

# Scheduled Tribes and the Census: a case study in Uttar Pradesh

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## ABSTRACT

The Paper emphasizes briefly, the socio-economic circumstances and historical context of the tribal people that call Uttar Pradesh home. As far as tribes go, they are native to the land and have lived in Uttar Pradesh for a very long time. Every tribe in this state was once a part of a kingdom, and as owners of a rich cultural, social, and religious legacy, they are now fighting for their cultural, political, and social identities after losing their pride and identity. Although their economic situation is the same, their cultural and social aspects are different. They are subsistence farmers who rely on forest products, agriculture, and odd jobs to survive. This paper indicates an overview of Scheduled Tribes in Uttar Pradesh.

**Key words:** Tribes, Census, Education, Rural, Development

## I. INTRODUCTION

The Tribal communities of India are deep rooted with the nature, inland livelihood, oral traditions, and folk culture and are mostly limited to their own people. The word 'tribe' was originally a latin word tribus, meaning 'the poor' later used to specify the community. Living in bucolic simplicity, in the colonial ethnography and anthropology, they offer invaluable heritage to our country, along with historical significance through their participation in india's struggle for freedom. These self reliant communities enjoyed the autonomy of governance over the territory they inhabited until the colonial rules started merging them with the dominant population.

State	Population	Male	Female	Child (0-6)	Literacy Rate	Sex ratio
Uttar Pradesh	1134273	581083	553190	18.21%	55.68%	952

Source: Census 2011

The tribal people in India approx. 8.6% of the total population .According to Article 366(25) of the Constitution, Scheduled Tribes are those communities that are Scheduled in accordance with Article 342 of the Constitution. Also, Article 342 of the Constitution says that: The Scheduled Tribes are the Tribes or Tribal communities or part of or groups within these tribes and tribal communities which have been declared as such by the President through a public notification

Uttar Pradesh is one of the highest populated states in India and is also home to huge number of tribal communities. Some of the core tribes in the state are Baiga, Agaria, Bhoksa, Kol and more and some of them have been accepted as the Scheduled Tribes by the Government of India.

India has the largest concentration of tribal people anywhere in the world except in Africa. Uttar Pradesh is home to large population cut off

from the mainstream of development. It is one of the least developed states with a human development index value of 0.532(2010-11) and 0.594(2019-20) developing order. Which is lower than the national average of 0.646(2018) making it stand at 35<sup>th</sup> rank among Indian States. Uttar Pradesh has traditionally been center of diverse tribes after independence five tribes namely Tharu , Buksa, Janusari, Bhotia and raji were declared ST under article 342 by then president of india which constituted 0.6 % of total population of Uttar Pradesh. At present there are 15 notifies tribal communities in Uttar Pradesh. Present study was conducted among Tribes of different ST Communities in Uttar Pradesh with following.

### Objective:

- To study the status of STs in Uttar Pradesh
- To study the overview of all Tribes in Uttar Pradesh

- To study the Literacy Rate of Schedule Tribe in Uttar Pradesh

## II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Tribes have existed at the margins of Hindu civilization. Hindu civilization acknowledged the distinction between tribe and caste in the distinction between two kinds of communities Jan an Jati where one confined to the isolation of hills and forests and, other settled in villages and towns with a more elaborate division of labours. U.P. has traditionally been centre of diverse tribes. During 1967, five tribes namely Tharu, Buksa, Janusari, Bhotia and Raji were declared ST under Article 342 by the then President of India which constituted 0.6% of total population of U.P. As per the Census 2011, the tribes constitute around 8.6% of the total Indian population and 89.97% of them live in rural areas. U.P. has the lowest (0.57%) proportion of ST population. U.P. stands 17th in terms of number of STs among all the states in India. Approximately 84% of the total population lived in eastern part of U.P. The tribal population of Sonbhadra is highest (20.7%) in the state higher than the national average of 8.6%; tribal population was less than 0.1% of total population in 33 out of total 71 districts located in other than the eastern region. At present, there are 15 notified tribal communities in U.P. Gond along with the sub-ethnic groups accounts for 50.2% of tribes of all STs, Kharwar contribute 14.6% of total ST population of state. Tharu is the third largest community, its population growth from of 26% from 83,544 from in 2001 to 1,05,291 in 2011 and their percentage share in all STs has decreased from 77.4 in 2001 to 9.3 in 2011 due to reorganization of U.P. state. Saharya accounts 6.25% of all STs followed by Chero (3.7%). Thus according to census 2011, all these five tribes constitute 83.6% of ST population of U.P. Baiga and Pankha/Panika constituted 1.5 and 1.4% respectively. Agariya and Bhuiya/Bhuinya constituted 2.6 and 2.2% respectively. Population share of Bhotia (0.5%), Buksa (0.4%), Janusari (0.3%), Raji (0.1%), Parahiya (0.1%) and, Patari (0.01%) contributes minimum in ST population (Government of India, 2013). Singh (1997) mentioned that the colonial period mentioned the transformation of forest dwellers into the tribes and later on into the castes but distinction between tribes and castes fully emerged during census of 1901. It was under the government of India Act of 1935 and the Constitution of India that the nomenclature of the ST fully emerged. Tribal in India is the most adversely affected ethnic group due to the development in post-independence India,

