



## SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF SCHEDULED TRIBES IN ANDHRA PRADESH

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### ABSTRACT

Tribal economy is intimately connected with the forests. For centuries the tribal have lived in the fringes of forests and depended entirely on forests for their livelihood. Even today, forest products continue to him the main source of income and sustenance for many tribal communities. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs organized the National Tribal Festival 'VANAJ' in New Delhi from 13th to 18th February, 2015. The festival provided glimpses of rich cultural heritage 10 of tribal communities across the country through unique forms of folk dances, songs and other traditional practices and focused on developing a sense of appreciation of the cultural diversity of the country. The highlights of the Festival included state specific tribal huts, exhibition of books, art and crafts, tribal cuisine, award winning photographs and demonstration of traditional skill in painting, craft and traditional medical practices. Screening of documentary films and seminars on subject relevant to tribal issues were other attractions of the six days event. The event would be organized from 2nd Friday to 3rd Wednesday of February every year. This paper highlights that the socio-economic conditions of tribal peoples in the study area.

### KEYWORDS

Tribal economy is intimately connected with the forests. For centuries the tribal have lived in the fringes of forests and depended entirely on forests for their livelihood. Even today, forest products continue to him the main source of income and sustenance for many tribal communities. These communities live in abject poverty having very little access to capital assets, health and educational facilities and hardly any protection against vagaries of nature. The first Prime Minister of Independent India, Pandit Jawarharlal Nehru showed keen interest in the development of tribal people by introducing "PanchSheel" in order a) to show concern for the autonomy of the tribals; b) to show respect for tribals rights in land and forests; c) to train up only the tribals to carry out their own administration for their development and to avoid non – tribals into the tribal territory d) not to flood these areas with multiple schemes and e) to judge results in terms of quality of character.

The overall policy approach towards the tribals had been i) Isolationist ii) Assimilative and iii) integrationist. The Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) approach which came into operation since the Fifth Plan (1974-75) has two main objectives, namely i) to raise the socio-economic condition of the tribal population and strengthen infrastructure in the tribal areas, and ii) to protect and promote tribal interest through legal and administration support. As each tribal area or group has its own special problems, the tribal population in Andhra Pradesh is divided as follows: a) Areas of tribal concentration b) Small Pockets of tribal concentrated areas outside sub plan c) Primitive tribal groups and d) Dispersed tribal population.

#### Definition of Scheduled Tribes

The term 'Scheduled Tribes' first appeared in the Constitution of India. Article 366 (25) defined "Scheduled Tribes" as "such tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under Article 342 to be Scheduled Tribes for the purposes of this constitution". Article 342, which is reproduced below, prescribes procedure to be followed in the matter of specification of scheduled tribes.

#### Definition of Scheduled Areas

The term 'Scheduled Areas' has been defined in the Indian Constitution as "such areas as the President may by order declare to be Scheduled Areas". Paragraph 6 of the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution prescribes following procedure for scheduling, rescheduling and alteration of Scheduled Areas.

#### Education and Literacy

The special commitment of the National Policy on Education, 1986 (revised in 1992) to improve the educational status of STs continues to be the major strength in launching special interventions and incentives to improve the accessibility for the tribals who live in the far-flung remote areas and remain isolated. Therefore, efforts for universalising primary education continued, especially through the programme of SarvaShikshaAbhiyan. One of the special features of this programme is the participation of ST parents/ guardians in the activities of schools, which ensures ownership of the programme, even by the most disadvantaged. The National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education or the Mid-Day Meals acts as a support service to increase retention rates.

#### Tribal Affairs

The nodal Ministry of Tribal Affairs laid greater emphasis in the Ninth Plan on the educational and economic development of Scheduled Tribes. The scheme of 'Post-Matric Scholarships' (PMS) continued to be an important centrally sponsored scheme to promote higher education among STs. Under this, scholarships are extended to all the eligible ST students who pursue post-matriculation courses in recognised institutions within the Country. The scheme was revised in 1997-98 for extending some additional benefits to persons with disabilities amongst STs and the ceiling of income limits of parents etc. The Ninth Plan saw an impressive increase in the allocation of funds for scholarships awarded to STs, when compared to the previous Plans. Under PMS, a total expenditure of Rs.176.56 crore was incurred to benefit around 5.31 lakh ST students. The scheme of Book Banks facilitates easy access to the prescribed text-books to ST students who are pursuing professional/technical courses like medical, veterinary science, agriculture, polytechnic, engineering and bio-sciences, law, chartered accountancy, business administration etc. and cannot afford to purchase costly professional books. The scheme of 'Up-gradation of Merit of ST Students' extends special coaching to ST students of classes IX to XII. The other scheme of 'Coaching and Allied Scheme for STs' also extends special coaching to ST students to help them appear in competitive examinations. Progress in terms of both physical and financial achievements in respect of the above-mentioned 3 schemes viz. Book Bank Scheme, Upgradation of Merit of ST Students and Coaching and Allied Scheme for STs has been included under the Chapter on 'Socially Disadvantaged Groups' as these schemes continued as combined schemes for both SCs and STs till 2015-16.

