

## **Socio-Economic Living Conditions of Tribal's – A Study in Warangal district**

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### **Abstract:**

This paper presented the socio-economic conditions of the tribal's in Warangal district of Telangana state. The researcher uses the primary and as well as the secondary source of data the primary data have been collected from the respondents of Eturunagaram and Thadvai villages and the secondary data from various official source. The main objectives of the study is to discuss the socio economic conditions, like age and sex wise composition, landholdings, working conditions, annual income, expenditure and debt particulars have been analyzed by the study. In addition to the scientific aspects of the tribal's living conditions and their cultural aspects have been covered with the help of secondary source of data.

**Keywords:** Socio-economic conditions, income, expenditure, debt, working conditions

### **Introduction:**

Agriculture sector occupies a position of out standing importance in the Indian economy having a high employment potential. It is important in its contribution to national income as a source of food and raw materials, as being vital to international a trade, as yielder of state revenue and as contributing to social and political stability.

The development of agriculture sector is determined by many factors like institutional factors – pattern of land ownership, tenancy system, credit facility, marketing facilities, size of the land holdings and non-institutional and technical aspects will cause the development to take place in the agriculture sector.

The nature of Tribal economy being predominantly dichotomy, i.e., Agriculture and forestry forming its base a significant percentage of working force is engaged in these two sectors. Nearly 92.5 percent of the tribal live in rural areas and 90 per cent of them depend on agriculture and allied sectors traditional ways in agriculture are operating in interior villages independently of technologically dynamic tribal segment the problem of agriculture development, there fore, is a problem where economic social, political and attitudinal factors are inextricably inter woven to create a complex situation. Agriculture is a way of life in a large past of tribal society. Land is not only a production input but also possesses cultural value significance. Despite this, and also because of a quantum jump in financial allocation, tribal agriculture is one of the most neglected areas. The region has witnessed one of the worst environmental transition from hunter gatherers to settled

agriculturists. But with poor and degraded land, agriculture is an unsustainable livelihood option occupational diversity, which is considered a positive aspect of development process. Is forced by livelihood strategy under uncertain tribal agriculture

### **Nature and Characteristics of Tribal People:**

Tribal are weakest among the weaker sections of the society. They have been a neglected segment of our country is population and have been exploited since times immemorial. The geographical isolation and impoverished economy have made them objects of exploitation by the non Tribals living in or entering the tribal areas. As a result of which their economic conditions remained at the subsistence level in spite of agrarian and industrial revolutions in the world.

The basic problem of the tribal people is poverty a substantial portion (58 per cent) lives below the poverty line. The problems of low standard of living, hunger, starvation, malnutrition, illiteracy, disease, poor sanitary and housing facilities, lack of education of parents unsafe drinking water, etc, are serious compared to the non tribes majority of Tribals women and children are victims of this situation (Nagda, 1999) Further, they lack road and communication facility and also housing drinking water, and a host of other facilities, which are people in the plain areas, enjoy, further, the non – tribes such as money lenders, forest contractors, traders, land lords, official and politicians have subjected these Tribals to exploitation for centuries. This is due to their ignorance of modern institutions, scientific and technological developments and changing environments.

### **Tribal Economy:**

The tribal economy is largely influenced by the habitat in which are inhabiting and level of knowledge accumulated about the natural resources and skills for exploiting these resources.

The factors governing production, distribution and consumption may be deferent in tribal areas when compared non-tribal economy. The consumption or tool in the tribal groups depends on the extent of availability of the forest most of the tribal depends completely for their food on forest produce, Hunting, Fishing, shifting cultivation, and settled cultivation.

Tribal economy is intimately connected with the forests production efficiency. The forests, in their ecological and economic values have suffered tremendous loss, while in other the tribal economy has been shattered and matter of concern as it adversely affects the weakest groups, and the imbalance in the socio-economic structure tend to increase. A clear understanding of the underlying factor in the socio-economic structure of the tribal communities.

