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## Social maturity of tribal and non-tribal adolescents

**Sampad Sarkar and Dr. Binder Singh**

### Abstract

This research paper explores the critical theme of social maturity in adolescents, focusing on the comparison between tribal and non-tribal adolescents. Social maturity is a multifaceted construct encompassing various cognitive, emotional, and behavioural dimensions, which are vital for successful transition to adulthood. While numerous studies have examined social development in adolescents, there is a dearth of research that directly compares tribal and non-tribal adolescents in the context of social maturity. The aim of this study is to investigate and compare the social maturity of tribal and non-tribal adolescents, shedding light on potential differences in their social development. By conducting a comprehensive analysis, this research intends to provide insights into the unique challenges, strengths, and experiences of these two groups, which may influence their social development differently. Understanding the variations in social maturity between tribal and non-tribal adolescents can inform interventions and policies aimed at promoting their well-being and facilitating a smooth transition to adulthood. In pursuance to same, significant difference was reported between tribal and non-tribal adolescents. Non-tribal adolescents were seen with high level of Social Maturity as compared to tribal adolescents.

**Keywords:** Social maturity, tribal students, non-tribal students

### Introduction

Adolescence is a transformative phase in an individual's life, marked by significant physical, emotional, and cognitive changes. It is a time of exploration, self-discovery, and preparation for adulthood. Central to this journey is the development of social maturity, a complex concept that encompasses the acquisition of social skills, emotional regulation, identity formation, and the ability to navigate the intricacies of interpersonal relationships. The degree of social maturity attained during adolescence can significantly impact an individual's future success, both personally and professionally. However, social development is not a one-size-fits-all process, and it can be influenced by various contextual factors. One such factor is the cultural background of adolescents. Indigenous or tribal communities, often residing in geographically isolated areas with distinct cultural norms and traditions, may experience social development differently from their non-tribal counterparts. This raises intriguing questions about the potential variations in social maturity between these two groups and the factors contributing to such differences. This research aims to address this knowledge gap by investigating and comparing the social maturity of tribal and non-tribal adolescents. The study will explore the unique challenges, strengths, and experiences that may influence the social development of these two groups, shedding light on potential disparities and similarities. By understanding these distinctions, policymakers, educators, and mental health professionals can develop more tailored strategies to support the well-being of adolescents from diverse backgrounds.

**Statement of the problem:** The statement of the research problem is as under:

### Social Maturity of Tribal and Non-Tribal Adolescents

**Objectives of the study:** The objectives of the present study are as under:  
To study the social maturity of tribal and non-tribal adolescents.

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**Hypothesis:** Following hypothesis has been framed for the present study:  
There exists significant difference between tribal and non-tribal adolescents on their level of social maturity.

**Operational definition:** The operational definitions of terms and variables are as under:

- Social Maturity:** Social Maturity in the present study refers the set of score obtained by the respondents on Social Maturity scale developed by Nillan and Rao (2016) [21].
- Tribal adolescents:** Tribal adolescents in the present study refer those adolescents who are belonging to Gojer, Bakerwall and Other Backwards Classes.
- Non-tribal adolescents:** Non-tribal adolescents in the present study refer those adolescents who are other than tribal adolescents.

**Delimitations of the study:** The present study will be confined to the following aspects:

- The present study will be confined to secondary school students reading in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> standard.

- The present study will be delimited West Tripura District of Tripura. In the same district, the researcher will select sample from Mohanpur, Hezamara, Dukli and Jirania blocks only.

**Methodology:** Keeping in view, the research evidences, objectives and hypotheses, the researcher found it suitable to go through descriptive survey method. Accordingly, present study was carried with the help of descriptive method.

