



SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF SCHEDULED TRIBES-A STUDY ON KURNOOL DISTRICT, A.P

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ABSTRACT

The legislative mechanism of the state had made strenuous efforts to uplift the conditions of tribal people in all the nooks and corners of the country and had achieved partial success. In spite of their efforts, the conditions of tribal people is pathetic and deplorable and the existing situation demands immediate attendance. Thus there is every need to evaluate the impact of developmental programs on the socio-economic conditions of tribal people and hence the present research study was conducted on Scheduled Tribes in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh. This paper studies the concept of socio-economic conditions of scheduled tribes in the select study area and examines the impact of factors of development on the socio-economic conditions of the tribals. The paper further measures the relationship between the factors of development and socio-economic conditions of the tribals and suggests measures for uplifting the socio-economic conditions of the tribals in the select study area. For conducting the research study Descriptive and Analytical research design was adopted and both primary and secondary data were used. Data was collected by using selective random sampling technique utilizing interview schedule method with the help of a structured questionnaire. The sample size selected for the study is 150 belonging to tribal mandals of Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh. In order to test the statistical significance of the proposed hypotheses, statistical tools like Pearson Correlation analysis and ANOVA test were applied. The study concludes that tribal development programs aim at the concepts of social welfare, security and cultural promotion of the tribals followed by thrusting the economic viscosity(Socio-economic conditions) of the tribal society at large.

KEY WORDS: Tribals, Development Programmes, Socio-economic conditions, Social Welfare.

1. INTRODUCTION

Out of 427 Identified Tribal Communities in India, 33 Tribal groups, who are at different stages of socio-economic development, are living in Andhra Pradesh state. Of the 33 Scheduled Tribes of Andhra Pradesh, 8 tribal groups have been recognized as Primitive Tribal Group (PTG) by the Govt. of India. These 8 tribes (Chenchus,

Kolam, Kondareddy, Kondasavaras, Gadabas, Gonds, Porjas and Thotis) are extremely backward tribal groups who are identified as Primitive Tribal Groups because they are at the pre-agricultural stage of economy characterized by low level of literacy and who largely depend on food gathering for their subsistence.

The constitutional machinery had designed various programs and policies that aims at the welfare and social security of these indigenous tribal people in the country. Yet the process of total empowerment of tribal people did not reached the zenith and there have been mixed experiences of effectiveness in the form of quality and standard of these tribal people.

The Tribal people are mainly engaged in the agriculture and other forms of hard labour. The use to collect forest products and their income levels are based mainly on Minor Forest Produce (MFP). Degradation and Deforestation had reduced the income level of tribal people drastically.

The Government had implemented various development, livelihood and empowerment programs in agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry etc and also the other developmental programs to empower the tribal population in the country. The Primary objective is to improvise the livelihood patterns by empowering them using the existing resources and there by reducing the pressure on the forests. So, there is a specific emphasis on observing the changing patterns of livelihood of tribals in terms of socio-economic platforms. Based on this propounding reasons, a research study was conducted to assess the socio-economic conditions of scheduled tribes in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh which is mainly inhabited by chenchu tribe in its nature.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

In spite of so much emphasis 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. In a recent study, it is found that the socio-economic conditions of tribes in Jharkand centers one of the deprivation rather than development (Roy,2012).The high incidence of rape cases and domestic violence are associated with women disempowerment which causes a source of economic poverty. In his finding, Bulender (2000) highlighted that poorer women are often raped in abusive relationship due to their dependence on partner for food, shelter and money. Awais et. Al (2009) also pointed out that tribal women face problems and challenges in getting a sustainable livelihood and a decent life due to the environmental degradation and the interferences of the outsiders. They further observed that without any healthy and productive tribal women, the tribal societies can not have productive settled agriculture in the sense that tribal women contribute immensely to the agriculture. In their findings, Dewangan et. Al (2011) observed the tribes in Raigarh District of Chhattisgarh could generate additional income from sericulture.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To examine the socio-economic conditions of scheduled tribes in the selected study area.
2. To assess the impact of factors of development on the socio-economic conditions of the tribals in the selected study area.
3. To measure the relationship between the factors of development and socio-economic conditions of the tribals in the select study area.
4. To suggest measures for uplifting the socio-economic conditions of the tribals in the select study area.

