

ROLE OF TRIBAL COMMUNITIES IN CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT: A CASE STUDY IN SOME SELECTED AREA OF GOALPARA DISTRICT, ASSAM

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Abstract

Life is precious and so our earth which sustains life. Earth is a living world. The only world is in the entire universe where we know life exists. It consists of living and non living components. It is the house of human beings as well as many animals and plants. (Environment is the some total of water, air and land, inter-relationship among themselves and also with the human beings, other living organism and property (Environmental Protection Act, 1986 Govt. of India)

At present some environmental problems are facing in Assam like, Deforestation, Plastic Pollution, Growth of Population, Urbanization etc. Assam can save if Government, NGOs, Person Concerned is aware about the problems. Urgent needs are that everyone should take responsibility in different way. Responsible behaviour is required to sustain of life's and protection environment.

1. Introduction :

Tribal people have a crucial role in environment conservation and protection. No one can look after their forest and environment better than Ethnic people because their survival and identity depend on it. They are generally the best conservationist and the managed their cultivable lands for many generations. It has found that, they live in localities which are immensely rich in biodiversity. Many plants are conserved in their natural habitat and worshiped trees and flowers like God and Goddesses reside in them. They conserved several plants and endangered cultivars of agriculture crops such as rice, maize, millets, grains, fruits and vegetables which have originated under diverse agro ecological in north east, central and peninsular region of India, the communities have their abode, some of these cultivars of rice as pattambi, champara, valsara are conserved by khasi and Garo Tribe in North East Region along with Assam.

India is an ethnically plural and culturally diverse country. Within the Indian multicultural liberal democracy, North East India is characterized as the homeland of cultural diversity. Cultural diversity is the basic feature of North East India. Marked by diversity in customs, culture, traditions and languages. The region, densely forested hill. Valets and plains colourful orchids, flowers butterflies, birds and other wildlife, lakes and waterfalls, etc. Are still present to cool eyes and delight soul mind and heart of a natural viewer.

2. **REVIEW OF LITERATURE:**

This chapter is most important for understanding any aspect and to know the gaps in Tribal research area. During the course of study several reference, have been cited in this chapter. Researcher attempts in the following books, Journals, Magazines for the review.

- Social change of Indian Tribes (Impact of Planning and Economic Development), P.K. Khare, (1991), this book studies the impact of economic development on socio economic condition of tribes delineating not only the influence of economic planning on their life style, but also dealing with important measures for improvement in their economic conditions.
- Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes in India – A Socio Economic Profile, H.C. Upadhyay (1991), This collection of research papers and articles in the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled papers and articles in the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes are multidisciplinary investigation into various aspects of presenting socio economic problems facing by the Scheduled Caste and Schedules Tribes in the development process of the country.
- Educating Tribal's, G. Ananda (2000), the author has studied the aspect of the Tribal education (An Ashram School Approach). An attempts has been made to take an integrated view of the educational programmes of Scheduled Tribes and both sweeping and specific empirical studies have been conducted through the length and breadth of the Tribal areas of the country in order to isolate factors responsible for the Tribal areas of the country in order to isolate factors responsible for the poor educational progress of Scheduled Tribes in the larger context of development situations obtaining in the tribal India and suggest corrective measures so as to be the necessary fillip to the educational programmes in Tribal areas.
- 'Nagarikachi Sanad, published by Ministry, Government of Maharashtra, Department of Tribal Development, Mumbai. In this magazine information about various tribal scheme implemented the Government of Maharashtra for the educational, economical and social development of Schedules Tribes is given.

3. **OBJECTIVES:**

To examine the perception, role, awareness, attitude of the tribal community for conservation and protection of environment.

4. **METHODOLOGY :**

In the present study descriptive survey method has been applied. The present study based on the quantitative data analysis only.

5. **DELIMITATION:**

The study has been limited to the Tribal people of some selected area of Goalpara District, i.e. three revenue village, Bhaishkhuli, Kuruabhasa and Rangsapara.

6. **POPULATION:**

The population of the present study consists of all Tribal people of Goalpara District.

7. **SAMPLE:**

For the present study local 90 adult people, 45 from female and 45 from Male have been randomly selected as a sample to collect the required data

8. TOOLS USED:

In the present study the following tools were constructed and used for the data collection:-

- i) Questionnaire.
- ii) Personal interviews, when necessary.

