



## SOCIAL INJUSTICE AMONG TRIBALS IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR: AN ANALYTICAL STUDY

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The aim of the present study is to explore the socio-economic conditions and causes of social injustice among tribal communities in the Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir. In this study, the researcher sheds light on their historical marginalisation and the compound challenges they face today. The result of the study reveals that some factors, such as historical injustices, armed conflict, limited access to resources, and barriers to quality education and healthcare, make the vulnerability of these communities evident. To uplift them, a multifaceted approach is imperative, involving deeper exploration of historical and regional factors, empowerment through cultural preservation, sustainable resource management, and the promotion of equitable representation in governance. This study highlights the importance of comprehensive and sustainable interventions in economic development, education, healthcare, cultural preservation, and social inclusion, all aimed at fostering the socio-economic well-being of tribal communities in the region. Additionally, the study highlights the need for cautious considerations when including new communities within the Scheduled Tribe category, ensuring that eligibility criteria and socio-economic conditions are carefully assessed to prevent potential injustices and protect the intended benefits for marginalised groups. Ultimately, the objective of reservation is to rectify historical injustices and empower marginalised communities while simultaneously preserving their unique cultural identities.

**Keywords:** *Social Injustice, Inequality, Tribal of Poonch, Jammu and Kashmir.*



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### 1. INTRODUCTION

In the Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, tribal communities face significant challenges in the areas of education and health. These challenges hinder their overall development and well-being. In terms of education, tribal communities in Poonch district often lack access to quality education facilities. The scarcity of schools and educational infrastructure in remote

tribal areas limits the opportunities for children to receive a proper education. This, coupled with a lack of trained teachers and resources, further exacerbates the problem. As a result, the literacy rate among tribal communities in Poonch district remains low, hindering their ability to break the cycle of poverty and improve their livelihoods.

Additionally, health challenges persist in tribal communities in Poonch district. Limited access to healthcare facilities, particularly in remote areas, poses significant barriers to receiving timely and adequate medical attention. Lack of proper sanitation facilities and awareness about hygiene practises further contribute to the prevalence of diseases and health issues among tribal populations. Moreover, the absence of healthcare professionals and a shortage of medical supplies exacerbate the already-existing health challenges. Addressing these challenges among tribal communities in Poonch district requires a comprehensive approach. It is essential to prioritise the establishment of quality educational institutions in remote areas, ensuring the availability of trained teachers and necessary resources. Additionally, improving healthcare infrastructure, increasing access to healthcare facilities, and raising awareness about hygiene practises are crucial steps towards addressing health challenges. Collaboration between the government, non-governmental organizations, and local communities is key to implementing effective solutions and improving the education and health outcomes for tribal populations in Poonch district.

## 2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

**Mushtaq, (2023)** conducted a study on "Issues and Challenges of Tribals in the Context of the Healthcare System in Jammu and Kashmir." In this study, the researcher found a multitude of issues and challenges that these tribal communities encounter, leading to a deteriorating healthcare status. This study emphasises the urgent need for special attention from the Indian government and the state government of Jammu and Kashmir. This attention should be directed towards raising awareness of government policies and schemes among tribal communities and ensuring the proper implementation of healthcare facilities, especially in border areas, to address the specific needs of tribal peoples, notably the Gujjar Bakarwal population in the Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir.

**Prajapati, (2023)** A study on "Educational Status of Scheduled Tribes in India: Issues and Challenges" In India, most scheduled tribes live in exclusive remote, hilly, and forest areas. Society is facing geographic isolation, social exclusion, emotional challenges, economic disadvantages, and cultural rigidity. Despite numerous government efforts through commissions and committees, tribal communities still lag behind in education compared to scheduled castes, with many states reporting literacy rates below the national average. Researchers suggest that policymakers and stakeholders should prioritise holistic education addressing social, cultural, mental,

emotional, and financial aspects to reduce tribal student dropouts. Additionally, recruiting tribal faculty members and integrating tribes into mainstream society can promote learning and idea exploration among tribal communities.

