

**Tribes have made significant contributions in reducing pollution and promoting sustainable development, which is relevant even in the present times**

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**1- Abstract :-**

Today he was introduced to the primitive humans and tribes. Because tribes are today also is good teacher of sustainable development theme.



**A Bonda Tribe of Odisha Drinking Mahua Drink**

**Bhil Tribe Celebration**



**African Tribes**

*Nobel Laureate Dr. Elinor Ostrom's* research on collective resource management provides a roadmap for sustainable Commons governance. Her principles resonate deeply India's rural and tribal

with

communities, whose futures depend on preserving these shared resources.

Tribes actively combat pollution by managing natural resources through sustainable traditional practices and modern environmental programs. Using United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Section 319 grants, they monitor water quality, restore watersheds, and implement nonpoint source pollution control. They protect ecosystems via sustainable fishing, community-based waste management, and the preservation of sacred groves, often acting as crucial, localized stewards of air and water quality.

Tribal communities play a significant role in reducing pollution and promoting sustainable development through their traditional, eco-friendly lifestyles, deep-rooted indigenous knowledge, and, conservation-focused practices. They act as stewards of natural resources, utilizing ecosystems without causing degradation, thereby maintaining ecological balance.

The above statement proves that we can strengthen the environmental protection program by using the method suggested by tribes to reduce pollution and achieve sustainable development.

## 2 - Object -:

Tribes possess extensive knowledge about flora fauna ecology, including plant and animal species, their medicinal properties, and sustainable resource management practices. This knowledge can be invaluable for developing effective conservation strategies.



**Rights for the dwellers**

What the Forest Rights Act, 2006, entails

- Tenurial security over the forestland under occupation prior to December 13, 2005
- Recognition of community right over forest and forest products
- Protection and conservation of community forest resources
- Conversion of all forest villages and habitation located inside the forestland into revenue villages
- In situ rehabilitation of displaced persons evicted without compensation prior to December 13, 2005
- Recognition of ancestral domain (habitat) right to

Residents of Gundurbod village in Odisha's Naxosar district get ready for mapping their land boundaries for the Forest Rights Act implementation. Source: [www.tribalrights.org](http://www.tribalrights.org)

Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups

- Seasonal access to nomadic, pastoral and semi-nomadic communities over forestland
- Conversion of all leases granted by erstwhile governments, zamindars and king into permanent land records

## 3 - Key Words-: Tribes, Environmental Protection Program, Sustainable Development and India

**4 - Introduction:-** The above statement proves that we can prepare a pollution-free atmosphere for the future generation by implementing environmental conservation programs using the methods suggested by the tribes to reduce pollution and achieve sustainable development.

For the relevance of the research paper, it is necessary to study the following words.

**Tribes** - The word “Tribe” is taken from the Latin word “Tribus” which means “one third”. The word originally referred to one of the three territorial groups which united to make Rome.

According to the Imperial Gazetteer of India, a tribe is a collection of families bearing a common name, speaking a common dialect, and occupying or professing to occupy a common territory. India is known as a Melting pot of tribes and races.

**Environment** - Something that environs i.e., encircles all our surroundings—the natural world in which we live — the living and non-living objects around us in our day-today living.

According to Miller and Spoolman (2009:G5) defined Environmental Degradation as depletion or destruction of a potentially renewable resource such as soil, grassland, forest, or wildlife that is used faster than it is naturally replenished. If such use continues, the resource becomes non-renewable or non-existent.

**NEERI's** approach to pollution, particularly in its studies on air, water, and waste management, emphasizes that **pollution** causes undesirable changes in the environment that negatively impact human health, living conditions, and ecosystems.



**“Traditional knowledge”**-- is an open-ended way to refer to tradition-based literary, artistic or scientific works; performances; inventions; scientific discoveries; designs; marks, names and symbols; undisclosed information; and all other tradition-based innovations and creations resulting from intellectual activity.

Thus the "traditional knowledge" of our country is called '*Indian traditional knowledge*'.



## **Sustainable development**

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs' (defined by the Brundtland Commission and multilaterally agreed by the UN Conference on Environment and Development – Rio 1992)

Source(s): <http://whc.unesco.org/document/139747>

## **5 - Collection of data --:**

The present research paper is descriptive in views. It is based on secondary data collected from the published and unpublished records, reports, and contributions of several institutions and organizations in India. Specifically, the secondary sources consist of the Annual Report of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, Census Data released by the Government of India, Economic Survey, and other

## **6 - Observation --:**

Sustainable ways that grow from their spiritual principles and regular routines have long been honored by tribal societies. Spiritual traditions and social systems that rely on using Earth's resources keep tribes connected to their natural state (Berkes 2018). According to Ormsby (2013), the Dongria Kondh tribe of India demonstrates how sacred forests protect nature and have great cultural value.

India's tribal communities, known as Adivasis, comprise 8.6% of the country's population, and an integral part of its cultural and ecological heritage. There are over 700 officially recognized tribes in India, each with a unique identity, governance system, and practices.