Seeds, leaves, fruits, roots, nuts, mushrooms, Honey, wild animals, Insects, Rats, Rabbits, Squirrels, Cats and Fishes are also their food, often these forest food have superior nutritional quality to domesticated varieties. Most of the wild leaf vegetables have high riboflavin contents than cultivated varieties. And the vitamin 'C' content or fruit can be 7 to 20 times better than that of domesticated fruit. Generally, seeds and nuts are important sources of energy and protein leaves are sources of vitamins, minerals and proteins. Roots provide energy and carbohydrates.

Fruits provide vitamins and minerals. Animals are also important protein sources for tribal. While the nutritional value of many forests food is unknown. Forest and from tree food products are significant components of many rural people diet.

The tribal communities in United Andhra Pradesh are divided into various groups according to their work and economic status and their profession.

- 1) Hunting of compiling of food – Chenchus.
- 2) Shifting cultivation - Konda Reddy's
- 3) Farmers – Bigatha
- 4) Cattle feeding – Codus Sugalis
- 5) Handicrafts – Konda, Kammara, Erukala

According to 1991 census, the Tribal population in APPS 4.2 millions. In this population 41.27 farmers 46.6 per cent Agriculture labours, 2.6 per cent hand craft workers other people in AP most of the tribal's depends on agriculture for their livelihood. Especially, they work as agricultural laboures usually tribal communities having economically backwardness, what they are from agriculture and forest is just to full fill their needs only. Farmers of tribal communities having better economic status them other occupation.

#### **Hunting & Compiling of food:**

Usually, Tribal communities are live in till or forest area. They depend on bulbs, fruits, home like forest producing, for their feeding (food). They used crowbar, small knife for hunting, and they preserve their in baskets. They self gun, honey, ball hut, Brooms, Beedi Leaves, Bahunia for their living expenditure, Forest products are main sources for them. They use their products for their feeding and also earning.

#### **Impact of Globalization on Tribals:**

The forest occupies a central position in Tribal culture and economy. The tribal way of life is very much dictated by the forest right from birth to death. It is ironical that the poorest people of India are living in the areas of richest natural resources. Historically, Tribals have been pushed to corners owing to economic interests of various dominant groups. In contemporary India, the need for land for development is still forcing them, albeit this time to integrate with mainstream.

In spite of the protection given to the Tribal population by the constitution of India (1950), Tribals still remains the most backward ethnic group in India. They rate very low on the three most important indicators of developments health education, and income. The Tribals are most backward not only compared with the general population, but also compared to the scheduled caste, the other backward social group with constitutional protection: while examining the effects of planned developmental intervention on the Tribals from 1961 to 1981, it was observed that twenty years of intervention, has not made any significant impact in improving the conditions of the Tribals. Tribal's development policies and programmes in India assumed that all the Tribals will develop and will integrate themselves with the so-called main stream. This has happened only in a symbolic way. As a result of the planned tribal development, stratification on secular line has taken place among a result of the planned tribal development. Stratification on secular lines has taken place among Tribals and only a small section has been able to take advantage of the development programmes.

The Tribals are part of the Indian society, as the same time they are different special policy and programmes are required to address and redress these differences especially in the context of globalization when we plan for Tribal development, we have to regard these difference, take a special note of their situations and capabilities, and provide them facilities to develop on the line they want to take.

A micro level study in Warangal district has been conducted to assess the factual situation of the tribal communities. The sample survey has been conducted in two villages of Eturnagaram and Thadvai mandals by serving a structured questionnaire to the 72 respondent households.

#### **Objectives:**

1. The present study search light on tribal living conditions with related to their economic positions of the respondents.
2. To find out the family size of the respondents.
3. To find out the income and expenditure levels of the respondents families in the study area.

To fulfill the objectives the study has used the simple averages and percentages tables have been used based on the primary data, the sex wise and age wise composition, average landholdings, gender-wise working particulars, annual income and expenditure and debt particulars etc be covered by the following tables.

