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## "Assessment and Effectiveness of Katkari's Welfare Scheme for Their Empowerment": A Case Study of Nashik District In Maharashtra

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### Abstract

India is a land characterized by a rich and intricate mosaic of human and cultural diversity, owing to its expansive geography and a long history of cross-cultural interactions. Within this diverse landscape, both indigenous populations and migrant communities coexist, contributing to the nation's unique social fabric. The classification of Scheduled Tribes, introduced by the Government of India under Article 336, is an official categorization aimed at providing special provisions to facilitate their socio-economic upliftment. Currently, 705 distinct ethnic groups are officially recognized as Scheduled Tribes across 30 States and Union Territories. However, it is crucial to note that the Scheduled Tribes are not a monolithic group, but instead encompass various sub-groups, some of which have deliberately chosen to maintain their isolation. These isolated groups, referred to as Primitive Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), often remain deprived of the benefits intended by governmental welfare initiatives. In Maharashtra, the Tribal Development Department has implemented a range of welfare schemes designed to enhance the living conditions and overall well-being of tribal communities. These schemes aim to reduce socio-economic disparities, improve quality of life, and promote empowerment across tribal populations. The primary objective of this study is to assess the effectiveness of these welfare schemes, specifically in relation to the Katkari community in the Nashik district of Maharashtra. The research is based on both primary and secondary data, collected through surveys, interviews, institutional reports, and census data. A total of seven tehsils from the Nashik district were selected for this study, with information gathered from 285 respondents. This study employs a comparative approach, utilizing cartographic and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) techniques to conduct a thorough analysis. To evaluate the impact of welfare schemes on the Katkari community in Nashik, it is essential to consider factors such as the breadth of coverage, accessibility of services, community engagement, and the impact on socio-economic indicators specific to the PVTGs. The findings of this research highlight the enduring challenges of poverty, exclusion, and marginalization faced by PVTGs, primarily due to the ineffective implementation of development programs in tribal regions. This research provides valuable insights for governmental agencies, including Grampanchayats, Zilla Parishads, as well as state and central government bodies, aiding them in formulating more effective policies and strategies for inclusive development of these marginalized communities.

**Key Words:** Assessment, Effectiveness, Katkari,

### Introduction:

India harbors the largest concentration of tribal populations globally, second only to Africa. According to the 2011 Census, Scheduled Tribes (STs) comprise 8.6% of the nation's total population, representing approximately 104.28 million individuals. These groups are officially recognized across 30 states and Union Territories, with 705 distinct ethnic communities classified as Scheduled Tribes. A substantial portion of the ST population is concentrated in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Jharkhand, and Gujarat. While some tribal communities have adapted to mainstream lifestyles, others remain significantly isolated, preserving their traditional ways of life. Within this broader category, 75 tribes are identified as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), facing extreme socio-economic hardships due to their distinctive cultural practices and remote habitation.

In the state of Maharashtra, three tribal groups—Katkari, Madiya Gond, and Kolam—are designated as PVTGs. The Katkari and Madiya Gond tribes are subgroups of the Kathodi and Gond communities, respectively. As per the 2011 Census, the Katkari tribe is disproportionately represented in the Nashik district compared to the Madiya Gond and Kolam tribes. The geographical distribution of these tribes is uneven, with their populations primarily residing in mountainous, forested, and inaccessible regions.

The relative isolation of these communities in such rugged terrains highlights the critical role that geographic factors and resource availability play in determining their development trajectory. Consequently, the socio-economic advancement of these tribal groups is intricately linked to their geographic location and the resources available in these remote areas, emphasizing the need for region-specific strategies to address their developmental challenges.

