Tribal Diversity in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana: A Comparative Analysis

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Abstract: Economic and social empowerment and educational upliftment of socially disadvantaged groups and marginalized sections of society is necessary for achieving faster and more inclusive development. Primitive, geographically isolated, shy and socially, educationally & economically backwardness these are the traits that distinguish Scheduled Tribes of our country from other communities. This study focuses on the nature of diversity existing among tribes in Andhra Pradesh and it also evaluates underlying issues of the present status. For this analysis primary data has been collected from two districts namely Visakhapatnam from Andhra Pradesh and Warangal from Telangana states of India. We have relied both on secondary data as well as Primary data from field survey. These data has helped us to observe the nature of diversity among these tribes. Household survey with 100 Tribal households from two districts has been the target of our study. The primary data is collected during the year 2013.

Community: Sub caste wise, of the six identified sub-sects, Warangal is dominated by dominated by Lambdas (46%) and Vizag is dominated with Valmikis (37%). Educational status is much better in Vizag than in Warangal. In terms of child immunization, both districts have shown almost same statistics. Employment status in Visakhapatnam district is 94% are seasonal wage earners and only 4% earn wages throughout the year. In Warangal district, 82% of the respondents are seasonal wage earners and 12% of them earn wages round the year. Approximate monthly consumption expenditure on food items in these two districts have shown that it is more in Warangal than in Vizag. In terms of land holdings, majority of them hold very small lands which are ancestral in nature. Non Institutional Indebtedness is high in Warangal than in Vizag. Its been observed in both the areas people are aware of government programmes, and the percentage of people availed these programmes has increased drastically from 2012.

Key Words: Tribals, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, diversity, sub-sect, education, employment

I. Introduction

Economic and social empowerment and educational upliftment of socially disadvantaged groups and marginalized sections of society is necessary for achieving faster and more inclusive development. Programmes are being implemented through states, government’s apex corporations, and NGOs for the up-liftment of disadvantaged and marginalized sections of society.

There are twenty countries in the world with substantial tribal population. India has the largest tribal population in the world. The 1991 census of India had recorded the tribal population to be 67.8 million and they constitute 8 percent of the national population. Tribal groups are very heterogeneous. Article 366(25) refers to Scheduled Tribes as those communities who are scheduled in accordance with Article 342 of the Constitution. According to Article 342 of the Constitution, the Scheduled Tribes are the tribes or tribal communities or part of or groups within these tribes and tribal communities which have been declared as such by the President through a public notification. As per the 1991 Census, the Scheduled Tribes account for 67.76 million representing 8.08 percent of the country’s population. Scheduled Tribes are spread across the country mainly in forest and hilly regions. Primitive, geographically isolated, shy and socially, educationally & economically backwardness these are the traits that distinguish 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 inaccessible areas. Tribal groups are at different stages of social, economic and educational development. While some tribal communities have adopted a mainstream way of life at one end of the spectrum, there are 75 Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs), at the other, who are characterized by: a pre-agriculture level of technology; a stagnant or declining population; extremely low literacy and subsistence level of economy.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has sanctioned proposals of State Governments and NGOs covering about 62 PTGs. The proposals covering mainly the activities relating to food, security, promotion of primary education and extending basic minimum health services to the primitive tribes were approved and Primitive tribal groups
are tribal communities among the STs who live in near isolation in inaccessible habitats. Tribals in India find themselves especially targeted as far as misconceptions are concerned. In the eyes of non-tribals, all tribals constitute a homogeneous group and the fact that each tribe is only partly defined by habitat and geography but essentially by social, cultural, linguistic and religious distinctiveness is rarely acknowledged. This ignorance is perpetuated to a large extent by our textbooks (Nawani, 2014). The ST population accounts for roughly 8% of the total population. There are over 500 tribes (with many overlapping communities in more than one State) as notified under article 342 of the Constitution of India, spread over different States and Union Territories of the country, the largest 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 (tribal population more than 50% of the total population) are 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 Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Rajasthan.

II. Objectives of the study
1. Evaluation of the present situation and conditions of Tribals in Visakhapatnam (Vizag) and Warangal districts of Andhra Pradesh.
2. The study of the expenditure incurred from meager incomes on income generating activities, household expenditure of families and deprivation levels and marginalized tribals from the main stream.
3. Improvement if any in the living condition of tribal people by developing environmentally sound land and water resources programme.
4. To analyse indebtedness and financial inclusion, if any and the role of micro-finance in and other financial institutions.

