



Demographic Distribution of Kondareddi: A Case Study in AP

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ABSTRACT

This topic covers only review of performance and area find out. The study area is one of the most sparsely populated tracts in the state. There is a wide gap in density of population even between the Kondareddi study area in each district and the study areas of their respective Integrated Tribal Development Agencies in the three districts. The low density of population in the Kondareddi habitat indicates that the rocky and undulating terrain with very little cultivable land has low carrying capacity (Integrated development plan for Kondareddis of Andhra Pradesh, TCR & TI, 1978). The Directive Principles of State Policy (Article 46) state that "the State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation. The Fifth Schedule of Constitution comprises most comprehensive provisions for the protection of tribals living in Schedule Areas. The provisions of the Fifth Schedule shall apply to the administration and control of the Schedule Areas in any State other than the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram. The Fifth Schedule empowers the President of India to declare such areas to be scheduled areas.

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Geographically it lies between 17° 15" and 18° 00" northern latitude and 81° 10" and 82° 00" eastern longitude. It falls in 3 administrative divisions viz., East Godavari District, West Godavari District, and Khammam Districts.. Three fourths of the area is situated in East Godavari District which harbours five sixth of total Kondareddi population in the study area (Integrated development plan for Kondareddis of Andhra Pradesh, TCR & TI, 1978).

Eventhough the Kondareddi habitat was exclusive until five decades ago, other aboriginal population in the area belonging to Koyas, Kammara, and Valmiki gradually percolated into the Kondareddi habitat in search of livelihood in the wake of large scale migrations of non-tribals who have occupied the fertile lands of the tribals in the lower agency. As a result, the Kondareddi habitat is not as exclusive as it used to be. There is a considerable population of these tribes and the settlements of Koya and Valmiki tribes are found interspersed between the Kondareddi settlements especially in the Kondareddi settlements are found in the hill slopes, while the other tribes settle at the foot of the hills.

The identified project area covers 413 village and hamlets in the Districts of East Godavari West Godavari and Khammam. It covers 24 villages of Rampa chodavaram Tribal Development block and 101 villages of Maredumilli Tribal Development block of Rampachodavaram Taluk and 168 villages of Addateegala Tribal Development Block and 12 villages in Rajavommangi Tribal Development Block of Yellavaram Taluk in East Godavari and 35 villages of Polavaram Tribal Development Block and 16 villages of Buttayagudem Tribal Development Block of Polavaram taluk and 14 villages of Kunavararam Tribal Development Block and 25 villages of Vara Rama Chandra Puram Tribal Development Block of Badhrachalam Taluk and 15 villages of Burgumpahad Block in the Taluk of same name and 3 villages of Aswaraopet Tribal Development Block in sathupalli taluk in Khammam District.

General Profile of the informants

Tadepally (thotaamidi veedhi, Yegava veedhi), Maddhiveedu,

Mallavaram, Putta Gondhi Lanka, Kondavati lanka, Nethedichilaka, are situated 19 km away from Ramphachodavaram. The forest is of dry deciduous to most deciduous and falls under Eastern Ghats. The entire area is undulated with lot of hillocks which are very much used by the tribes for podu cultivation.

The tribal areas of the present study fall under the panchayat regime of Government of India. There are five villages under Tadepalli panchayat namely Tadepalli, Maddhiveedu, Mallavaram, Doramamidi and Putta Godhni Lanka. Approximately there are about 1,500 people and more than 500 houses.

There are no similarities between the Kondareddis living in the agency areas of East and West Godavari, Khammam and Visakhapatnam districts and other Reddis of Andhra Pradesh.

Physiography

The Reddis habitat is characterized by the hills of the Eastern Ghats and intervening narrow valleys and wide table lands ringed by the dense forests. The hilly tracts is traversed by many a stream. The most important river is the highly Godavari which cuts the Papi hills at the right angles. These rivers exercise profound influence on the life and economy of Kondareddis. The Godavari winds through the Papi hills leaving alluvial deposits enroute (Integrated development plan for Kondareddis of Andhra Pradesh, TCR & TI, 1978).

Mineral Resources

The study area unlike the low lands of Khammam District is not endowed with rich mineral wealth. Graphite, mica, pyrite and chromate are reported to occur in the project area. Deposits of Bauxite have also been reported to occur in the project area. Coal deposits are extensive in the vicinity of the study areas.

Soils

The narrow strip of soil adjoining the rivers Godavari on its right and left flanks are alluvial and clay loams in texture. On the western side the soils are the red sand loams. The sand

loans are also found. No Pedagogical survey has been conducted in the study area. Hence the distribution of soil types and their extent could not be given.

Flora

In the lower hills of the project area, the preponderant species are *Anogeissus latifolia*, *Cleistanthus Collinus*, and *Adina Cardifolia*. The higher hills in addition *Terminalia Chebule*, *Terminalia Tomantose*, *Bassia latifolia* and *Acacia leucophloa*. *Palmyra* (*Borassus flabellifer*) grows along the Godavari river and in the lower valleys. *Jeelugu* (*Bastard sago*, *caryota urens*) grows either small groups or singly in the hills. *Teak* grows well in the plantations of the Forest Department.

The most valuable forest species in the project area is, however, the bamboo. It occurs interspersed with timber species. It is extensively exploited. The most common species are in the northern part of the Papi hills, the natural vegetation is of greater height and girth. The important species are *Xylia Xylocarpa*, *Pterocarpus marsupium* and other good timber yielding species. In the ravines and near streams, rattan grows luxuriantly. Mango and jackfruit trees are also preponderant in the Kondareddi community and are of great food value to them (Integrated development plan for Kondareddis of Andhra Pradesh, TCR & TI, 1978).

