

A STUDY ON TRIBAL LIVING AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AMONG EAST GODAVARI DISTRICT IN ANDHRA PRADESH

Y. ANIL KUMAR, D. SURYA PRABHA & CH. CHIRANJEEVI

Department of Economics Research Scholars, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India

ABSTRACT

Indian tribes are a heterogeneous group; most of them remain at the lowest stratum of the society due to various factors like geographical and cultural isolation, the health and educational background of tribes in India show in a pathetic condition. It is multi-dimensional phenomenon encompassing the inability to satisfy basic needs, lack of control over resource, lack of education and skills, poor health and malnutrition, lack of shelter, poor access to water and sanitation, vulnerability to shocks, violence and crime, and lack of political freedom and voice. The challenges facing the poorest of the poor and in overcoming poverty are therefore varied and complex. The present study analyses the nature of living conditions area and provides a basis for enriching the existing theories of inter tribal and intra-tribal pattern of living and environmental conditions detail with the inter tribe relations between the different tribes of Andhra Pradesh especially in the coastal agency area.

KEYWORDS: Agency, Challenges, Isolation, Pathetic, Ulnerability

INTRODUCTION

In India, 427 groups have been recognized as Scheduled Tribes. They form approximately 10 percent of the total Indian population. These tribal groups inhabit widely varying ecological and geo-climatic conditions (hilly, forest, desert, etc.) in different concentration throughout the country with different cultural and socioeconomically backgrounds. Due to their remote and isolated living, tribal groups are difficult to reach. The scheduled tribes differ considerably from one another in race, language, culture and beliefs. Notwithstanding so much diversity, there are certain broad similarities between the mutually divergent tribal groups. Striking similarities are noticed, in their modes of living, each tribe lives in a definite area, has common dialect, cultural homogeneity and unifying social organization. The tribal population of India has been found to speak 105 different languages and 225 subsidiary languages indicating a great deal of variety (IGNOU, 1990). Languages spoken by Indian tribes can be classified into four major families of languages, namely; Austro-Asiatic family. Tibeto-Chinese family.

RESEARCH PROBLEM

In Andhra Pradesh 33 types of Schedule Tribes are living in 8 districts. ST's are 6.6% are in total population of Andhra Pradesh. They have rich heritage along with their innocent life style. As they are living in hill areas and forests they have some peculiar characters like indications of primitive traits, distinctive culture, and shyness of contact with other communities, geographical isolation, backwardness etc. So, for their development central and state governments are implementing different programmes and schemes since 1951. After the Ministry of Tribal affairs were constituted in 1999, there is more focus on development of Schedule Tribes in Indian society especially in Andhra Pradesh. The persisting

problems like low literacy and high drop-outs, inadequate health services, lack of nutrition food, extreme poverty, and ineffective implementation of schemes etc are putting them away from economic development.

RELEVANT RECENT REVIEWS

Ali. A (2003)^[i] in his study on the health status of scheduled tribes in India, noted that among most of the tribes, gastro intestinal disorders particularly dysentery and parasitic infestations are very common leading to marked morbidity and mal nutrition. Malnutrition among women and children due to these problems is common even among tribes with adequate nutrient intake. The magnitude and gravity of the health problems of the tribals in India compounded as they are by wide spread poverty, ignorance, lack of health and education are daunting. He suggested that much can be done to improve health standards of the tribal people; if location specific and need based health planning is done. This of course is a big challenge, to meet this challenge in the field of tribal health without the involvement of the tribals themselves, we cannot succeed: with their involvement, we cannot fail.

Rao K.M and et.al (2003)^[ii] studied the socio demographic and nutritional status of the tribal population in the three ecological zones of M.P. the overall situation of health and nutrition in all the tribal groups is worse. The tribals face uncertainty of food especially during lean seasons such as rainy and summer months. Distribution of subsidized food grains through public distribution system, provision of employment opportunities in lean provides and steps to strengthening of the availability of health care and their utilization may be the immediate need for the upliftment of the tribal groups.

