

# A Study on the Socio – Economic Status of the Scheduled Tribes in Telangana State – Problems and Implications

**Dr.EesamSaraiah Dora**

Associate Professor

Department of Sociology

S.K.E. Degree College, SirpurKaghaz Nagar

Adilabad, Telangana State

## ABSTRACT

Adivasi is an umbrella term for a heterogeneous set of ethnic and tribal groups claimed to be the aboriginal population of India. They comprise a substantial indigenous minority of the population of India. Officially recognized by the Indian government as Scheduled Tribes STs in the 5<sup>th</sup> Schedule of the Constitution of India, they are often grouped together with scheduled castes in the category Scheduled Castes and Tribes SCSTs, which is eligible for certain affirmative action measures in India. Tribes are one of the many divergent groups that make up the Indian population. They continue to be disadvantaged primarily because they have been considered the smallest segment of olden history. Cultural and geographic exclusion, a lack of appropriate healthcare facilities, an inability to meet basic needs, a loss of control over resources and assets, a lack of skills and education, poor nutrition, a lack of affordable housing, poor clean water and sanitation, insecurity to shocks, violence and crime, a denial of available proper infrastructure facilities and technologies, and a lack of political freedom and voice are all factors that continue to disadvantage tribes. All of these obstacles can make life difficult for them. In light of these issues, the government is attempting to assist the tribes through various welfare schemes. The purpose of the study was to learn about the socio-economic status of tribal people. To learn about their socio-cultural status, primary data were collected through a series of structured questionnaires. Discussions were held with tribal elders who were wise and insightful, and secondary data was gathered by reading tribal magazine articles and background. According to the findings of this study, the tribal's socioeconomic situation has improved day by day. Though there are some issues in the area, such as poor communication, joblessness, power generation, social security, and clean drinking water, the primary education and health commonly known as to be adequate, and the socio-cultural bonding between tribes is also very powerful.

**Keywords:** Scheduled Tribes, socio– economic status, problems and implications, etc.

## Introduction:

The Scheduled Tribes in India are spread across the central, north east, and southern regions of India. These various tribes resided in India long before the Aryans had arrived roughly in 1500 B.C. The tribes were however socially and geographically isolated, following the entry of the Aryans and then consequently the Muslims and the British. More than six hundred and fifty tribes that make up the Scheduled Tribes speak a multitude of languages. They collectively owned property in keeping with their tradition. The colonial authorities had introduced a land administration where others infringed into traditional tribal lands on the grounds that such lands were Terra Nullius that is no man's land. This led to a series of tribal revolts against British colonial rule. And these tribal revolts have been legendary in Indian history, referring to the Malpahariya uprising in 1772, the turbulence in Kutch in 1815 and 1832, the Bhil revolt of 1818, the uprising of the Mers in Rajputana in 1820, the rebellion of the Hos in Chota Nagpur in 1831, the uprising of the Khonds in Orissa in 1846 and the Santhal rebellion in Bihar in 1855. Indian tribal imprint is noticeably visible in the Hindu tradition. Much of Hindu civilisation possesses tribal forerunners. The tribal element aided in delimiting the Sanskrit inheritance, as the Arthashastra, the Mahabharata and Ramayana suggest. And yet due to reasons of geography, colonial history and a number of shortcomings in post-independence era, the scheduled tribes are yet to become sophisticated, a tribe as a 'social group with territorial affiliation, endogamous with no specialization of functions, ruled by tribal officers hereditarily or otherwise united in language or dialect, recognizing social distance with other tribes or castes without any social obloquy attaching to them, as it does in the caste structure, following tribal traditions, beliefs and customs, liberal of naturalization of ideas from alien sources, above all conscious of homogeneity of ethnic and territorial integration.

