

Socio-economic status of schedule tribes in Andhra Pradesh: An analysis in Kadapa district

¹M Nageswara Naik, ²G Savaraiah

¹ Research Scholar, Department of Economics, S.V. University, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh India

² Professor & Principal, College of Arts, S.V. University, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh India

Abstract

The Constitution of India does not define Scheduled Tribes as such; the Article 366(25) refers to scheduled tribes as those communities who are scheduled in accordance with Article 342 of the Constitution. According to Article 342 of the Constitution, the Scheduled Tribes are the tribes or tribal communities or part of or groups within these tribes and tribal communities which have been declared as such by the President through a public notification. In India there are 427 main tribal communities living. The India ranks the second in having the tribal concentration in the world next only to Africa. It is estimated that the predominant tribal areas comprise about 15 per cent of the total geographical area of the country. The tribes are mostly concentrated in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Odessa and West Bengal. The tribes when compared to other community people are facing major problems. Hence, the development of these scheduled tribes is inevitable and it is necessary to improve them in all arenas of socio-economic features, this is lacking in the many parts of countries development, where many developmental programmes have been launched and progressed but still this attention has not been paid. Hence, this paper makes an attempt to analyze the socio-economic conditions and sources of income and other aspects of scheduled tribes in Kadapa District of Andhra Pradesh. A Multi-stage random sampling technique was employed to study the objective. The variables taken in to consideration to explain the socio-economic status were namely like gender, age, educational level, marital status, type of houses, livestock position, cropping pattern, land particulars, levels of income, expenditures and sources of debt are examined.

Keywords: socio-economic, schedule, tribes, constitution, educational level, marital status

Introduction

The Constitution of India does not define Scheduled Tribes as such; the Article 366(25) refers to scheduled tribes as those communities who are scheduled in accordance with Article 342 of the Constitution. According to Article 342 of the Constitution, the Scheduled Tribes are the tribes or tribal communities or part of or groups within these tribes and tribal communities which have been declared as such by the President through a public notification. The Constitution of India incorporates several special provisions for the promotion of educational and economic interests of Scheduled Tribes and their protection from social injustice and all forms of exploitation. These objectives are sought to be achieved through a strategy known as the Tribal Sub-Plan strategy, which was adopted at the beginning of the Fifth Five Year Plan. The strategy seeks to ensure adequate flow of funds for tribal development form the State plan allocations, schemes of Central Ministry Departments, financial and developmental institutions. The cornerstone of this strategy has been to ensure earmarking of funds for TSP by States in proportion to the ST population in those States.

The *tribe* means a set of people theoretically of common descent. It commonly denotes a community, a race, a breed or a class of people. The definition of the word *Tribes* is concerned and applicable to everyone. A tribal is a person belonging to that group. The word tribal is mistakenly understood as a Girijan or hills man. Generally the Girijan community should be called hill

tribes. They are first listed out in the schedule to the constitution conferring on them certain rights and privileges. Thus they are called scheduled tribes. The people in practice understand the term tribal as a hill person and call him/her a Girijan in Indian language for the sake of convenience. According to Dr.B.P.Chaurasia some indicators distinguish Scheduled Tribes from other sections of the people. They live in relatively isolated hills and forests; they are the oldest inhabitants of their native place; the economically and technologically they are still backward; their language, culture, beliefs and customs are different and their sense of history is poor.

In India there are 427 main tribal communities living. The India ranks the second in having the tribal concentration in the world next only to Africa. It is estimated that the predominant tribal areas comprise about 15 per cent of the total geographical area of the country. In India tribal communities use their own dialect which is in vogue in their region. The Gonds groups of tribes are mostly concentrated in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. The Bhils are concentrated in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. The Santhals appear in large number in Bihar, Odessa and West Bengal. The percentage of tribal people living in Mizoram, Nagaland, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh is quite high with reference to the total population. In Union Territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli the tribes form a very high percentage of 78.99 and in Lakshadweep the percentage is even higher i.e. 93.15. The total population of Scheduled Tribes in the

