



## Persistence and Change of Kondareddi Tribe in Andhra Pradesh

## KEYWORDS

ITDA, Persistence, Basket making

Dr. P. THIRIPALU

Dr. C VENKATSARLU

ACADEMIC CONSULTANT, DEPT. OF ANTHROPOLOGY,  
S V UNIVERSITY, TIRUPATI , AP, 517502ACADEMIC CONSULTANT, DEPT. OF  
ANTHROPOLOGY, S V UNIVERSITY, TIRUPATI , AP,  
517502

**ABSTRACT** Social structure and economy resources are transformation on the life and culture of the kondareddi of Andhra Pradesh .social structure is conceived in this context as integrated systems of is varies parts, relations to the functioning of the whole society. The kondareddi have been selected for the study, since they have now adapted settled agriculture as a source of livelihood behind basket making, their traditional occupations.

During the century ,tribes are being subject to culture contact at varies levels due to immigration of plain people and non-tribal to their habits ,modern forces like polices , urbanization, education and other welfare activates.

The kondareddi are not expecting through even today a majority of them continue to live in the relatively segregated places of the papikondalu hills of both Godavari districts in Andhra Pradesh . Welfare programmes in the spheres of agriculture from shift to settle cultivation , animal husbandry, basket making, education ,housing ,health programmes etc .have been undertaken among the exclusively established primitive tribals groups under the ITDA(Integrated Tribal Development Agency) It is a well accepted that geographical isolation and ecological factors are shaped the subsistence pattern and culture of the community .process and persistence of social change a few traditions may be added or a few old ones may be discarded ,while a few traditions may continue

Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) of Badhrachalam is the nodal implementing agency supported by Ministry of Tribal Welfare. This agency is in fact having a separate action plan for the development of Kondareddis. Through this action plan ITDA targeted 237 families in a span of 2 years with a total outlay of Rs. 673.141 lakhs. The major components of this action plan are – housing, agriculture, irrigation, drinking water, horticulture, infrastructure, medical and health, nutrition and food security, nutritional supplementation, education and training and institutional support. The training major focused on model farming, community awareness and community based training programs.

Looking into the details Kondareddis living in cribs are exposed badly to every seasonally calamity and to rehabilitating them into plains one of the interventions is housing. Government has earmarked the land in plain areas and in phase wise manner they want to construct houses for the tribals particularly who are in hill tops.

The major profession that can be encouraged to this primitive group is agriculture which the Kondareddis also traditionally practice through podu on hill-tops and hill-slopes and in small patches by interior dwellers. This is their traditional agriculture practice; however, this is the major hurdle in rehabilitating them into the plains. ITDA started encouraging the Kondareddis to cultivate Jowar which is their staple food crop, in addition to paddy and tobacco. They started supplying seeds, fertilizers and pesticides to the Kondareddis who are practicing agriculture as their primary livelihoods.

To support proposed agriculture oil engines and community wells were also introduced. To enhance the income levels of the tribals horticulture is another development initiative implemented in the region. With this intervention ITDA expected to bring the ecological balance in the region which is mostly dominated by the podu cultivation. Another important benefit predicted through this intervention is to ensure enable environment for the Kondareddis to keep-on their traditional association with the forest. Initially the intervention aims to ensure holding of minimum of 2 acres plantation by each Kondareddi family.

Since these tribal communities, particularly those who are in hill-tops and interior forest are fetching drinking water from nearby streams and ponds. This water is not hygienic and often the tribals suffer from the water born diseases. To prevent this providing drinking water is one of the important interventions initiated. Because of strong belief in traditions, and customs these tribal communities neglect in approaching the health centres. This is one of the reasons behind incidences of morbidity, maternal and child mortality. To bring the healthy lifestyles separate medical and health program has been designed and implemented. Under this motor boat was also provided for the health professionals to reach the interior villages which are located other side of the Godavari river. In addition, awareness and training camps were also conducted to the students from Kondareddi community who has completed their tenth standard of education. The intention is to make them as a “barefoot doctors” who can reach the un-reach during the health emergencies in hill-tops and interior tribal habitations.

Malnutrition is another issue among the Kondareddis. This is another reason behind high rate of infant mortality. Food intake is comparatively low among the women of Kondareddis resulting under weight babies and anaemic mothers. They eat jowar as main diet with curry prepared with boiled leaves of different plants, bamboo shoots and mushrooms etc. On an average per month each family use half kg. Oil for food preparations . Each family gets 8 kgs of rice per month and the amount of rice they consume is also very little. In general Kondareddis do not consume non-vegetarian food regularly. During festivals, social functions and religious functions they eat chicken, pork, and beef. As a tradition they do not consume milk from animals. By and large their diet is of vegetarian with less or no oil and very meager amount of vegetable protein which is very less biological value.

