



ISSN Print: 2394-7500  
ISSN Online: 2394-5869  
Impact Factor: 8.4  
IJAR 2021; 7(6): 27-30  
[www.allresearchjournal.com](http://www.allresearchjournal.com)  
Received: 14-04-2021  
Accepted: 19-05-2021

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## Impact of the developmental programmes among scheduled tribes: A study

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### Abstract

The present study is impact of the developmental programmes among scheduled tribes, confined to the Guntur district which can represent the State of Andhra Pradesh with three prominent regions of various levels of development and resources. The primary data used in this study is subject to certain limitations and the findings are based on the opinions and information given by the sample beneficiaries. Since the size of the sample is small and confined to rural areas of the district, the inferences drawn from this study may not equally be applicable to the rest of areas in the district as well as other districts of the state. However, the findings and suggestions may be useful for the policy makers for designing and implementing the programmes not only in other districts of the state but also in the country.

**Keywords:** Socio-economic conditions, developmental programmes, scheduled tribes, Andhra Pradesh

### Introduction

A society can be called a just society, when all are equal before law, and all are provided with equal opportunities for participation in the process of governance and economic development of society. Unfortunately a large part of under privileged people in India, even after six decades of development still suffer from humiliation of social exclusion, economic deprivation, political segregation and oppression. Thus there is an immense need to empower the under privileged people especially Scheduled Tribes in all aspects of life, since they are the most suppressed and depressed group of people among all sections in the Indian society. India has been described as of a races and tribes. India has the second largest concentration of tribal population in the world, next to Africa. In India, there are 573 Scheduled Tribes and they speak more than 106 languages. Tribal population have specialized characteristics which are different from others. They are simple people with exotic customs, traditions and practices. For centuries they lived a life of geographical isolation. In India primitive tribes have lived for thousands of years in forests and hills without any type of contacts. There is a need for integrating them into the mainstream of the society as rightful members, failing which, the ethnic division would persist and deepen, which is dangerous for the very existence of human sanctity and human well being.

The term "tribe" originated at the time of the Greek city-states and the early formation of the Roman Empire. The Latin term, "Tribus" has since been transformed to mean a group of person forming a community and claiming descent from a common for ancestor. There is no exact definition or the criteria. Different scholars defined it in different ways at different times. There is ambiguity so far as concept and definition of "tribe" are concerned. Some times they are called as "aboriginal" or "depressed classes" or "Adivasis".

During the Pre-British period tribal communities in India remained fully or partially isolated from others in the country, and consequently they remained backward and suffered from poverty, malnutrition, disease, exploitation and ignorance in varying degrees. The Colonial Government did not pay any attention to the development of tribal communities, because it mainly aimed at regulatory functions, such as maintenance of law and order and collection of revenues. It enacted the Scheduled Districts Act in 1874 and kept large tracts of tribal areas outside the jurisdiction of normal administration.

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In 1935, the Colonial Government introduced the Excluded and Partially Excluded Area Act in order to make the legislations of Provincial Governments non-applicable to tribal areas. However, the British policy of isolation increased the misery of the tribal communities, and they were exposed to unhindered exploitation. Their plight was heightened by the introduction of the National Forest Policy in 1894. This curbed their traditional rights in forests. The forest policy led to the induction of contractors, traders and non-tribal labour to forest areas in a substantial manner. Other consequences of the commercialization of the forests were: continued depletion of forest cover, soil erosion and decline of fertility in the soil. This further widened the socio-economic gulf between the tribal communities and non-tribal communities. On the eve of independence' it was decided to put all the communities, hitherto recognized as aborigines, in separate Schedules of the Constitution of India. Thus the "excluded and partially excluded" areas were enlisted in Fifth and Sixth Schedules.

The National Government decided to provide constitutional safeguards to the tribal communities and enshrined them in the Constitution of India, which came into force on 26 January 1950. The Fifth Schedule contains provisions as to the administration and control of scheduled areas and scheduled tribes in the states other than the north-eastern ones; whereas the Sixth Schedule contains provisions for the administration of tribal areas in the north-eastern states. Thus, welfare and development of the tribal communities have been the national goal, and special responsibility of the central and various state governments. The Socio-economic status of various tribal communities is not uniform.

They continue to be at various levels of the socio-economic parameter. Scholars have variously categorized them, but in the context of the present scenario they may be divided into the following six categories: Hunting, Collecting and Gathering, Cattle -Herder, The Simple Artisan, Hill and Shifting Cultivation, Settled Agricultural, Tribe as Industrial Urban Worker.

The present study is confined to the Guntur district which can represent the State of Andhra Pradesh with three prominent regions of various levels of development and resources. The primary data used in this study is subject to certain limitations and the findings are based on the opinions and information given by the sample beneficiaries. Since the size of the sample is small and confined to rural areas of the district, the inferences drawn from this study may not equally be applicable to the rest of areas in the district as well as other districts of the state. However, the findings and suggestions may be useful for the policy makers for designing and implementing the programmes not only in other districts of the State but also in the country.

