Research Paper Social Science

Impact of Tribal Welfare and Developmental Programmes: A Study in Anantapuramu District of Andhra Pradesh

GovindaRajulu Naik | Research Scholar, Department of Rural Development& Social Work, Sri Krishna devaraya University, Anantapuramu – 515 003 (A.p.).

Prof. D. CHENNA REDDY | Department of Rural Development& Social Work, Sri Krishna devaraya University, Anantapuramu – 515 003 (A.p.).

KEYWORDS

1.INTRODUCTION:

The tribals constitute a significant portion of Indian population. Development of an economy is positively related to the tribals - their social, cultural and the economic development. Development of an economy links its past heritage, with the present. In this chapter an attempt has been made to define the tribes and to establish their significant position in India.

The Indian subcontinent has the second largest tribal population in the world. Many of the tribal communities have been living in this country even since what we call the Pre-Aryan period. We come across the names and descriptions of various tribal communities in the ancient Indian literature which includes the "Vedas" the "Ramayana" and the "Mahabharata". The "Rig Veda" speaks of the 'Asuras' the tribal groups such as the Nishadas, the Gordhrajs, the Sabaras, the Nagas and the Yakshas etc. are also spoken of in the Ramayana. The Mahabharata also refers to the Kiratas, the Mundas etc. In the Bhagawat Purana, there is a story about the origin of the Konds, the Bhils and the Mushhars.

The original tribes in India have been divided and sub-divided into large number of sub-tribes. They are mutually exclusive, each having the endogenous and exogamous clan with their own named and culture, customs, locational practice and lifestyle. A well-established criterion being followed is based on certain attributes such as: Geographical isolation: They live in cloister, exclusive remote and inhospitable areas like hills and forests, Backwardness: Livelihood based on primitive agriculture, low cost closed economy on low level of technology, which caused of poverty. They have a low level of literacy and poor health, Distinctive Culture, Language and religion: They have developed community wise their own distinctive culture, language and religion, Shyness of contact: They have margin degree of contact with other culture and people.

The Commissioner of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, in its reports (1952) has listed eight features of the tribal groups in India:

1) They live always away from the civilized world and are found in the inaccessible parts lying in the forest and hills.
2) They generally belong to three stocks such as Negritos, Australoids and Mangoloids.
3) They speak the same tribal dialect.
4) They prefer primitive occupations such as gleaning, hunting and gathering of forest produce.
5) They are mostly carnivorous.
6) They live and prefer to be naked and semi-naked.
7) They have nomadic habit and are fond of drinking and dancing.
8) They prefer primitive religion known as "Animist" in which they worship ghost and spirits as the most important elements.

All the qualities are related to great extent, in a particular groups and villages of tribal India. But the qualities present in them differ in degree. Like other societies, tribal society is also not static, rather is quite dynamic, but the rate of change in tribal society is very slow. That is why they have been backward and poor in comparison to other people. Since they have been materially backward and economically poor, attempts have been made by the Government to develop them. Today the Government of all places of the world is paying special attention towards the development of the tribal, i.e., one finds the existence of induced or planned change in tribal society.

Classification of Indian Tribes

In India the tribes have been designated as "Scheduled Tribes" under the Constitution. They have been classified in various categories. On the basis of language, area of inhabitation, occupation, cultural contact, and by the Tribal Welfare Committee, we may classify and group the Indian tribes into the following heads.

Linguistically classified Groups

On the basis of language, Indian tribes have been classified into the following categories.[2]

a. Austro-Asiatic Family: This group consists of Munds of central and eastern India, Khasis of Assam and Nicobaries of Nicobar Islands.

b. Dravidian Family: This group is popular in the central and southern India and includes Gonds, Badaga, Toda, Yarava, Korwa etc.

c. The Tibeto-Chinese Family: This group includes the tribes, which belong to the Southern slopes of Himalayas from the Northern Punjab to Bhutan and Assam. Nagas, Kui, Khasi etc.

2. 1.Objectives of the Study

The specific objectives of the study are:

1) to discuss the status of tribals in India in general and Andhra Pradesh in particular;
2) to narrate the socio-economic dimensions and resource endowment of Anantapuramu district;
3) to critically analyse the various governmental programmes introduced and implemented for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes;
4) to assess the impact of development and welfare programmes on the generation of additional income and employment among the sample households; and

5) to suggest measures, in the light of the empirical study, for the effective implementation of Scheduled tribes developmental and welfare programmes for enhancement of livelihood opportunities of tribals.

2.2 Methodology

Keeping in view of the objectives of the study in mind a combination of historical and personal interview methods are employed in this study. To understand the concept of Scheduled Tribe, to study the demographic profile and growth of STs, to study the programmes initiated for the development of Scheduled Tribes and to study the profile of sample area, the method followed is historical and descriptive. To examine the socio-economic profile of sample ST respondents, to study the knowledge and awareness of respondents on various schemes and to assess the impact governmental programmes, the method followed is personal interview method.

