



# Globalization and its effect on tribal development of North-East Regions

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## ABSTRACT

Globalization refers to an emerging “global culture” in which people more often consume similar goods and services across countries and use a common language of business, English; these changes facilitate economic integration and are in turn further promoted by it (Michael P. Todaro and Stephen C. Smith, 2018). The paper attempts to examine the impact of globalization in all aspects of human life directly or indirectly in tribal northeast regions. Globalization has tremendous impact on the indigenous culture and lifestyle of tribal society. The tribes, the original inhabitants of the region mostly live in forest, hills and other naturally isolated regions which are rich in mineral resources. The present study depicts both the positive and negative effect upon the tribal society. This study tries to examine the negative impact of globalization as inequality, poverty, deprivation of land and forest area etc. are still persist in the northeast regions. Since some decades, the social and cultural lifestyle of the tribal people mixes with others and the world mixes with them due to globalization. As a result of globalization, the tribal culture is affected by innovations, urbanization, modernization, socialization etc. This study tries to show that gains of globalization have accrued to those who already have education and skill advantage but for the tribes, globalization is associated with rising prices, loss of job security and lack of health care.

## Keywords:

Globalization, Tribe, Literacy, Urbanization, Land alienation.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Globalization is the process of people, states, or nations interacting on a global scale through the expansion of cross-border trade in goods, services, ideas, and culture. It is an integrating process that takes into account both social and cultural factors. Globalization today has an incalculable impact on every aspect of human life. It has evolved into a defining characteristic of the planet over the past ten years. India has also been impacted similarly as a result of the integration of numerous countries around the world. The country's North East has also felt the effects of globalization, as have other parts of it. The North Eastern regions of India have long been thought of as a place with extreme traditional and cultural values and a variety of rich and diverse civilizations. In terms of race, the tribes of the North East are Indo-Mongoloid. North East India is home to numerous tribes, each with an own way of life. Their own myths, legends, stories, music, oral history, widely held beliefs, and customs exist. The way of life and culture of these tribes are impacted by globalization.

## **IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY**

There are numerous groups and tribes coexisting in the northeastern region of India. There are several of them, including Assamese, Bodo, Khasi, Mizo, Naga, Singpho, Kuki, Missing, Rabha, Adi, Apatani, Garo, Deori, Nishi, Rengma, Angami, etc. Every tribe that calls this place home has long-standing traditions, a vibrant traditional culture, and distinctive ways of life. Furthermore, the social and cultural fabric of these indigenous communities in the Northeast region has been impacted by the widespread effects of globalization in a number of ways. Both positive and bad results have been observed as a result of these efforts. High-tech enterprises have emerged as a result of industrialization in isolated rural areas, and this has brought about modernization in the tribal belts that surround these areas. Due to the urban culture and the ensuing shift in



the mindset of the tribes residing in the Northeast, tribal customs and traditions have been under attack. However, there are also unavoidable advantages to globalization, such as preventing tribal exploitation and introducing people to improved living conditions, such as access to healthcare and education. This paper aims to examine the social and cultural effects of globalization on the many clans and tribes in Northeast India.

### **OBJECTIVES**

- 1) To examine the negative impact of globalization as inequality, poverty, deprivation of land and forest area etc. are still persist in the northeast regions.
- 2) To examine the impact of globalization in all aspects of human life directly or indirectly in tribal northeast regions.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The study is of descriptive type based on secondary sources. Data were obtained from various published books, journals as well as records and reports of the government of India, internet, etc.

### **DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION**

India's Northeast may be traced back to the 1947 sub-continental partition and the progressive realignment of international borders surrounding it both before and after. As a result, it still has a shaky connection to the rest of India thanks to a tiny corridor in northern West Bengal known as the "chicken's neck" or "Siliguri Corridor." It measures around 33 kilometers on the eastern and 21 kilometers on the western sides. With China to the north, Bangladesh to the south-west, Bhutan to the north-west, and Myanmar to the east, this makes up less than 1% of the region's borders; the other more than 99% are international (Bhaumik 1996).

