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SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF SCHEDULED TRIBES IN ANDHRA PRADESH

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ABSTRACT

India has the second largest tribal population in the world next to African countries. Out of total population of India, STs found 8.27%. Of these 1.95% is primitive tribes. The highest concentration of schedule tribes is found in North-East states. The framers of Indian constitution were very much respectful towards the welfare and development of our indigenous tribal population. Tribal communities in the inaccessible regions continue to live in their own 'little world' struggling along against the elements of nature and depending largely on its boundary Tribes are at different phases of transition. Some tribes have dropped their practices of nomadism now and have largely settled as cultivators. Their mode of farming is no more shifting and unstable. They have combined the occupations like animal husbandry, beekeeping and cultivation of fruits. They have terraced very large tracts on the mountain slopes and the forest areas.



KEYWORDS : *welfare and development , practices of nomadism , occupations.*

INTRODUCTION:

Andhra Pradesh now the largest concentration of tribals in southern India. The forest-clad hill ranges and the chequered valleys traversed by hill stream of the Eastern Ghats and the forests flanking the mightily Godavari and Krishna rivers constitute the traditional habit of as many as 30 forest tribes. In Andhra Pradesh there are 33 tribes. Nearly 4% of total population is tribals (16.58 lakhs). Total scheduled area in Andhra Pradesh is 29,683 sq. kilometers, which forms 10.7% of the total area of the state and 11% of the total scheduled area in the country.

As per 2001 census, the literacy rate among tribals (47.10%) is found to be far below the overall literacy of the country (64.84%). The female literacy rate among tribals is far lower (34.76%) as compared to overall female literacy for the country (53.67%). However, the significant point is the increase in total as well as female literacy among tribals, though still at lower pace as compared to the overall population for the country.

The Majority of tribals constitute the labour work force though their participation in works is declining, but not steadily. Workers among tribals can be divided into three categories-main workers (43.10%), marginal workers (7.61%) and non-workers (49.29%). More than half of the rural tribal population is found to be below poverty line as per latest survey available with ministry of rural development.

The per capita income of tribals continues to be one of the lowest in the country and their alienation from their own land continues. As on January 1999, the tribals were alienated from 9,17,590 acres of tribal land and only 5,37,610 acres of such land was restored as per latest statistics published by the Ministry of Rural Development.

Among the scheduled tribe population the most vulnerable group are tribal women and tribal children. Gender based violence and domestic violence is high among women in general in India. Girl child and women from the tribal population are more vulnerable to violence. The dropout and illiteracy rates among them are high. Early marriages trafficking, forced conditions, in the choice of analytical tools as empirical models and in evaluating the finding of the research vis-a-vis, the results of the studies. The reviewed studies mirrored fact that none of the earlier studies attempted to examine the income and employment generation of tribals through TRICOR programmes in Anantapur District.

NEED FOR THE STUDY

The studies are reviewed here have not focused the specific issues which the present study embarked on. The study is steered in the direction of assessing the impact of tribal development programmes on income and employment generation of lambadas and non-lambadas in Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh. Hence, it may be mentioned that the study attempted to evaluate the impact of tribal developmental programmes on income and employment generation before and after their implementation in the district. Since earlier studies have not focused on these issues, there is a need for the study and further believed that it would fill the research gap. Further the study examines the development impact of tribal developmental schemes on lambada and non-lambada tribes as most of the developmental benefits availed by the lambada tribes alone.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

It has been observed that the lambada tribe have largely benefited by the Governmental welfare and development programmes. The lambada tribe constitutes nearly 70% of the tribes while the remaining 30% of tribes composed of non-lambada tribes which include Erukala (29%), and Yanadi (1%). The lambada lead a well settled life while non-lambada lead a nomadic life even today as such it has become difficult to enroll them as beneficiaries under government schemes. The study aimed to examine the progress achieved by both the tribal groups through the implementation of various tribal developmental programmes initiated and implemented by the district administrative machinery.

OBJECTIVES

- To discuss the performance of various Tribal Developmental Programmes implemented by the country;
- To study the present socio-economic conditions of tribals in Andhra Pradesh;
- To portray the Resources endowment of the study area;
- To evaluate the income, saving and employment generation among Lambada and Non-Lambada Tribes in Anantapur district; and
- To analyse various factors that bettered the conditions of Lambada vis-a-vis Non-Lambada tribes in this district.

HYPOTHESES

1. The tribal developmental Programmes implemented in the state promoted socio-economic conditions among tribals in the district;
2. The socio-economic conditions of Lambada Tribes are far better when compared to Non-Lambada Tribes in this district;
3. Lambada Tribes have more income sources than the Non-Lambada Tribes;
4. Lambada Tribes have fixed habitations when compared to Non-Lambada Tribes who are largely nomadic in nature;

5. The Lambada Tribes have relatively more secured life styles when compared to Non-Lambada Tribes in this district.

TOOLS USED IN THE STUDY

The study has used simple quantitative techniques such as, percentages, simple and compound growth rates and chi-square test were used apart from maps and diagrams for analyzing the data.

