

TRIBAL WOMEN IN ODISHA: A STUDY OF THEIR ROLE PERCEPTION AND ARTICULATION ON SOME MAJOR ISSUES

Dr. Laxmidhar Swain*

ABSTRACT

This paper entitled 'Tribal women in Odisha: A Study of their Role Perception and Articulation on Some Major Issues' has taken a changeable feature in tribal culture. Tribal Women are constituted with 62 categories of Odisha. Out of them 15 tribal are major categories. The tribal women have played a significant role in political, economic, cultural and social sphere etc. in Odisha. They have various role perception in different issues on livelihood programmes, the development and major irrigation projects, etc. In the year 2006, Resettlement and Rehabilitation policy was formulated for the tribal women. A survey identifies that during the period 1951-1995, 2 million people have been shifted by development projects, out of them 40 percent were tribal people. It focused on only 25 percent of the displaced people never settled. Tribal women have linked with forest economy. They depend on forest. The Scheduled Tribes and Traditional Forest Dwellers Act 2006 was provided for them. The tribal women and sustainable development, both are coordinative. The forest policy 1988 is a symbol of development between tribal and forest. Role Perception of the Legislators and Parliamentarians of tribal women has taken many major issues and challenges to Odisha politics. It is significant to note that Droupadi Murmu, who was a former Minister of Odisha and a prominent tribal women leader has appointed to the coveted office of the Governor of Jharkhand. Tribal women leaders in political sphere, they have taken major portfolio and ministerial position in Odisha. A tribal MLA from Mayurbhanj district named Saraswati Hembram had taken Ministerial responsibility. In the J.B. Patnaik's council of Ministers, she became a Deputy Minister in 1980. Total 13 numbers of tribal women legislations and parliamentarians have participated in many major debates and discourteous of various issues.

Key words: Tribal Women, Role Perception, Articulation, Forest Economy and Ministerial Responsibility.

* Department of Political Science, Sevananda Saraswati Degree Mahavidyalaya, Bamakoyi, Ganjam

Introduction

In India, the tribals are both indigenous and inhabitants. They constitute a disadvantaged sector of the Indian society. Total categories of tribals are 62 in Odisha, out of them, 15 are major category.¹ The name of these major categories are Bhathudi, Bhotada or Dhotada, Bhuiya, Bhumiji, Gondo or Gand, Kharia or Kharian, Khand or Kond or Nugali Kondh, Kisan, Kolha, Munda Mahias or Munda-Lohara or Junda, Oran, Paraja, Santala, Saora or Sabara, and Shavar or bodha. The tribal groups for historical reasons, have remained socially and economically backward. The tribal women as women in social groups, are more illiterate than man.²

According to the 2011 census, in Odisha the total strength of tribal population is approximately nine million, which constitutes 22.19% of the total population of the state.³ Total tribal population of Odisha are 95902756, out of 4727732 male tribal population and 4863024 female tribal population.

Table 1

District-wise Tribal Population in Odisha as per 2011 Census

State/District		Total Tribal Population	Male Tribal Population	Female Tribal Population
ODISHA	Total	9590756	4727732	4863024
	Rural	8994967	4428522	4566445
	Urban	595789	299210	296579
Bargarh	Total	281135	140542	140593
	Rural	270996	135586	135410
	Urban	10139	4956	5183
Jharsuguda	Total	176758	88273	88485

¹ Chudhury, B.C. and Swain, L.(2011), 'Tribal Women Leaders and Electoral Politics in Odisha', Research journal of Berhampur University, Bhanjabihar, ISSN No. 2250-1681. Pp.9-10

² Swain Laxmidhar, (2015) 'Empowerment of Tribal Women in India: Nature and Dynamics' Splint International Journal of Professionals, Vol. 11, No.12,December ISSN: 2349-6045, p.30.

³ Mahapatra, Tanuja, (2011), 'Tribes of Odisha: Issues of social inclusion, exclusion and cultural assimilation' Bodhi: an Interdisciplinary Journal, 5, ISSN: 2091-0479. P.15.