III. Research Methodology
(a) Two districts Visakhapatnam and Warangal in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states respectively, are the focus in our survey. We have relied both on secondary data as well as Primary data from field survey. Secondary data as far as Government policies are concerned and primary data survey and analysis of the concerned districts. These data has helped us to record the problems faced by the Tribals. Household survey with 100 Tribal households from both the districts has been the target of our study. The survey is conducted in the year 2013. In June, 2014, Andhra Pradesh is divided into two states namely Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

(b) Tools for Collection of Data and Analysis
Following tools have been constructed for collecting the data:
- Questionnaires were constructed to understand the livelihood and working conditions of Tribals in both the districts.
- Performa were prepared to collect district wise, the status of the concerned Tribes as well as government officials of Ministry of Tribal Welfare.

IV. Data Analysis

Community: Sub caste
Data collected from the 100 respondents, it’s been observed from Chart 1 that the entire tribal community is dominated by primarily two sub castes, the Lambadi’s and the Valmiki’s.

Chart 1: Community: Sub caste

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tribe wise distribution of respondents</th>
<th>Not indicated</th>
<th>Kamari</th>
<th>Kodu</th>
<th>Kondadora</th>
<th>Lambadi</th>
<th>Metkamsala</th>
<th>Valmiki</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tribe wise distribution of respondents</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey

The Lambadi sub caste constitutes the largest component of around 46% (46 of the 100 people sampled) of the
entire tribal community in Andhra Pradesh, followed by the Valmiki sub caste, constituting around 37% (37 of the 100 people sampled) of the entire community. This makes up 83% of the population. Kodu, Kamari, Kondadora sub castes make up 8%, 4%, 2%, 2% respectively. The rarest sub caste is the Metkamsala’s which constitute only 1% of the tribal community. 4% of the population does not belong to any sub caste.

Educational Status:
Regarding the educational status as shown in the Chart 2, a majority of the tribals are illiterate (69% of the sampled tribe’s).

![Chart 2: Educational Status](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Literacy Levels of the respondents</th>
<th>Illiterate</th>
<th>Primary</th>
<th>Upto Secondary</th>
<th>Intermediate</th>
<th>Graduate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey

Of the educated lot, a majority has ensured primary education and pre-high school education. A very small percentage of the tribals (10%) have invested in intermediate and graduate education. The above table thus brings out an alarming fact. 69% of the population is illiterate, only 13% have completed primary education and only 8% have completed up to secondary education. Only 6% of the population has intermediate level education and only a small percentage of 4% are graduate degree holders. From the primary data collected in both the districts, it is observed that, in Visakhapatnam district, 60% respondents were illiterate, 14% had primary education, and 10% had up to secondary education, 10% passed intermediate and only 6% graduates. In Warangal district, 78% of the respondents were illiterate, 12% had primary education, 6% had secondary education, 2% had education up to intermediate and 2% of them were graduates. On the whole the illiteracy rate was a staggering 69%, 13% had undergone primary education, 8% had undergone secondary education, 6% had passed their intermediate and 4% were graduates.

Child Immunization
As shown in the Chart 3, 73% children were immunized and 19% children were not immunized. The infant mortality rate, surprisingly was found to be nil for the case of the 100 children sampled. The reason being, a large number of children (42 out of the 100 sampled) had access to protected drinking water, while 15% of the children were exposed to special supplementary nutritional programs, which ensured greater longevity for the children.

![Chart 3: Child Immunization](image)

21% of the children were immunized from polio. Only one child was immunized from measles. None of the children were immunized from either DPT or BCG. Both the districts have shown the similar trends in terms of
Employment/Occupational Status of the tribals in the organised/unorganized sector:

Agriculture is the main source of income and livelihood for a majority of the tribals. However, large tracts of land in the Fifth Schedule are concentrated in the hands of predominantly elite nontribal sections. Consequently, the tribal people are marginalised and deprived of their traditional land rights. (Trinadha Rao, 2014). Most of the tribals in both the areas are depending on agriculture, that too In Visakhapatnam district, 94% are seasonal wage earners and only 4% earn wages throughout the year. In Warangal district, 82% of the respondents are seasonal wage earners and 12% of them earn wages round the year. When we see all the respondents together, 88% of them are seasonal wage earners and 12% earn round the year.