METHODOLOGY

The study is based on both the secondary and the primary data. The secondary data have been collected from the published documents, such as Five Year Plan documents of both India and Andhra Pradesh; Statistical abstract of India and A.P. Records of Tribal Welfare Department, Anantapur District of Andhra Pradesh. The primary data have been collected by way of canvassing pre-tested interview schedule in the study area. The study takes the year 1993-94 as the base year.

The district of Anantapur, for administrative purpose, is divided into three Revenue Divisions: Anantapur, Dharmavaram and Penukonda; based on the ST population five mandals from each Revenue Division have selected for the purpose of field survey during the year 2009-10. The data have been collected by interview method. Multistage Random Sampling Technique has been adopted for the study.

The study adopted multistage (four stage) random sampling technique: in the first stage Revenue Divisions have been selected; in the second stage revenue mandals based on the beneficiaries, who availed themselves of financial Assistance under programmes implemented by the District Tribal Development Agency; In the third stage a cluster of villages have been selected to consult the actual beneficiaries as per the records of Tribal welfare department at the district level; and in the fourth and last stage sampled beneficiaries have been selected to record their responses with regard to the usefulness of the various schemes implemented by the Tribal Welfare Department in the District.

The Three Revenue Divisions in the District of Anantapur have 63 Revenue Mandals. The study selected all the three Revenue Divisions covering, 5 Mandals under each Revenue Division and 10 villages under each Revenue Division have been sampled for the study.

It is not possible to find all the requisite number of beneficiaries in one village under each mandal. Hence in some cases more than three villages have been sampled for the study from each mandal in the District. With regard to the size of the beneficiaries, based on the relative size of the population of Lambadas and non-Lambadas, 70 Lambada beneficiaries and 30 Non-Lambada beneficiaries from each sampled Revenue Division have been randomly selected for the purpose of the study.

In order to bring out existing reality, the study covers whole gamut of administrative units in the District with a fair sprinkling of beneficiaries. Thus, the study covers all the three Revenue Divisions, 15 Mandals 30 Villages and 300 sample beneficiaries: 210 Lambada beneficiaries and 90 Non-Lambada beneficiaries.

LIMITATION

Nearly seven percent of the district's population is composed of tribals. Owing to time and resources constraints, the scholar could not cover all the tribal households for the purpose of the study. On the other hand, only 300 households, which includes 210 Lambadas and 90 Non-Lambadas randomly approached to record responses of the beneficiaries to evaluate the utility of Tribal Welfare schemes implemented in the District. It is, therefore, the study aims to arrive at the findings which are almost near to the existing reality.

DESIGN OF THE STUDY

The following is the design of the present study. First Chapter deals with the introduction, methodology, statement of the problem, review of previous studies, design of the study, objectives, the data base and limitations of the study; a brief review of Tribal Developmental Programmes introduced and implemented by the Central and the Andhra Pradesh State Governments have been presented in the second

chapter; the current socio-economic status of Tribals in Andhra Pradesh has been explained in third chapter; Fourth chapter studies the profile of the study area along with physical and human resources available in Anantapur District; Fifth Chapter evaluates the socio-economic conditions of the tribals based on the survey results in respect of income, savings and employment generation among tribals in Anantapur district; and Summary and findings of the study along with recommendations drawn based on the field survey have been presented in the sixth and last chapter.

MAJOR FINDINGS

- In the study are 63% of the beneficiaries fall in the age group of 25-45 and 32% of the beneficiaries belong to 45 and above age group. It means that it can be presumed they have enough physical strength to carry on economically viable activities.
- Cent percent of the beneficiaries have housing facilities and cent percent lambada households have been electrified as against 96.67% of non-lambada households.
- It was only 10% of the lambada households fitted with toilet facility as against 7% of non-lambada households.
- Nearly 13% of lambadas and non-lambada households did not have bath room facilities.
- Over 17% of the lambada as against 32% of the non-lambada households did not have access to drinking water facilities.
- Over 58% of lambadas as against 84% non-lambadas households were illiterates.
- Nearly 40% of the lambada households as against 14% of non-lambada households had primary and secondary education.
- Less than 3% of tribes of the both groups had technical education.
- Owing to lack of awareness on the part of the tribal parents, the overall dropout rate of the male students was 41% and 59% of the female student's class I-IV.
- The male dropout rate among the lambadas and non-lambadas was above 40%.
- The female dropout rate of lambada tribes was 5% as against 60% of non-lambada students from class I-V.
- The chief reason for high dropout rate was ascribed to lack of interest on the part of parents as well as their wards.
- Agriculture was the chief occupation of lambada & non-lambada households, which engaged more than 60% of households. Business & rural artisans workers was the main forte of lambada households, while animal husbandry and rural artisan workers was the forte of the non-lambada households.
- More than 22% of the lambada households were landless as against 46% of the non-lambada households.
- More than 58% of the lambada households belonged to small and marginal farmers as against 44% of the non-lambada households.
- 58% of the lambada households maintain milch animals and sheep and goat. While 44% non-lambada households maintain piggery and poultry.
- A good number possessed agricultural infrastructures bullock carts, electric motor; tractor etc while same was not the case is not with non-lambada.
- It is rather good thing to note that 78% of the lambada households have mobile phones as against 62% of non-lambada households.
- More than 77% of lambada have domestic television sets as against 38% in non-lambada tribes. Nearly 22% of both the groups possessed motor cycles. Nearly 67% of the lambada households possessed domestic assets in the range Rs.20000-60000, as against 80% the non-lambada households.
- More than 48% of lambada households and 28% non-lambada households derived income from their assets per month in the range Rs.300-600.
- 68% of the Lambada households availed themselves of loan under milch animals and sheep rearing,

