

Article

**DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION IN THE CONTEXT OF
GLOBALISATION, ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND
DRIFT FROM TRIBAL INSTINCTS IN CASE OF INDIA**

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ABSTRACT

Tribal communities have traditionally played a vital role in overall socio-economic fabrics of our country since ages. It will not be an exaggeration to say that our very origins as human beings are tribal in character. The study presented by the author in the paper relates the tribal communities particularly the age old tribal instincts of Indian ways of living and business with the aspects of globalisation and environmental conservation. The hypothesis is attempted to be tested by the help of statistical data with the help of observing the trends over last few centuries. The main underlying assumption based on which the author has attempted his research is that during the golden period of Indian Economy particularly 500 years back when around 25 % of share in world trade accrued to India, the nature and pattern of the business and economy of our country was very much similar to what has reduced to modern day minorities in our country- the tribal communities.

Author advocates that though globalisation can be cited as the major reasons behind the downfall of Indian dominance on world trade with the seeds of all these eventualities virtually sown during industrial revolution in Britain and colonisation of India, the drift from tribal instincts is also not a distant second reason behind all this downfall of Indian economy. The other aspect touched upon in the paper relates to environmental destruction caused as an ill effect or aftermath of globalisation. Various international studies and other information are cited by the author to advocate and relate this development again to the drifting away of India from her inherent tribal instincts.

The present status of tribal communities as reflected from 2011 Census data of India is also touched upon to highlight and impress the plights of this community particularly indicated by their abysmally low literacy rate. The aspect of sustainable development in the context of globalisation, environmental conservation and tribal communities is also discussed at length in this study by the author. Towards the end of the paper conclusion, suggestions and recommendations are given. In the conclusion arguments in the favour of accepting or rejecting the hypothesis of the study are presented. It is then followed by the deliberations on future prospects of the study. Present paper is a humble effort of the author to bring to fore some relevant aspects of tribal communities useful for entire humanity as a whole.

Key words: Tribal Community, Globalisation, Environmental conservation, Sustainable development

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Tribal communities are supposed to be the original and traditional inhabitants of the land concerned. The proximity with the nature and a pattern of living in tune with environmental conservation are some of the hallmarks of the living ways of these tribal communities. The present paper traces back the world economy in the context of Indian Economy during last 500 years duration. In earlier times when tribal instincts were very well dominated in our business and environmentally friendly approach, our share in world trade was phenomenally high. One underlying assumption is there in whatever, author has attempted

and advocated in his paper that few centuries ago, predominantly our holistic approach towards life and business very closely resembled to what has been reduced to just the tribal communities of modern times.

Many factors have contributed to this demographic transition and perhaps the supreme of all has been the advent of industrialisation which prompted a severe jump in the contribution of manufacturing sector to the national income of various countries particularly in case of developed and developing countries like India. It will be not unfair to say that the reason behind rampant and unplanned exploitation of nature has been the inputs in terms of raw material consumed in mass production by big manufacturing companies across the globe. It is an interesting contrast that over the years those nature loving communities which were inherently in dominance few centuries ago were reduced to a small percentage of Indian population. These tribal communities feel themselves marginalised due to unsystematic and unplanned growth of industrial sector. Present paper is a humble effort to peep into some such issues with the help of analysis of secondary data drawn from various sources.

2.0 OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:

The main objective of the study is – “To analyse the shift in India’s share in world trade during last few centuries along with the drift of our economy and overall socio- economic fabrics of environment preserving nature from our age-old tribal instincts predominantly due to Globalisation.”

3.0 HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY:

The hypothesis of the study is declarative in nature and it is as follows: “The share of India in world trade has systematically gone down during last few centuries. Though Globalisation can be cited as the main reason behind it however a drift away from our tribal instincts characterised by our business mannerism and eco- friendly living style is also a reason which is not a distant second.”

4.0 METHODOLOGY:

The study relies mainly on secondary sources as inputs to test the hypothesis. On one extreme the data on world demography particularly in the context of India’s contribution to world trade during last five years is analysed in light of the nature of business which was predominantly the same in mannerism as to modern day tribal economy of India though the percentage of population living this business particularly tribal communities are only a small fraction of population in modern times.

On other extremes the secondary data related to the tribal communities and the business run by them in modern India is analysed. Based on the simple comparison of the two an attempt is made to test the hypothesis of the study.

The underlying assumption behind all the analysis in the study is that around 500 years back our business, economy and way of living was quite similar to that of modern time tribal community which forms a small fraction of the entire Indian population.

5.0 TRIBAL COMMUNITY AS DEFINED IN CONSTITUTION AND CENSUS 2011:

As per the census of India 2011 (Ministry of Home Affairs, May 3, 2013) ¹Article 342 of the constitution provides for specification of tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within tribes or tribal communities which are deemed to be for the purposes of the Constitution the Scheduled Tribes in relation to that State or Union Territory. In pursuance of these provisions, the list of Scheduled Tribes is notified

for each State or Union Territory and are valid only within the jurisdiction of that State or Union Territory and not outside.

About scheduled tribes, it is mentioned in census 2011 as (a) Scheduled Tribes are notified in 30 States/UTs (b) Number of individual ethnic groups, etc. notified as Scheduled Tribes is 705 (c) There has been some changes in the List of Scheduled Tribes in States/ UTs during the last decade.

In a way tribal communities are the oldest inhabitants of the geographical region concern. These communities are characterised by their unique proximity to nature. Their traditional style of living was too much akin to modern day nature lovers and environmental conservationists.

