



# Attitudes of Tribal Students taking Higher Education

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## Abstract:

*There are total 221 tribal groups in different states of India. After Africa, India is on the second place having the highest number of tribal people. Compared to the other states of India Gujarat is on the fifth number in the population of tribal people. Tribal people are seen in most of the districts of Gujarat. There are 29 different sub castes like Bheel, Chaudhari, Gamit, Rathava, Bhilala, Ghodiya, Bavachi, Barada, Gond, Kathadi, Nayaka, Paradhi, Kunabi, Kolee, Sidi, Doobala, Padhar, etc. in Gujarat.*

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**Keywords:** *Attitude, Higher education, Tribal students*

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## 1. Introduction:

“The Tribal students prefer to remain silent because of difficulty of expression in the public language. They avoid discussion, dialogue, argument or opposing in any matter. Among all the 200 students there was hardly any student who had read any book other than from those included in the course.”

Different scheduled tribes live in different geographical regions in Indian society. Therefore variations prevail in sub caste, language, cultural strata, etc. of different scheduled tribes. Scheduled tribe is an important part of Indian social organization. People of scheduled tribes live backward life than common urban and rural people of the country. They suffer economical and educational backwardness compared to common citizen.

## 2. Status after Independence

After the independence the number of tribal male students and female students has increased in higher education gradually. In our college 20% of the students are of tribal groups. The present study was carried out taking 200 students selected through purposive sampling method from the population of these students. As a teacher the researcher has made close observation of these students. The researcher came to the following conclusion through the study of the tribal students. (With reference to the students studying in the colleges of Anand and Vidyanagar)

The Tribal students prefer to remain silent because of difficulty of expression in the public language. They avoid discussion, dialogue, argument or opposing in any matter. Among all the 200 students there was hardly any student who had read any book other than from those included in the course. In their stories and examples no trace of Indian culture was seen. It was seen that they had read only examination oriented material up to standard 12<sup>th</sup>. They were not able to write application or prepare bio data and also can not introduce themselves properly. They were unaware about different types of literature. 90% of the students would not make use of library. 81% of the students have heard only the names of the leaders. They didn't have much information about the leaders. They were well aware about reservation. They knew about

scholarship and hostel facilities. Except study, they would not participate in co curricular activities like sports, tracking, elocution competition or personality development activities. Their dressing was just the same as others but was according to their economical condition. They would not take part in activities like National Service Scheme. 80% of the students wanted to become teacher. In fact, they would not take part in activities of educational development. For these students development of reading habit is very essential for becoming a good teacher. These students were really lacking it.

During the study of social and economical condition of tribal students it was found that the mothers of 90% of the students were illiterate. The fathers of 72% of the students were also illiterate. The fathers of 92% of the students were doing the labour work. Their main food is corn bread and local hedge vegetables. The grand parents of 85% of the students had passed away. So far as their marriage custom is concerned it was found that women do not have to suffer much because the custom is that money is given to the girl's parents. Moreover, woman is considered as "an object"

With the passing of time changes have come in the tribal girls and boys who come in Sardar Patel University for higher study. 95% of the students would go to the theatres for watching film in the first week of the study. It was also found that 82% of the students changed their hair style. 12% of the students had mobile phones. 69% of the tribal students did not have much information about bus and railway. One thing was noteworthy that these students could easily mingle with the students of their groups. The tribal students became aware about the facilities that they did not have at their native places. After the third year of the study they would not like to go to their native place. Their urbanization would start. These students liked to live in hostels. Two to three percent of the students would prepare for specific career or occupation. They would join specific courses and do serious effort for personality development. The tribal students studying in higher education colleges gave different answers in response to the questions about their society. 80% of the students were not aware about different types of their groups. 100% of the students knew about all the traditions and rituals of death and marriage. 88% of the students were from very poor families. They could get education only through the government schemes. When asked about their career, it was found that they were not much informed known about it. The change has come in the concept and thinking about religion in 90% of the students. 100% of the students believed in "tantrik". The students did not have much knowledge about the 'Ayurveda' or home made remedies. These students need special training for better higher education. They had difficulty in Gujarati language. It seemed that this generation getting higher education would bring various changes in the society. These tribal students were aware about political matters, their right to vote and their political leader. 10% of the students wished to enter in politics.

It was found that 80% of the students would be satisfied if they could get even small job. 10% of the students were found having clear goal of government job. Having seen the seniors who had got higher education and their monthly income, the students studying in higher education did not want to think about other options. They believed that government job is the easiest and the best way for getting everything in life. Approximately 50% of the students were ready to do corruption too for getting job. They were active just for their goal. It was found that they were not thinking seriously about development of understanding or bringing new awareness among other tribal people or helping them. In short for development of broadminded thoughts training and experience is necessary.

The tribal students had confusions about their different gods and goddesses. They knew how to draw the picture of the god Pithori. They did not have much knowledge about India. But it seemed that the beginning of higher education opened the doors of their development,

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