

Social Life of the Nomadic Dhangar Tribe A Sociological Study

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Introduction:

There are 800 main castes and 5000 sub-castes in India. Caste system has existed in India for 3000 years. In the caste system consisting of four categories namely Brahmin, Regional, Vaishya, Shudra, Brahmin is considered sacred in Hindu Dharma Shastra. Carpenters, chambhars, barbers, potters, washermen, goldsmiths are called Balutedars. Indian history mentions many nomadic and freed castes. Ghisadi, Dombari, Kaikadi, Vanjari, Dhangar, many similar tribes living a nomadic life are widely found in India. Each of them has a fixed occupation and we can see that they earn their livelihood by doing their occupation. In India, the state power and republic belonged to the herdsmen. In the 18th century, the Holkar dynasty had created an influence of its power in North India. Maharashtra is divided into four regions namingly, West Maharashtra, Konkan, Vidarbha, and Marathwada. In those regions, the number of tribals and nomadic tribes varies. A large number is seen in Vidarbha, while Bhils, Thakars, Katkars and similar tribes are seen in large numbers among the tribals. The Pardhi, Mahadev, Koli tribe is found in large numbers in Marathwada. We can see that the folk life of all these nomads is different in those regions. This is why the scholar has chosen folk life and social scientific study of Nomadic tribals as a subject for study.

A) Objective of the Research:

1. To study the folk life of the nomadic Dhangar tribe
2. To study the social life of the nomadic Dhangar tribe.
3. To study the caste panchayat of the nomadic Dhangar tribe.

B) Reason for study selection:

The nomadic free tribe population is large in all the provinces of Maharashtra and it is neglected. Among the neglected tribes, Dhangar is a large tribe in Maharashtra. They still wander from village to village with their goats and sheep for sustenance. The purpose of this research is to try to bring them into the mainstream.

Research Methods:

For the present study, 'Folk life of nomadic Dhangar tribe is a social scientific study and secondary source method has been adopted for this study. The present study is a sociological study of the nomadic Dhangar tribe in Maharashtra and the research materials required for this study are reference books, newspapers Maharashtra Gadget internet fortnightly as well as different national and international journals.

The history of Dhangars goes back to ancient times. The culture of animal husbandry is the second and very important stage in the development of human culture. Although the third stage of agricultural culture was reached later with the discovery of agriculture, the Dhangars continued to stick to animal husbandry in large numbers. Dhangar culture which is a boon to the Indian agricultural culture is great. They have to take care of the goats and sheep and roam the wild during the day. At night they have to put the goats and sheep in the pen and sleep in the field. We can see that the culture has been faithfully preserved. The Dhangar people are rustic, ignorant, tribal, hardworking, and superstitious people who are honest but backward in terms of education, so it is equally important to bring them into the stream of education and destroy their ignorance and poverty. If superstitions are to be removed, education should be widely spread among them.

Social Status of Dhangar Society:

As a weak and marginalized section of the Indian society, the people of Denotified and nomadic tribes are mentioned. The only thing that befell the tribal people was that they had to wander around constantly carrying the baggage on their backs to feed themselves. Therefore, nomadic castes and tribes have remained backward compared to other weak groups, so it is said for the Dhangars that "धनगर माझं नाव शिव्या देतो सारा गाव" ("Anyone can abuse me as i am only a tribal".) means that this tribe does not have any kind of self respect in this system. Many times it is disregarded. He was teased, and insulted many times by others. Yet the battle of existence in their life has to be fought. We can see the social life of the Dhangar community through many Dhangar songs and *ovyas* which give freedom to the feelings expressed in their minds.

Cultural Status of Dhangar Society:

Nomadic castes and tribes are by birth anachronistic. Vaghya-Murli, Gauri, Gosavi, Nandiwale, Potraj, Bahrupi, Kolhati, Gopal Garudi, Jogati, Vasudev, Dhangar, Bharadi, Gandhari, Makadwale, Chitra, Kadis, Kalsutri, Bahuli Wale, Pangul and many artists go to different regions of Maharashtra to exhibit their art. Dhangar community is a wandering community following sheep, their culture and way of life is full of characteristics practices. Dhangar is an ancient caste and it is a tribal wild caste. This has been proved by research. The Dhangar community is still not getting the benefits of the concessions of the community. It is still fighting for justice. India has a population of around 16 crore members of Dhangar tribe.

Dhangar community has a population of 1 crore in Maharashtra. Dhangar society is reflected in the literature of Dhangar people. People of Dhangar tribe live in poverty. But they live happily together. They are blessed with beauty as a gift from nature. They are familiar with both nature's capriciousness and maya. Dhangar society is seen living a happy life by benefiting from the strength and spiritual power of creation. In the mountains of Maharashtra, we can see that they live in different places. Due to the specific terrain, their lifestyles are different. However, even in their struggling lives, they find it joyous.

Educational Status of Dhangar Society:

The children of Dhangar shepherds, who are wandering with their families for about eight months in a year, have a great opportunity for education. Therefore, the percentage of literacy in Dhangar society does not seem to have increased significantly. Education is the pursuit of knowledge. Today there is a curiosity to get education in the lower levels of the society. But while getting education, the children of the nomadic community have to face many problems. The shepherd community does not have a place in any village or suburb. Since they are constantly on the move, the question of which school to enroll is faced by the shepherd. After enrolling in the school, one does not know how long they will stay in that village. When the food supply in the village runs out, one has to find another village. When the monsoon starts, one has to stop at any village as a rest village. The child's name is registered in the school of that village. They can't go to school because they don't have a stable residence.

Economic Status of Dhangar Society:

On the face of it, the people of Dhangar community seem to be economically developed, but the economic situation of many people seems to be in a bad state. If you look at the picture of Dhangar society in India, only 1 percent of Dhangar society is rich. The rest are seen living a life of poverty.

Summary:

1. People of the Dhangar community are not seen celebrating festivals in the traditional manner as before.
2. The Dhangar society appears to have moved away from some superstitions.
3. Dhangar society conducts yatra in the name of Khandoba, Biroba, but at the time of marriage, dowry is not demanded from the bride.
4. The economic situation appears to be backward but the level of education has increased.
5. In the Dhangar tribe importance was given to the sub-caste earlier but now gatherings are organized to bring the sub-castes under one flag.
6. The children of the Dhangar community have started getting education, so their confidence has increased, they are active for their political rights.

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