	Rural	140117	69951	70166
	Urban	36641	18322	18319
Sambalpur	Total	355261	177565	177696
	Rural	318413	158927	159486
	Urban	36848	18638	18210
Debagarh	Total	110400	55126	55274
	Rural	104956	52324	52632
	Urban	5444	2802	2642
Sundargarh	Total	1062349	526856	535493
	Rural	908475	450276	458199
	Urban	153874	76580	77294
Kendujhar	Total	818878	405927	412951
	Rural	759937	376255	383682
	Urban	58941	29672	29269
Mayurbhanj	Total	1479576	730487	749089
	Rural	1439002	710396	728606
	Urban	40574	20091	20483
Baleshwar	Total	275678	137748	137930
	Rural	255098	127371	127727
	Urban	20580	10377	10203
Bhadrak	Total	30428	15361	15067
	Rural	24347	12335	12012
	Urban	6081	3026	3055
Kendrapara	Total	9484	4748	4736
	Rural	8862	4424	4438
	Urban	622	324	298
Jagatsinghapur	Total	7862	4226	3636
	Rural	4524	2449	2075
	Urban	3338	1777	1561
Cuttack	Total	93745	47437	46308

	Rural	81658	41229	40429
	Urban	12087	6208	5879
Jajapur	Total	151432	76048	75384
	Rural	139209	69976	69233
	Urban	12223	6072	6151
Dhenkanal	Total	162056	80878	81178
	Rural	156671	78204	78467
	Urban	5385	2674	2711
Anugul	Total	179603	89980	89623
	Rural	162048	80989	81059
	Urban	17555	8991	8564
Nayagarh	Total	58691	29173	29518
	Rural	57531	28531	29000
	Urban	1160	642	518
Khordha	Total	115051	59094	55957
	Rural	67798	33817	33981
	Urban	47253	25277	21976
Puri	Total	6129	3240	2889
	Rural	4379	2251	2128
	Urban	1750	989	761
Ganjam	Total	118928	59172	59756
	Rural	112338	55701	56637
	Urban	6590	3471	3119
Gajapati	Total	313714	151902	161812
	Rural	308867	149507	159360
	Urban	4847	2395	2452
Kandhamal	Total	392820	190506	202314
	Rural	380602	184742	195860
	Urban	12218	5764	6454
Baudh	Total	55364	27362	28002

	Rural	54867	27092	27775
	Urban	497	270	227
Subarnapur	Total	57192	28794	28398
	Rural	55256	27795	27461
	Urban	1936	999	937
Balangir	Total	347164	172489	174675
	Rural	334672	166214	168458
	Urban	12492	6275	6217
Nuapada	Total	206327	100469	105858
	Rural	204121	99371	104750
	Urban	2206	1098	1108
Kalahandi	Total	449456	221171	228285
	Rural	440775	216883	223892
	Urban	8681	4288	4393
Rayagada	Total	541905	259040	282865
	Rural	522208	249459	272749
	Urban	19697	9581	10116
Nabarangapur	Total	681173	335028	346145
	Rural	668056	328693	339363
	Urban	13117	6335	6782
Koraput	Total	697583	337373	360210
	Rural	662719	320130	342589
	Urban	34864	17243	17621
Malkangiri	Total	354614	171717	182897
	Rural	346465	167644	178821
	Urban	8149	4073	4076

Source: Census of India, 2011.

Role perception of tribal women in various issues on lively hood Programmes. These development projects are based on the major irrigation projects and setting up major industries. Tribals are affected by large scale mining activities Resettlement and Rehabilitation policy was formulated by the year 2006. Tribal women were benefited by this policy. The Scheduled Tribes and Forest Dwelling Communities (Recognition of Forest Right) Act 2006 was approved by the parliament. Thus act was named as forest rehabilitation act⁴. The economic quality of life and feature of environment is threaten by deforestation. Tribal Women and Sustainable Development is fulfilled the basic human needs. Thus tribal women Legislators and Parliamentarians are generally interested to raise matters pertaining to “women issues”. Such as, education, health, child welfare, women welfare, food and prices of essential commodities Women political status can be assessed by the role they play in the political institutions and the extent of their participation in the formal process of political system. Some of the tribal women members of parliament and the state Legislative Assembly have actively participated in the debates and discussions in the respective legislatures. The tribal women MLAs of Odisha have been also given Ministerial responsibility.

Objectives

The objectives of this paper are, namely:

- To study the purposes of various development projects for tribals.
- Analysis of basic objectives of the Resettlement and Rehabilitation policy,2006 for tribals.
- The study of implications of scheduled Tribes and Traditional Forest Dwellers Act, 2006 for tribal women.
- To study tribal women and sustainable development.
- Analysis the nature of political Representation of Tribal Women MLAs of Odisha.
- To study the Women Ministers in different Ministries of Odisha along with their portfolio.
- To study of legislative goals and Role perceptions of the legislators and parliamentarians.

