



## TRIBES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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### ABSTRACT:

*Sustainable Development refers to a way of achieving economic growth and development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Holistic Sustainable Tribal Development is a transdisciplinary approach to understand the Socio-Ecological System and intervene to enhance the competency of the community and build the social, natural and financial capital to pursue livelihood, food security and well-being which leads to improve the Human Development. Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. There is a need to protect the diversity of genes, species and all terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems in nature. This is possible in particular through measures to protect the quality of the environment and through the restoration, development and maintenance of habitats essential to species. It implies sustainable management of the use of exploited animal and plant populations. It is the rational management of natural and economic resources aimed at meeting the essential needs of humanity in the long term.*

### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

1. To study the Sustainable Development Goals.
2. To study the sustainable development of tribal communities.
3. To connect tribal communities and sustainable development.
4. To study the sustainable development measures for tribal communities by conserving the environment.

### METHODOLOGY:

Descriptive design research method and Diagnostic research method has been used for this research paper.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 are a global framework adopted by the United Nations in 2015 to address global challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation and justice. It is guided by the principles of universality, inclusiveness and interconnectedness,

aiming for collective action across all nations and regions. Universities play a crucial role in fostering innovation, research and knowledge dissemination, enabling future generations to make meaningful contributions to transforming the world. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is based on fundamental principles, including universality, inclusiveness, partnership, accountability and transparency. These principles shape the agenda's vision of a just and sustainable future for all. The goals include no poverty, zero hunger, good health and well-being, quality education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, decent work and economic growth, industry, innovation and infrastructure, reduced inequality, sustainable cities.

Tribal communities can contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in many ways, including: Protecting biodiversity - Tribal communities have traditional practices to protect biodiversity, such as protecting sacred sites and using traditional agriculture methods. Using renewable energy - Tribal communities have traditionally used renewable energy sources like wind, solar, and hydropower. Protecting water resources - Tribal communities have practices to ensure water is available for future generations. Practicing regenerative agriculture - Tribal communities have practiced

regenerative agriculture for centuries, which helps to sequester carbon in the soil. Sharing indigenous knowledge - Tribal communities have a vast repository of traditional knowledge that can help tackle climate change. Empowering communities - Empowering tribal communities to manage their resources sustainably can help ensure livelihood security.

India comprises 8.6% tribal population, has access to an enormous indigenous knowledge which through recognition, adoption, and mainstreaming has the potential to provide sustainable solutions to concerns related to falling agricultural productivity and soil quality, biodiversity loss, water scarcity, pollution, and Climate Change challenges.

Tribal Lifestyle and Sustainable development - Respect for the natural environment: Tribal traditional practices, such as using natural materials for housing, food, and medicine, and living in harmony with the cycles of nature. Conservation of natural resources: Sustainable practices involve limiting the use of resources to ensure their long-term availability, such as rotational farming or allowing forests to regenerate before harvesting timber. Community-based decision-making: Collective decision-making takes into account the needs of the community as a whole and ensures that decisions are made in a sustainable and

equitable manner. Emphasis on intergenerational knowledge sharing: Passing down knowledge to the next generation includes traditional knowledge of the natural environment and sustainable practices for managing resources. Promotion of biodiversity: Tribals have developed practices to protect and promote diversity which includes traditional methods of agriculture, such as intercropping and seed-saving, as well as the protection of sacred sites that are important for the preservation of biodiversity. Use of renewable energy: Tribal communities have traditionally used renewable energy sources like wind, solar, and hydropower which can be expanded and modernized to provide clean energy for more people. Protection of water resources: Tribal communities rely on water resources and have developed practices that can help to ensure that water is available for future generations, and can reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Regenerative agriculture: tribal communities have been practicing regenerative agriculture for centuries, which involves practices like crop rotation, intercropping, and regenerating soils with organic matter. These practices help to sequester carbon in the soil, which can help to mitigate climate change.