**Rambooshan Tiwari\* and Shubham N. Dixit, (2023)** conducted a study on "Trends and patterns of crime against scheduled tribes in India." In this study, we find out that Scheduled tribes in India make up approximately 8.6 percent of the national population and are geographically dispersed with diverse cultures. They have faced historical domination and discrimination, and despite constitutional protections, they remain vulnerable to crimes against them. This study examines the incidence of such crimes in the 21st century, using indicators like changes in the number of incidents, crime rates, and the share of these crimes in total crime. Overall, the study finds a decline in most indicators of crime against scheduled tribes during this period. However, recent data from 2020 highlights spatial disparities, with Hindi-speaking states being particularly vulnerable to such crimes. And researchers concluded that states with high incidents of general crimes also tend to have higher crimes against STs, indicating the need for a holistic approach to crime prevention. Focusing on preventing all types of crime can ultimately help reduce crimes against STs and foster a more just society. conclude that in a short and simple word.

**Anil Kumar K. (2021)** conducted a study on "Contemporary Problems of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India." According to the findings of this study, people in the SC and ST categories are members of the underprivileged community. These tribes are facing lots of problems and challenges related to forest land grazing, mining, financial crises, social stigma, and a lack of education. The results of the study reveal that poverty and joblessness are the major issues in these communities. Despite constitutional provisions and efforts to eradicate discrimination and poverty, these communities still encounter issues such as land alienation, displacement, inadequate healthcare, and limited access to education and employment opportunities. The conclusion of the study reveals that effective implementation of policies and programs, along with strengthening relevant departments, is crucial to addressing these challenges and promoting inclusive development.

**Chandar, (2020)** conducted a study on "a critical analysis of the status of schedule tribes." This research focuses on the detailed examination of the existence and sociological status of two specific communities residing in the Chenab valley, Pir-Panchal areas, the Kandi belt of Jammu division, and some in

the Kashmir division. These communities face significant social exclusion in the region. In the state of Jammu and Kashmir, as per the 2011 Census, there are 7% Scheduled Castes and 12% Scheduled Tribes among the total population of 1.25 crore. Unfortunately, these communities lack political empowerment and suffer from lower social prestige when compared to other communities in the region.

**N, (2017)** carried out a study on "An analysis of atrocities against scheduled caste and scheduled tribe populations in India." This research study examines the persistent issue of caste-based discrimination in India despite constitutional protections, equal rights, and affirmative action policies. It focuses on the rising rate of registered cases of atrocities against scheduled castes and scheduled tribes (SCs and STs). The paper highlights that SCs and STs still face various forms of physical and sexual violence, often perpetrated by individuals from upper-caste backgrounds. Despite legal safeguards, the paper underscores the urgent need to address and combat this ongoing problem of caste-based discrimination and violence against marginalised communities.. carried out a study on "An analysis of atrocities against scheduled caste and scheduled tribe populations in India." This research study examines the persistent issue of caste-based discrimination in India despite constitutional protections, equal rights, and affirmative action policies. It focuses on the rising rate of registered cases of atrocities against scheduled castes and scheduled tribes (SCs and STs). The paper highlights that SCs and STs still face various forms of physical and sexual violence, often perpetrated by individuals from upper-caste backgrounds. Despite legal safeguards, the paper underscores the urgent need to address and combat this ongoing problem of caste-based discrimination and violence against marginalised communities.

**Gawas, (2015)** conducted a study on "Law and social justice for scheduled tribes vis-à-vis the Constitution of India and social inclusion in Goa." In this study, we find out that this paper addresses the lack of tribal development and legal attention in Goa and proposes a conceptually inclusive framework. The research methodology involves observational assessments. The study surveyed 50 households in Tiswadi-Taluka, North Goa District, revealing significant problems faced by tribal communities. Approximately 60% of the tribal population is in a precarious socio-economic condition, reflecting low social-economic development. The paper also examines the constitutional rights of Scheduled Tribes in the state, focusing on their access to social justice and its implications. Additionally, it investigates the state's efforts to formulate welfare policies for tribal people through relevant enactments. Secondary data from

various sources, such as books, articles, journals, newspapers, and data from the Directorate of Tribal Welfare, Government of Goa, were used to prepare this paper.

**Suri, (2014)** conducted a study on the "Impact of armed conflict on the seasonal migratory practises of Gujjar Bakerwal tribes in Jammu and Kashmir." The Gujjars and Bakerwals, the third-largest community in Jammu and Kashmir, make up 8.1% of the population. Traditionally nomadic, these communities have roamed the Pir Panjal Mountain ranges and beyond with their livestock, adapting to changing altitudes with the seasons. However, increased threats from terrorists have pushed many to abandon their nomadic lifestyles for the safety of settled plains. Simultaneously, conflicts have led to the closure of pastures and forests, causing fodder shortages and intensifying their challenges. This situation has profoundly disrupted their age-old migratory patterns, illustrating how armed conflicts can have complex and widespread effects on vulnerable populations.