2.3. Area of the Study

Anantapuramu district consists of 3 revenue divisions namely Anantapuramu, Dharmavaram and Penukonda. There are 63 revenue mandals in the district. 11 mandals i.e. Anantapuramu, Guntakal, Tadpatri, Pamidi, Rayadurg, Kalyandurg, Dharmavaram, Kadiri, Puttaparthi, Hindupur and Gooty out of 63 revenue mandals are urban mandals and the remaining 52 mandals are rural mandals. The Scheduled Tribe population is registered in all 63 mandals with varying degrees. In Penukonda revenue division there are 26 Mandals, in which highest Scheduled Tribe population i.e. 70, 762 are living. The second highest tribal population of 51, 856 is registered in Anantapuramu revenue division. The Scheduled Tribe population in Dharmavaram revenue division is 31, 509. The governmental schemes are extended to good number of Scheduled Tribe population in the district.

2.4. Significance of the Study

The governmental efforts have had mixed results. Significant improvement has been made in the entry of tribal people into the wider socio-political structure of the country through reservations in legislatures and government jobs. Nevertheless, problems of illiteracy, ill-health, inequality, unemployment, poverty and lack of infrastructure still prevail. As such there is every need to study the impact of various governmental policies on the socio-economic development of tribals and to identify the loopholes in the implementation of the programmes and suggest various measures to continue governmental efforts.

2.5 Sources of Data

The study is based on both primary and secondary data. The primary data relates to the field survey conducted through an interview schedule from sample beneficiary respondents who are benefited by governmental programmes and eliciting their opinions on various aspects of the programme implementation and the impact of such programmes on Scheduled Tribe beneficiary households in drought prone district of Anantapuramu. The secondary data was collected from the Government of India publications, State Government of A.P. Publications, Gazetteers, Magazines, Journals, Periodicals, Annual Reports, Half yearly reports, Quarterly reports, Daily Newspapers, apart from this the relevant literature was collected from the institutions like National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS), Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP), Statistical Abstracts of Government of Andhra Pradesh and Anantapuramu District, etc.

2.6 Sampling

The welfare and developmental programmes of central and State governments have been extended to all Mandals of the Anantapuramu district. Almost all the villages, hamlets inhabited by tribals in the district are covered by these programmes. For effective study of the impact of the welfare and developmental programmes on Scheduled Tribe population, multi-stage random sampling method was followed. In the first stage three revenue divisions in the district were selected. In the second stage two rural Mandals which registered highest Scheduled Tribe population in the respective revenue division were selected. In the third stage one village or hamlet which is exclusively inhabited by Scheduled Tribe community (locally known as Thanda) and another village or hamlet where more than 50 per cent of population belongs to Scheduled Tribe community were selected. In the fourth stage from each selected village or hamlet 20 Scheduled Tribe beneficiary respondents were selected by simple random sampling method. So the universe of the sample constitutes 240.

3.1 findings of the study :

1. About one-third of sample beneficiaries are motivated by the representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs). In this case heterogeneous habitation respondents are ahead with 39.17 per cent. Local Panchayat leaders motivated 20.42 per cent of sample respondents. The bank officials are source of motivation for 17.50 per cent of total sample respondents. Others like Self Help Group (SHG) members; friends, relatives etc motivated 2.50 per cent of sample respondents.
2. The study shows that while 65.83 per cent of the beneficiaries were granted assistance for the schemes of their own choice, the remaining 34.17 per cent of the beneficiaries were made to take up such schemes as were selected by the concerned officials.
3. As per the study nearly 42.92 per cent of the beneficiaries were not aware the facilities available under the scheme.
4. The study reveals that maximum number of tribal beneficiaries i.e. 39.16 per cent got their loans sanctioned within a period of three-six months. For 7.08 per cent it took six-twelve months. However, 17.92 per cent beneficiaries loans were sanctioned within a period of one-two months. Further, 32.50 per cent beneficiaries received the financial assistance within one-two months.
5. The study indicates that nearly 32.50 per cent of the beneficiaries received the assistance in cash, 41.25 per cent of the beneficiaries received the assistance in kind and 26.25 per cent of the beneficiaries received the assistance both in cash and kind.
6. The study clearly shows that 52.92 per cent of the sample beneficiaries at the overall level reported that assistance received under different programs was not adequate to run the program smoothly so as to make it a success.
7. As per the study nearly 57.52 per cent were found to have either disposed off the assets or the programme foiled halfway through. While 12.39 per cent beneficiaries did run the programme purchasing standard goods through supplementing the loan amount with extra money and 19.47 per cent of the beneficiaries used the assistance for other purposes than it was meant for.
8. Around 40 per cent of respondents are paying loan amount under different schemes regularly, 16.67 per cent beneficiaries are not paying and they followed by those who are repaying irregularly (43.33 per cent).
9. The study indicates that as many as 52.08 per cent of the sample respondents reported marginal increase in their income by being beneficiaries of rural development programmes. About 23.33 per cent of the total sample reported significant change and 14.58 per cent of the respondents reported status quo in their income levels.
10. As per the study nearly 41.67 per cent of sample reported marginal increase in agricultural wages due to the implementation of tribal developmental programmes in the study area. Significant increase in agricultural wages due to the implementation of tribal developmental programmes was reported by 26.25 per cent of sample. Status quo was reported by 20 per cent of sample in agricultural wage rates in the study area.
11. The study indicates that nearly 44.58 per cent of total sample declared that there is marginal increase in their possession of household durables. About 34.17 per cent reported significant increase. No change was reported by 16.25 per cent of total sample.
12. The study makes it clear that as many as 33.33 per cent of the sample respondents reported marginal increase in

