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## GRAM SABHA AND PARTICIPATION OF TRIBAL COMMUNITIES: A POLITICAL ANALYSIS OF JHARBANDH BLOCK, BARGARH DISTRICT IN ODISHA

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### Abstract

Participation of tribal people is unavoidable to safeguard development and advancement of the vicinity-community, infrastructure and environment. The goals enshrined in the law of the constitution that the land can be fruitful only when better participation is ensured among the community. Tribal as such yet to realize the social justice because various factors. Since long Tribal's are remained far away from the mainstream society in spite of various programmes meant for their development. People participation of in decision making process for development it is power of people. 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act 1992 was effect of tribal participation in Gram Sabha. In history of tribal they are not given much opportunity to rule the society. As per democratic decentralization tribal are identified to take part in the grass root level through Panchayat Raj. The Provision of Panchayats (Extension Scheduled Areas) Act 1996 is a necessary provision at tribal areas to empower the people with the traditional Gram Sabha the micro rural governance system to manage, regulate and control its own resources. This paper examines the level of participation of tribal people in Gram Sabha activities and people awareness about creating awareness sustainable Gram Sabha for their better participation. The tribal's since ages they were living within their environment and any disputes, disagreement was decided and settled by themselves. The PESA Act stabilized and solidified the institution of the Gram Sabha.

**Keywords: Gram Sabha, Participation, Tribal Communities, PESA Act.**

## Introduction

The need for participation of the tribal people in the political field has its own importance. It highly desirable that the tribal people become interested in the political affairs of the country and entry the mainstream of political process to make the democratic system more broad based and successful. The constitution of India has promised equality to all its citizens and provided them equal opportunity for their self-advancement. the constitution in its various provides for socio-economic-political justice to all, irrespective of any caste, creed, sex, religion or such other considerations. It maintains that the state can provide special amenities to the backward and neglected people for their speedy improvement. The tribal population is found in all most all part of India, over 84 million people belongs to 698 community are identified as members of schedule tribal in India. Odisha located on the east cost of India, it is of the most unique place which having largest number of tribal community with a population of 8.2 million constitution 22.3 per cent of the state population. Among the neglected and backward communities in country, the tribal people of India deserve special attention. They are considered to be the aboriginals or India who have remained outside the mainstream of the socio-economic political process of country. They have neglected and their condition has not improved even so many years after independence. The tribal communities are still regarded as socially and economically disadvantaged people. When conventional Panchayati Raj system are viewed as impositions on tribal societies and tribal traditions and customs, the concept of Gram Sabha continues to safeguard. Thus, the powers of Gram Sabha in Scheduled Areas under Indian Constitution came to be effective with effect from 24 December enacted Panchayat Extension Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act. The PESA Act most given governance power to tribal people and protect them is right, natural resources.

The existing literatures on the specific field by many academic and planners state such as Sinha (1986) Pai (1998) Barik (2001) Joshi & Narwani, (2002) Sisodia (2005) Panigrahi (2005), Bishnu & Sahoo (2008), Louis (2008), Arora and Hooja (2009), Panda (2010), Ram (2010), Mohanty (2012), 2015, Naik (2016), Political Participation , local governance management and empowerment of Tribal's. Belshaw (1972) opined people's participation is essential for positive change in development. Participation facilitates to increase the capacities to organized carry out the programmes more efficiently for people's progress. Sharma (1976) in his paper on stated they require recruitment of grass root level functionaries of the tribal's and their participation. Banerjee (1984) pointed out on his paper that the tribal development programs are plan based and more emphasis is often given on the disbursement without taking into account the local needs, cultural traditions, ecosystem, economy, historical background and ethnic composition of the region. They often do not serve the rural purpose. There are cases where unequal utilization and facilities have actually led to class formation within the tribal communities. Nambiar (2001) noted the difference activities of

Gram Sabha. Women are reported that they were not informed or invited to the meetings. Some were reluctant to participate in meetings in the attendance of elder members. Palanturai (2015) stated that the 73rd Constitutional Amendment is a milestone in the modern history of India and it is the grassroots of democracy. It aims to transform the characteristics of democracy from representative to representative with participatory mode. The process of decentralization of powers is to explain the basic strategy of decentralization of powers. To implement the basic framework both in letter and spirit, the state governments have to take steps that are fundamental and basic for the establishment of a local governance system.

