



## Research Article

### SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF PRIMITIVE TRIBES: AN EMPIRICAL STUDY IN ADILABAD DISTRICT

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#### ABSTRACT

India has largest concentration of tribal communities in the world except that in Africa. The tribal groups of India are known to be the autochthonous people of the land. This paper examines the development of the primitive tribes in Adilabad district. Nearly 60% respondents are in young age group. Majority tribes of the study area illiterates. About 91% respondents are got married and 87% are follows Hindu religions. Majority respondents are adopted cultivation as their primary occupation and they possess below five acres of dry land. 91% sample respondents use to work in agriculture as labourer for 25 days in a month. 31% tribes do not have any skills and 58% are practicing mono cropping pattern. 52% primitive tribes acquired the modern inputs from Integrated Tribal Development Agency. 87% respondents are earning income less than 1500 rupees per month. 73% respondents are opinion that they have got awareness on schemes and programmes of ITDA.

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#### INTRODUCTION

The concept, the 'practice' of tribal development started with the British (though some may claim that emperor Asoka was the first one to initiate the process by creating the post of Antamahamatya-the minister to look after the downtrodden-but nothing is known about the steps taken in this regard). The first concrete mention of tribals is found in Kautilya's Arthashastra whereby it has been mentioned that they know each and every inch of the area they live in, their services can be sought for local tasks including spying but they are not trustworthy. The comment shows that not much was known about tribals. We find no mention of tribals thereafter, till British arrived. British are credited with initiating the task of tribal development. But they never concealed their motive in following the 'tasks of mercy'. The aim was wither to keep the tribals isolated from the 'national' mainstream, thus keeping them away from the menace of freedom struggle; or by the same process, to convert to the religion of Christ so that they identify themselves more with the Crown and its interests in the country. Though they were quite successful in achieving their motives, the tribals, because of their inherent psyche of never being subservient, at will blasted into minor or major revolts.

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India.

Up to 1920s our national leaders had no inkling about the plight of these 'sons of the soil' B. Suresh Lal (2014). The gravity of situation was well realized at the dawn of independence and Articles 38 and 46 were incorporated into the Constitution not only for the weaker sections of the society to be protected against exploitation but also to help them in economic development. We must, however add that the task of development was to be implemented by the same bureaucracy within the same normative structure as was existing in the pre-independence times. There had to be a clash between the formal apathetic attitude of bureaucracy and the humanitarian angle envisaged in the Constitution - the resultant mess, thus created, is understandable B. Suresh Lal (2014). In the beginning itself, it was realized that tribals must be 'integrated' into the national mainstream - they should neither be assimilated/ nor isolated. Without realising the odds heavily weighing against the STs, the task was approached as a routine work. Some of the STs (mostly the vocal and influential among them) cornered the fruits of tribal development in the early Plans - enhancing their position and further accessibility to resources. The very STs have been gaining substantially during every subsequent Plan. These tribal 'elites' have changed their habitats and lifestyles and live mostly in the urban centers enjoying the best facilities available. They have got assimilated into rest of the society but have retained the tag of ST to garner the benefits that should have gone to their really needy brethren.

They, sitting in their luxurious apartments or five-star hotels, harp on the poor state of tribals and claim to be the spokesmen of STs in general, B. Suresh Lal (2014). Against this is a vast ocean of humanity being fed on the promises. These poor STs have, since decades, been looking for the governmental measures while toiling to survive. These also include the STs who were better off but have reached this sorry state because of the wrong deeds of government or exploitation through private individuals/groups. In the name of tribal development roads were constructed and these "roads of development" turned out to be "roads to exploitation". Through these road money lenders, forest contractors, government officials etc. entered the tribal world to claim their own shares of tribal resources. Forest policy was reoriented dissociating tribals from land which is not only their source of livelihood but also a very vital aspect of their cultural and psychological make-up. Gradually, they were uprooted -socially, culturally, economically, politically, ritually, psychologically and physically. Today's tribal has a hazy future - nay, dark future - nay, no future at all B. Suresh Lal (2014).

