

IMPACT OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES ON TRIBAL COMMUNITIES: A CASE STUDY OF LAKHIMPUR KHERI DISTRICT OF UTTAR PRADESH

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ABSTRACT

India has become one of the world's fastest growing knowledge-based economies due to immensely abundant human capital. Preparing the economy to absorb the large mass of the population coming into the workforce requires that they are skilled to meet the requirement of the sectors that will employ them. The term 'scheduled tribe' is primarily an administrative and constitutional concept. 'Tribal folk' is defined as people living in a particular place, who enter into marriage relationships among themselves, who have no specific skills in any work, traditionally or ethnically ruled by an Adivasi person their own special language and have their own beliefs, customs, and traditions. The paper focuses on skill development programmers being launched by the Central Government and State Government of Uttar Pradesh and their impact among Schedule Tribe Communities,' particularly in Lakhimpur Kheri District. The research work mainly based upon the interview schedules conducted in Belapersuwa and Raghu Nagar Villages of Nighasan Block of Lakhimpur District. The research findings conclude that the Tharu communities of Lakhimpur District have not gained much in terms of socio-economic benefits from the skill development programme launched by the Governments. More emphasis is needed in skill development programmes for STs Communities of Uttar Pradesh.

KEYWORDS: *Skill Development Programme, Tribes of Uttar Pradesh, Lakhimpur Kheri, District, Belapersuwa and Raghu Nagar Villages*

INTRODUCTION

The tribal population in India, though a small minority, represents a diversity of groups. They vary among themselves in respect of language and linguistic traits, ecological settings in which they live, physical features, size of the population, the process of cultural development, dominant modes of making a livelihood, level of development and social stratification. They are also spread over the length and breadth of the country through their geographical distribution is not uniform. A majority of the Scheduled Tribe population is mainly concentrated in the eastern, central and western belt covering the nine States of Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, and West Bengal. About 12% live in the Northeastern region, about 5% in the Southern region and about 3% in the Northern States. Although the Census of 2011 gives the total population of Scheduled Tribes as 10, 42, 81,034 persons, constituting 8.6% of the population of the country, the tribal communities in India are enormously diverse and heterogeneous. There are also tribal groups whose populations are distributed across international boundaries such as tribes in Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, etc. which have fellow tribes people in from overseas countries like China, Bhutan, Myanmar, and Bangladesh.

Table-I gives the major tribes in India spread over the entire region.

Table 1: Major Tribes in India

S No.	State/Union Territory	Major Tribes
1	Andhra Pradesh	Bhil, Chenchu, Gond, Kondas, Lambadis, Sugalis etc.
2	Assam	Boro, Kachari, Mikir (Karbi), Lalung, Rabha, Dimasa, Hmar, Hajong etc.
3	Bihar & Jharkhand	Asur, Banjara, Birhor, Korwa, Munda, Oraon, Santhal etc.
4	Gujarat	Bhil, Dhodia, Gond, Siddi, Bordia, etc.
5	Himachal Pradesh	Gaddi, Gujjar, Lahuala, Swangla, etc.
6	Karnataka	Bhil, Chenchu, Goud, Kuruba, Kammara, Kolis, Koya, Mayaka, Toda, etc.
7	Kerala	Adiyam, Kammrar, Kondkappus, Malais, Palliyar, etc.
8	Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh	Bhil, Birhor, Damar, Gond, Kharia, Majhi, Munda, Oraon, Parahi, etc.
9	Maharashtra	Bhil, Bhunjia, Chodhara, Dhodia, Gond, Kharia, Nayaka, Oraon, Pardhi, Rathwa etc.
10	Meghalaya	Garos, Khasi, Jaintia, etc.
11	Orissa	Birhor, Gond, Juang, khond, korua, Mundari, Oraon, Santhal, Tharu, etc.
12	Rajasthan	Bhil, Damor, Garasta, Meena, Sahariya etc.
13	Tamilnadu	Irular, Kammara, Kondakapus, Kota, Mahamalar, Palleyan, Toda etc.
14	Tripura	Chakma, Garo, Khasi, Kuki, Lusai, Liang, Santhal etc.
15	West Bengal	Asur, Birhor, Korwa, Lepcha, Munda, Santhal, etc.
16	Mizoram	Lusai, Kuki, Garo, Khasi, Jaintia, Mikir, etc.
17	Arunachal Pradesh	Dafla, Khampti, Singpho, etc.
18	Goa	Dhodi, Siddi (Nayaka)
19	Daman & Diu	Dhodi, Mikkada, Varti, etc.
20	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Jarawa, Nicobarese, Onges, Sentinelese, Shompens, Great Andamanese, etc.
21	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Dhodi, Mikkada, Varti, etc.
22	Uttar Pradesh & Uttaranchal	Bhoti, Buxa, Jaunsari, Tharu, Raji, etc.
23	Nagaland	Naga, Kuki, Mikir, Garo, etc.
24	Sikkim	Bhutia, Lepcha, etc.
25	Jammu & Kashmir	Chddangpa, Garra, Gujjar, Gaddi, etc.