### Origin of Research Problems:

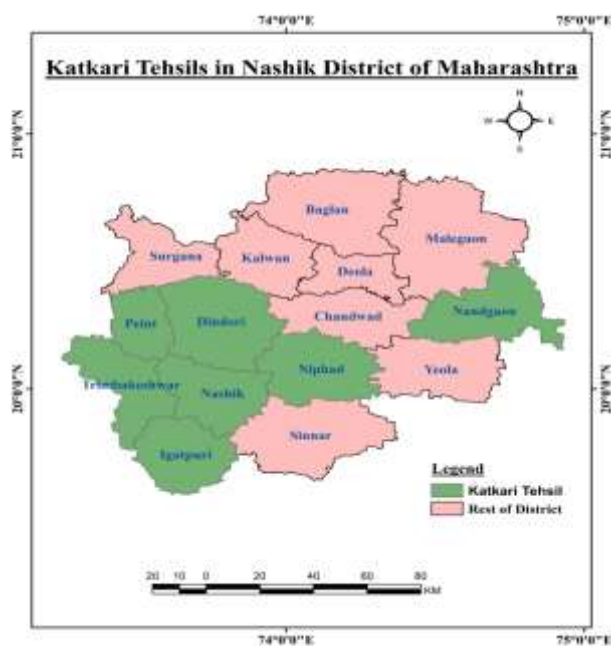
In the Nashik district of Maharashtra, the tribal population is primarily concentrated across nine tehsils, although tribal communities are dispersed throughout the entire district. Among these, the Katkari, Kolam, and Madiya Gond tribes have been classified as "primitive tribes" by the state of Maharashtra, based on the recommendations of the Tribal Research and Training Institute (TRTI) in Pune. These tribes are categorized according to three distinct modes of subsistence: (a) a nomadic or semi-nomadic lifestyle, (b) reliance on hunting, gathering, and rudimentary shifting cultivation practices, and (c) a significant dependence on forest resources.

Within this context, the Katkari tribe is predominantly found in the Nashik district, where its members continue to face considerable socio-economic challenges. Despite various development initiatives, the Katkari community remains largely untouched by mainstream developmental processes. As a result, this tribe experiences significant underdevelopment across various dimensions, including housing, connectivity, access to clean drinking water, the establishment of Bandhan Vikas Kendras, hostel facilities, health infrastructure, educational opportunities, vocational training, renewable energy access, electricity, and overall socio-economic well-being. The persistent lag in these fundamental aspects of development underscores the need for focused interventions to address the unique challenges faced by the Katkari tribe in this region.

### Study Area:

The study is situated within the Nashik District of Maharashtra, which is strategically positioned between the Tapi and upper Godavari basins. Geographically, it spans from latitudes 19° 33' to 20° 53' North and longitudes 73° 15' to 75° 16' East. Covering an expanse of 15,530 sq km., the district's population, as per the 2011 Census, stands at 6,107,187. Nashik is divided into 15 tehsils, each contributing distinct socio-economic characteristics and geographical features.

To the north of the district lies the Selbari range, which marks the natural boundary between Nashik and Dhule districts. Extending across the district is the Satmala range, while the southern part of the district is bordered by the Kalsubai range. The district is traversed by two primary rivers, the Girna and the Godavari, both of which are central to the region's agricultural practices and water resources. Nashik is encircled by several neighboring districts: Dhule to the north, Jalgaon and Aurangabad to the east, Ahmednagar to the south, Thane to the southwest, and the state of Gujarat to the northwest. The district's topography, along with its river systems and proximity to neighboring regions, provides a unique backdrop for examining developmental challenges, particularly in the context of its tribal populations.

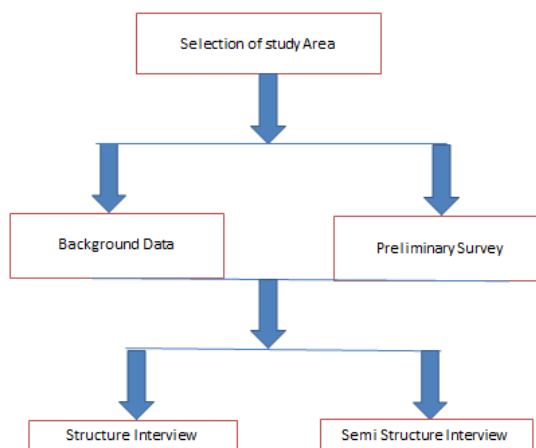


### Objectives of the Study

1. To study the theoretical background of Katkaris welfare Schemes with special reference to Nashik District of Maharashtra.
2. Assessment and Effectiveness of the Tribal Development Planning specially reference to the Katkari tribe in Nashik District of Maharashtra.