country is 807.29 Lakhs which constitutes 7.86 percent to 1000.83 lakhs 8.27 per cent during the period 2001 to 2011. In Andhra Pradesh according to 2001 Census, the total population is 453.97 lakhs out of the same 23.73 lakhs are tribal people constituting 5.23 per cent of the total population of the State and according to 2011 Census, the total population is 499.77 lakhs out of the same 27.41 lakhs are tribal people constituting 5.53 per cent of the total population of the State. There are 33 identified Scheduled Tribe Communities residing in both hilly and plains areas of the State. The many tribal people live in and around hilly tracts and valleys where river water is available. The Gonds, Koyas, Hill Reddis, Bhagatas, konda Valmikis, Savaras and Khonds, Erukala, Yanadi, Chenchu, Sugali are the major tribal groups in Andhra Pradesh. These people are accustomed to live in small huts. The most of them spend their lives below poverty line. Their way of life also is different from that of the outside world.

Basic features of tribal economy of India

The most disadvantaged groups who are at food gathering, hunting and fishing stage are facing multifarious problems in modern times in their own habitats. The question of taking the problems of more backward communities has received the attention of various commission and study teams connected with tribal welfare. The Scheduled Areas and PTGs Commission (1961), popularly known as the Dhebar Commission classified the Scheduled PTGs of our country in to the following four different groups are (I). Those that are living in the remotest corners and for that reason are almost in a primitive stage; (II). Those in the Jhum (shifting) Cultivation stage; (III) Those who have taken to regular agriculture and (IV) those who have already been assimilated. The study team on Tribal Development Programmes (Shilu AO Team- 1969) discerned marked imbalance development among the tribal communities and a large number of tribal communities continuing to be extremely backward, some of them still in the primitive food gathering stage. They reiterated the view of the Dhebar Commission that the lowest layer needed the utmost consideration and should be made the special concern of the State Government. They suggested that State Governments and administrations of union territories should make an objective study of the extent to which each of the tribal development programmes and select on the basis of such a study the really backward communities that need special attention. Further, separate schemes for imparting education and economic uplift should be framed and treated as central schemes, including special provision in the plan for the purpose.

At the time of review of tribal development programmes on the eve of the Fifth Plan, it was recognized that special programmes for the extremely backward tribal groups known as primitive groups, should be taken up on the basis of proper identification on the lines suggested by the Shilu.A .O. Team. It was also envisaged that the programmes would be financed entirely by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The important guidelines for identification of Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) are: pre-

agricultural level of technology, low level of literacy and stagnant or diminishing population.

The Scheduled Tribe Groups who were identified as more backward communities among the tribal population groups have been categorized as PTG Groups (PTGs) by the Government at the Centre in 1975. So far seventy-five tribal communities have been identified as PTG groups in different States of India. These hunting, food-gathering, and some agricultural communities, who have been identified as more backward communities among the tribal population groups need special programmes for their sustainable development. The PTGs are awakening and demanding their rights for special reservation quota for them. The majorities of the PTGs in India is in perpetual poverty and stands much below the poverty line, suffering from an alarming malnutrition and high illiteracy. The Government must take initiative more seriously, sincerely, and effectively to create sustainable development programmes among them. The 10th plan of the Government of India lucidly describes the problems of these vulnerable communities: A decline in their sustenance base and the resultant food insecurity, malnutrition and ill-health force them to live in the most fragile living conditions and some of them are even under the threat of getting extinct. This information reveals that there are certain communities in the PTGs who are identified as PTGs, who are at a much lower level of development even as compared to the other ST communities.

Tribal development strategies implemented in India

The implementation part of the tribal development strategy there are different views among the researchers. Some argue that what was happened to tribal in India during the last 50 years is agonizing. The approach to tribal development from the Fourth Plan onwards had found that actual benefits trickling down to the tribals have not been consistent with promises we have made. The gap between tribals and non-tribals has been widening and tribal exploitation has become more effective and increased after the implementation of developmental plans. A.K Sharma pointed out that, Government of India has not only failed to encourage the development of tribals but has actively maintained their under development. He also stated that the laws and programmes have failed because of the attitudes of the powerful feudal elitist groups and non-involvement of tribals in the development process. The tribal development in the Sixth Plan states that the benefits accruing the tribals were inconsistent with huge investment. The Working Group on tribal development for Eighth Five Year Plan also observed that tribal Sub-Plan strategy has yielded results but these do not commensurate to the expectations and investments made so far. The area based and individual based programmes did not have desired impact.

