

SYNOPSIS OF THE THESIS

Indigenous Self-reliance and Economic Transformation in Tribal Areas

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1. INTRODUCTION

‘Indigenous self-reliance’ as a phrase appeared to be new to the existing literature. Therefore, an effort has been made to explain the subject and put it in the context of the study. Indigenous Self-reliance may be referred to as a system where people achieve their needs, using native resources and skills, having access, right and control over local (common property) resources. It is a reliance on judicious utilization of local potential, capability of the people, their organizations, and participation of people in the development process. (Kim & Ismail, 2013; Gray, 1997; Kumar, 2014; UNDP, 2020). It is a process of “development from within”, endogenous development which means achieving social, cultural, and economic transformation of our societies primarily through internal forces and resources, i.e., investment in human capital, innovation, revitalization of traditions, respect for the environment, and equitable relation of production (Binns & Nel, 1999).

It relates to Development studies which deals with identifying development problems and empowering people to change their lives, particularly in low-income countries. Its focus is not only on methods of promoting economic development, economic growth, and structural change but also on improving the potential for and of the mass of population. It promotes ownership and participation of people in the development process. It is a “bottom-up” approach to development and not “top-down” approach. It is empowering the indigenous people to be the masters of their destiny. It is achieving economic transformation and stability using local resources, people, and their systems.

In agricultural practice, it encourages organic agriculture, native seeds, native varieties of livestock, biodiversity, biological cycles, and soil biological activity. It

advocates a system of agriculture that is adaptable to the local and regional conditions, promoting crop rotation, multiple cropping, green manures, and compost, rather than the use of inputs and methods which have adverse effects, and which are expensive. This concept is akin to Gandhian approach to Rural Development; *Swadeshi* or *Gram Swaraj*, Sriniketan Experiment on Rural Reconstruction initiated by Rabindranath Tagore and Marthandam (YMCA) Experiment by Dr. Spencer Hatch. This concept and approach also embody the essence of rural development as expounded by United Nations Asian Development Institute.

To understand Indigenous self-reliance well, it is pertinent also to mention what Indigenous self-reliance does not mean or imply: i. It does not equate to Autarky nor is it synonymous with economic nationalism. ii. It does not imply a wanton return to the past. iii. It does not dismiss advantages of external relations. iv. It is not protectionism. v. It is not a development in isolation, but by integration. vi. It does not preclude training, knowledge and learning from external world. vii. It is not against modernization nor against adopting modern technology. viii. It is not against providing urban amenities in rural areas. ix. It is not 'Only the GDP' perspective of growth. x. It does not approve of growth and development based on violence with nature / the mother earth.

2. RESEARCH MOTIVATION

Ending poverty continues to be the vision of great men of all ages. Poverty alleviation has always been the priority of the Government of India. But somehow, achievement of the desired results appeared awaited: for instance, India is 97th in Oxfam's Food Availability Index and 103rd in Global Hunger Index (2018).

Jharkhand's rural poverty (52%), HDI (0.467), malnutrition (50%), water scarcity, low productivity of agriculture, and lack of organized agricultural marketing had been worrisome.

Very often Jharkhand has been described with the cliché – '*Poverty amidst plenty*'. Despite the natural endowment and respectable arable land in rural Jharkhand, there had been striking poverty, malnutrition, and low productivity of land. The economic data, especially HDI (0.467), also corroborated this inconsistency which further got accentuated when Jharkhand's mineral deposits (40% of India's total mineral resources), coal, iron, copper, bauxite, limestone, uranium, pyrite, granite, etc. were considered (jharkhandminerals.gov.in).

The condition of the selected three villages, Asanbani, Asanpahari, and Dhankuta; the BPL, malnutrition, literacy, HDI, scarcity of water and low productivity of the land, were among the most worrisome in Jharkhand. Besides, these conditions had been continuing for a long time in these villages, appearing to be a 'poverty trap'. These problems and questions made the study of this area important and urgent.

Traditionally, the tribes in India had been living amidst forests and in rural areas. Today, over 80% tribes lived amidst forest and rural areas, including those in Jharkhand. Numerous policies, programmes and schemes were made for the development of the tribes. But, except for those tribes who worked in Government or in organized sector and involved in mainstream politics, the conditions of the tribes called for an urgent attention – their HDI, right to forest and common property resources, land alienation, displacement resulting from development projects, quality of education, dysfunctional tribal self-governance, etc. Therefore, this study

has addressed the following compelling and engaging (research) questions concerning tribes and rural Jharkhand:

i) Why and how had a large number of the rural people in Jharkhand been living below poverty line (BPL) and for such a long time? ii) Why the people, owning land, endowed with natural resources, living in natural surroundings, must be poor? iii) How and why have their indigenous agriculture, knowledge and skills remained under-utilized? iv) What effective development approach should be followed to come out of poverty, especially when impacted by industrial economy, social dualism, and intellectual imperialism? v) How has tribal economy deteriorated from a self-reliant economy to an over-dependent beneficiary of the outside world? vi) Why has the traditional governance system become dysfunctional? vii) Is the prevalent formal education system appropriate for the farmers and agriculture? viii) How to make rural areas lucrative to live in? ix) How to make agriculture and agri-business lucrative occupation or livelihood? x) Why many SHGs did not do well in Jharkhand?

Incidentally, there had been a practice of sericulture in the area for over 60 years. In the recent years, sericulture had supplemented the income of the farmers to an extent of Rs.25,000/- on an average per annum per farmer, which comprised 40% of the total annual income of the farmers. Some of them had touched an annual earning of Rs.75,000/- from sericulture. In this study, 54 out of 60 sericulture farmers of the three villages were considered as success stories and the existing practice of sericulture as a paradigm for supplementing the income of the farmers. To supplement the income of the farmers, this study has indicated that some indigenous produce and crops, such as, turmeric, chilli, baby corn, pig farming, goat farming, mustard, floriculture, horticulture, native artisan products, and traditional services

had the potential to become commercial produce and services in the global food and value chain. The factors contributing to the success of sericulture in the area in supplementing the income of the farmers, have been explicated.

The researcher drew initial motivation for this study from his working in RBI for over 27 years, getting exposure to various departments including Rural Planning and Development Department (RPCD) now rechristened as Financial Inclusion and Development Department (FIDD), Department of Banking Supervision (DBS), Department of Co-operative Banking Supervision (DCBS), Banking and Currency Management.

Summative experiences and exposures, economic predicaments, HDI, and research questions had led to this research, as a journey in search of the ‘effective way’ in tribal and rural development, to augment agricultural output and to supplement farmers’ income. The effective initiative in sericulture in the area indicated that providing organized facilitation to agricultural produces, traditional services, and artisan products could achieve gainful employment and poverty eradication.

