



“A Sociological Study of Tribal People in Karnataka: Special Reference to Kollegal Taluk of Chamarajanagara District”.

Author of the Paper

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Abstract:

The tribal population of Karnataka increased to 38.64 lakh in 2011 from 19.16 lakh in 1991. The decadal growth rate during this period is a high 80.8 per cent, caused not by a spurt in fertility rates but by the addition of several new tribes to the Scheduled Tribes. The decadal growth rate is higher for females (81.9 per cent) than for males (79.8 per cent). The highest decadal growth rate occurred in Mysore district (around 328.0 per cent). Low literacy rates are matched by less than satisfactory educational attainments across all levels of primary, secondary and tertiary education. Many schools in tribal areas suffer from high rate of dropouts. Children either never enroll or attend for the first three to four years of primary school, only to increase into illiteracy later. Tribes are generally backward, economically as well as educationally. The situation is not uniform in all parts of India. In the northeast, the situation has been disturbed for several years, whereas in the central India problems related to poverty, unemployment, indebtedness, backwardness, and ignorance are acute. The tribes of the northeast have a high level of politicization, literacy, and a high standard of living compared to their counterparts in other parts. The tribes were alienated from their own lands. The landlords and moneylenders of the plains gradually replaced the tribal landowners.

Key Words: Ownership, Management, Outsiders, Exploitation, Illiteracy.

INTRODUCTION

Indian tribes are one of the ancient inhabitants of the sub-continent. The word tribes were introduced in the colonial British era. For administrative purpose, the British colonists in India used a single term 'tribe' for a dissimilar set of communities. This article will throw light on literacy, economic and social conditions the Indian tribes. Indian Tribes are the innocent people who are Primitive, geographically secluded, shy and socially, educationally & economically backwardness these are the characteristics that separates Scheduled Tribes of our country from other communities. Tribal communities live in about 15% of the country's areas in various ecological and geo-climatic conditions ranging from plains to forests, hills and inhospitable areas. Tribal groups are at different stages of social, economic and educational development. There are over 500 tribes as notified under article 342 of the Constitution of India, spread over different States and Union Territories of the country. The highest number of tribal communities being in the State of Orissa. The main concentration of tribal population is in central India and in the Northeastern States. However, they have their presence in all States and Union Territories except Haryana, Punjab, Delhi, Pondicherry and Chandigarh. The predominantly tribal populated States of the country i.e, tribal population more than 50% of the total population are in Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Union Territories of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep. States with sizeable tribal population and having areas of large tribal concentration are A.P. Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Rajasthan.

DEFINITION OF TRIBES

Article 366 (25) of the Indian Constitution 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".

SEX RATIO SCHEDULED TRIBES

As per Census 2011, the sex ratio in India is 943 whereas it is 990 in scheduled tribes. The sex ratio of children (0-6 age group) in India is 919 whereas that of it are 957 in scheduled tribes. The sex ratio in scheduled tribes is in favour of females in Goa (1046), Kerala (1025), Arunachal Pradesh (1032), Odisha (1029) and Chhattisgarh (1020). In Jammu and Kashmir (924) the sex ratio in scheduled tribes is the lowest in the country.

LITERACY OF SCHEDULED TRIBES

As per Census 2011, the rate of literacy in India is 72.99% whereas that of it in scheduled tribes is 59%. State-wise, the rate of literacy in scheduled tribes is highest in Mizoram (91.7%) and lowest in Andhra Pradesh (49.2%). Among union territories, the highest rate of literacy in scheduled tribes is in Lakshadweep (91.7%) according to 2011 census report.

