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## SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF TRIBAL COMMUNITIES IN KARNATAKA: WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO MYSURU DISTRICT

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### Abstract

The total population of the Scheduled Tribes within the country stands at 8,43,26,240 which constitute 8.2 percent of the total population (the 2011 census). They are covering all the states except Haryana and Punjab and also over all the union territories except Chandigarh out of their total population within the country. The current data released by the Census of India shows that the child sex-ratio among STs in the country has declined rapidly than in other categories of the population between 2001 and 2011. The study was aimed to review the Karnataka state. Three taluks of the Mysuru district were selected for the study based on their highly Scheduled tribe populous status; Hunsur H.D Kote, and Periyapatna. Primary Data and the various socio-economic status assessed were; Age, Marital Status, Types of family, Income, Educational level, Occupational structure and size of landholding. The study revealed that there are four different tribal communities ( Bettakuruba Soliga JenuKuruba, and Yarava) residing in the selected study area. The present study has used both primary and secondary sources of data. The secondary source of data has been collected from several Reports and documents of the articles, books and Govt reports. In the study area, the higher percentage of respondents reported that the main cause of backwardness and poverty, as well as lack of education, lack of culture constraints, Patriarchal system such as the low status of tribal communities.

Many Sociologists specializing on the topic have pointed out; that what's missing within the process of conceptualization is that the acknowledgement of history and of a posh economics. Hence, tribal ways of life, its cultures, its social structures and economics were treated as inferior as compared to the so called advanced or educated western culture-based societies. The empowerment package more or less falls in line with the centralized, top-down characters of the economic policies that were followed in the initial years. This is evident from the poor allocation of resources to local bodies, essential for the implementation of the programs in a concrete manner.

**Keywords:** Tribal Communities, Conceptualization. Social Structures. Socio-Economic, Tribal Ways of Life, Centralized, Economic Policies, Social Structures and Economics

### I. Introduction

India has the largest concentration of tribals in the world except in Africa. About 70 percent of India's total tribal population is reported to be concentrated in Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgrah, Bihar, Jharkand, Orissa, Gujarath and Rajasthan. There are 550 communities which have been notified as tribal communities by the Government of India while 75 tribal groups have been declared as primitive groups which are spread over 15 states and union territories. There are about 200 million tribal populations in the entire globe who constitute about 4 percent of the total population of the world. Tribals constitute around 8.6 percent of the country's population, over 84 million people according to communities that live in and around India's forest areas of 63.3 million hectares occupying about 19 percent of the land marks of the country are mainly tribals. Though, tribal constitute only 8 percent of the India's the destiny of the country. Most of them live in concentrations, cluster and large pockets. Many other live in areas which are rich in flora and fauna, minerals and other natural resources. The concentration of tribals is found in belt along the Himalaya stretching through Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarkhand in West, to Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagland, tribals are more than 90 percent of population while i Sikkim and Tripura tribal constitute around 20 to 30 percent of the total population. Another concentration of tribals has been reported in Karnataka, Tamilnadu, Kerala in South India; Gujarat and Rajasthan in western India and Lakshadweep and Andaman Nicobar Islands in the Union Territories.

Tribal Communities live in about geo climatic conditions ranging from plains, forests, hills and accessible areas. The majority of the main workers from the tribal communities are engaged in primary sector of economy. The disparities are compounded by higher group out rates in formal education, resulting in a disproportionately low representation in higher education. Government of India has launched several programmes for educational and economic empowerment of tribal communities in India. Special Central Assistance id being provided to the state government for educational and economic development of the tribal communities.

Besides, a number of centrally sponsored schemes have been also implemented for socio-economic development of tribal communities. Tribal groups are at different stages of social, economic and educational development. While some tribal communities



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have adopted a main stream way of life at one in of the spectrum, there are primitive tribal groups who are characterized by pre-agricultural level of technology, declining population, extremely low literacy and a subsistence level of economy.

