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D Muni Swamy
Assistant Professor in
Economics, Government
Degree College, Hyderabad.

Impact of tribal welfare and development programmes on the scheduled tribes: A Study of Ananthapuramu district

D Muni Swamy

Abstract

Most of the areas inhabited by the tribals are remote and underdeveloped. The tribals live mostly in isolated villages or hamlets. A smaller portion of their population has now settled in permanent villages as well as in towns and cities. There are innumerable constraints responsible for lower pace of tribal development process than desired. The Tribals have been given numerous rights and concessions under various statutes of central as well as State Governments but they remain deprived of the benefits arising out of such statutory provisions due to their ignorance and apathy of enforcing agencies. There exists lack of awareness among tribal population about various developmental programmes launched by Government of India and States, resulting in their exploitation. In spite of the efforts made by the Government, the benefits are not reaching to the really needy poor people. The basic problem is not of the scarcity of resources but that of mismanagement. The multiplicity of the agencies which are carrying out these programmes has compounded the problem. Many times they are not able to co-ordinate their efforts or fail to follow up the programmes over a longer duration. Against this backdrop, the present study reviews the impact of various developmental programmes of the Central and the State Governments on overall development of tribals.

Keywords: Tribal Sub Plan, Income generation, household durables, livestock income, Education

1. Introduction

The tribals constitute a significant portion of Indian population. Development of an economy is positively related to the tribals-their social, cultural and the economic development. Development of an economy links its past heritage, with the present. In this chapter an attempt has been made to define the tribes and to establish their significant position in India. The Indian subcontinent has the second largest tribal population in the world. Many of the tribal communities have been living in this country even since what we call the Pre-Aryan period. We come across the names and descriptions of various tribal communities in the ancient Indian literature which includes the "Vedas" the "Ramayana" and the "Mahabharata". The "Rig Veda" speaks of the 'Asuras' the tribal groups such as the Nishadas, the Gordhrajs, the Sabaras, the Nagas and the Yakshas etc. are also spoken of in the Ramayana. The Mahabharata also refers to the Kiratas, the Mundas etc. In the Bhagawat Purana, there is a story about the origin of the Konds, the Bhils and the Mushhars.

Tribal Development Schemes in Andhra Pradesh

The constitutional commitments, prompted the policy makers and the planners, to accord high priority to the welfare and development of scheduled tribes right from the beginning of country's developmental planning, launched in 1951.

The government of Andhra Pradesh constituted the Director of Social Welfare solely to improve socio-economic conditions of the Scheduled caste and backward classes. The following important schemes for the development of Scheduled Tribes in the State.

Special Central Assistance (SCA) for Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP)

The Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) was introduced in the Fifth Five Year Plan with an objective to provide to tribal families through a variety of welfare and development programmes. The essential features of TSP are Recognize that there is no uniform solution to the variety of problems facing tribal regions and tribal communities; therefore, accept the uniqueness and

Correspondence
D Muni Swamy
Assistant Professor in
Economics, Government
Degree College, Hyderabad.

formulate policies, programmes and schemes to suit each individual situation and especially for vulnerable sections like Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs), bonded labourers, shifting cultivators, forest villagers, displaced persons, etc., Evolve appropriate frame for development with emphasis on tribal people at the national and State level through Sub-Plan exercise, ensuring adequate quantification from State and Central Plan funds, with budgetary mechanisms (Separate Demand / Major Budget Heads etc.) to ensure accountability, non-divertability and full utilization, Accord highest priority to protective measures for elimination of exploitation of tribal people, Restructure the administrative and institutional set up to suit the local needs and aspirations and Supplement State efforts substantially by the Union Government through Special Central Assistance (SCA).

Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution

Every year, funds are released to the State Governments to meet the cost of such schemes of development as may be undertaken by them for promoting the welfare of Scheduled Tribes and for raising the level of administration of the Scheduled Tribes and better administration of Scheduled Areas. The scheme covers all Tribal sub-plan and tribal majority states of the country. This is a central sector scheme and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs provides 100 percent grants to the State Governments. The grants are provided on the basis of Scheduled Tribe Population percentage of the state.

