

The Role of Indigenous Knowledge in Effective Forestry, Biodiversity Management and Livelihood Security in Tribal Communities in Madhya Pradesh

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The objectives of the research:

- (1) Study on the role of indigenous knowledge in conserving biodiversity in the tribal communities under different socio-ecological and socio-economic system in Madhya Pradesh.
- (2) Study on effectiveness of traditional conservation of natural resources in biodiversity management and livelihood practices in the contemporary forest management in tribal communities under study.
- (3) Study on the role of indigenous knowledge system for biodiversity management and livelihood security for policy implication in the present forest systems.

The study was conducted in the six villages in each of three Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) viz. The Baigas, The Shariyas and the Bhariya in Dindori, Sheopur and Patakot of Chhindwara in Madhya Pradesh

The methodology adopted was selection of the Field site, sampling of the households (20% Purposeful random sampling, Semi structure structured questionnaire, Interviews, Participatory techniques and Personal observations.

The major findings are:

1. All the primitive tribal groups conserve the bio diversities through diverse uses of various species, religio-cultural practices and socio-cultural traditions and in health purposes.
2. They have developed the symbiotic relationship with the forests evolving various strategies to conserve the biodiversity of the forests through social traditions and their life-cycle rituals.
3. The sacred groves found in three PTGs, which have the areas protected, preserved and conserved with religious affiliation and having varied species conserved for different utility and purposes
4. Conserving the bio-diversities they attempt for livelihood security in the small and micro entrepreneurship
5. In the policy implication the research suggests the participatory process with institutional mechanism in bio-diversity conservation for livelihood security in decentralized governance.