Tribes as a social category is not the outcome of the categorisation during postcolonial era rather they were in existence before that too however not falling in the main stream society. The terms like as *atavika* (forest dwellers) or *girijan* (hill people), groups who were at the margins of the postcolonial states formed the basis of such classifications. (“Indignity as a cultural practice: 'tribe' and the state in India” <https://www.iiias.asia/the-newsletter/article/indigeneity-cultural-practice-tribe-state-india>)²

It becomes amply clear from the ongoing discussion that rather than sticking to some religious beliefs and traditions these tribes have their own sets of traditions and beliefs. Colonial masters put lots of efforts in categorising the South Asian population created extensive listings on the basis of traits and habitats of such tribes. The same formed the basis for the creation of ‘schedules’ (listings) of ‘tribal’ groups for each federal state in present day India. The claims of these tribes as being the original and oldest inhabitants of a region seems not be an unfound one. They call themselves as Adivasi’s (Meaning first people). No surprises that political movements governed by these sentiments are led by these tribes to reinforce their claims of being indigenous to this land (Xaxa, 1999)³.

The ongoing deliberations are more than enough to establish that tribal communities are the oldest and indigenous settlers of the land inhabited by these communities. Now it remains to be seen that these communities with their style of living with close proximity to nature which they have preserved to a great extent in modern times too resembles to what extent with our business, economy and ways of living centuries ago as a whole.

6.0 DATA AND ITS ANALYSIS:

In this section an attempt is being made to test the hypothesis in a simple way with the help of the secondary data drawn from various sources.

6.1 Pattern of world trade in terms of contribution from various regions and leading nations during last five hundred years:

Graph shown below gives an account of the percentage of world GDP during last 500 years. This graph has been adopted from the work of Prof Angus Maddison, Professor Emeritus at University of Groningen. Here, the author wants to express his apprehensions about the hundred percent reliability of this data as means of recording such data were not so advanced and reliable in those times as they are in present times. However, the idea about the trends of

World income in terms of various regions and leading nations can be very well visualised from this graphical representation of data on a time span of last five centuries. Out of this five hundred years trajectory the data pertaining to last century can be treated as quite reliable as the means of recording such data particularly the census data have been quite

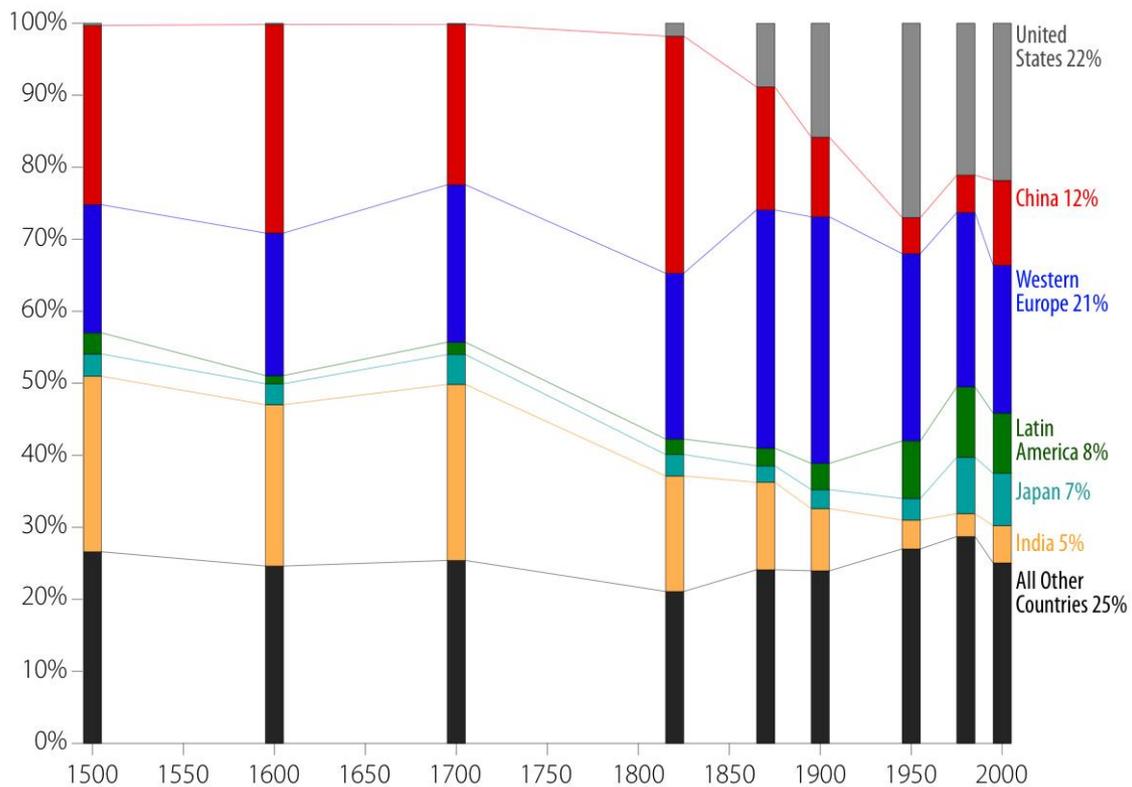
modernised and upgraded. In any way, the trends of last five hundred years of world economy are quite clear from this valuable statistics as provided in this graph.

Some interesting revelations from the graph reveal that in the year 2000 United States accounted for 22% of the world GDP where as it was not even in the frame when we go back to year 1500. At the time when America was not even in the frame, India with all her glorious accounted for roughly 25% of world GDP. However, there has been a sea change in her fortunes during last around two centuries. At present her share in world economy has reduced just to 5% of world GDP. In the context of the vast reservoir of man power and human capital in the form of huge population, this percentage share in world GDP becomes almost negligible. It is easy to establish the wealthy regions of the globe in current times from this graph as a total of around 43 % of world GDP is amassed by two wealthy regions namely United states (22%) and Western Europe (21%).