## **Contributions to Reducing Pollution & Environmental Protection**

Natural Resource Conservation: Tribes often live in harmony with nature, viewing forests and water bodies as sacred, which encourages the preservation of natural habitats.

**Organic Agriculture:** Many tribes practice regenerative agriculture, using organic fertilizers and avoiding a chemical, which prevents soil and water contamination.

**Waste Management:** Traditional practices, such as using natural materials for housing, food, and medicine, minimize non-biodegradable waste.

**Forest Protection:** Tribal communities manage forests through controlled, low-intensity "cool burning" (e.g., in Australia and India), which reduces fuel loads and prevents large, high-emission wildfires.

**Water Conservation:** Techniques like constructing traditional check dams ("johads") in India help replenish groundwater and manage water scarcity.

### **Promoting Sustainable Development**

They often use natural materials for housing, food, and medicine. This connection helps them practice sustainable living. Conservation of resources is vital, and many tribes use methods like rotational farming to ensure that resources are available for future generations.

Regenerative agriculture: tribal communities have been practicing regenerative agriculture for centuries, which involves practices like crop rotation, intercropping, and regenerating soils with organic matter. These practices help to sequester carbon in the soil, which can help to mitigate climate change

**Biodiversity Preservation:** Tribal areas are hotspots for biodiversity, where indigenous methods like intercropping, seed-saving, and the protection of "sacred groves" maintain diverse ecosystems.

**Regenerative Agriculture:** Methods such as shifting cultivation (when done with proper fallow periods) or "Utera" farming (farming in paddy fields using residual moisture) enhance soil fertility and regenerate soil health.

**Sustainable Livelihoods:** Initiatives like the "Van Dhan Vikas Kendras" in India promote market-linked, sustainable harvesting of minor forest produce (e.g., honey, medicinal plants), providing income without destroying the forest.



Tribal communities worldwide act as crucial custodians of biodiversity, managing approximately 20% of the Earth's land and protecting 80% of its remaining biodiversity. Their traditional knowledge and sustainable lifestyles are integrated into specific, actionable steps for environmental protection, often focusing on conscious extraction rather than depletion.

**Sacred Groves Preservation:** Tribes designate certain forest patches as "sacred groves" (e.g., Garasia tribes in Rajasthan), which are strictly protected from human interference, preserving threatened plant species.



**WORSHIPPING:** The Forest God worship ceremony takes place in the presence of villagers from De Chi and O Grang, local authorities and forest rangers

**Sources:** - Traditional forest ritual protects Mother Nature, Wednesday 05/03/2023 - 08:30

*Forest worship is an ancient, global belief that ascribes divine significance to nature and promotes conservation through the protection of "sacred groves."*

**Active Patrolling:** Tribal women in Jharkhand, led by figures like Jamuna Tudu, have formed groups armed with traditional weapons to protect forests from illegal timber mafias.

Controlled Burning Indigenous communities in Northern Australia use controlled burning to manage land, which halves the volume of carbon emitting, uncontrollable wildfires.

## 7 - Conclusion

Tribal communities possess deep, intergenerational knowledge of ecological stewardship, acting as "first responders" against biodiversity loss and climate change. Their approaches often centred on "use without abuse," ensuring resources can regenerate for future generations.

Strengthening the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006: Recognizing individual and community forest rights is the primary remedy, allowing tribes to legally manage their ancestral lands, which prevents displacement and degradation



Tribal communities are widely recognized as effective stewards and teachers of environmental protection, acting as "guardians of the green" through their intimate connection with nature and deep-rooted traditional ecological knowledge (TEK). Their lifestyle, built on principles of sustainable consumption and regeneration,

To protect the environment for the future, individuals should adopt sustainable habits like reducing consumption, conserving energy and water, choosing plant-based foods, using sustainable transport, and avoiding single-use plastics, while also supporting broader shifts towards renewable energy and advocating for stronger ecological policies, with collective action from governments, businesses, and communities being essential for large-scale impact.



*Avoiding Single-Use Plastics,*

There is thus a clear need to bring suitable changes in the existing policy framework to give the highest importance to strengthening tribal communities and their sustainable livelihoods and integrating this task with a wider vision of protecting environment

**Securing the Future for Indian Tribes**

This editorial is based on “Call for permanent settlement for tribal” which was published in The Hindu on 17/04/2025. The article brings into picture the prolonged plight of 50,000 displaced Gond tribes, highlighting their lack of recognition and rights in new regions. It underscores the urgent need for inclusive policies to protect and rehabilitate tribal communities across India.

In 1982, the United Nations General Assembly declared 9 August as the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples to commemorate the day of the first meeting of the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, which was held in Geneva in 1982. This meeting observed the role of the Geneva International Day in protecting, promoting and supporting the rights, practices, customs and knowledge of indigenous peoples in relation to the environment.



Based on all these statements, the essence of my research paper is that based on the knowledge and habits of the tribes, we can achieve rapid success in environmental protection as well as sustainable development program, which can reduce pollution and our country can be free from natural human epidemics to a great extent.

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