⁴ Das C.R. (2014). ‘Tribal and forest in Odisha: Some Capital Issues’, International Journal of Research and development- A Management Review (IJRDMR), Volume – 3, issue – 3, p.40.

- To study the desires of tribal women legislators and parliamentarians.

Various development projects have taken for the study of this research paper. Such as big dams, large industrial or mining projects, highways and flyovers, and so on. The land Acquisition Act, 1894, has been played a significant role in public purposes. Restoration has been effected only in four lakh cases.⁵

The tribals have affected by the large scale mining activities in the state. Most of the iron-ore mines and deposits are found in the tribal dominated districts of Keonjhar and Sundargarh. Due to continuous mining activities, the tribal people of these districts have lost their homes and with the destruction of forests and water sources, their livelihood.

This study denotes, during the period 1951-1995, A 2 million people have been displaced by development projects in the State, out of them 40 percent were tribal people 25 per cent of people were never resettled.

Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy, 2006: A Step in the Right Direction

The formulation of Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy, 2006 is a major policy in Odisha.

The main objectives of this policy are

- to avoid displacement.
- it emphasised the importance of indigenous communities.
- to the study of environmental sustainability.
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Tribal Women and Forest Economy

Forestry management in India in the post-independence era has largely remained a British legacy. The Constitution of India at its inception made forests a State Subject. Under the 42nd Amendment to the Constitution of India in 1976 ‘forests’ were brought under the ‘Concurrent’ list. Subsequently the Forest Conservation Act (FCA) was made in 1980 which comprehensively restricted clear felling and use of forest for non-forest purpose.

⁵ Roy Mathew, “A Triumph for the Tribals”, *The Hindu*, Visakhapatnam, October 28, 2001, p. 25.

By 2000, India's recorded forest cover was 76.52 million hectares. Out of them protected areas and national parks are 14.8 million hectares⁶. And approximately 14 million hectares are degraded forest lands. The economic quality of life and future of environment are threatened by deforestation. Deforestation means permanent destruction of forests and woodlands. Forests play a major role in ecosystem. The following need urgent implementation to preserve forests:

- The Forest Survey of India should be implemented a new reform policy.
- Bring more forest under the protected area⁷ network, to give them legal protection.
- Several measures has taken to protect and conserve the environment.

Forest Resources in Odisha

On the forest resources in the State of Odisha, Lal Mohan Patnaik writes, Odisha has several forests and jungles extending over miles⁸. Tribal life and economy are intimately connected with forests. Forest is the well loved home of majority of tribal people. They depends on forest for live various items like Kendu leaf, Siali leaf, broomsticks, medicinal herbs, honey, resin, myrobalam, tamarind, arrow-root, Sal, Karanj and Kusum seeds are collected by tribals from jungles.

In 1981 the total forest cover area of Odisha was 59,963 square kilometres. By 1997 it was reduced to 58,135.47 square kilometres. Many environmental consequences has taken the loss of forest. The tribals have shown great adaptability to the environment around them.⁹

⁶ The recorded forest area of the country is 769,626 square kilometres (23.41% of the country's geographical area).

⁷ The Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 has enabled the establishment of more than 650 protected areas across the country.

⁸ Patnaik, Lal Mohan, *Resurrected Orissa (2002 Reprint Edition)*, Mayur Publications, Bhubaneswar, p.112.

⁹ Shukla Rohit *et al* (eds.), *Forest and Tribal Life (Study of a Micro-Region)*, (New Delhi: Concept, 1990), p. 105.

Scheduled Tribes and Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 and Its Implications

The Indian Forest Act, 1927, the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980,¹⁰ has been taken evolutionary role. The National Forest Policy, 1988 has emphasised on national conservation strategies.

The United Progressive Alliance (UPA) in its National Common Minimum Programme, 2004 gave many opportunities to the tribal communities. Which, the Forest Rights Bill is considered by the joint parliamentary committees. The main aim of this bill protects the interest of forest dwelling communities.