while it was only 38% of non-lambada households.

- 25 lamabda households could get financial assistance to tire carts/buliock cart.
- 9% of lambada households could get financial assistance for kirana shops and 9% for lime burning activity.
- More percentage of lambada households covered under minor irrigation, sericulture and horticulture compared to non-lambada households.
- Nearly 27% of non-lambada households availed financial assistance for sheep rearing and another 25% obtained financial assistance for basket making activity.
- Over 78% of the lambada households and 73% of the non-lambada households were sanctioned financial assistance under TRICOR in the range of Rs.10000-30000.
- Most of the beneficiaries covered under TRICOR were provided with 50% investment subsidy while those tribes that engaged in drip and sprinklers irrigation were provided 70% investment subsidy and 30% of the sample households covered under this category. Nearly 32% of the lambada households and 17% non-lambada households completely repaid the loan taken. While taken 22% of the lambada households and 42% of the non-lambada households did not repay loan installment. Over 40% of lambad households and 37% non-lambada households could repay loan amount up to 50%.
- It is distressing to note that 32 lambada households, 70 non-lambada households sold out their assets to repay their loans.
- It is significant note that 37% of the lambada households, 78% of non-lambada households had to bribe the officials concerned to get financial assistance.
- Drought condition, low agricultural incomes, high cost of cultivation and rise in the cost of living were the chief reasons for non-repayment of loans.
- The income differentials before and after implementation of Tribal Developmental Schemes did not show any improvement among the lambada households but in case of non-lambadas significant improvement in the respect of income before and after implementation of tribal developmental schemes took places and it was estimated/calculated in the empirical study.
- Only 13% of the sample respondents expressed the in satisfaction that their economic status improved after the implementation of the Tribal Developmental Schemes.
- More than 75% of the lambadas complained lack of medical facilities nearby their habitats as against 83% of non-lambada households.
- 79% of the lambada households know about the family planning as against 52% of non-lambada households.
- 34% of the lambada households underwent family planning operation as against 16% of the non-lambada households.
- More than 46% of the lambaba households and 17% non-lambada households felt that the tribal developmental schemes did not meet their needs.
- More than 80% of lambada households and 87% non-lambada households felt that the subsidy was not enough and both the groups of the tribes wanted that present subsidy component has to be increased at least by 20% or 30%.
- 70% of the beneficiaries did not utilized financial assistance for which it was sanctioned and more than 90% them felt and complained that financial assistance for too inadequate/insufficient. More than 72% of beneficiaries said that tribal developmental schemes did not provide them employment all through the year and did not prevent them from migration to urban areas in search of gainful employment.
- More than 72% of beneficiaries felt that tribal developmental schemes were not assets creating in nature.
- A majority of sampled household expressed their satisfaction that they did not face any marketing problem in the localities concerned.

CONCLUSIONS

The study makes it clear that 70% of beneficiaries did not utilise the sanctioned financial assistance for which was sanctioned and it was only 30% of them could utilize the financial assistance for purpose for which it was sanctioned. It is chief reason for the failure of the tribal developmental schemes. In addition to these, there was absolutely absence of monitoring the implementation of the tribal developmental schemes by the officials concerned at the district level.

It is, therefore, concluded that the TRICOR has to impart skills before extending financial assistance to the tribes and for the success of those schemes the authorities have to ensure proper monitoring process, in addition to enhancing financial assistance and subsidy component as intensely desired by majority of the beneficiaries of both the groups of the tribes.

More number of lambadas (36%) and Non-lambada (77%) reported to have bribed the officials & bankers to get financial assistance. This need to be immediately curbed as it goes a long way in the improvement of the socio-economic conditions of the tribes in the study area.

And thus it is finally concluded that if the authorities concerned evince interest and solve the problems of the beneficiaries in the proper implementation of the tribal developmental schemes, undoubtedly it results in the improvement of income and employment aspects of the lambada and non-lambada tribes in the district.

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