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SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF ETURUNAGARAM TRIBAL WOMEN: A CASE STUDY OF TELANGANA STATE

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ABSTRACT:

Tribal people of India are one of the original inhabitants and depend on land and land related occupations such as agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry, fishing and hunting and so on. Consequently they are economically backward and belong to an ethnic group away from the main stream of other communities. They live on subsistence level of economy living on the barter system. As market economy expanded in the tribal areas, money as medium of exchange came into existence. Slowly and intervention of the state governments and Government of India many social and environmental factors took place for the upliftment of these tribals from forest based life to a settled agriculture and non agricultural occupations. After independence due recognition was given to these tribals for their socio economic empowerment.



The objectives of this paper to discover the socio economic status of Eturunagaram ancestral women, to recommend the way and means for by and large improvement of the equivalent. Eturunagaram Tribes Community has rich and social legacy, unceasing practices, yet missing Socio monetary strengthening. Couldn't make abundance; they proved unable hold land and properties, etc. At any rate, governments offered sacred assuages as reservation. Be that as it may, it is yet to contact the penniless individuals. The social aspect that includes status or position within a social stratification and the economic aspect that includes resources such as income, occupation and wealth. Even though there is no generally accepted definition of the term "socioeconomic status".

KEYWORDS: Tribal Women, Socio-economic Status, Eturunagaram

INTRODUCTION

Women in an ancestral society assume an imperative part in their social, social, monetary and strict lifestyles what's more, are considered as a financial resource in their general public. Be that as it may, they are as yet lingering a long ways behind in the different backgrounds like schooling, business, great wellbeing and monetary strengthening and so forth Engaging might be perceived as empowering more fragile segments like helpless women, particularly ancestral women to obtain and to have force and assets, to settle on choices all alone After the investigation of the information and field perception, it is uncovered that absence of instruction, chronic frailty status and newborn child death rate, low

degree of compensation work, absence of independent work opportunity, putting together limit and authority quality are the fundamental hindrances to the monetary strengthening of ancestral women.

Socio economic status is a mind boggling idea covering of two unique perspectives, the social viewpoint that remembers status or position for social separation, and the financial viewpoint that incorporates assets, for example, pay, occupation, and abundance. Despite the fact that there is no commonly acknowledged meaning of the term "Socio economic status", so we will see heterogeneous definitions by essayists and researchers. Financial status is develop that mirrors one's admittance to on the whole wanted assets, be they material merchandise, cash, power, fellowship organizations, medical services, relaxation time, or instructive freedoms. Besides, it has been characterized as the position that an individual or family possesses regarding the winning normal principles of social belongings, successful pay, material belongings, and investment in the gathering exercises of the local area.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The socio-economic status of women is the position which they attain as a reason of the various norms, beneficial and obligations in the society. It is often found that the women are more vulnerable section of the society relative to the male counterpart and they often happen to be last receiver of the opportunities delivered along with the development of the nation. Tribal women are more isolated in term of education, employment and health facilities from the mainland. So, it may be that they are more deprived when compare with male counterpart as well as the women from other communities. So, in this regard the study is an attempt to highlight the socio-economic status of Eturunagaram women in a district called Warangal. The Eturunagaram are the tribal group who are the original inhabitant of hilly region consequently they are bound to be isolated from the mainland as well as development. So, in such a case, it is of utmost important to find out the socio and economical condition in which they are living in order to bring them towards the stream of development.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Ashok kumar (2015) highlighted that the condition of socio socioeconomic condition of Jenukuruba tribal community in Mysore district. This study revealed that, Jenukurubas are social and economically very backward compare to other community. Even tribal community, these people are suffering from illness, illiteracy, poverty, lack of food and other problems.

Ajay Saraogi (2013), highlighted the status of women in tribal society in India, he explained Anthropologists have been tilling recently divided on the status of woman in tribal societies in India. The actual treatment, legal status, opportunity for social participation and the character and extent of work, all determine each in a specific sense and manner, the status of women in a society. All these four determinants are independent of each other and not casually related. The correlation between them is empirical and not conceptual.

