

Role of media in human rights special reference Mandla District, MP

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ABSTRACT

Media plays very important role in social change. Information revolution makes people aware about their needs and interest. But in this scenario few communities are not aware and not interested in the outer world. Still they are living in bad conditions. Especially the tribe's survival is very tough. In Madhya Pradesh there are many tribes who belongs to grassroots. As per government data they are in good conditions in terms of resources, but they have no basic rights. Human right is very hard to talk in their area.

Keywords: Tribes, Mandla, Information revolution, Human rights, Dalits, Adivasis.

INTRODUCTION

Human Rights and Media

Human rights have become increasingly prominent in recent years. Governments and political leaders refer to international human rights standards more frequently, both in formal definitions of policy and in public speeches. Public awareness has similarly evolved. Human rights are understood to be near the heart of many international news issues, from Afghanistan to Palestine, Colombia to Sierra Leone — and increasingly linked to discussions of

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international debt and trade, education and health. Coverage of human rights in the media is therefore likely to continue to grow — and it is appropriate increasingly to expect journalists and broadcasters to report them accurately.

The media plays an enormously important role in the protection of human rights, most significantly by exposing human rights violations and offering the required space for different voices to be expressed and heard in public discourse. Role of media in protection of human rights cannot be ignored, the media empowers the functioning of the executive, the legislature and the judiciary, and has thus, rightly been called the fourth pillar of democracy.

Peace, non-violence, disarmament, maintenance and promotion of ecological balance and unpolluted environment and ensuring human rights for all irrespective of caste, color and creed should be the minimum common agenda for the media.

Role played by the media especially print media in educating and informing citizens of their rights as well as the violation of such rights, particularly in geographically remote regions of the country is very vital and crucial.

Both electronic and print media have played a vital role in protecting and promoting human rights in India by acting as the eyes and ears of our democracy and bringing to light the gaps in the effective realization of civil and political rights and social and economic justice. It remains to the credit of the media that several issues related to human rights violations, when brought to light have been taken up by the Indian judiciary and landmark judgments have been delivered, thereby, upholding and expanding the meaning of human rights.

Some sections of media fail to reflect some of the pressing challenges that confront marginalized sections, including Dalits, Adivasis, women, rural poor, urban poor, and only consider the human rights violations committed by the state and its various agencies against the urban elite and middle classes.

Media and Human Rights of Scheduled Tribes

When we talk about media and tribal society in a broader perspective, we certainly refer to genuine issues encountered by tribal societies in modern day context that needs to be focused in media. While doing so, we have to keep in mind certain realities – the changes and transitions of various components of media. With globalization, the character of traditional media too, has been drastically changed - from ‘service to the society’ to a ‘profit-making industry’. Recently, print media has been shrinking drastically mainly as advertisement industry made a shift from print to electronic and digital media making it difficult to survive. Big houses have been downsizing their employees, and gradually shutting down different editions. These have tremendous impact on finding desired “space” for genuine issues not only of a tribal society, but people’s issues as a whole that needs to be focused. For their survival, a number of print media houses have gradually shifted to digital media. Secondly, the market driven electronic media too have been facing crisis for survival. Thirdly, and hopefully we have been witnessing proliferation of online journalism on the digital platform, which can also be termed as convergent media with all components of print and visual media as a sustainable alternative media to connect people’s issues with rest of the world.

It is often alleged that there is a gap between the way the issues of a tribal society have been focused in media, and the way people at the grassroots want their issues to be focused. Media being a crucial part of democracy need to be scrutinized, specially, in the context of reflection of social realities- particularly in a District like Mandla that is home to large number of tribal and ethnic societies. How far our journalists are aware of sensitive issues encountered by

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tribal societies today? What is a tribal society meant for them? These are some quite very important issues when we talk about Media's role in Human rights of Tribes.

