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Occupation and Dynamics of Kondareddi Tribe in Andhra Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

Traditionally the Anthropologists working in Indian were primarily concerned with the tribes. They are mostly lived in the hill areas. It was natural considering the diverse ecological settings where the tribes live. The kondareddi are a "Primitive" tribe mostly concentrated in Papi hills of Andhra Pradesh adjacent to the border of Orissa. The present study mainly covers all the process of change, origin, customs, traditions, lifestyles and development in respect of the kondareddi. Occupational mobility refers to changes in occupational status occur between generations. Occupation along with livelihood pattern, gender, race, education, income, environment, culture etc. mostly inter generational and direction of management of the community. The main focus of the work is dynamics in socio-economic structure, their causes and influences. The study also revels how far the kondareddi have been able to retain their tribal identity under the impact of a number of external process of change processing in their community

KEYWORDS : Occupation, Environment, Mobility, Transformation, Horticulture, Infrastructure, Dynamics

Out of the total sample 49 households are using the community wells for their irrigation purpose. Of these 50 percent said that the water is not sufficient to get even one crop. Also it was told that there are some problems in sharing the water between the community members. Nearly 39 households got the financial assistance to purchase oil engines. Since the oil rates are going up most of these families are finding it difficult to meet the oil cost. In addition maintenance cost is also taxing them.

Data in table-1 says that out of the total 68.4 percent adopted the recommended horticulture. Many of them have gone for mango, sapota and guava plantations in their lands. Except in VR Puram in rest of the three villages more than 55 percent of the sample households have gone for horticulture. All these 68 percent of the respondents have under gone training organized by the ITDA as well as agriculture extension department.

Table – 1 Kondareddis adopted horticulture

Villages	No. of sample HH	Benefited from Agriculture scheme	%
Chintoor	45	29	64.4
Kunavaram	45	31	86.7
VR Puram	45	28	48.9
Velairpadu	45	33	57.8
Total	180	123	68.4

During the focus group discussions it was told that though community wells and oil engines are good supportive inputs, because of depleting ground water and oil price is becoming major problem for them to manage.

Horticulture:

In order to improve the economical fallback position of the Kondareddis horticulture has been introduced in the region. Under the horticulture scheme the following are the focused issues:Focus is given for cultivation of high yielding / hybrids and varieties, adoption of efficient water and nutrient management and Integrated Pest Management.

Adoption of location specific and crop specific technologies is encouraged.

Mango, Amla, Guava, Sapota and Vanilla are given importance under fruits and spices categories. High yielding / export potential varieties are given priority.

Under vegetables, focus is given on hybrids / high yielding varieties which fetch good return to the farming community.

Considering the economic status of the tribal farmers, the horticulture plants are distributed at 75% subsidy under the ITDA.

Focus is given on prevention of soil erosion and preserving the Eco-System through appropriate cropping pattern.

Planting materials and seeds are distributed at 50% cost under Western Ghat Development Programme and Hill Area Development Programme.

As a part of sensitization and motivation ITDA several camps were organized in the major villages in the region and mobilized the tribal farmers.

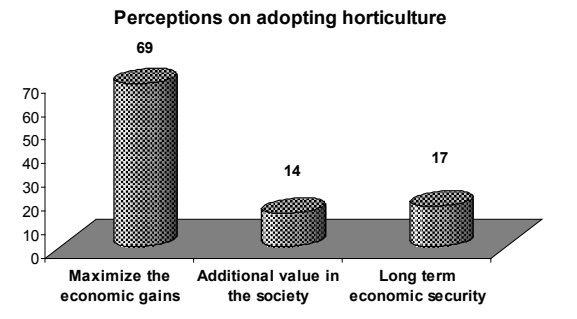
Advantages with the benefits:

Those who are using these inputs said that there is mixed picture of advantages and disadvantages. While sharing the water it is some times becoming a problem and leading to the conflict between the members of the community. However in one way it is advantage because they can get at least one crop with community well water which was not there earlier. So they are assessing the community well as one of the viable benefit. Coming to the oil engines though it is an advantage benefit, due to high maintenance cost most of them are not able to get any extra benefits.

Perceptions about the availed benefits

Data in Fig 1 indicates that about 69 percent of the respondents said that having horticulture plantations will maximize their economic gains in future. They are more confident of maintaining the plantations and also because of soil productivity the yield will be economically beneficial to improve their economic status within the community. With this they want to improve their living conditions.

Fig–1

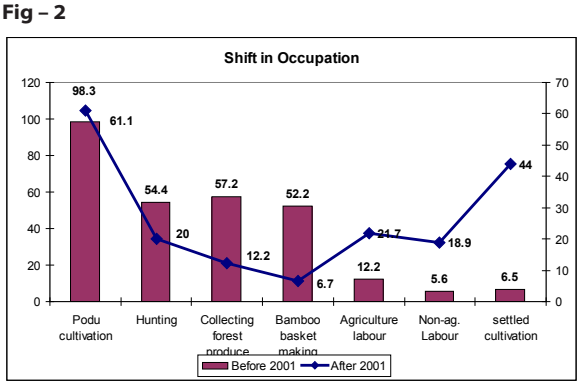


About 14 percent feel that having horticulture plantation will enhance their social status within the kin and community. 17 percent said that horticulture will give social security in a long run. Horticulture was promoted in the year 2000 and 2001 and hence during the study it was not possible to assess the real and visible benefits to the beneficiaries.