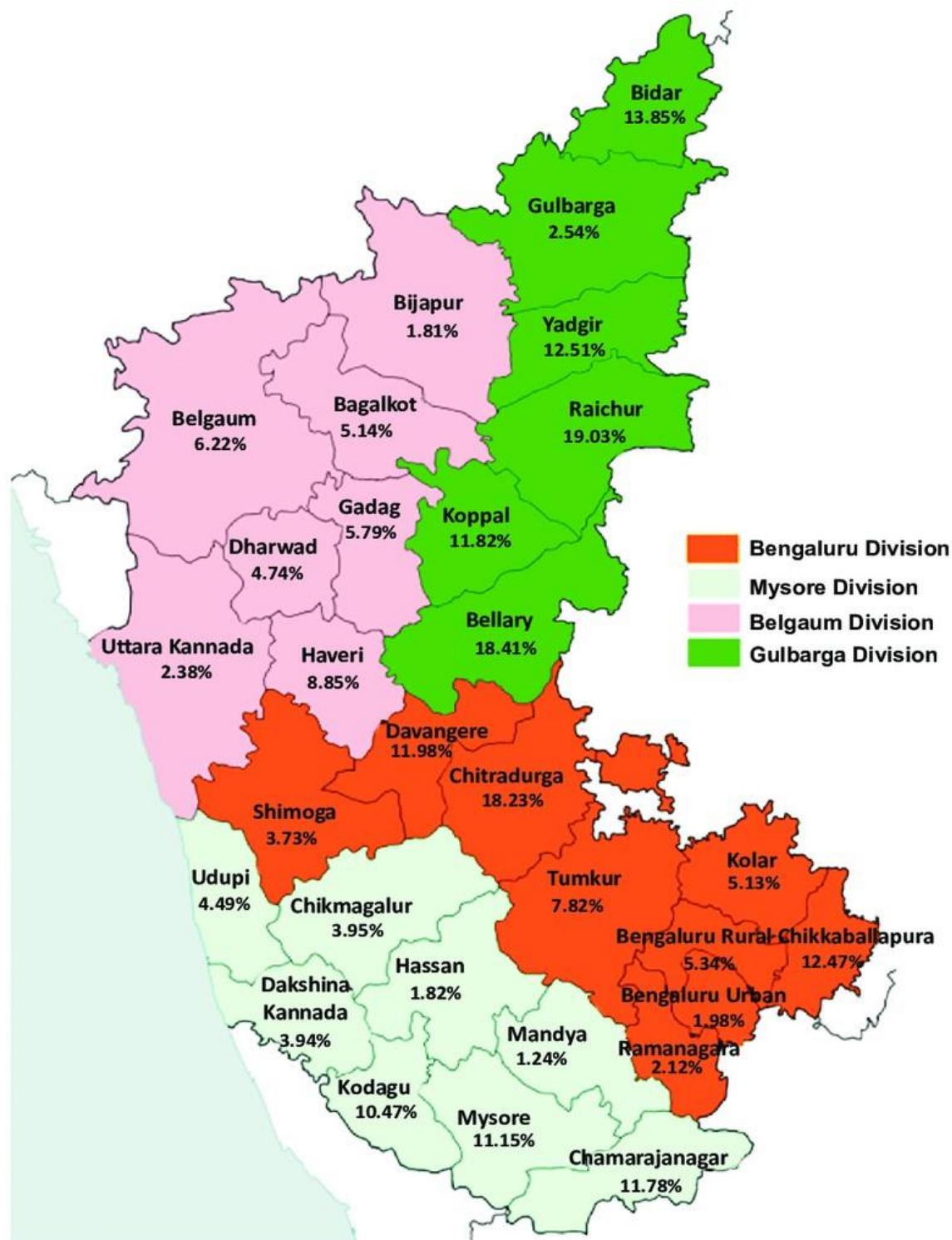
MAJOR TRIBES IN INDIA (STATE-WISE)