development should not be studied in isolation, as it is not synonymous of with the growth of few affluent persons. Amartya Sen (1999) stated unless the capabilities among human beings are adequately addressed and deprivations faced by marginalized groups are overcome, development cannot take place. Rai (2017) found economic situation of ST at lowest level in the society. Rai (2018) mentioned that tribes of U.P. are living in conditions of deprivation; their economic condition and standard of living are very low, as most of them don't have land, asset and education.

## III. METHODOLOGY:

All ST communities living in Uttar Pradesh, These are 15 notified tribal communities were analysed on the basis of secondary data provided by Government of India published documents. Data were collected, compiled in excel sheet and subjected to vigorous statistical treatment for analysis as per need.

## IV. RESULTS:

- **Agariya**  
One of the Scheduled Tribes of India is the Agariya people who live firstly in the Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh states of India. During the years of the British rule, they were lived in and around Mirzapur were associated in the mining of iron. The languages that are spoken by the people of this tribe are Agariya, Chhatisgarhi and Hindi. In Gujarat, there is less number of people group known as Agariya who are the salt makers but no witness has been found if they have any connection to the group of Agariyas in Mirzapur. Subsequently was divided into groups in the early 20th century. Even they were influenced by Hinduism and they called themselves as Hindus, they did not pray any Hindu God which the other Hindu people did.
- **Aheria**  
An ethnic community of people in India, Aheria is basically found in the state of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. In this community around 1,40,000, people speak mainly Hindi because they are believers of Hindu religion. After that they also speak seventeen other languages, the Harauti being one of the common ones having around 2000 speakers from the community. Before the 1920s, they were basically hunters afterward they became farmer. There are various other names by which they are known as - Karbal, Aheri, Ahiria, Bahelia, Herbi, Beta, Heri, Hersi, karwal, Hesi, Baheliya, Thori, Aheriya, Naik or Turi etc.

- **Beldar**

A part of the Scheduled Castes, Beldar are genuinely from northern parts of India, especially Uttar Pradesh. The Kewat community is claimed to be their elders and have a history of moving from one place to another. The Beldar is an occupational caste and their traditional occupation is that of the navvies. However, they are also mixed in the digging of wells, rivers and road construction projects carried out by the government. Some of them are also involved in selling of vegetables and fruits. They are also part of the Hindu group and speak language of Hindi. A large number of Beldars are mainly found in, Gonda, Khari, Ginda, Sitapur, Gorakhpur, Faizabad, Lakhimpur, Barabanki etc.

Bhoksa/ Buksa people living mainly in the Indian states of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, the Bhoksa people are local people who have been recognized as Scheduled Tribes. They normally speak Buksa language which can be compared to Rana Tharu. After discontinuing their animist traditions, they are now mainly Hindus. They use Brahmin worshipper for all their virtuous activities and worship the tribal god of Shakumbari Devi. Most of them are involved in various types of work like cultivating land, mountain guides and involved in secondary occupation. They do have some separate settlements and they do not share the same with any caste of tribal community.

