

Problems of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

Lesson No.	Title	Activity
30	Problems of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes	Look around newspaper/news on internet and try to find out what ways caste based discriminations and prejudices are still prevalent in the society.

Summary

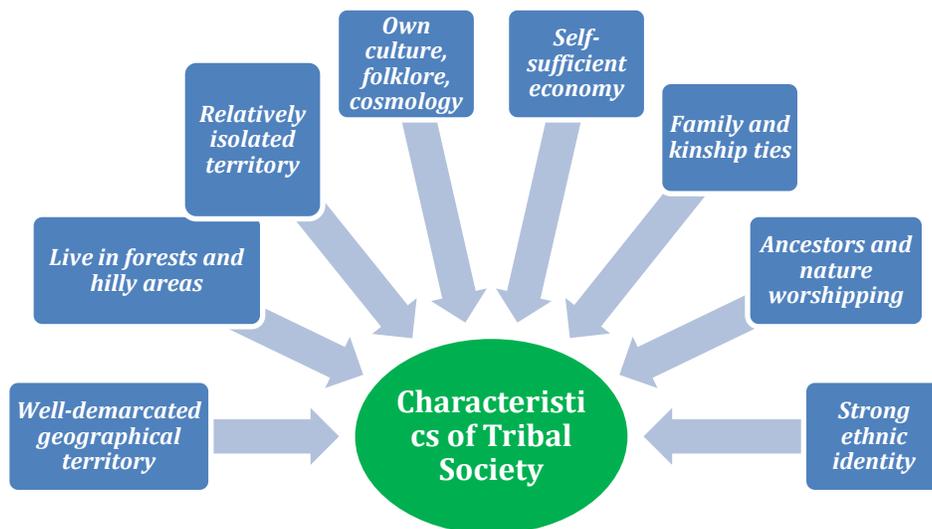
Social problems thus are a condition affecting a significant number of people in ways considered undesirable, and about which it is felt that something can be done through collective social action. The terms “Scheduled Castes” and “Scheduled Tribes” primarily refer to two distinct historically disadvantaged social groups in India with their unique socio-economic and cultural traits and both the group face numerous challenges in their every

Scheduled Castes

- ✚ The scheduled castes are those castes which were placed at the bottom in the traditional caste system owing to their association with occupations which were regarded as unclean or polluted. As a result of this, people belonging to these castes were subjected to various kinds of disabilities such as restrictions on their usage of public places and utilities, restriction on their access to education, etc. It is reported that there are more than 700 scheduled castes in our country.
- ✚ The scheduled castes were not only socially oppressed but also economically exploited and politically marginalized. Some of these caste groups have even become economically and politically dominant in certain areas due to positive effect of the policy of protective discrimination bring pursued by Government of India since Independence, for example, Jatavs of Agra, Chamars in Western Uttar Pradesh, Mahars in Maharashtra, etc.
- ✚ The reasons of problem of poverty among Scheduled Castes are mainly due to lack of education, landlessness and less job opportunities in rural areas. Discrimination against the scheduled castes reached its extreme with the practice of untouchability as a result of which not only the physical touch but even the shadow of such a person was considered polluted. Education and literacy among SCs are also low due to Social stigma, poor socio-economic condition and low Educational attainment of parents

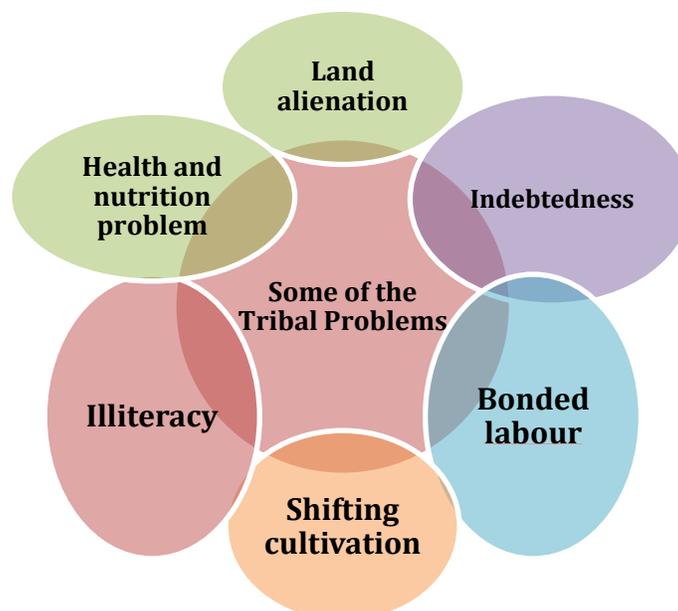
Scheduled Tribes

Scheduled Tribes are those communities which were outside the social oppression of traditional caste system of our society. They live in hills, forests and coastal and desert areas, and even on islands. They have their own socio-cultural, economic and political institutions and practices. There are around 461 Scheduled Tribes in our country and amongst them 75 most backward communities have been identified Primitive Tribal Groups on account of their low population, low literacy and use of pre-agricultural technology. Some of the important tribal groups in India are Gond, Bhil, Santhal, Oraon, Munda, Gujjar, Meena, Mizo, Garo, Khasi, Naga, Andamanese and Nicobari, etc.



These groups also suffer from various forms of discrimination and deprivation but of a different kind. The social problems associated with Scheduled Tribes are primarily rooted in their physical isolation and associated cultural and psychological insulation.

Some of the major problems being faced by the scheduled tribes are:



Evaluate Yourself

1. Explain the reasons of poverty among Scheduled Castes.
2. Find out the reasons of how some of Scheduled caste groups have even become economically and politically dominant in certain areas than others?
3. Describe the main reasons of various social problems associated with Scheduled Tribes.
4. List any five problems faced by Scheduled Tribes in contemporary times.

Islam

- ✚ Islam simply means surrender to the will of one God, called Allah in Arabic. Quran is the sacred text of Islam and it is supposed to contain the revealed words of God. Haj is the supreme pilgrimage of Islam and is made to the sacred building of Kaba at Mecca. Muslims constitute about 13 percent of the total population of India.
- ✚ The three basic concepts of Islam are: the oneness of God (*al-Tawhid*), the concept of prophethood (*al-Risala*) and the concept of life hereafter (*al-Akhirah*). The idea of Islam is summed up in the idea of 'There is no deity but god'. Muslims in India, as elsewhere, are divided into two major sects, *Shias* and *Sunnis*. In comparison to *Shias*, *Sunnis* are in majority in India.

Sikhism

- ✚ Sikhism emerged as a devotional sect around the teachings of Guru Nanak (1469-1539). The *Guru Granth Sahib* is the holy book of Sikhs which contains the hymns composed by the devotional saints as well as the writings of the Sikh gurus. In Sikhism, God is believed to be formless (*nirankara*) and without quality (*nirguna*).
- ✚ Nanak strongly disapproved of ascetism and putting one's body to pain as step towards enlightenment. The institution of 'community kitchens' (*langar*) is central to Sikhism whereby all people, irrespective of their caste and religion, eat together.

Evaluate Yourself