**Database and Methodology:**

To elucidate empirical findings and generate a comprehensive understanding of the research problem, an exploratory research design was employed. The study primarily seeks to uncover in-depth insights and facilitate a nuanced exploration of the subject matter. A mixed-methods approach, integrating both qualitative and quantitative techniques, was utilized to achieve a robust analysis. This methodological framework encompasses the systematic collection of data from both primary and secondary sources to provide a well-rounded perspective.



Primary data were obtained through structured and semi-structured interviews with heads of households, alongside observational methods and focus group discussions (FGDs). In the course of firsthand data collection, the study also engaged key stakeholders such as local community leaders, government officials, village panchayat members, and individuals flagged by forest authorities, all of whom contributed valuable perspectives for uncovering the multifaceted nature of the issue.

**Sampling:**

In order to evaluate the effectiveness of welfare schemes targeted at the Katkari tribe in Nashik District, Maharashtra, primary data were gathered through field surveys, utilizing comprehensive questionnaires. Seven tehsils were selected for the study: Triambak, Nashik, Dindori, Igatpuri, Peth, Niphad, and Nandgaon. The research specifically focused on the Katkari tribe, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) within the region. A total of 575 respondents were surveyed across these tehsils.

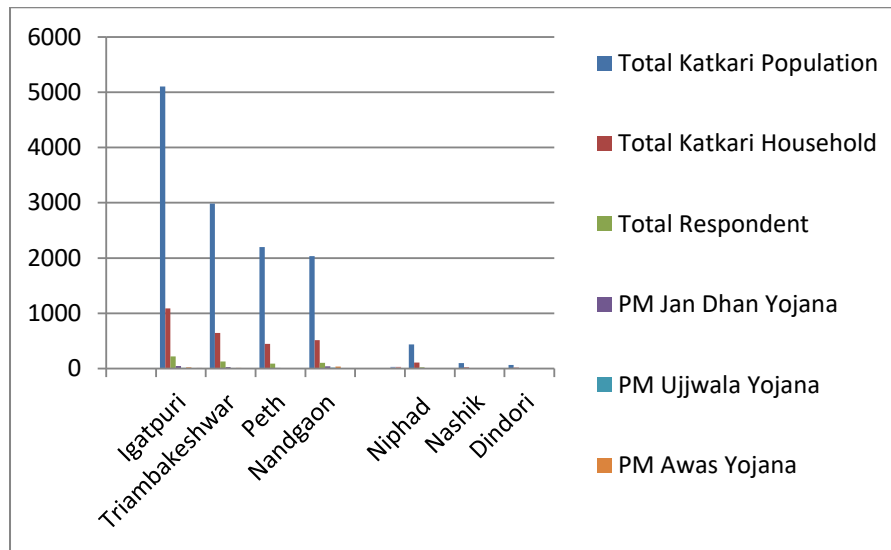
Among the 575 respondents, 242 individuals (approximately 42.09%) reported receiving benefits from key governmental development schemes, including the Prime Minister’s Jan Dhan Yojana, Ujjwala Yojana, and Awas Yojana. Of these beneficiaries, 23.82% participated in the Jan Dhan Yojana, 9.39% accessed the Ujjwala Yojana, and 17.39% benefited from the Awas Yojana. The graphical representation of these beneficiaries from the study area is illustrated in the subsequent figure. In contrast, 57.91% of the surveyed population had not participated in any of these schemes. Several factors contributed to this exclusion, including insufficient awareness, incomplete documentation, and financial barriers that impeded their ability to meet the necessary requirements for accessing these schemes.

*Number of Respondents Benefiting from Different Major Developmental Schemes*

Sr. no	Name of Tehsil	Total Katkari Population	Total Katkari Household	Total Respondent H O F	PM Jan Dhan Yojana	PM Ujjwala Yojana	PM Awas Yojana	MGN REG A	Swachh Bharat Mission Toilet	Not Received any Scheme
1	Igatpuri	5101	1091	220	45	15	25	10	15	148
2	Triambakeshwar	2986	647	130	28	10	15	8	11	75
3	Peth	2200	446	90	15	7	10	7	9	45
4	Nandgaon	2034	514	103	42	18	40	35	32	25
5	Niphad	439	112	23	2	4	5	7	2	21
6	Nashik	102	21	5	2	0	3	0	0	12
7	Dindori	68	19	4	3	0	2	0	0	7
	Total	12930	2850	575	137	54	100	67	69	333
	Percentage				23.82	9.39	17.39	11.65	12	57.91

