

Tribal Communities in Andhra Pradesh: Socio and Economic Conditions

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Abstract

Tribals are one of the most diverse groups in India's population. They are still at a disadvantage because they are considered the lowest section of Indian society since ancient times. Tribal's continue to be disadvantaged due to several factors such as geographic and cultural isolation, lack of adequate health services, inability to meet basic needs, lack of control over resources and assets, lack of education and skills, malnutrition, lack of shelter and poverty. . Access water and sanitation, vulnerability to attacks, violence and crime, lack of adequate infrastructure and technology, and lack of political freedom and voice. All these challenges can make their life a difficult task. Keeping these issues in mind, the government is trying to help the tribal's through various welfare schemes. This article attempts to analyze the socio-economic status of tribal communities, government schemes launched by the governments of Andhra Pradesh for the welfare of tribal communities.

Keywords: Andhra Pradesh, Socio-Economic Conditions; Welfare Schemes; Tribes.

INTRODUCTION

India is a country inhabited by representatives of different cultures, religions, traditions, languages, castes and religions. Even in India, each of the states has its own culture and tradition. Tribal people are one such group that needs to be highlighted. Due to with the presence of these tribes, India gets different flavors and real treasures. The tribal peoples of India are also known as "Advises", which literally means "natives" or "original inhabitants of a particular region". Most of the tribes are found in Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, North Eastern States and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The criteria followed for specification of a community as a Scheduled Tribe are:

1. Indications of primitive traits,
2. Distinctive Culture,
3. Geographical isolation,
4. Shyness of contact with the community at large,
5. Backwardness²

OBJECTIVES

1. To analyze the socio-economic status of the tribal communities of Andhra Pradesh.
2. To study the government schemes of Andhra Pradesh for the welfare of tribal communities.

METHODOLOGY

The literature used to write and analyze the socio-economic conditions of tribes in this paper is collected from various secondary sources like internet, research articles, government reports and websites.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Rao P.V (1955)³ presents his comprehensive study of the functioning of institutional framework in the implementation of tribal development programmes, based on field work conducted in Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh, This

study is one of the few works on tribal areas published from this state. This study includes an extensive review on the history of tribal development programmes in India and Andhra Pradesh.

Mahalingam S. (1989)⁴ has advocated that tribals in India form the very segment of the weaker sections of the country with their traditional skills and resources. He also explained the importance of different tribal groups and their marketable products, salient features of tribal marketing structure and institutional building for the development of tribal market. R.C. Murty TV and Sharma R.K. (1989) conducted enquiry about agricultural development on tribal farm. in Himachal Pradesh. The study mainly concentrated upon identification of constraints, which hinder the agricultural growth and attempts to examine the problems in the adoption of modern technology on tribal farms and to analyze the constraints in the agricultural development of the study area. The study revealed that the farmers were found to differ significantly among themselves for the constraints in the development of agriculture.

Mohan Rae (1999)⁵ examined tribal development in Andhra Pradesh with respect to their process, performance and prospects. The study reviewed the applied anthropological and sociological perceptiveness on the tribes in India in general and on the tribes of Andhra Pradesh in particular. Critical analysis of earlier efforts and present strategies of tribal development are highlighted in the study.

Pechora (1983)⁶ examined about tribal development administration. Though this study is significant to the tribal development of the entire country, it makes a special study of Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh which distinguished itself uniquely in the 1970*s. In 1970~'71 a tribal revolt motivated by communist and Marxist elements in Srikakulam district created a serious law and order situation lead to the outbreak, its aftermath and the g eminent efforts to rectify and ameliorate the living conditions of the girijans of the area. The various developmental programmes introduced and voluntarv agencies in service are analysed.

