

# TRIBAL STUDIES

## *AN OUTLINE OF PROPOSED SYLLABUS FOR UNDERGRADUATE COURSE UNDER DISTANCE EDUCATION MODE*

The approach of studying tribal problems in this country has been basically on three aspects, namely empirical (based on field work), theoretical (based on critical analytical discourse) and applied (based on various development programmes and their evaluations). All these three aspects are operationally interlinked through professionally derived methodological constructs and their interpretations.

The discipline of anthropology has been the main scholarly source of overall academic inputs in their study of tribal problems in this country and elsewhere from the pre-colonial times to the present. Nevertheless, the subject has assumed an interdisciplinary commitment over the last several decades. Therefore, one also requires to look into the related disciplines like history, economics, political science, geography, linguistics, philosophy etc. for wider intellectual stimulation.

The course is divided into four papers consisting of the board dimensions and some specific issues touching on the general tribal situation in India with a special mention of Arunachal Pradesh, the erstwhile NEFA.

### **Paper-I**

#### **Tribal Studies: Concepts and Methods**

##### **Unit-I Definitions and Scope**

- (a) Introduction to Tribal Studies: Nature, Scope, relevance, relationship with other disciplines.
- (b) Conceptual debate: tribes and indigenous people; Use of terms in India; Scheduled Tribes, primitive tribes, denotified tribes, ex-criminal tribes in India. .

##### **Unit-II Tribal Studies in India**

Emergence and growth, approaches

##### **Unit-III Social Structure and process**

- (a) Structure, function and Organisation
- (b) Social Mobility: types, tribe and caste, tribe-caste-peasantry contrast and continuum
- (c) Conceptual understanding of Social process: Tribalisation, detribalization, retribalisation and sanskritisation.

##### **Unit-IV: Fieldwork Tradition in Tribal Studies**

- (a) Historical background, Significance of fieldwork, Ethics in fieldwork tradition
- (b) Comparative methods in tribal studies

- (c) Studying one's own tribe; Etic and Emic perspectives

#### **Unit-V: Collection of Data**

- (a) Methods and methodology and objectivity in research.
- (b) Techniques of collection of data- Census and Sampling Methods
- (c) Quantitative and Qualitative Methods and its Tools and Techniques : Types, Primary and Secondary sources of data, written and unwritten sources, Observation, Interview, Cash Study, Genealogies, Participatory methods and focus group discussion.

## **Paper II**

### **Tribes in India and in Arunachal Pradesh**

#### **Unit-I Tribes, Habitats and Characteristics**

- (a) Tribes in India - geographical distribution, ecological peculiarities, demographic trend, bio-genetic variability.
- (b) Education – formal and informal.
- (c) Tribal Knowledge System – health and medicine, resource conservation- beliefs, practices.
- (d) Tribal ethics, and morals.
- (e) Customary laws and social sanctions.

#### **Unit-II Socio-Political Organizations**

- (a) Family, marriage, and kinship.
- (b) Types and functions of tribal polity.
- (c) Women in tribal society
- (d) Religion: Faiths, belief, practices, magic, science and religion

#### **Unit-III Economic Organisation**

- (a) Hunting to agriculture including the pastoralism, industrial labour-nature and feature.
- (b) Production, Consumption and Exchange.
- (c) Property access and inheritance

#### **Unit-IV Tribes in Arunachal Pradesh**

- (a) Demography, Geographical distribution, racial and linguistic family, religious classification.
- (b) Historical background.
- (c) An overview of Studies on Arunachal tribes.

#### **Unit-V Tribal Life in Arunachal Pradesh**

- (a) Social, Political, economic and religious life
- (b) Changing Scenerio

Education and health, political participation and PRIs, religious conversion and revivalism, occupational diversification, mobility and status of women; contributing factors and agents of change.

## **Paper III**

### **Contemporary Tribal Issues**

#### **Unit-I Economic Problems**

Poverty, Indebtedness, Land alienation, unemployment, migration displacement and globalisation, rehabilitation, impact of urbanization and industrialization.

#### **Unit-II Issues of Identity**

Social movements and types – Recent trends.

#### **Unit-III Tribal Rights**

- (a) Land, Forest and Water
- (b) IPR
- (c) Human rights

#### **Unit-IV Emerging Social Problems**

Problems of the aged, issue of access to education and literacy. Malnutrition, alcoholism, drug abuse, child-labour, trafficking, HIV/AIDS, gender inequality, safe-drinking water, re-productive health

#### **Unit-V Language Issues**

Script issue, medium of instruction and preservation of language and problem

**Paper IV**  
**Constitutional Provisions and Tribal Development  
Programmes in India**

**Unit-I Constitutional Provisions and Safeguards**

**Unit-II Five Year Plans and Tribal Development Programmes**

**Unit-III History of Tribal Policy and Approach to Tribal Development in India**

- (a) Concept of Tribal development
- (b) Tribal Policy during pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial period
- (c) Approaches to tribal development in India

**Unit-IV Provisions in Fifth and Sixth Schedules, Autonomous District Councils**

**Unit-V Impact and Implication of Tribal policies**

- (a) Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996,
- (b) Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006.