



LIVING CONDITIONS OF TRIBALS IN TELANGANA REGION: A CASE STUDY OF KHAMMAM DISTRICT

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Abstract

Development is usually conceived as an aspect of change that is desirable, broadly predicted or planned and administered, or at least influenced, by governmental action. Thus, the concept of development consists of (a) an aspect of change; (b) a plan or prediction; and (c) involvement of the government for the achievement of that planned or predicted goal. The term “development” is also used for the process of allowing and encouraging people to meet their own aspirations. It, therefore, must relate to transforming the entire society enmeshing together its economic, social, political and administrative aspects on all-round balanced upward change. The term “development” involves all aspects of human activity.

Key Words: Tribals, Schedule Caste, Girijans.

Introduction

But how can one justify that one is more developed than those who are to be developed. These questions have become very sensitive nowadays when one finds underdevelopment in some sphere or the other everywhere. For example, a society or nation may be more developed in the economic front; however, it may be underdeveloped on the social front. So, one cannot define development in some aspects only; rather, it should be viewed multi-dimensionally. The tribal population in the State of Andhra Pradesh and in the country as a whole is the most deprived and vulnerable community that faces severe economic exclusion. Although certain constitutional safeguards are provided, there has been no economic, social and political mobility across these communities. Contrary to Scheduled Castes and other Backward Castes who witnessed certain degrees of progress because of protective discrimination policies of the government, the Scheduled Tribes remain abysmally backward and socially excluded, still living in harsh environs. The economy and livelihood practices of the tribals are closely associated with the ecological factors and habitats which they inhabit. Most of these communities are found inhabiting the border districts of the state in the north and the northeast.

Objectives of the Study

1. To identify the determinants of the backwardness of the scheduled tribes in the study area.
2. To analyze the living conditions of tribals in the study area.
3. To evaluate the performance of tribal self employed entrepreneurs as an integral part of their development strategy.
4. To study the empowerment effects attributable to the enterprises managed by tribals.
5. To identify the expectations of the tribal entrepreneurs.

Hypotheses of the Study

1. The Relationship between the social category of tribals and their perceptions about reasons for the backwardness of tribals is assumed to be statistically independent.
2. The Relationship between the social category of tribals and their profit distribution is assumed to be statistically independent.
3. The Relationship between the social category of tribals and Tobin’s Q of their self employment programs is assumed to be statistically independent.
4. The Relationship between the education of tribals and empowerment effects attributable to their self employment programs is assumed to be statistically independent.

The tribal’s live in forests and use forest land for cultivation. They collect forest produce which varies from forest to forest to supplement what they grow on land. Land is used for living and livelihood. The lives of the tribals are



influenced by their habitat, level of traditional and ancient knowledge, and the skills they possess in using the resources that are available. Land is the main stay of the tribal people. Any discussion on the lives of tribal, irrespective of what aspect is being discussed is incomplete when the issue of land is left out. Not only their economies and livelihoods, but also their social relations, respective role of men and women, nature of struggles their relationship with the state, with non-tribals, their religious rituals, are all closely related to land issues - particularly the land in and around forests.

Tribal people of India suffered from neglect for long centuries until after independence they were drawn into the mainstream of the national life. Much has since been done for them, though much more remains to be done. Efforts made by the Government to ameliorate the conditions of tribal people. The backward tribal economy, which is characterized by extremely low level of economic activity, provides meagre employment opportunities. Though more than 70 per cent of tribals depend, on agriculture, their employment in this sector is hardly for 4 months in a year. During off-season these people remain idle without any gainful employment. By and large, they eke out their living through collection of minor forest produce, fishing, hunting, cutting of firewood etc. between one agricultural season and the other. Tribal development poses a challenge to 'the policy makers, administrators and social workers all over the world. Even after six decades of planned development, due to the inaccessibility of the tribal areas in hilly areas and remote areas as also extreme variations' in the climatic conditions, the tribals have not been able to share the gains of development equally with the non-tribals and as a result they have remained backward and poor. The Government has tried to bring the-tribals at par with the non-tribals by launching various developmental schemes. Levels of living is not wholly a monetary or even an economic, concept. It is so comprehensive as to include the material and non material consumption of individuals living in a family and also the collective wants of groups and communities. The factors determining the levels of living are income, size of the family and its earning strength, social status and other cultural, social and economic environment in which one lives and is also influenced by state action. Despite some drawbacks in the implementation of the development programmes, the developmental activities have made a definite impact on the life-styles of the scheduled tribes. After understanding the status of tribals with reference to their socio-economic status along with living conditions, any attempt to study the tribal problem with reference to living conditions, will assume considerable amount of significance. Hence, a modest attempt is made to review the earlier studies in order to identify the aspects covered and gaps if any.