### **Tribal in Odisha**

Odisha is located in the western state India having population of 41,947,358 (the census 2011) Border. It situated on the coast of Bay of Bengal, which is surrounded by Adhar Pradesh in the south Bay of Bengal in the east, Chhatisgarh state in the west, west Bengal and Bihar states in the north Odisha. Majority of tribal people belongs to resides in KBK are of Odisha those districts are: Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Rayagada, Balangir, Subarnapur, Kalahandi, and Nuaapada. This district is underdevelopment area of Odisha by government in this taken action the developmental steps in the improvement of the development static. Odisha is a second largest tribal dominant state in the country. Tribes of Odisha are called Adivasi, Vanabasi and Girijana. Tribal population constitutes 22.13% total population of the state. The president of India, for the period 1956 declared 62 different tribal communities of Odisha as scheduled tribes out of which 13 are considered as Primitive Tribal Groups (PTG) redecorate ate as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) particular treatment. The great part of tribal people in Odisha living in the forest and hilly area.

### **PESA Act 1996**

The Panchayats Extension to the Scheduled Areas Act also known as the PESA, 1996 is the single most important piece of legislation enacted through the 73<sup>rd</sup> Amendment for the political empowerment of the tribal's of the country. It was enacted by the India Parliament on the basis of the Bhuria Committee Report and came into operation an 24 December 1996. The Act extends to all administrative jurisdictions of nine states such as Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujrat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Rajasthan. The implications of PESA on the participatory mode of governance in tribal's societies.

The special Feature of the provisions under this new ideology are:

- For Gram Sabha:- Social- Enforcement of prohibition or regulate or restrict the consumption of any intoxicant,(ii) Protection of Land-Prevention of land alienation and restoration of unlawfully alienation land, (iii) Acquisition of Land-Consultation before acquisition mandatory, (iv) Minor Forest Produce-Full ownership, (v) Water resources Planning and management of minor water bodies (vi) Minor Minerals (vii) Village Markets-Full powers of management (viii) Credit- Full control over loan cases to the tribal (ix) Development

identification and selection of beneficiaries consultation before rehabilitation of displaced (x) Financial full control over all funds for local plans. Certification of utilization of funds (ix) Institutions and Functionaries-Full control over all those concerning social sectors.

### **Gram Sabha: Structure and Function**

“Gram Sabha” means a body consisting of persons registered in the electoral rolls relating to a village comprised within the area of Panchayat at the village level. The power of Gram Sabha in Scheduled Areas under Indian Constitution came to be Panchayat Extension Scheduled Areas (PESA Act 1996). This Act provides that the tribal Gram Sabha so defined would be empowered to approve all improvement plans, control all functionaries and institutions of most of the social sectors, as well as control all minor water bodies, minor minerals and non-timber forest resources. It would also have the authority to control land alienation, impose prohibition, and manage village markets and resolution internal conflicts by customary modes.

### **PESA Act in Odisha**

The 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act made in 1992 as matter of which the institutional of the Panchayats in the Scheduled Areas. The basic provision of the PESA Act have facilitating participatory democracy in tribal areas by empowering the Gram Sabha to manage and control its own resources. The Gram Sabha is given particular functional powers and responsibilities to ensure successful participation of tribal communities in their own development. They are harmony with their culture so as to protect their traditional right over natural resources. The provision of (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 came into force on the 24<sup>th</sup> December, 1996. As per the provision of the PESA Act of 1996, Odisha Gram Panchayat Act, 1964, Odisha Panchayat Samiti Act, 1959 and Odisha Zilla Parishad Act, 1991 were amended to ensure the process of extension of this act.

In the amended legislation the following subjects and responsibilities mandated for Panchayats in Scheduled Areas were entrusted to the three-tier Panchayat Institution in Odisha. Gram Panchayat is given the power (i) Social- Enforcement of prohibition or regulate or restrict the consumption of any intoxicant, (ii) Protection of Land-Prevention of land alienation and restoration of unlawfully alienation land, (iii) Acquisition of Land- Consultation before acquisition mandatory, (iv) Minor Forest Produce-Full ownership, (v) Water resources Planning and management of minor water bodies (vi) Minor Minerals (vii) Village Markets-Full powers of management (viii) Credit- Full control over loan cases to the tribal (ix) Development identification and selection of beneficiaries consultation before rehabilitation of displaced (x) Financial full control over all funds for local plans. Certification of utilization of funds (ix) Institutions and Functionaries-Full control over all those concerning social sectors.