Traditional self-reliance system: Before 50-60 years, the tribes of Jharkhand were broadly self-reliant. They produced most of the things they used and consumed, e.g., food grains, dairy, livestock, oil, etc. There was a reference of exporting rice, mustard, and other oil seeds during the British Raj, even before 1855, the Santal Hul (Datta, 1970 & O’Malley, 1910). Every tribal family had a kitchen garden. They built their houses by themselves. They had knowledge of herbal medicines, midwifery, massage system and animal castration. The people recounted that they bought only salt and clothes from the market. They solved their disputes in village councils. They trusted their traditional leadership, organizations, and ethos. They

lived a self-sufficient cohesive community life although they did not enjoy an idyllic material prosperity. Unfortunately, over the years, the tribes' system of self-reliance had shown disintegration and deterioration. The tribes of Jharkhand had nearly lost confidence in their indigenous self-reliance and agriculture as livelihood.

This study dwells on understanding tribal (agrarian) economy, indigenous self-reliance in particular, people's relationship with forest and land, tribes' perspectives of development, status of traditional self-governance, the impact of formal education on their life, and process of their integration with the mainstream economy.

3. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

There was a large body of works and experiments on self-reliance and rural development across the world. This research, being a multi-disciplinary study, it was appropriate to review books, research papers and articles from the field of economics, development studies, rural development, tribal development, agriculture, sociology, education, environment, social psychology, communication, and management.

Kalam and Singh (2011), Kim & Isma'il (2013), Helin (2008), Banerjee & Duflo (2012) have elaborately written on the importance of self-reliance as the most sustainable approach to development. Sen (1943) and Verma wrote on rural reconstruction. Upadhyay and Pandey (2003), Singh (2009), Drez (2017), Gaekwad (1986), Sen and Drez (1989) presented critique on schemes for poverty and unemployment alleviation.

Reddy (2012), Singh and Shishodia (2016), Prahalad and Hart (2002), Ansari (2016), Swaminathan Committee Report (2006), Aziiza & Susanto (2012), and

Vishwanathan & Vedula (2010) had discussed rural development, agriculture & farmers, and infrastructure. Kamath (1998), Drez & De (1999) presented criticism on prevalent education system. Shiva (2010), Rao (2018), UNDP (1997, 2004) and Rio Treaty (1992) underscored the importance of non-violence with the nature, environment, and indigenous biodiversity.

The literature reviewed, with reference to the state of Jharkhand, mostly dwelt upon enumerating rights and plights of the tribes, the Constitutional provisions and the Acts, deprivation, marginalisation, displacement, and alienation of tribes from their land. Some described tribes as helpless creatures at the mercy of the government and outsiders. There were reviews and critiques on prevalent education system, on the development schemes and programmes of the Government. Some studies and reports acknowledged the chronic apathy of the administration and the political leadership and the dysfunctional traditional leadership.

Setty, Gopal & Chinnaswamy (2019) wrote on empowerment of tribal communities through sericulture. Kannan & Pillai (2005) explained success of public action and participatory development in Kerala. The following is the list of some important literature reviewed, with their gist and linkage to the study:

Documentation of Literature Reviewed					
Sl.	Literature Reviewed	Literature Type	Author/s	Gist of points	Linkage to this research
1	Gandhi on villages	Selected and compiled	Divya Joshi	A deep understanding of Gandhi on villages, gram swaraj, swadeshi and rural economy.	Rural development is the central focus
2	I too had a Dream: An Autobiography	Book: An Autobiography	Verghese Kurien 2012	Co-operative society as a powerful tool for rural development with people's indigenous resources and skills.	Co-operative societies facilitate self-reliance.
3	Swadeshi, Self-reliance, and	Article	Gandhi Institutions –	It tries to strike a balance between the seemingly	Assert competitive

	Globalisation		Bombay Sarvodaya Mandal & Gandhi Research Foundation, 2013	two opposite forces, Swadeshi and Globalism. It asserts that (i) the things which can be produced locally, outside productive forces should not be allowed and (ii) collaboration or cooperation should proceed on terms of equality.	advantage. Emphasizes Integration of rural and tribal economy with larger economy, not assimilation
4	Target 3 Billion: PURA (Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas)	Book	APJ Abdul Kalam & Srijan Singh 2011	The objective is sustainable development, using the core potential of the rural sector.	Sustainable development by using the core potential of the rural sector.
5	<i>Self-Reliance: Key to Sustainable Rural Development in Nigeria.</i>	Article e-journal of science (Vol. 3 No. 6, June 2013).	Kim Idoma & Isma'ila Muhammad 2013	Self-reliance is the viable alternative to 'dependent development' and it is more sustainable. It allows people to participate in the process of development, builds trust in their own capabilities; it empowers them.	Self-reliance is the viable alternative to 'dependent development' and it is more sustainable.
6	Indigenous Leadership and Tribal Development	Research Thesis Now a Book	Dr. Varghese Panangatt 2012	It is an empirical analytical study of social and cultural life of Santals in Godda district of Jharkhand.	Organized village level leadership is important to solve their basic problems by self-help
7	The Amartya Sen & Jean Dreze Omnibus	Collection of three books	Oxford University Press, 1999	Poverty and Famines, Hunger and Public Action, India: Economic Development and Social opportunity	Poverty eradication through enhancing the income of the farmers.
8	Indigenous People's Struggles for Self-Determination	Book	Prakash Louis 2012	Rights conferred in the Indian Constitution, various acts, UNO, etc. to protect the rights of the tribal people.	Constitutional safeguards and rights of the indigenous people
9	Progress and Poverty	Book	Henry George 1880 1905 2016	A critique of present order of economy – injudicious distribution of wealth	We are asking similar questions – why in a land so bountiful blest ... should there be unemployment?
10	Rabindranath Tagore on Rural Reconstruction	Book	Sudhir Sen, Ph.D. 1943	"... It is a matter of disgrace that we are in the habit of turning to Government officials for help in everything. To spread and strengthen the spirit of self-help is one of the fundamental aims of this institution".	Talks of rural reconstruction through self-help. Taking initiative by local people for self reliance.