### Review of Literature

Anant Kumar (2008) <sup>[1]</sup> in his paper attempts to examine and understand the low literacy level and education among tribal children in Jharkhand. The paper discusses the role of government, institutions, programmes and linkages between education and development. Various programmes and schemes have been initiated but very few of them have reached the tribal children and benefited them. Many of the programmes did not benefit the tribal community because the programmes were not contextualized and localized considering regional, geographical and physical differences and barriers. Other reasons for not reaching the benefits of

the programmes to the tribals are lack of political will, corruption and lesser attention on development in tribal areas. The paper highlights the need for focus on tribal education which is inclusive of context specific traditional and innovative interventions.

Prasad, A.K, (2009) <sup>[2]</sup> in his study argues that the 82% of tribal main workers in the country are engaged in agriculture and allied activities. Ownership of land has an important role in determining the socio-economic status of the people. The investigation into the incidence of land alienation shows that, though not wide spread as it is hypothesized to be, the endemic social disclosure of alienation of the tribal landholdings has taken roots in the district due to so many reasons. The prominent reasons are repayment of outstanding debt and marriage. It is, therefore argued here that the tribals are to be liberated from the permanent indebtedness and the vicious circle of low income as they are the socially and economically disadvantaged section of the society.

Tarun Bikash Sukai (2010) <sup>[3]</sup> in his study, "Tribal Development in India: An Overview" has pointed out that there is a need to make a review of the tribal situations and there is need for prevention of land alienation from tribal to non-tribal and review of nation forest policy and forest (conservation) Act 1980. The government is working hard towards a new social order based on social equality and social harmony, but still it is not adequate enough for development of tribal people in India.

Anupam Hazra (2010) <sup>[4]</sup> in his article, "Status of tribals in India: An Analysis", reveals that more than half of the rural tribal populations are found to be below poverty line. They constitute a large proportion of agricultural labours among the scheduled tribes or adivasis of India, mortality and mal-nutrition rates remain particularly high when compared to the Indian population at large remoteness of villages.

### Significance of the study

The entire humanity has entered the new millennium with sea changes in the various aspects of life. These changes mainly pertain to the techno-scientific and psycho-social areas of human culture in the era of globalization, economic liberalization and free market economy on one side of the coin. On the other side of the coin, scheduled Tribes in India are still living with lower level of socio-economic conditions, lower level of literacy, lower sex ration and poor conditions of housing as compared to state and National average. Both the central and State Governments have implemented policies, developmental programmes and welfare schemes directed at the socio-economic empowerment of the scheduled tribes and scheduled castes (SCs). But the status and development of the scheduled tribes has not changed hitherto. They are the weakest in terms of political, economic, social and cultural resources. When a man remains in the same occupational, economic and political development through out his life his behaviour inevitably becomes very rigid and non-flexible. On this account, the behaviour of the people of the same status approaches uniformity, while that of people in different social positions becomes widely divergent. A quite different picture is given by the behaviour of the members of mobile society. A great versatility and plasticity of human behaviour is a natural result of social mobility.

Human development as a concept, will have value or significance until the human development levels of

disadvantaged people particularly of the scheduled tribes and scheduled castes are raised to the levels of those of the dominant classes. The present study in this direction has studied the development of the scheduled tribes.

### Objectives of the study

1. To study the Socio-Economic conditions of Tribals in selected area.
2. To examine the implementation of developmental programmes for tribals in the study area.
3. To offer appropriate suggestions for effective implementation of developmental programmes.

### Research Methodology

In view of the objectives of the study, descriptive research design has been adopted. The Study is based on both primary and secondary data: the main sources of secondary data are books, journals, articles, various publications of census of India, Directorate of economics and Statistics, internet and The primary data is collected by using questionnaire methods and interview methods. A multi-stage sampling technique was employed for the study. In the first stage Guntur district was chosen, divided into three revenue divisions as Guntur, Narasaraopet and Tenali. From each division, one mandal is selected purposive sampling. In the second stage Bellamkonda mandal from division-I, Bollapalli mandal from division-II and Bapatla mandal from division-III which is having highest percentage of plain Scheduled Tribes population were selected. In the third stage, in each mandal one village was selected which is Chitayalatanda from Bellamkonda mandal, Malapadi tanda from Bollapalle mandal and Chintapallem from Bapatla mandal. Finally in each village 100 sample were selected altogether 300 samples were taken by representing the rural areas from each division in the Guntur district. The important variables were formulated and relevant data collected from the field were coded and analyzed using SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) software. Cross tables were drawn for analyzing the data. Suitable and appropriate statistical tools such as percentages were used.