Boys' and Girls' Hostels for Scheduled Tribe Students

This is a centrally sponsored scheme launched in the year 1961-62 with central assistance limited to 50 percent of funds provided by the State Governments. This is given for construction of hostel building and extension of existing hostels. In the case of union territories, the Central Government releases 100 percent as assistance. The maintenance of these hostels and their buildings are the responsibility of the State Government/UTs. This is a useful scheme for enabling the Scheduled Tribe students to study in hospitable environments and promoting literacy among tribal girls and boys who have many handicaps due to poor socio-economic condition.

Ashram Schools in TSP Areas

This is a centrally sponsored scheme launched during 1990-91 with an objective to extend educational facilities like establishing residential schools for Scheduled Tribes in an environment conducive to learning. The funds under the scheme are given to the states on a matching basis i.e. 50-50 while 100 percent assistance is given to the UTs. The scheme provides funds for the construction of school building from the primary standard to the senior secondary stage of education. It also allows for up-gradation of existing primary level Ashram schools.

Scheme for Vocational Training in Tribal Areas

Realizing the need for skill up-gradation and to equip the tribal youth for self-employment, this scheme was introduced in 1992-93 and is continuing since then. The main aim of the scheme is to develop the skill of the tribal youths for a variety of trades and prepare them for new job opportunities as well as self-employment in area close to their villages as well as outside. The secondary aim is to improve the socio-economic condition of tribal youths by enhancing their earnings.

Scheme for Development of particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PTGs)

These groups practicing primitive agricultural practices and having low level of literacy and stagnant or diminishing population face various problems in their progress and development. To cater to the need of such group, a separate scheme was introduced in the year 1998-99 which mainly focuses on ensuring food security and the protection and development of PTGs.

Schemes for the Financial Assistance to Scheduled Tribes

A National Finance and Development corporation meant for the economic development of Scheduled Tribes has been started in the year 2001 after bifurcation of the National SC and ST Finance and Development Corporation. This Corporation would provide financial assistance at concessional rates for income generation activities and training in skill development to STs whose annual income is below double the poverty line. This assistance for self-employment purpose would be available up to Rs.10 lakhs through the State channelizing agencies which are in many cases the state scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation.

Objectives of the Study

1. To critically analyze the various governmental programmes introduced and implemented for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes;
2. To assess the impact of development and welfare programmes on the generation of additional income and employment among the sample households.

Methodology

Keeping in view of the objectives of the study in mind a combination of historical and personal interview methods are employed in this study.

Sampling

For effective study of the impact of the welfare and developmental programmes on Scheduled Tribe population, multi-stage random sampling method was followed. In the first stage three revenue divisions in the district were selected. In the second stage two rural Mandals which registered highest Scheduled Tribe population in the respective revenue division were selected. In the third stage one village or hamlet which is exclusively inhabited by Scheduled Tribe community (locally known as Thanda) and another village or hamlet where more than 50 per cent of population belongs to Scheduled Tribe community were selected. In the fourth stage from each selected village or hamlet 20 Scheduled Tribe beneficiary respondents were selected by simple random sampling method. So the universe of the sample constitutes 240.

Heterogeneous Village/ Hamlet

For the present study a homogeneous village/hamlet is one, where all the inhabitants belong to Scheduled Tribe community. These are popularly known as 'Tandas' in local parlance.

Heterogeneous Village/ Hamlet

For the present study a heterogeneous village/hamlet is one, where the Scheduled Tribe population lives along with other categories of population.

Finances to Tribal Welfare

Finance plays a vital role in administration. Finance and administration are as inseparable as a body and its shadow. Without money no activity can be performed by the government. Finance is the life blood of government in action. Finance fuels the administrative engine. Without finance the administration and its programmes cannot operate. Rightly, said by Kautilya the ancient Indian political philosopher stated that "all undertakings depends upon finance. Hence, the foremost attention shall be paid to the treasury." For every activity of the government money is required. With more finances the government can be expanded. Administration has close affinity with finance. In

the words of L.D. White" Finance and administration cannot be divorced; every administrative act has its financial implications."

