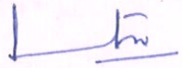




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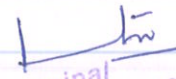
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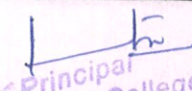
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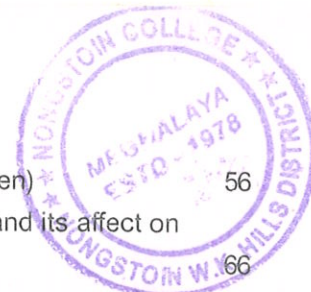
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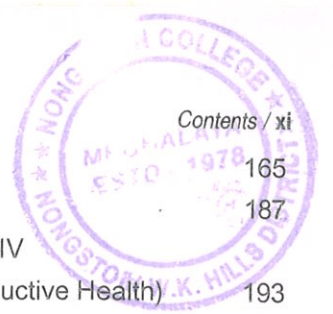
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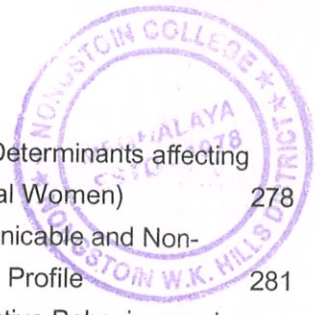
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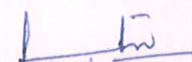


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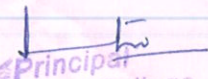

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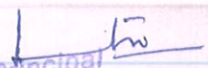
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Constraints and Challenges towards Tribal Upliftment in North-East India since Independence till date: A Review

**Dr. Trilochan Dash
Skhemborlin Wahlang**

Abstract

India is a land of various ethnic and tribal groups. Cultural diversity is the unique feature of North-East India exhibited by a large number of tribal communities in the region. Owing to ill-planned economic development policies, there is evidence of regional imbalance and backwardness in all spheres of life in the North-eastern States. Poverty, Lack of employment opportunities and aimless political process has resulted in gross dissatisfaction among the population. Ethnicity has been growing rapidly, and it has brought together the marginally differentiated ethnic groups as a strong united force, which continues to have frequent conflicts with the local governments on various issues of ethnic identity and independence. This is reflected in the complex heterogeneous Indian society where there are wide ranging differences in context to one's individual social affiliations. Though the tribes are not part of the discriminatory social order based on the caste system, yet they can be termed as groups of people who have undergone deprivation, exploitation and oppression from the non-tribals. There are 67.8 million scheduled tribal people with above 500 tribal communities which constitute 8.6 percent of India's population and in the State of Meghalaya Schedules Tribes constitute about 26.21 percent of the total population (Census 2011). To safeguard the rights and interests of the tribal people in India, the 'scheduled areas' were formulated under the Indian Constitution. There are also


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government reservations in educational and employment opportunities. The Indian Constitution envisaged bringing about development and progress among the tribal communities and further assimilation of these groups with mainstream Indian society. However in reality such accomplishments are very limited. Even larger tribal population has been victimized due to development induced displacement, modern economic forces and other socio-cultural factors.

The tribals face the problems related to land alienation, infiltration of the non-tribals in the tribal region, threatening to the cultural identity of the tribals and voluntary migration and resettlement due to development projects. The role of economy, politics and religion has also been considered as wider causes of the movements in the North-eastern states. Going beyond the colonial and anti-colonial theme to explore the world of different tribal groups and their social history, The objectives of the paper is to enhance understanding of the social and institutional dimensions of delivering development programs in tribal areas of India, and to identify practical approaches and methods to enhance the delivery, governance and social inclusiveness of services that are the highest priority for tribal people.

Key Terms: Tribes, ethnic identity, tribal programmes

Introduction:

India being a multiracial country with 573 scheduled tribes living in different parts of India speaking more than 270 languages and maintaining exclusive identities (Pathak, 2001). There are 67.8 million scheduled tribal people with above 500 tribal communities which constitute 8.6 percent of India's population (Census, 2011). Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and denotified tribes constitute the weakest section of India's population, from the ecological, economic and educational angles. They constitute the matrix of India's poverty. Though the tribals are the sons of the same soil and the citizens of the same country, they born and grow as the children of the nature. From the historical point of view, they have been subjected to the worst



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The Lyngngams of Meghalaya

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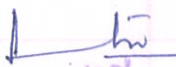
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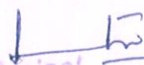

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Authors: Melvil Pereira, Director, NESRC, Guwahati

Jyotikona Chetia, Research Associate, NESRC, Guwahati

H. Witting Mawsor, Assistant Professor, Nongstoin College,
Nongstoin

Kyntiewbianglin Mawsor, Lecturer, Sacred Heart Higher
Secondary School, Mawlai

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