The Scheduled Tribes and Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006¹¹ was a great challenge in independent India. The main aim or focus point of this act are namely;¹²

- It provides for recognition of forest rights of other traditional forest-dwellers. Primarily the generation have been divided into atleast three generation prior to 13.12.2005. They have depended on the forest or forest land for bonafide livelihood needs. This purpose of generation would mean a period of 25 years.
- The cut-off date for the recognition and vesting of forest rights under the Act will be 13.12.2005.
- It provides for conferring rights in the national parks and sanctuaries also, renamed as "critical wildlife habitat" on a regular basis.
- It emphasis the recognition of right of ownership forest produces.
- It gives recognition of the right to in situ rehabilitation.
- Forest rights have been designated by Gram Sabha. Gram Sabha as the competent authority for implementation of forest plicy.

¹⁰ Under this Act, the rights of the tribals were taken away. Tribals were termed as encroachers on the land they had been living for generations.

¹¹ The Act was passed by the Parliament on 18 December 2006. The President of India gave his assent to the Bill on 29 December 2006, the Act was notified on December 31, 2007 with Notification Rules issued on January 1, 2008.

¹² *Frontline*, Vol. 25, No. 4, February 16-29, 2008, p. 8.

The Act was a major milestone for tribal and forest dwelling communities. It's main aim to empower and improve of livelihood changes of marginalised people. For this act, it needs of the tribal women.¹³

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was communicated to cooperation and commitment of all Chief Ministers for the effective implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 on January 8, 2008.¹⁴ The Prime Minister forced the State governments to ensure wide publicity to the provisions of the Act.¹⁵

The forest rights and rights over community forest resources are a major issue in the tribal areas because of mining and industrial projects. In Odisha as many as 3,25,449 individual and 3131 community claims were settled for 5,14,886 acre and 1,51,164 acre forest land respectively by January 2014. It has been observed that none of the mainstream political parties have made the issue of community forest rights in their election manifesto of 2014 election.¹⁶

A tribal leader while participating in a rally in Bhubaneswar on February 3, 2014 observed, "Out demand is that we should have governance in our villages. We should be allowed to live the way we want to. The British never intervened in our lives, therefore, the present government should also not do so".¹⁷ After rejection of the mining proposal of local Gram Sabha, the Ministry of Environment and forests renounced grant of forest clearance for the Niyamgiri mining projects.¹⁸ The Dongariya Khonds, a highly vulnerable Adivasi group, are opposing the proposed mining by Vedanta Alumina Ltd. in the Niyamgiri Hills.

¹³ Yojana, New Delhi, September, 2008,9.3

¹⁴ It came into operation on January 1, 2008.

¹⁵ *Frontline*, February 16-29, 2008, Vol. 25, No. 4, p.4

¹⁶ *The New Indian Express*, Bhubaneswar, 21 April 2014, p. 2.

¹⁷ Bhuria Dilip Singh, (2014) Former Chairperson of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, quoted in *The Hindu*, Visakhapatnam, February 4, p. 2.

¹⁸ *Odisha Post*, Bhubaneswar, May 19, 2014, p.13.

Rahul Gandhi who spoke to tribals in Odisha on Tribal Protection Day said that true development can take place by respecting the interests of the poor and tribals. “I am your soldier in Delhi and I will fight for your cause”.

Tribal Women and Sustainable Development

The latter part of 1980s has emphasised on sustainable development. There is a link between social and environmental concerns. Its basic aim was improvement of forests. The components of sustainable development, namely;

- Requires of resources for basic human needs;
Ensures to ecological sustainability.
- Emphasise on social sustainability like peoples cultural material, spiritual needs and inequitable ways.
- Growth of meaningful and effective public participation.
- Growth of local democracy.
- Emphasis on environmental rights.
- Focus on economic activity.

Strategy for Sustainable Development

The strategy of sustainable development should emphasis on the following heads:

- In inhabitable reasons, the state has emphasised on promoting of horticulture in the hill and tribal areas.
- It provides infrastructures, which assists for scientific method of cultivation and marketing.
- Promotes of tourism in tribal areas for rich cultural heritage.

Impediments to Sustainable Development

The main impediments to sustainable development, namely;

- Lack of effective tribal policies and programmes.
- Denotes of poor infrastructure on the growth process.

- Affect of Podu Cultivation on air pollution; problem in phosphorous fixation in the soil; reduction in water table and soil moisture; increased fluids in the forest hills; and increased sedimentation load in rivers.

Role Perceptions of the Legislators and Parliamentarians

The legislative goals of the tribal women legislators generally tend to be constituency-oriented. Moreover, majority of them are not well trained for the role of law-makers with appropriate legal and professional experience.