- **Bind Tribe**

The Bind tribe is found in the North India, particularly in Uttar Pradesh and belongs to the Other Backward Caste. This community claims that they are related to the Simha community and are different from other castes including Bin in Bihar. They have originated from the Vindhya Hills vested in the central part of India. As per the traditions, when Nisadh's daughter passed by a river to her husband's house, a nymph of the river charmed her. As she knew that how to make a sugarcane mat out of the nymph, she started doing so. Since then, this tribal community has been manufacturing sugarcane mats which are similar to 'Chatai'. According to their work, the binds have been divided into seven sub-groups, Kewat, Mallah, Kulawat, Guria, Nisadh, Suraia, and Bind proper. Everyone has a specialized occupation. The Nisadh, Kewat and Kulawat are Fisherman; Guria and Mallah are boatmen. Since the Binds in Bihar and Binds in Uttar Pradesh are varied because of their traditions, in the UP they are known as Namera, Bind and Beldar. Except their main occupation they are making the sugarcane mats, some of the Binds are involved in farming and some are involved in raising the milch cattle too. The

eastern parts of Uttar Pradesh are highly concentrated. They speak in Awadhi and Bhojpuri language in Uttar Pradesh. Their traditional caste council rigidly controls all the members doing of social norms. Large people of community practice Hinduism and follow its tradition.

- **Chero**

They are found in the states of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh India, the Chero is a scheduled caste, a community saying that to have been originally the Chandravanshi Rajputs. Few members of the tribe are Nagvanshi. They are belong to one of the tribal communities that are occupant of the southeastern parts of Uttar Pradesh like the Kol and Bhar. They ruled over northern parts of Bihar until the Rajputs get rid of them. Now, they can be found in the areas that develop from Muzzaffarpur to Allahabad. They are subdivided into Chaudhary and Mahto.

They are basically involved in agriculture and animal husbandry. They also gather the Mahua flower that is sold in the markets. Few members also work as laborer. They are mainly Hindus and at the same time, also pray the many tribal god like Ganwar Bhabhani, Sairi-ma and Dulha Deo. They are controlled by traditional caste committee. These community marry their children in Baiga and Kol community and their neighboring communities. They are not marry their children in same community.

- **Panika**

Panika or Panka is a Hindu caste that is found in Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. Before they were a sub-group of Kotwar, now they got separated. In ancient time, their name originated from the word Pankha, which meant hand fan. Historically, the community was involved in manufacturing of fan and that's why the origin of their name.

They were totally involved in the music, dance and party of the marriage, Barahon, Ramleela etc. The Kotwar Panika served as the watchmen in south eastern areas of Uttar Pradesh. They are normally found in the areas of Mirzapur and Sonbhadra and have now been joined into Hinduism. In the olden times, this tribe was known for their honesty amongst the other tribes. However, in the present times, this feature seems to have been disappeared. Although they lived in hilly area in the olden times, lately they prefer to live in cities and villages. They are separated into exogamous clans called kuris and main ones are, Maria, Parwar, Chikongia, Sarima, Janta Thari, Kumaria, Phungi, Kothi and more. They are

intermarriage like the other Hindus. Since the educational qualification of the Panika community has upgraded, now these people are being engaged as government employees aside from involved in farming, weaving etc. Few number of people practice business also. They have many tribal god such as Dulha Deo ,Sheetla Devi and Maharani Devi and believer of Hinduism.

- **Parahiya**

Parahiyas are the believer of Hinduism. The name Parahiya has been derived from the Gondi language which means the forest burners. Traditionally, they have been practicing criticize and burn agriculture technique. The other meaning is a hill resider. They live on the highland of the Vindhya ranges just like other tribes in the state. They speak in Hindi language.

They are intermarriage and divided into a number of clans called as the kuris namely Bhusan, Bhania, Bhaloa, Gurgur, Bengaha, Gohawa, Sira and Monnoor. Believers of Hinduism, the Parahiyas also have some tribal god like Jawalamukhi Devi and Dharti Mata . Currently, they are popular a settled life against the hunting which was their ascendent occupation.

- **Patari**

Recognized as the Scheduled Tribe, they are tribal community and found in District Sonbhadra of the Indian state Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh's nearby areas. The Pataris are

formerly the Gond tribal who advised the Gond Kings and also trained in the customs. Long ago they spoke Chhatisgarhi language but in current times, they speak in Hindi language.