11	Indian Tribals through the ages	Book	R C Verma 1990 2002	A detailed account of tribal life and development with critical appraisal on the plans & policies.	Critical appraisal and review of the policy adopted for tribal development.
12	Tribal Development in India (A Critical Appraisal)	Book	Prof. V S Upadhyay Dr. Gaya Pandey 2003	It describes different government approaches and model of tribal development.	Tribal development and Tribal administration.
13	Tribal Life in India	Book	Nirmal Kumar Bose 1971 1979 2004	It is an anthropological account describing tribals' economy as hunting, fishing, gathering, jhum, etc.	Tribes' native skills for survival under great hardships.
14	A Chapter: Village Uplift and Social Training From the Book Social Thought of Rabindranath Tagore: A Historical Analysis	Book Abhinav Publication New Delhi	Tapati Dasgupta 1993	Reproduces central thoughts of Rabindranath Tagore on experiments in rural reconstruction and basic education for the rural people.	Rural reconstruction and basic education for the rural people.
15	Social Exclusion and Adverse Inclusion: Development and Deprivation of Adivasis in India	Book: A collection of articles	Edited by Dev Nathan and Virginus Xaxa 2012	It locates the deprivation of adivasis in a larger regional, national, and global context.	Emphasis on active involvement of people in development process and in political governance.
16	The Adivasi Question: Issues of Land, Forest, and Livelihood	Book: Collection of Essays EPW	Edited by Indra Munshi 2012 2013 2015	These articles, drawn from writings of almost four decades, discuss questions of community rights and ownership, management of forests, the state's rehabilitation policies, and forest rights acts and its implications.	This book explicates how opportunities have deluded tribals and deprived them of their rights in India.
17	Agriculture and Rural Development	Book	Reddy, K. Venkata 2012	It brings out emerging challenges and discusses policies and programmes for holistic and sustainable development of rural India, decentralized administration and planning with villages as the growth centres. Inclusive growth approach.	Policies and programmes for holistic and sustainable development of rural India. Thrust on villages as growth centres. Inclusive growth.
18	Rural Development: Principles, Policies and Management	Book	Singh, Kartar & Shishodia, Anil, 2016	Rural development	Rural and Tribal development
19	United Nations	UNO	UNO	It works in 177 countries	A thrust on

	Development Plan (UNDP)	Scheme	1965	with local govt. to meet development challenges and develop local capacity; helps to achieve Millenium Development Goals.	development through indigenous skills and resources
20	Deprived of rights over material resources, impoverished Adivasis get prison: A study of under-trials in Jharkhand	A study	Bagaicha Research Team – ATC Campus, Namkum, Ranchi, Jharkhand 2015	Talks of deprivation of local people, especially the tribals from natural resources. Their struggles for justice being treated as extremism against the Govt. by the administration	Thrust on the rights and ownership of tribals over the natural resources.
21	Sriniketan Experiment in Rural Development	Article The Economic Weekly	Usha Mukherjee 1952	Describes Tagore’s vision of rural reconstruction; not only as removal of poverty but also bringing creative joy.	Rural reconstruction and empowerment.
22	Why Poor People Don’t Co-operate: Learning from Traditional Systems	Article	Anil K. Gupta CMA IIM, Ahmedabad 1987	Examines why co-operative organizations set up to serve the rural poor fail to elicit their co-operation.	The importance of involving the poor in generating alternatives for their own development is emphasized.
23	ANTYODAYA: Rise of the Last	Book UNESCO	DD Narula & Jyoti Kiran 1989	Rural development of the target group, the rock bottom poor people	An alternative endogenous strategy for poverty removal.
24	Rural development Strategies: Evaluation of some early experiments in India	Book	V R Gaikwad 1986	In Gandhi’s plan of rural reconstruction, the ancient republican village without any kind of exploitation, served as a model unit	Traditional republican village as a model unit
25	<i>Making Peace with the Earth</i>	Peace Prize Lecture, Book	Dr. Vandana Shiva 2012	Organic agriculture and biodiversity	Indigenous agricultural potential
26	Foreign Aid, Self-reliance, and Economic Development in West Africa	Article	R Omotayo Olaniyan 1996	Speaks of the grey areas in development and emphasizes development by self-reliance	Aids and help for a long time can be detrimental.
26	Dances with Dependency. Out of Poverty through Self-reliance	Book	Calvin Helin 2008	Follow the tradition, heritage, identity and simultaneously learn from external world to improve the economy.	Economic integration of tribal economy with the larger economy.
27	Self-Reliance	Essay	Ralph Waldo Emerson 1841	Among the first to define self-reliance	Indigenous self-reliance
28	Poor Economics	Book	Banerjee Abhijit and Duflo Esther 2012	A radical rethinking of the way to fight global poverty.	Elimination of poverty as priority

29	Sense and Sensibility: Jholawala economics for everyone	Book	Jean Dreze 2017	Issues in rural development	Poverty and unemployment.
30	Poverty, food insecurity and coping mechanism among tribes in Maharashtra	Ph.D. Research work, IIT Bombay	Dr. Nilratan Rambhau Shende 2010	“Poverty, food insecurity and coping mechanism among tribes in Maharashtra”	How to break ‘poverty trap’ and ‘low level equilibrium trap’.
31	<i>Bengal District Gazetteers: Santal Parganas</i>	Gazetteer report	O’Malley, L.S.S. 1910	An authentic and an elaborate report on history, geography, social systems, agriculture, forests, local self-governance, and education in Santal Parganas.	This study draws reference from the history, social systems, economy, local self-governance, and education of the tribes.
32	Tribal Education in India	Book	Kamath, V A 1998	Tribes valued education. They walked miles after contributing to works of their families. This multi-tasking and rural background put them at disadvantages when compared with their urban counterparts when excellence in studies mattered.	Talks of appropriateness of the education system.
33	<i>Tribal Education and Fading Tribal Identity.</i>	Book	Ambasht, N.K. 1999	Neglect of tribal aspirations and identity by prevalent formal education system.	Aligning formal education with rural livelihood
34	<i>Public Report on Basic Education in India.</i>	Book Report PROBE	Dreze, J. & De, A. 1999	A critique of education system on North India	Reform in prevalent formal education system
35	Dynamics of Income in Jharkhand: Evidence from Village Studies	SSRN Electronic Journal	M.S. Meena et al. 2013	Livestock system is an integral part of livelihood of rural poor. Thrust on Livestock sector. Education is an instrument for change. It brings changes in thinking process, knowledge, skills, and attitude. It helps reduce inequality in rural area.	Raising livestock to enhance farmers’ income. Reforms in formal education system.
36	<i>Anti-British Plots and Movements before 1857</i>	Research Book	Datta, K.K. (1970). 1970	There was a practice of commercial crops	Latent indigenous economic potential
37	<i>National Action Plan for Egg & Poultry-2022 for Doubling Farmers’ Income by 2022.</i>	Plan Report	Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries. Ministry of	Creating opportunities for farmers in rural areas.	Promoting indigenous economic potential.