State	Major Tribes
Arunachal Pradesh	Aptani, Mishmi, Daffla, Miri, Aka, Sinpho, Khamti etc.
Assam	Chakma, Mikir, Kachari, Bora etc
Meghalaya	Garo, Khasi, Jaintia, Hamar etc
Nagaland	Angami, Konyak, Lotha etc
Manipur	Kuki, Lepcha, Mugh etc
Tripura	Bhutia, Chakma, Garo, Kuki etc
Mizoram	Mizo, Lakher etc
West Bengal	Asur, Bhumij, Birhor, Lodha, Lepcha, Magh, Mahali, Malpaharia, Polia etc
Jharkhand	Santhal, Paharia, Munda, Ho, Birhor, Oraon, Kharia, Tamaria etc
Uttar Pradesh & Uttarakhand	Tharu, Bhatia, Jaunsari, Bhoksha, Raji, Khasa, Bhuia, Kharwar, Manjhi, Kol etc
Odisha	Zuang, Sawara, Karia, Khond, Kandh etc
Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh	Hill Maria, Muria, Dandami, Gond, Baiga, Parja, Bhattra, Agaria, Bhil, Saharia, Korwa, Halba etc
Himachal Pradesh	Gaddi, Gujjar, Kinnar etc
Jammu & Kashmir	Gaddi, Bakarwal etc
Rajasthan	Bhil, Meena, Kathoria, Garasia etc
Andhra Pradesh and Telangana	Chenchu, Yandai, Kurumba, Khond, Bagdaz, Koya, Bagata, Gadaba etc
Kerala	Irula, Kurumba, Kadar, Puliyar etc
Tamil Nadu	Toda, Kota, Kurumba, Badaga etc
Andaman & Nicobar	Great Andamanese, Nicobarese, Onge, Jarawa, Shompen, Sentenalese etc.

Sources: 2011 Census Report

TRIBAL POPULATION IN KARNATAKA

Population The tribal population of Karnataka increased to 34.64 lakh in 2001 from 19.16 lakh in 1991. The decadal growth rate during this period is a high 80.8 per cent, caused not by a spurt in fertility rates but by the addition of several new tribes to the Scheduled Tribes (ST) category. The decadal growth rate is higher for females (81.9 per cent) than for males (79.8 per cent). The highest decadal growth rate occurred in Mysore district (around 328.0 per cent), Bagalkot (261.6 per cent), Dharwad (201.1 per cent) and Belgaum (193.0 per cent).



Sources by Dr. Debdutta Bhattacharya 2019

ECONOMIC STATUS TRIBES

Historically, the tribal economy was based on subsistence agriculture and they practice hunting and food gathering. However, since the tribal people treated land as a common resource, they rarely had land titles in their names. 90% of the tribal don't own land in their names. The Indian Forest Act of 1972 made the tribal life miserable one. Due to the strict forest laws, they lost their lands to outsiders when exploitation of forest resources began to take place on a significant scale. In most of the tribal areas the Timber Mafia is rampant. This ensured

that a majority ended up as small and marginal landholders. The 2011 Census data reveals that around half the ST population is in the workforce or land less one. Women constitute about 41.7 per cent of the workforce. More than 85 per cent of the working population is in rural areas.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Bagai and Nundy, (2009) quoted that it is true that despite the availability of minimum educational facilities in the villages, tribal families are unable to take advantage of these facilities due to the academic and social deprivation of indigenous households).

Gaurang Rami's., (2012) studied that Most tribal girls have been stopped from enrolling beyond the 5th level by the traditional standard toilet. Therefore, the drop-out ratio among the tribal girls increases.

Brahmanandam, T and T Bosu Babu, T., (2015) studied that most of the time, the policy makers' solution has been to create a national curriculum instead of prioritizing their skill-driven, practical skills that have had a more critical effect on their lives.

Rupavath (2016) found that barriers such as the lack of active involvement of tribal children in the school education system further create the space for tribal communities to be marginalized in educational achievement.

As Kumar (2017) investigated, the lack of extremely low enrollment in conflicted areas is another important observation in the current educational scenario. In his excellent narrative, Kumar emphasized how the clash between Maoists and the government in the extremist areas affected Chhattisgarh's inadequate enrollment of students in primary schools.