### **Scope of the Study Area**

The district Bargarh is one of the districts in western Odisha in eastern part of India. The district administration is connected with the state

headquarters, Bhubaneswar. It is situated 370 km way from state headquarters. The districts have two sub-divisions, namely Bargarh and Padampur. The sub-division is under the charge of a sub-Collector and they are bridge between the district administration and maintenance of law and order and implementation of developmental programmes. For revenue administration, the district has been divided into 12 Tahasils, namely-Paikmal, Padampur, Sohela, Barpali, Bheden, Bargarh, Bhatli, Attabira, Gaisilet, Bijepur, Ambhabona and Jharbandh. The Tahsil is kept in the charge of a Tahasildar. For the maintains of law and order, the district has been divided into fifteen police stations, namely, Paikmal, Jharbandh, Padampur, Gaisilet, Melchhamunda, Sohela, Bijepur, Barapali, Bheden, Bargarh, Bargarh Sadar, Bhatli, Ambabhona and Attabira. The area select for this study is Jharbandh Block briefly abbreviated as Bargarh District in Odisha. Jharbandh block had total population is 103,673 out of which urban population is 0 while rural is 103,673 (as per census 2011). Total tribal population of 23,306 male 11,480 and female is 11,826.

### **Methodology**

The study will be conducted in Bargarh District of Jharbandh Block, one of the tribal populated blocks among the 12 blocks of the district of Bargarh in Odisha. The study focuses on primary data and secondary data. The primary data collected like interview schedule and questionnaires, primary field survey by choosing samples, from the block of Jharbandh, random sampling method will be adopted. The fundamental aim of the study is to explore the effect of tribal participation in Gram Sabha. In the history of tribal, they are not given much opportunity to rule the society. It is an index and instrument of dynamics of democracy. Thus, it constitutes the mechanism for influence, control from grass roots to upwards.

### **Sample of The Study**

Universe of the study constitutes 1 block 4 GPs and 100 samples from, the respondents both elected and general public belonging to tribal community. In the first stage, Jharbandh block has selected on the point of western district Bargarh in Odisha development council (WODC) area and on the basis of development indicators such as education, infrastructures, literacy and tribal participation in Gram Sabha. Second stage 4 Gram Panchayat has been selected with purposefully and concentration to high tribal population such as the Bhaisadarha, Chandibhata, Gothuguda Kandadangar. Third stage one block from each Gram panchayat and four wards form area have been selected on the basis of development indicators such as education, infrastructure, literacy and tribal participation in Gram Sabha, in the four stage key informants like local representatives, Sarpanch Wards Members senior citizens, and local people selected approximately 20, 20, 60 respectively to total sample (100).

Jharbandh Block comprises of 14 Gram Panchayat the study is primarily focused on the respondents both elected and general public belonging to tribal

community. Accordingly, a sample 4 Gram Panchayat was selected (based on statistical method) across the Jharbandh Block.

The methodology involved interviewing both the elected representatives belonging to tribal community and Focus Group Discuss (FGD). firstly, with regard to the elected representatives, the census method of belonging to tribal community was taken into consideration. Accordingly, a total of 100 members constituted the 4 GPs under study. Among them 50 members belong to Scheduled tribes. Even after persistent effort, the study teams were able to interview only representatives.

### Objectives

The paper has explored following objectives.

- To study the nature and extent of tribal people participation of the Gram Sabha.
- To explore the level of awareness of the tribal people in Gram Sabha.
- To analyze the influence of traditional factors upon their level of Gram Sabha participation.
- To examine the problems faced by the tribal people in local areas.

### Analysis and Discussion

Importance of the Gram Sabha is the major issue for the tribal people. It is also very much necessary that tribal people participation in Gram Sabha mostly required. In this part interpretation and analysis has made on specific them. The data codified and tabulated from the sample Gram Panchayats in the Jharbandh Blocks in Bargarh District.

