

FOREST CONSERVATION AND TRIBAL LIVELIHOOD: A PARADOXICAL STATE OF TRIBAL DOMINATED GRAM PANCHAYAT OF BETUL DISTRICT OF MADHYA PRADESH

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ABSTRACT

Tribes are an integral part of our society and spread over most part of the country. Over 104 million people belonging to 700 communities (Srivastava, 2008) as member of scheduled tribes constituting 8.6 per cent (Census India, 2011) of total Indian population and is larger than that of any other country in the world. Historically, the economy of these communities revolved around natural resources especially forests, at different stages of their development. They not only moved from one to more than one source of income but also there is a trend in favour of monetized economy. Instead of these change, in many cases forest ceased to remain the main source of their livelihood, whether socio-economic condition or cultural characteristics are responsible for that. This paper is an outlook of such a tribal dominated gram panchayat where forest has importance place to earn livelihood for the people residing there. Imbalance between available natural resources and requirement results into degradation of natural resources, and in many cases same thing is going due to more dependency of tribal on forest for the livelihood but the another aspect is also that there is available sources and opportunity to earn livelihood except forest.

KEYWORDS: Tribal, Livelihood, Forest degradation, Firewood.