4. HYPOTHESES

Based on the above objectives, the following alternate hypotheses were formulated and tested.

- H_1 : Increased education levels have a significant impact on socio-economic conditions of the tribes.
- H_2 : Increased income levels have a significant impact on socio-economic conditions of the tribes.
- H_3 : Increased employment generation programs have a significant impact on socio-economic conditions of the tribes.
- H_4 : Increased tribal development programs have a significant impact on socio- economic conditions of the tribes.
- H_5 : There exists a significant relationship between the socio- economic conditions of the tribes and their increased education levels, income levels, employment generation programs and tribal development programs.

Tests used: Pearson Correlation Analysis and ANOVA

5. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study adopted Descriptive and Analytical research design. Both primary and secondary data was used for conducting the research analysis. Primary data was collected by using selective random sampling technique and data was collected by using interview schedule method with the help of a structured questionnaire. The sample size selected for the study was 150 (involving both the genders—75+75) belonging to tribal mandals of Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh. To draw the opinions of the respondents a 5-point Likert scale was used and in order to test the statistical significant of the proposed hypotheses, statistical tools like Pearson Correlation analysis and ANOVA test were applied.

6. DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

Table -1 Test of Reliability

Reliability Statistics	
Cronbach's Alpha	No. of Items
.912	24

Cronbach's Alpha reliability test was used to evaluate the reliability of the questionnaire. The result from the table no.1 reveals that the cronbach's alpha value is 0.912. As a general rule it is presumed that the alpha value near to 1 will have the more reliability. Hence it can be concluded that the framed questionnaire is more reliable and has statistical validity.

Hypothesis-1

- Ho** : Increased education levels have no significant impact on socio-economic conditions of the tribes
- H1** : Increased education levels have a significant impact on socio-economic conditions of the tribes

Table -2 Correlation between Education Level and Socio-economic conditions of Tribes

		Education Level	Socio-economic conditions
Education Level	Pearson Correlation	1	.923**
	Sig. (2 -tailed)		.000
	N	150	150
Socio-economic conditions	Pearson Correlation	.923**	1
	Sig. (2 -tailed)	.000	
	N	150	150
** Significant at 0.01 level (2-tailed)			

Note: If p-value is less than 0.05, reject the null hypothesis and accept an alternative hypothesis.

The calculated Pearson correlation value is .923 and $p=0.000$ ($p<0.05$) at confidence level of 0.01. Hence, the null hypothesis (H_0) is rejected and the alternate hypothesis (H_1) is accepted.

Hypothesis-2

- Ho** : Increased income levels have no significant impact on socio-economic conditions of the tribes
- H2** : Increased income levels have a significant impact on socio-economic conditions of the tribes

Table -3 Correlation between Income Level and Socio-economic conditions of Tribes

		Income level	Socio-economic conditions
Income Level	Pearson Correlation	1	.912**
	Sig. (2 -tailed)		.000
	N	150	150
Socio-economic conditions	Pearson Correlation	.912**	1
	Sig. (2 -tailed)	.000	
	N	150	150
** Significant at 0.01 level (2-tailed)			

The calculated Pearson correlation value is .912 and $p=0.000$ ($p<0.05$) at confidence level of 0.01. Hence, the null hypothesis (H_0) is rejected and the alternate hypothesis (H_2) is accepted.

Hypothesis-3

- Ho** : Increased employment generation programs have no significant impact on socio-economic conditions of the tribes
- H3** : Increased employment generation programs have a significant impact on socio-economic conditions of the tribes

Table -4 Correlation between Employment Generation Programs and Socio-economic conditions of Tribes

		Employment Generation programs	Socio-economic conditions
Employment Generation Programs	Pearson Correlation	1	.892**
	Sig. (2 -tailed)		.000
	N	150	150
Socio-economic conditions	Pearson Correlation	.892**	1
	Sig. (2 -tailed)	.000	
	N	150	150
** Significant at 0.01 level (2-tailed)			

Hypothesis-4

The calculated Pearson correlation value is .892 and $p=0.000$ ($p<0.05$) at confidence level of 0.01. Hence, the null hypothesis (H_0) is rejected and the alternate hypothesis (H_1) is accepted.

