



# Impact on Social and Economic Tribal Life of Tribal Sub Plan in Rajasthan in 21st Century

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**ABSTRACT:** Rajasthan as a state is highly populated by various tribal communities. After, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar and Gujarat, Rajasthan has the highest population of tribes. Mount Abu has grown from a tribal dominated hill station to a famous Indian tourist spot, with thousands of visitors traveling each year. Due to the fragile and beautiful ecology of the area, the state tourism department takes special steps to protect the area. In 2009, the government of India accorded the status of Eco-Sensitive Zone to Mount Abu, in a bid to prevent the sensitive flora, fauna and tribal ecology from the rampant activities of modernization. A major portion of the Sirohi district is inhabited with tribal communities, accounting to over 43% of the total population. The majority of the tribal population is dominated by the Bhil, Meena and Garasia tribes. These tribes till today have been exposed to the minimal urbanization, thus allowing them to still maintain their primitive lifestyles.

**KEYWORDS;** Rajasthan,tribal,subplan,social,economic,life,21stcentury,lifestyles,population

## INTRODUCTION

### Bhil Tribe

The Bhils are generally referred to as the “bow men” of Rajasthan and are the largest tribe of the entire South Asia. Two types of Bhils are generally found. Amongst them, the Pure Bhil is the largest clan and Rajput Bhils follows them in terms of numbers. Mount Abu has a huge number of pure Bhils residing in the territory, who are revered as great warriors having played major role in India’s struggle for independence. The Bhils maintain a patriarchal form of society and are traditionally good archers. They live in small mud houses in the forest of the Aravallis. Linguistically, the Bhils majorly speak in “Bhili”, which is a derivative of the Indo-Aryan language.

The Bhils have a nomadic life and are generally stuck in the lowest strata of the economic spectrum, with very low per capita income. However with the advent of time, this tribe has stopped being nomads and have changed their lifestyle into agricultural activities. More than 86% of the total Bhil population are into agriculture at present, with the remaining people engaging themselves as farm labourers and huntsmen. “Chimata” and “Dajia” are two types of agrarian activities practised by the Bhils. Maize is the main crop grown over here, beside wheat. The Bhils do farming majorly for self consumption. Bamboo plantation is also maintained by this tribe. The Bhil tribals are simple people and give lot of value to honour and courage.

They are vibrant people, enjoying their life with variety of festivals and fairs. Mount Abu tourists can enjoy Baneshwar Fair during the month of January, which celebrates the Shiv Ratri. The hill station gets crowded with tourists during this season, who through the hill station to enjoy various cultural shows and acrobatic feats. Holi and Dusshera are celebrated with grandeur by the Bhils.

The costumes of the Bhil people are predominantly ethnic with women normally found in traditional colourful sarees and men wear loose long frock along with pyjama and turbans. Brass ornaments are commonly worn by the Bhil people. They worship local deities like Khandoba, Kanhoba, Bahiroba, and Sitalmata. The tribe is superstitious in nature and have “Badvas” (hereditary sorcerer) and gurus for each village. Ghoomar is the famous dance form of Bhil tribe. Gair is a form of religious dance drama performed by the Bhil men during festival season.

### Meena Tribe

Mount Abu has a very little Meena population as mostly these tribals have urbanised with time and have moved ahead of their tribal lives. They have taken up Zamindari (landlordship) and Chowkidari (security guards) as their primary professions. Education has also started taking baby steps and entering their communities. Although many people from the Meena tribal society engage in agriculture to earn their living, they are letting their present day generation go to

schools to study to explore other professions and different avenues of incomes.

#### Garasia Tribe

Garasia tribes have got their prominence in the Indian culture with their advanced lifestyle. They are a part of the Rajput community and are the third largest tribal community of Rajasthan. The Garasias are peace loving people and maintain harmony in their society. They live in small huts in the forest mainly on the hill slopes. Their huts are very crude and are made of mud and bamboo. They earn their livelihood through agricultural activities and animal husbandry. Traditionally a patriarchal society, Garasia men do all the work outside home with women taking care of the family. Inter caste marriage is allowed and the joint family tradition is still prevalent. The Garasia tribe has a very unique and custom in marriage. The men folk generally elope with the bride of their choice to formalize and solemnise their wedding commitments.



With the turn of time, the Garasia tribe has become an agrarian community. They have mastered the process of production of Maize, Rice, Jowar and Wheat. However, they concentrate their efforts in pursuing a single crop during the year and through the rest of the time remaining in the year, they depend upon wood logging, cattle grazing, hunting and working as casual labourers for their subsistence. The Garasias are mostly vegetarian in nature and have no addiction to liquor. Lapsi, Malpua and Churma are savouries generally prepared to mark special occasion and festivities.

The men wear red or white turbans which are also called safa or potiyu. They wear Angarkhi, Kurta and Dhoti while female folk wear Gherdar ghagra, Odni and Jhulki. Adorning themselves with several silver ornaments and tattooing is a popular fashion. Poultry Farming is practised by almost all the households. Goats, Hen, Partridges and Quails are reared and sold in the market. They worship Kalaji-Goraji, Dharamraj, Lord Ganesh, Amba Mata, Chamunda, Thakurji, Hawlo, Abu and Sitala. Main festival celebration is during Baisakhi Krishna Panchami, which they celebrate with folk songs and Tribal dance. Festivals like Holi, Rakhi, Diwali, Navratri, Akha Teej, Dussehra are also celebrated.



