



Socio –Economic Status and Health facilities of Tribes in Andhra Pradesh

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Abstract: *The main focus of the study is laid on analyzing the Socio economic profile the selected sample Households and to analyze the issues relating to development programmes on the health status in Andhra Pradesh. It can be noticed that the decadal growth (2001-2011) of tribes in India is recorded 23.70 percent, in case of Andhra Pradesh it is recorded relatively low 17.80 percent. At the all India level the proportion of ST population in total population in 2011 is recorded as 8.6 percent while in case of A.P. is recorded lower at 6.99 percent. Andhra Pradesh is having 5.67 percent of total ST population in the country.*

Key words: Tribes, habitats, government

Introduction

India has the largest concentration of tribal communities in the world except that in Africa. The tribal groups of India are known to be the autochthonous people of the land. They form 8.61 percent of the tribal population of India. Hence small they are, playing a vital role in shaping the destiny of the country. These tribal groups inhabit widely varying ecological and geo-climatic conditions (hilly, forest, valley regions etc.) in different concentration throughout the country and are distinct biological isolates with characteristic cultural and socio economical background. The government of India identified all STs as primitive races. Various tribal groups of our country at different stages of Economy starting from food collection stage to settled agriculture.

The most disadvantage 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 commissions and study teams connected with tribal welfare. The Scheduled Areas and Tribes Commissions (1961), popularly known as the Dhebur Commission classified the Scheduled Tribes of our country in to the following four different groups i) those that are living in the remotest corners and for that reason are almost in a Primitive Stage, ii) those in Jhum (shifting) cultivation stage, iii) those who have taken to regular agriculture and iv) those who have already assimilated.

Objectives:



The main focus of the study is laid on analyzing the Socio economic profile the selected sample Households and to analyze the issues relating to development programmes on the health status in Andhra Pradesh.

The scenario of the tribal economy of Andhra Pradesh can be explained with the help of statistical information relating to the tribes in Andhra Pradesh. The demographic statistics of schedule tribes in India and Andhra Pradesh State are explained in the following table 1.

Demographic Statistics of Scheduled Tribes

Table 1: Demographic Statistics of Scheduled Tribes in India and Andhra Pradesh

S. No.	Country / State	Total Population	ST Population (000)		Decadal Growth in Percent	% of STs in the State to Total State Population	% of STs in the State to total ST Population in India
			2001	2011			
1.	India	1210570	84326	104281	23.7	8.6	-
2.	Andhra Pradesh	84581	5,024	5918	17.8	6.99	5.67

Source: Census of India, 2011

From the above Table it can be noticed that the decadal growth (2001-2011) of tribes in India is recorded 23.70 percent, in case of Andhra Pradesh it is recorded relatively low 17.80 percent. At the all India level the proportion of ST population in total population in 2011 is recorded as 8.6 percent while in

case of A.P. is recorded lower at 6.99 percent. Andhra Pradesh is having 5.67 percent of total ST population in the country. The decadal growth rates of ST and general population from 1961 to 2011 both in the Indian Economy and Andhra Pradesh State are presented in the following Table 2.



Table 2

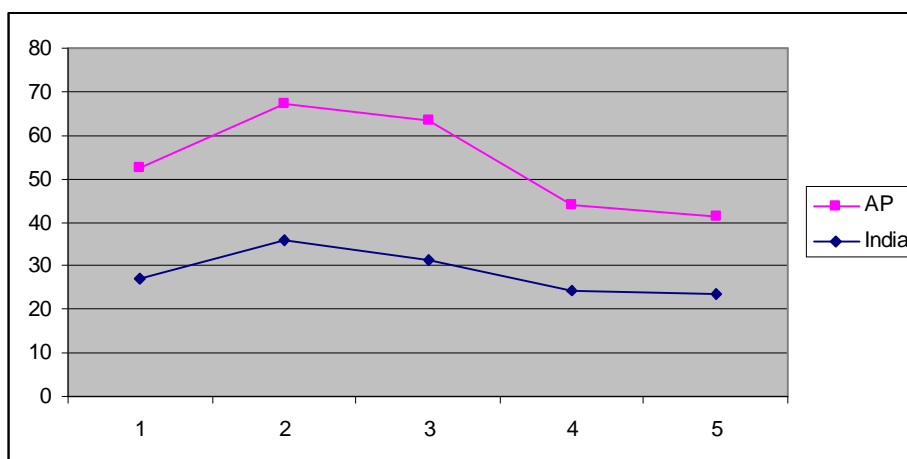
Decadal growth rate of ST and general population in India and Andhra Pradesh from 1961 to 2011 census