H₀ : Increased tribal development programs have no significant impact on socio- economic conditions of the tribes

H₄ : Increased tribal development programs have a significant impact on socio- economic conditions of the tribes

Table -5 Correlation between Tribal Development Programs and Socio-economic conditions of Tribes

		Tribal Development Programs	Socio-economic conditions
Tribal Development Programs	Pearson Correlation	1	.936**
	Sig. (2 -tailed)		.000
	N	150	150
Socio-economic conditions	Pearson Correlation	.936**	1
	Sig. (2 -tailed)	.000	
	N	150	150
** Significant at 0.01 level (2-tailed)			

Hypothesis-5

The calculated Pearson correlation value is .936 and $p=0.000$ ($p<0.05$) at confidence level of 0.01. Hence, the null hypothesis (H_0) is rejected and the alternate hypothesis (H_1) is accepted.

H₀ : There do not exists a significant relationship between the socio- economic conditions of the tribes and their increased education levels, income levels, employment generation programs and tribal development programs.

H₅ : There exists a significant relationship between the socio- economic conditions of the tribes and their increased education levels, income levels, employment generation programs and tribal development programs.

Table -6 ANOVA TEST RESULTS

		Sum of Squares	df	Mean square	F	Sig.
Education level	Between groups	72.84	2	36.432	331.218	.000
	With in groups	16.258	147	.110		
	Total	81.122	149			
Income Level	Between groups	66.364	2	33.182	310.112	.000
	With in groups	15.826	147	.107		
	Total	81.190	149			
Employment Generation Programs	Between groups	58.428	2	29.212	295.070	.000
	With in groups	14.562	147	.099		
	Total	72.987	149			
Tribal Development Programs	Between groups	84.724	2	42.362	365.189	.000
	With in groups	17.128	147	.116		
	Total	101.852	149			

The ANOVA test under Table- 6 reveals the significant relationship between the Socio-economic conditions of the tribes and their increased education levels, income levels, employment generation program and tribal development program. The F ratio from the F column reads like 331.218, 310.112, 295.070 and 365.189 and the value in the Sig. column (p-value) is 0.000 for all the variables and it is lesser than the alpha value (0.05). Hence, the null hypothesis (H_0) is rejected and the alternate Hypothesis (H_a) is accepted.

7. RESULT

All the proposed alternate hypotheses were tested and their statistical significance was proved. Thus it can be inferred that the socio-economic conditions is having a significant relationship with the education level, income level, employment generation program and tribal development programs pertaining to tribal people.

8. CONCLUSION

Thus the study concludes by ascertaining the verified aspects of tribal development in order to probe in to the material aspects of socio-economic conditions of tribals. There is a certain relationship between the education levels of the tribals and their socio-economic concepts in their lives and the income levels have a significant impact on their economic well being and allied aspects of their family life. Employment generation programs are having a bi-pronged impact on the socio-economic conditions of the tribals in terms of social emancipation and economic empowerment of tribal

people. The tribal development programs aims at the concepts of social welfare, security and cultural promotion of the tribals followed by thrusting the economic viscosity of the tribal society at large.

9.SUGGESTIONS

1. Intensified educational campaigning programs should be organised in the tribal areas to promote the literacy levels of tribals.
2. Awareness has to be created on economic well being concepts like income promotion, expenditure regulation and savings / investments attitudes among the tribals is to a larger extent.
3. Employment generation programs are to be extended on a long term basis throughout the year.
4. Effective implementation of the tribal program is to be done by the govt. authorities in order to reach the ultimate goals of the millennium goals in terms of human welfare, security, identity and well being
5. The role of Non Governmental Organizations shall be increased in acting as the connecting bridges between the government policy enforcement authorities and the tribal communities.

10. REFERENCES

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