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INCOME AND ASSET INEQUALITIES OF CHENCHU TRIBES IN SRISAILAM ITDA IN ANDHRA PRADESH

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ABSTRACT

The present paper is an attempt to find out the extent of inequalities with respect to assets and income among sample Chenchu tribal households in Srisailam ITDA of Andhra Pradesh State. A sample of 180 households from six villages were administered a structured schedule, and the data was collected, quantified, analyzed and interpreted. It is observed from the study that the Lorenz Curve of assets inequality is concavity than income and consumption, in which the consumption Lorenz curve is concavity than assets. This indicates that, in Chenchu tribe the assets inequality is more than income inequalities.



KEYWORDS: *collected, quantified, analyzed and interpreted.*

INTRODUCTION

India is the second largest tribal population in the world after African continent. As for the 2011 census, the total population of Schedule Tribes is 10,42,31,034 constituting 8.6 percent of the total Indian population. Scheduled Tribes in India are enormously diverse in terms of their population, occupation and the kinds of discriminations they face. These communities are notified as Nomadic and Semi- Nomadic Tribes and particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). Government of India, in its Draft National Tribal Policy, 2006 records 698 Schedule Tribes in India. As per the Census of India 2011, the number of individual groups notified as Schedule Tribes is 705. Each tribal group separate from the others in respect of language, food habit, cloths etc,. The Tribal people speak more than 105 languages and 225 subsidiary languages.

CHEMCHU POPULATION IN ANDHRA PRADESH

Chenchu tribe is one among the 33 tribal groups living in Andhra Pradesh. They are listed as Scheduled Tribes in Andhra Pradesh in modified order 1956 of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes List. According to 2011 Census the tribal population of Andhra Pradesh is 27, 39,919 which constitute about 5.6 percent of the total population of the state. The total Chenchu population in the state is 47,315 and this constitutes about 1.7 per cent of the tribal population in the state. (Table-1) The Scheduled areas extend over 31,485.34 sq. kms., which is about 11 per cent of total area of the State.

Table 1: Chenchu Population in AP. 2011 Census.

Total Population in AP	Total ST Population in Ap.	Percentage of ST Population in AP	Total Chenchu population in AP	% of Chenchu Population in ST population
4.93,86,799	27,39,919	5.6	47,315	1.7

Source: Census, 2011. Government of India

It is an observed fact that three districts namely Prakasam, Guntur and Kurnool are accommodating more than 80 per cent of total chenchu population in the state.

CONTEXT OF THE STUDY

All though there are different types of schemes and programs planned and implemented for the development of the aboriginal tribal people in the country, there have been varied evidences of findings relating to the quality of life of these tribal people. The study area is Kurnool ITDA region in A.P. This ITDA was established in 1976 for all round development of the primitive tribal groups, absolutely for Chenchu tribes. Since its initiation, ITDA is effecting to extend financial assistance to the poor Chenchu for their social and economic development. In spite of all these measures taken by the Government, there have been a wide spread inequality of assets and income in the Chenchu tribe. Under these conditions, there is a need to study the extent of asset and income inequalities among Chenchu tribes in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh.

METHODOLOGY

For the purpose of present study, the researcher concentrated mainly on the extent of asset and income inequalities among the sample Chenchu tribes of ITDA Kurnool district. The data was collected for this research study from both primary and secondary data sources.

Secondary data

As far as the secondary data sources are concerned, Census data is used for estimating total and percentage of tribal population as well as total Chenchu population in Andhra Pradesh state. The most important secondary data sources are the Census of Andhra Pradesh published by the Census of India (2001 and 2011).

Primary data sources

A primary survey has been conducted to find out the extent of asset and income inequalities among the sample Chenchu household in the study area. The researcher has adopted multiple random sampling techniques. A structured questionnaire was set up to get the data from Chenchu with respect to their assets, income levels.

Sampling

Unbalanced stratified random sampling technique was engaged to select the samples for the study. There are three districts under Kurnool ITDA, which area Kurnool, Prakasam and Palnadu districts of which only six mandals were selected because these mandals are mostly Chenchu tribal populated. Among the six mandals 12 villages which are more thickly tribal populated were selected for the study. Out of these six villages 180 households were finally selected as sample for the study. Thus the total sample size is 180 households.

Research Tools:

Lorenz curve analysis was employed to portray graphically the pattern of distribution of assets and income of sample households. Gini Ratio of concentration was used to find out the relative inequalities of asset and income of Chenchu.