Starting with the issue of tribal development, we must first try to define the two terms 'tribal' and 'development'. Tribals are the people, who in anthropological literature, and characterized generally by majority of the following features: isolated ethnic groups, low density of population, primitive economy, primitive religion and lack of script of their language. Truly speaking, hardly any of the population groups on the Indian mainland can lay claim of being a 'tribal' group. The tribals in India comprise of the, groups which are declared tribals as per an order of the President. In other words these are the Scheduled Tribes, B. Suresh Lal (2014). Defining 'development' is quite a tricky preposition. There is no consensus on the definition because different sciences interpret it differently. In layman terms, development is a change in the positive or progressive direction. But the terms 'positive' and 'progressive' are value loaded. We should consider development as "change in the desired direction". The connotation may not much be disputed if one is talking about his/her development. However, when we talk about as sensitive an issue as tribal development, the question that automatically comes is 'whose desires - those of the planners, of implementers or of tribals themselves. The question becomes more relevant when we realize that in the name of 'tribal development' others have tried and have imposed their will on tribals B. Suresh Lal-(2014). There is another dimension of development, especially when we talk about economic development, because without any proper time-frame economic development is meaningless. In full, therefore, development should be defined as the "change in desired direction within stipulated time". And it is a well known fact that we have neither cared for the desire of tribals nor adhered to any self-imposed time limit.

### Review of Literature

This study presents below review of literature to make more relevant and strength to the study.

Deogaonakar (2006), in his book *The Kolam tribals*, attempts to depict an ethnographic profile of the tribe and also to discuss some of their socio-cultural as well as economic problems. Even their traditional methods of dispensation of justice have been studied.

Mohan Rao, (1993) *The Kolams- a primitive tribe in transition* gives in sight in to analyse the genesis and affinity of the core aspects of the culture of Kolams and other neighboring dominant tribe on one hand and total cultural heritage of local tribes and its affinity with culture of caste groups of this area on the other.

Elizabeth, (2006), in her book, *Thoti tribe of Andhra Pradesh*, has dealt both Genetic disorders related to abnormal haemoglobin specially sickle cell anaemia and GCPD anzyme deficiency and demographic variables prevalent among the Thoti tribe. The thoti is a primitive tribal population inhabiting the Adilabad district of Andhra Pradesh, this tribe was recognized as primitive tribal population by Government of India.

Vidyarthi and Rai, (1976), in their book *The Tribal Culture of India*, have given a critical appraisal of the Indian social scientists in general and social anthropologists in particulars. The book aims at highlighting some of the basic factors in the genesis and stages of development in social, cultural researches in India.

Ramaiah, (1980) particular geographically contiguous area with a long common history and a similar economic organization inhabited by a single dominant tribe i.e., the Koyas. Secondly, the tribal life in a blending of myth and reality. He cuts across many fields-cultural, ecology and physiographic. He was chooses on aspect of tribal life i.e., the economic aspect, though he has always kept the other aspects also in his mind throughout. His study is confined to the tribal enumerated in 1971 census.

Bhowmic, (1993) examines the life style of selected tribal groups with a view to establish the reasons for acceptance or rejection of various schemes by them. He pointed out that the ecology and environment have molded the culture of the people and this, in course of time, developed into a particular attitude, which acts as the key factor in acceptance or rejection of a development programme

Jai Prakash Jha, (2003) examined the food habits of tribal households. The tribal were forced to depend much upon agriculture and mainly on produce like vegetables, rice and some coarse grains such as maize, millet etc. The study revealed tremendous changes in the food habits of tribal.

Somasekhar, (1983) economic conditions of tribal with specific reference to koyas in Bhadrachalam taluk of Khammam district. He emphasized on economic conditions of tribal, the social and cultural factors are not neglected. He deals with the tribal economy such as agriculture, forests, exploitation besides the profile of Godavari Valley in which the majority of Koyas inhabits and ekes out their livelihood.

Suresh Lal, (1995) concentrated on the different aspects of migration of Banjara Tribal and to find out the impact of migration on them in terms of working conditions, wages and earnings and their living conditions.

Singh, (1994) in his book *The Scheduled Tribes-* prompted the anthropological Survey of India (ASI) to launch the project on the people of India on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1985. The objective of the

project was to present a brief but descriptive anthropological profile of all communities of India, study the impact of change and the development process on these communities and highlight the linkages that bring them together.