Data reveals that, tribals are primarily concentrated in the agricultural sector for employment opportunity, either as a farmer or an agricultural labourer. Only two people were found to have an occupation as a government employee. None of the people were found to be unemployed while being educated. The data also indicates that none of the tribals were employees in the public sector, private sector or industrial sector, neither were they employed as artisans. This indicates that these villagers are low risk takers and are traditionally stuck to the agricultural sector in their respective village.

Approximate monthly consumption expenditure on food items

As shown in chart 5, the tribals in Warangal district on an average consume more food items than those in the Vishakhpapatnam, except for vegetables wherein the tribals in both the districts consume approximately the same amount.

**Chart 4: Seasonal Employment**

**Chart 5: Approximate monthly consumption expenditure on food items**
Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visakhapatam</td>
<td>Mean 631.46</td>
<td>152.60</td>
<td>167.70</td>
<td>429.38</td>
<td>193.00</td>
<td>1574.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warangal</td>
<td>Mean 963.54</td>
<td>290.80</td>
<td>236.20</td>
<td>439.60</td>
<td>264.29</td>
<td>1967.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Mean 797.50</td>
<td>221.70</td>
<td>201.95</td>
<td>434.49</td>
<td>201.75</td>
<td>1770.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Author’s own calculations based on field survey

From table 1 we can analyse that in both the districts expenditures on food items amounted to a larger percentage. (All amount in Rs.)

1. Vishakhapatnam: The mean expenditures on rice, pulses, oil, vegetables and other food items is 631.46, 152.60, 167.70, 429.38 and 193.00 respectively. The total is 1574.14.
2. Warangal: The mean expenditures on rice, pulses, oil, vegetables and other food items is 963.54, 290.80, 236.20, 439.60 and 264.29 respectively. The total is 1967.14.
3. Therefore the total mean expenditures for both regions for rice, pulses, oil, vegetables and other food items is 797.50, 221.70, 201.95, 434.49, 201.75. The total mean is 1770.64.

Approximate Monthly Consumption Expenditure on Non-food Items

On an average, the tribals in the Warangal district consume more on non-food items than those in the Vishakhapatnam district on non-food items, except for electricity and education wherein the tribals in both the districts consume nearly the same amounts. But the cost of education in Telangana has been rising because of increasing privatisation consequent to inadequate public provision. This is reflected in a rise of annual household consumer expenditure on education as a proportion to total annual household consumer expenditure (Rao, 2014).

Chart 6: Approximate Monthly Consumption Expenditure on Non-food Items

Source: Filed Survey
### Table 2: Approximate Monthly Consumption Expenditure on Non-food Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visakhapatam</td>
<td>Mean 497.62</td>
<td>554.24</td>
<td>277.14</td>
<td>150.44</td>
<td>163.75</td>
<td>142.24</td>
<td>1358.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warangal</td>
<td>Mean 689.36</td>
<td>608.93</td>
<td>563.62</td>
<td>206.17</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>425.00</td>
<td>1911.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Mean 593.49</td>
<td>580.61</td>
<td>421.83</td>
<td>182.78</td>
<td>163.75</td>
<td>211.85</td>
<td>1635.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Author’s own calculations based on field survey

From Table 2, we can analyse that in both the districts expenditures on Non-food items. (All amount in Rs.)

1. Vishakhapatnam: The mean expenditures on Clothing, Education, Health, Electricity, Rent, other non food items is 497.62, 554.24, 277.14, 150.44, 163.75 and 142.24 respectively. The total is 1358.58.
2. Warangal: The mean expenditures on Clothing, Education, Health, Electricity, Rent, other non food items is 689.36, 608.93, 563.62, 206.17, NA, and 425.00 respectively. The total is 1911.60.
3. Therefore the total mean expenditures for both regions on Clothing, Education, Health, Electricity, Rent, other non food items is 593.49, 580.61, 421.83, 182.78, 163.75, and 211.85 respectively. The total mean is 1635.09.

#### Housing

As shown in chart 7, the highest component of the tribals owns a tiled house (51%) as compared to owning a hut (18%). This shows that these people are better as compared to tribals in other states who primarily live in huts. In the Kamari sub-caste, all the respondents’ families lived in tiled house. In the Kodu sub-caste, all the respondents’ families lived in tiled house.

