



AN ANALYSIS OF THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

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ABSTRACT:

One of the many distinct subgroups that make up the Indian people are the tribes. Because they have been regarded as the lowest element of Indian society ever since ancient times, they continue to face the majority of society's disadvantages. The tribes continue to be at a disadvantage as a result of a number of factors, including their geographical and cultural isolation, the absence of adequate healthcare facilities, an inability to satisfy fundamental needs, a lack of control over resources and assets, a lack of education and skills, malnutrition, a lack of shelter, poor access to water and sanitation, vulnerability to shocks, violence and crime, a lack of access to adequate infrastructure facilities and technologies, a lack of political freedom and a voice, and an absence. Because of all of these obstacles, making a livelihood might be tough for them. In light of these concerns, the government is working to assist the tribes in a variety of ways including the provision of social programmes.

Keywords: *Socio-Economic Conditions; Welfare Schemes; Tribes*

INTRODUCTION:

One of the many distinct subgroups that make up the Indian people are the tribes. Because they have been regarded as the lowest element of Indian society ever since ancient times, they continue to face the majority of society's disadvantages. The tribes continue to be at a disadvantage as a result of a number of factors, including their geographical and cultural isolation, the absence of adequate healthcare facilities, an inability to satisfy fundamental needs, a lack of control over resources and assets, a lack of education and skills, malnutrition, a lack of shelter, poor access to water and sanitation, vulnerability

to shocks, violence and crime, a lack of access to adequate infrastructure facilities and technologies, a lack of political freedom and a voice, and an absence. Because of all of these obstacles, making a livelihood might be tough for them. In light of these concerns, the government is working to assist the tribes in a variety of ways including the provision of social programmes. In this article, an attempt is made to analyse the socio-economic state of the tribal groups as well as the government plans put forward by the governments of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana for the welfare of the tribal tribes. India is a nation that is home to people who adhere to a wide variety of faiths, practises, customs, linguistic groups, castes, and creeds. Even within India, several states each have their own distinct culture and set of customs. One of these underrepresented groups that need more attention is the indigenous people of various tribal communities. India is exposed to a wide variety of flavours and genuine treasures as a direct result of the existence of these tribes. The indigenous peoples of India are referred to as Adivasis, which literally translates to "Indigenous People" or "Original Inhabitants of a Given Region." Another name for the tribal peoples of India is "Adivasis." The regions of Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Jharkhand, and Madhya Pradesh, as well as the North Eastern states and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, are home to the majority of the tribes' populations [1].

Economic growth is contingent upon prior social progress having been made. Due to a variety of factors, including geographical and cultural isolation, a lack of proper health facilities, an inability to satisfy basic needs, a lack of control over resources and assets, a lack of education and skills, malnutrition, a lack of shelter, poor access to water and sanitation, vulnerability to shocks, violence and crime, a lack of access to proper infrastructure facilities and technologies, and a lack of policing, the tribes will always face challenges in their socioeconomic development. The social sector, which includes access to education, health and medical care, housing, and water supply, is particularly important to the economic success of these countries.

This need is not explicitly stated in the Constitution, but it is now considered to be standard practise. It takes into account the definitions that were provided in the 1931 Census, as well as the reports that were provided by the first Backward Classes Commission (Kalelkar) in 1955, the Advisory Committee on Revision of SC/ST lists (Lokur Committee) in 1965, the Joint Committee of

Parliament on the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment Bill) in 1967, and the Chanda Committee Report from 1969 [3].

Telangana has a total tribal population of 31,77,940 people as per the Census in 2011, whereas Andhra Pradesh had a total tribal population of 49,575,771 people. Lambada/Banjara, Koya, Gonds, Yerukala/Kurru, and Pradhan are the numerically prominent tribal tribes in Telangana, whilst Lambada, Yerukula, and Yanadi are the numerically major tribal groups in Andhra Pradesh. This study makes an effort to zero in on the socioeconomic situations of the tribes that reside in the states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, as well as the welfare programmes that have been developed by the government specifically for those tribes.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE TRIBAL COMMUNITIES:

The majority of respondents in a research conducted on the socio-economic development of primitive tribes in the Adilabad district of Telangana were found to be illiterate, to practise the nuclear family structure, and to own their own homes, as shown by the findings of the study. The vast majority of those who responded were farmers, followed by those who worked in agricultural labour. They relied on a single planting pattern due to their lack of knowledge about contemporary agricultural techniques. Integrated Tribal Development Agency was the source through which the respondents obtained both the modern inputs and the cash help. The majority of people, or 87 percent, have a monthly salary of less than 1,500 rupees, and the majority of that money is spent on food. The findings indicated that there is a substantial connection between the policies and initiatives implemented by the government and the level of life enjoyed by the indigenous people [5].

Literacy was found to be at a rate of 72% in the region that was being studied, according to a case study that was conducted on the Socio-Economic circumstances of Scheduled Tribes in selected villages located in the Adilabad District of Telangana State. The Lambada community had the greatest literacy rate recorded, while the Kolam community had the lowest literacy rate reported. The Lambada community reported the greatest income levels, while the Kolam group reported the lowest income levels. The Lambada community was the most developed of the five sub-caste groups that were found in the region that was being researched. The findings of the research led to many suggestions, the most

important of which was to increase the number of economic opportunities and social programmes available to indigenous communities [6].