**Table No – 1**

#### **Particulars of Sex Composition of Respondents**

Sex	No. Respondents	Percentage
Male	48	66.66
Female	24	33.33
Total	72	100

#### **Source: Field Study**

The table No 1 shows the particulars of the gender composition of the respondents in the study area. Out of 72, around 67 per cent (48) are male and 33.0 per cent (24) are female respondents. The male respondents are more than the female respondents.

**Table No – 2**

#### **Particulars of age wise distribution of the respondents.**

Year	Male	Female	Total
15 – 30	22 (46.00)	10 (42.0)	32 (44.5)
30 – 50	18 (37.5)	6 (25.0)	24 (33.3)
50 +	8 (16.6)	8 (33.0)	16 (22.2)
Total	48 (100.0)	24 (100.0)	72 (100.0)

**Source: Field Study**

The table No 2 depicts that the age wise distribution of the respondents in the study area. Out of 72 respondents, 48 are male and 24 are female. Of that 44.5 per cent (32) are in the age group of 15 to 30 years, rest of 33.3 per cent (24) and 22.2 per cent (16) are in the age groups of 30 to 50 and above 50 years respectively. The age group of 15 to 30 years respondents are more in both male and female respondents than the other age group respondents.

**Table No – 3****Particulars of the farm size of the sample farmers**

Category	No of. Respondents	Percentage
Marginal Family (Up to 3)	12	16.6
Small Family ( 4 – 5)	31	43.0
Medium Family ( 6 – 8)	21	29.16
Big Family ( 8 + )	8	11.11
Total	72	100.0

**Source: field survey**

The table No 3 explains the particulars of family size of the respondents. Out of 72 respondents, 43.0 per cent (31) are small, followed by around 29.0 (21), 16.6 (12) and 11.1 (8) per cent are Medium, Marginal and Big families respectively. Who are having their family members up to 3 persons is called Marginal family, up to 5 person who are having they are small farmers, up to 8 per sons in a family is the Medium family and who's family having above 8 persons are called the Big family. The sample area respondents are more interested on small families only. It is one of the interesting observation in the study area.

**Table No – 4****Working Pattern Particulars of the Households**

Particulars	Male	Female %	Total
Working	102 (54.0)	105 (57.0)	207 (56.0)
Non – Working	87 (46.0)	78 (43.0)	165 (44.0)
Total	189 (100.0)	183 (100.0)	372 (100.0)

Source: field survey

Table No 4 analysing the working pattern of the respondent family members are in the study area. Out of 372, 189 are male and 183 are female. Of that around 56.0 per cent (207) are workers and 44.0 per cent (165) are non workers.

When we look in to gender wise working pattern out of 189 male members around 54.0 per cent (102) are workers and 46.0 (87) per cent are non workers whereas in female, out of 183 around 57.0 per cent (105) are workers and around 43.0 per cent (78) are non workers. The working participation rate is higher in female than the male workers. The workers are more than the non workers. These are main findings in the study area.

In the Tribal economy the agriculture is the main occupation in addition to live stock, gathering the forest products, hunting and fishing are the other non agriculture activities. The respondents are getting the income from the both sources i.e. agriculture and non agriculture activities. The table No 5 is presents the earning particulars of the respondents family members. Out of 72 respondents, around 33.0 per cent (24) are earning bellow Rs. 2,500 per year through agriculture and around 36.0 per cent (26) are getting Rs. 2,500 from non agricultural activities.

**Table No – 5**

**Annual income level Particulars of the Households**

Income category	Agriculture Income	Non Agriculture Income
Below Rs. 2,500	24 (33.3)	26 (36.0)
2,500 – 5,000	19 (26.4)	22 (30.5)
5,000 – 10,000	18 (25.0)	14 (19.4)
10,000 Above	11 (15.3)	10 (14.2)
Total	72 (100.0)	72 (100.0)

**Source: field survey**

The other respondents are as follows around 26.0 per cent (19) and 30.5 per cent (22) are getting income in the range of 2,500 to 5,000 from each agricultural and non agricultural activities, 25.0 per cent (18) and 19.4 per cent (14) respondents are getting the income range Rs. 5,000 to 10,000 from each agricultural and non agricultural activities and 15.3 (11), 14.2 per cent (10) respondents are getting the income per year Rs. Above 10,000 through each agricultural and non agricultural activities. The main observation of the table the non agricultural income is competing with the agricultural income. Even today the non agricultural activities are vital role play in the tribal economy.