Percentage of World GDP (last 500 years)

China, India, Japan, Latin America, Western Europe, and United States



Source: Angus Maddison, University of Groningen

6.2 Nature and Pattern of India's foreign trade during last five Hundred years

During Mughal's period (1526- 1858) Indian economy was quite prosperous. By the end of seventeenth century (1700), India emerged as the world's largest economy (Williamson & Clingingsmith, 2005)⁴. The same reflects from the

graph showing the share in world trade from various leading regions and nations. The relevant issue for the subject matter of this paper relates to the items of trade particularly the commodities exported.

During those times 64% of India's workforce was engaged in primary sector means agriculture and remaining 36 % were engaged in secondary and tertiary sectors (Cipolla, Carlo M. 2004)⁵. This sizeable work force in primary sector also indicates tribal connectivity of our trade and business in those times.

It has already been discussed that during Mughal Period particularly in Eighteenth century, India's trade flourished. Ports played major role in it. Rice and sugar were exported to neighbouring countries during those times. Cotton cloth was also among leading exportable items.

(https://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/123800/7/07_chapter%202.pdf)⁶. The information gathered from various sources and presented above clearly indicates the general nature and pattern of India's trade in terms of the nature of commodities involved. During our golden period, it seems it was mainly agrarian aspects which were dominant not only in our ways of living but also in terms of the commodities exported. However, during last two centuries, many factors of global reach played vital role all across the globe under the advent of globalisation and India has not been an exception to this. Industrial revolution triggered upward movement of manufacturing sector in terms of scale as well as contribution to the GDPs of various nations particularly developed and leading developing nations across the globe.

6.3 Nature of Tribal Economy:

Nine structural features that characterise the tribal economies in India have been identified. (Vidyarthi & Rai ,1976)⁷ These are as follows:

1. Forest based Economy
2. Domestic mode of production
3. Simple Technology
4. Absence of profit Motive in Economic Dealings
5. Community: A Unit of Economic Cooperation,
6. Gift and Ceremonial Exchange
7. Periodical Markets
8. Interdependence.
9. The economic institution of Dhangar

These nine features of tribal economy are quite interesting in nature. The term Dhangar is used in Bihar for the person recruited by large peasants for performing most of the agriculture related tasks. The discussion here is limited only to the context and subject matter of the study. The proximity to nature, simple business mannerism and the production in tune with environmentally friendly means are the hallmark of their way of living.

6.4 Colossal rise in share of manufacturing sector in world income and its adverse impact on tribal habitats:

Around 100 to 150 years back, entire earth was dominated by nations with agriculture being their main occupation. World population was also within manageable limits. However, sweeping structural transformations in world economy has resulted in a shift from agriculture to non-agricultural activities. (Shandilya S, 2013)⁸

The share of agricultural sector in total product declined in all developed countries except Australia. In the case of Great Britain, it declined from 22 percent in 1841 to 5 percent in

1955; from 42 percent between 1872-82 to 9 percent in 1962 for France; from 49 percent in 1879 to 9 percent between 1939-48 for United States; and from 63 percent between 1887-82 to 14 percent in 1962 for Japan. Thus by the end of the long periods the share of this sector in total product was less than 10 percent in the case of U.K., France, Germany, Netherlands and the USA, while it ranged between 10 to 26 percent in Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Italy, Canada, Australia, Japan and USSR. On the other hand, the share of industrial sector rose to more than 50 percent by the end of the long periods for Great Britain (56%), France (52%), Germany (52%), Netherlands (51%), Norway (53%), Sweden (55%), and the USSR (58%), while it ranged between 22 to 49 percent for Italy (22%), Australia (30%), United States (42%), Denmark (48%), Canada (48%) and Japan (49%). (Jhingan M.L, 2006)⁹

The precarious situation in which these developments of far-reaching impact have put the entire world into is quite frightening. Here is an alarming statistic— “For Mexico in 1986-90, it was found that the environmentally adjusted domestic product was 13 percent less than the conventionally measured net domestic product. The new accounting measures also showed that net investment – which conventional measures showed as positive, at 46 billion pesos was a negative 700 million pesos. Net savings, also assumed to be positive, was actually close to zero” (Misra & Puri. *Indian Economy*, 2007)¹⁰

This information is just for a single country Mexico however it is needless to point out that if applied on the entire globe, the results will be even more frightening and disturbing. If green GDP of the entire world is calculated, we will end up at a sheer loss in terms of environmental degradation. In the context of the subject matter of this paper, author wants to submit that in a way, world is paying price of drifting away from its tribal instincts. It becomes even more contextual in case of a country like India whose history is incomplete without the mentioning of its age old tribal communities. Over the years and under the dictates of globalisation, our business, economy and entire socio- economic fabrics shifted from our closeness to nature and mankind as manifested in our tribal instincts to the modern day industrial development marred by pollution and hardships to present as well as future human generations. The incidence of green GDP of Mexico coming out to be in fact negative is an alarming one and it signals the severe failure of modern pattern of industrialisation and the gains emancipating out of it.