Women members in different legislative bodies are generally interested to raise matters pertaining to “women’s issues”, such as, education, health, child welfare, women’s welfare, food and prices of essential commodities. Their participation in public affairs is thus perceived as an extension of women’s domestic roles.

The success of any parliamentary institution mainly depends upon the quality of its leaders. The quality and type of leadership, however, is greatly determined by the age, caste, religion, occupation, education, income and party affiliation.¹⁹ All these factors help in the formulation of attitudes and perceptions. They also have bearing on the behavior pattern of the members of the House. It has been rightly observed by Parry²⁰ that “It is a widespread assumption of political sociology that social background and upbringing of decision-maker will influence his attitudes and policies”.

Perception refers to how people look at the world, the assumption they make about it and how they respond to the situations. For example, when Indira Gandhi on her assumption of the office of the Prime Minister in 1966 was asked what she felt like to be a woman Prime Minister, she observed that she did not think on those lines. “I am a person with a job”.²¹ This has resulted in

¹⁹ Singh, Pratap, “Social Background of Haryana MLAs: An Empirical Study”, *Journal of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies*, New Delhi, Vol. VIII, No. 3, 1974, pp. 345-49.

²⁰ Parry, G., *Political Elites*, Allen and Unwin, London, 1969, p. 97.

²¹ Vasudev, Uma, “The Indira I Knew”, *Sahara Times*, April 18, 2009, p. 68.

creating awareness among the women politicians in India. Women developed a feeling that they cannot be taken for granted by men.

It is significant to note that Droupadi Murmu, who was a former Minister of Odisha and a prominent tribal woman leader was appointed to the coveted office of the Governor of Jharkhand. It was a great recognition given to a woman leader from Odisha belonging to a tribal community, who has made significant contribution for the development of tribals. She is the first woman to become the Governor of the tribal dominated state of Jharkhand and on assumption of the office of the Governor she said that priority should be given for the spread of education among the tribals so that they would join the mainstream and form the part of an inclusive society.

Women's political status can be assessed by the role they play in the political institutions and the extent of their participation in the formal processes of political system. Some of the women Parliamentarians and Members of the Legislative Assembly of Odisha effectively articulated many important issues of public importance. They actively took part in the deliberations inside the Parliament and the State Legislative Assembly on various issues.

During the question hour, during debates and discussion on different motions and deliberations in the State Legislative Assembly as well as the Parliament, the women members both from the General categories and those belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been highlighting the various issues of public importance, which include: problems of their respective constituencies which they represent like construction of roads and bridges, functioning of lift irrigation pumps, implementation of different policies and programmes of the government; Implementation of the prohibition policy; minimum support price of agricultural products; minimum support price for Sal seeds and to purchase them through Tribal Development Cooperative Corporation and Odisha Forest Development Corporation and also to open centres to procure Sal seeds; proper distribution of Kendu leaf grants; on streamlining Public Distribution System in the State; to accord priority to electrification in rural areas; Filling-up posts in schools, colleges and universities; Social, economic and political empowerment of women; to make available to people the essential commodities; for proper utilisation of funds

received from the Centre for the welfare of the people, particularly the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and Women; employment to women; on access of women to health, nutrition and education; rain water harvesting; protection of women and children and on issues relating to child labour.

For example, in the Odisha State Legislative Assembly, Saraswati Hembram raised the Question No. 1748 in the State Legislative Assembly on 17th December 1998 on the establishment of industries – small, medium and large in Mayurbhanj district during the preceding ten years and wanted to know how many of them have become sick and the steps to revive them.²² Similarly, Parama Pujari raised Question No. 1756 in the State Legislative Assembly on 17th December 1998 in which she asked on the number of families identified under the Below Poverty Line (BPL) and number of persons who have received the Consumer Cards.²³

Besides, some of the tribal women Members of Parliament and the State Legislative Assembly have actively participated in the debates and discussions in the respective legislatures. They have also actively participated in the law-making process. Some of them have been very articulate and significantly contributed in enriching the quality of debate and discussion inside the legislatures. The Members of Parliament and the Members of the State Legislative Assembly have been provided with MP-LAD fund and MLA-LAD fund. They have shown enthusiasm in using these funds to render some service to the people of their constituencies. They have the perception that it is through these projects they can reach their electorate and strengthen their support base by having successful track record. These schemes have been very useful in creating durable assets of minor nature in various localities be it be urban or rural. Through these projects they feel that they are helping to improve the living standards of the people of their respective constituencies as well as the State.