Sound fiscal management is therefore of vital importance to government. As revenue is derived from the humblest citizen, it is a moral responsibility of the government to spend it efficiently and economically. The method and style of financial administration do influence and even condition the socio-economic behavior of the people. So, the Task Force (Hoover Commission) in its report rightly pointed out that "at the core of modern government, budget is the nuts and bolts of public policy." Table 1 shows the allocations and expenditure of tribal welfare Department of Andhra Pradesh.

Table 1: Allocations and Expenditure of Tribal Welfare Department of Andhra Pradesh (Rs. in Crores)

SI. No.	Year	Budget		
		Allocations	Expenditure	Expenditure in %
1	2000-2001	412.7	292.32	71
2	2001-2002	340.85	337.44	99
3	2002-2003	412.51	313.37	76
4	2003-2004	433.49	408.56	94
5	2004-2005	544.5	496.8	91
6	2005-2006	634.8	466.85	74
7	2006-2007	656.21	544.41	83
8	2007-2008	719.24	562.46	78
9	2008-2009	894.16	727	81
10	2009-10 (as 31-1-2010)	770.99	482.28	63
Total		5819.45	4631.49	79.59
Average per year		581.95	463.15	79.59

Source: Ministry of Tribal Welfare, Government of Andhra Pradesh.

It can be inferred from the table 1 that the percentage of expenditure never crossed the allocations. In 2001-2002, 99 per cent of allotted amount was spent. It is followed by 2003-2004, in which 94 per cent amount was spent and which in turn followed by 2004-2005 with 91 per cent expenditure. There is a gradual increase in the allocations for the tribal welfare department. But the expenditure is not so evenly distributed. In 2000-2001 financial years Rs.292.32 crores constituting 71 per cent of the total allocations was spent. In 2001-2002 Rs.337.44 crores, constituting 99 per cent of allocations was spent. In the year the amount spent reduced to Rs.313.37 crores and then it increased to Rs.408.56 crores in 2003-04. In 2004-05 it increased to Rs.496.80 crores, but it decreased to Rs.466.85 crores in the following year. After that there is a gradual increase in the amount spent by the tribal welfare department of Andhra Pradesh.

Development of Education

Among the various developmental programs, the department is giving high priority for development of education among STs in the state as education accelerates the developmental process. Government is proposing an allocation of 73 per cent of the budget of the department for 2010-2011 for development of education among STs.

Economic Support Schemes and Schemes under Tribal Area Sub Plan

Under this, financial assistance to ST families below poverty line for taking up economic support activities. The action plan for these programs is approved by Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Tribes Cooperative Finance Corporation Limited (TRICOR), Hyderabad. TRICOR reviews the implementation from time to time. The implementation of the programs is as per the procedure laid down under

G.O.Ms.No.76, SW (TW GCC.I) Department, 21-09-2005 read with G.O. Ms. No. 60 SW (TW GCC) Dept. dated, 13-08-2007.

Results and Discussions

Impact on Income of Sample Respondent Households

The opinions of sample respondents on the impact of tribal developmental programmes on income levels of their households are presented in table 2.

Table 2: Impact on Income generation

Responses	Habitation Wise Coverage of Respondents				Total	
	Homogeneous		Heterogeneous			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Significantly Increased	32	26.67	24	20.00	56	23.33
Marginally Increased	69	57.50	56	46.67	125	52.08
Status Quo/ No Change	12	10.00	23	19.17	35	14.58
No Response	7	5.83	17	14.17	24	10.00
Total	120	100.00	120	100.00	240	100.00

Source: Field Data

The data in table 2 shows that majority of the homogeneous habitation and heterogeneous habitation respondents declared that there is marginal increase in income generation due to tribal developmental programmes. In this regard homogeneous habitation respondents are quite ahead with 57.50 per cent. Nearly 26.67 per cent of homogeneous habitation respondents reported significant change in income generation due to tribal developmental programmes. With regard to status quo in income levels heterogeneous habitation respondents are ahead with 19.17 per cent. About 14.17 per cent of heterogeneous habitation respondents and

5.83 per cent of homogeneous habitation respondents denied to answer.