TRIBAL SUB-PLAN (TSP) The Fifth Five Year Plan marked a significant change in the process of tribal development. The

plurality of occupations marked variations in the levels of development and varied geo-ethnic milieu of various tribes give rise to plethora of problems, which are not amenable to uniform approach for their development. Therefore, area specific strategy has been evolved basing on the recommendations of expert committee setup by the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare in 1972 under the Chairmanship of Prof. S.C. Dube for the rapid socio-economic development of tribal people inhabiting the scheduled areas where more than 60 per cent tribal population are living. The main objectives of tribal sub plan are: a. Socio-economic development of Scheduled Tribes. b. Protection of tribals against exploitation. The Salient Features of TSP are given in the following lines: i. It falls within the ambit of state plan meant for the welfare and development of tribals. Such a plan is a part of the all over plan of a state and is therefore called a sub-plan the benefits given to the tribals and tribals areas of a state from the TSP are in addition to what percolates from the overall plan of a state. ii. The sub-plans: a. Identify the resources for TSP areas. b. Prepare a broad policy framework for the development. C. Define a suitable administrative strategy for its implementation. iii. The most significant aspect of this strategy is to ensure a flow of funds for TSP areas at least in equal proportion to the Scheduled Tribes population of the state. iv. The recent initiative of the Ministry with regard to TSP component of various departments/sectors of the states is to put the TSP fund of the state plan in a different demand head in the budget of the Tribal Development Departments of the State. In Andhra Pradesh State, the TSP area covers the Scheduled Areas comprising the 5938 villages as well as the adjoining 809 non-scheduled villages with 50 per cent of tribal concentration in the districts of Adilabad, Warangal, Khammam, West Godavari, East Godavari, Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, Srikakulam and Mahaboobnagar is 31485.34 Sq. Kms area. For the purpose of taking up an appropriate programme for the tribals the tribal areas under the TSP have been categorized into ITDAs, MADA, Cluster, DTDP, and PTDP. There are 10 ITDAs functioning in the state, 41 MADA Pockets, 17 Clusters and 12 PTDPs. Rest of the tribal population not covered under these projects is covered under DTDPs.

**INTEGRATED TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES (ITDAS)** In order to give operational effect to the tribal sub-plan approach, areas of concentration tribal population have been identified and separate administrative units in the of ITDAs are established for integrated development in 1975. Under the sub-plan approach 10 ITDAs are established in the districts of Adilabad, Warangal, Khammam, West Godavari, East Godavari, Vishakapatnam, Vizianagaram, Srikakulam, Nellore and Mahabubnagar. In the above mentioned districts the ITDAs in Nellore district is established in 2001 for Yanadis this ITDA is covers 3722 villages in 166 mandals of Nellore, Chittoor and Prakasham districts. These 10 ITDAs cover the 10469 villages in 308 mandals of the 12 districts. **MODIFIED AREA DEVELOPMENT APPROACH (MADA)** after removal of area restriction as per the provisions of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Act 1976, the Yerukala, and Lambadas are living in Telangana Region became Scheduled Tribes. This change necessitated extending developmental activities on large scale to tribals living in plain area. Three criteria have been laid down for identification of the tribal pockets under MADA. 1. A minimum Population of 10,000. 2. 50 per cent of the population in the pockets should belong to Scheduled Tribes. 3. A Village in the pockets should be contiguous. In accordance with above guidelines 41 MADA Pockets are identified and sanctioned in Andhra Pradesh. These 41 pockets are covered the 475 villages in 78 mandals of the 11 districts, namely Srikakulam, Krishna, Guntur, Khammam, Warangal, Karimnagar, Nizamabad, Medak, Ranga Reddy, Mahaboobnagar and Nalgonda districts respectively. **CLUSTER APPROACH** beyond the MADA pockets, there are small areas of tribal concentration. These are called as clusters. The norms for inclusion of an area under MADA have been relaxed by Government of India and cluster approach has been introduced during the middle of the Seventh Five Year Plan period. Contiguous areas having a population of 5000 or more with at least 50 per cent tribal concentration are identified as clusters. These clusters are smaller pockets of tribal concentration. in Andhra Pradesh 180