PROFILE OF TRIBAL PEOPLE IN ANDHRA PRADESH STATE

The timber- sheathe mountainous tracts of the Visakhapatnam sections of Andhra Pradesh are the ethnical areas of that State, with some twenty lines speaking either Dravidian or Mundari cants. The ethnical people of Andhra Pradesh are economically and technologically better equipped than the lines of other regions. Utmost of them have youth associations. The Savara lines are substantially set up in the sections of Visakhapatnam. before the Visakhapatnam is called as Vizagpatnam, the Vijayanagaram, Paderu and Araku are each in the Visakhapatnam quarter. Now they came seven individual sections. In the same way Godavari quarter is also divided into east, west etc. therefore the tribals are in the AP state living in every state. The areas of Savara lines are full of lofty hills, zipping mountain aqueducts and deep peering denes, terraced rice fields, etc. The Savara lineage people are remarkable irrigation masterminds. They've a primitive sense of villa planning, for their houses are aligned in resembling rows which reflect orderliness. The Gadara ethnical people are distributed in the Jetport, Malkangiri, Koraput and Pattangi taluks. They're like the Savaras, growers, but stalking and fishing make fresh benefactions to their food force. The Gadaba women are good at weaving dinghy fiber cloth on model looms of their own manufacture and the woven fabric is painted by them with colorful vegetable colorings. In fact, no Gadaba girl is considered good for marriage until she has acquired the needful skill on the impend. Khonds are distributed both in Orissa and the Visakhapatnam and are one of the largest of the Dravidian speaking lines. The Koya lineage is divided into several occupational lines similar as blacksmiths, carpenters, brass workers and handbasket- makers. During certain spare seasons of the time, food is so scarce that whole families, including children, live on tubers, tamarind seeds and win juice. The Konda Reddis lines are the Telugu speaking ethnical people. They partake the hilly region with the Koya tribe.⁷

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE TRIBAL COMMUNITIES ANDHRA PRADESH

The socio-economic status of the scheduled tribes in Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh was studied. In the sample population, majority of the households belonged to Konda Dora and Nooka Dora tribes and more than 70 per cent were illiterate. Cultivation was the primary occupation for majority and the total family income was less than Rs. 10,000 per annum. Food expenditure lied top on the annual expenditure pattern, followed by expenditure on payment

of interests on loans and on health concerns. Majority of the sampled households lacked durable household assets. Around 37 per cent of the land-owning sample did not have ownership rights. More than 60 per cent fulfilled their credit needs from private money lenders. Therefore, there is a need to put more attention on educating the scheduled tribes, which can motivate them for their future life. The tribal diversity in Andhra Pradesh Valmiki (37%) in Vizag district of Andhra Pradesh. The standard of education in Vizag was much better. In Visakhapatnam district, 82 percent of respondents were seasonal wage earners. The monthly consumption expenditure on food more in in Vizag. In terms of land ownership, most of them have very little ancestral land. Non-institutional debt is high in Vizag. In vizag regions, people were aware of government programs and the percentage of people using these programs increased dramatically. A survey on the socio-economic status of tribals in Visanagaram district of Andhra Pradesh found that 4,444 households were mostly headed by men, and 4,444 households worked as farmers and agricultural labourers. The income range of farmers was Rs. 6000 to Rs. 10,000 rupees a year and the workers earned less. The sex ratio dropped to 4,444 in that community, with families preferring sons. Since they did not have other sources of income, they tried to take a loan, and the institutions took advantage of this and charged a higher interest rate (3 percent). The researchers recommended that the government take measures to promote economic stability of the Schedule Tribes by providing better banking services and technology transfer. A study on socio-economic and health conditions of Yandi tribes and tribes inhabiting in jungles in North coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh found that, though there are a number of initiatives taken up for improving the living conditions of the tribals, the progress is not up to the mark. The reasons for this is that, forests are depleting at faster rate and are in no way sustaining food requirements of forest dwellers through their traditional means of hunting and gathering. Mostly, they are dependent on agriculture, either as cultivators or agriculture labourers. They are malnourished, poor, and largely illiterate and rank miserably low in all sorts of health indicators despite their wealth of traditional knowledge of keeping healthy. Forests play a vital role in the economic development of the forest dwelling tribes of Andhra Pradesh as they provide them with food in the form of tubers, roots, leaves, fruits, flesh of animals and birds and cures illnesses by supplying medicinal herbs. Skins, hides, horns of wild animals and minor forest produce are exploited for commercial purposes. But, this agro-forest based economy is subject to the behaviour of nature. The rocky terrain, infertile soil, freak nature, extreme seasonal conditions, lack of perennial sources of water, predatory birds and animals and the parasitic hold of money lenders and plains sowcars force them to live in perpetual poverty.⁸