The study indicates that as many as 52.08 per cent of the sample respondents reported marginal increase in their income by being beneficiaries of rural development programmes. About 23.33 per cent of the total sample reported significant change and 14.58 per cent of the respondents reported status quo in their income levels. Around 10 per cent of the respondents have no opinion on the impact of tribal developmental programmes on their income levels.

Chi-Square Test

The tabulated value of χ^2_{α} for 3 degrees of freedom and $\alpha=0.05$ is 7.81. The calculated value of χ^2_c is 10.11, the calculated value is more than the tabulated value. (Falls in the rejection region) So the hypothesis is disproved. That means there is no close relationship between tribal development programmes and income generation of respondents in Ananthapuramu district.

Table 3: Chi-Square Test on Income Generation

	Oij	eij	oij-eij	(oij-eij) ²	(oij-eij) ² /eij
56	32	28	4	16	0.571429
56	24	28	-4	16	0.571429
125	69	62.5	6.5	42.25	0.676
125	56	62.5	-6.5	42.25	0.676
35	12	17.5	-5.5	30.25	1.728571
35	23	17.5	5.5	30.25	1.728571
24	7	12	-5	25	2.083333
24	17	12	5	25	2.083333
	240	240			10.11867
Calculated Value		10.11867			
Table value		7.814728			

Impact on Permanent Assets

The impact of tribal developmental programmes on the creation of permanent assets like land, building etc in the households of sample respondents was presented in table 4 as registered during field survey.

Table 4: Impact on Permanent Assets

Responses	Habitation Wise Coverage of Respondents				Total	
	Homogeneous		Heterogeneous			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Significantly Increased	24	20.00	28	23.33	52	21.67
Marginally Increased	49	40.83	31	25.83	80	33.33
Status Quo/ No Change	36	30.00	43	35.83	79	32.92
No Response	11	9.17	18	15.00	29	12.08
Total	120	100.00	120	100.00	240	100.00

Source: Field Data

As per table 4 there are wider variations among homogeneous and heterogeneous habitation respondents with regard to their possession of permanent assets. Among the homogeneous habitation respondents nearly 40.83 per cent declared that there is a marginal increase in their possession of permanent assets. While 35.83 per cent of heterogeneous habitation respondents stated that there is no change in their possession of permanent assets. With regard to significant increase heterogeneous habitation respondents are ahead with 23.33 per cent and followed by homogeneous habitation

respondents with 20 per cent. About 15 per cent of heterogeneous and 9.17 per cent of homogeneous habitation respondents not responded.

The study makes it clear that as many as 33.33 per cent of the sample respondents reported marginal increase in their permanent assets by being beneficiaries of tribal development programmes. About 21.67 per cent of the total sample reported significant change and 32.92 per cent of the respondents reported status quo in their permanent assets. Around 12.08 per cent of the respondents have no opinion on the impact of tribal developmental programmes on their permanent assets.

Chi-Square Test

The critical value of the chi-square with 3 degrees of freedom at 5 percent level of significance equals 7.81. since the sample value of χ^2 is less than the critical value; there is not enough evidence to reject the null hypothesis. Therefore, the hypothesis is proved. That is, there is a close relationship between tribal development programmes and possession of permanent assets of respondents in Ananthapuramu district.