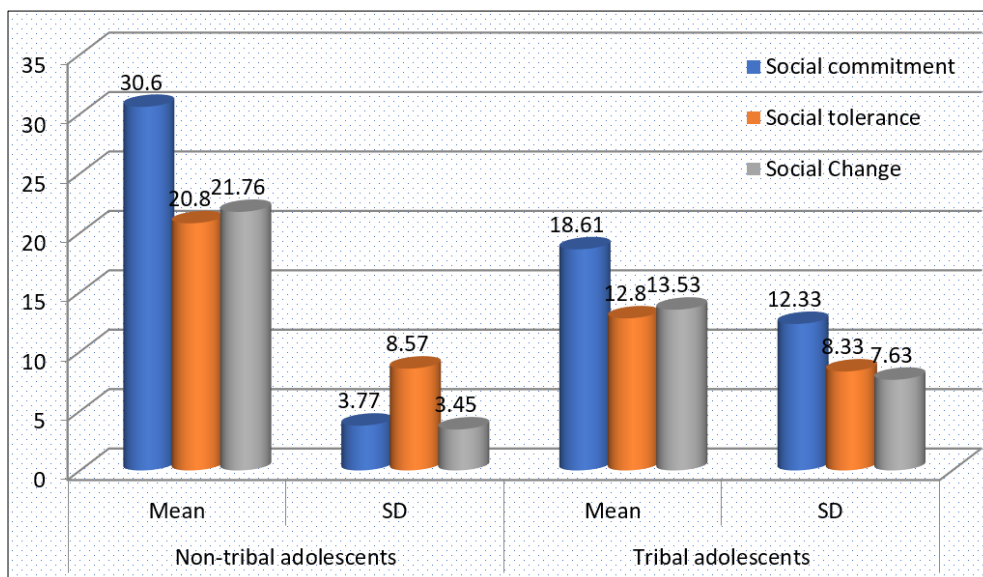
- Sample:** A representative sample 100 secondary school students will be selected by using stratified cum random sampling technique. Whole data was selected from the West Tripura District of Tripura. In the same district, the researcher selected sample from Mohanpur, Hezamara, Dukli and Jirania blocks only.
- Instrument Used:** Social Maturity Scale developed by Nillan and Rao (2016) [21] was uses for data collection.

**Analysis and interpretation of the data:** The collected data has been analysed as under:

**Table: 1:** Representing the mean significant difference between tribal and non-tribal adolescents on the basis of their sub-scales of social adequacy. N= 400 each).

Dimension-III	Social adequacy	Non-tribal adolescents		Tribal adolescents		‘t value
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
Social Adequacy	Social commitment	30.60	3.77	18.61	12.33	18.59
	Social tolerance	20.80	8.57	12.80	8.33	13.37
	Social Change	21.76	3.45	13.53	7.63	19.62

\*\*\*=significant at 0.05 level



**Fig 1:** Representing of the graphical representation on the basis of mean significant difference between tribal and non-tribal adolescents on the basis of their sub-scales of social adequacy. N= 400 each).

In the above given table (Please consult table 1) gives a clear evidence about the all the sub-scale of social adequacy. Meanwhile it is pertinent to mention here that there are three-subscale present in the social adequacy dimension of the respondents. In this social adequacy dimension, the three sub-scales are work societal promise, societal acceptance as well as social change. In consonance to same, in the first subscale of social adequacy (social commitment) non-tribal adolescents. As we observe in the statistical treatment the calculated ‘t’ value 18.89 is very much higher than table

value at 0.05 level of self-assurance. On the correspondence of same assessment, it can be incidental that tribe hold dominant impact on work orientation of the respondents. Additionally, it is imperative to justify here that non-tribal youths were having high level of social commitment as compared to their counterparts (tribal adolescents). Non-tribal adolescents were seen more committed towards their society as compared to tribal adolescents. More social dedication and scarifying qualities were seen among non-tribal adolescents. Tribal adolescents were seen more

inclined towards vested interests. The sense of social ethics has been found more prevalent among non-tribal adolescents than their counterparts. Dynamic nature towards society has been seen among non-tribal students while as more stagnant and static approach of social commitment has been observed among tribal students.

