



Inter Tribe Variations in Occupational Patterns - A Study of Tribes in Srikakulam District, A.P

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Abstract

In this study an attempt is made to examine the inter tribe variations in the occupational patterns of the tribes in the Srikakulam district. The Seethampeta mandal is selected for the study because it is the only tribal mandal. Six villages are selected depending upon the higher concentration of specific tribes. The Konda Savara, plain Savara and Jatapu tribes are equally proportioned in the Seethampeta mandal. To examine the inter tribe variations in their occupational patterns, 60 households are selected from each tribe from their concentrated selected villages based on the random sampling procedure. The work participation rates are concerned, among the work force female participation is higher than male population. Among the total female population percent are working and on the other hand in the total male population only per cent are working population. This indicates that in tribal economy women does much work; she participates in agricultural operations, collection of minor forests produce and also in non-agricultural labour activity.

Keywords: Primitive Tribe, Plain Tribe, Work Participation Rates, Dependency Ratio Inter-Tribe Variations

Introduction:

Tribals in India as elsewhere in the world are known for their unique ways of living and distinct culture, which provide them a distinct identity on the national scene. However, their peculiar life style, crude and primitive technologies and their tendency to inhabit the seduced and isolated areas have led them to economic misery, underdevelopment and seclusion for the mainstream of national life. Therefore, after independence special policy initiative were taken towards the improvement of their all round development.

The planning process for tribal development in Andhra Pradesh can be broadly divided into pre-independence and post-independence periods. In both the periods the approach adopted and schemes implemented are based on certain events happening in various tribal areas of the country and the consequent approach enunciated for time to time on and all India basis. Again, the two approaches in the two periods can be broadly be characterized as development oriented taking the basic objective and nature of measures introduced. In spite of much emphasis on tribal development, the benefits of plan development have not fully



percolated in to the tribal areas. The tribal people remained backward both economically and socially

Though none deny that development has taken place in tribal areas, when we analyze the expenditure incurred during the plan years Vis-à-vis the changes brought into the quality of socio-economic life of tribals, the results are not very encouraging. Still tribals in India are in lowest rung of the ladder in terms of socio economic development. In this context few studies such as those of

Nag Saxena, Vidyarthi, Roy, Ramaiah, S.P.Sinha, K.S.Singh etc have brought out the main features of tribal economy and its agro forest base. Though the studies of Joshi and the reports of the Tribal Cultural Research Institute ,Hyderabad etc., attempted to analyze the credit needs of tribal areas, most of these studies identified that requirements of different regions differ depend upon the stage of development. Also even in the same region we can find inter-tribe variations among the tribals, particularly among the tribals living in the interior hill tracts (primitive tribes) and tribals living in plains. Hence In this context region studies has its significance and they are useful for formulating different policies. Against this background an attempt is made in this study to examine the different dimensions of inter-tribe variations in socio economic indicators like socio cultural conditions, literacy levels, occupational patterns, extent of indebtedness and current

level of borrowings among the tribes in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh.

Methodology and Collection of Data:

Multi stage stratified random sampling method is used in the present study. The selection process is carried out in four stages, they are relating to district, mandal, villages and households. The Srikakulam district is selected for the study due to the fact that the district has drawn worldwide attention through the tribal movement in the political upheaval of 1969 –71. The Seethampeta mandal is selected for the study because it is the only tribal mandal that is having a high proportion of (89.54 percent) tribal population and also the ITDA is placed at Seethampeta. The villages are selected depending upon the higher concentration of specific tribes. With a stratification procedure based on the specific tribe population concentration, the panchayats are classified into three categories. From the Konda Savara tribes concentrated panchayats the villages Vajjayyaguda and Mutyalu are selected from very interior hill areas. From the plain Savara tribe concentrated panchayats Dibba guda and keesari jodu villages are selected and from Jatapu tribe concentrated panchayats Goidi and Gadiguddi villages are selected.

The Konda Savara, plain Savara and Jatapu tribes are equally proportioned in the Seethampeta mandal. To examine the inter tribe variations in their socio economic



conditions 60 households are selected from each tribe from their concentrated selected villages based on the random sampling procedure. The selected 180 households are further classified into the stratification of size class groups in accordance with their proportion in total tribal population of the district. Hence the 180 households consist of 90 medium farms (less than 2.50 acres), 60 small farms (2.51 acres to 5.00 acres), 24 medium farms (5.1 acres to 10 acres) and 6 large farms (10 acres above) and the analysis is carried out separately.

Information relating to the selected households is collected while canvassing a purely designed and structured household schedule in the selected villages during April 1998 to March 1999 in different visits. The secondary data has been obtained from Annual Reports and Action Plans of ITDA Seethampeta, District hand book of statistics of different years published by the Chief Planning Officer, Srikakulam, MRO and MDO offices of Seethampeta Mandal.

Inter-Tribe variations in Occupational Patterns:

Work Participation Rates:

The details pertaining to sex-wise distribution of workers reveal that though the male population is higher (61.86) than female population (48.14). Among the work force female participation is higher (50.10) than male population (49.92). Among the total female population 71.53 percent are working and on the other hand in

the total male population only 68.69 per cent are working population. This indicates that in tribal economy women does much work; she participates in agricultural operations, collection of minor forests produce and also in non-agricultural labour activity. The freedom to remarry and the bride price give her more or less equal status with men. This situation reveals a low dependency ratio among the tribal households. In the total population, workers are very high (70.42 percent) than non-workers (29.38 percent) and the extent of child labour is only 10.91 percent of total population. Inter tribe worker participation rates indicate that except in case of Jatapu in all other tribes women work participation rates are very high. Similarly across, size groups of farms women work participation rates are very high in case of marginal and small farms.