Geographical isolation - they live in cloistered, exclusive, remote and inhospitable areas such as hills and forests, backwardness - their livelihood is based on primitive agriculture, a low-value closed economy with a low level of technology that leads to their poverty, they have low levels of literacy and health, distinctive culture, language and religion - communities have developed their own distinctive culture, language and religion, shyness of contact - they have a marginal degree of contact with other cultures and people. The tribes remain disadvantaged due to various factors like geographical and cultural isolation, lack of proper health facilities, inability to satisfy basic needs, lack of control over resources and assets, lack of education and skills, malnutrition, lack of shelter, poor access to water and sanitation, vulnerability to shocks, violence and crime, lack of access to proper infrastructure facilities and technologies and lack of political freedom and voice. All these challenges can make their living a difficult task. Considering these issues, the government is trying to help the tribes through different welfare schemes. This paper tries to analyse the socio-economic status of the tribal communities, the government schemes put forth by the governments of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh for the welfare of tribal communities. In 1950-

51 censuses, tribals make up 5.6 percent of the country's total population. According to the 2011 Census, the number of Scheduled Tribes in India is 10,42,81,034. This is 8.6 percent of the total population of India. A total of 9,38,19,162 people belonging to the Scheduled tribe live in rural areas, while 1,04,61,872 live in urban areas. Scheduled tribes make up 11.3 percent of the total population in rural areas and 2.8 percent in urban areas. There are about 550 tribes in India. There are about 550 tribes in India. According to the 1951 census, tribals make up 5.6 percent of the country's population. According to the 2011 Census, the number of Scheduled Tribes in India is 10,42,81,034. This is 8.6 percent of India's total population [according to the 2001 census, it is 8.2 percent of India's total population]. A total of 9,38,19,162 people belonging to the Scheduled tribe live in rural areas and 1,04,61,872 in urban areas. Scheduled tribes make up 11.3 percent of the total population in rural areas and 2.8 percent in urban areas. The decade-long growth rate of India's population during 2001-2011 was 17.6 percent. The decade-long growth rate of the Scheduled tribes during this period was 23.7 percent.

The decade-long growth rate of Scheduled tribes in rural areas was low 21.3 percent, while it was higher in urban areas 49.7 percent. Telangana state formed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2014. After formation of Telangana, Telangana has given high priority to the development of Scheduled Tribes which accounts for 9.08 percent of the total population of the state. According to census of India, 2011, ST Population in ITDA Districts 53 percent and ST Population in Other Districts 47 Percent. The percentage of the ST Literacy is 49.8 and Male Literacy is 61 percent and female Literacy is 40 percent. There are 32 Tribal Communities including 4 PVTGs. The major STs in Telangana are Lambadis 64.3 percent, Koya 12 percent, Gonda / Naikpodu 9.4 percent Yerukula

45 percent, Kolam 1.4 percent and remaining tribes are below 10 percent. 2011 census the rate of literacy in India is 72.99 percent whereas that of it in scheduled tribes is 59 percent. State-wise, the rate of literacy in scheduled tribes is highest in Mizoram 91.7 percent and lowest in Andhra Pradesh 49.2 percent. Among union territories, the highest rate of literacy in scheduled tribes is in Lakshadweep 91.7 percent. In 2011, the total tribal population of Telangana was 31, 77,940 and Andhra Pradesh was 49,575,771. The numerically dominant tribal groups of Telangana are Lambada/ Banjara, Koya, Gonds, Yerukala/Kurru and Pradhan; whereas Lambada, Yerukula and Yanadi are numerically dominant tribal groups of Andhra Pradesh. This paper tries to focus on the socio-economic conditions of the tribes of Telangana the welfare schemes put forth for them by the government. Article 15(4) and 16(4) Reservation of seats in educational institutions and government jobs for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to help them overcome historical disadvantages and improve their socio-economic status. Article 46 Lays down the directive principles of the State Policy which require the State to promote the educational and economic interests of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and to protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation. Article 244 Administering tribal areas in certain states, such as Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram, under the Fifth and Sixth Schedules of the Constitution. Article 275 Financial assistance to the states for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Article 330 Reserving seats in the House of the People and the Legislative Assemblies of the States for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Article 332 Reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Councils of the States where such Councils exist.

Article 338 Constitution of a National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to investigate and monitor the implementation of laws and policies related to the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Article 366 (25) of the Constitution of India refers to Scheduled Tribes (ST) as those communities, who are scheduled in accordance with Article 342 of the Constitution. Our country's aboriginal inhabitants are identified as the tribal population. For centuries, they have lived a simple life based on the natural atmosphere, developing cultural characteristics that are compatible with their physical and social environments. The Telangana State constitutes highest tribal population in Southern India. National Commission for Scheduled Tribes Act, 2004: This act provides for establishing a National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) to investigate and monitor the implementation of laws and policies related to the welfare of scheduled tribes.