In Odisha, some of the tribal women MLAs have been given Ministerial responsibility. The first tribal woman MLA who was given Ministerial responsibility was Saraswati Hembram from

²² Odisha Legislative Assembly Debates, Thursday, 17 December 1998, 11th Assembly, 14th Session, OLA, Volume XIV, No. 13, Assembly Secretariat, Bhubaneswar, p. 61.

²³ *Ibid.*, p. 64.

Mayurbhanj district, who became a Deputy Minister in 1980 in the Council of Ministers headed by J.B. Patnaik. She was later elevated as a Cabinet Minister in the Congress Ministries headed by Giridhar Gamang and Hemanand Biswal and was allotted Women and Child Development portfolio. Similarly, Frida Topno joined the Council of Ministers in Odisha headed by J.B. Patnaik as Minister of State in 1985 and was allocated Fisheries and Animal Husbandry Department. Later, he was shifted to Education, Sports and Youth Services Department. Parama Pujari, another tribal woman MLA from Koraput district was taken as a Deputy Minister in 1986 in the Ministry headed by J.B. Patnaik and she handled Harijan and Tribal Welfare Department. Later, she was allocated Health and Family Welfare portfolios as a Deputy Minister in the Congress Ministry headed by Hemanand Biswal. She became a Minister of State in February 1999 in the Giridhari Gamang ministry and was allocated Rural Development and Panchayati Raj portfolios. In the Hemanand Biswal ministry in December 1999, as Minister of State, she was allocated ST & SC Development and Minorities and Backward Classes Welfare Department. Droupadi Murmu, a tribal MLA from Mayurbhanj district was taken as Minister of State in March 2000 in the BJD-BJP Coalition Government headed by Naveen Patnaik and was allocated Commerce and Transport portfolios. In August 2000, she was elevated as Minister of State (Independent Charge) with the same portfolio. In 2002, she became Minister of State (Independent Charge) with portfolios of Fisheries and Animal Resource Development. Sarojini Hembram was taken as Minister of State (Independent Charge) in the BJD Government led by Naveen Patnaik as Chief Minister in 2009 and was allocated Textiles, Handlooms and Handicrafts Departments. The tribal women Ministers functioned efficiently and effectively and gave leadership to the Departments they were entrusted with. It is significant to note that none of the tribal woman legislators have been allotted important portfolios like Home, Finance, Revenue, Water Resources and the like.

The tribal MLAs in Odisha have expressed their desire to fulfil the following objectives as evident from their profiles published by the Odisha Legislative Assembly.²⁴ Similarly, the tribal women legislators and parliamentarians have also shared the following desires and objectives:

- Tribal development and their uplift.

²⁴ Refer *Who is Who of the Odisha Legislative Assembly*, 1967, 1971, 1974, 1980, 1985, 1995, 2000, 2004 and 2009.

- Social reforms among the tribals.
- Modernise the tribals and to acquaint them with modern culture and civilisation.
- Removal of social evils from tribal communities.
- Safeguard social customs of the Adivasis.
- Promote Adivasi welfare activities.
- Development and promotion of tribal languages
- Promote and protect tribal culture.
- Establish educational institutions to educate the tribals.
- Expand facilities of education of tribal women.
- Enforce Family Planning and Prohibition.
- Eradication of Illiteracy.
- Campaign against dowry.
- Write Articles on life and culture of the Adivasis.
- Facilitate socio-economic transformation of the tribal communities.
- Fight against corruption
- Create awareness against liquor
- Fight against sexual exploitation of tribal women.
- Elimination of poverty among the Adivasis.

A study on the political recruitment of the tribal leaders in Odisha reveals that they have joined the active politics through the following movements/organisations:

- Freedom Movement
- Bhoodan Movement
- Jharkhand Movement
- Panchayati Raj Institutions
- Adivasi Students Association
- Adivasi Sangha
- Congress Seva Dal

Besides, some of them left the Government and non-Government jobs to join active public life. However, the women leaders from the tribal communities have come to public life either through their participation in the grassroots level politics or through various women's movements. Some

of them were serving in the Government before them joined the public life. It is interesting to note that some of them have started their political life from participating in Panchayati Raj institutions in early period of their political career.