The Himalayan Region comprises 2.03% of STs in the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh, the Northeastern region has 12.41% of STs in Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Meghalaya and Assam, the Central-east Indian region has the largest proportion of STs, about 52.51% in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and West Bengal, the Western region of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Maharashtra and Goa has 27.64% of STs; the Southern region has 5.31% of STs in the states of Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu, and finally, 0.11% of STs live in the island region of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep. Table II gives the total population of STs and proportion of STs in each state to the total state and national population.

Table 2: Total Population of Sts and Proportion of Sts in Each State to the Total State and National Population

S. No.	Name of the State/Ut	Total Population	St Population	% of Sts in the State to Total State Population	% of Sts in the State to Total St Population in India
1	India	1210569573	104281034	8.61	
2	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	380581	28530	7.49	0.02
3	Andhra Pradesh	84580777	5918073	6.99	5.67
4	Arunachal Pradesh	1383727	951821	68.78	0.91
5	Assam	31205576	3884371	12.44	3.72
6	Bihar	104099452	1336573	1.28	1.28
7	Chandigarh	1055450			
8	Chhattisgarh	25545198	7822902	30.62	7.50
9	D & N Haveli	343709	178564	51.95	0.17
10	Daman & Diu	243247	15363	6.31	0.01
11	Goa	1458545	149275	10.23	0.14
12	Gujarat	60439692	8917174	14.75	8.55
13	Haryana	25351462	0		
14	Himachal Pradesh	6864602	392126	5.71	0.37
15	Jammu & Kashmir	12541302	1493299	11.90	1.43
16	Jharkhand	32988134	8645042	26.20	8.29
17	Karnataka	61095297	4248987	6.95	4.07
18	Kerala	33406061	484839	1.45	0.46
19	Lakshadweep	64473	61120	94.79	0.05
20	Madhya Pradesh	72626809	15316784	21.08	14.68
21	Maharashtra	112374333	10510213	9.35	10.07
22	Manipur	2570390	902740	35.12	0.86
23	Meghalaya	2966889	2555861	86.14	2.45
24	Mizoram	1097206	1036115	94.43	0.99
25	Nagaland	1978502	1710973	86.47	1.64
26	NCT of Delhi	16787941	0		
27	Odisha	41974218	9590756	22.84	9.19
28	Puducherry	1247953	0	--	--
29	Punjab	27743338	0	--	--
30	Rajasthan	68548437	9238534	13.47	8.85
31	Sikkim	610577	206360	33.79	0.19
32	Tamil Nadu	72147030	794697	1.10	0.76
33	Tripura	3673917	1166813	31.75	1.11
34	Uttar Pradesh	199812341	1134273	0.56	1.08
35	Uttarakhand	10086292	291903	2.89	0.27
36	West Bengal	91276115	5296953	5.80	5.07

As can be seen from the Table-II, 1.08% population of the Uttar Pradesh is of ST Community. Uttar Pradesh is the largest State in India in terms of population (16.49 %) and 5th largest in terms of geographical area (7.2%). At 828 persons per sq.km, it ranks 9th in terms of population density among all States and Union Territories. Uttar Pradesh has 75 administrative districts (71 as of Census 2011 and four more created subsequently). Lucknow is the state capital of Uttar Pradesh. The state covers a large part of the highly fertile and densely populated upper Gangetic plains. Its total forest area is just about 6.9%. Uttar Pradesh has two major rivers: the Ganges and the Yamuna. Other major rivers are the Ghaghra, Gomti, and Ramganga. Hindi is the most commonly spoken language. English and Urdu are the other common languages in use.