Data representation on people's participation of PRIs in Gram Sabha

**Table 1: Age wise Distribution of Respondents in selected GP of Jharbandh Block**

SI .No	Sample Area/ Age	25-35	36-50	51-60	Above 60	Total
1	Bhaisadara GP	10 (40.00)	8 (32.00)	3 (12.00)	4 (16.00)	25 (100.00)
2	Candibhata GP	6 (24.00)	10 (40.00)	5 (20.00)	4 (16.00)	25 (100.00)
3	Gothuguda GP	5 (20.00)	10 (40.00)	6 (24.00)	4 (16.00)	25 (100.00)
4	Kandadangar GP	5 (20.00)	10 (40.00)	6 (24.00)	4 (16.00)	25 (100.00)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>26 (26.00)</b>	<b>38 (38.00)</b>	<b>20 (20.00)</b>	<b>16 (16.00)</b>	<b>100 (100.00)</b>

Source: Field Survey

Age is important indicator to participate in local administration. In this regard, total of 100 respondent 38 persons that is the highest 38 % respondents are in

the age group 36-50, followed by 26 % respondents are in the age group 25-35, 20% respondents are in the age group above 60 and 16 % respondents are in the age group 51-60. GP-wise data indicates more or less in the same percentage. It is seen that more mature women and men are participating in the local self-government system. It's because, they want to represent their communities for better implementation of programme and schemes.

**Table 2 : Sex-wise Distribution of Respondents in selected Area of Jharbandh Block**

SI .No	Sample Area	Male	Female	Total
1	Bhaisadara GP	15 (60.00)	10 (40.00)	25 (100.00)
2	Candibhata GP	10 (40.00)	15 (60.00)	25 (100.00)
3	Gothuguda GP	15 (60.00)	10 (40.00)	25 (100.00)
4	Kandadangar GP	15 (60.00)	10 (40.00)	25 (100.00)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>55 (55.00)</b>	<b>45 (45.00)</b>	<b>100 (100.00)</b>

Source: Field Survey

In the age of women's participation in decision making process in the family and society, they are plying vital role in governance system. In grass-root governance system male and female plays very important role. They are the active, educated and socially and politically aware people of the society. From the field survey it is seen that 55 % of male respondents and 45 % female respondents are participated in the survey process. In the sample blocks under study also seen that male members are highest participated.

**Table 3: Educational level of Respondents in Selected Areas Jharbandh Block**

SI.No	Sample Area	Illiterate	Primary	Secondary	Higher Secondary	Post Graduate	Total
1	Bhaisadara GP	5 (20.00)	6 (24.00)	7 (28.00)	4 (16.00)	3 (12.00)	25 (100.00)
2	Candibhata GP	5 (20.00)	5 (20.00)	6 (24.00)	6 (24.00)	3 (12.00)	25 (100.00)
3	Gothuguda GP	5 (20.00)	7 (28.00)	5 (20.00)	4 (16.00)	4 (16.00)	25 (100.00)
4	Kandadangar GP	3 (12.00)	6 (24.00)	8 (32.00)	5 (20.00)	3 (12.00)	25 (100.00)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>18 (18.00)</b>	<b>24 (24.00)</b>	<b>26 (26.00)</b>	<b>19 (19.00)</b>	<b>13 (13.00)</b>	<b>100 (100.00)</b>

Source: Field Survey

Education play vital role in human life. An educated person can manage all day to day affairs in proper order. Educational qualification is

important for awareness. the educational status of the respondents in the survey Jharbandh Block .Out of the total 100 respondents, an overwhelmingly 26 % respondents have secondary level of education, and 18 % are not attend any school, 19 % higher secondary and 24 % primary level. The district has good number of post-graduate people. In the study district it was found that 13 % are post-graduate.

**Table 4: Livelihood sources of Tribal people Selected Area**

Sl. No	Sample Area	Agriculture	Business	Pension	Pvt. Job	Service	Total
1	Bhaisadara GP	10 (40.00)	4 (16.00)	2 (8.00)	6 (24.00)	3 (12.00)	25 (100.00)
2	Candibhata GP	12 (48.00)	5 (20.00)	2 (8.00)	4 (16.00)	2 (8.00)	25 (100.00)
3	Gothuguda GP	10 (40.00)	4 (16.00)	2 (8.00)	6 (24.00)	2 (8.00)	25 (100.00)
4	Kandadanga GP	10 (40.00)	6 (24.00)	3 (12.00)	4 (16.00)	2 (8.00)	25 (100.00)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>42 (42.00)</b>	<b>19 (19.00)</b>	<b>9 (9.00)</b>	<b>14 (14.00)</b>	<b>9 (9.00)</b>	<b>100 (100.00)</b>

Source: Field Survey

Economic activity extends the courage and potential to participate in local administration. It is evident from above table and figure that highest 42 per cent respondents have agricultural activities, followed by 9 per cent in service activities, 19 per cent respondents have business activities and 14 per cent have Pvt. Job and 9 Pension. GP -wise data reveals that highest 25 per cent respondents of Bhaisadara GP are involved in agricultural activities, 20 per cent respondents of Chandibhata GP are involved in business activities, 9 per cent respondents of each sample area Pension, and Service activities. 14 per cent respondents are involved pvt.job.