ITDA conducted health and nutritional survey in the region and found that because of their poor diet most of the infant deaths are happening. Based on the suggestions another intervention was initiated to provide high biological value protein and oil supplementation. Required food materials were supplied by the Girijan Cooperative Corporation Ltd. Each

one of the tribal family provided with a coupon worth of Rs. 116/- for 30 days and this coupons can be exchanged with the food stuff at Girijan Cooperative Corporation at Badrachalam town. Under nutritional supplements these tribal communities were motivated to use milk and milk products. Besides, community was also motivated to take chicken meet and eggs as one of the nutritional food. Accordingly milk animals of high-yielding and Giriraja Chick are supplied to selected families on phase wise manner. Kondareddis mostly neglect the education for their children. Instead they train the children in hunting, podu cultivation and collecting forest produce. Another reason is inaccessible schools for those who are in hill-tops and interior villages. Education is one of the interventions to bring the hill-top and interior villages to bring into plan areas. Therefore infra structures in schools were developed and hostels at ashram schools were also improved.

To overcome the low crop yields and to increase the productivity as well as to make farming a profitable venture, the development plan focused on training the tribals on latest farming methods. In addition the trainings were also focused on creating the health awareness among the women and youth of the community. Kalajathas (stree plays) were also conducted four times in a year during March-April, June-July, September-October and December-January. Since the Kondareddi habitations require the services of artisans such as carpenters, blacksmiths, potters and so on essential for agriculture economy, ITDA introduced training programs for youth on the said skills. During these training all the trainees were provided with a stipend of Rs. 250/- per month. Most of these training programs are designed for three months period.

**Category of development and welfare programs:**

These are some of the important development programs specifically designed and implemented for the overall socio-economic development of Kondareddi. This section briefly discuss about the different category of development and welfare programs implemented by the government agencies.

**Welfare programs**

There are different categories of development and welfare programs are implemented by the ITDA as well as Tribal Development Corporation for the development of the Kondareddis. Due to time constraints and other limitations this study assessed the development programs such as housing, agriculture, irrigation, drinking water, horticulture, medical and health, nutrition and food security and supplementary nutrition. In addition it also assessed the training part.

**Persistence and Awareness:**

Utilization of the programs depends on (1) awareness about the program among the Kondareddi community and (2) accessibility of the program to them. In few cases adoptability to certain interventions may also play crucial role. In general, in many cases, tribals are not aware about the programs that are specifically designed for their development. Even if they are aware some times the programs may not be accessible to them because of their remote living. Some times they may not like to adopt the program because of several reasons such as may not help them to depend upon, may not suite to their culture and traditions, and because of lack of awareness they may not willing to adopt such programs. This study made an attempt to analyse the awareness, persistence and adoptability of the Kondareddis in utilizing the benefits of development programs.

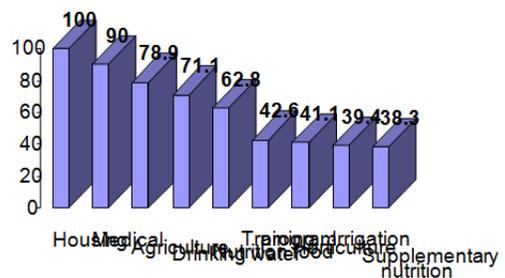
During the study probing was made on the awareness among the Kondareddis about the available development programs. Analysis says that housing is the most popular and well known development program. All the respondents said that they are aware of housing program. Next well known program is medical and health programs. 90 percent of the sample is aware of health and medical programs available to

them. Data says that awareness about agriculture, drinking water, nutrition food, training programs, horticulture, irrigation and supplementary nutrition are in descending order.