Sharma, (1978) investigates into the impact of socio-cultural practices on the economic development of tribes various seminars and workshops on Tribal Development have been organized from time to time in different academies and institutes. A few such seminars relevant in this content need be mentioned here.

Sankaran, (2003) evaluated various provisions in the constitution of India specifically pertaining to safeguards for the depressed classes. The welfare is rooted in the constitution based on the values of equality, human dignity, social justice, laws and policies emanating from the constitutional mandate. However, these measures are found to be inadequate though a vast ground was traversed by way of planned development in spite of the heterogeneous nature of Indian society.

Raghavaiah, (2003) a pioneer social worker on the tribal development who has made several attempts to analyze the tribal life in Andhra Pradesh as well as India has brought out two volumes, and presented a review of the problems of the tribal in AP.

Kulkarni, (2003) (1974) examines the problems of tribal development in Nasik district of Maharashtra and tribes were facing many problems.

Sastry, (2001) made attempts on enumerate the experiences and explore to prospects in participatory tribal development in Andhra Pradesh.

### Significance of the Study

The present study attempted to elicit living conditions of primitive Kolam tribes living in Adilabad district from multiple angles which range from cultural, ethnicity, traditional food habits sources of livelihood to influence of modern life styles on them. This study mainly focused on present living conditions of the primitive tribe in the light of their traditional living system and impact of various development schemes implemented for the betterment of these tribes. An attempt also has been made in this study to find out the influence of living styles of main stream people and modern technology. The impact of communication, transportation facilities and electronic media on their culture and life style was also examined in this study.

### Statement of the Problem

In spite of the best efforts made by Government of India through planning exercises and spending crores of rupees on tribal welfare programmes, the real benefit of development have not reached the poorer section of tribal communities. The real benefits have been availed mostly by some better off members of the tribal society. A majority of the tribal people continue to be poor in varying degrees. The percolation effect on tribals is marginal and insignificant. Still poverty exists in the midst of plenty. As on today not less than forty percent of the tribal families are below poverty line. The various reasons

for the slow progress of tribal development are attributed to besides half hearted treatment of government, social, economical, political, cultural and environmental factors are responsible for the backwardness of tribal communities.

## METHODS AND MATERIALS

The present study has conducted in the two Mandals i.e, Bela and Utnoor in Adilabad District. The researcher has selected 200 sample respondents, 100 from each mandal on the basis of convenient sampling. A structured schedule was administered for collection of data from these respondents. A pre-tested interview schedule was also administered for the purpose of collecting the data. For the usage in the appropriate places, secondary data are also collected from journals, books, reports and various documents and related publications.

### Objectives of the Study

- To explain the concept, evolution and status of primitive tribes.
- To understand and identify the socio-economic conditions of the selected primitive tribes in Adilabad district.
- To examine and find out the socio- economic development factors responsible for primitiveness in selected study areas.

### Sampling Design

A sample of 200 has been selected for the study using random sampling method. The researcher has analyzed data keeping in view of objectives of the study; the tools were used to analyze the data like percentage, tabulation and correlation.

### Hypotheses

- The government policies and scheme are improving living standards of Tribes.
- The tradition, cultural value system of the tribes has been affected by the non-tribal intervention.
- The food habits, the earning pattern have changed by the influence of non-tribes.
- There is an overall impact in their living standard due to the government economic schemes.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

India has the world's second largest concentration of tribal population next to Africa. According to 2011 census, the scheduled tribes population in our country is 104.3 million (8.7%), accounting for about one-fourth of the total tribal population of the world, K.S. Sing (1994). The Indian cultural heritage consist rich variety of great tradition as well as simple but remarkable folk culture found among the tribal groups living in the forest clad mountainous tracts of India. The traditional lore of these neglected and isolated groups is also integral part of Indian culture. The culture of preliterate societies also as rich as other non-tribal communities. The rich mythologies, folk tales, folk songs, riddles, arts and intrinsic and intricate rituals and ceremonies followed at various festivals, fairs and social functions reveal the great qualities of

cultural heritage of people living in the forest. K. Mohan Rao (1990). The field findings indicate that even though the socio-economic conditions of the primitive households in the study area had been improving in recent times, a lot more is yet to be desired. The primitive tribes in the study area require a lot of governmental assistance to develop and there is a need to give a major thrust on the development of their agriculture, education, housing etc., to improve overall socio-economic conditions.