Media is reporting the tribal related news but there is a need and expectation that these news must be report on basis of human rights issues so that tribal related issues can be viewed in a broader prospective and can be interpreted in a more better way. Media organizations and media persons those who are working in tribal belts should be oriented on human rights issues of tribal so that grassroots level issues of human rights can be covered and highlighted. Most of the time we find that atrocities and violation related news get the space in local media but other human rights issues which too carry similar importance and weight don't get the space in news like- issues of Health, Education and social/economic.

Particularly, while focusing on crucial aspects of "identity politics" of tribes and communities of the state, media often fails to play its role as a responsible component of democracy.

However, there are hopes and we can change the situation with the help of digital technology. As the print media is already shrinking, electronic media is facing acute crisis for survival- the digital media or online journalism with responsible editors have unfolded before us huge opportunities and everyone can explore this unique platform to focus his/her own issues. A digital media can be bilingual or multilingual and one can upload news reports, photographs, even videos and make arrangements for live telecast. It is easy to connect with rest of the world through responsible handling of online journalism and connecting it through different platform of social media. What we need today is a change in the mindset. Importance of using digital media also arises out of young generation's craze for technology and digital platform.

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Secondly, we should also take into consideration that many such negative reflections of a tribal society in media and lack of sensitivity have come largely out of the ignorance of a journalist. A journalist needs to have sufficient education on tribal societies, their values and norms to report correctly, particularly in a state like Assam and Northeast as a whole where issues are so sensitive. It is therefore crucial to include “tribal study” in the main syllabus of journalism courses of the media institutions. Students’ bodies and other organizations representing different tribes and communities may initiate necessary steps to in this regard.

Human rights issues of Scheduled Tribes in mandla

Living a calm and isolated life from the people living in the plains or the modern people is a unique aspect of the lives of tribes which gives them a unique identity and a different way of life Because of this; they can be able to maintain their cultural and cultural qualities. They have interdependence relationship with the nature and environment, especially with the forest. After the establishment of colonialism in India, the process of connecting the tribal with main political, economic and administrative society has started. This process not only hindered their peaceful and independent lifestyle, but also created poverty, unemployment, etc. in society and caused the exploitation in the lives of the tribes too. These problems caused the decay in the traditional lifestyle of tribal and lead the exploitation of the human rights of tribal communities.

- Land Rights issues: We can start the analysis of scheduled tribe’s human rights with Land Division issues. For the sake of communication and development, the acquisition of tribal land by the government and other

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institutions and an error in land law caused tribal land to be divided and the indigenous people lost their property. This new system of land-ownership changed the socio-economic structure of the tribal by root and non-tribal people were encroached in tribal areas.

- Another important issue related to the tribal human rights is their interdependence relationship with the forest. Traditionally forests and forest land have been the shelter of tribal people and the means of livelihood. Slowly in the name of natural resource protection the forest was taken over by the government in its own hands and thereafter there has been was a constant tension between the tribal and the government. The government did not pay any attention to the fact that the forest has been the focal point of the social customs of tribal.
- The culture of the Tribal communities is entirely different from the mainstream society, Scheduled tribes are struggling to maintain their cultural rights as different religions and ideologies are trying to influence these tribal people. These different ideologies and propagandas have created a huge confusion and even conflicts between the tribal people.
- There are other issues related to the human rights of the tribal, poor, unemployed and unemployed. After losing their right to the forest area, the livelihood of the trials was scraped and they were pushed towards poverty. With this, their entire economy was devastated and they had to be more dependent on the market for food items. They also did not get any benefit from industrialization, although the opportunity for new works came up, but because of lack of proper education and skill these opportunities did not turn up for them. Keeping these obstacles in the way of protecting human rights of tribal, government and non-governmental organizations should not only give back their traditional rights but also

modernize them in such a way that these tribes are not forced to separate from their origin.

