

# Sustainability and Tribal Concerns in Baraguru Ramachandrappa's 'Shabari'

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## Abstract:

Sustainable development has become noteworthy and stylistic phrase in today's developmental society and its discourse. However, in spite of its massive popularity it has developed over the ages, the concept still seems even ambiguous as many people continue to understand about its very meaning and history, as well as what it entails and implies for development theory and practice. The purpose of this paper is to contribute to the discourse of the tribal concerns further explaining the paradigm and its implications for human actions and thinking in the quest for sustainable development. For this regard Prof. Baraguru Ramachandrappa's Novel which is written in Kannada language is one example of its kind. Sustainable Tribal Development: Problems, Prospects, Policies and Cases.

Tribals have been divided into several tribal belts in India on the basis of physical characters and other aspects of life. They live in forest hills and naturally isolated regions but some are in contact with people of modern culture either by migrating to cities for work, developmental projects if carried out in their area, people going to study their living and now government trying to bring them in purview of inclusive development. In the course of acculturation they have also been cheated by many so called civilized people who grabbed their land in lieu of providing assistance. They have to a great extent retained their traditions and customs as socially distinct communities in contrast to their counterparts. Tribals have attracted more and more scholars to study them.

In developing societies tribal people have specific local knowledge as a result of close interaction with natural and physical environments and cultural adaptation being more eco-friendly and sustainable instead of encouraging tribal farmers to adopt input intensive agriculture the state departments should advocate the cultivation of crops organically. Sustainable practices have been followed by them then coming in contact with modern civilization had adopted unsustainable capital intensive practices in agriculture leading to problems of indebtedness. The present approach by government, non government organizations, research institutes again are teaching and reviving sustainable organic practices to tribal people for increasing their incomes. Tribal welfare is the concern for inclusive growth. Sustainable Tribal Development: Problems, Prospects, Policies and Cases.

Baraguru Ramachandrappa's novel 'Shabari', throws light on tribal community in Karnataka's one of the region where the tribes were being busy with their routine life as observed by Baraguru. These tribes life was not in orderly fashion as we have had seen in city culture or modern society, he had described their dwellings, they are just like ransacked houses in any destroyed city there were nothing to left for proper

life nor they had good rooms to live in even if they gave a shelter to the people who have approached them. They don't have any sorts of physical comforts, less amenities but they had a Co-operative Structured life of their own. The people who lived there are very hardworking natured men but they are preliterate men and woman their ill literacy had created ample of opportunity for deceivers and looters to make them believed in age old rituals and practices without knowing its truthfulness they were not understand the treachery of the outsiders. Hence in this novel *Shabari* we had seen many barbarisms, cunning nature, weckedity and atrocious nature of so called civilized men of our society on innocent tribal people, they lived in Isolated area's and outskirts of forest/hill areas without harming any one even the nature too. They had defended themselves for their livelihood on feudal lords of civilized society. This dependency on others had made their life even pathetic. But the hero Surya will came to their life as the sunshine and the hope of life. With this hero these tribes had seen their Sustainability through the Eye's of this Surya.

**Keywords:** Tribal-Concern, Sustainability

The tribes in this novel they are having their own setups, one community head, Timmarayi preliterate drunkard but kind hearted never dominates anyone. Next important figure is Priest, ego centric man observes all religious ceremonies dominates his people acts on the wish of village head Ramajoisa and Narashimappa, feudal lord wants to control all the maters of tribes and his own villagers. He is a land lord where all the villagers including tribal people works for him with a meager salary latter the menfolk have spend all of their earnings on his wine shop. Shabari the protagonist and the heroine of the novel is the daughter of the community head Timmarayi. She is an illiterate widow lost her husband Chandra on the very first night day of her marriage because of fail to observing the age old belief, newly wedded bride has to spend her first night with the god. She fails to understand the treachery behind her husband and herself, but she can understand Surya, the Leader and friend of her deceased husband Chandra. And she has to seek the fortune and hope for the sustainability of herself and her people in the usurped shine/ light of Surya.

The deceased tribal man Chandra's two Civilized friends Surya and Nawab came to his people to conform them or at least to shown them what is the development and what exactly the sustainable development. Later these two young men's from civilized world tried their level best to strengthen them and worked hard to Educated them for bringing them to the main stream of life. In this regard Shabari and her friend Gouri joined their hands with these two young men's along with other tribal men and the womenfolk. With Surya and Nawab, Shabari and Gouri they have had seen their self sustainability along with their entire community.

Tribals have been divided into several tribal belts in India on the basis of physical characters and other aspects of life. They live in forest hills and naturally isolated regions but some are incontact with people of modern culture either by migrating to cities for work, developmental projects if carried out in their area, people going to study their living and now government trying to bring them in purview of inclusive development. In the course of acculturation they have also been cheated by many so called civilized people who grabbed their land in lieu of providing assistance. They have to a great extent

retained their traditions and customs as socially distinct communities in contrast to their counterparts. Tribal have attracted more and more scholars to study them.