their permanent assets by being beneficiaries of tribal development programmes. About 21.67 per cent of the total sample reported significant change and 32.92 per cent of the respondents reported status quo in their permanent assets.

13. The study indicates that as many as 41.25 per cent of the respondents reported status quo in their livestock income. Around 25.42 per cent of the sample respondents reported marginal increase in their livestock income by being beneficiaries of rural development programmes and 25 per cent of the total sample reported significant change. Around 8.33 per cent of the respondents have no opinion on the impact of tribal developmental programmes on their livestock income.
14. The study indicates that nearly 52.92 per cent of total sample declared that there is no change in their clearing old household debts. About 23.33 per cent reported marginal increase. Significant increase was reported by 15.83 per cent of total sample. Only 7.92 per cent of total sample respondents not responded.
15. The study makes it clear that as many as 46.25 per cent of the sample respondents reported marginal increase in their employment opportunities by being beneficiaries of tribal development programmes. About 25.42 per cent of the total sample reported status quo and 23.75 per cent of the respondents reported significant change in their employment opportunities. Around 4.58 per cent of the respondents have no opinion on the impact of tribal developmental programmes on their employment opportunities.
16. The study makes it clear that as many as 44.58 per cent of the sample respondents reported marginal increase in their savings by being beneficiaries of tribal development programmes. About 25.42 per cent of the total sample reported significant change and 23.75 per cent of the respondents reported status quo in their savings.
17. The study makes it clear that as many as 52.50 per cent of the sample respondents reported marginal increase in their expenditure on food items by being beneficiaries of tribal development programmes. About 35 per cent of the total sample reported significant change. Only 8.75 per cent of the respondents reported status quo in their expenditure on food items.
18. As per the study 86.25 per cent of the total sample declared that their families' health expenditure is increased either significantly or marginally. About 10per cent of the respondents reported status quo.
19. The study indicates that 62.92 per cent of sample respondents acceded that the family expenditure on education increased after being beneficiaries of tribal developmental programmes. Among them 35 per cent reported marginal increase and 27.92 per cent reported significant increase. Around 30.42 per cent of total sample declared no change in their educational expenditure pattern.
20. The study makes it clear that a preponderant majority i.e. 43.75 per cent of sample respondents reported no change in their housing status due to their enrollment in tribal developmental programmes. On the other hand 35.83 per cent and 15.83 per cent reported marginal or significant increase in their housing status.
21. The study reveals that 65.41 per cent total sample stated that there is a significant to marginal increase in their interaction levels with officials and representatives. About 27.50 per cent of total sample reported no change.
22. The study reveals that 36.25 per cent and 16.67 per cent of total sample reported marginal and significant increase in their livelihoods opportunities. Equally important is that as many as 37.08 per cent reported no change in their livelihood opportunities.
23. According to the study nearly 69.16 per cent of total sample reported positive change in their social status by being beneficiaries of tribal developmental programmes. Nearly 27.08 per cent of total sample reported no change in their social status.
24. The study indicate that nearly 37.08 per cent of sample respondents reported marginal increase in their capacity on taking decisions with regard to village matters. Around 36.67 per cent of sample reported significant increase in their decision making power on village matters. Status quo is reported by 23.33 per cent of total sample.
25. The study reveals that 63.34 per cent of total sample reported some kind of improvement in their ability to face social evils. Nearly three –fourth of total sample reported no change in their ability to face social evils.
26. According to the study as many as 40 per cent of sample beneficiary respondents reported no change in the community assets due to the implementation of trial developmental programmes. But 52.50 per cent of sample respondents reported to significant to marginal increase in community assets in the study area.

4.Suggestions

Many programmes helped tribal to improve their conditions. The following are important for further improvement.