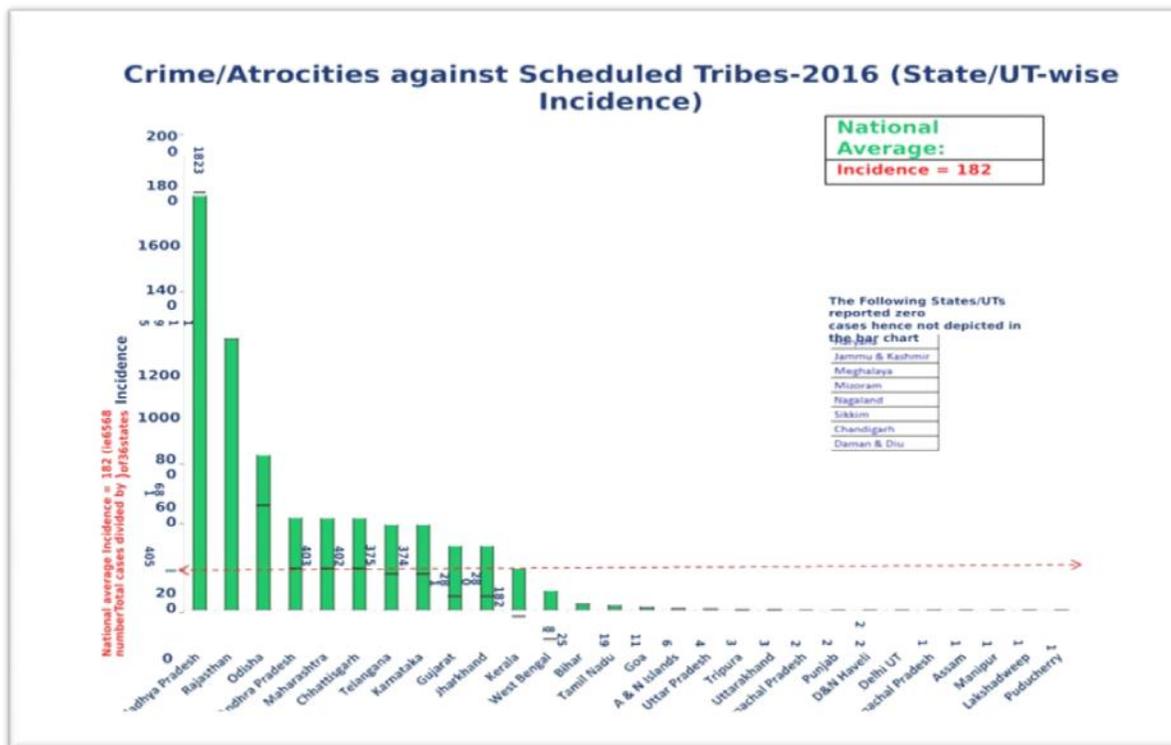
- Atrocities against the Scheduled Tribes is a big human rights issues as per the National crime record Bureau Data of 2016 total 6568 cases of atrocities were registered among which Madhya Pradesh with figure of 1823 has the highest cases of atrocities against ST.

Role of Media in Awareness generation

Communication become part of the life of mankind and a day passes without it. Through communication people can establish social relationship get knowledge and improve their living conditions. It is one of the means for development and change. The media brings the people together and helping for the globalization process in the modern scientific era. All of the problems of the world are communication problems and all the problems in this world can be solved by more and better communication. Similarly most of the tribal problems can be solved with appropriate and effective mode of communication. Transport communication and mass media brings the isolated tribal communities into the limelight and integrates them into the main stream. There are so many success stories in the communities where media through its advocacy based case stories brought the positive change in life of tribal.

The development of the media enables the people to get the necessary information and make them to participate in the mainstream system that ultimately leads them into an informed life where tribal community can avail their rights by using their knowledge and information.

In present time there are so many media sources available which are directly or indirectly providing information on scheduled rights and creating awareness among the tribe communities.



Human Rights status of Scheduled Tribes in Context of Madhya Pradesh & Mandla District

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