#### **Objectives of the study:**

1. To study the socio-economic condition of Scheduled Tribals communities in Telangana state.
2. To study the government schemes of Telangana for the welfare of tribal communities, the educational facility available for tribal people.
3. To identify the resources available in the selected area of the study.
4. To propose various measures to improve the socioeconomic conditions of the Scheduled Tribals in the study area.

#### **Statement of the problem:**

Telangana is a symbol of diversity as it is one of the highly industrialized areas in the state and similarly with the tribal population. Most of the mandals of the district are dominated by the backward tribal population and a few areas are covered with basic industries like coal extraction, thermal power production, paper production, etc., Well-educated employees on one side, agency illiteracy on the other side show the extremes of this region. The present study is an attempt to study and analyze the socio-economic status of the Scheduled Tribes.

**Methodology of study:**

The present study focused on socio-economic status of scheduled tribes in telanganastate. The data collection to undertake this study the data collected from secondary sources, the secondary data for this study has been collected from various sources such as Journals, books, magazines and articles, publications, various research papers, newspapers etc.

**Review of literature:**

The researcher reviewed many researchers conducted in India and abroad to find out the correct area to carry out the research work ,which will be fruitful for the professionals and country.

**Rao, D. Pulla (2013)** in his paper addresses the socioeconomic status of the scheduled tribes in Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh State (India). In the sample, the majority of the households are the tribe of Konda Dora. Further, the majority of the sample households in the study area are Hindus and more than 70 percent of the sample population are illiterate. Cultivation is the primary occupation participated by the maximum heads of the sample households. Income from cultivation supports the majority of the sample population. More than 53 percent of the cultivators have farm income around ₹ 2,000.00 to ₹ 5,000.00. Even though, the wage labourers are more in the sample population, the share of income derived from that is less when compared to cultivation.

**Bulender (2017)** had concluded that the high incidence of rape cases and domestic violence are associated with women disempowerment which causes a source of economic poverty. He further observed that the social and economic poverty of tribal women are the significant factors for the incidence of high crime rate in the tribal areas. Awareness programs on social empowerment among the tribal women are to be imparted by both the government and non-governmental agencies.

**Roy (2016.)** had observed that in spite of so much emphasis was given to tribal communities since 60 years of independence and more than half century of plan interventions with a good number of provisions, Indian tribe is nowhere near a satisfactory solution.

**Biradar and Jayasheela (2007)** had opined that on the educational status of scheduled tribes people and they arranging the programme for their development. Although the rate of literacy increased significantly, a greater illiteracy continued to exist in respect of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes as compared to that of non-scheduled tribes. The educational status among social groups is found to be highly unequal in India, even after more than five decades of developmental struggle. In spite of several programmes implemented towards provision of compulsory education, especially for scheduled tribes, the illiteracy rates continue to be quite significant among them.

**Percentage of STs Population to total population of the district**

| S.No | Districts   | Total | Male | female |
|------|-------------|-------|------|--------|
| 1    | Adilabad    | 18.1  | 18.0 | 18.1   |
| 2    | Hyderabad   | 1.2   | 1.3  | 1.2    |
| 3    | Karimnagar  | 2.8   | 2.8  | 2.8    |
| 4    | Khammam     | 27.4  | 26.9 | 27.5   |
| 5    | Mahbubnagar | 9.0   | 9.3  | 8.9    |
| 6    | Medak       | 5.6   | 5.7  | 5.5    |
| 7    | Nalgonda    | 11.3  | 11.8 | 11.0   |
| 8    | Nizamabad   | 7.6   | 7.4  | 7.5    |
| 9    | Rangareddy  | 4.1   | 4.3  | 4.1    |
| 10   | Warangal    | 15.1  | 15.3 | 14.9   |
|      | Telangana   | 9.3   | 9.5  | 9.3    |