Table 2

**Nature of Political Representation of Tribal Women MLAs:
Odisha Legislative Assembly (1980 to 2014)**

Sl. No.	Name of the Elected Legislator	Year(s) of Election	No. of Times Elected
1.	Saraswati Hembram (ST)	1980, 1985, 1995	03
2.	Chandrama Santa (ST)	1980, 1985	02
3.	Bhagabati Pujari (ST)	1985	01
4.	Phulamani Santa (ST)	1980	01
5.	Parama Pujari (ST)	1980, 1985, 1995, 2000	04
6.	Frida Topno (ST)	1985	01
7.	Droupadi Murmu (ST)	2000, 2004	02
8.	Sarojini Hembram (ST)	2009	01
9.	Mamata Madhi (ST)	2000, 2009	02
10.	Pramila Giri (ST)	2004	01
11.	Hema Gamang (ST)	2004	01
12.	Ajayanti Pradhan (ST)	2004	01
13.	Basanti Mallick (ST)	2014	01

Source: Compiled from various sources.

Table 3

**Constituency-wise Elected Tribal Women
Members of Parliament (Lok Sabha) (1991-2014)**

Elections	Constituency	Elected Representative	Party Affiliation
1991	Sundargarh (ST)	Frida Topno	INC
1996	Sundargarh (ST)	Frida Topno	INC
1996	Mayurbhanj (ST)	Sushila Tiriya	INC

1999	Koraput (ST)	Hemabati Gomang	INC
2014	Keonjhar (ST)	Sakuntala Laguri	BJD

Source: Compiled from various sources.

Table 4

Profile of Elected Women MPs of Odisha in Rajya Sabha (1952 to 2014)

Sl. No.	Name of the Elected Legislator	Tenure	No. of Times Elected
1.	Sushila Tiria	1986-92; 2006-2012	02
2.	Frida Topno	1998-2002	01
3.	Sarojini Hembram	2014-continuing	01

Source: Compiled from various sources.

Table 5

Tribal Representation in Different Ministries in Odisha

Year	Ministry	Chief Minister	Cabinet Ministers including CM	State (Ind.)	State	Deputy	Total Strength
1946	Congress	H.K. Mahtab	4 (1)	-	-	5	09
1954	Congress	N.K. Choudhury	6 (1)	-	-	7	13
1956	Congress	H.K. Mahtab	4	-	-	5	09
1957	Congress	H.K. Mahtab	10	-	-	4(2)	14
1959	Congress	H.K. Mahtab	11	-	-	-	11
1961	Congress	Biju Patnaik	7	-	-	-	07
1963	Congress	Biren Mitra	9(1)	-	-	5(2)	14
1965	Congress	Sadasib Tripathy	7(1)	-	-	7(1)	14
Mar.	Swa-J.C.	R.N. Singh	14(3)	-	-	5(2)	19

1967		Deo					
Sept. 1967	-do-	R.N. Singh Deo	12	-	-	7(4)	19
Aug. 1969	-do-	R.N. Singh Deo	14(3)	-	-	5(2)	19
1971	Swa-U.C. & Jharkhand	Biswanath Das	14(2)	-	-	12(5)	26
1972	Congress	Nandini Satapathy	9(1)	-	5(2)	1	15
1974	Congress	Nandini Satapathy	6	-	8(2)	3(1)	17
1975	Congress	Nandini Satapathy	7(1)	-	8(1)	3(1)	18
1976	Congress	Binayak Acharya	9(2)	-	4	1	14
1977	Janata	Nilamani Routray	9	-	6(4)	-	15
1979	-do-	Nilamani Routray	12(1)	-	13(5)	-	25
1980	Congress	J.B. Patnaik	8(1)	-	10(1)	1(1)	19
1981	Congress	J.B. Patnaik	7(1)	-	10(1)	1(1)	18
1984	Congress	J.B. Patnaik	7(1)	-	8(1)	1(1)	16
1985	Congress	J.B. Patnaik	6	-	10(4)	-	16
1986	Congress	J.B. Patnaik	9	-	12(4)	2(2)	23
1989	Congress	Hemanand Biswal	8(3)	-	15(3)	2(1)	25
1990	Janata	Biju Patnaik	14(2)	-	11(5)	1	26
Jan. 1991	Janata	Biju Patnaik	22(2)	-	15(6)	-	37