About 16.6% of India's villages are located in Uttar Pradesh. About 78% of the State's population is in rural areas. Districts with over 30% urban population are Agra, Aligarh, Bareilly, Jhansi, Firozabad, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Ghaziabad, Lucknow, Kanpur (Urban), Meerut, Moradabad, Saharanpur, and Varanasi. The District-wise map of Uttar Pradesh is shown in Figure-1.



Figure 1: District-Wise Map of Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) at current prices for 2011-12 is estimated at Rs. 6.76 lakh crore, contributing to 8.2% of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The GSDP at constant prices has increased at a CAGR of 6.9% in the last five years (2006-07 to 2011-12) lower than the GDP growth of India at 7.9%. Presently, industrial and services sector both together contribute about 74.8% of GSDP, while the primary sector's contribution is about 24.2%. The per capita income of the State at current prices is estimated at Rs.26,051 in the year 2010-11 – much lower than the All-India average of Rs.60,972 per annum. Uttar Pradesh makes the largest contribution to India's population – thus directly contributing to India's demographic dividend. As of Census 2011, Uttar Pradesh has a population of 19.98 crore persons. Of this, 52% of the population is in the working-age group, while only 34% is in the labor force. The gap is attributed to people who do not want to work. This could be due to aspirations for higher studies or voluntary unemployment or unwillingness to work. As of 2011, the State's workforce is estimated at 6.69 crore persons. Majority of these are employed in agriculture at 66% as either cultivators or agricultural laborers. The remaining 34% are employed in non-agricultural activities. Given this background, the skill development assumes greater significance in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

Uttar Pradesh has set up a State Skill Development Mission (SSDM) headed by the Chief Minister. The State has also set up a separate department for vocational education, which is the nodal agency for skill development and coordination of 18 different departments. A Vocational Education Board has also been set up for coordinating various aspects of skill development. The objectives of the Mission include:

- To integrate efforts of various departments of State and Central Government engaged in Skill Development Training.
- Imparting training in vocational skills to 45 lakh youth in the age group of 14 to 35 years in 12th five year plan period.

- Out of 45 lakh, 24.18 lakh to be trained through short-duration training programs and rest through regular Institutes.
- Ensuring placement of preferably at least 70% of the trained youth in gainful wage and selfemployment.

Presently, there are 267 Government run ITIs and more than 1300 private ITIs in the state to provide vocational education with an estimated capacity of 1, 80,000. The senior secondary education department has 892 schools with an estimated capacity of 100 students per school for vocational education and under the revised vocational education scheme, 100 new schools have been sanctioned. Different departments also have their own programs and schemes for skill development. Industries and private sector have not been engaged in any significant manner in this area. Uttar Pradesh Skill Development Mission was formed in 2011 to carry forward the skill development initiatives in the State. Uttar Pradesh Vocational Education and Training Council were also formed in 2009 with the intent of skilling educated/uneducated youth and making them employable. However, the desired momentum to skill development activities could not be provided due to lack of a comprehensive policy framework.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

Skill development is considered synonymous with vocational training (as distinguished from vocational education) and till very recently the ITIs and Polytechnics were expected to shoulder the major burden of skilling the youth in vocational streams. However, it was realized that the current system is not capable of delivering either on the quality or the quantity of the requirement of skilled personnel in the country. It was also realized that unless skill development is seen as a national priority the country would not be able to reap the demographic dividend. Not only this, a large unskilled and therefore unemployable and unemployed young workforce will create social distress of great proportions. It was in this context that a National Skill Development Policy has launched in 2009 with the aim of skilling 500 million persons by 2022.

The National Policy recommends the formation of Skill Development Missions, both at the State and National levels. To create such an institutional base for skill development in India at the national level, the following three-tier institutional structure was created at the national level in early 2008.

National Council on Skill Development (NCSD)

It is headed by the Prime Minister and with Ministers of various skills relevant areas as members. The Council has various experts in the field of skill development as its members.

National Skill Development Coordination Board (NSDCB)

The NCSD is assisted by the National Skill Development Coordination Board chaired by the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission which coordinates action for skill development both in the public and the private sector.

National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)

The National Skill Development Corporation India (NSDC) is an institutional arrangement in the form of a non-profit corporation set up by the Ministry of Finance for encouraging Public Private Partnership in skill development in India. It aims to promote skill development by catalyzing the creation of large, quality, for-profit vocational institutions. It provides funding to build scalable, for-profit vocational training initiatives. The Table-III gives the National target for skill development for the 12th plan (2012-17).