1. The proper utilization of physical and financial components of a governmental programme largely depends on the awareness of the beneficiaries. As the awareness level of sample Scheduled Tribe respondents is poor, it is essential to enhance the knowledge and awareness levels by awareness camps in Tandas and other tribal habitations.
2. The cumbersome process in government offices for finalization of the list of beneficiaries is to be reduced to encourage the needy to enroll their names in the governmental programmes. The government shall take all possible steps to reduce the gap between date of recognizing the beneficiaries and date of sanction of loans.
3. In order to prevent the mis-utilization of funds by the beneficiaries as far as possible, the government shall extend supervised credit to the beneficiaries.
4. The real development of a beneficiary could be expected only when the government provides adequate financial assistance. The government authorities shall prepare proper estimates to provide financial assistance. This may hamper the number of beneficiaries but it helps certain number of households to come out of the clutches of poverty.
5. To ensure regular repayment of loan amount by the beneficiaries, the bankers or the government authorities shall provide opportunity to repay loan amount by enhancing the repayment period as per the economic conditions of the beneficiaries...
6. The developmental programmes will yield desired results only when the stake holders become part and parcel of such programmes at every level. To ensure the participation of people PRA technique is to be adopted.
7. To enhance agricultural wages in tribal areas, the tribal development programmes should have wider scope to involve larger portion of population to take part. This automatically increases the demand for agriculture labour, which in turn increases agricultural wages.
8. To increase the permanent asset position of beneficiary households, the government shall evolve and implement the schemes like land purchase scheme, land development scheme etc.
9. More than one-fourth of the sample reported that the tribal developmental programmes not increased employment opportunities. This is due to smaller scope of the governmental programmes. So, to boost the employment opportunities the scope and application of the developmental programmes is to be increased.
10. It should be made obligatory for every tribal household to send their 5-14 year age group children to schools before being enrolled as a beneficiary in any government developmental programmes. This will enhance the educational levels of tribals.
11. The developmental programmes gave little impact in enhancing the housing status of 43.75 per cent of sample tribal households. This can be overcome by introducing special housing schemes for tribals living in agency and plain areas.
12. As per the study the tribals living in heterogeneous villages have reported status quo on taking decisions on village matters. To make the tribal population part and parcel of

decision making the political and economic awareness of tribals is to be enhanced.

13. Wide propaganda on the negative impacts of practicing social evils is to be undertaken by the voluntary organizations as well as government.

REFERENCES

Amar Kumar Singh & Jabbi, M.K., Tribals in India, Development and Deputation, Har Anand, New Delhi, 2004. | Aravind Kumar, Tribal Development and Planning, Anmol Publications, New Delhi, 2004. | Aravind Kumar, Tribal Development and Planning, Anmol Publications, New Delhi, 2004. | Anand Santosh Singh, The Changing concept of Caste in India, Colen Current Book House, New Delhi, 2006. | Banaji, D.R. Survey of British India, Taraporevala, Bombay, 1933. | Buddhadeb Chaudhuri, "Tribal Development in India", (ed) Inter-India Publications, New Delhi, 1981. | Chowdary, S.N. Dalit and Tribal Leadership in Panchayats, Concept, New Delhi, 2004. | Dhebar, U.N., Report of the Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes Commission, Vol. I and II, Govt. of India, Delhi, 1961. | Francis, W, Imperial Gazetteer of India, Govt. Press, Calcutta, 1908. | Friedman, J, And W.Alonso, Regional Development and Planning – a Reader (ed.) M.I.T.Press, Massachusetts, 1964. | Ghosh, S.K, Law enforcement in Tribal Areas, Ashish Publishing House, New Delhi, 1987. | Government of Andhra Pradesh, 'Statistical Abstract' Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Hyderabad, 2003. | Government of Andhra Pradesh, 'Hand Book of Statistics - Andhra Pradesh,' Directorate of Economics and Statis¬tics, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad, 2004. | Government of India, 'Economic Survey-2003-2004', Min¬istry of Finance &Company Affairs, Economic Division, Government of India, New Delhi, 2004. | Mohan Rao, K, Socio-cultural Profile of Tribes in Andhra Pradesh, TCRT, Department of Tribal Welfare, Hyderabad, 1999. | Narwani, G.S, "Tribal Law in India", Rawat Publications, New Delhi, 2004. | Naik, N.T.K. and Mansoor Rahiman. S, "Status and Empowerment of Chenchu Tribal Women in Andhra Pradesh" Associated Publishers, Ambala Cantonment, 2007. | Narasimhulu, K, "Working and Living Conditions of Tribal Migrant Women in Tirupati Town – A Survey", 2007. | Sujit Sikidar, Economic development of Tribal India, Ashish | Publishing House, New Delhi, 1990. | Sharma, K.C, Poverty, Unemployment and inequality in Tribal India, |