

Governance and Management of Natural Resources

(Vol. 17, No. 2, April - June, 2019) ISSN 0973 – 8444

Panchayati Raj in Scheduled Areas of Jharkhand and Natural Resource Management *Dipti Paridhi Kindo¹ & Pradip Kumar Bhowmick²*

¹*Doctoral Scholar (UGC-JRF), Rural Development Centre, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur, West Bengal; Former Assistant Professor, State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD), Govt. of Jharkhand and Former Prime Minister's Rural Development Fellow (PMRDF). E-mail: dipti.paridhi@gmail.com*

²*Associate Professor, Rural Development Centre, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpu, West Bengal.*

Abstract: People of scheduled areas are not only reliant upon Water, Forest and Land (Jal, Jangal and Jameen) but these are considered to be their identity and source of livelihood. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12 focuses on the requirement "to ensure Sustainable Consumption and Production Pattern and by 2030, to achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources". In Jharkhand state, 26.2 percent of its total population belongs to various tribes out of which 91.7% of the total tribal population resides in rural areas as per 2011 census. The paper has the objective to critically examine the functioning of two important Acts, Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA), 1996 and Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 enacted by Government of India for ensuring tribal self-rule in schedule five areas of India and to protect the ownership of land for tribals or forest dwellers with their right to life and livelihood respectively. It also examines whether these acts are leading towards the achievement of Natural Resource Management? The paper is based on case studies, secondary data, discussions with government officials and perusal of government records. There is an imperative need to look into the Panchayati Raj in Scheduled Areas of Jharkhand. The paper has also offered certain recommendations based on the findings of the study.

Keywords: *Local Self-governance, Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA), Forest Right Act (FRA), Natural Resource Management, Jharkhand*