**Table No 6****Expenditure particulars of the Households**

Expenditure range	Expenditure on Food activities	Expenditure on other activities
Below Rs. 2,500	20 (28.0)	18 (25.0)
2,500 – 5,000	28 (39.0)	22 (31.0)
5,000 – 10,000	12 (16.7)	15 (21.0)
10,000 Above	12 (16.7)	17 (23.0)
Total	72 (100.0)	72 (100.0)

**Source: field survey**

In the Tribal's are spending their income on food and non food activities. The table No 6 is presents the expenditure particulars of the respondents family members. Out of 72 respondents, around 28.0 per cent (20) and 25.0 per cent (18) are spending bellow Rs. 2,500 per year on food and Rs. 2,500 non food. The other respondents are as follows around 39.0 per cent (28) and 31.0 per cent (22) are spending in the range of 2,500 to 5,000 on each food and non food activities, 16.7 per cent (12) and 21.0 per cent (15) respondents are spending the expenditure range Rs. 5,000 to 10,000 on food and non food activities and 16.7 (12), 23.0 per cent (17) respondents are spending per year Rs. Above 10,000 to food and non food activities. The main observation of the table the non food expenditure is competing with the food expenditure. Even today the food expenditure is a vital role play in the tribal livelihood.

**Table No – 7****Debts Particulars of the Respondents.**

Debt in Rs.	No. Respondents	Percentage
No. Debt	18	25.0
Below 20,000	15	21.0
20,000 – 50,000	25	35.0
50,000 above	14	19.0
Total	72	100.0

**Source: field survey**

The table No 7 focuses on the debt particulars of the respondents. Out of 72 respondents, around 35.0 per cent (25) respondents are having the debt in between Rs. 5,000 to 10,000. The other respondents are, around 21.0 per cent (15) are below 5,000, and 19.0 per cent (14) are having the debt above Rs. 10,000. The respondents around 25.0 per cent (18) are free from debt it is the much highlight observation among the respondents in the study area.



### **Findings of the study:**

1. The head of the family, male is major among the respondents.
2. The age group of 15 to 30 years respondents are more in both male and female respondents. Even today the child marriages are on going process in the tribal culture.
3. The sample area respondents are more interested on small families only. It is influenced by the non tribal culture, education and awareness on future economic conditions. It is one of the interesting observation in the study area.
4. Even today the working participation rate is higher in female than the male workers.
5. The main observation from the study non agricultural income is competing with the agricultural income. Even today the non agricultural activities are vital role play in the tribal economy.
6. Another finding from the study the non food expenditure is competing with the food expenditure. Even today the food expenditure is a vital role play in the tribal livelihood. Due to their cultural conditions.
7. Even today around 25.0 per cent (18) are free from debt it is the much highlight observation among the respondents in the study area.

### **Conclusion:**

The agriculture development effort so far in the Tribal areas has following the pattern adopted for the developed areas. Hence it has not touched even the fringe of the problem in these areas. These are considerable information gap about the agronomical practices. There has been no substantial adaptive research even now. In view of these deficiencies agriculture, the mainstay of the tribal will need a sustained and intensive effort in future. It is necessary that appropriate agriculture development programs are prepared for different tribal areas under the overall guidance ministry of agriculture.

To accelerate the pace of development in the agriculture sector, water fertilizer, credit strategy becomes sine none. Without water, acculturation is not possible, with out fertilizers production can not be increased, with out credit agriculture operation and effected these three, there, hold key for the growth and competent transformation of tribal economy.

### **Suggestions:**

Assured irrigation facilities should be provided so that cultivation activities are carried out in all seasons.

As there high potential for allied activities, dairy, poultry, goat keeping sheep rearing activities may be encourages.



Provision of employment in non-agriculture sector is desirable to decrease pressure on agriculture holding.

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