**Table1. Demographic Information**

Sl.No	Parameters	Frequency	Percent
1	Age Group		
	18-25	52	26
	26-35	119	59.5
	36-45	24	12
	46 & above	5	2.5
2	Education Status		
	Illiterates	109	54.5
	Literates	57	28.5
	Up to 10 Class	28	14
	Up to Inter	06	03
3	Type of Family		
	Joint family	84	42
4	Nuclear	116	58
	Marital Status		
4	Unmarried	11	5.5
	Married	183	91.5
	Widow	4	02
	Divorced	2	01
5	Religion Status		
	Hindus	175	87.5
6	Christians	25	12.5
	Type of House		
6	Huts	72	36
	Tiled House	102	51
	RCC-Slab	26	13

Source: Field data

The table reveals that majority of sample respondents in the age group 26-35 year are at young and more productive age group in workforce 119 out of 200 are in the same age group. Table-1, presents that 54.5 percent of sample respondents are illiterates and they are innocent, lack of having knowledge about non tribal society as a result they are present exposing exploitation by non tribals. The data on type of family reveals that nuclear family accounts for 58 per cent. It shows that even tribal families people are derived to have privacy and further it is for development. provides information on housing pattern and tribals in the study area. Majority of families having tiled houses, provided by government under the scheme is Indiramma pucca houses scheme their percentage is 51. The table presents that in the study area majority of sample respondents are got married and their percentage is 91.5. The overall observation of the table is that development of primitive tribes is reaching to each and every religion in present day. The table-2, provide information on employment of sample respondents in the study area Adilabad district is 52 percent are cultivator. Followed by 28 percent labourers and remaining 17 percent are daily-wise labourers. It shows that 175 out of 200 respondents are earning below 1500 rupees per month, it further shows that they are in below poverty line because their income is less than Rs 11000 per annum.

The Table 2, presents the types of minor forest produce collect from forest like leaves and flowers in the study areas. Nearly 60 percent respondent are collecting Mothuku leaves, followed by 26 percent Thuniki fruits and 14 percent Eppa flowers.

**Table 2. Economic Information**

Sl.No	Parameters	Frequency	Percent
1	Employment		
	Cultivation	104	52
	Labour	57	28.5
	Daily-wage labour	34	17
	Collecting forest produce	5	2.5
2	Income (Rs)		
	<1500	175	87.5
	1500-2000	7	3.5
	2000-3000	18	09
3	Type of Forest Produce		
	Tuniki	52	26
	Mothuku	119	59.5
4	Eppapuwu	29	14.5
	Cropping Pattern		
4	Mono	116	58
	Multiple	84	42
5	Land Particulars		
	< 5 Acres	109	54.5
	>5 Acres	73	36.5
6	No Land	18	09
	Acquired the Modern		
6	Inputs		
	ITDA	104	52
	GCC	71	35.5
	MPP	17	8.5
	Others	8	04

Source: Field Data

As per the researcher observation 58 percent respondents are practicing mono cropping pattern and 42 percent respondent are cultivating multiple crops in the study areas. Table-2, reveals that 109 out of 200 sample respondents are possessing only below 5 acres of dry land. It is cultivated on rainfed. Remaining 36.5 percent sample respondents are having more than 5 acres of dry land. The overall observation of the table is that in the two mandals of the study area in Adilabad district more than 87 percent respondent had been borrowing tools from ITDA and its agency.

### Hypotheses

**Hypothesis-I:** There is no significant different between government policies and schemes and standards of living of tribes. This has been tested with the help of Pearson chi-square.

There is significant relationship between the government policies and schemes and standard of living of the tribal. Since the calculated Pearson Chi-square test value at 5 percent significant level. The Null Hypothesis is rejected. Therefore, the alternate hypothesis is accepted. As such it is concluded that there is significance different.