Table 3: National Targets for Skill Development for the 12th Plan (2012-17)

Financial Year	Skilling Target(in Lakh) Proposed in the Draft Xii Plan Document	% of Population
2012-13	53	0.7%
2013-14	75	1.0%
2014-15	100	1.3%
2015-16	125	1.6%
2016-17	147	2.0%
Total	500	6.6%

The State Government strategy and programmes for skill development are woven around these central schemes and support institutions. Many State Governments have set up State Skill Development Missions (SSDMs) as nodal bodies to anchor the skill development agenda in the State. SSDMs are expected to play a significant role in escalating the pace of skilling, through identification of key sectors for skill development in the State, as well as coordinating with Central Ministries and State Line Departments, as well as industry and private training organizations. Each State has adopted a structure of SSDM that best suits the local environment and the State vision for skill development. The same is the case in Uttar Pradesh.

The Mission of the Programme in Uttar Pradesh are

“To integrate efforts of various departments of the State and Central Government organizations engaged in providing skill development training and make available employment oriented and placement linked training in vocational skills to 45 lakh youth in the age group of 14 to 35 years by 2016-17 and even at a greater pace thereafter, by partnering with government and private training providers, while ensuring equitable access to the most disadvantaged, including women, and strive for placement of preferably at least 70% of the trained youth in gainful wage and self employment to enable them to contribute to the economic development of the State.”

All persons between the ages of 14 to 35, preferably 8th pass, who need skill development training to improve their earning capacities and level, shall be eligible for the skill development training. People who are 5th pass and above will also be considered for courses which have a lesser eligibility requirement. Skill development will also be extended to unskilled/semi-skilled workers seeking to enhance their skill levels.

Within this group, the emphasis will be on those who come from marginalized and vulnerable sections of society and those who need short duration skill development courses to be able to take advantage of entry-level positions in all sectors of the economy. Reservation and special provisions shall be made for the vulnerable sections of the society.

Persons passing out from ITIs/ITCs and polytechnics will also be eligible for skill development training if the same is required to make them employable.

The program shall target Women, SC/STs and other marginalized sections of society. The specific provisions for different categories of people in schemes such as State Rural Livelihood Mission, Building and Other Construction Workers Scheme, Border Areas Development, Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan, etc. shall be adhered. The funds available under these schemes will not only be used for skill development but also for setting up the infrastructure for training of these groups. Overall, the program shall have a target of 40% for women, 21% for SC/STs and 15% for minorities across all the training provided in the State through the Mission.

Since our study is to focus on Lakhimpur Kheri District of the Uttar Pradesh, we shall now give a brief description of Lakhimpur Kheri with particular reference to Tribal Communities

LAKHIMPUR KHERI DISTRICT

Lakhimpur Kheri is the largest district in Uttar Pradesh, India, on the border with Nepal. Its administrative capital is the city of Lakhimpur. Lakhimpur Kheri district is a part of Lucknow division, with a total area of 7,680 square kilometers. The national government designated Lakhimpur Kheri as a Minority Concentrated District on the basis of 2001 census data, which identifies it as requiring urgent aid to improve living standards and amenities. A 2010 survey published by the Ministry of Urban Development placed Lakhimpur as the second lowest ranking city in India in terms of sanitation.

Dudhwa National Park is in Lakhimpur Kheri and is the only national park in Uttar Pradesh. It is home to a large number of rare and endangered species including tigers, leopards, swamp deer, hispid hares, and Bengal floricans.

Kheri is a town 2 kilometers from Lakhimpur. It has the name derived from a tomb built over the remains of Saiyid Khurd, who died in 1563. Pre-independence the tomb was administered under Act XX of 1856. Another theory suggests that the name derives from the khair trees that once covered large tracts in the area. The district is within the Terai lowlands at the base of the Himalayas, with several rivers and lush green vegetation. Situated between 27.6° and 28.6° north latitude and 80.34° and 81.30° east longitudes and about 7,680 square kilometers in area, it is roughly triangular in shape, the flattened apex pointing north. Lakhimpur Kheri is bounded on the north by the river Mohan, separating it from Nepal, on the east by the Kauriala river, separating it from Bahraich, on the south by Sitapur and Hardoi and on the west by Pilibhit and Shahjahanpur.

