Research Paper Anthropology

Demographic Characteristics of Yanadis in Nellore and Chittoor Districts of Rayalaseema

D.K. Manoj Department of Anthropology Sri Venkateswara University TIRUPATI – 517 502 (A.P.)

Prof.K.viswanadha Reddy Department of Anthropology Sri Venkateswara University TIRUPATI – 517 502 (A.P.)

ABSTRACT

Yanadis are originated in Chittoor district and are one of the major scheduled tribes of Andhra Pradesh. They mainly spread in Chittoor, Nellore and Prakasam districts of Rayalaseema. In the study area more than 44 per cent of the respondents are between 30 and 50 years of age. Moreover, youth are higher in Chittoor district and old age people are higher in Nellore district. Around 40 per cent of the respondents have the family size of more than 4 members and majority of them are in Chittoor district. Around 98 per cent of the respondents are married and mere 2 per cent of the respondents are unmarried, around 58 per cent of the respondents got married in the same village and majority of them are in Chittoor district, more than 44.4 per cent of the respondents have 4 – 10 years of age gap in their marital distance and majority of them are in Chittoor district and 87 per cent of the respondents are agricultural labourers and majority of them are in Nellore district.

KEYWORDS

INTRODUCTION

The Yanadis originated from a small island near Chittoor and are a group of semi-nomadic hunters and gatherers. When India was colonized in the 18th century, they were forced to leave their homes and ended up scattered across the country. Barry Watson found these dispossessed tribe people living in abject poverty on a rubbish tip on government ground, where they had been for 30 years. Curiously, 30 years ago the Yanadis had had a prophecy that a white man would build a village for them. After many false starts over the years, this prophecy has now been realized. Yanadis are one of the major scheduled tribes of Andhra Pradesh. Thurston (1909) noted that the people were natives of Sriharikota Island and suggested that they derived their name from the Sanskrit word "Anadi" denoting those whose origin is unknown. Now they are predominantly spread over the districts of Nellore, Chittoor and Prakasham and Nellore districts. Yanadis live in symbiosis with non-tribals. Their mother tongue is Telugu.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

T.S.Vasulu (1989) in his paper on Genetic structure of a tribal population - Breeding isolation among the Yanadis, Extent of breeding isolation estimated two different sources among the Yanadi tribe, who inhabit different geographical regions and show wide cultural differences. The estimate based on marriage frequency shows the formation of more or less well defined regional breeding populations, whereas the estimate based on surname frequency indicates past migration, gene flow and common affinity between regional populations. Both the sources consistently show the process of fission, but the surnames are more useful and advantageous in defining the breeding isolation among the Yanadis.

N.Sudhakar Rao(2002) in his book Ethnography of a Nomadic Tribe: A Study of Yanadi, concerned with the life of Yanadi, a scheduled tribe inhabiting Sriharikota island. It must e pointed out that there is no dearth of ethnographic literature on South Indian tribes and castes but certainly there is scarcity of material no nomadic tribes. The medieval history reveals a number of roving tribes which eventually settled down and assumed act status. But their social structural features and their transformations largely remain unknown. The attempts made here fill this gap to some extent. Further, as it deals with the kinship and social organization of a Dravidian tribe it is an addition to the existing classical anthropological literature on south Indian social organisations.

G.Penchala Pratap et al. (2010) in their paper on Ethnic practices on Urinary Disorders and Jaundice from the Tribes of Nellore District Andhra Pradesh, India opined that Tribal people of this area have authentic information on medicinal values of different plant parts like leaves, fruits, flowers, seeds, stem bark, tubers and roots. They have been using all these parts in the form of paste, powder, juice, decoction, infusion and also in crude form. Present study discloses the ethnic practices of these tribes, exclusively related to urinary disorders and Jaundice. It covers the claims on 44 species belonging to 30 families of which, majorities are herbs followed by trees, climbers and shrubs.

METHODOLOGY

Sample Design

A multi-stage random sampling technique has been adopted to select the sample beneficiaries for the study. Nellore district, the area of the study, consists of three revenue divisions namely Nellore, Kavali and Gudur and Chittoor districts consists of three revenue divisions namely Chittoor, Tirupathi and Madanapalle. Finally, the study covers 320 samples at 160 samples from each district.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Gender

The gender of the respondents of both the districts has been shown in the Table 1.