WELFARE SCHEMES BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH FOR THE TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

Economic support schemes and schemes under tribal area sub plan

Under this, financial assistance is given to ST families below poverty line for taking up economic support activities. The action plan for these programs is approved by Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Tribes Cooperative Finance Corporation Limited (TRICOR), Hyderabad. TRICOR reviews the implementation from time to time.

Hostel buildings for degree colleges

The scheme is intended to provide hostel buildings for Post- Metric scheduled tribe students studying in eight degree colleges. Each degree college will have one boys' hostel and one girls' hostel. Children admitted in the hostels will receive maintenance charges of Rs. 525 per month under Post-Metric Scholarships. • Funding for maintenance of educational institutions and hostels, integrated hostels, ashram schools, post-matric hostels, tribal welfare primary schools, teacher education colleges, student coaching programmes for competitive examinations • Gurukulam schools • Tuition Fee and Post-Matric Scholarships • Pre-Matric Scholarships • Upgrading Tribal Welfare Ashram Schools into Schools of Excellence • Setting up Residential Schools for Tribal's • Up gradations of Residential Schools into Junior Colleges of Excellence are also put forth, which are similar to the ones put forth by AP Government.

DEVELOPMENT OF COFFEE PLANTATIONS IN ITDA AND THE GIRIJAN CO-OPERATIVE CORPORATION (GCC)

Paderu area The Government have approved a comprehensive Development of Coffee Project in Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA), in Paderu area at a total cost of Rs.526.16 Cr. for implementation over a period of ten years from 2015- 16 to 2024-25. The project work comprises of: (1) Expansion of Coffee Plantations; (2) Coffee Consolidation/ Rejuvenation; (3) Organic Certification; (4) Promotion of Wet pulping through supply of Baby pulpers; and (5) Marketing support.

It is a public sector undertaking of government of Andhra Pradesh established in the year 1956 with a single mission, which is the socio-economic upliftment of Tribals. The forests in this state play a significant role in sustaining the livelihood of these people, especially the sale of forest produce (non-timber forest products), since agricultural activity by itself is not sufficient for sustenance, or as a source of livelihood. GCC was instituted with the sole purpose to protect them from exploitative middlemen, petty traders and establish a mutually beneficial relationship between them and the rest of the world.

EDUCATION SCHEMES AND PROGRAMMES

Girijana Vidya Vikas Kendras (GVVK) this measure introduced in 1986 brought an enrolment explosion in the areas of Tribals; out of 4317 GVVKS, 351 GVVKS are upgraded to primary schools in 2011-12. Government of Andhra Pradesh has sanctioned permanent buildings for all these upgraded schools under DPEP during 2013-14. Presently, these GVVKS are called Tribal Welfare Primary Schools.⁹

CONCLUSION

Social and economic justice, equality of status and opportunity, security of individual human dignity are guaranteed under Indian constitution to all citizens among others. The Constitution of India has been enriched with several provisions for Schedule caste and tribe to protect and promote their cultural, social, educational and economic interests to make them part of the mainstream of the nation. The governments of Andhra Pradesh are working hard to enrich the lives of tribal's. There are 427 important tribal communities in India. The dominant tribal areas are estimated to constitute about 15. Percent of the total geographical area of the country. In India, tribal communities use their own dialect which is in vogue in their region. Gond tribal groups are mostly concentrated in Andhra Pradesh. National Program. Basic Education or Lunch Nutrition Assistance serves as a support service that increases retention rates. This article used the fact that tribal programs affect the socio-economic structure of tribals in the state of Andhra

Pradesh. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has also implemented the Tribal Areas Welfare Program through which the conditions of 4,444 tribal people are better than before.

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