B. Krishna and Reddy, made a critical analysis of the tribal welfare programmes revealed that the comparatively more affluent section of the Sugali community was taking more and more advantage of the benefits of 3 Reddy, B. Krishna and Reddy, "Introducing directed change in a tribal community", welfare measures and the poorer section was often left behind. If this situation was allowed to continue, the gulf between the two sections will widen, ultimately leading to disintegration at the community level. To check this and to reduce the gap it is necessary to stream future welfare programmes so that, first of all, the poorer section gets a sound economic footing which will ultimately lead to the all round progress of the Sugali community. It was also observed that corruption of the Government officials and rigidity in the implementation of rules were the two main loopholes in the implementation of various welfare programmes. Often leaders of the Sugalis themselves, it is noticed, exploit their own brethren by making false promises. Lack of education, limited contact with outside world and complexity of rules compelled many a Sugali in both the Tandas to treat leaders as Suitable in getting their things done from different welfare agencies. Despite some drawbacks in the implementation of the development programmes, the developmental activities have made a definite impact on the life-styles of both the groups of Sugalis. They have acted as potential sources for raising their standard of living, for accelerating their empathic ability and to remove the obstacles in linking of the Sugali settlements with a wider network in India. Various development programmes have established beyond doubt that the Sugalis are not unintelligent or unduly tradition bound. In this context, it can be stated that "innovations will be accepted if they are personally rewarding and satisfying to that what they replace or supplement" The progressive spirit now manifested among the Sugalis indicates that their very backwardness as well as cultural factors have intensified their aspirations and desire for quick progress.



Finally, it can be suggested that there should also be programmes to increase the Sugalis' understanding of their dependence on and their responsibilities for maintaining and improving, the ecological balance. The Sugalis are to be motivated or informed of the need and uses of different non-conventional sources of energy such as biogas, biomass, and social and commercial forestry have observed that tribal people of India suffered from neglect for long centuries until after independence they were drawn into the mainstream of the national life. Much has since been done for them, though much more remains to be done.

Hanumantha and Grover Deepak have noted that main distinguishing characteristics the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes are their reality, illiteracy, economic backwardness (lower income, under incidence of indebtedness, fewer etc) and social retardation (low disabilities, etc). The same prevalent among general population also but are more prominent in the of scheduled groups. These groups, the tribes, constitute the among the weaker sections. Another facet of poverty among weaker sections is the ownership of fewer assets such as agricultural land. In general, the areas where the tribals live and work areas secluded and backward, Also the tribal areas happen to be poorly integrated with the rest of the economy.

Even though the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are concentrated among small cultivators and agricultural laborers, it is naive to equate them the other weaker sections in rural India. They finally concluded that there is a need for careful analysis of data on weaker sections even though such data are scarce and are partially helpful for the purpose or planning. Greater caution is required in drawing policy inferences on employment and employment aspects based on these sparse data. More detailed inquiries are necessary for different caste and tribe groups at the national, state local levels.

Suryanarayana, has opined that the backward tribal economy, which is characterized by extremely low level of economic activity, provides meagre employment opportunities. Though more than 70 per cent of tribals depend, on agriculture, their employment in this sector is hardly for 4 months in a year. During off-season these people remain idle without any gainful employment. By and large, they eke out their living through collection of minor forest produce, fishing, hunting, cutting of firewood etc. between one agricultural season and the other. As such generation of job opportunities to unskilled and semi-skilled tribal labour has been considered as one of the vital aspects of tribal development programmes.

The Area Development Approach of the Government of India is a step in the right direction. The objective is to speed up economic development of tribal tracts without jeopardizing the socio-cultural matrix of tribals and eventually distribute the fruits of economic development to this lagging section ant society.

The decrease has been greater for the SC/ST, leading to a widening of 'the disparity. With respect to inequality, there is generally less inequality within the SC/ST group as compared to the non-SC/ST. This is not surprising either, since the SC/SC is more homogenous than the non- SC/ST. Over the period of study, the inequality within the groups has increased. The increase in the inequality for the SC/ST has been of a higher magnitude than that for the non-SC/ST. On closer examination, we find that a small percentage of the SC/ST in the urban sector have fared extremely well in comparison to their non-SC/ST counterparts, while the majority of the SC/ST suffered relatively more. The study also shows that only a minor proportion of the poor are SC/ST. The study points to the differences in the levels of education

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