The climate is hot throughout the year except for the rainy seasons. During summer (March to June), the temperature can reach above 40 °C and in winters (October to February) it can drop to around 4 °C. The nights are very cold during winter and fog is very common in this season. The annual average rainfall in Lakhimpur Kheri is 1,085.3 millimeters, mostly in the monsoon months (July to September). Several rivers flow across Lakhimpur. Some of these are Sharda, Ghagra, Sarayan, Chauka, Gomti, Kathana, Sarayu and Mohana.

Wheat, rice, maize, barley, and pulses are the major food crops. Recently farmers have started menthol mint farming in the district as being the Terai region it is ideal for mint cultivation. Sugarcane and oilseeds are the chief non-food crops. Sugar is grown and processed in this district, forming the backbone of the local economy. Table-IV gives the Demographics details of the Lakhimpur Kheri District as given below in percentage-wise of different religions.

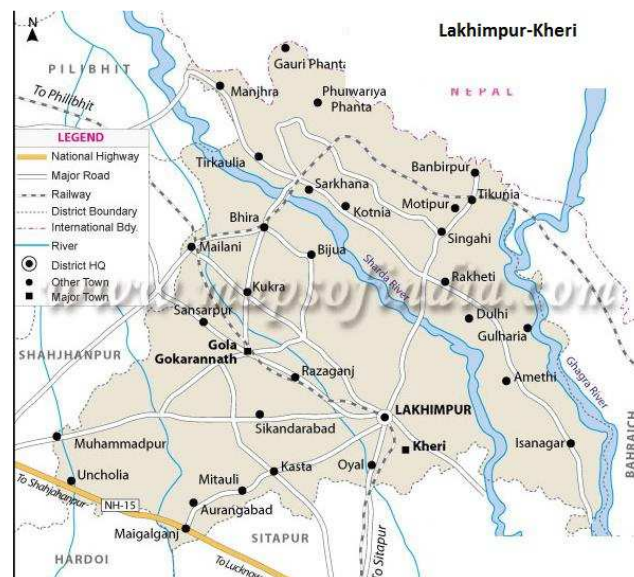
Table 5: Demographics Details in Terms of Religion

S No.	Religion	Percentage
1.	Hinduism	77.41%
2.	Islam	19.1%
3.	Sikhism	2.63%
4.	Other	086%

According to the 2011 census Lakhimpur Kheri District has a population of 4,021,243. This gives it a ranking of 56th in India out of a total of 640). The district has a population density of 523 inhabitants per square kilometer. Its population growth rate over the decade 2001–2011 was 25.38%. Kheri has a sex ratio of 894 females for every 1000 males and a literacy rate of 60.56%.

Languages spoken here include Awadhi, a vernacular in the Hindi dialect continuum spoken by over 38 million people, mainly in the Awadh region.

The roads and railways map of the Lakhimpur District is given in Figure-2.

**Figure 2: Lakhimpur-Kheri**

We have selected two villages namely Belapersuwa and Raghu nagar in Nighan Block of the Lakhimpur Kheri District for our case study were the majority of the population is tribal community mainly Tharus. Before detail methodology is presented, we shall discuss some details about Tharu communities in Uttar Pradesh.

THARU COMMUNITY IN UTTAR PRADESH

The Tharu tribe is a most popular tribe of India and Nepal. The Tharu people are indigenous people living in the Terai plains on the border of Nepal and India. The population of Nepal is 28,287,147 (July 2006), of which the Tharu people make up 6.6%. A smaller number of Tharus live in India, mostly in Champaran District of Bihar and in Udham Singh Nagar District of Uttrakhand, Kheri, Pilibhit, Gonda, Balrampur, Gorakhpur, Bahraich district of Uttar Pradesh. The Population of Tharu tribe is 83544 in Uttar Pradesh and 85665 in Uttrakhand State. A total Tharu population is near about 169209 in India. The Tharu are recognized as scheduled tribes by the Government of India.

Constitution of India gives many special social, educational and economic rights to these scheduled tribes and casts because they are the primary victims of the backwardness. The Tharus are struggling for their rights and cultural protection.