Tribal diets frequently consist of organic and locally procured foods, minimizing the carbon impact caused by transportation and chemical farming

methods. In order to resist local climatic conditions, traditional tribe houses and infrastructure are frequently constructed utilizing locally obtained and sustainable materials. Self-sufficiency is a way of life for many indigenous cultures, who make their own food, clothes, and tools. Because of this independence, there is less of an environmental impact. Traditional arts and crafts that make use of natural resources and encourage sustainability are frequently practiced in tribal communities. India is today the world's second most polluted country. 94% of Indians live in areas where it exceeds India's air quality standard. This pollution not only has catastrophic effects on human health, but also greatly damages the world around us, including the atmosphere, the soil, and the water. Our industrial way of living is the root cause of this. The dust and smoke that comes out of factories contains radioactive particles that contaminate the air and make it unbreathable. The carbon and nitrogen monoxides released by vehicles further increase toxicity in the air. Our soil is growing infertile due to the overuse of chemicals and plastic. Most of our water is not even clean enough to drink. Urban life, although having many benefits, amenities and luxuries, bears an ugly side tarnished with unsustainable practices that will make the world uninhabitable sooner than we realise. We must learn from our counterparts,

the tribal people who have learned to live side-by-side with nature and use natural resources to their full efficiency. Let us delve into some of the marvellous customs employed by these tribes and examine the genius behind these tricks. Tribals use local building materials such as bamboo, sticks thatch, and mud. The Mishing tribe in Assam builds houses on stilts, allowing for natural ventilation and minimizing the environmental impact of construction. Instead of using large fishing boats and huge nets that scrape the ocean floor and end up catching non-commercial, endangered and baby fish, the Karbi tribe in Assam which lives near rivers use traditional bamboo traps and handwoven nets to catch fish selectively. The Kani tribe in the Western Ghats possesses extensive knowledge of medicinal plants and their applications. They use the thousands of local herbs available to treat diseases and injuries which not only provides healthcare within the community but also highlights the importance of preserving biodiversity for medicinal purposes. The Apatani tribe in Arunachal Pradesh has developed an intricate system of wet rice cultivation that includes the conservation of water through small irrigation channels and fish farming in rice paddies. This integrated approach optimizes water use and enhances agricultural sustainability. Tribal farmers often preserve traditional seed varieties, promoting agricultural biodiversity. The

Warli tribe in Maharashtra, for example, has a rich tradition of saving seeds from their harvests, ensuring a diverse range of crops adapted to local conditions which encourages the seeds to maintain resilience in changing climates. Pollution contributes to the premature deaths of over 2.3 million Indians every year, and with the pollution levels only rising with the emergence of more factories, industries, and vehicular traffic, India's future looks to be grim. Embracing these timeless tribal teachings offers a much-needed transformative path toward a more balanced coexistence, ensuring a healthier planet for future generations.

Tribals have developed practices to protect and promote diversity which includes traditional methods of agriculture, such as intercropping and seed-saving, as well as the protection of sacred sites that are important for the preservation of biodiversity. Despite this they are also focused on Conservation of natural resources and the sustainable practices involve limiting the use of resources to ensure their long-term availability, such as rotational farming or allowing forests to regenerate before harvesting timber. The Tribal communities rely on water resources and have developed practices that can help to ensure that water is available for future generations, and can reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Apart from this they have been practicing regenerative agriculture for centuries,

which involves practices like crop rotation, intercropping, and regenerating soils with organic matter. These practices help to sequester carbon in the soil, which can help to mitigate climate change as we all know how big and gigantic the problem of climate change comes across us and the whole world is gathered to reduce the impact of it. Tribal cultures typically have a strong connection to the natural world. They often rely on traditional ecological knowledge for sustenance, medicine, and understanding their environment. Tribal culture and sustainability -Tribal Respects for the natural environment by performing activities like using natural materials for housing, food, and medicine, and living in harmony with the cycles of nature. The living pattern is community centred for the tribal and decision making will be community based. Individualism concept is not very entertained in their culture. By making decision community based they ensure that decisions are made in the sustainable manner. They have traditionally used renewable energy sources like wind, solar, and hydropower which can be expanded and modernized to provide clean energy for more people. But there are some challenges which tribal faces and it shattered their idea of sustainable development and natural resources conservation. They often face discrimination and prejudice from the dominant society, including limited