However, the financial support and development efforts in this direction could not made an effective dent on the poverty among the tribal population and enabled them to join the national mainstream of development. Even larger tribal population has been victimized due to development induced displacement, modern economic forces and other socio-cultural factors. The tribals face the problems related to land alienation, infiltration of non-tribals in the tribal regions, threatening to the cultural identity of tribals, and involuntary migration and resettlement due to development.

## II. Review of literature

Sadashivaiah (1975) in his unpublished dissertation work about the Soliga in Kannada conducted his fieldwork in Bankvadi, Katvalu and Nemmanahalli colonies of Heggada Devana Kote taluk of Mysore district. Inthis dissertation work, he gave more concentration to explain socio-cultural aspects, occupations in anthropological point of view. The main occupation of Soliga is agriculture and he discussed about the government providing them the agricultural land in the forest areas in which they are growing the millets, grains etc.

Nanjundayya H.V and L.A.K Iyer (1931) in their book the Mysore Tribes and castes, Vol IV describes about the origin and customs of Soliga and the exogamous divisions of the tribe distributed in Biligiri Rangana hills and they have stated that in the hilly tracts of Rangagiri these people are call ed by other natives as ‘Cad Eruligaru’.

Balakrishnan (1953) used the word “Swamiga” for the Mahadeshwara Swamy who is their favourite deity and later it is believed to be transformed to Soliga by corrupt usages.

## III. Objectives

1. To know the Socio-Economic Status of Tribal Communities in the study area.
2. To identify their role in the decision-making process and their effective leadership qualities
3. To find the Education Status in the study area

## IV. Methodology

The present study has used both primary and secondary sources of data. The secondary source of data has been collected from several Reports and documents of the Karnataka state. The primary data has collected through structured interview schedules, administered to the sample respondents exclusively selected for the present study. The literature has also been gathered from published articles, books and Govt. reports. Totally 110 sample household respondents in the study area has interviewed for the study purpose. The study has used random sampling method for the field study. The primary sources of data present in Mysore district of Karnataka.

## V. Socio-economic opportunities

The Scheduled Tribes are tribes noticed under Article 342 of the Constitution, which makes special provision for ‘tribes, tribal communities, parts of, or groups within which the President may so notify’. There is no dentition of a tribe in the Constitution but one may distinguish some characteristics that are generally accepted: self-identification, language, distinctive social and cultural organization, economic underdevelopment, geographic location and initially, isolation, which has been steadily, and in some cases, traumatically, eroded. Many tribes still live in hilly and/or forested areas, somewhat remote from settlements.

The tribal women being economically poor and socially backward live at a low level of scale of the quality life. Thus the tribal women often face the problems of food insecurity, malnutrition ion, lack of access to health care services and education and the victim of domestic violence and rape. Unlike the well or ganised modern communities, the tribal communities and tribal women lag far behind in social networking. This is the nature and dimension of socio-economic disempowerment problem among the tribal women in India. Sen has advocated human capabilities approach to the development process. The human capabilities include social, economic, cultural and political capabilities of the human beings.

## VI. Result and Discussion

The main features of the socio-economic profile are family composition, education composition, occupation composition, marital status, family income, and family background of respondents. Nevertheless, these variables could help us to know the socio-economic status of tribal communities in the selected study area in the paper.



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Table-1: Respondents of the Tribal Communities

Tribal Communities	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yarava	17	15.5
Betta Kurub	19	17.3
Soliga	29	26.3
Jenukuruba	45	40.9
Total	110	100

Source – Primary Data

According to Ministry of Tribal Affair, Government of India, there are 53 various scheduled tribes living in Karnataka state and four tribal communities were found in the study area; Jenu Kuruba, Betta Kuruba, Soligas and Yarava. The assessment of selected 110 households revealed that, 17 (15.5 %) belong to Yarava tribal community. whereas 19 (17.3 %) household belongs to Bettakuruba, 29 (26.3%) households are Soligas and remaining, 45 (40.9 %) households belong to Jenukuruba.