From the above statistics it is amply clear that the share of manufacturing sector in the GDP of various nations across the globe has drastically gone up where as that of the agriculture sector has drastically gone down over the time period. The main reason behind this has been the industrial revolution and the zeal to garner more and more profit so as to enjoy economy of scale by adopting mass production. Demands of increasing population coupled with the greed of multinational companies to capture new markets and earn huge sums of money has all been behind the sharp rise of manufacturing sector. This development has left far reaching impact on the tribal communities’ world over and India is not an exception to it. Rampant exploitation of natural resources and destruction of forests have resulted due to increased reliabilities on manufacturing sector of various economies across the globe. Tribal economy-oriented business activities among which agriculture is the prime one is traditionally eco- friendly in nature if ill effects of pesticides used as in case of green revolution in India is put aside as an exception. These massive structural changes in the world economy have no doubt increased GDP on one hand but at the same time it has given invitation to severe threat to environment. It will not be unfair to say that this development is not sustainable in nature at all. The most severely affected due to all these ill effects of industrialisation or we can refer to globalisation in modern times have been the traditional nature loving tribal people.

6.5 Tribal Community of India:

From the ongoing discussion based on statistical data drawn from various sources, it amply reflects that during golden periods of our economy when we were shining on global scene as a giant nation, our trade was very much eco- friendly in nature. Author has his own opinion that over the years the communities which resisted giving away their originality and loving towards nature laid back in development and they are reduced to what we call tribal in modern times. Various factors have compelled to this sea change in nature and pattern of Indian economy and it will not be unfair to say that most of these factors were global and across the board in nature and India as a nation did not have hold over these global compelling factors. Advent of industrialisation and colonisation further worsens the prospects of India's trade and her tribal instincts.

As has been pointed out repeatedly by the author that there seems a huge similarity in our overall trade mannerism to what seems to reduce to modern day tribal community. In the same pursuit let us see into the statistical data from government ministry sources showing the percentage ST population in the country. Earlier while discussing main features of tribal economy, it was pointed that the products as well as processes of these economies are mostly eco- friendly in character.

Table 1: State / UT wise overall population, ST population, percentage of STs in India / State to total population of India / State and percentage of STs in the State to total ST population

S.No	India / State	Total Population	ST Population	% STS in India /State to total population of India/ state	% STs in the state to total ST population in India
		(In lakh)			
	India	12108.55	1045.46	8.6	-
1	Andhra Pradesh	493.87	26.31	5.3	2.5
2	Arunachal Pradesh	13.84	9.52	68.8	0.9
3	Assam	312.06	38.84	12.4	3.7
4	Bihar	1040.99	13.37	1.3	1.3
5	Chhattisgarh	255.45	78.23	30.6	7.5
6	Goa	14.59	1.49	10.2	0.1
7	Gujarat	604.40	89.17	14.8	8.5
8	Haryana	253.51	NST	NA	NA
9	Himachal Pradesh	68.65	3.92	5.7	0.4
10	J & K	125.41	14.93	11.9	1.4

11	Jharkhand	329.88	86.45	26.2	8.3
12	Karnataka	610.95	42.49	7.0	4.1
13	Kerala	334.06	4.85	1.5	0.5
14	Madhya Pradesh	726.27	153.17	21.1	14.7
15	Maharashtra	1123.74	105.1	9.4	10.1
16	Manipur	28.56	11.67	40.9	1.1
17	Meghalaya	29.67	25.56	86.1	2.4
18	Mizoram	10.97	10.36	94.4	1.0
19	Nagaland	19.79	17.11	86.5	1.6
20	Orissa	419.74	95.91	22.8	9.2
21	Punjab	277.43	NST	NA	NA
22	Rajasthan	685.48	92.39	13.5	8.8
23	Sikkim	6.11	2.06	33.8	0.2
24	Tamil Nadu	721.47	7.95	1.1	0.8
25	Telangana	351.94	32.87	9.3	3.1
26	Tripura	36.74	11.67	31.8	1.1
27	Uttarakhand	100.86	2.92	2.9	0.3
28	Uttar Pradesh	1998.12	11.34	0.6	1.1
29	West Bengal	912.76	52.97	5.8	5.1
30	A & N Islands	3.81	0.29	7.5	0.0
31	Chandigarh	10.55	NST	NA	NA
32	D & N Haveli	3.44	1.79	52.0	0.2
33	Daman & Diu	2.43	0.15	6.3	0.0
34	Delhi	167.88	NST	NA	NA
35	Lakshadweep	0.64	0.61	94.8	0.1
36	Pondicherry	12.48	NST	NA	NA

Source: Census 2011, Office of the Registrar General, India

NST: No notified Scheduled Tribes (as in 2011), NA: Not Applicable

From above statistics, it is amply clear that as per 2011 Census of India, only 8.6 % population of India constitutes ST population. It is an interesting contrast that most natural and oldest habitats are reduced to such a minority. At the same time if we see in terms of

economic parlance, our share in world trade during last 500 years has also gone drastically down from once 25 % to may be 5% or even less i present times. It can be thus seen that both India's departure from dealing the business and trade with her tribal instincts as well as her share in world trade drastically went down simultaneously. Perhaps such drastic changes were inevitable considering the lead taken by industrially developed countries in modern means of manufacturing once industrial revolution gained momentum in those regions under the leadership of Britain. It is worthwhile to point out here that all of the states with higher percentage of ST population out of their total population are rich in natural resources thus signifying the close proximity of these people and their way of living with nature.

