

## **Coping mechanism among tribes in India: A case study of Melghat**

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### **Abstract**

India has witnessed a series of economic changes over time: transition from repeated hunger and family crisis to self-sufficiency in food, from poor industrial growth and infrastructure to sizable industrial and economic growth as well as significant strides in science and technology. India appears to present a dichotomous and paradoxical picture of accelerating economic growth on one hand and persistent malnutrition and food security at the regional and household level on the other. Despite attaining self-sufficiency in food, the country still has large sections of the poor and extremely poor experiencing social discrimination and acute deprivation from their due entitlements. India continues to grapple with translating national food security to household food security. As a result, India continues to face mammoth task of attaining food security. At a much more local level, this research identifies a series of coping mechanism on which people of Melghat in the state of Maharashtra rely throughout the year. Variation in each of the coping mechanisms is analyzed in light of ownership of resources, access to natural resources, and gender discrimination. The paper takes a sociological approach to relate problems of food security to the prevailing structural social disparities and consequent discrimination.

**Keywords:** Poverty, indigenous community, food insecurity, coping mechanism

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