			Agriculture & Farmers Welfare. 2015		
38	<i>Serving Farmers and Saving Farming; Jai Kisan: Revised Draft National Policy for Farmers</i>	A report <i>The National Committee on Farmers (NCF)</i>	M. S. Swaminathan. Ministry of Agriculture 2006	Increasing income of the farmers	Increasing income of the farmers
39	<i>Urgent need to prevent environmental degradation in tribal region of India: A case study</i>	Case study	Barla, M. (2010). Hindustan. 2010	Preservation of environment and tribal heritage to ensure sustainable tribal development and to maintain ecological balance.	Tribal economy depends largely on forest.
40	<i>The Fortune at the Bottom of the Pyramid</i>	Article in Revista Electronica de estrategia & Negocios.	C. K. Prahalad & Stuart L. Hart. January 2002	Revealed a possibility and opportunity to transform the bottom of the pyramid market into a profitable market; thereby “linking the poor and the rich across the world in a seamless market”.	Unleashing rural potential by developing agricultural marketing in rural areas.
41	<i>Agricultural Economy of Jharkhand.</i>	Journal Article	Singh, M.L. 2009	Poor economic condition of the rural people is due to ill-governance, political instability and corruption.	Apathy of administration and political leadership.
42	The effectiveness of India’s Anti-poverty Programmes	The Journal of Development Studies	Anjini Kochar 2008	Decentralization of administration: vesting village governments with greater responsibility for their monitoring and oversight	Thrust on reforming village leadership important for rural development
43	<i>Ground Realities and Inhibitions in Execution of MGNREGA in Jharkhand, India</i>	Asian Research Consortium	K. Sanjay, K. Meena, Alam, S. 2018	This study in Jharkhand, attempts to assess the institutional and non-institutional impediments which are encumbering the desired accomplishment of the scheme at the grass-root level.	It examines the causes of poverty in tribal areas of Jharkhand and solution thereof.
44	<i>Lessons from Muhammad Yunus and Grameen Bank</i>	Article OD PRACTITIONER, Vol.43 No.1.	Esty, Katharine 2011	Stimulating income generating activities through SHGs.	Self-reliance through SHGs
45	<i>Panchayat Raj (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996: The Travails of a Governance</i>	Article, Kurukshetra	Bijoy, C.R. 2015	<i>Significance of PESA Act. The Travails of a Governance Law.</i>	Tribal self-governance

	<i>Law.</i>				
46	Beyond Development Impasse: Role of Local Economic Development and Community Self-Reliance in Rural South Africa	The Journal of Modern African Studies. Vol.37, No. 3 (Sep., 1999)	Binns, Tony and Nel, Etienne 1999	Question western concepts and methodologies of development. Focusing attention on strategies which build upon local knowledge, skills and resources, 'self-reliance'.	Indigenous self-reliance focuses on native forces and resources to enhance the income of the farmers.
47	The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020	Bill No. 112 of 2020 Now an Act.	Government of India 2020	Empowerment and Protection; Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services.	Increasing farmers' income. Establishing agricultural market.
48	Potential Linked Credit Plan for 2020-21, Dumka District	NABARD	NABARD, Ranchi 2020	Identifies potentials in livestock raising, horticulture, plantation of fruit-bearing trees, dairy, poultry, etc.	The potential identified are very similar.
49	Ecology and Equity	Book	Mahadev Gadgil and Rachandra Guha	Analysis and an empirically grounded study of environmental conflict in India	Relevance of forest in the life and development of the tribes.
50	Rural Manifesto	Book	Feroz Varun Gandhi	Realizing India's future through her villages.	Rural Development
51	Human Development Report 2020: The next frontier, Human development and the Anthropocene.	Report	UNDP, 2020	Indigenous and local knowledge systems and practices generate synergies between biodiversity and human wellbeing.	Human development based on indigenous resources and forces.
52	Public Action as Participatory development: The Kerela Experience re-interpreted.	A Report Paper DOI: 10.3145/9788132102144.n6. Sage Publication	Kannan, K.P. & Pillai, V.N. (2005).	Success of Public action and participatory development in kerela.	This study gives a thrust on public action, participation people in development process, and civil society leadership.
53	<i>Empowerment of tribal communities through sericulture programmes in Jharkhand State.</i>	Journal article Volume 4, Issue 2, Feb, 2019. p.23-30	Setty, H.H.N., Gopal, L. & Chinnaswamy, K.P. (2019).	Empowerment of tribal communities through sericulture	Studied success of sericulture among tribes in Kathikund area.
54	Research Methodology	Book	C.R.Kothari & G.Garg, 2020	Knowing research methodology.	Applying research methodology.

4. RESEARCH GAP

The reviewed literature had either not given adequate thrust on or had given a subdued treatment to the following issues and areas, especially to identify ‘self-help’ and ‘effective’ solutions to low income or poverty of the farmers:

- There were limited books or research works vis-à-vis economic transformation in tribal areas with adequate thrust on indigenous self-reliance.
- The indigenous economic potentials, resources and skills appeared to have been either underestimated or not viewed as means of economic transformation of tribal areas.
- Very little discussions were found on the importance of reorganizing village leadership or the tribal self-governance to achieve economic transformation.
- There was lack of emphasis upon alignment of the formal education system with agriculture, the perspective, and livelihood of rural tribal life.
- There was a dearth of adequate critique on whether the development schemes were aligned with the nature and size of the land and the people’s skills and capabilities.
- Very little studies had been done to understand tribal economy, tribes’ perspectives of development, and the problems of social dualism. The tribes’ pace and perspectives of development were different from those of the mainstream population.
- Establishing organized market linkage for the indigenous agricultural produce had not received a resolute attention in the existing literature.

- There has not been much study covering advantages and effectiveness of cooperative culture or practices.
- There was inadequate thrust on Organizational Development Intervention (ODI) in the context of rural tribes, i.e., vocational training, initial hand holding, extension education, capacity building, reorientation of agriculture and reorganization of the village community for enhancing productivity and supplementing farmers' income.
- Discussion on empowering the tribes to utilize their land and resources – *'jal, jangal, and jamin'* to appropriate and gainful economic use, was insignificant.
- Sericulture in the area and its positive impact on the income of the farmers was yet to be projected as a paradigm for promoting the other indigenous produce, services, and artisan products.
- Quite a few SHGs had been formed in the area. But the reasons for their unsuccessful functioning had not been examined.
- While understanding 'vicious circle', the prevailing approaches to 'alcohol abuse' or 'faulty' behaviour, had skewed to treating the symptoms than to eliminating the causes. In this context, the researcher has revealed a contrarian view to a few generally held notions.

5. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

This study has attempted to find a basic practicable and effective way out of poverty, essentially by “development from within” or self-help. The following comprise the main objectives of the study,

- i. To evaluate the causes of poverty in Tribal areas of Dumka district, Jharkhand.
- ii. To examine the factors of success of sericulture in Kathikund, Dumka district, in supplementing the income of the farmers.
- iii. To investigate the start-up problems of the Self-help Groups (SHGs) in income generating activities.

In view of the extant traditional self-reliance, this study primarily assumed that repositioning and reorientation of the indigenous economic potentials could up-lift the people from poverty (BPL, Rs.920/- MPCE on food; Planning Commission, 2011) by supplementing their income within the available resources and skills, if the organized facilities and facilitation, such as, infrastructure, managerial support, extension education & training, timely & affordable finance, and market linkage, technological support, and appropriate education, were provided as they were done to sericulture.

This study has attempted to find a solution to the problem of poverty, a solution which empowered people to solve their problems, remaining in their own land, trusting their own capabilities. Otherwise, they were conditioned to escape and migrate out or to depend on external help and aids. A sustainable solution subsisted in empowering people and not in helping them to dependence.

6. RESEARCH HYPOTHESES

After an assessment of the socio-economic scenario, geography, environment and traditional agricultural practices of the area, the pilot survey, and in view of the objectives of this study, the following hypotheses were formulated. They were validated based on the regression results; quantified with R-value, p-value, and

correlations. The hypotheses, Ha1 and Ha2 pertained to the main study and the case study respectively.

Hypothesis Ha1: There is a significant impact of organized facilitation of indigenous economic potentials on the income of the farmers.

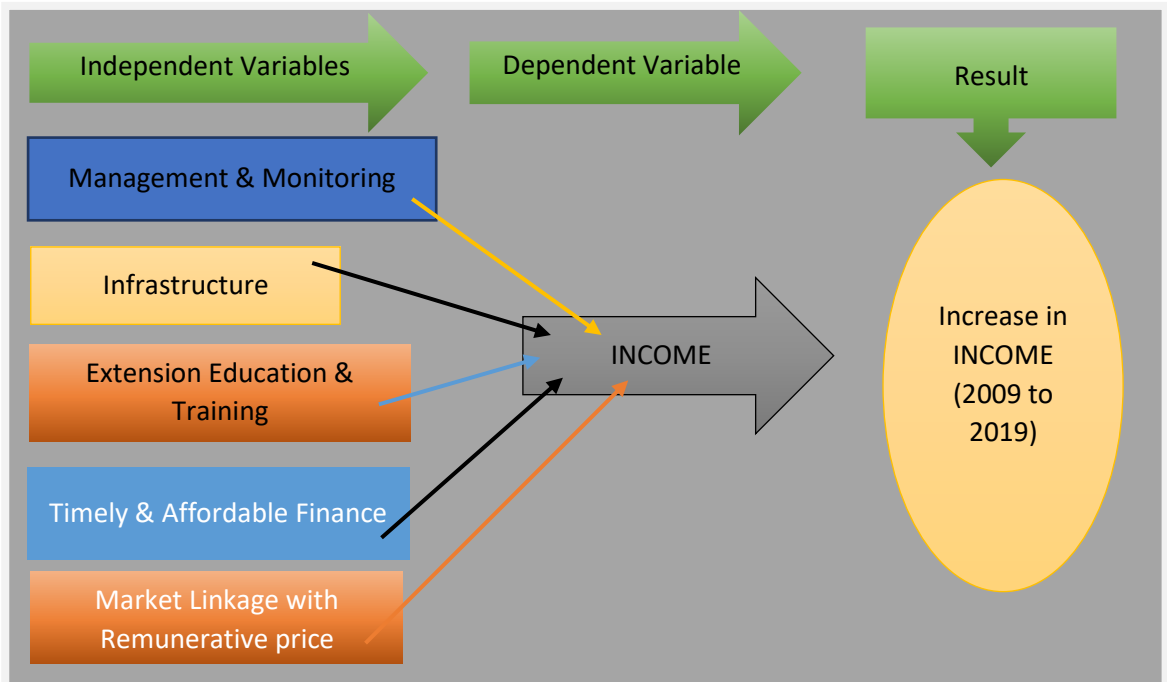
Hypothesis Ha2: The role of development actors is a critical factor at the start-up phase for the success of SHGs.

Based on the pilot survey, occupation and income level of the farmers, identification of indigenous economic potentials, and discovery of an effective initiative in sericulture in the area, functioning of the SHGs in the area, dependent and independent variables were identified and isolated.

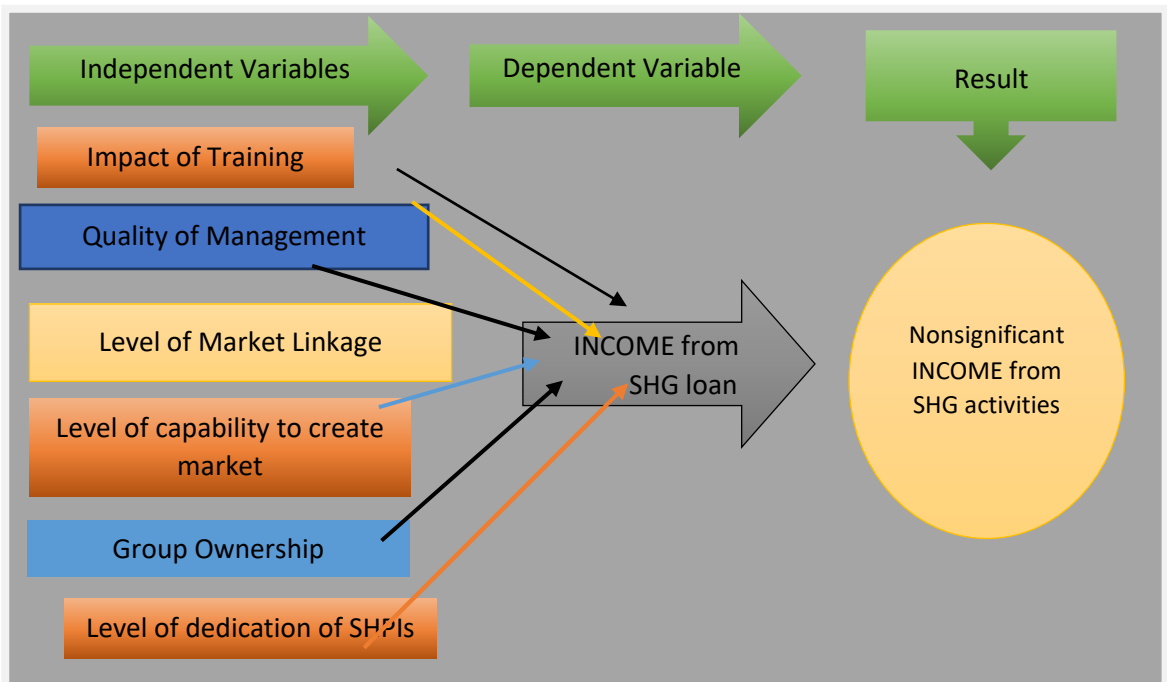
Variables pertaining to the main study: Dependent variable (Y): Income of the farmers. Independent variables (x): Infrastructure, managerial support, extension education & training, timely & affordable finance, and market linkage with remunerative price. They were collectively termed as **Organized Facilitation**.