6.6 Tribal Community and its relevance with environmental conservation:

Globalisation has unfortunately taken such a shape that it has gone indirectly proportional to environmental protection and welfare. In earlier sections, it was discussed that how over the years the contribution of manufacturing sector has gone drastically up where as that of agriculture has drastically gone down in across-the-board fashion means in almost the economies of all nations in the world. It is an alarming sign. The author wants to point out here that the sustainable development and the debates surrounding it in their purest form will end up synchronising with our re- reliance on our very own tribal instincts. It will not be an exaggeration to say that all the trade and business-related activities including products and processes of tribal economy are more or less eco- friendly in nature. Here to put the menace of globalisation in the context of environmental conservation author draws some ideas from his own paper (Shandilya S, 2013)¹¹. Ongoing discussion prompts us to ponder about if we keep on allowing polluters to pollute the world environment in the pretext of charging them for their act, the day is not far away when mounting pollution across the world will assume such mammoth proportion that life on earth will cease to exist. Is it not ridiculous to allow pollution to rise under the shelter of 'Polluter Pays Principle'? "The 'Polluter Pays Principle' is enshrined in public policy regarding pollution control in many parts of the world. On the other hand, most countries have implemented subsidies, particularly through tax system, to encourage pollution control. This indicates at least some acknowledgement of polluter rights".⁵Problems like global warming, Ozone layer depletion and melting of ice at two poles of the earth are of great concerns for entire humanity. Payment for the pollution created in the name of industrial development cannot be treated as an excuse for creating pollution. In fact, the situation is so grim that we must analyse that who will pay when there is no one to pay for the pollution.

This tendency of allowing companies to create population and hence a problem to human environment in the name of development is a very serious development. Here again the relevance of tribal instincts and ways of conducting livelihood and business seems the approach to save earth from otherwise sure destruction. Author wants to clearly emphasise here that move towards tribal instincts must not be taken at all to the movement towards uncivilised and backward ways of living. However, the point of contention is that it is high time that we ensure at the stage of technology development and design itself that it is not going to be harmful for environment. It is not impossible if modern day scientific advancements are given momentum with the prospective of environment conservation in mind. There is no harm in peeping into the scientific roots of ways and means adopted by tribal communities through ages to progress as well as preserve the environment. The famous Bishnoi community with their love and respect towards nature is a point in making. There are several such other communities which care for the tress and animals as their own family members.

From the ongoing discussion some extreme and apparently bizarre looking contrasts start emerging to fore. Author wants to point here that from the prospective of the ongoing

debates among so called intellectuals of modern times all across the globe on the issue related to sustainable development, tribal instincts and mannerism seem to provide a fitting answer and solution but see the state of affair of literacy among the same ideologically rich tribal communities otherwise.

Table 2 State wise and District wise information on very low ST literacy rate (where Female LR below 35 %)

Sl. No.	Name of State/ District	Literacy Rate (%)		
		Persons	Male	Female
1	JAMMU & KASHMIR	50.6	60.6	39.7
1	Kishtwar	29	37.3	19.8
2	Kulgam	27.9	33.6	21.6
3	Pulwama	31.8	40.2	22.6
4	Ramban	35.4	44.8	24.8
5	Anantnag	34.1	41.9	25.5
6	Shupiyani	36.4	44	28.1
7	Baramulla	43.7	56.5	28.7
8	Reasi	39.4	48.4	29.5
10	Udhampur	44.3	56.5	31.3
11	Doda	46.4	59.5	32.2
12	Ganderbal	43.6	53.4	32.4
13	Kupwara	43.8	53.5	33.1
14	Kathua	45.6	57.1	33.1
15	Badgam	41.4	48.7	33.5
16	Srinagar	45.8	54.4	34.6
2	RAJASTHAN	52.8	67.6	37.3
1	Sirohi	32.9	47.2	18.2
2	Jalor	33.4	46.9	18.7

3	Barmer	38.1	53	21.4
4	Jaisalmer	42.1	57.3	24.9
5	Chittaurgarh	39.2	53	25.2
6	Pali	41	55.1	26.1
7	Rajsamand	42	57.8	26.2
8	Bhilwara	43.6	58.2	28.4
10	Pratapgarh	44.7	58.4	31
11	Udaipur	46.9	61.2	32.2
12	Ajmer	49	63.9	33.6
3	UTTAR PRADESH	55.7	67.1	43.7
1	Baghpat	36.4	50	0
2	Kaushambi	9.8	15.7	2.7
3	Mahoba	24.5	33.8	12.9
4	Jyotiba Phule Nagar	22.7	27.9	17.2
5	Hamirpur	29.3	38.8	18.3
6	Lalitpur	30.6	38.8	21.9
7	Sitamarhi	31.9	38	24.8
8	Lakhisarai	31.7	37.7	25.3
10	Nawada	31.1	36.5	26.1
11	Sheohar	37.5	46.2	26.3
12	Unnao	37.3	46.2	26.9
13	Bulandshahr	37.4	44.4	27.8
14	Banka	39.9	50.3	29.1
15	Kishanganj	37.8	45.9	29.5

16	Saharsa	42.3	53.8	29.7
17	Bara Banki	38.4	45.2	29.8
18	Mathura	37.7	43.1	31.1
19	Sonbhadra	44.2	56.2	31.4
20	Araria	40.7	49.3	31.6
21	Banda	41.9	52.4	31.8
22	Shrawasti	43.1	53.4	32.2
23	Farrukhabad	42.3	50	32.9
24	Jehanabad	46	58	33.4
25	Arwal	42.5	51.6	33.6
26	Purnia	43.9	53.5	33.9
27	Rae Bareli	44.3	53.9	34.7
28	Kanpur Dehat	50.5	65.2	34.9
4	JHARKHAND	57.1	68.2	46.2
1	Kodarma	39.4	49.4	28.3
2	Sahibganj	40	48.8	31.2
3	Godda	43.7	55.3	32.3
4	Pakur	41.7	51.4	32.3
5	Giridih	46.1	58.5	33.3
6	Deoghar	48.3	61.9	34.4
5	ODISHA	52.2	63.7	41.2
1	Koraput	35.4	46.2	25.4
2	Malkangiri	35.2	44.9	26.3
3	Rayagada	36.7	47.9	26.7
4	Nabarangapur	38.5	49.5	28

