



**PROCEEDINGS OF A TWO DAY  
ICSSR SPONSORED NATIONAL  
SEMINAR**



**EMPOWERMENT, SOCIAL JUSTICE, INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT :  
ISSUES & PERSPECTIVES OF TRIBAL TAMILNADU**

**Editor**

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**MADURAI KAMARAJ UNIVERSITY**

*(University with Potential for Excellence)*

**Madurai - 625 021.**

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# TRIBAL WOMEN: PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES

Dr.J.Saral Evangelin<sup>1</sup>

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## Introduction

Tribals are the indigenous people who live in the lap of the nature, and depend on natural resources for their livelihood. They constitute the major segment of Indian society. Scheduled Tribes constitute about 8% of the Indian population. There are 573 scheduled Tribes living in different parts of the country, having their own languages different from the one mostly spoken in the state where they live. The tribal women, constitute like any other social group, about half of the total population. The tribal women are more illiterate than men.

## Constitutional provisions of Tribal

The constitution has given more than 20 articles on the redressed and upliftment of underprivileged with policies on positive discrimination and affirmative action with reference to S.T.

- Article 14 confers equal rights and opportunities to all.
- Article 15 prohibits discrimination against any citizen on the grounds of sex, religion, race, caste etc.
- Article 15 (4) States to make special provisions for advancement of any socially educationally backward classes.
- Article 16 (4) empowers the state to make provisions for reservation in appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens, which in the opinion of state, is not adequately represented.
- Article 46 state to promote with special cares the educational and economic interests of the weaker section, especially the ST and protects the social injustice and all form of exploitation.
- Article 275 grant-in aid for promoting the welfare of ST and raising the level of administration.
- Article 330 - Seats shall be reserved in the House of the People for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes .
- Article 332 Reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assemblies of the States.

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