### Results and Discussion

#### Socio-economic conditions

The empirical studies done by the researchers also testify to the fact that existence of backwardness of the scheduled tribes depend upon the socio- economic characteristics of the sample respondents. The socio-economic back ground is the crux of the life of an individual. Many researchers have the characteristics like age, caste, family education, occupation and expenditure, etc.

The scheduled tribes had been receiving different types of protections rather than the constitutional safe guards for decades long so as to enable them to come to the level of forward sections of the society. 300 sample respondents were taken in three revenue divisions of the district. It is observed that the occupation, social and economic behavior and status of the sample respondents in die life were decided by the caste. In Andhra Pradesh, there are three important scheduled tribes such as Sugali, Yerukulas and Gonds majority of the sample respondents belonging to the Sugali in division-I, 82 percent in division-II, 62 percent of Yanadis in Division-III, sub-community Yerukulas are in lower level compared to other sub-communities respondents age between 30-40 years as an ideal group to assess these

characteristic of the sample respondents. It is visible that the male respondents are more than the female respondents. There is no bar for scheduled tribes who converted from Hindu religion to another religion like Christianity and Islam from getting reservations as has been enshrined in the constitution.

Scheduled Tribes as majority belongs to Hindu Religion, literacy of an individual is the indicator of one's development as well as society. It is note worthy that the literacy level of the respondents are more compared to their literacy rate. Occupation influences the other factors in considerations of index of social class. It is concluded that a good number of sample respondents had followed the family planning practices and Birth Control methods.

With regard to the type of family, the highest numbers of sample respondents are living in nuclear families and are in majority residing in thatched houses. But, to their majority of the respondents got electricity facility. It is found that majority of the sample respondents source of water through public bore wells in the district and lake. It is analyzed that majority of the respondents' annual income is below Rs. 10,000 and who treated them as below poverty line (BPL), and it is observed that more than half of the sample respondents family expenditure is below Rs.20,000. With regard to the annual savings of the respondents 89 percent, the majority of them does not have the habit of annual savings and the rest deposited their savings in post offices or in Banks. It can be concluded that the majority of the respondents had debt ridden and the debt amount is below Rs.5,000. To Sum up, despite several measures having to taken the government to improve socio-economic conditions of the scheduled tribes but not improved to a desired extent due to illiteracy, lack of land, and limited access to institutional credit and also practicing traditional systems in their occupation.

#### Impact of Developmental Programmes among Scheduled tribes

The study taken up to analyse the impact of the development programmes on Scheduled Tribes sum up the socio-economic status of Scheduled Tribes through empirical fact. This is indicative of the overall development that has taken place over six decades. 300 sample respondents spread over the three revenue divisions of the Guntur district were taken for the present study.

It is evident from the data that dissemination of information related to development is mainly carried through the media, i.e. news papers and the mandal official as expressed by 80 percent of respondents. Awareness is another important aspect in making any developmental a success. In view sum of the programmes are best informed in the selected three revenue divisions. Regarding the motivating factor, it is understood that the area located in the urban pockets, have good motivation and the primary motivations are mandal officials and neighbors respectively.

In terms of beneficiaries in division -III respondents were more benefited when compared to the other divisions of Guntur district. Another studying factor observed through the study is that there is a considerable increase in the employment days after the implementation of developmental programmes along with the employment. There is also increase witnessed in the income levels after the implementation of developmental programmes. It shows positive impact.

Occupation, which is a significant indicator of socio-cultural change has great impact on the same respondents. 82 percent of the respondents reported positively about the occupation change of their children. There is also increased level in the respondents after the development projects implementation.

Personal economic planning is evident in the individuals' savings since there is an increase in the income level, a corresponding increase in the personal saving is seen.

Consumption of nutritious food is an important indicator of health. The developmental programmes have effected positive change, as a result 60 percent of the sample respondents have felt rise in their nutritional awareness. Providing good education to the children which is direct investment on the next generation has much to do with development. This is evident in the attitude of the respondents towards providing good education to their children, after joining the developmental programmes. Unfortunately the readings indicated negatively about the girl child education. It is attributed to traditional way of thinking which reasons out to look at change.

On the other hand developmental programmes effected social status change which is an important factor in terms of achieving social equalities. This rise, as responded, is seen as a direct result of the rise of economic status. On the contrary majority of respondents i.e. 60 percent responded negatively about their regular income through the programmes.

### **Suggestions**

On the basis of results and discussion the following suggestions are offered:

1. There is ample need to evolve suitable mechanism at the grass root level for implementation of tribal developmental programmes by making the people participation with transparency. For the functioning of panchayat Raj institutions credit agencies and non-Governmental organizations needs to be strengthened.
2. There is need to create awareness about the current developmental programmes for the tribals by the involvement of Non-Governmental organization.
3. Special efforts should be made for providing house with all the basic amenities under Indiramma scheme and Indira Avas Yojana.
4. There is also need to establish tribal development agencies in every district similar for on par with ETDA's for holistic tribal development.

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