5	Gajapati	43.7	55.4	32.8
6	Bhadrak	43.5	53.2	33.6
6	CHHATTISGARH	59.1	69.7	48.8
1	Dakshin Bastar Dantewada	32.9	42	24.2
2	Bijapur	34.5	43.3	26
7	MADHYA PRADESH	50.6	59.6	41.5
1	Alirajpur	32.4	38.2	26.7
2	Jhabua	37.2	46.7	27.9
3	Shivpuri	41.4	51.5	30.7
4	Burhanpur	38.7	46.3	30.9
5	Ashoknagar	41.4	51.3	30.9
6	Sheopur	40.7	49.6	31.5
7	Neemuch	43.7	54.8	32
8	Tikamgarh	41.3	49.2	32.9
9	Barwani	39.3	45	33.6
10	Chhatarpur	42.7	50.3	34.4
11	Guna	43.7	52.2	34.8
8	GUJARAT	62.5	71.7	53.2
1	Surendranagar	44.3	56.4	31.5
9	ANDHRA PRADESH	49.2	58.4	40.1
1	Mahbubnagar	42.3	53.7	30.4
2	Medak	44.7	56.9	32
3	Nizamabad	45.9	58	34.3
4	Visakhapatnam	44.9	55.6	34.7

10	KARNATAKA	62.1	71.1	53
1	Yadgir	43.6	54.5	32.7
2	Raichur	44.4	55.8	33.3
	India	59	68.5	49.4

Source Census 2011

It is amply clear from the ongoing discussion that the community which leads in terms of demonstrating the world how exactly to achieve sustainable development is poor in literacy rate or not fit for present day community of intellectuals. In general the literacy rate of these tribal communities is low and in case of females belonging to these communities the situation is even more pathetic. It shows the cruel contrast of modern-day superficial intellectualism in the context of globalisation and environmental conservation on one hand and the plights of those who are the real champions of helping world come out of from otherwise sure destruction. In the same continuation of the ongoing discussion some more statistics drawn from 2011 Census is being presented here. In some of the regions these tribes have even lesser literacy rate than 35 % a shown in earlier table. The table below presents the data related to scheduled tribes with very low literacy rate even below 30 %.

Table 3: List of Scheduled Tribes (STs) with very low literacy rate (less than 30 percent)

State / UT	Scheduled Tribe	Literacy Rate
		(%)
ANDHRA PRADESH	Nakkala, Kurvikaran	23.5
	Kondhs, Kodi, Kodhu, Desaya Kondhs, Dongria	
	Kondhs, Kuttiya Kondhs, Tikiria Kondhs, Yenity	
ANDHRA PRADESH	Kondhs, Kuvinga	24.5
ANDHRA PRADESH	Porja, Parangiperja	29.9
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	Sulung Bangni	17.1
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	Sulung	17.9
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	Laju	18.2
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	Havi Tangsa	20.1
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	Liju Nocte	22.1
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	Lish Monpa	24

ASSAM	Syntheng	20
ASSAM	Chakma	22.4
BIHAR	Banjara	18.9
BIHAR	Birhor	23.6
BIHAR	Parhaiya	24.7
BIHAR	Korwa	25.2
BIHAR	Kora, Mudi-kora	25.6
CHHATTISGARH	Saonta, Saunta	26
JAMMU & KASHMIR	Bakarwal	25.3
JHARKHAND	Parhaiya	25.6
JHARKHAND	Birhor	26.4
JHARKHAND	Savar	26.9
JHARKHAND	Baiga	29
JHARKHAND	Korwa	29.4
KERALA	Cholanaickan	15.3
ODISHA	Mankirdia, Mankria, Mankidi	16.2
	Koya, Gumba Koya, Koitur Koya, Kamar Koya, Musara	
ODISHA	Koya	24.3
ODISHA	Dharua, Dhuruba, Dhurva	25.4
ODISHA	Korua	26.7
ODISHA	Parenga	26.7
ODISHA	Didayi, Didai Paroja, Didai	27
ODISHA	Bondo Paroja, Bonda Paroja, Banda Paroja	28.4
	Paroja, Parja, Bodo Paroja, Barong Jhodia Paroja,	
ODISHA	Chhelia Paroja, Jhodia Paroja, Konda Paroja, Paraja,	28.6

Source: Census 2011

The ongoing discussion based on the literacy rates among the scheduled tribes in the country reflects the very poor over all state of affairs. It is interesting to relate it to the controversial outcomes of modern-day globalisation that those communities which are living in an environmentally friendly manner which happens to be the core of ongoing debates on sustainable development world over are themselves seem to failing to fit in the modern-day socio- economic set up of the world. It is often said that science has answer to all the problems faced by the mankind. However, it appears that the sense of patience and environmentally friendly character is missing in modern day scientific developments. The greed to garner more and more profit in lesser times is perhaps eluding mankind to think, work, process and implement environmentally friendly ways of business and living. Amidst all these developments of far-reaching impact across the globe which are unfortunately predominantly destructive in nature our tribal instincts and mannerism towards business and living can serve as a ray of hope for survival of entire human community on earth. It is for this reason that talks on globalisation in the context of tribal communities are incomplete without the reference to issues related to environmental conservation and protection. The same is being presented in the next section of the paper drawing inputs from various studies

conducted in this field across the globe. The findings of these studies are quite alarming and horrifying and it is high time to address these issues with all the sincerity they deserve. In this pursuit ideas drawn from tribal ways of living can be of great relevance.

6.7 Time to review developmental economics in tune with sustainable development drawing inputs from tribal economies:

Economics and development are two intricately related areas. Many thinkers both from Sociology as well as Economics have presented their theories on these issues. However, earlier works in this area failed to consider environment as a vital consideration in framing various Developmental Theories. Perhaps pollution and similar problems had not touched heights serious enough. However, during last around three decades many experts have pointed towards the close linkage between environment and development.