**Azad Ahmad Andrabi, (2013)** studied on "Development of Education for Scheduled Tribes in Jammu and Kashmir." This researcher found that the literacy rate and education level among the Scheduled Tribes of Jammu and Kashmir lag significantly behind the national average. This disparity can be attributed to pervasive poverty and the absence of essential infrastructure, both of which hinder access to education. Despite various educational programmes and development initiatives, there has been little improvement in the educational outcomes and overall condition of the tribal population in the region. And researchers suggest that efforts from the government, nonprofits, and agencies are essential to accelerate educational development for the Scheduled Tribes in Jammu and Kashmir.

**Gautam, (2013)** A study on "Education of Scheduled Tribes in India: Schemes and Programmes" In this study, the researcher found that India is a diverse country with various cultures, religions, languages, and racial backgrounds. Scheduled Tribes (STs) are a historically disadvantaged group, and despite efforts to promote education since independence, their literacy rates, especially among females, remain lower than the national average. Education for ST children is crucial for their holistic development. This paper discusses commendable programmes and schemes aimed at promoting education among STs in India. The results of the study reveal that addressing illiteracy among Scheduled Tribes is a complex issue that requires a concerted effort from various stakeholders. While government programmes are essential, their success hinges on

## 6. THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF TRIBAL IN POONCH DISTRICT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

raising awareness, adapting to local conditions, and ensuring administrative commitment. By working collaboratively, society can take meaningful steps towards eliminating the root cause of backwardness and promoting the educational advancement of STs in our country.

**Sofi, (2013)** study conducted on "Paradox of Tribal Development: A Case of Gujjars and Bakarwals of Jammu & Kashmir (India)" Researchers found that despite constitutional provisions and decades of policies, approaches, and significant financial investments in the social, economic, educational, political, administrative, health, and sanitational development of tribal people in our nation, many of these efforts have fallen short of expectations and have often failed to achieve their intended outcomes.

**Dunn, (1993)** conducted a study on "Gender Inequality in Education and Employment in the Scheduled Castes and Tribes of India." In this study, the researcher found that in India, women in disadvantaged scheduled castes and tribes face double discrimination due to their minority status and a male-dominated society. This study shows that these women have limited access to education and jobs compared to men, based on Indian Census data. However, there's hope. When these groups are more developed economically and educationally, the gender gap narrows. So, improving education and economic opportunities can reduce gender inequality among these marginalised women.

### 3. OBJECTIVES

- To know the socio-economic status of tribal in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir.
- To know the cause of injustice/ inequality among tribal in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir

### 4. RESEARCH QUESTION

- What are the socio-economic conditions of tribal in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir?
- What is the cause of inequality among tribal in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir?

### 5. METHODOLOGY

In the present research, the researcher selected secondary sources of data for analysing the socio-economic status and causes of injustice among tribals in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir.

These challenges often result from a lack of access to resources, limited opportunities, and marginalization. Economically, tribal communities in Poonch district face significant obstacles. The majority of them rely on subsistence agriculture, which is often affected by factors such as erratic weather patterns, inadequate irrigation facilities, and limited access to markets. The lack of alternative income-generating activities and limited job opportunities further contribute to their economic vulnerability and poverty. Education plays a crucial role in determining the socio-economic status of tribal communities. However, they often face barriers to accessing quality education. Limited availability of schools and educational infrastructure, a shortage of trained teachers, and a lack of resources hinder their educational development. This, in turn, limits their prospects for better employment opportunities and upward social mobility. Healthcare disparities also impact the socio-economic status of tribal communities in Poonch district. Limited access to healthcare facilities, especially in remote areas, leads to inadequate medical attention and a higher prevalence of diseases. The lack of awareness about healthcare practises and the limited availability of essential healthcare services further exacerbate health challenges among tribal populations. This affects their overall well-being and productivity.

Addressing the socio-economic status of tribal communities in Poonch district requires comprehensive interventions. It is essential to focus on improving livelihood opportunities through initiatives that promote skill development, entrepreneurship, and access to markets. Enhancing educational infrastructure, ensuring the availability of trained teachers, and providing scholarships and incentives can help improve educational outcomes for tribal children. Additionally, improving healthcare infrastructure, increasing access to healthcare services, and raising awareness about health and hygiene practises are crucial steps towards uplifting the socio-economic status of tribal communities. Collaboration between the government, non-governmental organizations, and local communities is vital to implementing sustainable solutions. By addressing economic, educational, and healthcare disparities, we can work towards empowering tribal communities in Poonch district and promoting their overall socio-economic development.