Patra, S and Panigrahi, N. (2018) emphasize a deep gap in the policy and implementation of primary tribal education. The lack of tribal socio-economic background and cultural knowledge among policymakers in education has contributed to the current pitiful situation.

Jha and Jhingran, D. (2002) article strongly suggested that the mother tongue be a medium of instruction in the early stages of education and assumes greater importance in the context of tribal children's education.

Rana et al., (2003) article discussed the situation of primary education in West Bengal. They argue that the improvement of infrastructure did not provide a guarantee of improvement in primary education. The authors suggested that the parents' participation in monitoring and governance is the key to improving direct education delivery to improve literacy levels.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Generally Indian Tribes are Economically backward, Tribes are generally economically backward, socially lower status, politically weaker, exploited one, low level education. The situation is not unchangeable in all parts of India. In the northeast, the situation has been disturbed for several years, whereas in the central India which is consisting of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Orissa the problems related to poverty, unemployment, indebtedness, backwardness, and ignorance are acute. The tribes of the northeast have a high level of politicization, literacy, and a high standard of living compared to their counterparts in other parts of India.

Unfortunately the tribes in in this region, Addition to this there is a continuous conflict between them is another most problem of this North East Tribes. The landlords and moneylenders of the plains gradually replaced the tribal landowners. Since tribal people are at different social, political, economic, and ecological levels, their problems also differ in degree from each other. At the same there is a problem of conversion. Tribal Leader accusing the Christian Missionaries of converting them to Christianity, thus causing confusion regarding their original tribal culture. According to the 2011 Census, nearly 71 percent of the tribal are illiterates. Although it cannot be denied that education can act as the instrument for betterment of the tribal ensuring greater participation for them in the development process, still there are certain factors which inhibit the tribal from taking to education. These factors include tribal superstitions and prejudices, extreme poverty, nomadic lifestyle of certain tribes, lack of interest in alien subjects taught through an alien language and a lack of suitable teachers and other facilities in the tribal areas. The tribal have largely come under the impact of the dominant cultural streams of India. New divisions have been created among the tribals due to cultural change in their ranks. Stratification in tribal society in India has its roots in British policy, unevenness due to the impact of economic development, and varied cultural contact with the wider society. Modernization and industrialization has apparently reduced the gap between the tribal and the non-tribal, but it has also created new problems. The prevalence of alcohol consumption was found to be much lower among non-Scheduled Tribe men (30%). Therefore, such a pattern of drinking alcohol among Scheduled Tribe men has a negative effect on their health. The estimated prevalence among Scheduled Tribes is found to be higher in the eastern states like Assam (70%), West Bengal (70%), Orissa (69%), and Jharkhand (67%). In a few exceptional cases like Sikkim, Manipur, West Bengal, Maharashtra, and Goa, a higher proportion of urban Scheduled Tribe men drink alcohol as compared to their rural counterparts.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

1. To know the literacy rate of Tribal People.
2. To understand the economic conditions of the tribal.
3. To comprehend the social conditions of the tribal.
4. To figure out the various policies and programs meant for the tribal population.
5. To suggest the measures for the welfare of the tribal population.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The present study is based on both Primary and Secondary data. The researcher visited the research site Biluru village 28 km of Kollegal Taluk in the month of June 2023. Random Sampling method is used to collect information from the tribal Soliga Community. There are 24 families residing in this Biluru village, consisting of 150 tribal. In order to easy the study 50 male and female were chosen on the basis of Random Sampling Method. Interview schedule method is also used to elicit information from the respondents. Secondary Data

were collected after visiting the University of Mysore Library and even from the newspaper report, journals and articles.

CHALLENGES OF SCHEDULED TRIBES

1. High rate of Illiteracy

According to the 2011 Census report, nearly 70 percent of the tribal are illiterates. Out of Although it cannot be denied that education can act as the instrument for betterment of the tribal. 84% per cent of the Tribal consisting 42 of the respondents replied that due to their Illiteracy they are failed to understand the welfare measures of the government. They also optioned that due to lack of education, they failed to participate in the development process.