They have four sub-group and each of them has separate kuris. Several are Tekam, Pusan, Poija, Neti, Soi, Sarota and Kuram. They are endogamous clans but practice exogamy in kuris. They are normally the elder for the Chero, Majhwar and Bhuiyar tribes in South east Uttar Pradesh. Few pataris involved in agriculture and are sharecroppers and also animal husbandry. Many of them have transferred from villages to the cities in search of livelihood and so far, they have maintained their different status.

- **Tharu**

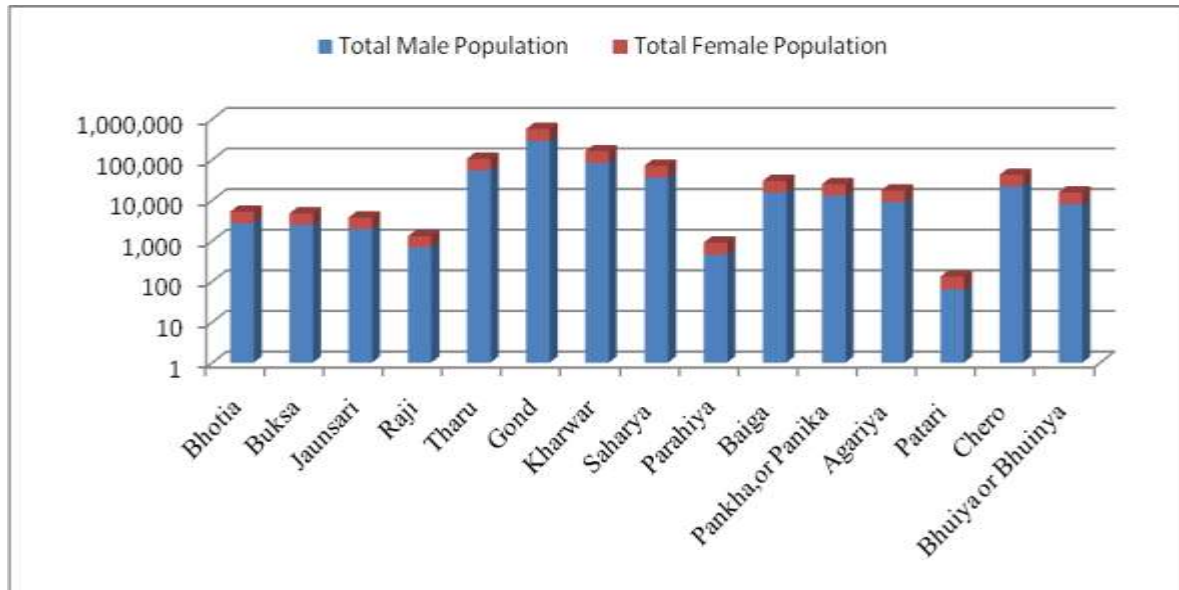
The word tharu is originated from sthavor, meaning believers of Theravada Buddhism. Tharu group belongs to the Terai lowlands, lower Himalayas. Tharu community is a scheduled tribe in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Uttrakhand and Bihar. Large number of people are forest reside, and some practice agriculture. They speak different language of Tharu, a dialects of the Indo-Aryan subgroup, and variants of Hindi, Urdu, and Awadhi. Tharus prayer Lord Shiva as Mahadev, and call their foremost being "Narayan", who they have faith is the provider of sunlight, rain, and crops. Tharu women have powerful property rights than is approved to women in mainstream North Indian Hindu rituals.

**Notified Schedule Tribes populations in Uttar Pradesh:**

Particulars		T/R/U	Total populations in Uttar Pradesh		
		--	Persons	Male	Female
All schedule Tribes		Total	1,134,273	581,083	553,190
All Schedule Tribes		Rural	1,031,076	526,315	504,761
S.No	All Schedule Tribes	Urban	103,197	54,768	48,429
1.	Bhotia	Total	5,196	2,764	2,432
2.	Buksa	Total	4,710	2,472	2,238
3.	Jaunsari	Total	3,720	1,939	1,781
4.	Raji	Total	1,295	698	597
5.	Tharu	Total	105,291	53,687	51,604
6.	Gond,	Total	569,035	289,499	279,536
7.	Kharwar	Total	160,676	82,623	78,053
8.	Saharya	Total	70,634	36,307	34,327
9.	Parahiya	Total	901	456	445
10.	Baiga	Total	30,006	15,572	14,434
11.	Pankha, or Panika	Total	24,862	12,851	12,011
12.	Agariya	Total	17,376	8,939	8,437
13.	Patari	Total	132	63	69
14.	Chero	Total	42,227	21,807	20,420
15.	Bhuiya, or Bhuinya	Total	15,599	7,940	7,659

