

SOCIO- CULTURAL BACKGROUND AND THE LEARNING DIFFICULTIES OF THE LAMBADA (TRIBAL) CHILDREN AT PRIMARY LEVEL- A STUDY

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ABSTRACT

The English term 'Tribe' is derived from the Latin word 'tribus' designating a particular kind of social and political organization existing in all the societies. Originally, it was used to imply three divisions among the early Romans. Later on, it was used to mean the 'poor' or the 'masses'. In English language, the word appeared in the sixteenth century denoted a community of persons claiming descent from a common ancestor. In India, the term 'tribe' has legal and administrative connotations. British census officials-cum-anthropologists first used the term 'tribe' for the purpose of enumerating social groups in India and the term was used from 1881 to 1931 censuses. The Government of India Act, 1935 used the term 'backward tribe'. The Indian Constitution has retained the terminology with slight modification using 'Scheduled' in place of 'Backward'.

India has been rightly described as a 'melting pot' of race and tribes. The tribals in India are an integral part of the Indian civilization. Various elements in the ancient civilization of India were contributed by the tribals. The tribal culture blooms in the isolated highlands and forests of India. It is not easy to define a tribe or a tribal society conclusively and by any standardization in this regard is very difficult. A tribe is a social group with territorial affiliation, endogamous, with no specialization of functions, ruled by tribal officers, hereditary or otherwise, united in language or dialect, recognizing social distance with other tribes or castes, without any social obligation attaching to them. Ideally, tribal societies are small in scale and are restricted in the spatial and temporal range of their social, legal, and political relations, and possess, morality, a religion and world-view of corresponding dimensions. A tribe may be a collection of families bearing a common name, speaking a common dialect and occupying a common territory, yet is not usually endogamous. A tribe is a group of people occupying a contingent territory and having a feeling of unity deriving from numerous similarities in culture, frequent contacts and it also have community interest. They also have faith in a common ancestor.

KEY WORDS: Tribe, denotified tribe, Lambada, learning difficulties, tribal education, dropout.