

**INDUSTRIALIZATION AND SOCIAL CHANGE:
A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF
TRIBALS OF RAJASTHAN**

By

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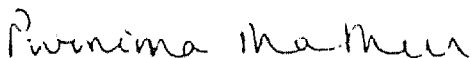
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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the thesis entitled "INDUSTRIALIZATION AND SOCIAL CHANGE : A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF TRIBALS OF RAJASTHAN" submitted by Shri Muni Dev Singh Tyagi to the Deptt. of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi is worthy of consideration for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The thesis is a record of the bonafide research work carried out by him.

Shri Muni Dev Singh Tyagi has worked under my guidance and supervision and has fulfilled the requirements for the submission of this thesis. The results contained in it have not been submitted in part or full to any other University or Institute for the award of any degree/diploma.


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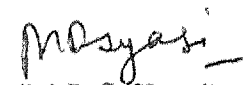
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(M.D.S. Tyagi)

ABSTRACT

The tribal population of India has, for centuries, lived in virtual isolation. It is only after the advent of the British and more so after Independence that they came in contact with other communities. The link has come about at a time when there has been a rapid change due to industrial and technical growth in the country accompanied by acceleration of developmental activities. A number of industrial, mining and irrigation projects have been set up in the tribal areas and communication systems have been extended to these areas. All this has had an impact on the life-style and culture of the tribal communities. To some extent, change is inevitable and essential to life, but change should be brought about in a desirable direction so that it ultimately improves the quality of life of people.

The present study aims to study the pattern and processes of changes which are taking place among the Bhils, one of the tribal communities of Rajasthan, in the process of industrialization. This endeavour has tried to use the theoretical framework of 'Quality of Life' for understanding the process of social change among the tribals since the changes are ultimately reflecting in their quality of life (QOL). The quality of life has been examined in the present study through QOL indicators, in a holistic manner by taking into consideration both types of dimensions - objective (the aggregate of use values realized in peoples lives) and subjective (the aggregate of realized use values as subjectively perceived by the people).

Since the present study is of exploratory nature, no set of hypotheses was formulated for empirical verification. However, the investigator had some research questions, to be probed in the real life situations of the Bhils of Rajasthan.

Udaipur (district) in Rajasthan was selected as the location of the study as it has the highest concentration of tribal population in comparison to any other district of the state and also occupies a paramount position in the tribal region so far as the industrial activities are concerned. Ideally speaking, from the social research angle, there should have been a base-line survey available for measuring the 'impact' of the industrialization process on the quality of life of Bhils. This was not possible as the relevant data was just not there. The next best alternative was to select a group of respondents from the industrialized environment as the 'experimental' group and another group of respondents from the non-industrialized setting as the 'control' group. This design of comparative nature has, by and large, been followed in this study.

The thesis has eight chapters. The first has a brief discussion on the theoretical framework of the study. The first chapter also provides the major objectives along with some pertinent research questions. At the end of the chapter, definitions of certain key concepts are given.

The second chapter deals with the research design of the present inquiry. The selection of samples, tools and techniques of data collection, development of various scales, fieldwork experiences have been described in this chapter.

In the third chapter, the socio-demographic profile of respondents such as age, marital status, family background, education, occupation, income, socio-economic status, etc. are presented.

Chapter four presents the Bhils' objective conditions of living with reference to economic aspects such as the size and pattern of land-holdings owned by respondents, irrigation

facility, farming implements, occupational pattern, level of living standard, income and expenditure pattern, indebtedness, etc.

Chapter five is devoted to present a discussion on political aspects linked with respondents. The discussion pays greater attention on political awareness and political participation found among the respondents. The political awareness has been judged on the basis of the respondents' knowledge and interest shown in the political activities. The political participation has been assessed through their involvement into various political activities such as casting their votes; election campaigning; contesting an election; taking part in political rally, demonstration, dharna, etc.; membership of trade union, kisaan (peasant) union, local political organization or political parties, etc.

Chapter six presents the respondents' world-view in the frame reference of socio-cultural, religious, economic, political, etc. An attempt has been made in this chapter to identify the attitudinal changes emerging among the Bhils. Further, the chapter presents perceptions of respondents for assessing the process of change and it also tries to know their future aspirations and hopes.