The ethnographic research on Tharus was done by Indian anthropologists in this regard the first detailed study in the field of physical anthropology is of D. N Majumdar which was conducted in the late thirties and during the census of India operations of 1941. He conducted an anthracitic & serological study of Tharus and published an article namely "Tharus and their Blood Groups" 1942 this deals with 'Race' 'Caste' and 'Tribes' and the composition and classification of the Indian population in 1964, R. P. Srivastava was awarded a Ph.D. for the anthracitic and serological studies on tharus in the field of social Anthropology D. N. Majumdar, S. K. Srivastava and Amir Hasan have published major works in this area.

An ethnographic study of the Tharu lifecycle rituals, customs and practices were published by Hari Dev in an article "Birth Customs among Tharus" (1932) this study is based on fieldwork among tharus of Gorakhpur.

D. N. Majumdar published a book by the name of "The fortunes of primitive tribes (1944) in which, he has given ethnographic details on Tharu tribe along with several other tribes.

S. K. Srivastava wrote some research paper on the cultural aspect on tharus in his paper "Spring Festival among Tharus" (1948) his other paper "Some problems of culture contact among Tharus" (1949) discussed various problems faced by tharus due to culture contact with the outsiders his book "Tharu A Study in cultural Dynamic" (1958) includes his previous articles and describes several aspects of Rana Tharu life a material culture, economy, social organization, religion, festivals, treatment of illness, incidence of crime, dance and songs, and riddles.

S. Mathur (1960) on "Marriage among Tharus of Chandanchowki" wrote about the Rana Tharus of district Lakhimpur.

Amir Hasan (1971) in his book "A Bunch of Wild Flower and other Articles" wrote a chapter on Danguria Tharus, about their origin history, sub-division, social organization Panchayat organization, religion and other aspects of tharu life.

Anand Saran (1983) On "Tharu Janjati Ke Bhojya Padarth: Ek Addyan" based on field work data habits discusses about the diet and the food habits of Tharus of village Massan, Khamb, Dudhwa of district Lakhimpur Kheri (U.P.).

Amir Hasan in another book "Affairs of an Indian Tribe the story of my tharu Relatives" (1993), he wrote a detailed account of Tharus of Lakhimpur Kheri district in the book he deals with all the aspects of tharus, their lifestyle, social profile, love life, Music & literature, world views religion, their relation with forest, occupation, economy etc.

K.S. Singh (1994) has made a general description about the physical, social, economic and cultural aspects of the Tharu tribe in "Peoples of India the scheduled tribes"

R. K. Srivastava in his "A Psychological perspective on the Tharu" (1998) based on his doctoral dissertation wrote about the personality characteristics of Tharu and non-tribal youth.

A. K. Singh in his book entitled “Dynamics of Tribal Economy (2004) has made attempt to highlight various sectors of the tribal economy which have traditionally been centered on land and other land-based resources. His study was based on the field survey. It was conducted in 5 districts of undivided Uttar Pradesh namely Mirzapur, Udham Singh Nagar, Maharajganj, Balrampur & Lakhimpur Kheri over the three tribes Tharu, Buxa and Kol but its center of focus in the Tharus tribe the problem of land alienation displacement, due to industrialization problem of irrigation low pricing of agricultural production as well as very low productivity of crops has been pinpointed in this study it also throws light on the problems faced by the tribal due to the restriction imposed on them in the use of forest and other natural resources for minor forest produce and other purposes. The author also suggested some measures as the solution of the problem e.g. exploration of the various domains of non-farming occupation starting of selfemployment enterprises in local areas etc.

All the above-cited references in the context of Tharus generally give a detailed account of Rana Tharus of Lakhimpur Kheri. Subhas Chandra Verma (2010) On his research paper “The Eco-friendly Tharu tribe A study in socio-cultural Dynamics” wrote about Cultural of Tharus tribe that how they are eco-friendly and represent a good life system how Tharus respect and care the natural resources like forest, rivers etc.

Subhas Chandra Verma (2011) on his research paper “The struggling Tharu youths: A study of the Tharus tribe of India” wrote about how tharu community is undergoing social dynamics rapidly. Although Tharu youth lack awareness about higher education but they have a dominant position in local politics.

CASE STUDY

An interview schedule was prepared to consists of 74 points for information regarding name family details, family income, infrastructure facilities in the house, health issues, education issues, marriage issues, financial details political affiliation and most importantly the information regarding skill development programmes. The skill development programmes points included the information availability, usefulness, etc. regarding the programmes. The interview schedule was conducted in Belapersuwa and Raghu Nagar villages of Nighashan Block.

