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## SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF SCHEDULED TRIBES: A STUDY ON BADRADRI – KOTHAGUDEM DISTRICT, TELANGANA

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### Abstract

The Government at the national level had made strenuous and sincere efforts for uplifting the living conditions of the tribal population at all the nooks and corners of the Indian geographical limits. In spite of this great efforts, the living conditions of the tribal people are still pathetic and extremely deplorable and prevailing environment stresses immediate attendance. Thus, there exists every need to assess the significant impact of tribal development programs on the socio- economic status of the scheduled tribes and hence the present research work was carried out on the scheduled tribes in Bhadradi Kothagudem district of Telagana state. This study examines the socio-economic conditions of the scheduled tribes in the selected area of the study and it assess the impact of employment generation programs on the socio-economic conditions of the scheduled tribes in the study area. The study further measures the association between tribal development programs and the socio-economic status of the scheduled tribes in the study area. The present research study adopts Descriptive research design. Both primary and secondary data were utilized for conducting the research study. Primary data was collected with the help of selective random sampling technique and data was collected through interview schedule method with the help of a structured questionnaire. The sample size of the study is 120 (involving both the males and females- 60+60) and only Koya scheduled tribe belonging to tribal density mandals of Bhadradi Kothagudem district of Telangana state were selected for the study. 5-point Likert scale was used in order to rate the responses of the sample respondents and statistical tools like Pearson Correlation analysis and ANOVA test were applied in order to test the framed hypotheses under the study. The study concludes the aspects of level of education, level of income, employment generation programs and tribal development programs are having multi-pronged impact on the living conditions of the tribals in terms of their socio- economic status and they are having specific influence on social emancipation and socio- economic empowerment of scheduled tribal population in the study area.

**Keywords:** Tribal Development Programs, Employment Generation Programs, Socio- Economic Status of Scheduled Tribes.

### Statement of The Problem

The constitutional machinery had implemented various tribal development programs 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 Scheduled Tribal people are mainly engaged in the agriculture and other forms of hard labour. They are engaged in collecting forest products and their income levels are based mainly on Minor Forest Produce (MFP). The aspects of 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 thereby 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 these substantiating reasons, a research study was conducted to assess the socio-economic status of scheduled tribes in Bhadradi Kothagudem district of Telangana state which is mainly inhabited with koya tribe in its nature.

### 2. Review of Literature

Roy (2016.) had observed that in spite of so much emphasis was 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.

Bulender (2017) had concluded that the high incidence of rape cases and domestic violence are associated with women disempowerment which causes a source of economic poverty. He further observed that the social and economic poverty of tribal women are the significant factors for the incidence of high crime rate in the tribal areas. Awareness programs on social empowerment among the tribal women are to be imparted by both the government and non-governmental agencies.



Awais et. al (2018) 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 the health and physical conditions of the tribal women were very poor and this specific factor is having its own impact on the tribal communal environment and this emergency has to be met on an urgent basis.

Dewangan et. Al (2019) in their findings had observed the tribes in Raigarh District of Chhattisgarh were mainly benefited from the programs those implemented under tribal development plan and their income levels were raised to a notable extent through employment generation programs.

Objectives of The Study

- 1. To examine the socio-economic conditions of the scheduled tribes in the selected area of the study.
2. To assess the impact of employment generation programs on the socio-economic conditions of the scheduled tribes in the study area.
3. To measure the association between tribal development programs and the socio-economic status of the scheduled tribes in the study area.
4. To suggest various measures for enhancing the socio-economic conditions of the tribal population in the study area.

Hypotheses

Basing on the above-mentioned research objectives, the following alternate hypotheses were framed and tested for their statistical significance.

Ha1: There exists a significant correlation between the education levels and the socio- economic conditions of the scheduled tribes.

Ha2: There exists a significant correlation between the income levels and the socio- economic conditions of the scheduled tribes.

Ha3: There exists a significant correlation between the employment programs and the socio-economic conditions of the scheduled tribes.

Ha4: There exists a significant correlation between the tribal development programs and the socio-economic conditions of the scheduled tribes.

Ha5: There exists a significant relationship between the increased level of education, level of income, employment generation programs, tribal development programs and socio-economic status of the scheduled tribes.

Research Methodology

The present research study adopts Descriptive research design. Both primary and secondary data were utilized for conducting the research study. Primary data was collected with the help of selective random sampling technique and data was collected through interview schedule method with the help of a structured questionnaire. The sample size of the study is 120 (involving both the males and females- 60+60) and only Koya scheduled tribe belonging to tribal density mandals of Bhadradri Kothagudem district of Telangana state were selected for the study. 5-point Likert scale was used in order to rate the responses of the sample respondents and statistical tools like Pearson Correlation analysis and ANOVA test were applied in order to test the framed hypotheses under the study.

Data Analysis and Findings

Table -1
Test of Reliability

Table with 2 columns: Reliability Statistics, Cronbach's Alpha, No. of Items. Row 1: 0.914, 22

Cronbach's Alpha reliability test was conducted in order to evaluate the reliability of the framed questionnaire. The result shows that the derived cronbach's alpha value is 0.914. It is common presumption that the alpha value which is near to 1 is said to having the more reliability. Hence it can be presumed that the framed research questionnaire is having statistical validity and it is more reliable.