Table 5: Chi-Square Test on Possession of Permanent Assets

	Oij	eij	oij-eij	(oij-eij) ²	(oij-eij) ² /eij
52	24	26	-2	4	0.1538462
52	28	26	2	4	0.1538462
80	49	40	9	81	2.025
80	31	40	-9	81	2.025
79	36	39.5	-3.5	12.25	0.3101266
79	43	39.5	3.5	12.25	0.3101266
29	11	14.5	-3.5	12.25	0.8448276
29	18	14.5	3.5	12.25	0.8448276
					6.6676006
Calculated Value			6.667601		
Table value			7.81		

Impact on Possessing of Household Durables

The improved economic status and purchasing capacity of the respondents is expected to encourage the tribals to acquire more and more household comforts. The opinions of the sample respondents on the impact of tribal development programmes on the possession of household assets are presented in table 6.

Table 6: Impact on Household Durables of the Family

Responses	Habitation Wise Coverage of Respondents				Total	
	Homogeneous		Heterogeneous			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Significantly Increased	48	40.00	34	28.33	82	34.17
Marginally Increased	56	46.67	51	42.50	107	44.58
Status Quo/ No Change	13	10.83	26	21.67	39	16.25
No Response	3	2.50	9	7.50	12	5.00
Total	120	100.00	120	100.00	240	100.00

Source: Field Data

It is evident from table 6 that nearly 86.67 per cent of homogeneous habitation respondents stated that there is some kind of improvement in their possession of household durables. To be precise 46.67 per cent reported marginal increase and 40 per cent reported significant increase in their possession of household durables. But it declined to 70.83 per cent in case of heterogeneous habitation respondents. Among them 42.50 per cent reported marginal increase and

28.33 per cent reported significant increase in their possession of household durables. With regard to status quo in the possession of household durables heterogeneous habitation respondents tops the list with 21.67 per cent. However, it declined to 10.83 per cent in case of homogeneous habitation respondents. Neither increase nor status quo was reported by 7.50 per cent and 2.50 per cent of heterogeneous and homogeneous habitation respondents respectively.

The study indicates that nearly 44.58 per cent of total sample declared that there is marginal increase in their possession of household durables. About 34.17 per cent reported significant increase. No change was reported by 16.25 per cent of total sample. Negligible percentage respondents not responded.

Chi-Square Test

The critical value of the chi-square at 5 per cent level of significance with 3 degrees of freedom is given by 7.81. The calculated value of the chi-square falls in the rejection region. Therefore, the hypothesis is disproved and one can conclude that there is no close relationship between tribal development programmes and possession of household durables of respondents in Ananthapuramu district.

Table 7: Chi-Square Test on Possession of Household Durables

	Oij	eij	oij-eij	(oij-eij) ²	(oij-eij) ² /eij
82	48	41	7	49	1.195122
82	34	41	-7	49	1.195122
107	56	53.5	2.5	6.25	0.116822
107	51	53.5	-2.5	6.25	0.116822
39	13	19.5	-6.5	42.25	2.166667
39	26	19.5	6.5	42.25	2.166667
12	3	6	-3	9	1.5
12	9	6	3	9	1.5
					9.957222
Calculated Value	9.957222				
Table value	7.81				

Impact on the Livestock income

As the study area is drought prone district, it is observed that farmers used to sell away the livestock during summer season due to lack of fodder. This study has made an attempt to know this practice is continuing even after undertaking specific tribal development programmes. The opinions of the sample respondents on the impact of water harvesting structures on the livestock are presented in table 8.

Table 8: Impact on Livestock Income

Responses	Habitation Wise Coverage of Respondents				Total	
	Homogeneous		Heterogeneous			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Significantly Increased	31	25.83	29	24.17	60	25.00
Marginally Increased	34	28.33	27	22.50	61	25.42
Status Quo/ No Change	51	42.50	48	40.00	99	41.25
No Response	4	3.33	16	13.33	20	8.33
Total	120	100.00	120	100.00	240	100.00

Source: Field Data

It is important to note that more than 40 per cent of homogeneous as well as heterogeneous habitation respondents reported that the tribal development programmes have no impact on the income from livestock. However, 25.83 per cent of homogeneous and 24.17 per cent of heterogeneous habitation respondents stated that there is a significant improvement in their income from livestock. Marginal increase in livestock income is reported by 28.33 per cent and 22.50 per cent of homogeneous and heterogeneous habitation respondents respectively. About 13.33 per cent and 3.33 per cent of heterogeneous and homogeneous habitation respondents denied to respond.