Looking towards the second sub-scale of social adequacy (social tolerance), it has been seen that the mean achievement of the non-tribal students is absolutely higher than the mean score of tribal students. Empirically speaking, the mean value of non-tribal students has been seen 20.80 whereas the mean value of tribal adolescents (M=12.80). In the comparatively analysis the independent 't' value has been emerged has 13.57. Accordingly, when those values have been juxtaposed with the degree of freedom, the researcher found that it is too higher than the table value at 0.5 level of sureness. In context to same, it has been found that the influence of tribe has important on the social tolerance sub-scale of personal adequacy of personal adequacy. The sense of tolerance has been found more among non-tribal; adolescents. They were seen the tendency of empathy as well as sympathy in their behaviour. However, among non-tribal adolescents it has been seen that they tolerate lest while facing conflicts in their society, school or at other placed. Short tempered has been seen

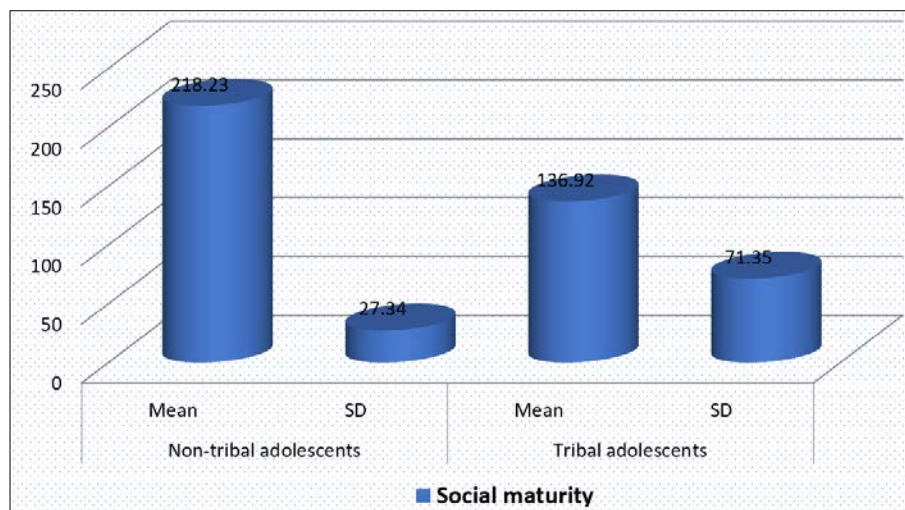
more underlying in the behaviour of ethnic youths as compared to ethnic youths.

The fleeting concentration on the third dimension (social change) of the above given dimension (social adequacy) indicates that the mean variation has been seen in this sub-scale. The mean value of non-tribal youths has been seen 21.76 whereas the mean score of male adolescents has been seen 13.53. In pursuance to same, the computing analysis on the basis of independent 't' test indicates that the calculated 't' ratio (t=19.62) is high than the table value at 0.05 level of sureness. Thus, on the basis of the above attainment of the results, the researcher can generalise that there seems high impact of tribe on the social change. The inclination of change in social relations and social organisations has been associated more with the behaviour of non-tribal adolescents as compared to their counterparts. The modernisation inclination has been revealed in the behaviour of non-tribal youths.

**Table 2:** Showing the mean significant difference between non-tribal and tribal adolescents on the aggregate score of social maturity (N=400 each).

Composite score	Non-tribal adolescents		Tribal adolescents		't value
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
Social maturity	218.69	27.34	136.92	71.35	21.32

\*\*\*=Significant at 0.05 level



**Fig 2:** Displaying the graphical representation of the mean significant difference between non-tribal and tribal adolescents on the aggregate score of social maturity (N=400 each).

Coming towards the analysis demystified in the above table (Please find table, 2 fig. 2) reveals the men important variance of ethnic as well as non-tribal teenagers on their "Composite Score". In the same statistical operation, it has been detected that two groups under discussion (tribal and non-tribal) differ with each other on their composite score of social maturity. However, on the basis of their aggregate assessment, the mean significant variance favours the non-tribal youths. The mean score of non-tribal youths was reported to be higher (M=218.23) as compared to tribal adolescents (M=136.92). The calculated 't' value came out to be 21.32, which is important at 0.05 level of sureness. Thus, it can be inferred that the two groups under discussion (ethnic as well as non-tribal youths) vary meaningfully with each other on their composite score of social maturity. Apart from this it has been observed that non-tribal adolescents