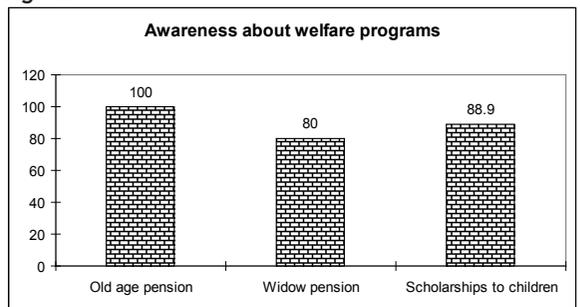
During the interviews with ITDA officials it was told that government is taking top most care in providing awareness on different development programs before launching. However some times Kondareddis, those who are particularly in hill tops and remote forests are not showing much interest to know the program details. The reasons are discussed in the following chapters. The following figure number 1 highlights the percentage of kondareddi households aware of different programs.

Under welfare programs the awareness levels are as more among the Kondareddi community. During the study probing has been made to know whether they are aware of important welfare programs and it was found that all the sample respondents are aware of old age pension. Next program which 80 percent of them are aware is widow pension and 88.9 percent aware of scholarships available to their children for education. The following figure 6 gives the statistical percentage data on the awareness.

**Fig – 1**  
**Persistence and Awareness about welfare programs**



**Fig – 2**



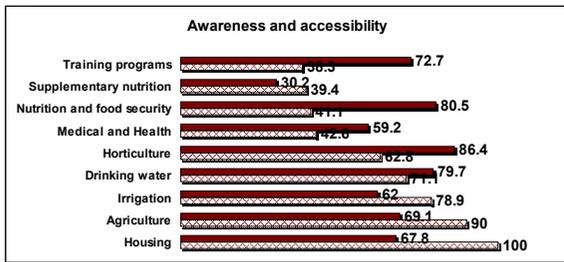
**Accessibility:**

The second most important indicator is accessibility of development programs. Here the data says that there is much gap between awareness and accessibility. For instance all the respondents in the sample are aware of housing scheme, however 67.8 percent told that this is scheme is accessible to them. Similar variations are found between awareness and accessibility of the programs.

During the focus group discussions the respondents told that either through ITDA or through the peer group or kin they are getting awareness about the programs. However due to geographical inconvenience, lack of proper awareness, ignorance most of the tribals are not putting efforts to access such facilities.

Data in the following figure 3 clearly highlighting the difference between awareness and accessibility of development programs.

Fig – 3

**Adoptability:**

Some times even though the development programs are accessible to the community, due to traditional and cultural factors they may not be willing to adopt them. Particularly this is happening for example in supplementary nutrition and horticulture. This is mainly because Kondareddi tribe believes in indigenous food which is having nutritional values. Also they believe that supplementary nutrition provided by the agencies is not good to health. Such type of impression is mostly an outcome of traditional and cultural beliefs.

By and large, the designed development and welfare interventions are focused on socio-economic development of the Kondareddi community. The major objective behind in these development programs is to strengthen their economic fall-back position, bringing social change in their lifestyles and rehabilitating or shifting them into the plans where they can access the development opportunities. Equally development opportunities can also reach them effectively. In the following chapter an attempt has been made to examine how the Kondareddi community responded to the development and welfare interventions. The study would reveal identify the forces ,which have impinged on their developmental process. kondareddi community now understanding in the perspective of change and persistence, the changes have occurred in certain areas , at the same time some traits are being retained for which the internal forces are responsible.

**REFERENCE**

1. Annual Report for( 2000-2001). Ministry of Tribal Affairs. New Delhi: M.T.A.Govt. of India. | 2. Bhowmick, P.K. (1981). Forestry, Tribe and the Forest Policy in India. In, Tribal development and Its Administration, L.P.Vidyarthi (ed), New Delhi: Concept Publishing Company. | 3. Christoph von Furer-Haimendorf, C.V.(1980). Recent Developments in the Position of Indian Tribal Populations. In, Problems of Development in Tribal Areas. S.G. Deogaonakar (ed . New Delhi: Casm Publications. | 4. D.J Narendra B. (1994) Habitat and Cultural Ecology of the Konda Reddy, M.Phil, Dissertation, Central University, Hyderabad. | 5. Editorial (1981) Strategy of Planning for Tribal Development, Vanyajati XXIX(4) | 6. Integrated Development Plan for Konda Reddis of Andhra Pradesh, (1978). – Tribal Cultural Research and Training Institute, Tribal Welfare Department. Govt. of A.P, Hyderabad. | 7. Misra K.K. (2000). Changing Environment and food Management among the Konda Reddi, UGC Minor research Project, Central University, Hyderabad. Mohit publications, New Delhi- 11002 | 8. Sarit Chudhuri, 1992 Educational study of Konda Reddy P.T.G (Andhra Pradesh), Vanyajati XL (I):19-23.