Sample Size	df	Computed Value of Chi-Square	Significance Level
200	27	102.619	0.05

**Hypothesis-II:** There is significant different among the tradition, cultural value system of tribes affected by non tribal tradition, cultural value system by the non-tribal. This has been tested with the help of Pearson chi-Square. There is no significant relationship among the tradition of the non tribes. Since the calculated Pearson Chi-Square test value at 1.05 percent significant level, the alternate hypothesis is rejected therefore, the null hypothesis is accepted.

Sample Size	df	Computed Value of Chi-Square	Significance Level
200	36	72.023	1.05

**Hypothesis-III:** There is no significant different between the food habits and the earning pattern of tribes and non tribes. This has been tested with the help of person chi-square.

There is a significant relationship between the food habits, the earning pattern of tribes and non-tribes. Since the calculated Pearson Chi-square test value at five percent significant level. As such it is concluded that there is significance different.

Sample Size	df	Computed Value of Chi-Square	Significance Level
200	36	54.823	0.05

**Hypothesis-IV:** There is no significant different between government economic schemes and development of tribes. This has been tested with the help of person chi-square.

There is a significant relationship between government economic schemes and development of tribes. The Null Hypothesis is rejected. Therefore, the alternate hypothesis is accepted.

Sample Size	df	Computed Value of Chi-Square	Significance Level
200	05	129.680	0.05

### Major Findings

The following are summarized finding of the study.

- Nearly 60 percent respondents are in young age group i.e., 26-35 years.
- Majority respondents of the study area illiterates i.e. 109 out of 200 and they adopted nuclear family system, their percentage is 58.
- All the respondents families in the study area have possessed own houses.
- Nearly 102 out of 200 sample families having tiled house.
- About 91 percent respondents are got married and 87 percent are follows Hindu religions.
- Majority respondents are adopted cultivation as their primary occupation they account 52 percent followed by labourer, their percentage is 28.5 percent and they possess bellow five acres of dry land, they account for 54.5 percent. 183 out of 200 sample respondents in the study area use to work in agriculture as labourer for 25 days in a month.
- Nearly 31 percent respondents do not have any skills. 58 percent respondents are working in agricultural practice and mono cropping pattern.
- The respondents who utilizing local seeds are 109 (54 percent) and 72 percent respondents are not adopted modern agriculture.
- Majority respondents 104 out of 200 sample acquired the modern inputs from Integrated Tribal Development Agency.
- Nearly 87 percent respondents are getting income per month less than 1500 rupees. 73 percent respondents are collected forest produce, 59 percent of respondents are

uses mothuku leaves for their rise plates. 119 out of 200 are utilize forest fruits and 31 percent respondents are sales these forest produce in the villages.

- It is to know that the opinion of sample respondents on awareness on different schemes and programs of ITDA. 147 said yes and have got financial assistance from ITDA to their agriculture.
- It is also examine that 86 percent of respondents are spending their income on food items rupees upto 1500 per month.

### Suggestions

- Educational facilities are to be improved in the tribal areas to eradicate illiteracy. In this context, government schools to be strengthened as tribal children mostly depend on them. School drop outs be discouraged through incentives and by creating interest in education.
- Non-tribal exploitation should be stopped and government intervention should increase.
- The tribal development agencies should take care of development of tribes in the socio-economic spheres.
- Girijana Co-operative Corporation could create awareness among tribes on their forest produce and they should get the reasonable prices of their forest produces.
- Government hospitals are to be provided with infrastructure facilities and doctors to protect the tribal's health from the private practitioners and local curators.
- Pre-natal and Post-natal care and child care are to be impressed up on the tribal women the Anganwadi centers and health workers. Child mortality is to be reduced through immunization programs and nutrition food to the lactating mothers.
- Agriculture is to be given a new thrust in the tribal areas as more than 70 per cent depend on them. At the same time non-agricultural wage employment through government programmers like NREGA be increased which would improve the economic conditions of the tribes thereby, get livelihood.
- Housing programmers and household facilities to be extended to cover more tribal households for a comfortable living.
- Institutional credit is to be liberalized as most of the tribal's belong to landless, marginal and small farmer categories. They need to be protected from the clutches and higher rates of interest of the money lenders.

Therefore, government policies, programs and schemes should take involvement of tribes to developed their socio-cultural, economic and health conditions in present day scenario by following transparency, participation and accountability criteria. And to promote both the welfare and development of the tribal people.

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