S. No.	Year	ST All India	ST Andhra Pradesh	General Population	
				All India	Andhra Pradesh
1.	1961-1971	27.21	25.17	24.8	20.90
2.	1971-1981	35.81	31.60	24.66	23.01
3.	1981-1991	31.24	32.23	23.87	24.20
4.	1991-2001	24.25	19.64	21.54	14.59
5.	2001-2011	23.70	17.8	17.64	11.00

Source: Census of India, 2011

From the above Table it can be observed that both in case of the growth of general population and ST population the (except 1981-1991) five decadal rates are relatively recorded higher at the national level. Another important aspect is that all the five decadal rates of ST population both at national level and state level are recorded very higher when compared to the decadal growth rates of general population.

Figure: Decadal growth rate of ST and general population in India and Andhra Pradesh



From the Table it can be noticed that the literacy rates of tribes in A.P. during different census periods are recorded very low. However the female and male literacy rates of the tribes are showing a little bit improvement



during last three census periods. Still the female literacy rates of the tribes are recorded very low when compared to male literacy rates. The State of low female literacy rates of tribes in Andhra Pradesh necessitates the further intensification of female literacy programme in the agency areas of Andhra Pradesh.

Table 3: ITDA wise number of Medical Institutions Available in Tribal Areas in Andhra Pradesh (As on September 2014)

S.No.	ITDA	Tribal AHs	Tribal CHs	Tribal PHCs	Tribal SCs
1	Seethampeta	02	03	27	151
2	Parvathipuram	01	04	20	119
3	Paderu	02	02	36	199
4	Rampachodavaram	01	02	18	095
5	K.R. Puram	00	02	10	065
6	Srisailam	00	05	31	106
Total		06	18	142	735

Source: Office of Directorate of Tribal Welfare, Hyderabad.

Medical institutions made available in 6 places Seethampeta, Parvathipuram, Paderu, Rampachodavaram, K.R. Puram and Srisailam to provide medical facilities to tribes ITDA area of Andhra Pradesh (Divided). Nearly 15 lakhs people are living in ITDA area and

142 Primary Health Centres serving these people on an average one PHC for 10,563 tribal populations. Apart from this Sub Centres, 18 Child Health Centres, 06 Area Hospitals. In all these units 735 medical personnel work as on September, 2014 in Andhra Pradesh.

Table 4: ITDA wise Community Health Workers (CHWS) in Andhra Pradesh.

(As on September 2014)

S. No.	Name of the ITDA	CHWS
1	Seethampeta	367
2	Parvathipuram	406
3	Paderu	3058
4	Rampachodavaram	607
5	K.R. Puram	116
6	Srisailam	170
Total		4724



Source: 4724 Community Health Workers serving in 6 places Seethampeta, Parvathipuram, Paderu, Rampachodavaram, K.R. Puram and Srisaillam in the ITDA area i.e., to say one Community Health Worker for every 300 members.

From the table it can be observed that A.P. is having 10 ITDAs, 41 MADA Pockets, 17 Clusters and 12 Primitive Tribal Groups. The State of Andhra Pradesh consists of 33 tribes with a population of 6.99 percent. In Andhra Pradesh the Scheduled area comprises of 29,683 Kilometers, which forms 10.7 percent of the total geographical area of the State and 11 percent of the total scheduled area of the country. The tribal villages are inhabited by different variety of tribes. The important tribes are Gonds, Andhs, Thothis, Kolanes in Adilabad District, Koya, Konda Reddis, Naikpads in Khammam, Warangal and Godavari Districts, Bagatha, Valmiki, Savara, Gadabha, Konda Dora and Jatapus in the districts of North Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Chenchus in Mahaboobnagar, Kurnool and Prakasam Districts. A large chunk of tribe population in the state is mainly concentrated in the nine Districts Srikakulam, Vijayanagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Khammam, Warangal, Adilabad and Kurnool.