**Source: Compiled by Researcher**

The map presented delineates the distribution of various government development schemes across the selected tehsils of Nashik District. A striking 57.91% of the total population in the study area did not benefit from any government-led development initiatives. Among the schemes, the Prime Minister's Ujjwala Yojana stands out as the most widely accessed, while the PM Mudra Yojana was notably absent, with no respondents reporting participation in this program across the surveyed tehsils. In contrast, the Prime Minister's Jan Dhan Yojana was implemented across all seven tehsils. Despite the introduction of these initiatives, the overall coverage and execution of government schemes remain severely lacking, revealing a persistent socio-economic disadvantage faced by the Katkari tribe compared to other tribal communities in the district.



The Maharashtra Tribal Development Department has instituted a diverse array of welfare programs aimed at improving the socio-economic conditions of tribal populations, addressing critical areas such as social welfare, healthcare, and education. Key schemes include the Prime Minister's Janjatiya Vikas Mission, TRIFOOD, and the Scheme for Grant-in-Aid to Voluntary Organizations Working for the Welfare of Scheduled Tribes. Additionally, initiatives such as the Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana, Eklavya Model Residential Schools, Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarships, and the Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana, as well as efforts to support Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), form part of a comprehensive framework. Other programs like the National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation, Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana, and Adivasi Shiksha Rinn Yojana aim to foster empowerment and improve access to education and financial resources. Furthermore, schemes such as Mission Van Dhan, the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN), and the integrated development of tribal villages (including the Wadi Program) underscore the government's commitment to the holistic development of tribal communities. However, despite the broad range of schemes, the study reveals that their effective implementation and outreach remain insufficient, particularly for the Katkari tribe, highlighting a need for more targeted and impactful interventions.

### Conclusion:

This study seeks to assess the effectiveness of welfare schemes implemented for the Katkari tribe in Nashik District, Maharashtra. It has been determined that a variety of programs, developed by both central and state governments, as well as non-governmental organizations, are designed to support the development and well-being of tribal communities. However, the primary obstacle to the sustainable advancement of these groups is the widespread lack of awareness regarding the specific policies and programs tailored to their needs. To thoroughly evaluate the implementation and efficacy of these schemes, it is imperative to consider critical factors such as coverage, accessibility, community participation, and their impact on the socio-economic conditions of the Katkari community.

The findings of this research reveal a significant gap in awareness among the tribal population, which results in limited participation and benefit uptake from these welfare initiatives. Although there is some awareness of individual beneficiary programs, the overall engagement with government schemes remains alarmingly low.

### Suggestions:

Based on the comprehensive field investigation, it is apparent that all households within the study area fall below the poverty threshold. In light of this, it is strongly recommended that greater emphasis be placed on individual beneficiary schemes that have higher demand within the community, such as provisions for bullock pairs, bullock carts, sheep, poultry birds, and other similar livelihood support mechanisms.

Although financial institutions, along with government bodies, offer loans and grants for infrastructure development, such as well construction and the purchase of electric motor pumps, these opportunities have yet to reach the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). It is, therefore, crucial that the identification process for beneficiaries be more thorough and precise to ensure that the most disadvantaged tribal populations are provided with the necessary assistance.

The survey findings also reveal that approximately 75% of PVTG households in the area are illiterate. This highlights the urgent need to implement targeted initiatives to increase literacy rates within the tribal community. By enhancing educational access, tribal members will be better equipped to understand and take full advantage of the developmental programs designed for their benefit.

Additionally, the study observed that many households are unable to access welfare benefits due to insufficient cooperation from local leaders and government officials. Several respondents reported that their names were omitted from the poverty-stricken household registers, thereby preventing them from benefiting from the schemes. It is recommended that a comprehensive review and update of the poverty line household register be conducted every three years to ensure that all eligible families are included.

Finally, it is suggested that tribal youth camps be organized in the region. These camps would serve as crucial platforms for disseminating information about various government initiatives, thereby improving awareness and empowering the tribal youth to actively engage with and benefit from these programs. This approach will foster greater community participation and facilitate the integration of tribal populations into broader socio-economic development efforts.

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