## II.DISCUSSION

'India is a land of diversities'. This fact is all the more pronounced in Rajasthan. The Desert Land is dotted by Simple People, Bright Attires, Impressive Turbans and A Linage Of Graceful Women !

According to the 2001 census, Rajasthan has a total population of 56.5 million.

Unlike the olden days, the profession of the people no more decides their caste. The people are free to opt for any profession. People of different castes and sub-castes co-exist in Rajasthan. Rajasthanis are sturdy and simple. They are unaware of the fast pace that the modern life moves on. This makes Rajasthan one amongst the safest destinations worldwide.

### Colourful and Ornamental

Colourful attires dominate the land. The bright costumes and attires of the Rajasthanis present a complete contrast to the barren, colourless landscape and the monotony of its cloudless sky. Irrespective of the caste, each person has a distinct preference for bright costumes. Whether a rural folk or a Raja, attires in bright red, brilliant yellow or lively green are preferred by one and all. A sparkling gold or silver zari highlight lends the perfect finish.

Rajasthani women love to wear jewelery in silver. The age-old designs characteristic of a specific tribe, reflect in the ornaments. Normal ornaments of neck, nose, ear and hand are worn by Rajasthani women on daily basis, but on special occasions and social gatherings several additional ornaments are worn to look even more beautiful. Exquisite designs of the jewelery and ornaments of Rajasthan has made them popular not only amongst the women of India but also amongst the women of the foreign countries.

### Impressive Turbans

Turbans, popularly known as pagdi, vary with varying religion and region. The Rajput turbans are completely different from the Sikh and the Arab turbans.

Not only cuisine, water and dialect but turbans also change within every 12 miles in Rajasthan. As a matter of fact, there are almost 1,000 different styles of wearing turbans. Each style of the turban highlights the region, caste and class of the individual. Brightly coloured turbans are preferred by the residents. Special turbans are worn on special occasions.

### A Lineage of Graceful Women

The womenfolk of Rajasthan are identified for their beauty and grace. Maharani Padmini Devi of Chittaurgarh is the perfect example of a beauteous beauty of Rajasthan. Yet another beauty, Maharani Gayatri Devi, the present day 'Rajmata of Jaipur', was listed amongst the ten most beautiful women in the whole world. Her charm has not diminished till date...

Rajasthan tribals were the original inhabitants of the area now called Rajasthan. Every tribe, small or big, shares common traits.

Rajasthan tribals form approximately twelve percent of the total population of Rajasthan. In fact, they were the original inhabitants of the area presently called Rajasthan. The Bhils and the Minas are the principal tribes of Rajasthan, India. Amongst the smaller tribes are Sahariyas, Gaduliya Lohars and the Garasias.

The common traits shared by the different tribes of Rajasthan link their past together. Each tribe is distinguished by difference in their costumes, festivals and ornaments.



Some of the main tribes of Rajasthan are:

#### Bhils

Bhils, the principal tribe of Rajasthan, comprise approximately 39% of the total tribal population in Rajasthan. Banswara area is dominated by this tribal group. They were believed to be fine archers and some Bhil bowmen found a mention in the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. In order to maintain their number, the Bhils mingled with the Rajputs.

A number of Bhils gather at the Baneshwar festival held in Dungarpur. They rejoice by singing and dancing at the festival. Yet another festive time for Bhils is Holi. Superstition is deep rooted in the Bhil culture.

Bhills are considered as one of the oldest tribe in India. Once they were the ruler in parts of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Malwa, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar. They are a cross section of great Munda race and a wild tribe of India. Bhills could be identified as one of the Dravidian racial tribe of Western India and belong to Austroloid group of tribes. They speak a language of Dravidian origin.

In Tripura total Bhil population is 3,105 as per 2011 Census. This tribe has migrated to Tripura from central India mainly from Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. Their economy is centralized with Tea garden, Brickfield and Agriculture. Their major concentrations in Tripura are mainly in Akinpur of Belonia, Bagan Bazar of Khowai Sub-Division. They are also found in North Tripura working in Tea gardens.

Bhills are Hindus by religion. They appease deities of forest and evil spirits beside pujas of Lord Shiva and Durga. Small percentages among them follow Christianity. They cremate their dead followed series of rites as per their traditional customs and believe.

Bhills are also fond of dance and music with traditional tune of Flute and Drum. In all family and community ceremonies they enjoy whole night by drinking and dancing. Bhills in other part of the country are well literate and enjoy modern weave of life.

#### Minas

Minas, the second largest tribe in Rajasthan, dominate the area of Shekhawati and other eastern parts of Rajasthan. They originally resided at the Indus Valley civilization.

Minas have tall and athletic built and sharp features including large eyes, light brown complexion and thick lips. Alike the Bhils, the literacy rate amongst the Minas is low. They are married in quite young years.

