

Vol I Issue VIII Feb 2014

ISSN No: 2321-5488

*International Multidisciplinary
Research Journal*

Research Direction

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S.P. Rajguru

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ISSN No.2321-5488

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SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF SCHEDULED TRIBES IN KARNATAKA: A CASE STUDY OF YADGIR DISTRICT

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Abstract:

Scheduled tribe communities live in about 15 percent of the country's areas in various ecological and geo-climatic conditions ranging from plains to forest, hills and inaccessible areas. These Scheduled tribe groups are at different stages of socio, economic and educational development. Dehbhan Commission (1961) mention for different layers among scheduled tribes, at the base of which is a group of tribal "in an extremely under developed stage and at the topmost level a layer that can well afford to forgo any further help". The non-availability of reliable data pertaining to the working and living conditions of the scheduled tribe communities caused a great hindrance in formulating appropriate welfare schemes for these communities. As already mentioned the government of India is also under constitutional obligation to protect the interest of the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe communities and uplift them socially and economically.

KEY WORDS:

Socio-Economic , communities live , economically , ethnic minority .

INTRODUCTION

The Indian constitution identifies for special consideration certain ethnic minority groups, traditionally referred to as tribes or tribal, as scheduled tribes (STs) who constitute around 8 percent of the total population of the country. There are 573 STs living in different parts of the country most of the tribal communities have their own languages different from the language spoken in the strata where they are located. There are more than 270 such languages. The tribal languages in India belong to all major languages families among which the Austric, the Dravidian, Tibeto-Chinese, and Indo European families are the dominant ones.

One of the distinguishing features of STs is that the majority of them live in scattered habitations located in interior, remote and inaccessible hilly and forest areas of the country. Nearly 22 percent of tribal habitations have less than 100 population and more than 40 percent have 100 to less than 300 people, while others have less than 500 people. Though tribals constitute only 8 percent of Indian population, they constitute a majority in several states and union territories and sizeable population in others.

One of the main challenges that Indian government is facing after independence is the provision of social justice to Indian scheduled tribes for the improvement of their socio-economic status. In this concern the constitution of India provide definite provisions for the uplift and welfare of the tribal people throughout the country. The British government facilitated some development work, but those facilities were inadequate for the tribal development. However, after independence welfare of the tribal has been given very high priority right from the beginning of the first five year plan in India. Many steps have been taken by Indian government for their upliftment, for their entrance into the mainstream of development. So far India has successfully completed ten five year plans but failed to achieve the target of upliftment and welfare of the tribal.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF SCHEDULED TRIBES IN KARNATAKA: A CASE.....

Tribal population mainly contributes a major share of wide spread poverty in the nation. The level of the socio-economic development varies considerably between tribal and non-tribal population between one tribal and another tribe and even among different sub group of tribal groups, these disparities and diversities make tribal development and micro level planning of tribal and the gross root level imperative more than ninety per cent of the STs population depends upon agriculture and allied activities in India.

According to the 2001 census of India, there are 8.43 crore of people belonging to scheduled tribes (STs) also constitute 8.2 per cent of the total population of the country.

Tribal community viz., scheduled tribe continue to be vulnerable even today, not because of they are poor, illiterate and illiterate compared to the general population, but after their distinct vulnerability arises from their inability to regulate and cope with the conveyance of their integration with the mainstream economy, society, culture and political systems, from all of which they were historically protected by their relative isolation. The requirement of planned development brought with them the dams, mines, industries and roads, all located on tribal lands, with these came the concomitant process of displacement followed by a complete breakdown of development and protection of tribal rights and interest, tribal institutions and practices were forced into money co-existence, which paved the way to market of free state. Institutions, also the tribal found themselves at a great disadvantage in the face of an influx of people equipped outside into tribal area, the repercussions for the already fragile socio-economic sustenance base of the tribal were devastating ranging from the loss of livelihoods and land alienation on a vast scale of hereditary bondage.

There it is evident from Yadgir district that the socio-economic condition of tribal peoples is poor in this district they are suffering from various land alienation activities, political uncertainty, their activities and also their condition is poor in the district. The government of India/Karnataka has taken various welfare activities in the state as well as in the district but the welfare program was not reached to all scheduled tribal people but it is reached only to the upper class peoples. Yadgir district is established in the year 2009, but it is divided from Gulbarga. In the district STs population is very lower than Bellary, Chitradurga, Raichur, Mysore.

A significant fact that has emerged from the lack of consensus regarding the perception of the problems and the solutions thereof and the judgment on the outcome of the developmental efforts made so far. It seems that the tribals like to be upwardly mobile. This being so, the crucial questions would be whether the development agencies have properly played the facilitating role expected of them. It is hoped that such a study would be helpful to planners, policy makers, administrators, N.G.O's, self-help groups, development agencies and social organizations in implementing the welfare and developmental programmes for tribal upliftment in a useful way.

In order to improve the structure and organization of cooperatives in the tribal areas on the one side and to examine the problem of exploitation of tribals on the other side, a committee on cooperative structure in tribal areas recommended the organization of integrated credit cum marketing cooperative societies termed LAMP cooperative societies at the primary level to meet multifarious requirements of tribals. By way of giving a package of services, these societies ensure a faster growth rate of tribal economy in our country. With a view to analyzing the performance of cooperatives particularly LAMP societies in tribal areas, many research studies have been conducted by individual researchers, state governments, reserve bank of India and other research organizations.

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