BELA PARSUWA VILLAGE

Bela Parsuwa is a large village located in Nighasan Tehsil of Kheri district, Uttar Pradesh with total 709 families residing. The Bela Parsuwa village has a population of 4848 of which 2419 are males while 2429 are females as per Population Census 2011. In Bela Parsuwa village population of children with age 0-6 is 747 which makes up 15.41 % of total population of the village. Average Sex Ratio of Bela Parsuwa village is 1004 which is higher than Uttar Pradesh state average of 912. Child Sex Ratio for the Bela Parsuwa as per census is 1008, higher than Uttar Pradesh average of 902. Bela Parsuwa village has a lower literacy rate compared to Uttar Pradesh. In 2011, a literacy rate of Bela Parsuwa village was 57.35 % compared to 67.68 % of Uttar Pradesh. In Bela, Parsuwa Male literacy stands at 65.85 % while female literacy rate was 48.88%. As per the constitution of India and Panchyati Raaj Act, Bela Parsuwa village is administrated by Sarpanch(Head of Village) who is elected representative of the village. The details of Bela Parsuwa village are given in Table-V.

Table 6: Village of Bela Parsuwa

Particulars	Total	Male	Female
Total No. of Houses	709		
Population	4,848	2,419	2,429
Child (0-6)	747	372	375
Schedule Caste	6	2	4
Schedule Tribe	4,550	2,269	2,281
Literacy	57.35 %	65.85 %	48.88 %
Total Workers	1,978	1,120	858
Main Worker	1,222	88,178	0
Marginal Worker	756	198	558

In Bela Parsuwa village, most of the village population is from Schedule Tribe (ST). Schedule Tribe (ST) constitutes 93.85 % while Schedule Caste (SC) was 0.12 % of the total population in Bela Parsuwa village.

In Bela Parsuwa village out of the total population, 1978 were engaged in work activities. 61.78 % of workers describe their work as Main Work (Employment or Earning more than 6 Months) while 38.22 % were involved in Marginal activity providing a livelihood for less than 6 months. Of 1978 workers engaged in Main Work, 646 were cultivators (owner or co-owner) while 375 was the Agricultural laborer.

RAGHU NAGAR VILLAGE

Raghu Nagar is a medium-size village located in Nighasan Tehsil of Kheri district, Uttar Pradesh with total 79 families residing. The Raghu Nagar village has a population of 488 of which 251 are males while 237 are females as per Population Census 2011. In Raghu Nagar village population of children with age 0-6 is 86 which makes up 17.62 % of total population of the village. Average Sex Ratio of Raghu Nagar village is 944 which is higher than Uttar Pradesh state average of 912. Child Sex Ratio for the Raghu Nagar as per census is 1098, higher than Uttar Pradesh average of 902. Raghu Nagar village has a lower literacy rate compared to Uttar Pradesh. In 2011, a literacy rate of Raghu Nagar village was 44.78 % compared to 67.68 % of Uttar Pradesh. In Raghu Nagar Male literacy stands at 56.19 % while female literacy rate was 32.29%. As per the constitution of India and Panchyati Raaj Act, Raghu Nagar village is administrated by Sarpanch (Head of Village) who is elected representative of the village. The details of Raghu Nagar village are given in Table-VI.

Table 7: Village of Raghu Nagar

Particulars	Total	Male	Female
Total No. of Houses	79	-	-
Population	488	251	237
Child (0-6)	86	41	45
Schedule Caste	17	11	6
Schedule Tribe	204	101	103
Literacy	44.78 %	56.19 %	32.29 %
Total Workers	154	119	35
Main Worker	114	88,178	0
Marginal Worker	40	10	30

In Raghu Nagar village, most of the village population is from Schedule Tribe (ST). Schedule Tribe (ST) constitutes 41.80 % while Schedule Caste (SC) was 3.48 % of total population in Raghu Nagar village.

In Raghu Nagar village out of the total population, 154 were engaged in work activities. 74.03 % of workers describe their work as Main Work (Employment or Earning more than 6 Months) while 25.97 % were involved in Marginal activity providing a livelihood for less than 6 months. Of 154 workers engaged in Main Work, 99 were cultivators(owner or co-owner) while 11 were Agricultural laborers.

