

# **Sustainable Pathways**

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# **Sustainable Pathways: The Role of Indigenous Tribes and Native Practices in India's Economic Model**

BY

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

*This book is dedicated to the rural India and the courageous rural women who have time and again showed us the way to empowerment and sustainable growth. This book is dedicated to the artisans, handicraft makers and the tribes of India for their contribution to the heritage and our culture. Above all, I dedicate this book to my parents.*

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# Contents

List of Abbreviations	<i>ix</i>
About the Author	<i>xi</i>
Preface	<i>xiii</i>
Acknowledgement	<i>xv</i>
<b>Chapter 1 Introduction to Indigenous Tribes</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Chapter 2 A Systematic Literature Review Study on the Social Inclusion of the Indigenous People</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Chapter 3 Introduction to Tribes of India: How the Guild System Led to Emergence of Tribal System in India?</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>Chapter 4 Introduction to Tribes in India: Factors Affecting the Inclusion of Tribes</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>Chapter 5 Financial Inclusion of Native Tribes in India and Challenges</b>	<b>107</b>
<b>Chapter 6 Right of the Indigenous People and Works Done by the Indian Government</b>	<b>127</b>
<b>Chapter 7 Digitisation of the Self-Help Groups</b>	<b>161</b>
<b>Chapter 8 Role of the Indigenous Tribes in Conserving Nature: Case Studies on Sustainable Practices by Indigenous Tribes</b>	<b>179</b>

**Chapter 9 Epistemologies and Ontologies in Self-Help Group** 199

**Chapter 10 How Various Factors Impact the Financial Behaviour of the Members of the Self-Help Group of Indigenous Groups and Natives or Tribal Communities** 213



## List of Abbreviations

AYUSH	Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy
BARC	Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
CAQDAS	Computer-Assisted Qualitative Data Analysis Software
CIF	Community Investment Fund
CLF	Cluster Level Federation
CMIE	Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy
COVID 19	COroNaVirus Disease of 2019
DAY NRLM	Deen Dayal Antodaya Yojan National Rural Livelihood Mission
DMMU	District Mission Management Units
DRDA	District Rural Development Agency
HDI	Human Development Index
IIT	Indian Institute of Technology
IRB	Institutional Research Board
LOHAS	Lifestyle of Health and Sustainability
MAC	Mutually Aided Cooperatives
MCP	Minimum Credit Plan
MFI	Microfinance Institution
MIS	Management Information System
MYRADA	Mysore Resettlement and Development Agency
NABARD	National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development
NABARD	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
NARI	Nimbkar Agricultural Research Institute
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NPA	Non-Performing Loans
NRHM	National Rural Livelihood Mission
PLR	Prime Lending Rate
PMAAGY	Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana

*x List of Abbreviations*

PMJANMAN	Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan
PRADAN	Professional Assistance for Development Action
RBV	Resource Based View
ROSCA	Rotating Savings and Credit Association
RPL	Recognition for Learner
SBLP	Self-Help Group Bank Linkage
SC/ST	Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEWA	Self-Employed Women Association
SHG	Self-Help Group
SHPI	Self-Help Promoting Institution
SRYEA	Society for Rural & Youth Educational Advancement
SWP	Solar Water Purifiers
UN SDGs	United Nation Sustainable Development Goals
UV	Ultraviolet
VKY	Van Bandhan Kalyan Yojana
WHO	World Health Organization

## About the Author

**Dr Nishi Malhotra** is an Assistant Professor, Finance Accounting and Control at Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Sambalpur, India. She has completed her PhD in Finance, Accounting and Control from IIM Kozhikode, India and MBA from MDI Gurgaon. She also holds an MCom degree from IGNOU, India and has done her BCom Hons from Shri Ram College of Commerce, Delhi University, India. She has approximately 4 years' experience in teaching and 11 years in industry.

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## Preface

The United Nations has adopted the Sustainable Development Goals to build equitable societies and achieve equity for all. Reducing inequalities and building sustainable communities is one of the major objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Indian Government has transitioned the sustainable development goals into agenda for action. India is home to around 705 ethnic communities, and each has its own rich heritage and culture. Hon'ble Prime Minister Shree Narendra Modiji has started various schemes and initiatives for the inclusion and development of the indigenous communities and tribes. With increasing environmental challenges and dynamic environment myriad with climatic changes, ecological imbalances inclusion of the tribes and leveraging their indigenous knowledge for the preservation of the nature and ecosystem becomes extremely important. Despite the rich culture and knowledge, the tribal people do not have access to resources and are not included in the mainstream to be part of the economic growth and development. Many of the tribes are nomadic and migrate frequently making social and financial inclusion a distant dream. Since 2014, many developmental initiatives have been started by the government to facilitate the progressive development of the tribes and the indigenous people. Exclusion mainly pertains to keeping a particular community away from the resource sharing and positions of authority and roles of leadership. However, the Indian Government has carved out the special niches and roles for the communities in the development of the nation through initiatives such as the self-help group linkage programme. To give a boost to the unique skill of hand and the art possessed by these communities, the Government of India has started various schemes such as MUDRA financing and Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas and many more mission initiatives under the aegis of Ministry of Handicraft and Ministry of Textiles. To provide the livelihood to millions of artisans and craftsmen, the government has started the DAY NRLM (Deen Dayal Upadhyay National Rural Livelihood Mission) to provide employment to the marginalised craftsmen. The Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modiji has declared this period as Amrit Kaal of the Indian economic growth story and has identified four Amrit Stambh namely the *nari shakti*, *farmers*, *cattle rearing and fishermen and youth* and *the middle class* and *poor marginalised* sections of India. 15th November, Bhagwan Birsa Munda birth anniversary has been declared as the Jaan Jati Gaurav Diwas. During this Amrit Kaal, the Government of India aims to include all the marginalised sections of society in the development of the nation through sustainable initiatives. The preservation of the heritage indigenous art and culture

provides us a unique opportunity to enrich our civilisation and pass on the knowledge to the future generations through artistic expression, literature, culture, traditions and practices. This book is aimed at highlighting the various sustainable practices and traditions of the tribes in our country and celebrating the spirit of naturalism. The tribes are indeed the pride and add colours to mosaic of rich Indian culture and traditions. Financial inclusion is the key to the economic upliftment of the marginalised, but in deficit of the skills and craftsmanship, this objective of financial inclusion seems like a distant dream. But the tribes in our nation are in possession of most valuable skill, the craftsmanship that is passed on to them from generations to generations. This book aims to celebrate the social capital, the rich cultural identity, the craftsmanship of the tribes, without which the history of evolution of mankind and its progress is incomplete. I take this opportunity to present this book for the academicians and researchers who are keen to research the financial inclusion of the tribes and the native people in India.

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