Some micro level studies of which focused mainly on the impact of development programs on tribal households indicate a mixed pattern. There were many reasons for the failure of tribal development programs. There were delays in the implementation of the programs. The co-ordination at various levels was absent; the State

Governments did not ensure a reasonable share of benefits from the general development programs to the tribals. The developmental efforts increased the differences between tribal groups. The performance of the administrative machinery is very unsatisfactory. The remarks of the Planning Commission in this regard about the need of fresh look on the tribal development are worth mentioning.

The World Bank Country study on Poverty in India (1997) pointed out that, an illiterate rural woman, a member of scheduled tribe, a person who lives in a landless household or is dependent on wage-earnings, all face a significantly higher than average risk of poverty. This phrase explains the status of tribal people living in our country. The tribes when compared to other community people are facing major problems. Hence, the development of these scheduled tribes is inevitable and it is necessary to improve them in all arenas of socio-economic features, this is lacking in the many parts of countries development, where many developmental programmes have been launched and progressed but still this attention has not been paid. Hence, this paper makes an attempt to analyze the socio-economic conditions and sources of income and other aspects of scheduled tribes in Kadapa District of Andhra Pradesh.

A Multi-stage random sampling technique was employed to study the objective. In the first stage, Kadapa district was purposively selected for the study. In the second stage Kadapa, Jammalamadugu and Rajampeta three revenue divisions selected; in the third stage each division 2 mandals randomly were selected, namely Rayachoti, T.Sundupalli, Nandalur, B.Kodur, Thondur, and Vempalli mandals are selected; In the fourth stage each mandal 25 sample randomly tribals were selected. All the tribal households in the sample village were interviewed with the help of prepared schedule, totally the final sample respondents interviewed were 150 from the Kadapa district. The article objectives are to study on the socio-economic conditions of Schedule tribes in Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh. The variables taken in to consideration to explain the socio-economic status were namely like gender, age, educational level, marital status, type of houses, livestock position, cropping pattern, land particulars, levels of income, expenditures and sources of debt are examined the following lines. The tribal sample respondents of gender, age, education and marital status, house particulars, livestock, land holdings, programs benefited are presented in Table-1.

Table 1: Distribution of Tribal Respondents in Kadapa District of Andhra Pradesh

Gender		Age		Educational level		Marital Status	
Gender	No	Age-wise	No	Educational Level	No	Marital Status	No
Male	89(59.33)	18-25	31(20.66)	Illiterates	55(36.66)	Married	115(76.66)
		25-35	59(39.33)	Primary	69(46)	Un-married	24(16)
Female	61(40.66)	35-45	42(28)	Secondary	18(12)	Widow	8(5.33)
		Above 45	18(12)	Intermediate	8(5.33)	Widower	3(2)
Total	150(100)	Total	150(100)	Total	150(100)	Total	150(100)
House Particulars		Live stock		Programmes Benefitted		Land Holdings	
Houses	No	Live stock	No	Programmes	No	Acres	No
Hut	8(5.33)	Bullocks	8(5.33)	INDIRAMMA	91(60.66)	No land	18(12)
Kutchha	25(16.66)	Cows	12(8)	NREGS	35(23.33)	Below 1 acre	83(55.33)
Pucca	41(27.33)	Buffaloes	26(17.33)	FFW	13(8.66)	1-2 acres	43(28.66)
Mixed	76(50.66)	Sheeps/Goats	104(69.33)	Others	11(7.33)	Above 2 acres	6(4)
Total	150(100)	Total	150(100)	Total	150(100)	Total	150(100)