Fauna

The Kondareddi habitat is endowed with a rich variety of wild game. Panthers, bears, wild dogs, jackal are the important carnivorous predators, which occur in large number. Tigers have become rare. Sambar, spotted deer, nilgai, jungle sheep, black buck, and wild pig are preponderant herbivorous game. Bison which was very common 30 years ago is now a rare sight.

Climate

In the Kondareddis habitat the year is punctuated by three seasons characterized by sharp variations in temperature and rainfall. Summer lasts from March to May during which the temperature reaches 110°F. The summer is followed by rainy season. The rains start early in June and last until October with brief interruptions. The annual precipitation in the area averages, 1200mm "On the windward side of the higher hills of the eastern ghats rainfall is above". 1300mm Minor showers occur during other seasons. From November the temperature falls and winter sets in the lasts till February. The nights are much colder in the Kondareddi habitat than in the neighbouring plains in the winter (Integrated development plan for Kondareddis of Andhra Pradesh, TCR & TI, 1978).

The Kondareddi habitat especially the inner circle is a typical refuge area of a primitive tribe of hunters, food gatherers and forest workers. The hilly terrain covered with dense vegetation offers little scope for flat land cultivation. This is the main reason for relatively less number of immigrant populations from the low lands, in the hilly Kondareddi habitat. The Kondareddi habitat was originally endowed with a rich variety of flora and fauna to ensure copious supply of food for the forest and hill living tribe's men.

The Kondareddi habitat endowed with a variety of flora and fauna changes its face in consonance with the season of the year. The season and the concomitant influence on the forest and the forest and hill clearings are greatly reflected in the life and economy of the Kondareddi tribe of food gatherers and primitive agriculturists. A vivid description of the marked phases in the annual cycle of natural vegetation in the Kondareddi habitat facilitates an understanding of eco-system in the area. In the tropics deciduous forests of the Kondareddi habitat, the trees laden with leaves, ranging from deep green, bright yellow to flaming red start shedding leaves by the end of January. The under growth slowly wilts and turns straw coloured. But the autumn land scope is here end there studded with snail bushes covered with pink blossoms. As the temperature slowly increases and the winter cold recedes, the trees lose their leaves and the stems of the creepers with dried up foli-

age hang like tangled ropes about the bare branches of the trees. As the year advances into March the bare trees and dried up leaves on the ground present a picture of desolation.

Towards the end of March, however, buds begin to appear and some trees start blossoming soon after-wards. The spring is heralded by the exotic scent from *Neem* flowers. Soon the arid and scope is brightened up by the carmine flowers of wild silk cotton, the bright red blossoms of *Moduga*, flame of the forest and others. Clusters of wild figs begin to ripen end the first *Mohwa* flowers fall to the ground, lending colour to the grey and gruesome land scope and filling the air with intoxicating aroma.

At the end of April thunderstorms followed by showers. Change the face of the forest within a few days. New tendrils spring from the steins of climbers, new leaves develop on many of the trees and cascades of bright yellow blossoms of *cassia fistula* Light up the forest, Despite the torrid heat of mid summer, the fresh luscious green of the new foliage of 'the forest sweet scented white blossoms of *Neem*; the repining of berries of *Banyan* hill mango, and *Mohwa* flower herald the arrival of spring in the lives of the *Konda reddis*. As the spring ushers in, the period of want suddenly ends and period of plenty cpunencea for the *Konda reddi* (Integrated development plan for Kondareddis of Andhra Pradesh, TCR & TI, 1978).

By June the entire forest looks bush with new foliage. The monsoon breaks out in June to nurture the grass. Soon the ground turns into a green carpet spread from horizon to horizon. By August the vegetation thickens, the climbers with large leaves, tangles of white and lemon tinted flower lend colour to the green bacle drop. In some places the forest turns into blocks of impenetrable thickets. The weather is cool and humid the monsoon sun playing hides and seeks across the cloudy sky.

Humidity

The driest part of the year is the period from February to May or early June when the relative humidity is generally ranges from 45 to 55 per cent in the afternoon. August and September are the most humid months when the relative humidity reaches 75 per cent. Skies are generally heavily clouded during the South-west Monsoon season. It is common that skies are overcast for days on end during *Sravana* and *Bhadrapada* (August - September). There is moderate cloudiness in the post monsoon season. In the rest of the year skies are mostly clear or lightly clouded. Winds are generally light which increase in velocity during southwest monsoon. The wind velocity is more in the study area lying in East and West Godavari District than in the *Khammam* District as it is situated on the windward side of the Eastern Ghats.

During the months of October to March winds blow mostly from directions "between north and north-east in the mornings and from the south or south-east in the afternoons. During the summer season the winds in the mornings blow mainly from the south and from the south-east or south in the afternoons. South westerly-to-westerly winds prevail in the south-west monsoon season. The study area experience cyclonic weather during the months of October and November as a result of function of the deep depression in the Bay of Bengal (Integrated development plan for Kondareddis of Andhra Pradesh, TCR & TI, 1978).

River Basin - Drainage Pattern

The river *Godavari*, the most important river in the project area, forests its way through the project area cutting in the project area into two in equal halves. The project area is fringed on the northern flank in the west by the *Sabari* river are the two important tributaries *Eleru* and *Pamuleru* rivers are the two important tributaries of the *Godavari* which traverse the study area. *Sitapallivagu*, *Vattigedda*, *Maderu* and *Donigedda* are the important streams the meander through the study area in the northern flank in East Godavari District.

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