### **The goals and vision of the Sustainability included in this novel *Shabari*:**

- **Healthy Environment**- here in this novel the setting is the tribal dwellings. up course they are in the midst of healthy environment compare to the city setups. even though there is no systematize life we never ever notices in such a areas, no basic amenities life is too much measurable so the character Surya, a leader came to these dwellings for the sustainable development of their society and to make it again healthier and happier one. By improving their life condition.
- **Economic Prosperity** – as we know that the tribal people they doesn't know much about these affairs. They work hard but gets the pittance pay they were cheated by feudal lords like Narashimhappa in this novel. All the people who lived in those dwellings of the tribe they have worked with Narshimhappa for their livelihood but he deceived them in the meanest possible manner. But the hero of this novel Surya came to their help rescue them form this feudal lord and he introduced a community forming for them in that forest land to bring them economic prosperity along with those tribal men making this into to reality he gets terrible fate. But he had succeeded to plant the seed of their self and economic development.
- **Equity**- the tribal's believed that they are the sons and daughters of forest. They worship forest as the living god/goddess to them. And also we noticed that they are experiencing every democratic life without no mans superiority. They believed in age old beliefs of their ancestors. one such a example in this novels theme is they believed that their newly wedded bride has to send to the temple, on the every night of her marriage to spend that night with the god as a husband. For this end many have been cheated and have had lost their virginity without knowing the treachery behind this act of the so called noble lords of civilized world. But the Surya and the party, they have abolished this atrocity with strengthening their education, which reveals the true face of treacheries even by the tribe's themselves. So this incident brings them out of the blind beliefs and it leads them to the sustainable development their community.
- **Conservation of Nature**- tribal people believed in the natural policy leave and let lived with the nature. They never ever harm any area/parts in the forest. They strongly believed that nature is the living god to them that is why they stood against the civilian society those who came to the forest having an idea of business and converting it to their own end. It means these tribes were claimed that they are always and afterwards to protect their land that is the forest. Here in the novel Baraguru Ramachandrappa had depicted the same thing with his characters like Shabari, Gouri, Huccheera, Timmarayee and other people in that forest area are always safeguard the forest land when the outsiders like Narashimhappa MLA and the foreign mining company have put their Eye on their land they agitated with these deforesters with possible means very angrily to defend that piece of their land from the looters. And the writer baraguru Ramachandrappa had rightly mentioned that foresterization is the very need of the sustainable development he had shown all this through the character Surya and Shabai.
- **Stewardship**- for achieving the goals of sustainable development in any of the community we need to have a strong leadership. In this novel *Shabari* also we came across the same engagement with the heroic characters. Surya the hero of this novel being the man from the civic society he came to the dwellings of tribe's in order to uplift their life from the un measurable condition of poverty, illiteracy/un-Education, inhuman practices on tribes, and to protect their rights from the deceivers and looters. Surya acted as a Stewardship to grant them Education, civil rights, and also he worked for betterment of

these downtrodden people of the forest. He worked with them, eat with them, sung their folk song with them totally he worked hand in hand with them in all the respect to make sustainable development of their life.

• **Education-** it is strongly believed that Education is the prime source of sustainable development so is the case with this novel *Shabari*. Whatever the barbarisms we had notices on these tribal peoples in this novel like offering newly wedded brides to spend their first night with god, preventing them for getting education, deceiving them with pittance pay, keeping the tribal girls as sub-wife's by village lords all these ill omens and practices happen only because of illiteracy and lack of education. So the hero Surya and Nawab lay the foundation for educating these people first. For this they have face many obstacles from the Priest, Narshimhappa and Rama Joisa and finally they mobilize the tribal men and women and constructed a night school for them. And these two Surya and Nawab teach the letters and the life lesson with oral literature from their own tribal folk and gradually these men understood the treachery and cunningness of the other men and they have started new life with more educated passion. This act of Surya and the team led all these people towards the overall Sustainability.

• **Civic Engagement**

As tribal governments exercise their self-governing powers and take more control over program administration and the provision of services within their communities, there is an increasing need for policymakers to learn to interact with tribes as sovereign governments, instead of viewing them as special interest or minority groups contained within a few states. Tribal community exists in many states. There are more than 561 federally recognized tribes within our country.

Tribals have been into several belts in India they live in forest hills and in Isolated places but some are in close contact with people of modern society either by migrating to towns and cities for work, if an developmental work carried out their localities, researchers going to study their living and whereabouts and now government is trying it's level best to bringing them in purview of its inclusive development. By the name of development and inclusiveness they have been cheated by many so called civilians, who grabbed their land in lieu of providing assistance even if they have retained their traditions and customs as socially distinct in contract to towns and city counterparts. Tribal have been attracted by more and more scholars and researchers to study them. So is the case with Baraguru Ramachandrappa and then came his novel on tribal people *Shabari*.

In developing societies tribal people have special local knowledge as a result of their close association with natural and physical environment in which they live and their cultural adaptation being more eco-friendly and sustainable. So in this regard it is better to encourage them to adopt input intensive agriculture with organic methods and in another had we need to educate them literally without harming their customs, practices and rituals such sustainable practices will up course certainly help them to came nearer in contact with modern civilization.

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