Census: 2011





As per details from census 2011, Uttar Pradesh has population of 19.98 crores , an increase from figure of 16.62 crore in 2001 census. Total population of Uttar Pradesh as per 2011 census is 199,812,341 of which male and female are 104,480,510 and 95,331,831 respectively. The total population growth in this decade was 20.23 percent while in previous decade it was 25.80 percent, the population of Uttar Pradesh forms 16.50 percent of India in 2011, In 2001, the figure was 16.16 percent.

- **Jaunsari**

The Jaunsari tribe has got the maximum number of people in the state Uttar Pradesh. Jaunsari tribe has salient body features, alike that of both the Mongoloid as well as Indo -Aryan groups who have settled in the Himalayan area. They claim that they have heirs of Pandavas of Mahabharata. They reside in Jaunsar in Dehradun, Jaunpur in Tehri Garhwal, Rawain in Uttarkashi and Purola area of Uttar Pradesh. They normally speak in hindi language. To sustain their livelihood, majority of Jaunsari communities worked as o labourers who use to work carefully in the forest grounds or in farms of the wealthy people. these Jaunsari tribes acquire small amount of land, they could not adapt to cultivation. They depend on agriculture and animal husbandry for sustain their living.

- **Baiga**

Baiga are recognized as a Scheduled tribe in Uttar Pradesh. They are normally found in Sonbhadra of Uttar Pradesh, this tribe practices 'shifting cultivation' that is slash-burn . Baiga have

marking as an integral part of their lifestyle. They are the descendant of the Dravidians. The designing artists are known as Godharins. They consume usually grained foods includes kodo, coarse grain, kutki, kodo eat some flour. They also kill for small mammals and fish and eat fruits like char, mango, tendu and jamun.

- **Bhuiya**

This community is found in the states of Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, and Assam. The main attention of the tribe is in the former northern princely states of Orissa. The tribe represents various stages of cultural development, ranging from the primitive Hill Bhuiya to the Hindu-influenced Bhuiya landowning sections.

- **Bhotiya**

These tribal community found in Uttar Pardesh. In Uttar Pardesh , the Bhotiya live in the Lakhimpur, lucknow, Bahraich , Gonda and Barabanki districts. These community are buyer and seller in the Himilayas for products such as cereal, wool, and salt. Now, few people are farmers and some are involed in merchants of stones, gems, and herbs.

- **Raji**

These Raji tribes have got habituation towards all types of alcohols. Raji tribes have also formed tastes for many 'wild fruits' and 'tree roots'. Elegant jewelleryes that are wear by Raji females and these jewelleryes are quite large and heavy. However, in recent , few of Raji tribes dress in the

similar fashion like that of a people belong to other community. Artistic enthusiasm of Raji tribes is nicely represented in various art forms. Some tribes of this community are prepared a beautiful handbag which is demanded in local market and whole of the country.

• **Gond**

Gond are the highest number of tribal group in world, They are normally found in , Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Odisha. Gonds are divided into four groups

- Raj Gonds
- Dhurve Gonds
- Madia Gonds
- Khatulwar Gonds

• **Saharia**

This Saharia tribes mainly found in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. Saharia tribe recognized as a schedule tribe. The word Saharia has been originated from the Persian word „Seh“ meaning Jungle. The Muslim rulers reckoned Saharia as inhabitants of forest. This is