The above table shows that highest percent of ST lives in Khammam 27.4 percent district and followed by Adilabad 18.1 percent, Warangal 15.1 percent, and the lowest percentage of STs Population to total population in Hyderabad 1.2 percent. Most ST male and female lives in Khammam 26.9 percent and 27.5 percent respectively district and followed by Adilabad 18 percent & 18.1 percent Warangal 15.3 percent, 14.9 percent, the lowest percentage of STs Population to total population in Hyderabad 1.3 and 1.2 percent. It is observed that distribution of male and female ST population is unequally distributed among the Telanganastates. The total population of the State, the STs constitute 9.3 percent. The percentage of scheduled tribes' population is higher than the national average of 8.6 percent. There has been a significant increase in the percentage of tribal population in total from 2.81 percent in 1961 to 8.19 percent in 1981 and further to 9.34 percent in 2011. The increase is mainly on account of the inclusion of certain castes under the category of scheduled tribes.

Many tribal communities have been displaced from their traditional lands due to development projects, mining, and other activities, this has led to losing their livelihoods, homes, and cultural heritage, they have limited access to education and healthcare, which has a negative impact on their overall well-being and development, lot of health issues, such as malnutrition, lack of access to proper healthcare, and a high incidence of infectious diseases, the literacy rate among the tribal population is lower compared to the national average and the healthcare facilities in tribal areas are inadequate,

as per census 2011 the literacy rate was 59 percent, due to impact of globalization and modernization traditional practices and rituals of the Great andamanese tribes are on the verge of extinction, engaged in traditional forms of livelihoods, such as agriculture, forestry, and hunting, which are becoming less viable in the face of modernization and globalization, one of the most significant issues faced by tribal communities is the lack of secure land rights many tribes live in forest areas or remote regions where their traditional rights to

land and resources are often not recognized, leading to displacement and land alienation, tribal populations often experience socio-economic marginalisation, including poverty, lack of access to quality education, healthcare, and basic amenities like clean water and sanitation facilities, education levels among tribal populations are generally lower than the national average, lack of access to quality education, cultural barriers, and language differences can hinder the educational development of tribal children, rapid urbanisation and modernisation can lead to the erosion of tribal cultures, languages, and traditional practices. The younger generation may face challenges preserving their cultural identity, despite protective measures, tribal communities often face inadequate political representation and lack a strong voice in decision-making processes that concern their welfare and rights.

### Conclusion:

It concludes the present study the empowerment the Tribal youth for their economic development, the Corporation is imparting the training under various job oriented courses to the Tribals so as to become self-employable. Entire institutions' training charges will be borne by the Corporation besides giving stipend of Rs.350/- to local candidates and Rs.1000/- to non-local candidates. 1) Mobile repairing 2) Car driving 3) Fashion Designing 4) Stitching 5) Beautician. The increase is mainly on account of the inclusion of certain castes under the category of scheduled tribes. It is observed that the distribution of female ST population lives in Khammam 23.8 percent district among the Telangana state. It is observed that Adilabad, Nizambad, Khammam district are reached above 1000 in total sex ratio, rural and urban sex ratio which is higher than state sex ratio.

It is observed that the lowest female literacy rate is 30.4 percent in Mahbubnagar and lowest male literacy rate is 53.7 percent in Mahabubnagar. Its socio and economic status of ST is not improved even after creation of the separate state. State shall create new policy in favour of ST those who are underdeveloped. Education is the most powerful tool for development indicators at the same time, accessibility of education did not reach to ST in proper manner.

**References:**

1. History of tribes in India.
2. Haimendorf, Christoph. Tribes of India: The Struggle for Survival. Berkeley: University of California Press, c1982.
3. Karve, I., 1994, "The Kinship Map of India", in P. Uberoi (ed.), Family, Kinship and Marriage in India. Delhi: Oxford University Press, Pp.50-73
4. Ranjithkumar A. Social Justice through reservation policy, lap lambert academic Publishing, Deutschland, Germany,2013.
5. Ranjithkumar A. Social Justice for weaker section, astral international Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi,2015.
6. Rao, D. Pulla (2013), "Socioeconomic Status of Scheduled Tribes", MERC Global's International Journal of Management, Vol. 01, Issue: 01, pp. 36-50.
7. <https://www.tribal.nic.in/>
8. <https://tstribalwelfare.cgg.gov.in/mainPage.do>