Occupation mobility:

The study noticed that there is shift in occupations. This is mainly because of changing family economic needs and decreasing dependency throughout the year. During the year 2001 and 2002 ITDA has taken several steps to bring substantial change in traditional occupations of the Kondareddi tribes. Data in Fig 2 indicates that before to 2001, 89 percent of the respondents are in podu cultivation and after 2001 gradually it came down to 61 percent. Similar trends were observed in hunting collecting forest produce and bamboo basket making. At the same time the data says that substantial increase in agriculture labour and also non-agriculture labour. During the focus group discussions it was observed that those who have shifted from podu cultivation opted plain land cultivation. Since the agricultural operations are not providing year long food security to the families, some of the families have shifted into agriculture and non-agriculture labour activities. Most of such activities are supplementary activities but for few this is substitute occupations. It was found that those who are depending on hunting and minor forest produce collection have shifted to labour activities.

Fig – 2



Bamboo basket making is one of the major livelihood activity to 52 percent of the sample households. But after 2001 only 6.7 percent of the families are practicing it. This shift is mainly because of forest policy of protecting the bamboo plantation and less market to the bamboo baskets in the local markets. Due to this almost 44 percent of the families, particularly women lost their livelihoods. Such women adopted agriculture and non-agriculture labour works. Again because of forest policy of banning the hunting in the forests 34 percent of the families have lost their livelihoods from this occupation and shifted to other occupations. Similar trend was observed in collecting forest produce.

One interesting aspect is that those who have left the podu cultivation opted settled cultivation. This is one of the most encouraging trends in the development interventions. Horticulture is one of the important reasons for such occupational mobility from shifting cultivation to settled cultivation.

Perception of beneficiaries:

Out of the total respondents interviewed, 44 percent said that now fetching water has become fewer burdens for women folk in the villages (Fig-3). About 27 percent said that now by using protected drinking water they are feeling healthy without any health problems that bothered them much while using water collected from streams and ponds. Similarly 29 percent said that their health expenditure has come down drastically. Earlier all these households used to take drinking water from nearby streams and ponds which are unhygienic in nature. During the focus group discussions with women from the sample households it was told that now they are spending less time on fetching water and also using the saved time for other activities such as going for minor forest produce collection, cooking fuel collection, and agricultural operations. In fact they are clearly visualizing the impact of using bore well water.

Infrastructure:

As a part of development, ITDA has provided approach roads, solar village electrification; buildings for anganwadi centres were provided. These are common facilities for the community. In all the villages these interventions are provided on phase wise manner.Drinking water is one of the most important interventions that provide health security to the community. Under this intervention bore wells are provided for the villages and hamlets located in the top of the hills. In all these villages tribal are in fact suffering from water born deceases but this intervention has addressed the problem. In all the sample villages ITDA has provided drinking water bore wells.

Perceptions on infrastructure:

Data on perceptions about the infrastructure is in Fig 4. It says that 90 percent are satisfied with electrification of the villages. They said that this intervention is good. Constructing the anganwadi buildings also one of the better interventions says 66 percent of the respondents. Now the nutritional food and other benefits under ICDS are accessible to them. Before to this they used to go for long distance to access such services. Similarly 78 percent said that because of approach roads now they mobility between habitations and nearest towns have increased. With this they are able to access other services such as health, education and market for their goods. Quite a few said that these facilities are average.

Fig – 3

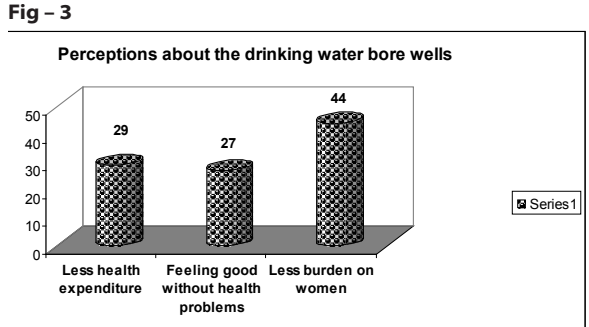
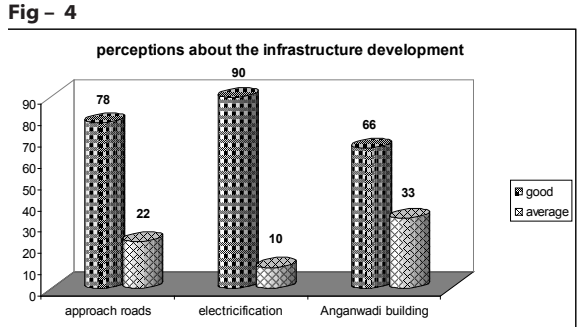


Fig – 4



Kondareddis are more prone to health problems because of their living conditions and lifestyles. Dehydration and malaria are the most common deceases impacting the development of the Kondareddis. This is more particular in the case of those who are in hill-tops and interior villages. ITDA has introduced a training program for youth who can be

trained on reasons for morbidity and best health practices. They in turn visit the villages and sensitize the community on health practices.
In addition motor boat mobile medical services were also provided in the region to reach the needed community who are other side of the Godavari river. These mobile boats are particularly useful during the flood seasons.

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