Das (2012) in an attempt to find out the level of autonomy and decision making power of tribal women and the impact of socio-economic status on decision making roles concluded that the tribal women enjoy autonomy at their household level, especially in social aspects and at some point enjoy equal rights along with their husbands in economic matters. But due to low literacy rate and unemployment the community participation of the women is inactive and autonomy levels are very low.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study the socio economic status of the Eturunagaram women in Warangal district of Telangana.
2. To find out the educational level of the Eturunagaram Tribal women in the study area.
3. To examine the factors influencing on the socioeconomic status of the Eturunagaram women in the study area.

METHODOLOGY

The present study is based on primary data collected from 50 sample respondents from 5 Tribal settlements of Eturunagaram in the Warangal district following the purposive sampling method. A

schedule is used to collect the demographic, social and economic status of the Eturunagaram women and have also been used Interviews, observation, group discussion, and case study methods.

PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA

United Warangal is one of the 10 districts of Telangana state and is considered to be next to Hyderabad in view of its political importance. The total population of the district as per 2011 census is 35.12 lakhs of which 17.59 lakhs are men and remaining 17.53 lakhs are women. The density of population is 273 persons per Sq. Kms. Out of the total population, Scheduled Tribes constitute 15. 10 %. There are 5.30 lakh STs and among them 2.68 lakhs are men and 2.61 lakhs women. There are 177 scheduled villages and 285 Tribal sub plan villages. The major tribal groups include Lambada (3.67 lakh), Koya (1.11 lakh), Yerukala (0.36 lakh) and Nayakpod (0.16 lakh). Eturunagaram ITDA is a society registered under the Societies Registration act -XXI of 1869 and started functioning from 29th February, 1975. In the year 1986 it was shifted from Warangal to Akulavari Ghanpur, Eturnagaram. The tribal sub-plan area of the ITDA consists of 13 revenue mandals. Out of this, three mandals were selected on simple random basis. Further, three villages from each mandal were taken as samples. The total sample size stands at 343 and covers four major tribal communities – Lambadas (100), Koyas (223), Naikpods (11) and Yerukalas (9). Out of the total sample size, 234 are men while the remaining 109 are women. Besides, generating primary data from the field, secondary data was collected from published monographs, previous research works, state gazettes and journal, ITDA reports, NGOs etc. Data was also collected from tribal leaders through informal discussions.

Table: 1 Type of the Family

SI No	Type of Family	Frequency	Percentage
1	Nuclear Family	24	48
2	Joint Family	20	40
3	Extended Family	06	12
	Total	50	100

Source: Primary Data

Above shows that 48% of the respondents belong to nuclear families and 40% of the respondents belongs to joint families and only the remaining 12% of the respondents are living in an extended family. Thus, the data indicate that there are more nuclear families than joint and extended families.

Table: 2 Age wise distribution of the Respondents

SI No	Age group	Frequency	Percentage
1	Below 20 years	05	10
2	21-30 years	08	16
3	31-40 years	18	36
4	41-50 years	12	24
5	Above 60 years	07	14
	Total	50	100

Source: Primary Data

The above table shows that 10.0% respondents are in age group below 20 years, 16.00% of respondents are in the age group of 21-30 years, 36.00% of respondents are come 31 to 40 years age group, 24.00% of respondents are come under below 41-50 years age category and only 14.00% of respondents are in the Above 60 years age group.

Table: 3 Educational status of the respondents

SI No	Level of Education	Frequency	Percentage
1	illiterate	20	40
2	Primary	12	24
3	Secondary	10	20
4	SSC	06	12
5	Graduation and Above	02	4
	Total	50	100

Source: Primary Data

The educational status is divided into 5 categories which are illiterate, primary level, secondary level, and high school level, under graduation and above. The educational status of the respondents is shown in Table 3, that reveals that 40.00% of respondents were observed to be illiterates followed by primary level (24.00%), secondary level (20.00%), High school (12.00%) and only under graduate and above (4.00%).