**Table : 5 Perception on Participation of PRI in Gram Sabha**

Sl.No	Sample Area	Participate d	Other Member Respond	Discussion made smoothly	Accept your Suggestion	No Response	Total
1	Bhaisadara GP	6 (12.00)	7 (14.00)	3 (6.00)	5 (10.00)	4 (8.00)	25 (50.00)
2	Chandibhata GP	5 (10.00)	3 (6.00)	4 (8.00)	6 (12.00)	5 (10.00)	25 (50.00)
3	Gothuguda GP	7 (14.00)	5 (10.00)	4 (8.00)	4 (8.00)	5 (10.00)	25 (50.00)
4	Kandadanga GP	5 (10.00)	6 (12.00)	5 (10.00)	3 (6.00)	6 (12.00)	25 (50.00)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100</b>



		(46.00)	(42.00)	(32.00)	(36.00)	(40.00)	(200.00)
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Source: Field Survey

Perception on participation of PRI in Gram Sabha in area has state in table 1 That 46 per cent respondent participated in Gram Sabha, 32 per cent respondent opined that discussion made smoothly in Gram Sabha, 36 per cent respondent opined that their suggestion accepted in Gram Sabha ,42 per cent respondent were opined that their suggestion accepted by other member in Gram Sabha and 40 per cent were not given their opinion. Area wise data reveals that more response observed in rural area in comparison to urban area.

**Table: 6 Reasons for non-participate in Gram Sabha**

Sl.No	Sample Area	Lack of Coordination	No Importance	No Time	No Response	Total
1	Bhaisadra GP	8 (16.00)	5 (10.00)	7 (14.00)	5 (10.00)	25 (50.00)
2	Chandibhata GP	10 (20.00)	6 (12.00)	6 (12.00)	3 (6.00)	25 (50.00)
3	Gothuguda GP	7 (14.00)	8 (16.00)	6 (12.00)	4 (8.00)	25 (50.00)
4	Kandadangar GP	9 (18.00)	5 (10.00)	7 (14.00)	4 (8.00)	25 (50.00)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>34 (68.00)</b>	<b>24 (48.00)</b>	<b>26 (52.00)</b>	<b>16 (32.00)</b>	<b>100 (200.00)</b>

Source: Field Survey

Perception on reasons for non-participate in Gram Sabha has stated in table 2 that highest 32 per cent respondents were not given their opinion, 52 per cent respondent opined no time to participate in Gram Sabha, 68 per cent respondent opined that they have no coordination among them to participate in Gram Sabha and 48 per cent respondent opined that they feel no importance to participate in Gram Sabha Area-wise data reveals that more response observed in rural area in comparison to urban area.

**Table: 7 Perceptions on Participation in Gram Sabha**

Sl. No	Sample Respondent	Participated	Other Member Respond	Discussion made smoothly	Accept your Suggestion	No Response	Total
1	Local People	6 (12.00)	6 (12.00)	4 (8.00)	5 (10.00)	4 (8.00)	25 (50.00)
2	Sarpanch	4 (8.00)	5 (10.00)	3 (6.00)	7 (14.00)	6 (12.00)	25 (50.00)
3	Senior citizen	8 (16.00)	3 (6.00)	5 (10.00)	4 (8.00)	5 (10.00)	25 (50.00)
4	Ward Member	6 (12.00)	4 (8.00)	3 (6.00)	5 (10.00)	7 (14.00)	25 (50.00)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>100</b>

		(48.00)	(36.00)	(30.00)	(42.00)	(44.00)	(200.00)
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Source: Field Survey

Table 3 indicates the perception on participation in Gram Sabha. It reveals that 12 per cent local people were participated in Gram Sabha, 12 per cent have reported that other member were responded their words, 8 per cent have reported that discussion were made smoothly and 10 per cent have reported that their suggestion in meetings were accepted and 8.00 per cent respondent no response. Among Sarpanch, perception on participation in Gram Sabha reveals that 8 per cent local people were participated in Gram Sabha, 10 per cent have reported that other member were responded their words, 6 per cent have reported that discussion were made smoothly and 14 per cent have reported that their suggestion in meetings were accepted and 12 per cent respondent no response.

