



# **Bonded Labor and The Puroiks Of Arunachal Pradesh, India: A Historical, Socio-Economic, And Policy Analysis**

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## **Abstract**

The Puroik community, an indigenous tribe in Arunachal Pradesh, India, has undergone a significant historical transformation, transitioning from being known as "Sulung," a term implying bondage and subjugation, to adopting the empowering label of "Puroik." This shift reflects evolving perceptions of identity, culture, and linguistic heritage. This study delves into the Puroik tribe's history, socio-cultural dynamics, and the persistence of bonded labor practices. Through ethnographic research, the study explores their origins, folklore, and intricate relationships with neighboring tribes. It reveals the transition from capture-based slavery to hereditary servitude, symbolizing a shift in societal attitudes. Despite government initiatives and legislative measures, the Puroik community's struggle against bonded labor persists, marked by challenges of awareness, corruption, and enforcement gaps. The study underscores the need for greater collaboration among stakeholders, enhanced public awareness, and a comprehensive approach to address the complexities of bonded labor in marginalized communities.

**Keywords:** Bonded labor, Puroik, indigenous tribe, identity, public awareness, marginalized communities.