50% of the families were interviewed in Bela Persuwa Village and 100% of families were interviewed in Raghu Nagar Village. The information received in terms of skill development programmes is surmised in Table-VII.

Table 8: Information Regarding Skill Development Programmes

S No.	Information	Response Received	
		Bela Persuwa	Raghunagar
1.	Have you heard about skill development?	89% Yes	87% Yes
2.	If yes, from where?	37% from TV 29% from Radio 19% from Newspapers 15% from other sources	35% from TV 31% from Radio 10% from Newspapers 24% from other sources
3.	Do you know about Central Government Skill Development Programmes?	67% Yes	51% Yes
4.	Do you know about State Government Skill Development	49%	35%

	Programme?		
5.	Have you participated in any Skill Development Programme Training?	4%	2.5%
Table 8: Contd.,			
6.	Was the skill development programme organized in village or elsewhere?	100% else where	100% else where
7.	Was the skill development programme useful?	91% useful	90% useful
8.	How many families are involved in skill development professions like painting, art & craft, technicians, animal husbandry, food processing, handicraft, etc?	23%	18%
9.	Will the skill development programmes useful to your families?	97% yes	98% yes
10.	Should the skill development programme trainings be organized in the village itself?	95% yes	94% yes
11.	Should the skill development programme trainings be free of cost	98% yes	97% yes
12.	What should be educational background for skill development programme trainings?	30% No Education 26% Primary Education 35% Secondary Education 9% Higher Education or no comments	40% No Education 16% Primary Education 30% Secondary Education 14% Higher Education or no comments
13.	Should the vocational and technical background be compulsory for skill development programme trainings?	51% Yes	45%
14.	What should be the duration of the skill development programme?	30% - one week 26% half month 29% one month 15% more than one month	25% - one week 32% half month 35% one month 08% more than one month
15.	What should be age limit of the skill development programme?	75% No age limit 25% Maximum 30 years	63% No age limit 37% Maximum 30 years
16.	Will the skill development fairs useful?	97% yes	91% yes
17.	Will the skill development programme change in your career life?	100%	100%
18.	Will the skill development programme change in your family status?	100%	100%

From the above interviews, it is concluded that skill development programme needs greater attention to the villages of Lakhimpur District particularly the tribal communities of Tharus. The Tharu community appreciates the need for skill development programme training with the use of modern technology.

CONCLUSIONS

Skilling of youth and creating productive job employment of youth of the State is one of the biggest challenges that we face today. The efforts in this direction so far have been inadequate and have also not been very effective due to

lack of a cohesive strategy that links skills to employment. The Central and State Government Skill Development Mission aspires to change this by creating a platform which brings all stakeholders – trainers, employers, sponsoring departments and trainees together. The Missions have been designed as an integrator of all skill development programmes and schemes being implemented in the state and to plan and implement these schemes in a holistic and integrated manner.

The key task that the Missions will have to perform is to establish effective coordination with various departments for integrating the skill development efforts of all departments. This will involve close coordination between the Central Government, the State Government, and Lakhimpur Kheri Administration. The authors are sorry to note that despite more than 70 years of independence; the ST Communities are still not part of mainstream of the country. This is more show with reference to skill development programmes of the Central and State Government like, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna, Uttar Pradesh Kaushal Vikas Mission, Start-up India Yojna, Digital India, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojna, targets for solar energy utilization by 2022, Beti Bacho and Beti Padho Yojna, etc. The skill development programmes need more comprehensive publicity in the tribal areas of Lakhimpur Kheri to have the desired results in the future years.

The scenario of change and development is really a matter of grave concern today particularly with the launch of skill development programmes. It needs greater attention than before. The tribal leaders who are at the helm of affairs, the machinery of development administration and the well-wishers of tribes have to rise to the occasion and reformulate the tribal policy and redesign the development strategy for the tribal areas and the people particularly Schedule Tribes Communities of Uttar Pradesh.

This paper has attempted on the socio-economic conditions of the scheduled tribes particularly Tharu communities and the impact of skill developmental programmes on the two villages of Lakhimpur Kheri District. The study is mainly confined to Scheduled Tribes of Lakhimpur Kheri District of Uttar Pradesh. The study will go a long way in the planning of skill development activities as socio-economic development of Tharus in particular and STs Communities in general.

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