2. High Rate of Child Mortality

According to the 2011 census high rate of child mortality is very much prevalent. 90% of the Soliga Tribal consisting 45 of them expressed their view hospitals are situated very far away from their huts. To reach the hospitals they have to travel not less than 25 to 30 km. At the same time, they are said, most of the hospitals which are situated do not have advanced medical system. For the Pregnant women treatment and child care, they have to visit Mysore, which is 95 km. Reaching them and taking the pregnant ladies are tougher task for innocent tribal.

3. Restrictions on Natural Resources

Before the arrival of the British, the tribal enjoyed unimpeded rights of ownership and management over natural resources like land, forests, wildlife, water, soil, fish, etc. 60% of the respondents consisting 30 of them replied that due to the rapid growth of industrialization, and discovery of Granite and minerals, interference of outsiders have increased. The tribal also said, statement government has given rights to mine their areas. This is disturbing their natural environment and destroying their natural habitat.

4. Poverty and Exploitation of the tribal

92% of the tribal consisting of 46 of them responded that they are suffering from acute poverty. They expressed their displeasure and helpless about their status. Due to the recent forest acts, deprived the tribal rights over to collect wax, honey, timber, spicy leaves, fish and other things. Living very to the buffer zone of the forest, they failed to get employment opportunities. Hence, poverty is staring at them. Between this the respondents replied that after analyzing the poor conditions of the tribal, middle men exploit the tribal by offering them to cut forest trees by paying very less amount. When the tribal are caught by the Karnataka Forest Department officials, the middle men escape and the tribal have to languish in the jails.

5. Problem of Health and Nutrition

The public health and nutrition of the tribal people were not satisfactory from the British Colonial Era. 90% of the Soliga tribal consisting of 42 respondents responded that they due to the forest rules and regulation they are denied to collect forest based goods. Hence they are not getting enough revenue to feed their families. Therefore, their kinds are suffering from malnutrition. They have also replied that to get medical assistance for the needy they have to travel or walk not less than 12 km. There are primary health care centers which are not equipped with modern facilities. Hence the Soliga Tribal are facing acute problem of health and nutrition. Addition to this they do not have the concept of hygiene, it is heaping one more problem to their health. Tribal responded that Soliga tribal are suffering from Viral Fever, Yellow fever, Elephant leg diseases, malaria, Tuberculosis.

6. Environmental Problems

Wild animals were very common to wander through the thick jungles. But after thinning of jungles, in recent years the man-animal conflict has gone up steeply owing to the increase in human population; 38 tribal respondents consisting of 76% replied that it is very painful for them to protect their agricultural land. Constant prey of wild boars is the big headache for them. They replied that during the day time, they have to work hard in their field and during night time, they have to guard their agricultural crop. Even though they have complained the forest department, the forest officials are reluctant to take drastic measures to curtail the wild boar's problem. The Soliga tribal lamented that they are not getting full crop after toiling hard in the field due to the wild animals.

Conclusion

The tribal are carrying so many problems from the colonial period to the present era. Many discontents and grievances have grown up in the minds of neglected and depressed people. They have been feeling cries of losing their lands, ethnicity, cultural heritage, and freedom of identity for centuries. Tribals constitute a considerable portion of the population in many developing countries like India. Nevertheless, they are still lagging far behind in the different walks of life, such as good health, education, employment, empowerment, and more. Economic oppression, subjugation, and deprivation threaten the people every time. A considerable amount of tribal people step into the western provinces of the country to earn more money. Several times, the tribes are cheated by the middle man, civilized people. The tradition is going on and there is no positive sign of development. Different political leaders in different regimes use them as vote banks, even the tribal political leaders are there for their ethnic origin and identity, but not known among the tea garden workers. The tea garden workers expend their time in very pathetic conditions when the tea garden remains closed for several months to several years. No single article is sufficient to discuss their miserable conditions.

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