Among Senior citizen, Perception on participation in Gram Sabha reveals that 16 per cent local people were participated in Gram Sabha meeting, 6 per cent have reported that other member were responded their words, 10 per cent have reported that discussion were made smoothly, 8 per cent per cent have reported that their suggestion in meetings were accepted and 10 per cent were no response.

Among Ward member, perception on participation in Gram Sabha reveals that 6 per cent local people were participated in Gram Sabha, 8 per cent have reported that other member were responded their words, 6 per cent have reported that discussion were made smoothly, 10 per cent per cent have reported that their suggestion in meetings were accepted and 14 per cent were no response.

**Table: 8 Reasons for Non-Participation in Gram Sabha**

Sl. No	Sample Respondent	Lack of Coordination	No Importance	No Time	Total
1	Local people	17 (34.00)	6 (12.00)	7 (14.00)	30 (60.00)
2	Sarpanch	4 (8.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	4 (8.00)
3	Senior Citizen	15 (30.00)	4 (8.00)	6 (12.00)	25 (50.00)
4	Ward Member	13 (26.00)	2 (4.00)	3 (6.00)	18 (36.00)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>49 (98.00)</b>	<b>12 (24.00)</b>	<b>16 (32.00)</b>	<b>77 (154.00)</b>

Source: Field Survey

Table: 4 indicates the reasons for non-participate in Gram Sabha, it is notice that 34 per cent local people were not participated in Gram Sabha due to lack of coordination, 12 per cent have reported that they have not given

importance to Gram Sabha and 14 per cent have reported that they have no time to attend Gram Sabha. Among local representatives, reasons for non-participate in Gram Sabha reveals that 8 per cent were not participated in Gram Sabha meeting due to lack of coordination.

Among Senior citizen, reasons for non-participate in Gram Sabha reveals that 30 per cent were not participated in Gram Sabha due to lack of coordination, 8 per cent have reported that they have not given importance to Gram Sabha and 12 per cent have reported that they have no time to attend Gram Sabha. Among Ward member, reasons for non-participate in Gram Sabha reveals that 26 per cent local people were not participated in Gram Sabha meeting due to lack of coordination, 4 per cent have reported that they have not given importance to Gram Sabha and 6 per cent have reported that they have no time to attend Gram Sabha.

### **Findings**

It reveals that 12 per cent local people were participated in Gram Sabha, 12 per cent have reported that other member were responded their words, 8 per cent have reported that discussion were made smoothly and 10 per cent have reported that their suggestion in meetings were accepted and 8 per cent respondent no response. Among Sarpanch, perception on participation in Gram Sabha reveals that 8 per cent local people were participated in Gram Sabha, 10 per cent have reported that other member were responded their words, 6 per cent have reported that discussion were made smoothly and 14 per cent have reported that their suggestion in meetings were accepted and 12 per cent respondent no response.

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Gram Sabha and 12 per cent have reported that they have no time to attend Gram Sabha. Among Ward member, reasons for non-participate in Gram Sabha reveals that 26 per cent local people were not participated in Gram Sabha meeting due to lack of coordination, 4 per cent have reported that they have not given importance to Gram Sabha and 6 per cent have reported that they have no time to attend Gram Sabha.

### **Conclusion and Suggestions**

After in analyze and interpretation with discussion on the objectives of the study, there are few suggestions has to be made. Tribal people participation in Gram Sabha can be strengthen if taken consideration following suggestions.

- Gram Sabha should monitor and review by district office.
- Elected members should have provided about Panchayat administrative training time to time.
- Tribal people awareness about tribal development committee.
- Women from tribal communities should be given priority.
- Male domination should be avoided for perfect function of the Gram Sabha.

Gram Sabha is a dream as member's participation is very low and their voices are not recorded. The meeting organizers have vested interest for that they are controlling the meetings which is not people oriented. Regarding other modes of participation, tribal's opine that they give significance to meetings in village or outside village. The people are giving significance to Sarpanch of the Gram Panchayat than the customary village head-man. In local administration, the tribal do not have such knowledge for communicating with government official as they give significance to personal meetings and the same time, they are also fearful. They come in contact with the officials/leaders whenever necessary. They remain busy with their own work as most of them are low-income group and engaged in different labour activities to generate income to meet their socio-economic need. Except a few, other in large number remains within the 'sphere of their profession, family, community and group with their own culture. They are divided politically but not like the non-tribal's. They do it through meetings or through their leaders. However, they face constraints on the way of participation in public life and these are due to illiteracy, ignorance, lack of support from non-tribals, lack of support by civil society groups and by government, etc.

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