Chapter seven deals with presenting the life-quality of Bhils with the help of Quality of Life (QOL) index. Besides an appraisal of QOL has been attempted by assigning weightage to the respondents' responses. Also, the congruence/ incongruence between the two dimensions of QOL has been examined with the different SES groups of respondents. This examination suggested that the indicators of QOL have to be modified for analyzing the changes among tribals.

Chapter eight, the concluding chapter, presents a summary of the highlights/ findings of the present study. In addition to this, the last chapter suggests a modified conceptual frame of QOL for future empirical studies on tribals.

Table of Contents

	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	i
	ABSTRACT	ii - iv
CHAPTER - I	INTRODUCTION	1 - 27
	Survey of the existing literature	7 - 14
	Theoretical framework	15 - 18
	Objectives of the study	18 - 19
	Research questions	19 - 20
	Concepts and definitions	20 - 23
	References	24 - 27
CHAPTER-II	METHODOLOGY	28 - 42
	Universe of the study	29 - 30
	Sample selection	30 - 32
	Sample size	32
	Tools of data collection	33
	Fieldwork	33 - 34
	Scales and measurements	34 - 41
	References	42
CHAPTER-III	SOCIAL BACKGROUND OF RESPONDENTS.....	43 - 64
	Age composition	44 - 45
	Sex-composition	45
	Marital status	46
	Family size and type	46 - 49
	Dwelling	49 - 50
	Education	50 - 52
	Land ownership	53 - 55
	Occupation	55 - 58
	Income level	58 - 60
	Socio-economic status (SES)	60 - 63
	References	64
CHAPTER-IV	TRIBAL ECONOMY & ITS TRANSFORMATION ...	65 - 97
	Pattern and size of land-holdings	70 - 74
	Irrigation facility	74 - 76
	Agricultural implements	76 - 78
	Occupational pattern	78 - 84
	Occupational prestige	85 - 87
	Level of living standard	87 - 88
	Income and expenditure pattern	89 - 92
	Indebtedness	92 - 96
	References	97

CHAPTER - V	POLITICAL ASPECT OF CHANGE	
	AMONG THE TRIBALS	98 - 119
	Traditional political system among the Bhils	99 - 100
	Constitutional provision relating to political safeguard of tribals	100 - 101
	Evolution of Panchayati Raj Acts	101 - 102
	Political awareness	102 - 104
	Political participation	104 - 109
	Social correlates of political participation	110 - 114
	Women and political participation	114 - 118
	References	119
CHAPTER-VI	RESPONDENTS' WORLD-VIEW	120 - 151
	Perceptions of respondents	121 - 128
	Attitudinal changes	129 - 139
	Aspirations	140 - 150
	References	151
CHAPTER-VII	QUALITY OF LIFE AND ITS ASSESSMENT	152 - 163
CHAPTER-VIII	CONCLUSION.....	164 - 177
	SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	178 - 200

Appendices

<i>Appendix - I</i>	Profile of the sample Blocks	i
<i>Appendix - II</i>	Circular issued by Ministry of Welfare regarding the income limit indicating poverty-line	ii
<i>Appendix -III</i>	Constitutional Safeguards for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes	iii - iv
<i>Appendix - IV</i>	Total Population and Percentage of Scheduled Tribe - 1991 (State-wise)	v
<i>Appendix - V</i>	Sex Ratio and Percentage of Population aged 0-6 for Total Population and Schedule tribe population (State-wise)	vi
<i>Appendix - VI</i>	Literacy rates for Total population and Scheduled tribe population by sex - 1991 (State-wise)	vii
<i>Appendix - VII</i>	Work Participations Rates in total population and scheduled tribe population (State-wise)	viii
<i>Appendix - VIII</i>	Percentage of Main workers in Primary, Secondary and Tertiary sectors among Total population and Scheduled tribe population - 1991 (State-wise)	ix
<i>Appendix - IX</i>	Distribution of land-holdings and area of operational-holdings among Scheduled Tribes by size categories	x
<i>Appendix - X</i>	Average size of land-holdings by social groups	xi
<i>Appendix - XI</i>	Percentage of persons below the poverty line (State-wise)	xii
<i>Appendix - XII</i>	Bhil knowledge/usage of Drugs (Also practiced in other Traditional Indian Medicines)	xiii - xiv