Table-2: Age of the Respondents

Age Group	Respondents	Percentage
18-25 years.	17	25.5
26 - 35 Years	29	26.4
36 - 45 Years	43	39.0
46 - 55 Years	14	12.7
above 56 Years	07	6.4
Total	110	100

Source – Primary Data

Table-2 that out of the 110 respondents, 25.5 percent of the respondents are in age group between 18-25 years. Whereas, 26.4 percent of the respondents have belonged to the age group of 26-35 years, 39.0 percent of the respondents are coming under the 36-45 years age category, 12.7 percent of the respondents are come 46-55 years and only 6.4 percent respondents are above 54 years. It is clearly shows that the majority of the respondents belong to the age group 36-45 years in the study area.

Table-3: Marital Status of the Respondents

Marital Status	Respondents	Percentage
Unmarried	24	21.9
Married	67	60.9
Window	19	17.2
Total	110	100

Source – Primary Data

Table-3 Shows that marital status of Tribal Communities in Mysore district. Out of 110 respondents, 21.9 percent of the respondents are unmarried, 17.2 percent respondents are Widows. majority of that is 60.9 percent of the respondents are married, and the data clearly reveals that more number of respondents is married.

Table-4: Types of Family

Types of Family	Respondents	Percentage
Nuclear Family	74	67.3
Joint Family	36	32.7
Total	110	100

Source – Primary Data

Table-4 depicts that, 32.7 percent of the respondents belongs to joint families and remaining 67.3 percent of the respondents belongs to the nuclear family Thus, the data indicate that the nuclear families more than the joint families of Tribal Communities in the Study area.



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Table-5: Educational Status of the Respondents

Educational Status	Respondents	Percentage
Primary and Secondary	29	26.3
High School	21	19.0
PUC	14	12.7
Graduation	05	4.5
Illiterates	41	32.2
Total	110	100

Source – Primary Data

Table-5 show that, the educational level of the respondents in the study area. From the above table it is clear that around 18 percent of the respondents have completed their college education (PUC, Graduation) and remaining 32.2 percent of the respondents are illiterate. The data shows that the majority of the tribal respondents are illiterates in the study area. Further 26.3 percent of the respondents have completed primary and secondary education and 19.0 percent of the respondents have completed their high school education. The government of India and Karnataka have been implemented so many education programmes for tribal communities but no development in the study area. Government should do the awareness about education programmes to tribal communities.

Table-6: Size of Land

Size of Land	Respondents	Percentage
Below 2 Acre	51	46.3
3 to 5 Acre	28	25.5
Above 5 Acre	04	3.6
No Land	27	24.6
Total	110	100

Source – Primary Data

Table-6 show that the size of land holding in the study area. Out of the 110 respondents, 46.3 percent of the respondents are holding of land below 2-acre, 25.5 percent of the respondents are cultivation of the land in 2–5-acre, 3.6 percent respondents are holding in above 5 acre and remaining, 24.6 percent of the respondents have no land holding in the study area. It's clearly shows that, majority of the tribal respondents are holding of land size between 2 acres in the study area.

Table-7: Occupation Status of the Respondents

Occupation Status	Respondents	Percentage
Agriculture	45	40.9
Simple Artisan	15	13.6
Agriculture Labour	34	31.0
Self Employed	02	1.8
Private company Employed	05	4.6
Pastoral and Cattle–herding	09	8.1
Total	110	100

Source – Primary Data

Table-7 shows that 40.9 percent of the respondents are working in agriculture sector. 13.6 percent are simple artisan, 31.0 percent of the respondents are as agriculture labour, 8.1 percent of in the pastoral and cattle-herding, 1.88 per cent) of the respondents are Self-employed and 4.6 percents are private company employed The study observed that majority of respondents are engaged in agricultural and other respondents have different kind of jobs.