Moreover, the above discussion highlights some of the key challenges faced by tribal communities in the Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir regarding

their socio-economic status. It emphasises the economic vulnerability, limited access to quality education, and healthcare disparities experienced by these communities. While the discussion provides a comprehensive overview of the issues, there are a few critical points to consider.

Firstly, the discussion could have delved deeper into the underlying causes of these challenges. Historical factors have played a significant role in the marginalisation of tribal communities. The impacts of armed conflict and political instability in the region could also be explored, as they have further exacerbated socio-economic disparities. Besides that, the study highlighted the role of cultural preservation and empowerment in tribal communities. Recognizing and respecting their cultural practices, language, and traditional knowledge can contribute to their overall well-being and socio-economic development. It is important to acknowledge that tribal communities have unique perspectives and strengths that can be attached for their own benefit. Additionally, the discussion could have addressed the need for sustainable development approaches that prioritise the environment and natural resources. Many tribal communities have a deep connection with the land and rely on it for their livelihoods. Ensuring their participation in decision-making processes regarding resource management and promoting sustainable practises can enhance their socio-economic status in the long run. Lastly, it is crucial to emphasise the importance of social inclusion and equitable representation for tribal communities. Policies and programmes should aim to empower these communities, ensuring their active participation in local governance and decision-making. This can help address the power imbalances that contribute to their marginalisation and promote a more inclusive society.

## **7. Cause of Injustice/ Inequality among Tribal in Poonch District of Jammu and Kashmir**

The injustice and inequality experienced by tribal communities in the Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir can be attributed to several interconnected factors:

**7.1 Historical Marginalization:** Tribal communities have historically faced marginalisation and discrimination, which has resulted in their exclusion from mainstream society. This social boycott has limited their access to resources, opportunities, decision-making processes, etc.

**7.2 Land and Resource Disputes:** Land and resource disputes have been a significant cause of injustice and inequality among tribal communities. Many tribal communities in Poonch district have struggled to retain

ownership and control over their inherited lands and resources. This has resulted in their displacement, loss of livelihoods, and further marginalization..

**7.3 Limited Access to Education:** The lack of access to quality education has continued the cycle of inequality among tribal communities. Limited educational opportunities, inadequate infrastructure, and a shortage of trained teachers hinder their ability to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for socio-economic development.

**7.4 Healthcare Disparities:** Tribal communities often face challenges in accessing adequate healthcare services. Limited availability of healthcare facilities, a lack of trained medical professionals, and inadequate health infrastructure contribute to disparities in health outcomes, further exacerbating existing inequalities.

**7.5 Cultural and Social Stereotypes:** Cultural and social stereotypes about tribal communities contribute to their marginalisation and discrimination. These categorizations often lead to their exclusion from mainstream society, limiting their opportunities for social and economic advancement.

**7.6 Seasonal school or mobile school:** schools or institutions play an important role in education, especially regarding tribal communities. At the time of seasonal migration, the majority of the landscape Some people migrate from one place to another, but the education of their child is totally disturbed due to the lack of permanent teachers, the lack of educational infrastructure, the lack of proper usage of uniforms, books, buildings, food, and some basic facilities such as transport facilities, water, electricity, network connections, etc.

The inclusion of a new elite community is a social injustice in reservation. Justice G.D. Sharma submitted a report to the government for the inclusion of some other communities in the Schedule tribe, which is also an injustice towards reservation among the Gujjar bakerwal community in Jammu and Kashmir.