Prakasa Rao, M.V.S.S (2008)^[iii] studied the 'Health care and health services: challenges ahead in the tribal areas'. He observed that the tribal people are suffering with many diseases like viral fevers, malaria, and etc. The rural and tribal health services in the country are with shortage of trained manpower. He suggested that there should be proper provisions of preventive and basic curative services for the tribal people, and also for the protected water supply. The government should subsidize and help general practitioners and doctors, who deliver essential clinical services to the tribal people. Community based schemes should be prepared on the basis of their felt needs, specifically for the isolated, relatively backward and primitive tribal communities.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- Access the living conditions of the tribes
- Trace out the environmental conditions
- Sociological conditions of the selective areas
- Policy and suggestions

METHODOLOGY

The present study aims to study the relationship between the social activities and economic conditions in tribal areas. The data was collected both from primary and secondary sources the secondary data collected from various books and journals and abstract. The primary data was collected from two most backward mandals in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh state. Within these mandals the beneficiaries would be the below poverty line people, especially the poorest of the poor –scheduled tribes people have no control over or access to productive resources, daily wage labour –

especially girl child labour etc. Two mandals were selected for the study out of eight Tribal mandals of entire 59 Mandals in the East Godavari district. These two mandals are 1.Rampachodavaram and 2.Maredumilli. In these two the first is developed Mandal and the second is under development. It is estimated that about 10 thousand households would be living in these two mandals.

DEMOGRAPHIC PARTICULARS OF SELECTIVE AREA

Below Table analyze The Kondareddi category STs are dominating with their households and population in the district, and in the next place Kondadora, Kondakammara, Kondakaku, Valmiki, Mannedora and others are occupying their places.

Sub-categories of Scheduled Tribes in East Godavari district: Koya, Konda Reddi, Kammara, Konda Doras are living in this district.

Table 1: Sub-Caste Wise ST Population and Households in the District

Sl.No.	Tribal Sub Caste Particulars	ST Population	ST Households
1.	Kondareddi	65001 (40%)	15718 (40%)
2.	Koya Dora	56876 (35%)	13753 (35%)
3.	Konda kammara	19499 (12%)	4715 (12%)
4.	Konda Kapu	6499 (4%)	1572 (4%)
5.	Valmiki	8126 (5%)	1964 (5%)
6.	Mannedora	3249 (2%)	786 (2%)
7.	Others	3249 (2%)	786 (2%)

Literacy Rate

The general literacy in the district was 65.5 percent and among the total literates the share of STs in the state is 6.43 percent and in the district is 3.91 percent. The total ST literacy in the district is 44.60 percent where male dominating with 50.36 percent than female 38.91 percent. The sex ratio of STs also indicates female domination.

Status of Educational Institutions for STs

There are 20 hostels for tribal children and among them 14 for boys and 6 for girls. There are 22 Ashram High Schools, 10 for boys and 12 for girls. The Government has taken certain steps to increase tribal literacy levels in the district. Hence, there are 37 U.P. schools, 6 Residential schools and 6 Residential colleges are located in the tribal areas of the district.

Tribal Health Facilities Provided by Government in Selective Areas

It has noticed that there are only two community health centers which are located at R.C.Varam and Y.Rayavaram Mandal Head Quarters and 18 Public Health Centres in the 11 tribal mandals. This indicates that the medical care among tribal mandals are Found poor.

CONCLUSIONS

- Levels of literacy and health conditions in selected tribal areas of Andhra Pradesh. The central and state government had implemented a number of programmes for the success of tribal's but the lack of awareness of education and health facilities the tribal's were not benefited from them.
- The level of development of different tribes and socio-economic cultural traits of different tribes will also have some influence on the health conditions of tribes and they have not been touched in the earlier studies.
- Setting up Primary Health Centers (PHCs) in tribal habitations for controlling diseases as well as provides preventive measures.
- Availability of doctors and assistants in the PHCs for 24 hours.
- There should be a sub-center of health for every two or three nearest villages.
- The social and economic levels of the tribal communities are not homogeneous. But they are at different levels of variability, tribal development cannot be uniform. The development schemes have to be devised in the light of socio-cultural factors and economic needs of the tribes in each region and sometimes each community. The socio-cultural matrix of tribal communities in our country exhibits district systems and traditions. Among the tribal communities, traditional values and social ethics play an important role and significance of social, cultural factors cannot be ignored in formulation of schemes for their all-round sustainable development.

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ⁱAli A "**Health status of tribal's in India**" published in *Adak (Ed) Demography and Health profile of the tribals*", Annol publications, 2003, New Delhi.

ⁱⁱ Rao KM et.al **Socio, demographic and nutritional status of tribal population of M.P** "published, 2003, New Delhi.

ⁱⁱⁱ Prakasa Rao MVSS "**Health care and health services**" published in Dr. B.S. Vasudeva Rao (ed) "Tribal developmental studies" Associated publishers Ambala cantonment, 2005 Ambala.