2011, out of 121 crore Indians, 83.3 crore population lives in the rural areas. The rural community has a long history of its own. It is a group of about 5000 people depending on agriculture and allied occupations, permanently residing in a particular geographic area and participating in common socio-economic and cultural activities.

You will be amazed to know that Rural Sociology is a branch of Sociology in which studies have been carried out since 19<sup>th</sup> century. The prominent scholars engaged in Rural Sociology during this period were Sir Henry Maine, Baden Powell, von Maurer, etc. The period of 1890-1920 saw the rural societies in America facing many socio-economic problems which attracted the attention of the intelligentsia, thus establishing study of rural societies as an academic discipline. The appointment of country life commission by US President Theodore Roosevelt was an important landmark in the history of rural Sociology. In 1913 the first text book on Rural Sociology was published by J. M. Gillette. The central concern in the sociological study of rural society is with social organisation – the social system (or subsystem) and their interrelationships within rural society. The Indian village, too has been studied by some