Variables pertaining to the case study: Dependent variable (Y): Share of Income out of SHG loan in Total Income of the Family. Independent variables (x): Independent variables (x): impact of training, quality of management, level of market linkage, level of ability to create market, group ownership, and level of dedication of SHPIs.

Conceptual framework: Main Study



Conceptual Framework: Case Study



7. SCOPE OF RESEARCH

The research focused on identifying ‘effective ways’ to reposition and reorient indigenous economic potentials where farmers could augment their income within

their ecosystem without migrating out, mainly by transforming some agricultural produce from subsistence to commercial produce/products. Effective initiative in sericulture in the area by Central Silk Board of India (CSBI), Pilot Project Centre (PPC) of Jharkhand Government and PRADAN, an NGO, has been taken as the paradigm for augmenting the income of the farmers.

The complementary scope included references to some emerging rural and tribal entrepreneurs and innovative farmers in parts of Jharkhand as well as a few from other parts of India, working of SHGs and Co-operative (credit) societies like AMUL (Gujarat), GOKUL (Kolhapur), and Textile Park in Shirpur, Maharashtra.

This research, being a multidisciplinary study, references were made to the customs and social systems of the people, their history, communication and behaviour pattern, environment, agriculture, constitutional rights and safeguards, political environment, and conditions of social dualism. References were also made to the concepts of social psychology, organizational development, management, communication, systems theory, development studies, human development, agriculture, and rural development.

The households of the sericulture farmers of the three villages, Asanbani, Asanpahari, and Dhankuta of Kathikund block were the main respondents of the study. The practice and progress of sericulture in the area were examined with reference to the period from 1990 to early 2020 (30 years), to assess the impact of the approach to sericulture on the income of the farmers. However, assessment of comparative income was made with reference to 2009 and 2019. As a part of this study, the researcher also undertook a case study, Start-up problems of SHGs in Income Generating Activities.

This study has given a contextual reference to the economy, environment, geography, HDI, social life; tradition, culture, and history, particularly the Santal Hul or Santal Rebellion (1855) and the recent angst of the tribes or adivasis.

The survey and the study in the field were undertaken from early 2017 till early 2020, visiting the area in the interval of 2-3 months for around 4-5 days every visit. Some information was obtained online during COVID-19 lockdown.

The following areas were considered beyond the scope of this study, i) Direct study of Macro-economics, ii) Direct study of urban life, iii) Politics, Culture and Religion, iv) Heavy / large commercial development: Industrialization, dams, mines, and collieries, v) Primary evaluation of Government development schemes, vi) Study of potentials of agriculture in the area, although it has made some empirical observations of the agricultural potentials based on indigenous traditional practices, and vii) The behaviour dimension of the people.

8. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research methods and techniques included research design, research questions, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, population and sample, research hypothesis and variables, data collection technique, and tools for data analysis. This research, being a multi-disciplinary study, encompassing concepts from sociology, economics, rural development, development economics, management, communication, and development studies, adopted a judicious mix of quantitative and qualitative methodologies.

The quantitative method involved generation of data in quantitative form which was subjected to formal quantitative analysis, such as, regression and descriptive

statistics (data table, graphs, and charts). Qualitative approach to research, being a function of researcher's insights and observation used techniques, such as, personal interviews, focus group discussions, case study, participant observation, experts' opinion, naturalistic inquiry, and eye of insight.

Three villages, namely, Asanbani, Asanpahari, and Dhankuta of Kathikund block were selected, to examine the initiative in indigenous self-reliance and its impact on the income of the farmers. They are located 23-25 kms. North of Dumka. There has been a practice of sericulture in the area for over 60 years. Kathikund block had emerged as a cluster of sericulture where over 300 households engaged in sericulture. The Central Silk Board of India had adopted these three villages in 1990s and had gradually increased supervision. There were 60 sericulture farmers in these three villages. The factors of change in income of the farmers from sericulture and agriculture, and other farming was assessed with reference to 2009 and 2019.

This research combined two types of designs, i.e., descriptive research design and causal research design. Data collection for the quantitative study was done through interviews with the 54 sericulture farmers and 40 SHG women (a case study) with two different sets of questionnaires. The qualitative data was collected from the sampled 88 out of total 110 households through personal interviews, discussions, experts' opinions (officials at sericulture centre, government officials, NGOs, and doctors), focus groups (gram sabhas, schoolteachers, and students), eye of insight and naturalistic inquiry. A case study was undertaken as a part of this study.

The secondary data were collected from Government surveys, reports, census reports, books, research papers, references, information, documentaries, and reading materials available online, including Shodhganga and JSTOR (theses, journals,

books, and reports), development indicators (income, health; life expectancy, infant mortality, malnutrition, literacy level, Human Development Index, Happiness Index, etc.). Google search and Wikipedia were great blessings.

9. RESEARCH DATA ANALYSIS

As mentioned, this study adopted a judicious mix of quantitative and qualitative methodologies. The quantitative data were subjected to regression as well as to descriptive statistics, such as, data table, graphs, and charts for analysis and interpretation of data. The qualitative data have been discussed and interpreted in order of the objectives of the study.

The total 110 households were taken as the population of the qualitative study. For the study of factors of sericulture's 60 sericulture farmers were the population while 45 SHG women were the population for the case study. Yamane formula was adopted for calculating the sample size for both quantitative and qualitative study. The margin of error was taken as 0.05, i.e., 95% of Confidence Level. The pilot survey helped the researcher to ascertain the income of the farmers from the office of the Central Silk Board of India, Kathikund and identify the factors of increase in income of the farmers through sericulture for the period of 10 years, i.e., from 2009 to 2019. It also helped the researcher to identify and isolate the independent variables to formulate hypotheses.