The data pertaining to non-workers among different tribes shows that including school going children the male workers are only 29.38 percent of total population of the households. Among the non-workers men are in higher proportion (56.49 percent) than women (43.51 percent). The male non-workers are higher in number rather than women. The non-workers are very less in number incase of Konda Savara tribe and very high incase of Savara tribe and medium and large farms.

The tribe-wise size groups wise distributions of child labour among the selected households reveal that the



child labours are only 9.78 percent of total population of the selected households. Among the child labour female are higher (56.96 percent) than men (43.04 percent). The child labour are more in number among Konda Savara tribe and marginal and small farms residing in the hill and remote areas and the number of child labour are relatively low among the Jatapu and Savara tribes and medium and large farms residing in the plain areas of the tribal economy. In the remote and interior areas tribal people used to engage their children in activities like cow hording, sheep rearing, crop guarding and other agricultural and household activities. As the tribal agriculturist cannot afford to employ wage labour because of poverty, he finds it easily and necessary to involve his children in some activity. The low rate of child labour among the selected households indicate that more and more children are being sent to schools rather than involving them in household activities or gainful employment. This is a good symptom of transformation of the tribal economy.

Dependency Ratio:

In the tribal economy in agriculture and non-agriculture activities most of the family members are involved. Hence we assume a low dependency ratio among the tribal households. The data on the dependency ratio shows that it is around 1:0: 31 to 1:0: 51 among different tribes and it is 0.42 when all

the three tribes put together. However in case of size groups the dependency ratio is very low in case of marginal farms 1:0:34 and relatively higher in case of small farms, 1:0:45, medium farms 1:0:67 and large farms 1:0:60. The size of dependency ratio depends upon the work participation ratio of the children and also of the adult above the age of 55 years though nearly 35.90 percent of the children population are not in the effective work force, due to the existence of adults above 55 years of age is negligible (4.21 percent) of total population and a high rate of the female work participation rates it is observed that the dependency ratio in general is relatively low among the tribal communities. It is interesting to note that the dependency ratio is relatively low among the hill tribes (Konda Savara) rather than the tribes in plains (Jatapu and Kapu Savara) because in the hill and remote areas the child labour is very high in Konda Savara, when compared to plain tribes.

Nature of Different Occupations:

Agriculture is the predominant occupation in the study area followed by labour works. Because of the subsistence nature of agriculture, the tribals are compelled to work as both agriculture and non-agricultural labour, to collect minor forest produce in the forestry to earn additional income. Though all the selected households are agriculturists as 50 percent of the sample households are marginal farmers, and 30 percent



belongs to small farms. Many of the marginal and small farms are forced to go with other occupations like labour works and forest produce collection. As all the selected households are agriculturists their main occupation is cultivation and they are owner cultivators. The occupational spread of adult workers by participations in number of activities presented in table 4 shows that in addition to their main occupation 52 households in the plain areas are participating in labour works both in agriculture and non-agriculture and forest produce collection as secondary occupations. On the other hand a number of 60 per cent households in the remote and hilly areas are considering labour works and forest produce collection as one of the secondary occupations. In the selected sample 36 percent of the households are with more than two occupations.

Tribe wise and size group wise occupational distribution of family members according to their main occupation shows that in the total family members 47.77 percent are largely depending upon agriculture, 18.93 percent of family members are relying upon labour works and the extent of family members depending upon collection of forest produce is only 3.09 percent. Out of 28.84 percent of the non-workers, larger portion belongs to school going children (22.52 percent). The Konda Savara are relatively relying more upon minor forest produce. Jatapu and Savaras in plain are diverting towards non-farm occupations like other services, salaried

services and non-form labour. The occupational distribution of family members ultimately reveal that all the tribals are relying more upon agriculture (47.77 percent) and labour works (18.93 percent).

From the above analysis it can be stated that due their socio cultural backwardness and low formal and informal learning levels, the konda savara tribe are not able to fare well on the front of having remunerative occupations when compare to their counter parts (plain tribes).

Summary and conclusion:

Due to their socio cultural backwardness, the literacy level and female literacy are very low in case of Konda Savara tribe and marginal and small farms. The work participation raters indicate that female workers are relatively higher than the male workers. The extent of child labor is high in hill areas rather than in plains. The dependency ratios are very low among Konda Savara tribes and marginal and small farms. The occupational patterns reveal that, though all the selected households are cultivators, along with agriculture they are involved with number of other subsidiary occupations. Tribals in the remote areas are with more occupations than the tribes in plains which indicate the move of hill tribes towards settled cultivation and wage employment.

The study reveals that, due to poor occupational patterns the konda



savara tribe who reside in interior hill areas are prone to exploit by the different non institutional sources which ultimately causing high levels of indebtness. The analysis relating to ultimately reveal that still the Konda Savara tribe and marginal farms needed more emphasis to promote their socio economic living conditions. Hence much emphasis may be given by the governmental and non-governmental agencies on providing more facilities to Konda Savara tribe and marginal farms live in the hilly and remote areas.

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