

Joint Forest Management and Tribal Development in Andhra Pradesh : A Strategy in Paradigm Shift

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ABSTRACT The forest have played a prominent role in the development of Indian Civilisation, in general and tribal culture in particular. The symbiotic relationship is inter-twined so intricately that existence and development one of one depends on the other. The tribals have been mostly inhabiting the forest clad hills and mountains and degree of dependency on forests resources is largely determined as per the economic stage and skills achieved by individual tribal communities living in that particular area. Before introduction of the forest Conservation Acts, the tribal communities have been protecting the forest as a common property resources. But the gradual alienation of the tribals from the forest and its management, resulting in degradation and disappearance of the forests. In order to arrest the large scale deterioration of the forest and to improve the ecological security, a movement towards active participation of local tribals in preservation and regeneration has to be launched. Joint Forest Management is the right approach in protection and management of dwindling forest.