access to education, healthcare, and other basic services. They don't have land rights because they have been displaced from their traditional lands due to industrialization, and mining which has resulted in the loss of cultural identity, and social and economic marginalization. Climate Change, such as changes in rainfall patterns, increased frequency of natural disasters, loss of biodiversity, deforestation, pollution, and loss of habitat, has negatively impacted their traditional livelihoods and ways of life. They are also facing Socioeconomic marginalization like many tribal communities have limited access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities, which can result in poverty and social exclusion. They are not even properly representing in political system and may not have a voice in decision-making processes that affect their lives. Tribal communities often face challenges in accessing quality healthcare, which can result in higher rates of disease, malnutrition, and other health issues. Moreover, many tribal communities face pressure to assimilate into the dominant culture, which can lead to the loss of traditional knowledge, language, and cultural practices. Many indigenous communities practice sustainable agriculture, hunting, and gathering techniques that have been passed down through generations. These practices are often in harmony with the

environment. Tribal cultures frequently promote the concept of sustainable development in a number of ways because they have historically lived strongly eco-connected lifestyles and have cultivated sustainable practices through many generations. Tribal groups have a thorough awareness of their regional ecologies. They have important traditional ecological knowledge about plants, animals, and natural resources, which can be crucial for resource management that is sustainable. Crop rotation, mixed cropping, and organic farming are just a few examples of sustainable agricultural methods used by many tribal people. They frequently have no influence on the environment and preserve soil fertility using conventional techniques. Many tribal cultures live in forests and practice sustainable forest management. They recognize how crucial it is to protect forests from overuse in or

**CONCLUSION:**

Local and indigenous peoples often seem trapped in two worlds – one where their traditional lifestyles and livelihoods are increasingly under threat, while limited access to training and skills, hindering ongoing decent work opportunities. Discrimination and exclusion, and exploitation and rights violations in both the formal and informal economies. Globally, there are inspiring stories of the tremendous contributions of indigenous peoples to

key 'green' sectors such as eco-tourism, sustainable management of natural resources and support for resilient agricultural production – all of which are based on their traditional knowledge. By forming cooperatives and other social enterprises and institutions, and with support and guidance, they are coming together and finding ways to capitalise on their valuable traditional knowledge in relation to natural resources. Of course, indigenous peoples want to be actors of their own development, not just 'recipients' of aid. Therefore, it is the need of the hour for development agencies to work with indigenous groups – enabling them to access livelihood opportunities that not only help them to maintain and utilise their traditional knowledge but also help them lift themselves out of poverty and vulnerability. By respecting and utilizing their traditional practices and knowledge that harmonize with the natural environment, indigenous and tribal peoples can teach us much about sustainable living, so that we can achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Challenges faced by tribals in performing their lifestyle Land rights: Tribal communities have been displaced from their traditional lands due to industrialization, and mining which has resulted in the loss of cultural identity, and social and economic marginalization. Discrimination: Tribal

communities often face discrimination and prejudice from the dominant society, including limited access to education, healthcare, and other basic services. Climate change and environmental degradation: Climate Change, such as changes in rainfall patterns, increased frequency of natural disasters, loss of biodiversity, deforestation, pollution, and loss of habitat, has negatively impacted their traditional livelihoods and ways of life. Socioeconomic marginalization: Many tribal communities have limited access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities, which can result in poverty and social exclusion. Cultural assimilation: Many tribal communities face pressure to assimilate into the

dominant culture, which can lead to the loss of traditional knowledge, language, and cultural practices. Lack of political representation: Tribal communities often lack political representation and may not have a voice in decision-making processes that affect their lives. Health challenges: Tribal communities often face challenges in accessing quality healthcare, which can result in higher rates of disease, malnutrition, and other health issues.

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