9. DISCUSSION:

Goalpara district is one of the major district of Assam. There are 8 (Eight) Numbers of development Block – Balijana, Kuchdhowa, Krishnai, Kharmuja, Matia, Laxhipur, Jaleswar and Rangjuli. And 4 (Four) Numbers of Educational Block – Matia, Balijana, Laxhipur and Dudhnoi. The selected Tribal area Bhoishkhuli, Kuruabhasa and Rangchapara are backward area of Balijana Block under Balijana and Kalyanpur Gaon Panchayat. Bhoishkuli and Kuruabhasa are populated by Rabha Community, And Rangsapara are 100% Garo populated area. In Bhoishkhuli total household – 120, total population 626, Male – 325 and Female- 301, ST Population is 559, Male – 289 and Female – 270.448 Literate population, Male – 242 and Female – 206. Illiterate population total – 176, Male – 83 and Female – 95. In Kuruabhasa, total household – 234, total population 1287, Male – 655 and Female – 632, ST Population is 1153, Male – 586 and Female – 567. Literate population 899, Male – 478 and Female – 421. Illiterate population is 388, Male – 177 and Female – 211. In village Rangchapara total household – 83, total population – 474, Male – 230 and Female – 244, total literate Male – 181 and

Female – 170, Total Illiterate – 123, Male – 49 and Female – 74.

Keeping in the view of the objective of the study, data collected was classified and tabulated.

The analysis was tabulated on the basis of the responses using simple percentage, which is given below:

Table

Item wise analysis of the responses.

| Item No. | Particulars | No. of People | Yes | Percentage % | No | Percentage % |
|----------|--|---------------|---------|--------------|---------|--------------|
| 1 | Regarding perception of Conservation and protection. | 90 | 51 | 56.67 | 39 | 43.44 |
| 2 | Regarding cleanliness. | 90 | 70 | 77.78 | 20 | 22.23 |
| 3 | Regarding role and duty. | 90 | 82 | 91.11 | 08 | 8.89 |
| 4 | Regarding relation with animals. | 90 | 70 | 77.78 | 20 | 22.23 |
| 5 | Regarding conservation and protection of forest and wetland. | 90 | 85 | 94.44 | 05 | 5.56 |
| 6 | Regarding rainwater harvesting. | 90 | 18 | 20.00 | 72 | 80.00 |
| 7 | Regarding awareness programme. | 90 | 80 | 88.89 | 10 | 11.11 |
| 8 | Regarding environmental education | 90 | 77 | 85.56 | 13 | 14.44 |
| 9 | Regarding pollution of environment. | 90 | 31 | 34.44 | 59 | 65.56 |
| 10 | Regarding observance of environmental day. | 90 | 42 | 46.67 | 48 | 53.33 |
| | | | Average | 67.33% | Average | 32.67% |

10. ANALYSIS:

Form the above table it has been found that out of 90 adult tribal people of three selected tribal revenue village under Goalpara district 67.33% people are aware of about conservation and protection of environment and 32.67% are not actively aware about conservation of environment.

Among them in the item no. 1 & 2 out of 90 people 56.67% and 77.78% people regarding perception and cleanliness of environment are positive and 43.33% and 22.23% are not positive, respectively.

Again item nos. 3 and 4, out of 90 people 91.11% and 77.78% of people respectively were responded as “Yes” and 8.89% and 22.23% of people were responded as “No” regarding role, duty and relation with the animals. Again in the item nos. 5 and 6 out of 90 people 94.44% and 20% of the people responded as “Yes” and 5.56% and 80% of people responded as “No” respectively regarding conservation and protection of forest, wetland and rain water harvesting. Again in item no. 7 and 8 out of 90 people 88.89% and 85.56% people respectively were responded as “Yes” and 11.11% and 14.44% responded as “No” regarding awareness of environment education.

Again in the item no. 9 and 10 out of 90 people 34.44% and 46.67% .people respectively respondent as “Yes” and on the other hand respectively responded as “Yes” and on the other hand 65.56% and 53.33% of the people were responded as “No” regarding pollution of environment and observation of environmental day.

11. MAJOR FINDINGS:

From the study, the following major findings have been found and can be summarized as follows:

- It has been found that 67.33% tribal are aware about conservation and protection of environment and 32.67% are not actively aware about conservation and protection of environment.
- It has been found that 46.67% people celebrated environmental days on 5th June but 53.33% are not involved in the ceremony.
- The role and duty on conservation of environment is very satisfactory.
- All tribal people involved in cleanliness programme in every Saturday in their area if any person remain absent than Rs. 500 has been charged as fine.
- They protect and conserve environment by heart.
- Tribal people Worshipped trees and flowers as God and Godessess.
- 65.56% tribal people protect the environment from pollution but they are not aware of pollution.
- Almost all the tribal people shows their love for animals.
- It has been found that everyone is engaged themselves in plantation programme in their areas.
- It has been found that some tribal areas are captured by some non tribal people.
- It has been found that 80% of people are not interested for rain water harvesting.

12. CONCLUSION:

In the conclusion we can say that for protection and .preservation of environment, the tribal people is a great start. Almost 90% of the population in this area are very .poor and under developed and large number of children are out of educational institutions. Therefore, different types of awareness programme should be organised by the Government and non Government organizations, Semi Government organizations, etc. should take responsibilities to uplift their life and remove illiteracy the tribal communities. So, we can say, many tribal areas of Goalpara district has the scope to research in near future regarding envirnmet. These type of efforts is a fine beginners to a meaningful end.

13. REFERENCES:

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