Currently, the area is made up of the seven Indian states viz Assam, Arunachal Pradesh,



Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, which joined the Indian Union in 1974 and are also known as the "Seven Sisters." The majority of the states in the area were reformed between 1971 and 1987, with the exception of Nagaland, which became a state in 1963 (Bhaumik 1996).

According to the 2001 Census of India, there were 38,495,089 people living in these states, which have a combined area of approximately 255,088 square kilometers (around 7.7% of India's total land area) and a population of roughly 3.74 percent of the country. Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Nagaland collectively make up over 60% of the region's population, making up one of the nation's highest concentrations of tribal people, who make up around 30% of the total. Three states in the area, Nagaland, Mizoram, and Meghalaya, have a resounding majority of Christians (90.02, 87, and 70.03 percent, respectively), with Kerala being the sole state outside of it. More than 400 distinct tribal and sub-tribal groupings, speaking about 175 languages and more than 160 Scheduled Tribes belonging to five different ethnic groups make up the region's extraordinary linguistic, cultural, and religious diversity. Assam and Tripura also have a sizable and diverse non-tribal population (Bhaumik 2010).

### **Tribal Development in North–East India**

Approximately 83.6 million people, or 8% of India's total population, are classified as tribal. There are around 461 different tribal communities in this group. Tribal minority states are where more than 90% of tribal people reside. From Gujarat to West Bengal, the tribal minority states form a broad belt in middle India. Northeastern states including Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Nagaland all have a significant tribal population. However, less than 10% of the tribe's overall population lives there.

More than 200 tribes live in North-East India, which is regarded as one of the world's most culturally varied regions. It is made up of the Seven Sister States (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, and Sikkim), which are all adjacent to one another. With nearby nations including China, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, and Bangladesh, this region shares a border. The Tibeto-Burmese, ProtoAustrioloids, and various Indo-Mongoloids ethnic groups are the ancestors of the

North-East Indian tribes. Garo, Khasi, Jaintia, Adi, Mizo, Karbis Nyishi, Angami, Konyak, Bhutia, Kuki, Rengma, Bodo, and Deori are some examples of well-known tribes. Table 1 lists the major tribes of each NE state. While Buddhism and Hinduism are also practiced in some regions of North-East India, these tribes typically identify as Christians.

Table 1. State-wise tribal population and major tribes in North East India

State	Tribal Population (in lakhs)	Percentage of total population	Major tribes
Assam	33.00	12	Boro (or Kachari), Karbi, Koch Rajbanshi, Mishing, Mishimi and Rabh
Arunachal Pradesh	7.05	64	Galong, Nishi, Wancho and Adi
Manipur	7.40	35	Thadou, Tangkhul, Kabui, Poumai, Kabui, Inpui and Rongmei
Meghalaya	19.90	86	Khasis, Garo and Karbis
Mizoram	8.40	95	Lusei, Hmar, Paite, Pawi, Mara, Bawm, Tlau, Ralte, Pang, Hualngo and the Bait
Nagaland	17.70	89	Angami, Ao, Lotha, Sumi, Sangtam, Chang, Khiamniungan, Konyak
Sikkim	1.03	23	Lepchas and Bhutias
Tripura	9.90	31	Reang, Chakma, Deobarma, Halam and Usai

(Source: Bajaj, 2011; Ali and Das, 2003)

The populations, levels of sociocultural and economic development, subsistence techniques, religions, and languages of all these tribes vary. However, communities are where 90% of indigenous populations live. There are numerous tribes, like the Santal, Munda, Oraon, Naga, and Gond that are dispersed throughout multiple states. Scheduled tribes (STs) refer to all of these tribes. This classification entitles them to additional development funding from the federal government, as well as specific rights,



benefits, and safeguards. Additionally, it allows for reservations at government offices, businesses, and educational institutions. Some of these tribal groups have been classified as "primitive tribal groups," which are noted for living on pre-agricultural territory and having incredibly low literacy rates.