In 1968, a group of about seventy five persons belonging to different strata of society from around the world founded the club of Rome. It believed that possibilities of continuous growth have been exhausted and timely action is essential in order to avert a planetary collapse. It chose its initial theme "The Predicaments of mankind" in June 1990. It commissioned the research by four MIT scientists led by 'Limits to Growth' in 1972. The second report entitled 'Beyond the Limits' was published in 1992 which gave fresh evidence as to how mankind has crossed beyond the limits (Meadow, Meadows and J. Randers, 1992)¹². 'Beyond the Limits' (1992) study considered global developments during 1970 to 1990 and this information was then utilized to update the earlier 'Limits to Growth' study. The nomenclature 'Beyond the Limits' was intentionally chosen by the authors to highlight the fact that humanity had already overshot the limits of earth's support capacity. The significance and importance of this fact was so much that authors chose the title in tune with its theme, i.e. 'Beyond the Limits' (Meadows, Meadows, J. Randers and Beherns, 1972)¹³

In twenty years i.e. during 1972 to 1992, 'Limits to Growth' has transformed into 'Beyond the Limits' and the dream of achieving sustainable development has become a poor casualty. Sustainable development was first defined in the Brundtland Report: our common future (1987) as, "Sustainable development seeks to meet the needs and aspirations of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." It is not at all difficult to infer that in present circumstances we are far from even touching sustainable development. In fact, we are approaching as well as acting on the policy of sustainable destruction. 'Limits to Growth' came as a firm reminder of this fact to humanity. Rather than taking lessons from it, humanity preferred to be shifted to 'Beyond the Limits'. All above discussion clearly suggests that the concept of development needs to be redefined keeping in mind immensely valuable considerations of environmental dignity and protection.

It will not be an exaggeration to say the biggest reason of transition from "Limits to Growth" to "Beyond the Limits" has undoubtedly been the world-wide drift from tribal outlook of looking towards nature and her rich resources. Low literacy rate among the nature loving tribal communities and so called high intellectual wisdom of vast majority of human population with destructive attitude is a real serious puzzle in front of the advocates of sustainable development in modern times. Too much consumerism and dominance of market economies have invited the human greed to garner more and more profit at any cost. It is a great irony that under the shelter of "Polluter pays principle" various multi nationals are being granted liberty by governments to create pollution but pay for it. If it is true then the reverse must also be followed all over the world and it is the reward to communities like tribal communities who are helping in preserving the environment wherever they are and in what so ever capacity they are.

7.0 CONCLUSION, SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STUDY:

Author has attempted various arguments drawn from statistical evidences drawn from various sources in order to test the hypothesis of this study. The issue of globalisation in the context of environmental conservation and demographic transition in light of our tribal instincts is a delicate one. This issue is a classical disposition of an interdisciplinary study. Few centuries back entire world was dominated by agrarian economy. It will not be unfair to say that we all have our origins what we find in modern time remains of tribal living. The hypothesis of the study is “The share of India in world trade has systematically gone down during last few centuries. Though Globalisation can be cited as the main reason behind it however a drift away from our tribal instincts characterised by our business mannerism and eco- friendly living style is also a reason which is not a distant second.”

We all are aware of the glorious past of our country which was once referred to as Golden Bowl or Golden Bird. The data presented in this study which relates to the last five hundred years of share of trade of different regions and leading nations of the world presets the story of this glorious past of our country. That was the time when around 25 % of the world trade share accrued to India. However, over the last five centuries due to various national as well as global reasons, this share has drastically gone down to 5 % or even less. The most interesting and noticeable aspect is that the United States which was not even in the picture at that time accounts for sizeable world trade share at present. The pundits of economy will cite globalisation and subsequent legging of Indian economy to cope up with the pressure as the main reason behind all these developments. However, author has advocated in this study that along with globalisation, our drift away from tribal instincts cannot be rated as distant second to all these changing fortunes of the country. In section 6.0 of the study, the discussion on nature and pattern of India’s trade in terms of commodities exported during that golden period has also been presented. Mostly agricultural products, textile and cloths were the items. Around 64% of the workforce was engaged in primary sector and remaining 36% was engaged in secondary and tertiary sectors. Though the percentage of workforce engaged in primary sector which denotes agriculture sector in case of India was more than other nations of the world including India, the output from other two sectors was also eco-friendly in nature.

In the same continuation author has attempted as well as advocated a kind of similarity in our overall business inklings resembling to what we see in case of tribal communities of modern times. In the same link a discussion on tribal economy and its nine common features are presented in short. It can be easily seen and established that tribal economy is more or less eco- friendly in nature and in tune with sustainable development demands of modern times. It will be quite reasonable to point out here that peculiar developments in world history along with the compulsions of colonisation coupled with globalisation have been some of the aspects beyond the reach of India as a nation despite her once domination over world trade. One- fourth share of world trade is a clear testimony to it. Amidst all these uncontrollable factors of global order, one obvious trend was also witnessed in our economy and it was the shift from tribal oriented business towards the modern manufacturing-based economy.

It has been indicated that during Mughal’s period particularly in the eighteenth century, India was leading economy of the world. Rice, sugar and cotton cloth were among leading items of exports. However, after Mughals, colonial masters with their drain of wealth strategy ruined India making her lose her position of market leader in the world. In a nutshell it can be concluded that golden period of Indian economy was the one when predominantly our business and trade was based on eco- friendly methods and it was

agriculture which was a dominant sector. The same features and resemblance can be seen in the tribal instincts and age old tribal economies of the country continuing today also though the proportion of such population of tribal communities is abysmally low in comparisons to other inhabitants of the land. The ongoing discussion goes in favour of accepting the first half of the hypothesis of this study which says that the drift from our tribal instincts has been one of the prime reasons behind India losing its once sheen position in world economy. However, other global demographic factors have also been pointed out by author in this regard.

