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Review of Tribal Population of Jharkhand: Exploring Origins, Factors, and Implications

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Abstract

Jharkhand is one of the major tribal-populated states of India and has a distinctive social, cultural, and ecological heritage shaped by its diverse indigenous communities. This review examines the tribal population of Jharkhand by exploring its historical origins, demographic characteristics, socio-economic conditions, and contemporary challenges. The state is home to several tribal communities, including the Santhal, Munda, Oraon, Ho, Kharia, Birhor, and other groups, each possessing distinctive languages, traditions, customary practices, and relationships with natural resources. The study reviews the historical and geographical factors that have influenced tribal settlement and population distribution in Jharkhand. It also considers the effects of colonial policies, land alienation, displacement, industrialization, mining, urbanization, and changing patterns of livelihood on tribal communities. Particular attention is given to issues such as poverty, education, healthcare, employment, nutritional security, and access to land and forest resources. At the same time, the review highlights the resilience of tribal societies and the continuing importance of indigenous knowledge, community institutions, cultural traditions, and natural-resource-based livelihoods. Government programmes and constitutional provisions intended to promote tribal welfare and protect their rights are also considered in the broader context of socio-economic development. The review concludes that understanding the historical roots and contemporary conditions of Jharkhand's tribal population is essential for developing inclusive, culturally sensitive, and sustainable approaches to development and social justice.

Keywords: Jharkhand, Tribal Population, Indigenous Communities, Tribal Culture, Socio-economic Conditions, Land Rights, Displacement, Forest Resources, Development, Social Justice.