Profile of the respondents

In total there are 1856 persons in 450 sample households out of which 927 persons (49.95%) are males and 929 persons (50.05%) are females. Nearly one third (31.41%) of the total sample respondents are under the age group of 15 to 29. About 23.38 % are in the age group of 30 to 44 and 21.18 8 per cent are in the age group of 45-59 years. About 60 per cent of the sample households have small families with family members ranging between 2 to 4. 410 (91.11 percent) households live in nuclear families. 49.73 percent of the respondents are married and 16.43 percentages unmarried. About 34.86 per cent are illiterates and 65.14 per cent are literates. About 91.78 per cent of the respondents are dependent on forest produce for various needs. About 89.10 per cent of the respondents are dependent on primary sector.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To find out the extent of asset inequality in Chenchu tribe
- To find out the extent of income inequality in Chenchu tribe

Hypothesis statement

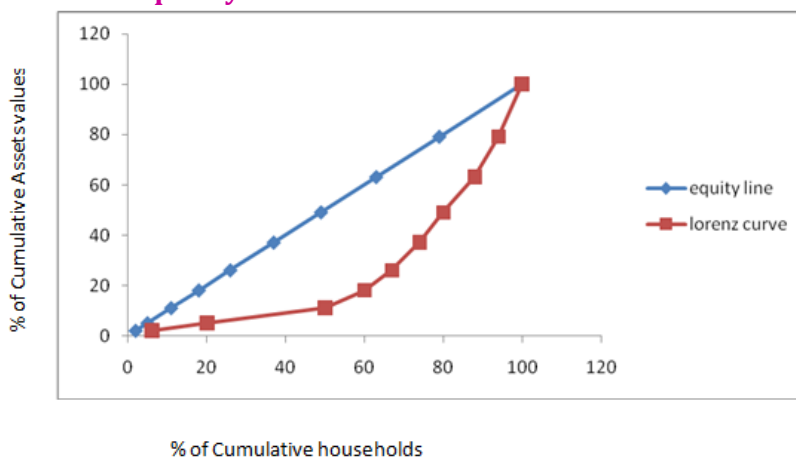
- **H₀** : There exists no inequality with respect to assets and income in Chenchu tribes.
- **H₁**: There exists inequality with respect to assets and income in Chenchu tribes.
- **Assets and Income Inequalities of Chenchu Tribes**
- **Assets Inequalities**
- The value of asset of a person represents his capacity to earn income and acquire goods and services. The Lorenz Curve for asset inequality shown in figure- 1 was drawn from the data given in table-2 related to the asset holding of the sample Chenchu households of the primitive tribe in the study area. The Curve was drawn by plotting the cumulative percentage of the households against the cumulative percentage of asset holdings. The slop of the Lorenz Curve is an indicative measure of inequality.

Table: 2
Cumulative Assets and Cumulative Households

Assets Values	No. of Households	Cumulative Assets Values	Cumulative Households	% of Cumulative Assets values	% of Cumulative Households
5000	2	5000	14	2	6
10000	5	15000	34	5	20
15000	8	30000	42	11	50
20000	10	50000	52	18	60
25000	11	75000	63	26	67
30000	12	105000	75	37	74
35000	15	140000	90	49	80
40000	50	180000	140	63	88
45000	25	225000	165	79	94
60000	15	285000	180	100	100

Source: primary data

Figure 1
Inequality of Assets Distribution of Chenchus



Source: primary data

The Lorenz Curve shown in Figure-1 indicates that there existed inequality in the distribution of assets among the sample Chenchu households as the curve has concavity. The higher the level of inequality the curve will be highly concave from the line of equity.

