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A case study on the influence of habitat rights (FRA, 2006) on ethnoecological studies in Kerala

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Abstract

Background: The historical Forest Right Act, of 2006 is not been successfully established in Kerala yet now. A right is a powerful tool for ethnic communities but the many social barriers caused this establishment of the law. The habitat rights in the FRA, 2006 enhance the sustainability of the ecosystem and native ethnic communities. Methods used to analyze the claims habitat right of PVTGs through secondary data analysis and unstructured interviews with members of the Gramasabha (FRA Gramasabha). The major findings of the study are, the Habitat right of PVTGs is not recognized in Kerala yet now. Colonization will cause the degradation of the cultural, and traditional knowledge, and customs of those communities. The scientific study of how people understand different locations in the ecosystem and their relationship with surrounding environments is Ethnoecology. This mutually conserves PVTGs and their ethnoecological knowledge. Ethnoecological knowledge is the backbone of eco-restoration activities and a sustainable future.

Key words: Forest Right Act (2006), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), Habitat Right, Community Forest Resource area (CFR).

1. Introduction

There are 370 million ethnic communities live in the world out of it 550 Scheduled Tribes (STs) live in India. There are 36 STs in Kerala and they constitute only 1.45% of the total population^[7]. Based on the Dhebar commission (1960-61), report there are 75 recognized Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in the nation. The criteria used for the identification of PVTGs are i. pre-agricultural level of technology, ii. Remote isolated enclaves, and iii. IV.