The organised facilitation in sericulture comprised of five major factors or independent variables, i.e., infrastructure, managerial support, extension education, timely & affordable finance, and market linkage with remunerative price, which had led to improvement in the income (dependent variable) level of the farmers.

Descriptive statistics and interpretation of the qualitative data, such as, economic profile, occupation, literacy, various sources of income, landholding, expectations of the farmers have been presented through graphs, tables, charts and in discussions.

10. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

This study had three major objectives. With reference to the first objective, the following major causes of poverty in tribal areas were identified: i) Inadequate infrastructure (water scarcity, casual veterinary support), ii) Environmental degradation (deforestation, low underground water table, soil pollution), iii) Diminishing Indigenous Self-reliance (loss of confidence in agriculture as livelihood, loss of self-reliance, iv) Weakening of social institutions (disintegrating social cohesiveness, decadence of traditional leadership and social capital), v) Lack of appropriate education (the prevalent formal education looked delinked from local livelihood skills), vi) Poor Leadership (traditional, political, civil society), vii) Poor Governance and non-alignment of policies with local conditions (corruption, apathy, unsuitable policy, half-hearted implementation), viii) Lack of market linkage (unorganized agricultural marketing), ix) Inadequate adaptive skills and attitude, x) A vicious circle (hopelessness, poverty trap, low level equilibrium trap, maladaptive behaviour, and alcohol abuse).

In response to the second objective, this study has identified indigenous economic potentials of some agricultural crops, produce, services and artisan products, e.g., corn or maize, chilli, mustard, pig and goat rearing, bamboo products, etc. based on their indigeneity, low input cost (of water, fertilizer, and cold storage), relative non-perishability, high-end market demand, price, and regular demand. These crops were already produced locally, and they did not require much water. The local people

possessed the required skills. But inadequate market linkage of these agricultural produce and lack of awareness of the demands and prices have hindered the people to optimise technology, the natural and human resources in/of the area.

It also identified the following factors of success of sericulture: i) Management with professional aptitude (Silk Board of India, PPC, Jharkhand Government and PRADAN, an NGO for livelihood mission), ii) Availability of required Infrastructure (hatchery, testing equipments, healthy silk eggs), iii) Extension Education; dissemination of appropriate knowledge, training, handholding and guidance, iv) Timely and affordable finance, v) Market linkage with a remunerative price, vi) Timely and direct payment to the farmers account and vii) Spirit of social entrepreneurship.

Adjusted R-square of 0.839 and p-value of less than 0.05 of the main study indicated that there was high positive correlation between independent and dependent variables. The main hypothesis (Ha1) was therefore accepted. The adjusted R-square of 0.810 of case study also indicated high correlation between its independent and dependent variables. The significance level between 5% to 10% helped accept Ha2, that the role of development actors is critical at the start-up phase for the success of SHGs.

The people lived amidst natural environment and forest, and they had reasonable cultivable lands. They possessed reckonable skills in agriculture, artisan goods and services. The school dropout rate was high. Water scarcity was reported as the root cause of their problems and poverty. A closer look into the area also revealed that abundant potentials and opportunities existed indigenously, which awaited organised facilitation.

11. RESEARCH CONTRIBUTIONS

This study appeared to be the first of its kind for,

- It identified the major causes of poverty in tribal areas and what could work effectively to enhance the income of the farmers, taking some learning from the best practices in sericulture in the area.
- It explicated that indigenous self-reliance, ‘internal resources and forces’, ‘development from within’ model was more viable and sustainable than development by external aids or grants.
- It has demonstrated the factors of sericulture’s success in the area in supplementing the income of the farmers. Replication of such facilities and facilitation into other agricultural produce, services and artisan goods could similarly augment the income of the farmers.
- It has pointed out the urgency to address the problem of water scarcity and deforestation, without which tribal/rural development was near impossible.
- It has explained the importance of promoting self-help agencies, such as, village leadership, SHGs, development actors, NGOs, Self-help Group Promoting Institutions (SHPIs), and cooperative societies to achieve sustainable self-reliance.
- It has critically reviewed the formal education system and revealed that it needed reform vis-à-vis rural livelihood, for instance, inclusion of livelihood skills, ‘Aajeevika’, particularly in agriculture, in the school syllabus.
- It has expounded that transformation of some agricultural produce, artisan goods, and services from subsistence to commercial, would restore the confidence of the farmers in agriculture as livelihood and this paradigm shift was imperative to integrate tribal economy with the larger economy.

- Undertaking a case study on Start-up problems of SHGs in income generating activities it has shown the causes of failures of SHGs in the area.
- It has revealed how repositioning of rural and tribal economy would usher in opportunities for agro-entrepreneurship in tribal areas.
- This study underscored the relevance of 'smart village' in the area.

Theoretical Implications: “Theoretical implication is a newly found addition(s) to the existing theories or building materials for new theories” (Oni, 2018). Some findings of this study are confirmation of the existing research results, theoretical foundations, approaches, and experiments, such as, critique on prevalent education system, dysfunctional traditional leadership, general apathy of the administration and political leadership, poor governance, and impact environmental degradation on tribes. But this study appeared to be the first of its kind in this area. The results and findings have been reiterated with a specific view to economic transformation of the area. The major findings of this study have brought new dimension to the issues and objectives addressed in the study, namely.

i) Major causes of poverty in Tribal areas: As described in detail in paragraph 5.2, some of the causes might not look new. But this study has not only reiterated these causes but also has revealed new perspective to them, for instance, water scarcity for agriculture, need for water harvesting, the dearth of organized market for agricultural produce, lack of appropriate education, weakening of social institutions, non-alignment of government’s policies with local conditions, understanding development from the tribes’ perspective, and a vicious cycle of ‘poor agriculture-chronic poverty-maladaptive behaviours’.

ii) Identifying some indigenous economic potentials for transforming them from subsistence to commercial produce: Some existing reviewed literature had identified some indigenous economic potentials of their respective geographical areas, e.g., Shende (2010) identified goateries as a coping mechanism to address food insecurity among tribes in Maharashtra. NABARD (2020) also identified some indigenous potentials of the area in its potential linked credit plan for Dumka district. This study identifies some more indigenous potentials in agriculture, artisan goods and traditional services, like drummers, barbers, masseurs, etc., and cottage industry.

iii) Organized facilitation: This is the main finding of the study. In this study, the organized facilitation comprised of five facilities and facilitations, namely, infrastructure, managerial support, extension education, timely & affordable finance, and market linkage with a remunerative price. The rural and tribal areas have indigenous potentials, and the people possess native skills and labour force. But they need the above-mentioned organized facilitations to achieve success (enhance their income), as it had been demonstrated by the Central Sericulture Board of India in Kathikund. The effective best practices at CSBI, Kathikund can be called a discovery of a development paradigm in tribal areas.