The study indicates that as many as 41.25 per cent of the respondents reported status quo in their livestock income. Around 25.42 per cent of the sample respondents reported marginal increase in their livestock income by being beneficiaries of rural development programmes and 25 per cent of the total sample reported significant change. Around 8.33 per cent of the respondents have no opinion on the impact of tribal developmental programmes on their livestock income.

Chi-Square Test

The critical value of the chi-square at 5 per cent level of significance with 3 degrees of freedom is given by 7.81. The calculated value of the chi-square falls in the rejection region. Therefore, the hypothesis is disproved and one can conclude that there is no close relationship between tribal

development programmes and livestock income of respondent families in Ananthapuramu district.

The testing results of third hypothesis are disproved. The 3 out of 4 parameters i.e impact on income, impact on possession of household durables and impact on livestock income are disproved. Only the parameter impact on possession of permanent assets is proved. This makes it clear that the hypothesis is disproved.

Table 9: Chi-Square Test on Livestock Income

	Oij	eij	oij-eij	(oij-eij) ²	(oij-eij) ² /eij
60	31	30	1	1	0.0333333
60	29	30	-1	1	0.0333333
61	34	30.5	3.5	12.25	0.4016393
61	27	30.5	-3.5	12.25	0.4016393
99	51	49.5	1.5	2.25	0.0454545
99	48	49.5	-1.5	2.25	0.0454545
20	4	10	-6	36	3.6
20	16	10	6	36	3.6
					8.1608544
Calculated Value	8.160854				
Table value	7.81				

Impact on Children’s Education

The opinions of the sample respondents on the impact of tribal developmental programmes on their expenditure pattern on children’s education in the study area are given in table 10.

Table 10: Impact on the Expenditure Pattern for Children Education

Responses	Habitation Wise Coverage of Respondents				Total	
	Homogeneous		Heterogeneous			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Significantly Increased	41	34.17	26	21.67	67	27.92
Marginally Increased	41	34.17	43	35.83	84	35.00
Status Quo/ No Change	34	28.33	39	32.50	73	30.42
No Response	4	3.33	12	10.00	16	6.67
Total	120	100.00	120	100.00	240	100.00

Source: Field Data

Chi-Square value : 7.748294

Table value : 7.81

It is evident from table 10 that equal per cent i.e. 34.17 of homogeneous respondents reported significant and marginal increase in their expenditure pattern on children education. On the other hand 21.67 per cent and 35.83 per cent of heterogeneous habitation respondents reported significant and marginal increase in their educational expenditure. No positive increase in educational expenditure is reported by 32.50 per cent and 28.33 per cent of heterogeneous and homogeneous habitation respondents respectively. Around 10 per cent of sample respondents from heterogeneous habitations and 3.33 per cent of sample respondents from homogeneous habitations not responded.

The study indicates that 62.92 per cent of sample respondents acceded that the family expenditure on education increased after being beneficiaries of tribal developmental programmes. Among them 35 per cent reported marginal increase and 27.92 per cent reported significant increase. Around 30.42 per cent of total sample declared no change in their educational expenditure pattern. About 6.67 per cent of total sample not responded. The statistical Chi-square value is lower than table value. This implies that there is a close relationship between tribal development programmes and expenditure pattern sample respondent households on education in the study area.

Conclusion

The paper attempts to study the socio-economic conditions of the scheduled tribes and the impact tribal developmental programmes on the selected beneficiaries. The study is mainly confined to Scheduled Tribes of Anantapur District in Andhra Pradesh. The study deals with the various schemes of scheduled tribes and their impact on beneficiaries in the Revenue Mandals, namely, Atmakur, Vajrakarur Beluguppa, Kambadur, Gorantla and Mudigubba in Anantapur district. The study examined whether the scheduled tribes have made any real progress with the implementation of various developmental programmes and welfare schemes.

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