Table 1
Gender of the respondents

Gender	District		Total
	Nellore	Chittoor	
Male	129		279
	80.6%	93.8%	87.2%
Female	31	10	41
	19.4%	6.3%	12.8%
Total	160	160	320
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

The table shows that the sample consists of 279 males(87.2 %) including 120 in Nellore district(80.6 %) and 150 in Chittoor District (93.8 %) while 41 females (12.8 %) including 31 in Nellore district(19.4 %) and 10 in Chittoor District (6.3 %). It is concluded that the sample consist of 87 per cent of males and 13 per cent of females. Moreover males outnumber in Chittoor district whereas females outnumber males in Nellore district.

Age of the respondents
The Age of the respondents has been shown in the Table 2.

Table 2
Age of the respondents

Age of the Respondent	District		Total
	Nellore	Chittoor	
< 30 years	43	56	99
	26.9%	35.0%	30.9%
30 -50 Years	64	77	141
	40.0%	48.1%	44.1%
> 50 years	53	27	80
	33.1%	16.9%	25.0%
Total	160	160	320
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

The table shows that 141 respondents (44.1 %) are in the age group of 30 – 50 years, 99 respondents (30.9 %) are in the age group of less than 30 years and 80 respondents (25 %) are in the age group of more than 50 years. It is concluded that more than 44 per cent of the respondents are between 30 and 50 years of age. Moreover, youth are higher in Chittoor district and old age people are higher in Nellore district.

Marital Status
Marital status describes the population according to their civil state as single, married, widowed or divorced. It should not have any influence on an individual's work situation. The marital status of the respondents has been shown in the Table 3

Table 3
Marital Status

Marital Status	District		Total
	Nellore	Chittoor	
Married	157	156	313
	98.1%	97.5%	97.8%
Unmarried	3	4	7
	1.9%	2.5%	2.2%
Total	160	160	320
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

The table presents that around 98 per cent of the respondents are married and mere 2 per cent of the respondents are unmarried. It is concluded that married respondents are higher in Nellore district and unmarried respondents are higher in Chittoor district.

Age of the Spouse
The age of the spouse has been elicited and the details are presented in the Table 4.

Table 4
Age of the Spouse

Age of the Spouse	District		Total
	Nellore	Chittoor	
Unmarried	3	4	7
	1.9%	2.5%	2.2%
< 30 years	41	56	97
	25.6%	35.0%	30.3%
30 -50 Years	54	60	114
	33.8%	37.5%	35.6%
> 50 years	62	40	102
	38.8%	25.0%	31.9%
Total	160	160	320
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

It is evident from the table that 114 spouses (35.6%) are 30 – 50 years of age, 102 spouses(31.9 %) are more than 50 years of age, 97 spouses (30.3 %) are below 30 years of age. It is concluded that around 36 per cent of the spouses are in the age group of 30 – 50 years.

Age at Marriage
The age at marriage of the respondents has been shown in the Table 5

Table 5
Age at Marriage

Age at Marriage	District		Total
	Nellore	Chittoor	
Unmarried	3	4	7
	1.9%	2.5%	2.2%
< 20 years	61	61	122
	38.1%	38.1%	38.1%
20 - 25 years	43	52	95
	26.9%	32.5%	29.7%
> 25 years	53	43	96
	33.1%	26.9%	30.0%
Total	160	160	320
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

It is quite obvious from the table that more than 38 per cent of the respondents got married at less than 20 years, 30 per cent of the respondents got married at more than 25 years of age, around 30 per cent of the respondents got married at the age of 20 – 25 years. It is concluded that more than 38 per cent of the respondents got married at less than 20 years.