Income Inequality

The level of income of an individual may be a sign of his ability to earn income and to obtain goods and services. The sample of the primitive tribe in the Lorenz Curve study area was derived from household incomes. The slope of the Lorenz curve is an analytical measure of inequality. The curve was drawn by plotting the accumulated percentage of housing against the accumulated percentage of income holdings; the Lorenz curve is taken from the info given in Table: 3

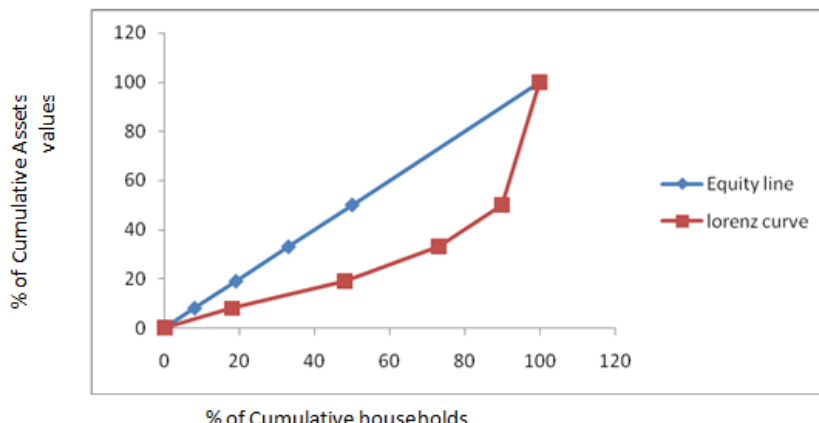
Table: 3
Cumulative Income and Cumulative Households

Income	No. of Households	Cumulative Income	Cumulative Households	% of Cumulative Income	% of Cumulative Households
7000	15	7000	15	8	8
10000	65	17000	80	19	44
13000	60	30000	140	33	78
18000	30	48000	170	50	94
43000	10	91000	180	100	100

Source: primary data

Lorenz curve figure: 2 showing income inequality in primitive tribe’s model homes in the study area. The Lorenz curve of income inequality indicates that there is inequality in the distribution of income because it is compatible with the curve. The high level of inequality is very concave from the equity line. From the Lorenz curve analysis of income inequality, the upper level of the curve below the equity line has been found.

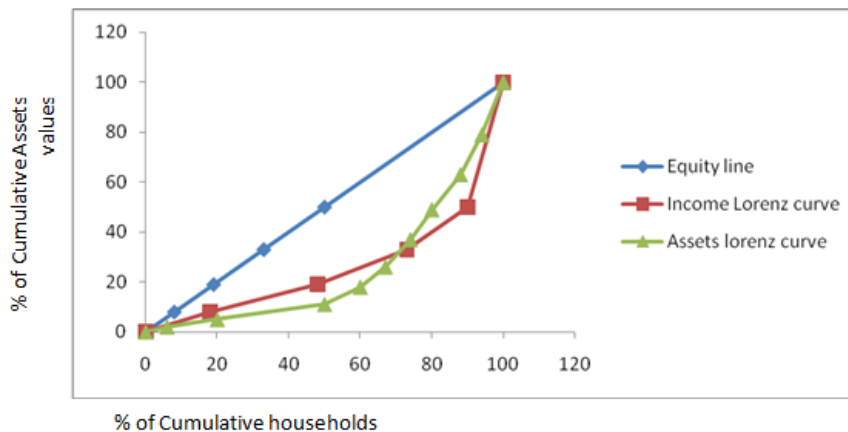
Figure: 2
Inequality of Income Distribution of Chenchu



Inequality of Asset and Income of Chenchu

The primitive tribe Chenchu sample households assets and income inequality is described in such graph by the Lorenz curve analysis theory. This helps us to analyze the level of inequality in these two aspects of the same tribe. Lorenz curve figure 3 from the assets and income of the model houses of the Chenchu tribe in the study area. Curvature is made by ordering the cumulative percentage of households connected to the cumulative percentage of the assets and income of Chenchu; The Lorenz curve of assets inequality is higher form than the curve income. This indicates that assets inequality in the Chenchu tribe is hihger than income inequality. In Chenchu income inequality is lesser when compared to assets inequality. It is shown in the bellow figure: 3

Figure: 3



Thus the study got evidence in favor of alternative hypothesis (H1) There exists inequality with respect to assets and income in Chenchu tribes) and it is accepted.

FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS

The study reveals that the asset inequality among the sample Chenchu households is very high. This is because only a very few tribes have assets and a majority of them did not have any asset. There exists highest level of income inequality among the Chenchu tribes when compared to other people in the study area. There was a high level of inequality in income than that of the assets because of the fact that the assets created by the tribes are not income generating assets, even the lands they possess are mostly barren lands, dry lands and rock soil, which does not generate income. Under these

circumstances, it is suggested that both the central and state governments have to chalk out various programmes aimed the overall development of the tribes and see that these programmes are successfully implemented to reach the targeted people.

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