According to the findings of a study that compared the levels of tribal variety in the districts of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, the Lambdas predominated in Telangana's Warangal district, while the Valmikiis predominated in Andhra Pradesh's Vizag district (37 percent). The educational status of Vizag's population was much higher than that of Warangal's. Both districts have exhibited figures that are practically identical to one another with regard to the vaccination of children. In the district of Visakhapatnam, ninety-four percent (94%) of the respondents were seasonal wage workers, whereas in the district of Warangal, just eighty-two percent (82%) of the respondents were seasonal wage earners. In Warangal, the monthly spending on food products that is roughly equivalent to consumption is higher than it is in Vizag. When it comes to their property holdings, the bulk of them have just relatively modest plots of ancestral land in their possession. The level of non-institutional debt in Warangal is much higher than in Vizag. Persons were aware of government programmes in each of these regions, and the number of people taking use of these programmes has significantly grown since 2012 [7].

According to the findings of a research conducted in the Vizanagaram District of Andhra Pradesh state that attempted to determine the socio-economic condition of scheduled tribes, the majority of the sample homes in the district were led by men who were either farmers or agricultural labourers. The annual income range of farmers was between 6000 and 10,000 rupees, while the annual income of labourers was lower than that range. In this society, the number of children born to each gender decreased, and there was a clear preference among households for sons. They attempted to take out loans, but since they had no other means of income, the financial institutions took advantage of the situation and charged them much higher interest rates (3 per cent). The researchers suggested that the government should improve the banking services available to the scheduled tribes and provide them with access to more cutting-edge technologies in order to foster more financial security among those groups [8].

Researchers looked at the socio-economic conditions of the scheduled tribes living in the Visakhapatnam area of Andhra Pradesh. More than seventy percent of the people in the population that was used as a sample were illiterate, and the bulk of the families in the population were from the Konda Dora and

Nooka Dora tribes. The majority of people relied on agriculture as their main source of income, and the average annual household income was less than Rs. 10,000. On the yearly expenditure pattern, the expenditure for food came in first, followed by the expenditure for the payment of interests on loans and the expenditure for health issues. The majority of the households in the study did not have any long-lasting household assets. Approximately 37% of the people in the sample who owned land did not really have ownership rights. More than sixty percent were able to meet their credit requirements via the use of private money lenders. As a result, it is necessary to place a greater emphasis on teaching the scheduled tribes, as this might serve as a source of inspiration for them for their future lives [9].

According to the findings of a study that looked at the socioeconomic and health conditions of the Yandi tribes and other tribes that live in the jungles in the north coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh, there have been a number of initiatives taken up for the purpose of improving the living conditions of the tribal people, but the progress has not been up to par. The reason for this is that forests are disappearing at an alarmingly rapid pace and can no longer provide the food that forest inhabitants need via the hunting and gathering practises that have been part of their culture for generations. They are almost entirely reliant on the agricultural industry, either as cultivators or as agricultural labourers. Even though they have a lot of traditional wisdom on how to stay healthy [10], they are hungry, destitute, and the most of them are illiterate. As a result, they score dismally low in all kinds of health indices. Because forests provide forest-dwelling tribes in Andhra Pradesh with food (in the form of tubers, roots, leaves, fruits, and the flesh of animals and birds) and medicine (in the form of medicinal herbs) for the treatment of illness, forests play an important part in the economic development of those tribes. The commercial exploitation of wild animals' skins, horns, and hides, as well as other minor forest goods, is common practise. However, this agricultural forest economy is susceptible to the actions of the natural world. They are forced to live in everlasting poverty due to the rocky terrain, poor soil, freak nature, harsh seasonal circumstances, absence of perennial supplies of water, predatory birds and animals, and the parasitic grip of money lenders and plains sowcars [11].

DEVELOPMENTAL SCHEMES:

- Under the "Kalyana Lakshmi" scheme, a financial assistance of Rs.51,000 shall be paid to every ST unmarried girl of 18 years and above; however, at the time of marriage, the parental income must not exceed Rs.2 lakhs per annum in order for the scheme to be applicable. This is being done with the intention of easing the financial burden that has been placed on the families of Scheduled Tribes.
- In remembrance of Komaram Bheem, a valiant Gond tribal leader who fought against the Nizams under the banner "Jal, Jameen, Jungal," the government has approved the construction of the Komram Bheem Smriti Chihanam and the development of Jodeghat village as a Tribal Cultural Hub and Tourism Center at a total cost of 50 Crores. Both of these projects will take place in Jodeghat village.
- Under the NABARD Program, Road Constructions Will Involve: The provision of road connection in tribal communities is intended to be accomplished with the support of financial resources from NABARD as part of the project.
- Construction of Go-downs and Storage Points: The purpose of this programme is to construct Go-downs and Storage Points in order to enable individuals who live in tribal regions with the means to meet their daily food needs.

CONCLUSION:

The Constitution of India guarantees, amongst other things, that all of the country's residents would enjoy social and economic justice, equality of position and opportunity, and protection of the dignity of the person. The Indian Constitution includes a number of provisions that safeguard and promote the cultural, social, educational, and economic interests of India's scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

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