Size of the family
The size of the family of the respondents has been elicited and presented the details in the Table 6

Table 6
Size of the family

Size of the Family	District		Total
	Nellore	Chittoor	
< 2	63	45	108
	39.4%	28.1%	33.8%
3 - 4	41	44	85
	25.6%	27.5%	26.6%
> 4	56	71	127
	35.0%	44.4%	39.7%
Total	160	160	320
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

The table presents that 127 respondents (39.7%) have the

family size of more than 4 members and majority of them are in Chittoor district, 108 respondents (33.8 %) have the family size of less than 2 members and majority of them are in Nellore district and 85 respondents (26.6 %) have the family size of 3 – 4 members. It is concluded that around 40 per cent of the respondents have the family size of more than 4 members and majority of them are in Chittoor district

Village of Spouse

The information on the village of the spouse whether same village or different village has been elicited and the details are presented in the Table 7

Table 7
Village of Spouse

Village of Spouse	District		Total
	Nellore	Chittoor	
Un married	3	4	7
	1.9%	2.5%	2.2%
Same village	70	114	184
	43.8%	71.3%	57.5%
Different village	87	42	129
	54.4%	26.3%	40.3%
Total	160	160	320
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

The table shows that 58 per cent of the respondents got married in the same village and majority of them are in Chittoor district, 40.3 per cent of the respondents got married in different village and majority of them are in Nellore district. It is concluded that around 58 per cent of the respondents got married in the same village and majority of them are in Chittoor district

Marital Distance

The Marital Distance between the couples has been elicited and the details are presented in the Table 8.

Table 8
Marital Distance

Marital Distance	District		Total
	Nellore	Chittoor	
Unmarried	3	4	7
	1.9%	2.5%	2.2%
< 4	44	40	84
	27.5%	25.0%	26.3%
4 - 10	70	72	142
	43.8%	45.0%	44.4%
> 10	43	44	87
	26.9%	27.5%	27.2%
Total	160	160	320
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

It is clear from the table that 44.4 per cent of the respondents have 4 – 10 years of age gap in their marital distance and majority of them are in Chittoor district, 27.2 per cent of the respondents have the age gap of more than 10 years, and 26.3 per cent have less than 4 years of age gap in their marital distance. It is concluded that more than 44.4 per cent of the respondents have 4 – 10 years of age gap in their marital distance and majority of them are in Chittoor district

Education

The educational status of the respondents has been collected and the details are presented in the Table 8

Table
Education of the Respondents

Education	District		Total
	Nellore	Chittoor	
Illiterate	147	138	285
	91.9%	86.3%	89.1%
Primary	2	6	8
	1.3%	3.8%	2.5%
Secondary	4	8	12
	2.5%	5.0%	3.8%
10th class/ Intermediate	6	6	12
	3.8%	3.8%	3.8%
Degree	1	2	3
	0.6%	1.3%	0.9%
Total	160	160	320
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

The table presents that 285 respondent(89.1 %) are illiterates and majority of them are in Nellore district, 12 respondents(3.8 %) each have secondary and Intermediate education, 8 respondents (2.5 %) have primary education and only 3 respodnents (0.9 %) are graduates. It is concluded that more than 89 per cent of the respondents are illiterates.

Primary Occupation

The primary occupation of the respondents has been shown in the table 9

Table 9
Primary Occupation

Primary Occupation	District		Total
	Nellore	Chittoor	
Agrl. Labourer	158	120	278
	98.8%	75.0%	86.9%
Labourer / Cooli	2	15	17
	1.3%	9.4%	5.3%
Scavenger	0	22	22
	0.0%	13.8%	6.9%
Small Employee	0	3	3
	0.0%	1.9%	0.9%
Total	160	160	320
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

The table presents that around 87 per cent of the respondents are agricultural labourers, around 7 per cent of the respondents are scavengers, 5.3 per cent of the respondents are cooli and mere 0.9 per cent of the respondents are small employees. It is concluded that 87 per cent of the respondents are agricultural labourers and majority of them are in Nellore district.

CONCLUSION

The sample consists of 87 per cent of males and 13 per cent of females. Moreover males outnumber in Chittoor district whereas females outnumber males in Nellore district. In the study area more than 89 per cent of the respondents are illiterates. Moreover, more than 44 per cent of the respondents are between 30 and 50 years of age. Moreover, youth are higher in Chittoor district and old age people are higher in Nellore district. Around 40 per cent of the respondents have the family size of more than 4 members and majority of them are in Chittoor district. Around 98 per cent of the respondents are married and mere 2 per cent of the respondents are unmarried, around 58 per cent of the respondents got married

in the same village and majority of them are in Chittoor district, more than 44.4 per cent of the respondents have 4 – 10 years of age gap in their marital distance and majority of them are in Chittoor district and 87 per cent of the respondents are agricultural labourers and majority of them are in Nellore district.

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