

TRIBAL STUDIES

AN OUTLINE OF PROPOSED SYLLABUS FOR UNDERGRADUATE COURSE UNDER DISTANCE EDUCATION MODE

The approach of studying tribal problems in this country has been basically on three aspects, namely empirical (based on fieldwork), theoretical (based on critical analytical discourse) and applied (based on various development programmes and their evaluations). All these three aspects are operationally interlinked through professionally derived methodological constructs and their interpretations.

The discipline of anthropology has been the main scholarly source of overall academic inputs in their study of tribal problems in this country and elsewhere from the pre-colonial times to the present. Nevertheless, the subject has assumed an interdisciplinary commitment over the last several decades. Therefore, one also requires to look into the related disciplines like history, economics, political science, geography, linguistics, philosophy etc. for wider intellectual stimulation.

The course is divided into four papers consisting of the board dimensions and some specific issues touching on the general tribal situation in India with a special mention of Arunachal Pradesh, the erstwhile NEFA.

Paper-I

Tribal Studies: Concepts and Methods

Unit-I Definitions and Scope

- (a) Introduction to Tribal Studies: Nature, Scope, Relevance and Relationship with other disciplines.
- (b) Concepts and Categories: Tribes and indigenous people; Use of the terms in India: Scheduled Tribes, Primitive Tribes, De-notified or ex-criminal tribes in India.

Unit-II Tribal Studies in India

- (a) Emergence and Growth
- (b) Approaches to study the tribes

Unit-III Social Structure and Process

- (a) Structure, function and organisation
- (b) Social mobility: types, tribe and caste, tribe-caste-peasant continuum and Sanskritization
- (c) Social processes: Tribalisation, detribalisation and re-tribalisation

Unit-IV: Fieldwork Tradition

- (a) Historical background and significance of fieldwork
- (b) Ethics of fieldwork
- (c) Etic and Emic perspectives

Unit-V: Collection of Data

- (a) Methods and Methodology
- (b) Quantitative and Qualitative Research
- (c) Tools and Techniques: Survey and Sampling, observation, interview, case study, genealogies, participatory and focused group discussions
Sources of data: primary and secondary sources

Paper II

Tribes in India and in Arunachal Pradesh

Unit-I Tribes and their Habitat

- (a) Tribes in India: Geographical distribution and Demographic composition
- (b) Tribal Ecology: Knowledge system (health practices, resource conservation, beliefs and practices)

Unit-II Socio-Political Organisations

- (a) Family, marriage and kinship
- (b) Types and function of tribal polity
- (c) Customary laws and social sanctions
- (d) Religion: Faiths, beliefs and practices

Unit-III Economic Organisation

- (a) Types of economy: hunting and gathering, pastoralism, horticulture and agriculture
- (b) Distribution, consumption and exchange
- (c) Property and inheritance

Unit-IV Tribes in Arunachal Pradesh

- (a) Demography, geographical distribution and linguistic classification
- (b) Politico-administrative growth of Arunachal Pradesh
- (c) Tribal studies in Arunachal Pradesh: An Overview

Unit-V Society and Emerging Issues in Arunachal Pradesh

- (a) Social organisation
- (b) Emerging issues: land relations, occupational diversification and modern polity