The concept of Scheduled Tribes was introduced in the Constitution of India under Article 366 (25) and Article 342. These provisions empower the President to specify tribes or tribal communities as Scheduled Tribes for a particular state or union territory after consultation with the concerned state government. The list of Scheduled Tribes is state-specific and can only be modified through an Act of Parliament. The Gujjar bakerwal community has been on the road for his justice for about a year, and his demand is to roll back the G.D. Sharma commission. Reservation within reservation is not acceptable, scheduling tribes to elite classes is illegal and

unconstitutional, and the report was framed in the ac room without mentioning the ground reality. Some people that are demanded for reservations have already enjoyed the reservation, like Pahari-speaking people (PSB), others from backward classes (OBC), rural backward areas (RBA), actual line of control (ALC), and economically weaker sections (EWS). This criterion has been established through various reports and committees and is aimed at recognising and protecting the rights and interests of these communities. The President, in consultation with the state governments, has issued nine orders specifying Scheduled Tribes for different states and union territories. These orders are subject to revision and amendment through parliamentary legislation. It is important to note that the inclusion of a community as a Scheduled Tribe in one state does not automatically make it a Scheduled Tribe in another state. The process of specifying Scheduled Tribes is ongoing, with the aim of ensuring social justice, representation, and socio-economic development for these communities.

The provisions in the Constitution provide a framework for recognising and addressing the unique needs and challenges faced by Scheduled Tribes in different regions of India. Moreover, these causes of injustice and inequality require comprehensive and holistic approaches. It necessitates addressing land rights issues, promoting inclusive governance and political representation, improving access to quality education and healthcare services, and challenging cultural and social stereotypes. Collaborative efforts involving government agencies, civil society organizations, and tribal communities themselves are essential to bring about meaningful change and ensure justice and equality for tribal communities in Poonch district. However, the inclusion of new communities without proper consideration of their eligibility and adherence to the criteria mentioned above can undermine the purpose of reservation and dilute its benefits for marginalised and disadvantaged communities. The demand to roll back the inclusion of certain communities, as raised by the Gujjar Bakerwal community in Jammu and Kashmir, highlights the concerns of reservation within reservation and the potential injustice it can create. It is crucial to ensure that any modifications or additions to the Scheduled Tribe category are done in a fair and transparent manner, taking into account the ground reality and the socio-economic conditions of the communities involved. The process should involve proper consultation, consideration of relevant reports and committees, and adherence to constitutional provisions. The aim of reservation is to address historical injustices and provide opportunities for social justice, representation, and socio-economic development for marginalised communities. Any

changes or additions to the Scheduled Tribe category should align with this objective and not result in the exclusion or marginalisation of communities that are already benefiting from reservations or dilute the benefits for those who genuinely require

## 8. Review Based Discussion on Social Injustice and cause of inequality among tribal in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir

The studies and research mentioned above collectively shed light on the significant challenges and issues faced by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India, particularly in regions like Jammu and Kashmir and across the country. Despite constitutional provisions, affirmative action policies, and government initiatives aimed at improving their socio-economic and educational status, these marginalised communities continue to grapple with a multitude of problems.

**8.1. Economic Disparities:** Poverty is a persistent and widespread issue among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SCs and STs) in India, resulting from a complex web of socio-economic challenges. The challenges they face include limited access to land and resources due to historical injustices, government policies affecting forest-based livelihoods, financial crises exacerbated by a lack of formal credit, high reliance on vulnerable traditional livelihoods, and chronic unemployment and underemployment. Moreover, social exclusion and discrimination in access to public services and opportunities further compound the economic disparities.

**8.2. Educational Disparities:** Educational disparities persist among Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes in India, with lower literacy rates, particularly among females. Despite government efforts to promote education, these disparities endure. This ongoing challenge underscores the need for more effective and inclusive educational initiatives to bridge the gap and ensure equal access to quality education for these marginalised communities.

**8.3. Social Exclusion:** Social stigma and discrimination plague Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes, hindering their integration into mainstream society. This discrimination is compounded for women, who face both minority status and gender-based prejudice. Addressing these deep-seated biases is essential for fostering a more inclusive and equitable society.

**8.4. Impact of Armed Conflict:** Armed conflicts in regions like Jammu and Kashmir have disrupted the traditional ways of life and livelihoods of tribes like Gujjars Bakerwal, forcing them to abandon their nomadic lifestyle and settle in safer areas.

**8.5. Caste-Based Discrimination:** Caste-based discrimination persists despite constitutional protections, resulting in physical and sexual violence against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. This ongoing issue highlights the urgent need for comprehensive efforts to combat and eliminate such forms of discrimination and violence as the Asifa Bano rape case in Kathua, Jammu.

**8.6. Lack of Political Empowerment:** The lack of political empowerment and lower social prestige experienced by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SCs and STs) in India is a significant concern and reflects the challenges these communities face in their socio-political development.