Source: Field Data

From the Table-1, shows that the males constitute 59.33 per cent and females 40.66 per cent of the respondents in the study area. It is observed that the respondents are mostly in the age group of 25-35 (39.33 per cent), while within the age group of 35-45 it is 28 per cent, 12 per cent in age group of above 45 and lastly 20.66 per cent in the age group 18-25 of the total respondents in the study area. The education level says that 36.66 per cent were illiterates, 46 per cent were primary level, 12 per cent were secondary and 5.33 per cent were intermediate educational level of the respondents. The marital status reveals that 115 members (76.66 per cent) were married and 16 per cent were un-married. The house particulars are reveals that 16.66 per cent respondents live in kutchha type of houses; with pucca houses formed 27.33 per cent and 50.66 per cent of sample beneficiaries mixed house and 5.33 per cent only huts lives in the study area. The livestock particulars are bullocks constitute 5.33 per cent,

cows constitute 8 per cent, buffaloes are 17.33 per cent and sheep/goats are 69.33 per cent the distribution of livestock across the study area. The results show that, though the Governments were implementing many a number of programmer for the upliftment of the scheduled tribes, it is imperative to bring out the information on which programme is successful with regard to its outreach. With regard to their outreach the Food for Work Programme (FFW) and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGES), INDIRAMMA (Housing Programme) are successes as the total sample are beneficiaries of these three programmes. However, the INDIRAMMA scheme was only (60.66 per cent) sample respondent, which are more benefited and the rest are left out. Hence, the present status of the income will provide better social security or living standards instead they have to depend on housing facility provided by the Government for the

scheduled tribes. The Government has to be innovative in implementing the above said scheme. The land particulars are observed that among the respondents, 12 per cent respondents are no land, 55.33 per cent of owned land below 1 acre, 28.66 per cent owned land between 1-

2 acres and 4 per cent owned above 2 acres in the study area. The Distribution of sample tribal respondents of occupations, income, expenditure and debt sources are presented in Table-2.

Table 2: Distribution of Sample Tribal Respondents of Occupations, Income and Expenditure in Kadapa District of Andhra Pradesh

Occupation		Income		Expenditure	
Occupations	No	Income level	No	Expenditure level	No
Cultivators	18(12)	Below 10,000	8(5.33)	Below 10,000	4(2.66)
Wage labour	23(15.33)	10,000-20,000	53(35.33)	10,000-20,000	8(5.33)
House workers	14(9.33)	20000-30,000	65(43.33)	20000-30,000	45(30)
Collect forest products	32(21.33)	30,000-40,000	12(8)	30,000-40,000	59(39.33)
Non-Agri.labour	57(38)	40,000-50,000	9(6)	40,000-50,000	28(18.66)
Others	6(4)	Above 50,000	3(2)	Above 50,000	6(4)
Total	150(100)	Total	150(100)	Total	150(100)

From the Table-2 that the occupations are observed that 12 per cent are cultivators, 15.33 per cent are wage labour, 9.33 per cent were house workers, 21.33 per cent collect forest products and 38 per cent non-agricultural labour and 4 per cent other labour in the study area. The respondents income levels shows that 5.33 per cent of the respondents are found in the income group up to Rs.10,000; 35.33 per cent of them are in the income range of Rs. 10,000-20,000; 43.33 per cent income range of Rs. 20,000-30,000 and 8 per cent of them has gross income range between Rs. 30,000-40,000; 6 per cent income range of Rs. 40,000-50,000 and 2 per cent of them has gross income above Rs. 50,000 in the study area. In the expenditure reveals that group of up to Rs.10,000 (2.66 per cent), 5.33 per cent of them are in the range of Rs.10,000 – 20,000; 30 per cent expenditure in the range Rs. 20,000 – 30,000; 39.33 per cent of them are in the range of Rs.30,000 – 40,000; 18.66 per cent expenditure in the range Rs. 40,000 – 50,000 and 4 per cent of them has expenditure above Rs. 50,000 in the study area. As income of the sample respondents is low and even insufficient to meet their household expenditure, they are forced to borrow money frequently. Generally sample respondents approach money lenders for financial support due to accessibility to financial institutions. Due to the higher rate of interest charged by money lenders and also due to low earning capacity the indebtedness among the sample PDS beneficiaries is high. The Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks, and Co-operative Banks are the important institutional sources of credit supply, while land-lords, money lenders, neighbours, pawn brokers, village traders, friends and relatives are the non-institutional sources. The rate of interest paid by the borrowing sample beneficiaries depends on the sources of finance. The money-lenders and land-lords charge the usurious rate of interest ranging between 24 and 60 per cent per annum. On the other hand, the institutional credit agencies charge nominal rate of interest. The rate of interest of the Co-operative Banks ranges between 11 and 14 per cent and the banks including rural banks between 4 and 11 per cent collected from the borrowers. The sources of debt incurred by the sample respondents are presented in the Table-3.