#### Gadiya Lohars

Originally a martial tribe, Gadiya Lohars derived their name from the attractive bullock carts popularly called gadis. Nowadays, they are nomadic blacksmiths. They left their homeland after Maharana Pratap was ousted from Chittorgarh by Emperor Akbar.

#### Garasias

Garasias, small Rajput tribe resides along the Abu Road area in southern Rajasthan. Marriage through elopement is an interesting custom followed by this tribal group.

#### Sahariyas

Sahariyas, the jungle dwellers, are found in Kota, Dungarpur and Sawai Madhopur areas of southern Rajasthan. Thought to be of Bhil origin, they are considered the most backward tribe in Rajasthan. Hunting and fishing are the main sources of earning a livelihood.

#### Damors

Damors, chiefly, cultivators and manual laborers migrated from Gujarat to Rajasthan and settled in the Udaipur and Dungarpur districts.

Other tribes of Rajasthan include:



Meo and Banjara, the traveling tribes

Rabaris, the cattle breeders

Kathodi, inhabiting Mewar region)

Kanjar

Sansi

### III.RESULTS

Kathodi tribes They have no permanent roofs over their head as they live in a makeshift tent-like structure covered by plastic bags and tarpaulins. Forget about bathrooms, they don't even have cots to sleep. The children and their parents sleep on sacks that serve as mattresses for them. No lights, drinking water, or even a hospital nearby. Life is hopeless and miserable for some 9 families belonging to the Kathodi tribe, nestled in the Ghata Fala forest area in Jhadol Tehsil of Udaipur district. Their lives seems in shambles as they are totally devoid of any facilities or schemes extended by the government to the scheduled tribes which includes free education, health care and ration. Their plight was known when a team from Udaipur visited their settlement and found out about the miserable living conditions. The Kathodi tribes have been residents of this settlement for many decades now. Nothing has changed in this settlement for ages as the tribes here still lead a life that reminds one of a bygone era. The settlement has some forty residents including toddlers and children. The women cook food by burning woods that also helps them to battle the chilly weather. The men and women collect forest produce like Gooseberry (aaonla), Soapberry (reetha) Shikakai etc and sell them to contractors for meagre prices. This fetches them hardly five to six thousand rupees which is not enough for survival of any house hold. Some of the children are enrolled in the nearest government schools but most of them do not go to study and help their parents instead in the collection of the wild fruits.

Bhojraj Padampura, member of a High Power Committee that was constituted recently by the Rajasthan government for prevention of child labour and child trafficking, headed the team that visited Jhadol. Members from the district Child Welfare Committee too had accompanied him. In conversation with The Mooknayak, Bhojraj said the Kathodi families do not have any identity documents like Adhaar or the JanAdhaar which is necessary to avail any facilities granted by the government. There is the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana for the marginalised community, free cooking gas, free treatment but they have no idea of these schemes, he says. The Kathodis go to quacks for treatment, their children are engaged in labour and menial jobs as they grow up. They are not skilled in any vocation. Many children work in small restaurants, tea stalls to support their families. Of 100 children, 30 percent are dropouts in the tribal area. The tribal dominant areas like Jhadol, Kotra, Panarwa, Falasiya etc have been the hotspots for child labour and trafficking cases. Now with better transportation facilities and creation of link roads connecting Highways, risks have increased. Bhojraj says "Few years ago a large rescue operation was held by the Rajasthan government in various cities of Gujarat. Over hundred kids were rescued then and most of them hailed from Jhadol." Bhojraj said, a factual ground report would be made after visiting more settlements like this in the entire district. The report would be presented in the next meeting of the committee and later submitted to the government for needed intervention. The welfare schemes seem only on papers as the ground reality is harsh and bitter, things definitely needs to be changed as the people are devoid of the basic necessities of life including food, clothing and shelter. The Kathodi tribe have their roots in Maharashtra who were brought to Rajasthan by traders who dealt in Kattha making. The community is skilled in extracting Kattha from the 'Khair' tree. Eventually with the mindless felling of trees and a prohibition on extracting kattha, the forest dwellers lost their prominent source of livelihood. As per the 2011 census, their number was only 4833 and more than fifty percent of the people were settled in Udaipur's tribal belt including Sarada, Jhadol and Kotra. Some families are known to have settled in Dungarpur, Baran and Jhalawad districts.

### IV.CONCLUSIONS

After the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) sent a notice to the state government on girls allegedly being sold to solve conflict situations, the state commission for women has decided to start monthly visits to districts in tribal areas to identify such issues. The first visit will start from Udaipur division next month, said officials . Rehana Rayaz Chisti, chairperson of the state commission for women, said these visits will be conducted in the second week of every month. "We have taken cognisance of the incident in Bhilwara and more such issues might be happening in other districts. To



identify these issues, we will be making monthly visits to every district with local officials. Our aim is to find solutions to the problems and take strict action against those responsible. This will help set an example and prevent these socially accepted evils," said Chisti. NHRC served a notice to the state government on the reported auctioning of girls and on the refusal resulting in the rape of their mothers to settle disputes on the diktats of caste panchayats.

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