Table: 4 Occupational status of the respondents

SI No	Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
1	Agriculture	20	40
2	Agriculture Labour	15	30
3	Collection of minor forest product	12	24
4	Govt employee	02	4
5	Other	01	2
	Total	100	100

Source: Primary Data

The above table (4) shows that out of 50 of respondents 40.00% are engaged in agriculture, 30.00% are working as agricultural laborers, 24.00% are in collection of minor forest products, 4.00% in government service, and 2.00% of respondents are engaged in other occupations like business, tailoring, selling in livestock product, gazing cattle, handicraft etc.

Table: 5 Type of Land

SI No	Type of Family	Frequency	Percentage
1	No land	24	48
2	Below 2 Acre	20	40
3	2 to 4 Acre	04	12
4	Above 4 Acre	02	4
	Total	50	100

Source: Primary Data

The above table shows that out of 50 of respondents, 48.00% of respondents have no land, 40.00% less than 2 acres, 12.00% hold up 2 to 4 acres, only 4.00% of respondents hold up above 4 acres. The table clearly shows that the majority of the Eturunagaram in the study area hold up to only below 2 acres. In the study area the Eturunagaram who is landless or who have less than 2 acres are dependent cooli and collect less forest products. Most of the Eturunagaram do not cultivate land.

Table: 6 Annual income of the respondents

SI No	Income	Frequency	Percentage
1	Up to 10000	10	20
2	10,001-20,000	22	44
3	20,001-30,000	08	16
4	30,001-40,000	06	12
5	Above 40,000	04	8
	Total	50	100

Source: Primary Data

Table No 6 indicates that 20.00% of respondents have annual income of up to Rs. 10,000, 44.00% of respondents annual income is from Rs.10,001-20,000, 16.00% of respondents annual earning is Rs.20,001-30,000, 12.00% of respondents are earning is 30,001 to 40,000 and only 8.00% of respondents annual income of above Rs. 40,000.

Table: 7 Preferred Place of Treatment by the Respondents

SI No	Place of treatment	Frequency	Percentage
1	Govt hospital	26	48
2	Private hospital	17	40
3	Traditional healers and temple	06	12
4	Don't go anywhere	01	4
	Total	50	100

Source: Primary Data

The above table indicates that 48.00% of respondents prefer Government hospitals for treatment whereas 40.00% of respondents prefer private hospital's or clinics, 12.00% of respondents are dependent on traditional healers and temples, but 4.00% of respondents do not take treatment. This is due to lack of education, old mentality, belief in superstition and low economic status.

CONCLUSION

In this study, we found that Eturunagaram women have multidimensional roles and responsibilities in their families. Their work burden is higher than that of men, but most of the time spent in their household activities. The literacy rate of Eturunagaram women is low. They are deprived from acquiring an education due to various social, personal, economic factors which are directly related to their incapacity to get a waged job. Only few Eturunagaram women own their houses and some land. Most of the Eturunagaram women have to work more but have a comparatively less decision making power than the male counterparts in agriculture. Actually, the decision making role of men is superior in most of the variables. Only few activities see an equal contribution of men and women in a household decision making. Thus, it can be concluded that the socio-economic status of Eturunagaram women is low, and policy makers and local development practitioners should design appropriate and effective policies and programs in this regard. Informal education classes should be supported for illiterate women with some incentives. Efforts are necessary to be made to develop women's social prestige, self-confidence and feeling of equality by educating them. Poverty is the most threatening constraint against the improvement of women's socio-economic status. Various programs such as vegetable farming, goat farming etc., education, free health, and incentives for higher and employment based programs etc should be launched by the government in order to increase the living standard of the community.

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