villages of 27 mandals in Vizayanagaram, Vishakapatnam, West Godavari, Khammam, Adilabad, Warangal, Karimnagar, Nizamabad, Ranga Reddy and Manboobnagar districts are covered under 17 clusters. For all round development of tribals in these clusters, SCA is provided for implementation of individual and community benefit-oriented programmes. The block development officers of the concerned blocks are executing the cluster programmes. **MICRO PROJECTS FOR PRIMITIVE TRIBAL GROUPS (PTDP)** Micro level planning was considered quite essential for the primitive tribes. The developmental projects meant for the primitive tribal communities are known as Micro projects. Micro Projects aim at bringing about socio-economic development of a group of families in a compact area. They are made to refine and improve upon the traditional vocation of primitive tribes residing in the micro project areas while planning for their social and economic development. Emphasis is given on implementation of individual benefit-oriented schemes as well as development of critical infrastructure in the project area. Unlike the tribes of other areas the primitive tribes covered under micro project are allowed to avail 100 per cent subsidy under individual benefit schemes. The projects also aim at developing the core economic sectors like agriculture, horticulture, soil conservation and animal husbandry. Besides them facilities of drinking water, education and health are also provided under these projects. The primitive tribes have some peculiar characteristic features. The schemes that are being introduced for the development of the other tribes will not be applicable to them. Based on their cultural specialties, ecosystem and aptitude, core programmes have been identified for different primitive groups. **DISPERSED TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (DTDP)** The programme for the development of the dispersed tribal population remaining outside the coverage of ITDA, MADA and Micro Projects, is being implemented from the Sixth Five Year Plan. This programme is known as Dispersed Tribal Development Programme. Implementation of DTDP has been extended to cover the entire dispersed tribal population in the Andhra Pradesh State.

**ANDHRA PRADESH TRIBES COOPERATIVE FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED (TRICOR)** Andhra Pradesh Tribes Cooperative Finance Corporation Limited was established in October, 1976 with Registration No. T.A. 843 under Andhra Pradesh Cooperative Societies Act, 1964 with Head Quarters at Hyderabad, and its area of operation extends over the entire state of Andhra Pradesh. The objective of the corporation is as follows: 1. All round development of Scheduled Tribes in the state with special attention on TSP Area. 2. Economic development of Scheduled Tribes by providing financial assistance to Scheduled Tribes families below poverty line to take up economic support activities. 3. To provide agriculture credit for development of agriculture and for poverty alleviation, programme. 4. To provide financial assistance to Scheduled Tribes for creation of income generating activities. 5. To accelerate pace of economic development of Scheduled Tribes. 6. To provide training programmes for skill upgradation leading to self/wage employment. 7. To empower Scheduled Tribes women Self Help Groups for taking up economic support activity. 8. To plug critical gaps of finance in economic support schemes. 9. To tap institutional finance by providing margin money. 10. To coordinate implementation of SGSY, CMEY, AMSY, RSUY, CLDP, NABARD, SCA, NSTFDC, Programmes. **GIRIJANA COOPERATIVE CORPORATION LIMITED (GCC)** In the light of the constitutional provisions, based on the recommendations of the Malayappan Committee the Director of Social Welfare, Government of Andhra Pradesh established the GCC in 11th October 1956. The GCC is a public sector undertaking of Government of Andhra Pradesh. The GCC established for the socio-economic uplift of tribals in the state of Andhra Pradesh. The GCC has its headquarters at Vishakhapatnam. The GCC is a state level organization with one regional office, 10 divisional offices, 43 Girijana Primary Cooperative Marketing societies (GPCMS) and 839 DR Depots, which work in close coordination with ITDAs.

Following are the objectives of the GCC: 1. To ensure payment of remunerative prices for the Minor Forest Products (MFP) collected by the tribals by eliminating the middlemen and private traders

who are indulging in unfair trade practices. 2. To ensure availability of essential commodities even in the interior agency are through a network of DR Deports. 3. To provide support to the tribals in their agricultural activities through extending credit facilities.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs organized the National Tribal Festival 'VANAJ' in New Delhi from 13th to 18th February, 2015. The festival provided glimpses of rich cultural heritage 10 of tribal communities across the country through unique forms of folk dances, songs and other traditional practices and focused on developing a sense of appreciation of the cultural diversity of the country. The highlights of the Festival included state specific tribal huts, exhibition of books, art and crafts, tribal cuisine, award winning photographs and demonstration of traditional skill in painting, craft and traditional medical practices. Screening of documentary films and seminars on subject relevant to tribal issues were other attractions of the six days event. The event would be organised from 2nd Friday to 3rd Wednesday of February every year.

## CONCLUSION

In India there are 427 main tribal communities living. India ranks the second in having the tribal concentration in the world next only to Africa. It is estimated that the predominant tribal areas comprise about 15 per cent of the total geographical area of the country. In India tribal communities use their own dialect which is in vogue in their region. The Gonds groups of tribes are mostly concentrated in Maharastra, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. The National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education or the Mid-Day Meals acts as a support service to increase retention rates. This paper exploited that the tribal programmes are how to impact on tribal socio-economics structure in Andhra Pradesh state. The government of Andhra Pradesh has also implemented welfare programme of tribal areas then the conditions of tribal peoples are better than to compare previously.

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