Ha1: There exists a significant correlation between the education levels and the socio- economic conditions of the scheduled tribes. Test applied: Pearson Correlation Analysis



Table -2

Correlation between Level of Education and Socio-economic conditions of scheduled Tribes

Factors		Level of Education	Socio-economic conditions
Level of Education	Pearson Correlation	1	0.918**
	Sig. (2 -tailed)		0.000
	N	120	120
Socio-economic conditions	Pearson Correlation	0.918**	1
	Sig. (2 -tailed)	0.000	
	N	120	120
** Significant at 0.05 level (2-tailed)			

The calculated Pearson correlation value is 0.918 and  $p=0.000$  ( $p<0.05$ ) at a confidence level of 0.05. Hence, the proposed alternative hypothesis ( $H_{a1}$ ) is accepted.

$H_{a2}$ : There exists a significant correlation between the income levels and the socio-economic conditions of the scheduled tribes.  
Test applied: Pearson Correlation Analysis

Table -3

Correlation between Level of Income and Socio-economic conditions of Scheduled Tribes

Factors		Level of Income	Socio-economic conditions
Level of Income	Pearson Correlation	1	0.914**
	Sig. (2 -tailed)		0.000
	N	120	120
Socio-economic conditions	Pearson Correlation	0.914**	1
	Sig. (2 -tailed)	0.000	
	N	120	120
** Significant at 0.05 level (2-tailed)			

The calculated Pearson correlation value is 0.914 and  $p=0.000$  ( $p<0.05$ ) at a confidence level of 0.05. Hence, the proposed alternate hypothesis ( $H_{a2}$ ) is accepted.

$H_{a3}$ : There exists a significant correlation between the employment programs and the socio-economic conditions of the scheduled tribes.  
Test Applied: Pearson Correlation Analysis

Table -4

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

Factors		Employment Generation programs	Socio-economic conditions
Employment Generation Programs	Pearson Correlation	1	0.894**
	Sig. (2 -tailed)		0.000
	N	120	120
Socio-economic conditions	Pearson Correlation	0.894**	1
	Sig. (2 -tailed)	0.000	
	N	120	120
** Significant at 0.05 level (2-tailed)			

The calculated Pearson correlation value is 0.894 and  $p=0.000$  ( $p<0.05$ ) at a confidence level of 0.05. Hence, the proposed alternate hypothesis ( $H_{a3}$ ) is accepted.



Ha<sub>4</sub>: There exists a significant correlation between the tribal development programs and the socio-economic conditions of the scheduled tribes.

Test Applied: Pearson Correlation Analysis

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

Factors		Tribal Development Programs	Socio-economic conditions
Tribal Development Programs	Pearson Correlation	1	0.938**
	Sig. (2 -tailed)		0.000
	N	120	120
Socio-economic conditions	Pearson Correlation	0.938**	1
	Sig. (2 -tailed)	0.000	
	N	120	120

\*\* Significant at 0.05 level (2-tailed)

The calculated Pearson correlation value is 0.938 and  $p=0.000$  ( $p<0.05$ ) at a confidence level of 0.05. Hence, the proposed alternate hypothesis (Ha<sub>4</sub>) is accepted.

Ha<sub>5</sub>: There exists a significant relationship between the increased level of education, level of income, employment generation programs, tribal development programs and socio-economic status of the scheduled tribes.

Test applied: ANOVA

Table -6  
ANOVA TEST RESULTS

Factors		Sum of Squares	df	Mean square	F	Sig.
Level of Education	Between groups	74.396	2	37.198	332.126	0.000
	Within groups	13.104	117	0.112	-	-
	Total	87.500	119	-	-	-
Level of Income	Between groups	64.046	2	34.023	312.138	0.000
	Within groups	12.753	117	0.109	-	-
	Total	76.799	119	-	-	-
Employment Generation Programs	Between groups	57.244	2	28.622	298.152	0.000
	Within groups	11.232	117	0.096	-	-
	Total	68.476	119	-	-	-
Tribal Development Programs	Between groups	86.892	2	43.446	368.186	0.000
	Within groups	13.806	117	0.118	-	-
	Total	100.698	119	-	-	-

The ANOVA test result shows the significant relationship between the Socio-economic status of the scheduled tribes and their increased levels of education, increased levels of income, employment generation program and tribal development program. The F-ratio from the F column shows the values of 332.126, 312.138, 298.152 and 368.186 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 proposed alternate Hypothesis (Ha<sub>5</sub>) is accepted.



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## Result

The study results shows that all the proposed alternate hypotheses were statistically verified and tested for their statistical significance and they were accepted at 0.05 level of significance. Thus, the study infers that the aspects of level of education, level of income, employment generation programs and tribal development programs are having a significant relationship with the socio-economic status of the scheduled tribes in the study area.

## Conclusion and Suggestions

The study concludes that the socio- economic factors of the tribal population are having a significant impact on their overall socio-economic status in the study area. The study further concludes the aspects of level of education, level of income, employment generation programs and tribal development programs are having multi-pronged impact on the living conditions of the tribals in terms of their socio- economic status and they are having specific influence on social emancipation and socio- economic empowerment of scheduled tribal population in the study area. The tribal developmental programs for the scheduled tribes specifically aim at promoting the social security, welfare and cultural aspects of the scheduled tribes and they thrust the viscosity of social and economic imperatives in the tribal societies of the nation.

It is suggested that the financial grants under the tribals sub plan for the subsequent financial years are to be increased to a greater extent and the financial support for the scheduled tribes is to be increased under priority-based areas and small-scale tribal enterprises are to be promoted among the women community in the study area. Promotion of agricultural activities among the tribal community is to be made and necessary logistic support is to be provided to the tribalsocieties at the identified tribal areas those which are congenial for agriculture and its related activities.

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