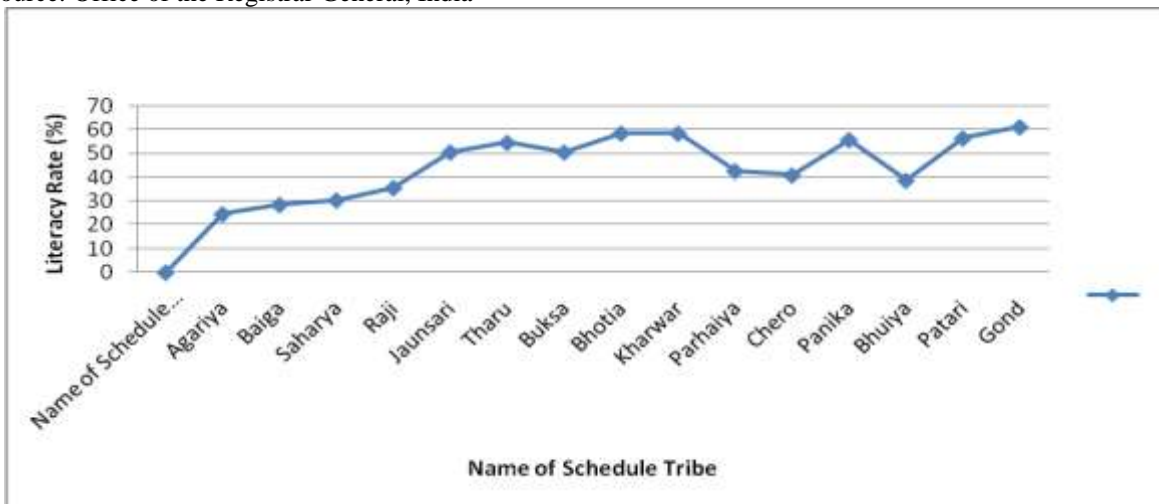
clearly shows that Saharia has always been a forest dweller living in the midst of Jungles and because of his age - old dependence on forest he is so bold and never afraid of moving in the Jungle even dark night. Large number of people involved in agriculture activity.

• **Kharwar**

These tribal community recognized as a schedule tribe of Uttar Pradesh. They are mostly found in Rajasthan , Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Orrisa. Kharwar community recognized as tribe in Varanasi, Sonbhadra, Balia, Gazipur, Deoria district of Uttar Pradesh, Most of people of these community involved in agriculture activities. According to census 2011 total number of schedule tribe in Uttar Pradesh is 1134273 out of which 581083 are male and 553190 are female. Majority of tribal people belong to rural area and less number of people belong to urban area. 88.8 percent Schedule tribe in Uttar Pradesh living in villages. Kheri district hold the largest number of schedule tribe in district wise distribution of schedule tribe population. Tharu is maximum crowded tribe in Uttar Pradesh among all the schedule tribe.

Literacy Rates among STs and ALL							
Year	All			Scheduled Tribes			
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	
1961	40.40	15.35	28.30	13.83	3.16	8.53	
1971	45.96	21.97	34.45	17.63	4.85	11.30	
1981	56.38	29.76	43.57	24.52	8.04	16.35	
1991	64.13	39.29	52.21	40.65	18.19	29.60	
2001	75.26	53.67	64.84	59.17	34.76	47.10	
2011	80.90	64.60	73.00	68.50	49.40	59.00	

Source: Office of the Registrar General, India



Census: 2011

Education is precondition for removing the barriers of backwardness and marginalization of any society. Therefore the education of schedule tribe has been a priority for the government of India. Despite improvement the literacy rate of STs considerably lower than the state average of 67.7 percent aggregated for total literacy rates 55.7 %.

#### V. CONCLUSION:

Uttar Pradesh tribes endure harsh living circumstances. Their economic conditions and way of life are quite poor. They face many challenges since they lack lands, education, and assets. Both society and the authorities view them as being behind the times. Due to Act 2002's various issues that tribes are now facing, some tribes have been designated as scheduled castes in some districts and scheduled tribes in other, which has resulted in the same group in Uttar Pradesh having dual status. In the interest of the State, it has been discovered that tribal communities are also not receiving the benefits of reservations.

#### VI. SUGGESTION:

Illiteracy is the root cause of backwardness of the STs in Uttar Pradesh. There are 14 research tribal institute have been set up by government for improvement of these communities. These research institutes are engaged in providing planning inputs to state the government conducting research and evaluation studies etc. the administrative machinery should be sensitized towards peculiarities of tribal habitat.

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