Moreover, the lack of political empowerment and lower social prestige are vital not only for the socio-economic progress of SCs and STs but also for creating a more inclusive and just society in India. It requires a concerted effort from government agencies, civil society organizations, and the broader community to challenge and change deeply entrenched prejudices and practices. Furthermore, these studies collectively underscore the need for a multi-faceted approach to address the challenges faced by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India. This approach should involve effective implementation of policies, raising awareness, adapting programmes to local conditions, and ensuring administrative commitment. Additionally, efforts to reduce poverty, improve access to education, and combat discrimination are essential to promoting inclusive development and social justice for these marginalised communities.

The injustice and inequality experienced by tribal communities in the Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir can be attributed to several interconnected factors. These include historical marginalization, land and resource disputes, limited access to quality education, healthcare disparities, cultural and social stereotypes, and challenges related to seasonal schooling for migratory communities. Moreover, the inclusion of new communities without proper consideration of their eligibility and adherence to the criteria for Scheduled Tribes can lead to issues of reservation within reservations, potentially undermining the purpose of affirmative action. Addressing these issues requires comprehensive and holistic approaches, involving actions such as securing land rights, promoting inclusive governance and political representation, improving access to education and healthcare, and challenging cultural biases and stereotypes. Collaborative efforts among government agencies, civil society organizations, and tribal communities are essential to bring about meaningful

change and ensure justice and equality for tribal communities in Poonch district.

The initial discussion provides a comprehensive overview of the socio-economic challenges faced by tribal communities in the Poonch district; further exploration of underlying causes, cultural preservation, sustainable development approaches, and social inclusion would enrich the critical analysis of these issues. By addressing these aspects, comprehensive solutions can be developed to uplift the socio-economic status of tribal communities and promote a more equitable society. The inclusion of new elite communities in the Scheduled Tribe category can be seen as a social injustice in the context of reservation. The concept of Scheduled Tribes was introduced in the Constitution of India to recognise and protect the rights of communities with primitive traits, distinctive cultures, geographical isolation, shyness of contact, and backwardness. When considering the inclusion of new communities within the Scheduled Tribe category, it is crucial to do so in a fair, transparent, and consultative manner. This should ensure that the criteria for Scheduled Tribes, which aim to address historical injustices and promote socio-economic development, are adhered to without leading to the exclusion or marginalisation of existing beneficiaries or the dilution of benefits for those in genuine need. The goal is to create a more just and equitable society for all marginalized communities..

## 9. Conclusion

The present study explores the socio-economic condition and causes of social injustice among tribal people in Jammu and Kashmir. In this study, the researcher identifies that the socio-economic challenges faced by tribal communities in the Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir are rooted in historical marginalisation and compounded by factors such as armed conflict, limited access to resources, and a lack of quality education and healthcare. To uplift these communities, it is imperative to delve deeper into the historical and regional factors contributing to their vulnerability, empower them through cultural preservation, involve them in sustainable resource management, and ensure equitable representation and participation in governance. Addressing these multidimensional challenges necessitates comprehensive and sustainable interventions that prioritized economic development, education, healthcare, cultural preservation, and social inclusion, ultimately fostering the socio-economic well-being of tribal communities in the region.

Moreover, the injustice and inequality experienced by tribal communities in the Poonch

district of Jammu and Kashmir stem from historical marginalization, land and resource disputes, limited access to quality education and healthcare, cultural stereotypes, challenges related to seasonal schooling, and the inclusion of new communities within the Scheduled Tribe category. These multifaceted issues necessitate comprehensive and holistic approaches that address land rights, promote inclusive governance, improve access to education and healthcare, challenge cultural biases, and ensure equitable representation. Collaboration between government agencies, civil society organizations, and tribal communities is essential to bring about meaningful change and ensure justice and equality for tribal communities.

However, the inclusion of new communities within the Scheduled Tribe category should be done carefully, adhering to eligibility criteria and considering socio-economic conditions to prevent potential injustices or dilution of benefits meant for the marginalized. The ultimate goal of reservation is to rectify historical injustices and empower marginalised communities for socio-economic development while preserving their unique cultural identities. The conclusion of the study reveals that the socio-economic conditions and causes of social injustice are the deeply rooted historical marginalisation of these communities and the contemporary challenges they face, exacerbated by armed conflict, limited access to resources, and barriers to quality education and healthcare. To uplift these communities, a multifaceted approach is imperative, encompassing a deeper exploration of historical and regional factors, empowerment through cultural preservation, sustainable resource management, and the promotion of equitable representation in governance.

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