were found with high level of social maturity as compared to their counter parts (ethnic youths) adequacy. Hence, from the above observed fallouts it can be incidental that influence of community is important on the level of social maturity of the respondents. More communication skills were seen among non-tribal adolescents as compared to tribal students. The attitude and conduct of a non-tribal adolescent has been found with less orientation towards social adaptation. However non-tribal adolescents consider social maturity is very much beneficial in the phenomena of social regulation and acclimatization of an individual cannot be adjusted fully in a society, unless and until they gain social maturity, which plays a fundamental role in polishing the behaviour of the adolescents. The shyness attitude has been found among tribal adolescents while communicating with their fellows. High level of freedom of expression has

been reported among non-tribal adolescents. Besides, it has been seen that they hardly used to hesitate expression of their demands while communicating to their fellows. Besides, the interaction process of the non-tribal adolescents has been views as sound and with high fluency. Moreover, among tribal students matter of hesitation has been seen while expressing their process of interaction in their day to day life settings. Non-tribal adolescents has been found with more enlighten while justifying their own statements with their fellows. The overt nature has been seen among non-tribal adolescent's while as tribal students were seen inclined towards covert nature. More clarification has been seen in the statement of non-tribal adolescents as compared to tribal students. The sense of gregariousness has been seen among non-tribal students than tribal students. Thus, intra-personal adequacy has been seen more prevalent in the behaviour of non-tribal students as compared to tribal students. In the above rested results, it can be taken into consideration that male adolescents are holding high level of work orientation. The sense of self competence has been seen more in non-tribal category of respondents than tribal adolescents. The interactive process of tribal students has been seen least effect than non-tribal adolescents. As they are involved in different activities and these activities foster the process of work ordination of the male adolescents. Moreover, female adolescents hold least level of orientation towards these activities because they were not seen indulging in the number of the activities which will foster their work orientation. Male adolescents were seen that they involve in number of self-related activities by taking the stand of multiple activities which are related to their day to day life. Further they were seen more stimulating behaviour has been seen in giving direction to their inner self for the process of gaining high level of self-adequacy. The process of introspection has been seen in the category of tribal adolescents consequently they were involved in those activities that foster their self-direction towards health and desirable channels. In consonance to same among male adolescents they were seen in owing least senses of introspection as a result their self-directional behaviour has been seen week: Apart from this they were seen involved in outgoing activities taste enhance their ability to deal with the required tasks of life. However, among female adolescents' inability to perform some works related to their life has been seen. Subsequently, tribal adolescents were seen not indulging in outing activities. The results may attribute to this fact that tribal adolescents were seen with high level of self-efficacy as compared to their counterparts. Cooperative nature has been seen among non-tribal students in each and every activity. The cooperation with the fellows and friend in their academic as well as domestic life has been seen. Among tribal students they were seen more inclined only towards their own gender. Non-tribal adolescents were seen more committed towards their society as compared to tribal adolescents. More social dedication and scarifying qualities were seen among non-tribal adolescents. Tribal adolescents were seen more inclined towards vested interests. The sense of social ethics has been found more prevalent among non-tribal adolescents than their counterparts. Dynamic nature towards society has been seen among non-tribal students while as more stagnant and static approach of social commitment has been observed among tribal students. The sense of tolerance has been found more among non-tribal; adolescents. They were seen

the tendency of empathy as well as sympathy in their behaviour. However, among non-tribal adolescents it has been seen that they tolerate lest while facing conflicts in their society, school or at other placed. Short tempered has been seen more underlying in the behaviour of tribal adolescents as compared to tribal adolescents. The inclination of change in social relations and social organisations has been associated more with the behaviour of non-tribal adolescents as compared to their counterparts. The modernisation inclination has been revealed in the behaviour of non-tribal adolescents.

**Conclusions of the study:** The aim of the study was to explore the level of social maturity of tribal and non-tribal adolescents. In pursuance to same, significant difference was reported between tribal and non-tribal adolescents. Non-tribal adolescents were seen with high level of Social Maturity as compared to tribal adolescents.

**Conflict of interests:** Keeping entire research process under consideration, the investigator has not declared any conflict of interests.

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