

## Development Programs among the Kondareddis: a Primitive Tribal Group in Andhra Pradesh



### Anthropology

**KEYWORDS :** social developmental program in AP

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### ABSTRACT

*This topic covers tribal's development programmes so this papers only research purpose 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, no significant economic, social and political mobility has taken place across this community. 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. Our paper on "Political Economy of Tribal Development: A Case Study of Andhra Pradesh", delineates*

*the situation of the Scheduled Tribes in the background of various policies of the state during the successive plan periods and its impact on their socio-economic mobility. Politically, this community is the most voiceless in the state.*

*Sources : Political Economy of Tribal Development: A Case Study of Andhra Pradesh Dr. M. Gopinath Reddy Dr. K. Anil Kumar*

### Introductions

In this study both qualitative and quantitative methods were used during the fieldwork. Under quantitative method, semi-structured and pre-tested questionnaire has been designed and executed during the field work. This semi-structured questionnaire covers general profile of the respondent, socio-economic status, and utilization of development and welfare interventions implemented by the state and central governments. To collect the basic data and information interviews with the help of checklist were also conducted with the ITDA officials and also with Mandal level administration. At village level members of Gram Panchayat were also conducted to analyze the awareness and utilization of the development programs by the tribal community.

To support the outcomes of quantitative tools, focus group discussions with the respondents, were widely used as qualitative tools in the study. In addition, elaborate desk review has been made by visiting libraries, government departments and ITDA office.

### Selection of villages and respondents:

All these mandals are in Khammam district and are in the coverage of Badhrachalam revenue division. From each Mandal 3 villages were selected for the study. Based on the population details and coverage of development program these villages were selected. In addition to these details discussions with the ITDA officials and Mandal Revenue Officer (MRO) and Mandal Development Officer (MDO) has helped in finalizing the villages. From ITDA and MDO offices a list of beneficiaries has been collected. On purposive sampling method another list of respondents (head of the household) was prepared for field work.

### Development programs

As mentioned elsewhere, 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 targetted 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 majorly 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 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 during 2001.

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 Godawari river. In addition, awareness and training camps were also conducted to the students from Kondareddi community who have 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.

Mal-nutrition 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 megar amount of vegetable protein which is very less biological value.

During the year 2000, 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.

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 structure in schools were developed and hostels at ashram schools were also improved.

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.

These are some of the important development programs specifically designed and implemented for the overall socio-economic development of Kondareddi.

**Category of development and welfare programs:**

This section briefly discuss about the different category of development and welfare programs implemented by the government agencies.

**Development and 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.

**Awareness and accessibility:**

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.

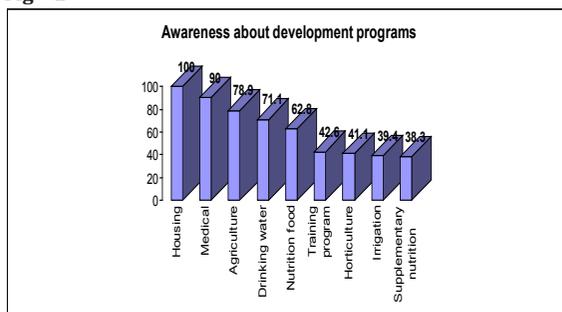
This study made an attempt to analyse the awareness, accessibility and adoptability of the Kondareddis in utilizing the benefits of development programs.

**Awareness:**

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.

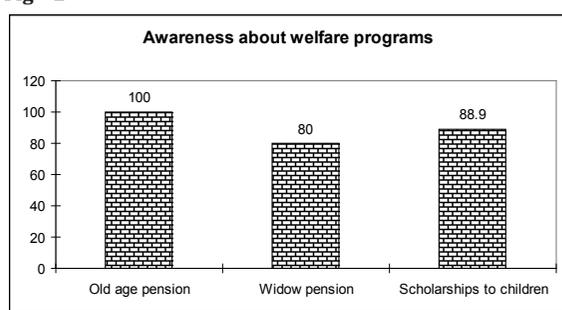
During the interviews with ITDA officials it was told that government is taking top most care in providing awareness on different development programs before launching. The reasons are discussed in the following chapters. The following figure number 5 highlights the percentage of kondareddi households aware of different programs.

**Fig - 1**



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 - 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.

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