1995	Congress	J.B. Patnaik	12(1) DCM	4	5(1)	-	21
1998	Congress	J.B. Patnaik	15(1)	9 (2)	5(1)	-	29
1999	Congress	Giridhar Gamang	13(2)	5 (1)	9(3)	-	27
1999	Congress	Hemanand Biswal	14(2)	8 (1)	9(2)	-	31
2000	BJD-BJP	Naveen Patnaik	15(1)	6 (2)	4(1)	-	25
2002	-do-	Naveen Patnaik	14(1)	6 (1)	4(2)	-	24
2004	-do-	Naveen Patnaik	15(1)	7 (1)	-	-	22
2009	BJD	Naveen Patnaik	12(1)	9 (1)	-	-	21
2014	BJD	Naveen Patnaik	15 (1)	07	-	-	22 (1)

Note: Number of Tribal Ministers of different categories have been mentioned in the brackets.

Table 6

Tribal Women Ministers in different Ministries of Odisha along with their Portfolios (1981-2014)

Name	Year	Status	Portfolios	Ministry
Saraswati Hembrum	1981 to 1985	Deputy Minister	C.D. & P.R.	Congress Ministry headed by J.B. Patnaik
Frida Topno	1985	Minister of State	Fisheries & A.H.	-do-
Frida Topno	1986	Minister of State	Education, Sports & Youth Services	-do-

Parama Pujari	1986	Deputy Minister	Harijan & T.W.	-do-
Saraswati Hembrum	1986	Deputy Minister	C.D. & P.R.	-do-
Frida Topno	1989	Minister of State	Education & Y.S.	Congress Ministry headed by Hemanand Biswal
Saraswati Hembrum	1989	Minister of State	C.D. & P.R.	-do-
Parama Pujari	1989	Deputy Minister	Health & F.W.	-do-
Saraswati Hembrum	Feb. 1999	Cabinet Minister	Women & Child Development	Congress Ministry headed by Girdhar Gamang
Parama Pujari	Feb. 1999	Minister of State	R.D. & P.R.	-do-
Saraswati Hembrum	Dec. 1999	Cabinet Minister	Women & Child Dev.	Congress Ministry headed by Hemanand Biswal
Parama Pujari	Dec. 1999	Minister of State	S.T. & S.C. Development & Minorities and Backward Classes Welfare	Congress Ministry headed by Hemanand Biswal

Droupadi Murmu	March 2000	Minister of State	Commerce and Transport	BJD-BJP Coalition headed by Naveen Patnaik
Droupadi Murmu	Aug. 2000	Minister of State (Ind. charge)	Commerce and Transport	-do-
Droupadi Murmu	2002	Minister of State (Ind. charge)	Fisheries and Animal Resources Development	-do-
Sarojini Hembram	2009	Minister of State (Ind.)	Textiles, Handlooms and Handicrafts	BJD Ministry headed by Naveen Patnaik

Source: Compiled from various sources.

CONCLUSION

“Tribal Women in Odisha: A study of their Role Perception and articulation on some major Issues” has taken a great significant steps. The most of tribals have adversely affected by the large scale mining activities in the state forty percent were tribal people from 2 million people have been displaced by development projects in the state between 1981 and 1955. The main aim of Resettlement and Rehabilitation policy, is to ensure environmental sustainability through participating and transparent process. The study of tribal women and forest economy has implmented the programme for planting 50 trees in each village. Scheduled Tribes and forest dwellers (Recognition of forest Rights) Act 2006 is basically aimed to empower and improve livelihood changes of marginalised people. Role perceptions of the Legislator and parliamentarians are generally interested to raise matters pertaining to “Women Issues”, such as, education, health, child welfare, women welfare, food and prices of essential commodities. They are playing vital domestic role. Droupadi Murmu, who was a former Minister of Odisha, she is the first woman to become the Governor of the tribal dominated state of Jharkhand. The women members both form the General Categories and those belonging to the Schedule Castes and

Scheduled Tribe have been highlighting the various issues of public namely; functioning of lift irrigation pumps, implementation of different policies and programmes of the government, minimum support price of agricultural products, to accord primarily to electrification in rural areas, social, political and economic empowerment of women. The tribal women legislators and parliamentarians have been participated in many Assembly and parliamentary debates and discussions. They are asked questions from many angles. They have also actively participated and articulated in law making process. Saraswati Hembram a tribal MLA from Mayurbhanj district, she was taken first Ministerial responsibility. She became a Deputy Minister in 1980 in council of Ministers headed by J.B. Patnaik.