In the Kondadora sub-caste, all the respondents’ families lived in tiled house. In the Lambadi sub-caste, 37% lived in huts, 8.7% lived in tiled house and 54.3% lived in slabbed house. In the Metkamsala sub-caste, all the respondents’ families lived in huts. In the Valmiki sub-caste, 2.7% lived in huts, 91.9% lived in tiled house and 5.4% of the respondents’ families lived in slabbed house.

#### Government Schemes availed by the Tribals

In the context of government schemes availed by the tribals, data is showing that, the percentage of people availing the government schemes is increasing, nevertheless there is still large percentage which has not availed many schemes which are being implemented by the Andhra Pradesh government. It is important to mention that the “Smart Card Initiative” of the AP government on an experimental basis is striving towards total financial inclusion wherein the job card holders are issued these cards. As a result, the marginalized sections, especially tribals, are given smart cards, which are in turn used not only for banking transactions, but they are receiving wage payments under the MGNREGS, as well as pensions and scholarships (Reddy, 2014). As shown in chart 8, Though 60% of the sampled tribals availed the IKP (Indra Kranthi Patham) pension and insurance scheme for
SHG women, 40% of the tribals had availed no scheme at any time. This trend was more or less consistent in both the districts.

**Chart 8: Government Schemes availed by the Tribals**

Source: Field Survey

**Chart 9: Loans Availed**

Source: Field Survey

As shown in the above chart 9, maximum loans have been availed in the year 2012. There have been hardly been any loans availed in the previous year or in the year before that.

**Institutional Indebtedness (Coop + RRBs + CBs)**

Data collected indicates that on an average, the Warangal district tribal residents have a higher institutional indebtedness as compared to the Visakhapatnam district tribal indebtedness.

**Chart 10: Institutional Indebtedness (Coop + RRBs + CBs)**

Source: Field Survey
The above table 3 tells us that (All amount in Rs.)

1. Vishakhapatnam: The mean indebtedness to cooperative banks, RRB and commercial banks is 0.00, 1800.00, 100000.00 and respectively. The total mean is 5900.00.

2. Warangal: The mean indebtedness to cooperative banks, RRB and commercial banks is 25000.00, 24035.71, 0.00 and respectively.

3. Therefore the total mean indebtedness to cooperative banks, RRB and commercial banks is 25000.00, 22553.33, 100000.00 and respectively. The total mean is 22127.78.

Non Institutional Indebtedness (ML + Trad + RRs)

From table 4 it is evident that, on an average, the Warangal district tribal residents have a higher non-institutional indebtedness as compared to the Vishakhapatnam district tribal residents. And it is observed that this difference is significant in money terms. For various needs people raised loans from traders, feudal lords and rich peasants, and invariably had to give either gold or land as security as they did not have any other possessions (Ramdas, 2013).
V. Conclusion

In the light of comparative analysis, we may conclude that, Valmiki is the majority sub-caste in Vishakhapatnam. Lambadi is the majority sub-caste in Warangal. Metkamsala has relatively the weakest representation in Andhra Pradesh. Warangal lacks in caste diversity; Lambadi being the only prevalent caste. Vishakhapatnam has representation from a variety of castes.

In terms of education data reveals that Illiteracy rate is evidently high; being approximately 69%. Vishakhapatnam is slightly better-off than Warangal with a difference of 18 points. Both the districts lack educational facilities. Kondadora and Metkamsala castes suffer from highest illiteracy rate – 100%. Major significance of education is witnessed only in Kodu and Valmiki castes.

In employment, both the districts depend majorly on agricultural activities (83%). Most of the production is used domestically. Other activities in the unorganized sector include dairy farming. Most families in both the districts do not have a stable source of income; Round the year employment being only 6% in Vishakhapatnam and 18% in Warangal. In totality, about 87% of the families depend on seasonal occupations for household finances. Only Lambadi and Valmiki castes have a segment that is employed round the year, however, the percentage is very low. Overall household expenditure is higher in Warangal than in Vishakhapatnam. Majority expenditure on food items - “Earn-to-Eat”. Families prefer a low standard of living due to lack of adequate funds.

In terms of housing, more than 90% of houses in Vishakhapatnam are tiled. Majority (about 56%) of the families in Warangal live in slabbed houses. About one-third of the Lambadi tribe still lives in huts. Institutional indebtedness is high in Visakhapatnam and non-institutional indebtedness is high in Warangal.

VI. Reliability and limitations

As the data collected is primary in nature, and respondents are basically not very much consistent with their answers, it is important to acknowledge, the limitations involved in the interpretation of the data.

References