The tribal community has a labor participation rate of about 50%, which is significantly higher than the general population. This is mostly because indigenous women participate in the workforce at a very high rate. Rural areas, where the tribal population is primarily located, have higher rates of female engagement than metropolitan areas. In addition, there are jobs for women in the predominantly female-oriented industry of forestry. Tribal females who do attend school are available for employment because there aren't many of them. Ninety percent of the workforce is employed in the primary sector, followed by around 4% in the secondary and 6% in the tertiary.

An entity of this kind known as morung exists among northeastern tribes like the Naga. It also serves as a gathering area where all the war implements and headhunting trophies are kept, evoking the times when village invasions were frequent. The Naga morung fosters a strong sense of social cohesion, fosters in boys a strong esprit de corps, and simultaneously encourages competitiveness among the morung, so igniting village activity.

## **URBANIZATION IN TRIBAL STATES OF NORTHEAST INDIA**

The states in India's northeastern region with a tribal population of more than 50% are referred to as "tribal states of Northeast India." According to the 2001 Census of India, these states include Arunachal Pradesh (64.2%), Meghalaya (85.9%), Mizoram (94.5%), and Nagaland (89.1%). Migration from rural to urban areas is primarily to blame for these states' growing urbanization. According to statistics from the 2001 Census on rural-urban migration based on last residency with a length of 0–9 years, these tribal states in Northeast India rank among the top four states in the country. According to Table 2, Mizoram (39.1%) had the highest rate of rural-urban migration, followed by Meghalaya (27.4%), Nagaland (26.8%), and Arunachal Pradesh (26.1%). This rising rural-

urban movement in the tribal states of northeast India may be attributed to a number of factors, namely the hunt for better employment opportunities, educational opportunities, and living conditions. However, a growing rural-urban movement seems to be the key factor contributing to the rapid urbanization in these tribal states of Northeast India. It may be pertinent to the finding that rapid urbanization brought on by rural-urban migration has been the main aspect of India's developmental transformation over the past two decades (Shetty, 2002). In spite of these benefits, we want to emphasize in this chapter that rural-urban migration may have negative health effects on Indian communities in general and tribal populations in particular. It's possible that the migrants' altered economic circumstances, food habits, levels of physical activity, and lifestyles are to blame for their propensity for various NCDs.

Table 2: Top ten states for rural-urban and urban-rural migration based on last residence with duration 0-9 years

Rural to urban		Urban to rural	
States	Percent	States	Percent
Mizoram	39.1	Goa	26.7
Meghalaya	27.4	Kerela	13.3
Nagaland	26.8	Nagaland	13.2
Arunachal Pradesh	26.1	Sikkim	11.8
Gujarat	25.9	Tamil nadu	11.5
Tamilnadu	23.3	Meghalaya	11.0
Harayana	21.9	Mizoram	8.5
Maharashtra	21.2	Andhra Pradesh	8.4
Karnataka	21.2	Maharashtra	8.2
Jammu & Kashmir	21.1	Karnataka	7.4

Source: Census of India. 2001. Data Highlights-Migration Tables

## **Government Measures for Tribal Development**

The following are the schemes of Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the welfare of tribal development:-

### **1. *Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme (SCA to TSS):***

Since 1977–1978, the Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme (SCA to TSS) has been funded entirely by the Government of India. Except for grants for North Eastern States, which are a voted item, it is added to State Plan funds and efforts for Tribal Development and charged to the Consolidated Fund of India. The Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP), the Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA), the Modified Area Development Approach (MADA), Clusters, Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), and dispersed tribal people will benefit economically from this award. There are 23 states covered by SCA to TSS, including Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Odisha, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.

### **2. *Grants-in-aid under Article 275(1) of the Constitution:***

According to the Proviso to Article 275(1) of the Indian Constitution, grants-in-aid are 100% yearly grants from the Indian Government to States. Except for grants for NE States, which are a voted item, it is added to State Plan funds and efforts for Tribal Development and charged to the Consolidated Fund of India. Grant is provided to 27 States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal. The socioeconomic development of the ITDA, MADA, Clusters, and PVTGs is supported by financial resources.