Table 3: Distribution of Sample Tribal Respondents of the Sources of Debt in Kadapa District of Andhra Pradesh

Sources of Debt	No of Respondents
Commercial Banks	2(1.33)
RRBs	8(5.33)
Co-operative Banks	11(7.33)
Land-lords,	29(19.33)
Money lenders	25(16.66)
Neighbours	38(25.33)
Friends and Relatives	21(14)
Village Traders	16(10.66)
Total	150(100)

Source: Field Survey Data

From Table-3, it is apparent that the sources of debt are commercial Banks (1.33 per cent), Regional Rural Banks (5.33 percent), Co-operative Banks (7.33 per cent), the land lords(19.33 per cent), Money lenders(16.66 per cent), Neighbours (25.33 per cent), Friends and Relatives (14 per cent) and Village Traders(10.66 per cent) in the study area. The most of their credit needs are met by private money lenders who charge exorbitant interest rates and make their lives more vulnerable to their intangible problems. Hence the Government should take inventiveness in order to promote the financial stability among the scheduled tribal by offering better banking service by providing good amount of loan money with lower interest rates for the needy people who are being in the thrust of the improvement and ultimately the process of development can't be hindered in the initially level which can put into more towards the economic development of the individual level which in turn reflect on the society and rural community as a whole for the development, as well all know that, development beings within the rural villages itself. The Central Government and State Governments are provided widely marketing specialties, godowns, cold storage facilities for the forest based products.

References

1. Dana Dunn, Gender Inequality in Education and Employment in the Scheduled Castes and tribes of India, 2012, 12(1).

2. Debjani Roy, Socioeconomic Status of schedule Tribes in Jharkhand, Indian Journal of Spatial Science, 2012, 3(2).
3. Mohan Rao, Dr. Socio-Cultural K. Profile of Tribes of Andhra Pradesh, Tribal Cultural Research and Training Institute, Govt. of A.P., Hyderabad, 1993.
4. Nawani, Disha, North-East Indians and Others-Discrimination, Prejudice and Text books, Economic and Political Weekly, 2014, 49(24).
5. Ramdas.R, A Separate Telangana - Promise and Prospects for Tribal Projects, Economic and Political Weekly, 2013, 48(29).
6. Rao, Hanumantha. C. H. The New Telangana State-A Perspective for Inclusive and Sustainable Development, Economic and Political Weekly, 2014.
7. Sundara Rao, M., Lakshmana Rao, B. Factors Influencing Socio-Economic Status of the Primitive Tribal Groups PTGs and Plain Tribes in Andhra Pradesh A Logistic Regression Analysis. World Applied Sciences Journal, 2010, 11(2).
8. Tribes and Tribal Areas of Andhra Pradesh-Basic Statistics, 2015.
9. Valentina.G. Impact of Road Improvement in the Tribal economy of Orissa, Paper Published in Tribal Developmental Studies, Edited by Dr. B.S Vasudeva Rao, Associated Publishers, Ambala Cantonment, Ambala, 2005.
10. www.aptribes.gov.in
11. www.tribal.nic
12. India Ministry of Tribal Affairs, The National Tribal Policy: A Policy for the Scheduled Tribes of India, New Delhi, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, 2004.
13. Andhra Pradesh Statistical Abstracts, Government of Andhra Pradesh, 2016.
14. Kadapa District Hand Book, Government of Andhra Pradesh, 2016.
15. Mandal Hand Books, Kadapa District, Government of Andhra Pradesh, 2016.