



Press Release

Webinar Housing in Tribal India

Society for Empowerment has organized webinar on Housing in Tribal India. The programme was presided by Professor emeritus Chairman, Dr. S. Narayan and was inaugurated by Shri Sanjay Mayukh, National Media Co-Head, Bhartiya Janta Party. Professor M.R. Gangadhar and Dr. A.K. Pandey spoke on the occasion.

Shri Sanjay Mayukh in his opening remark said that the Tribal habitat is spread over 15% area of the country in vivid topography and ecological surroundings. Article 366 (25) of the Constitution of India refers to Scheduled Tribes as those communities who are scheduled in accordance with Article 342 of the Constitution. The Atal Bihar Vajpayee Government has first time constituted separate Ministry for the Scheduled Tribes in 1999. He said that the Ministry was set up in 1999 after the bifurcation of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment with the objective of providing more focused approach on the integrated socio-economic development of the Scheduled Tribes (STs). He further stated that the Government is undertaking a number of initiatives i.e. laying Roads, Health care facility, Toilets, opening of schools in the tribal and rural India.

Professor Narayan stated that the population of Scheduled Tribes (STs) in the country, as per Census 2011 is 10.45 crore. STs constitute 8.6 percent of the country's total population and 11.3 percent of the total rural population. In the country there are around 700 Scheduled Tribes spread across different states. Out of these around 75 tribes are identified as primitive tribes who are practicing archaic agriculture form of technology, dwindling population, very low literacy and minimal economic activities. The heterogeneity among the tribes is distinct with each tribe different from the other in terms of language and dialect, customs, cultural practices and life style.

He said that typically, tribal houses are made entirely of mud or with red-tiled roofs. Soil has been used extensively since the Neolithic period as a building material for tribal houses. The soil required for tribal houses is taken from the plot itself. Soil is not used where the top layer is filled with organic material. The soil is usually collected after a depth of 60 cm. The front part of the tribes' house has a door and a small window. It has a lot of empty space known as "bayara". There is a verandah next to the front door, which is used to sit like a meeting. The verandah has an earthen floor. The verandah has multiple roles i.e. is used as a kitchen, seating purpose, courtyard.

When the available soil is not suitable enough for construction, the soil is used in its composition by adding suitable stabilizers. Various indigenous stabilizers include: straw / sap / Arabic gum / sugar or jaggery / cow dung / animal urine / tannin / oil are used. Stabilizers increase the given property of the soil type. It increases tensile and shear strength and reduces shrinkage. It is often possible to build house walls on clay, but some more concrete materials are needed for foundations and basements. It is used, if the stone is available, locally. A large overhang is made on the roof of the houses to protect the wall from the rain or the sun. A small drain is built around the houses, from which the dripping water is collected in a nearby bastion. Water harvesting is prevalent in the cities today, but it has been practiced in the homes of people from centuries ago.

Tribes have many advantages of mud houses, it is cold, keeps the wind flowing, enclosures for animals and the biggest thing is that it is made from the available material around. Painting is very common in the tribal houses. This reflects their live culture. Tribal houses in the global environment are future houses, which adapt to the environment. It is also pertinent to mention here that the soil houses do not remain long-term, but the ease with which it is constructed from natural resources is a sign of continuity of life.

Professor M.R. Gangadhar highlighted the south Indian Tribal Housing. In Karnataka state 50 scheduled tribes have been listed and among them are forest dwelling and settled tribes. Among this 2 tribal group, Jen & Kurupa belong to PVTG group. The tribals are comfortable in the forest, however after 1985, government started shifting the tribals and provided land outside the margin of the forest. The settlement was constructed for sleeping, cooking and storage, with bamboo and grass houses. The front side was Verandah and the back side was for the animals. The government provided 20* 30 dimension with house roof and provided the water and sanitary faculty. The tribal were not comfortable with this and they constructed in the back a traditional house. Economically and education they are backward and because of constant move. They can not raise any loans from any financial institution and they have to take loan from the private money lenders which entraps them in money lender clutches. The land is also infertile, hence they are forced for day laboring and become exploited alcohol. In the neighboring state Kerala most of the tribal are settled in Waiynard district. The Kuruchians of Kerala are agriculture base economy. They make a traditional hut by bamboos and grass. It is observed that due to development that Kuruchians have moved to settlement provided by the Government. It was observed that the tribal design of the Verandah and space in the back yard is part of their lifestyle, yet the new settlement lacks that.

Dr. A.K.Pandey, said that the tribal are environment friendly people and their life orientation is nature based. They are close to nature and they understand that the nature needs to be protected. Their life style are way ahead us. At the time of crisis they show more resilients to crisis as observed during the recent pandemic, where they


were least affected because of high level of immunity. It is the urbanization which is forcing all of us to adopt unfair, environment unfriendly life style.

The webnair was coordinated with Shri CA Ashish Niraj.


The webnair ended with vote of thanks to the chair.

Secretary
Society For Empowerment
Patna


Inaugural Address




Sanjay Mayukh
National Media Co-Head
Bhartiya Janta Party




Prof. M.R. Gangadhar
University of Mysore



Prof. S. Narayan
Professor emeritus



A.K. Pandey,
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Coordinator:-
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