### **3. *Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs):***

The Development of PVTGs scheme covers 75 identified PVTGs in 18 States and the UT





of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands for the purposes of housing, land distribution, land development, agricultural development, animal husbandry, construction of link roads, installation of non-conventional sources of energy for lighting purposes, social security, including the Janashree Bima Yojana, or any other novel activity intended for the comprehensive socio-economic development of PVTGs. The program is adaptable because it allows the States to concentrate on issues they believe are important to PVTGs and their sociocultural milieu.

#### **4. Institutional Support for Development & Marketing of Tribal Products / Produce (Central Sector Scheme):**

Grants-in-Aid are given out under the program to State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations (STDCCs) and Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED), a multi-State cooperative run by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA). The Scheme aims to establish institutions for the Scheduled Tribes to promote the marketing and growth of the livelihood-dependent enterprises. Specific actions such as (i) market intervention, (ii) training and skill up-grading of tribal artisans, craftsmen, Minor Forest Produce (MFP) gatherers, etc., (iii) R&D/IPR activities, and (iv) supply chain infrastructure development are pursued to achieve these.

#### **5. Pre-matric Scholarships to ST students (Class IX and X):**

Students in Classes IX–X are eligible to use this. It is suggested that the current limit of Rs. 2.00 lakhs per year for parental income be increased to Rs. 2.50 lakhs per year. For the 10 months in a year when a scholarship is offered, it is paid out at a rate of Rs. 150 per month for day scholars and Rs. 350 per month for hostel residents. It is suggested that these amounts be increased from the current Rs. 150 to Rs. 225 per hour for day scholars and from Rs. 350 to Rs. 525 per hour for hostel guests. The Government of India offers state governments and UT administrations central aid in the proportion of 75:25 (90:10 for NER and Hilly States). The State Government/UT Administration administers scholarships.

#### **6. Vocational Training in Tribal Areas:**

The major goals of the Scheme are to improve the socioeconomic circumstances of the



ST youth by increasing their income and to enhance their skills for a variety of jobs and self-employment. The program is applicable to all States and Union Territories. It is not a region-specific program, with the requirement that only indigenous students are given access to free vocational training facilities. The State, Union Territories, and other Associations implementing the Scheme get 100% of the Grants under the Scheme. Depending on the employment prospects of the region, each Vocational Training Center (VTC) under the Scheme may provide 5 vocational courses in traditional trades. Each ST boy or girl receives training in two skills of their choosing, with a three-month course in each trade. This is done in consideration of the limited potential of even competent individuals in interiors fields. After a period of six months, each trainee is to be assigned to a master craftsman in a semi-urban or urban location for another six months in order to gain practical experience and develop their skills. The Modular Employable Skills and Craftsman Training Scheme has been revised with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 to provide improved financial standards and to ensure that vocational courses are linked with recognized certificates and diplomas through affiliation/accreditation of courses and institutions under the scheme by the National Council of Vocational Training of the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

### **FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS**

The tribal community has a labor participation rate of about 50%, which is significantly higher than the general population. This is mostly because indigenous women participate in the workforce at a very high rate. Rural areas, where the tribal population is primarily located, have higher rates of female engagement than metropolitan areas. In addition, there are jobs for women in the predominantly female-oriented industry of forestry. Tribal females who do attend school are available for employment because there aren't many of them. Ninety percent of the workforce is employed in the primary sector, followed by around 4% in the secondary and 6% in the tertiary.

However, even after taking a lot of steps, the identity of the tribal people are still on the verge of extinction. Some suggestions to the government of India to make protection



of their cultural identity more effective:

1. Cultivate the young minds in a way that they understand the importance of their identity.
2. When it comes to protection of culture and ethnicity, preservation of traditional cuisines and costumes is of utmost importance, and that is why government should provide funds to showcase the traditional cuisines at big events and not just to display but to setup chains of stalls across the country that sell their cuisines. Putting on traditional dress at events at schools and colleges can be encouraged.
3. Not only mark holiday on state events but also inculcate in the minds of the people the importance of the event.

According to the study's findings, if the NER tribes are to thrive and compete with the rest of the world, they must embrace globalization as it is an unavoidable part of the current world order.

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