12. LIMITATIONS OF THE RESEARCH

- It was difficult for the rural people to be accurate responding in numbers and in 1-7-point scale. The researcher had to use a few other references to assess certain numerical responses, especially their income. The people were not comfortable talking about their assets and wealth. They were reserved about giving critical views on the village leadership.

- Quite a few secondary data have been taken from census 2011, awaiting decadal census 2021. Although some recent data have been incorporated, the figures of 2011 were retained at many places for the sake of comparability.
- There was not much study on the economic potentials of the area, except the potential linked credit plan (PLP) of NABARD for the Dumka district.
- In-depth evaluation of Government scheme, being another involved study, was kept out of the primary scope of this study for the sake of focus on the main area of research. It could have given more perspectives to the factors of success or failure of development schemes for the tribal areas.
- No dedicated study on behaviour dimension of the people could be found in the existing literature. It could have been helpful to understand the causes of faulty behaviour of the people, if any, vis-à-vis the proposed solutions.
- Covid-19 restrictions coincided with the final stage of data collection, which disturbed some planned interviews with the Government officials and experts.

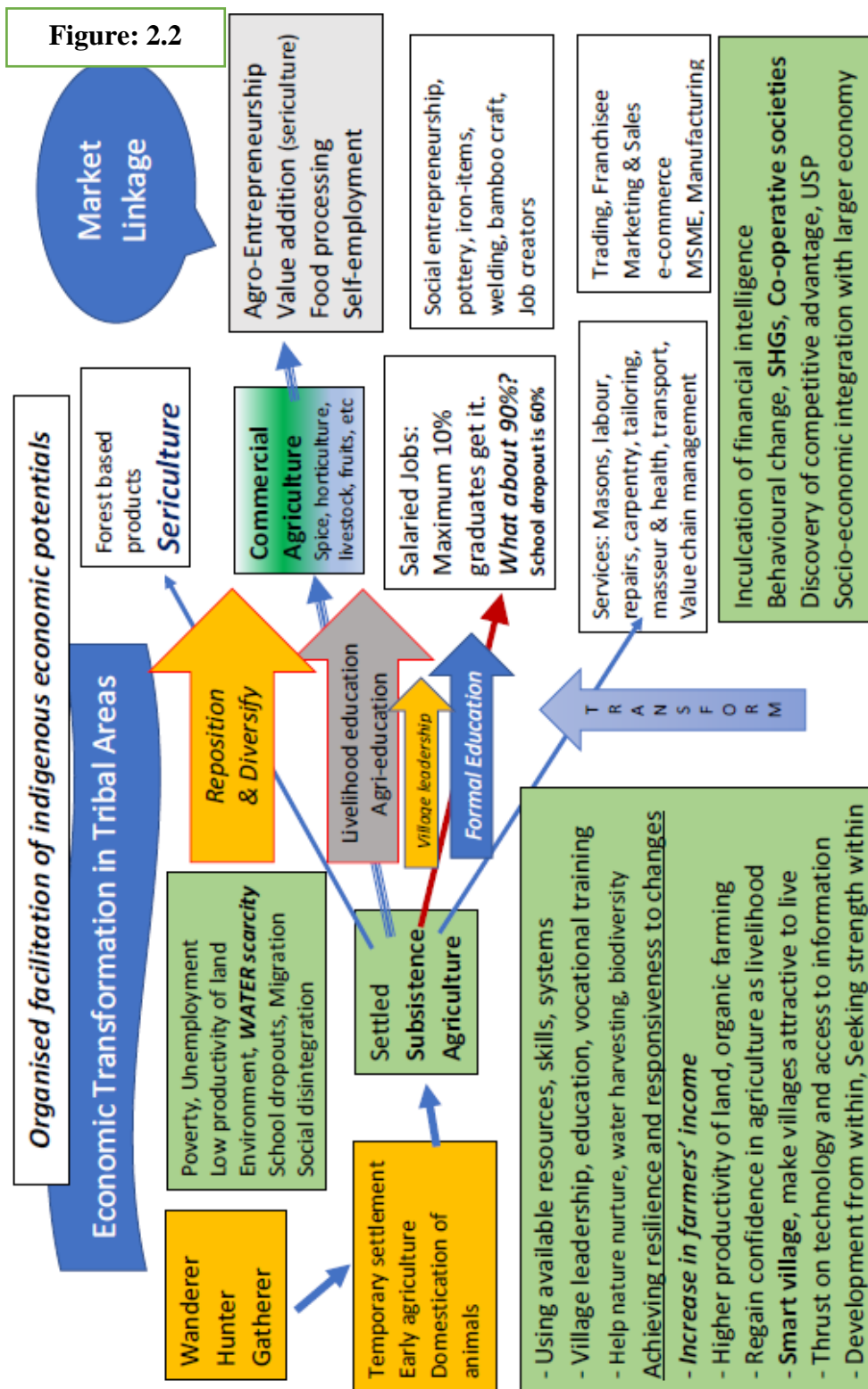
13. SCOPE FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

It was difficult to make derivations/inferences due to inadequate research available in this area on this topic. The researcher presumed that this study had opened avenues for research on a host of inter-connected subjects or topics, such as,

- Study on potential indigenous commercial crops along with soil testing.
- Research can be undertaken on suitable farming practices to enhance the productivity of the land considering the shrinking dispersed landholding of the people with generation.

- Considering the absence of organized agricultural marketing in the area, comprehensive research was required to establish and identify markets, demand-supply gap, price (leveraging), etc. so that the farmers reap benefits.
- The area, despite being a hilly area, water scarcity was the root cause of problems of the farmers – how watershed development and management could be improved and achieved in the area.
- How to make (re-) forestation effective in the area and ascertain revival of fauna and flora.
- Opportunities in agro-entrepreneurship / social entrepreneurship.
- Reorienting village leadership: traditional tribal self-governance, and Panchayat system – Organizational Development Intervention could improve the quality of life in rural/tribal areas.
- What is appropriate education in the tribal and rural areas? How to make vocational training and extension education effective.
- How self-help groups could work better. How SHPIs could become development actors.
- Behavioural pattern – how to address ‘faulty’ and maladaptive behaviour of the people, amending and making them suitable for agro-entrepreneurship.
- Why had many previous Government schemes not yielded desired results?
- There is a pressing need to undertake a study on how to effectively achieve integration of tribal economy with the larger / global economy.

[A Flowchart of the central thrust areas of the Research]



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