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Table-8: Monthly Income of the Respondent

Income	Respondents	Percentage
Below 3000	44	40.0
3001-6000	27	24.5
6001-9000	13	11.8
9001-12000	19	17.2
Above 12001	07	6.3
Total	110	100

Source – Primary Data

Table-8 illustrated that the distribution of income status of the tribal communities' study area. out of 110 respondents, 40.0 percent of the respondents have monthly income is below 3000, 24.5 percent respondents' monthly income is from 3001 to 6000, 11.8 percent of the respondents monthly earning is 6001 to 9000, 17.2 percent of the tribes are having monthly income is Rs. 9001 to 12000 and 6.3 percent of the respondents are earning monthly income of above 12001. The majority of the respondents are having monthly income is below Rs. 3000. It is clearly shows that, the majority of the tribal communities' annual income level is very low in the study area.

VII. Findings

1. 45 (40.9 %) households belong to Jenukuruba tribal Community
2. 43 (39.0) It is clearly shows that the majority of the respondents belong to the age group 36-45 years in the study area.
3. 67(60.9) The data clearly reveals that more number of respondents is married.
4. 74(67.3) Thus, the data indicate that the nuclear families more than the joint families of Tribal Communities in the Study area.
5. 41(32.2)The data shows that the majority of the tribal respondents are illiterates in the study area.
6. 51(46.3)majority of the tribal respondents are holding of land size between 2 acres in the study area.
7. 45(40.9)that majority of respondents are engaged in agricultural and other respondents have different kind of jobs.
8. 44(40.0)It is clearly shows that, the majority of the tribal communities' annual income level is very low in the study area.

VIII. Suggestions

Tribal men and women labourers are not getting any social security benefits because they are working in unorganised and informal sector The tribale community health behaviours include a combination of both traditional and modern medical practices. The Soliga's tendency to use one or another health system is influenced by the availability and accessibility of both.

It addresses many issues of the tribes community including literacy, occupation patterns, children education, family size, tribal council practices, types of disputes raised in the community, awareness of the younger generation towards the tribal council , marriage practices, landholding, sources of income from different sources , migration problems, dependency on the forest, unemployment problem, cultural practices, festival celebration, rituals and culture of the tribal types of health problems faced by the tribal and their treatment sources , drinking water problems, the different reasons for lack of development, and the different socio-economic, cultural, political and external factors influencing the lifestyle of the Solig as. Welfare programmes introduced by the Government concentrating on the development of the Soligas and other tribal have not succeeded in reaching them. The Soligas expect programmes on social, political, health, economic, Sanghas and empowerment activities.

The main occupational structure is agricultural labour and majority of the tribal population is landless. In the study, the higher percentage of respondents reported that the main cause of backwardness and poverty, as well as lack of education, lack of awareness among govt facilities (Programmes), culture constraints, Patriarchal system such as the low status of tribal communities. The present study brings forth the conditions and facilities available to the selected tribes and it can be concluded that the socio-economic conditions of tribe population living in the Mysore district are quite poor and needs to be addressed on both State level and central level.

Education is the key which opens the door of life, develops humanity and promotes national and self-development. Education can be an effective tool for women empowerment. It enables the tribal women to acquire knowledge for improving and empowering their tasks in all fields. The concept like empowerment, local self-government though projected as viable alternative to fill the gap created by State's withdrawal is not rooted at the local level. The empowerment package more or less falls in line with the centralized, top-down characters of the economic policies that were followed in the initial years.



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## IX. Conclusions

The impact of development planning needs to be evaluated in terms of desired and unanticipated consequences. The development process should be perceived as an involvement and reorganization mechanism of not only the socio-economic system but the entire ecosystem. Against this backdrop, the present paper reviews the emerging perspective in the context of the socio-economic empowerment of tribal women and changing paradigms of development. It is necessary that women come out of this domination and subordination for which they need to be educated and trained. These two are not sufficient conditions in themselves, their scarcity of women from taking important decisions. Besides lack of awareness, education and training, the respondents also expressed their opinions regarding other problems.

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