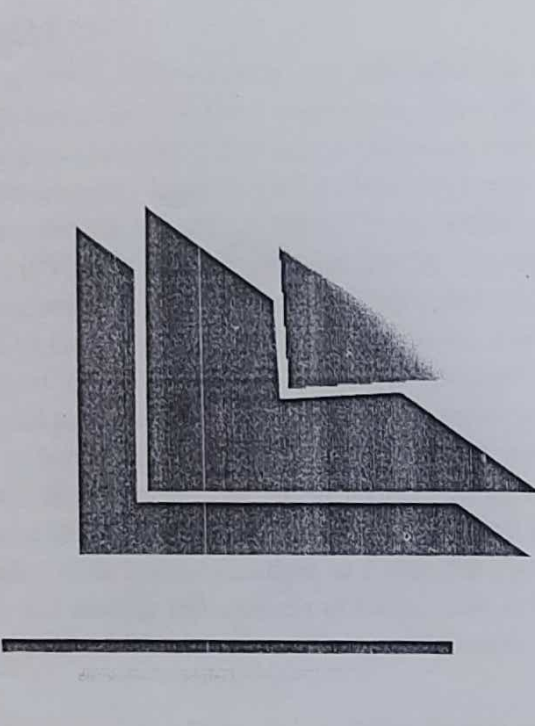


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Status and Challenges of Birhor Tribe: A study on some selected Districts of Jharkhand and West Bengal

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Abstract:

Industrialization, Globalization, and modernization make our indigenous culture vulnerable. Changes and modification are everywhere. The need and value of the tribal culture and identity are being increased to protect our environment even in geo-environmental field. While some tribal communities have adopted a mainstream way of life, at the other end of the spectrum, there are certain Scheduled Tribes, 75 in number known as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), who are characterized by: pre-agriculture level of technology, stagnant or declining population, extremely low literacy and subsistence level of economy. The committee, headed by Gobinda Chandra Naskar, had earlier expressed its apprehension about the decline of population of some of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PTGs), like Birhor in Jharkhand and West Bengal. The Birhor are mainly forest people and traditionally nomadic. They speak in Birhor language and belongs to the Munda group of languages of the Austroasiatic language family. Birhors are found mainly in the area covered by the old Hazaribagh, Ranchi and Singhbhum districts in Jharkhand and Purulia and Birbhum districts in West Bengal. This research will be mainly limelight on status and Challenges for sustainability of particular tribal society and identity management of Birhor tribe of West Bengal and Jharkhand on the light of their present environmental conditions and adaptation to environments.

Key Word: *Birhor Tribe, Vulnerability, Present status, Challenges.*

Preamble:

Globalized Earth, we and our society, are feeling that indigenous and traditional socio-cultural terrain, settlement morphology and ecological identity of tribe are belonging at the door of abolition. Changes and modification are everywhere. The need and value of the tribal culture and identity are being increased to protect our environment even in geo-environmental field. While some tribal communities have adopted a mainstream way of life, at the other end of the spectrum, there are certain Scheduled Tribes, 75 in number known as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), who are characterized by: pre-agriculture level of technology, stagnant or declining population, extremely low literacy and subsistence level of economy.¹ The committee, headed by Gobinda Chandra Naskar, had earlier expressed its apprehension about