Now let us deliberate on the other aspect of the hypothesis of the study which relates to the environmental conservation in the context of our drift from tribal instincts. It will not be unfair to say that during golden period of our economy when we were amassing one- fourth of the world trade, our business and environment were in tandem with each other. In simple words our business was eco- friendly in terms of both process as well as produce. This feature of our business is what is actually preserved by our tribal communities by means of preserving and continuing their legacy of tribal economy. Author has gone on to the extreme of citing that true sense to the efforts of sustainable development world over is only possible by resorting to our tribal instincts once again because human being by its very basic and fundamental nature is tribal in origin. It will not be a bad and outdated idea to draw insights of fostering sustainable development and environmental conservation by researching and seriously peeping into the way tribal communities have lived and sustained over the years.

It can be thus seen that two changes have simultaneously taken place in our demography; these are drift from tribal resembling economy on one hand and drift from eco- friendly and pro sustainable development activities on the other hand. In his support, author has cited some examples of the studies conducted on global levels by the researchers. Two are worth mentioning here. Limits to growth study in 1992 and then by same group of researchers with one more researcher added, Beyond the Limits in 1992. The terminology itself speaks volumes of the gravity of the problem. What were limits to growth in 1972 translated to beyond the limits in 1992 meaning thereby that modern day developments have crossed all the limits and the destruction met with the environment has taken probably an irreversible stance. The example of Mexico and the calculation of its green GDP keeping in mind the harm and destruction to the environment as a result of industrial development are both interesting as well as alarming. The GDP of the Mexico in fact came out to be negative after all this exercise signifying only losses and no gains in real sense to its economy. If green GDP of entire world is calculated on similar lines, the situation will be even more pathetic. The author again wants to indicate that this harmful pattern in world economy including that of India is a serious challenge and drift from our tribal instincts is greatly responsible for such a grave situation.

After all these deliberations, author has presented some data related to the present state of affairs of tribal community in India. The information is mainly drawn from the census 2011 of India. Hardly 8.6 % of the India's population is inhabited by scheduled tribes. The reduction of their population in comparison to overall population of the country over last few centuries needs to be researched in light of the downfall of share of India in world trade over the same time period. It is a great irony that a wise community who knows to love and preserve the environment legs badly in terms of the very basic tenants of socio- economic development which is literacy percentage. The data presented in the study clearly reflects the poor state of affairs on this count as far the tribal communities of India are concerned. The picture becomes even more disturbing in case of female population of these tribal communities. There are regions or cities with these tribal communities having literacy rate as low as 35% or even 30% or less in some cases. This is a disturbing outcome of

globalisation that unplanned globalisation invited havoc to human environment thus necessitating a worldwide emphasis on sustainable development on one hand and true torch bearers of sustainable development since ages, our tribal communities are deprived of even basic socio- economic wellbeing- a reasonable and satisfactory literacy rate on the other hand. May be the day, they also become literate and educated they will also become destroyer rather than preserver of the human environment.

Coming to the suggestions and recommendations of the study, in these sections some suggestions and recommendations are being presented. These recommendations can help policy makers in framing appropriate policies for the welfare of tribal communities in the country. In this paper ample evidence has been gathered by the author that the welfare of this nature loving tribal people of the country will mount to even bigger welfare of the remaining masses of the population of this country. Particularly not only India but the entire world can draw lessons in order to ensure sustainable development in true sense and spirit all across the globe.

- (1) It is suggested and recommended that tribal economies be thoroughly analysed particularly in terms of their inbuilt character of eco- friendly nature.
- (2) It will be a worthwhile idea to construct models amalgamating Tribal economy with Gandhian economy.
- (3) Tribal communities need to be brought under main stream but with a caution that they don't lose their nature loving and eco- friendly mannerism.
- (4) If not heavy industrial development, then at least small-scale industries must be developed and motivated in tune with tribal economies.
- (5) Later on the gambit of industries falling under such eco- friendly and tribal fashioned industries can be increased while at the same time efforts must be afoot to lessen the anti-ecofriendly character of other medium and large sized industries.
- (6) All out efforts must be made to increase the exports of commodities as well as services produced through tribal economies.
- (7) Promotion of tribal tourism alongside the eco- tourism will be a great idea to promote awareness in this regard.
- (8) Even if economies of scale get a beating, the same production must be encouraged through tribal economies to the extent possible thus making gains on account of giving employment to more people and population dividend.
- (9) It is high time to relate tribal communities-based studies with sustainable development because in modern world sustainable development is more heard concept and unfortunately those tribal communities which are living this concept in their day-to-day activities are among the least heard human species.

8.0 FUTURE PROSPECTS OF THE STUDY:

It has been pointed out in the study that it is an acutely interdisciplinary study so various other future studies and similar research prospects are possible as a result of outcomes of this study. Tribal communities have been a neglected lot which amply reflects from their current socio- economic status. However, there one unique aspect makes them extremely worthwhile for mankind and it is their sustainable development-based lifestyle and economy. A good number of researches leading to policy making can be carried out based on tribal economies relating them to the bigger aspect of sustainable development. It needs to be debated and researched that why those communities like the ones of tribal communities legged badly in development and destructive strategies went on ruling the world. The researches on the tribal technologies based on their rich indigenous knowhow must also be researched so as to introduce eco- friendly character to as many industries as possible. It will help a lot in employment generation also.

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