In Andhra Pradesh, Government of India has identified Chenchus of Ranga Reddy, Kurnool, Mahaboobnagar, Nalgonda, Prakasam and Guntur districts in the

year 1975-76 and Kolam of Adilabad and Konda Reddis of East Godavari, West Godavari and Khammam Districts in the year 1980 as PTGs. The Central Sector Schemes for the development of PTGs are being implemented through Integrated Tribal Development Agencies. At present there are 12 Primitive Tribal Groups namely Chenchu, Bodo Gadaba, Gutob Gadaba, Dongiria Kondh, Kutiya Kondh, Kolam, Konda Reddi, Konda Savara, Bondo Poraja, Kondh Poraja, Parange Poraja and Thoti. These tribes' settlements are mostly found on hill tops and slopes of interior forest areas of Eastern Ghats. They relatively live in isolation of interior forests and hills. Still these tribes are largely depending on food gathering, hunting, non-timber forest produce collection and shifting (podu) cultivation for their subsistence and survival. In general the tribe economy in Eastern Ghats is agro forest based and largely considered as subsistence economy. The PTGs population is mostly concentrated in the nine scheduled districts. All these districts fall in the sub-plan areas of Andhra Pradesh.

Income status of tribes

The increase in employment potentiality will lead to increase in



the earnings. In general, the income of the households indicates the economic status of the households. The case study the details of distribution of households by income groups observed from the table 5 more than 85% of the PTG

households are in the income range of 25,000 to 75,000. In the Non-PTG sample households more than 79 percent are in the income range of 25,000 to 1, 00,000 and above.

Table 5: Annual Income of Family

Sl.No.	Income	PTGs	Non PTG	Total
1	Less than 25,000	17 (11.33)	32 (21.33)	49 (16.33)
2	25,000 to 50,000	121 (80.66)	65 (36.66)	176 (58.66)
3	50,000 to 75,000	10 (6.66)	41 (27.33)	51 (17.00)
4	75,000 to 1,00,000	2 (1.33)	18 (12)	20 (06.66)
5	1,00,000 Above	0 (0.00)	4 (2.66)	4 (1.33)
	Total :	150 (100.00)	150 (100.00)	300 (100.00)

Note: Figures in the brackets Indicate percentage to total

Source: Field Study

Food habits of tribals mainly depend on eco system, socio-economic environment and cropping and land use pattern of the area where tribals habitate. Food habits will have direct impact on health and health seeking behavior. Most of the Primitive tribals and plain tribes are non-vegetarians and do take alcohol due to adverse ecological conditions of the areas where they generally live.

Table 6: Type of food Intake

Type	No. of PTG Respondents	No. of Non PTG Respondents	Total
Vegetarian	30 (20.00)	45 (30.00)	75 (25.00)
Non-Vegetarian	120 (80.00)	105 (70.00)	225 (75.00)



Total	150 (100.00)	150 (100.00)	300 (100.00)
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Note: Figures in the brackets Indicate percentage to total: Source: Field Study

However the study it is observed, through that 75% of the Primitive tribes are Non-Vegetarians and 25% of the tribes are Vegetarians (Table 4.14). Vegetarians of the PTGs are 20% and in plain tribes Vegetarians are 30% from these observations it can be stated that the tribals are mostly depending on Non-Vegetarian Food.

Conclusion

The tribal population, scattered across the country, is differently placed with respect to the politico-administrative structures existing in the country. Where they are a numerical minority, they are a part of the general administrative structure of the country, although certain rights have accrued to Scheduled Tribes across the country through reservations in educational institutions and government employment. The State of Andhra Pradesh consists of 33 tribes with a population of 6.99 percent. In Andhra Pradesh the Scheduled area comprises of 29,683 Kilometers, which forms 10.7 percent of the total geographical area of the State and 11 percent of the total scheduled area of the country. The tribal villages are inhabited by different variety of tribes. At the all India level the

proportion of ST population in total population in 2011 is recorded as 8.6 percent while in case of A.P. It is recorded lower at 6.99 percent. 5 more than 85% of the PTG households are in the income range of 25,000 to 75,000. In the Non-PTG sample households more than 79 percent are in the income range of 25,000 to 1, 00,000 and above

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