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TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT IN TELANGANA – A COMPARATIVE STUDY ON TRIBAL GROUPS IN WARANGAL DISTRICT



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Abstract: *The present study is an attempt to examine the socioeconomic status of selected tribal groups and the nature and implementation process of development programs for tribes and their socio-economic impact on the four selected Mandals and the problems involved in their development. Most of the development programs which have been introduced in these villages by the Government have been studied and the problems faced by them have also been discussed. The present study is an attempt to provide a better understanding of the Lambada, Koya and Nayakpod tribes of the erstwhile Warangal District of Telangana State.*

Keywords: *Tribal Development, Tribal Development Programs, Role of ITDA/Telangana State, Impact*

Introduction

Traditionally most of the tribal communities in India are agriculturists. After hunting and cattle rearing, agriculture was the third occupation. Presently, with very little hunting and a decline in cattle rearing, agriculture is the main source of livelihood. But many tribes still practice primitive agriculture i.e., Podu Cultivation. With this art of traditional method of cultivation, they are facing many problems in adopting the modern methods of agriculture and also coercive methods of forest officials. Though the development schemes have been implemented, the benefits either do not reach the tribes in remote areas or do not reach them in time.

Similarly, tribes are not accustomed to saving and as their per capita incomes are low and the hardships being faced by them are more severe than the other rural population. Despite massive tribal development programs that have been launched by the government, the tribes in the state are facing several problems like economic, social and cultural exploitation.

Since many of these tribes inhabited the interior forests and hilly tracts they are largely away from mainstream society and being exploited by outsiders, money lenders and buyers who exchange various commodities that they produce from the land and the forest collection.

Most of the tribes borrow money from private money lenders who charge a high rate of interest by which they are prone to indebtedness. If they could not repay their debt, they were forced to repay by selling their agricultural products or the forest collection or the tiny land they have and thus are being pulled down below the poverty line.

Since the tribes were isolated from the mainstream of life, the vendors who entered the tribal villages sold their products at the highest cost and purchase the forest collection for a cheap rate and the tribes were economically exploited. Tribal women and girls are victims of social and cultural exploitation and gender harassment and tribal culture are misconceived. Their traditional dress and free behaviour are wrongly conceived.

The outsiders such as contractors, truck drivers, tourists, social workers etc., belittle their culture and consider it cheap and vulnerable. Girls are lured or enticed and fall victim to allurements. In some areas damages to the honesty and integrity of tribal men and women are challenged by money so that they can run after the money and be ready to earn it by any means. Bad things are extended more easily and effectively by the agents than the healthy ones.

The dowry is replacing the bride price, and country liquor is replacing traditional toddy with increasing consumption as against the moderate one in the past. These negative fallouts of developments are doing irreparable damage to the rich and classical tribal culture.

In earlier days the tribal economy was a self-supporting subsistence economy, they were satisfied with their meagre wants by hunting, food-gathering, minor forest produce, primitive cultivation etc. With the development, the rights on the forest were reduced, the dependency on the forest was also reduced and they were forced to work as wage earners to earn their livelihood. Even in some cases, they have to work as bonded labour.

A few in the primitive areas reverted to shifting cultivation while some left the forest habitat and shifted to urban areas in search of jobs and became slum-dwellers facing all the miseries and agonies of the urban poor. The average cultivable land holdings have decreased because the non-tribal and money lenders have grabbed some of the tribe's lands and made them landless. Apart from this a vast acreage of

land is barren and un-irrigated and therefore the cultivator was not interested to cultivate their land. The tribes use the modern method of cultivation at a minimum level and therefore the land output was very poor. Illiteracy and ignorance are the main hurdles in tribal development.

Scheduled Tribes in Telangana State

Telangana has a tribal population of 9.34% out of its total population as per the 2011 Census. There are 32 Scheduled Tribes in the state. The presence of tribal communities is more in and around the river valleys and forests of Telangana. Of the total ST population, 52.96% live in ITDA districts and the remaining 47.04% in plain areas. There are four ITDAs (Utnoor, Bhadrachalam, Eturnagaram and Mannanur). The Scheduled Area is spread over 85 Mnadals and 1174 Villages in undivided Ten Districts. As such their socio-cultural conditions can be understood better by identifying their regions.

Gond – Kolam Region: This region falls in the hills and forest region of Adilabad district north of the Godavari River. The main tribes inhabiting the region are Gonds and Naikpods and their dependent communities Pardhans and Thotis. Kolams, Andhs and Bhils also live side by side with the above communities.

- **Koya – Konda Reddi Region:** This region runs down Adilabad district further south-east side along the river Godavari through the districts of Karimnagar, Warangal and Khammam giving shelter to the Koyas and Konda Reddis.
- **Chenchu Region:** This region is the forested belt of Nallamala Hills north of the Krishna River in the districts of Mahaboobnagar and Nalgonda. The Chenchus also live in and around the Vikarabad forest region of the Rangareddy district.
- **Plain Areas:** Communities such as Lambada (Banjara/Sugali), Yerukala and Yanadi living in the plain areas have also been treated as tribes from 1976 onwards. In the year 2003, the communities of Nakkala and Dhulia were also treated as STs. Further, the new Government of Telangana has announced that it would consider the communities such as Boya Valmikis and Mathura Lambadas to include in the list of STs. Despite such a region-specific presence, we can find the existence of some of these (maybe in fewer numbers) tribal groups across the state.

Table 1: Growth of Tribal Population in Telangana (1961 and 2011)

Sl. No	Census Year	Population		
		Total	STs	%
1	1961	30987271	2749706	8.87
2	2011	35193978	3286926	9.34

Source: *Census Reports, Government of India*

As per the census reports, the general population in 1961 was 3.09 crores of which 8.87% was the ST population. The total population in 2011 increased to 3.51 crores and the tribal population to 32.86 lakhs and which comes to 9.34%.

Table 2: Population of Major Scheduled Tribes in Telangana State - 2011

Sl. No	Name of the Tribe	Population	% age to Total Population
1	Lambada	2044039	64.32
2	Koya	381354	12.00
3	Gond/Nayakpod	297846	9.37
4	Yerukula	144128	4.54
5	Kolam	44805	1.41
6	Pardhan	24776	0.78
7	Chenchu	16912	0.53
8	Andh	12882	0.41
9	Thoti	4811	0.15
10	Kondareddi	2000	0.06

Source: <https://tribalwelfare.cgg.gov.in/subPage.do?type=sub&subServiceId=110>

Table 2 shows the major scheduled tribes' population in Telangana State. According to the Census 2011, out of the total tribes, Lambadas are the predominant tribes followed by Koya, Gond/Nayakpod, Yerukula, Kolam, Pardhan, Cenchu, Andh, Thoti and Kondareddy. Based on the data given in table 1.2 following figure has been drawn.

Demographic Profile of the Tribes

Further tribes in Telangana are divided according to the administrative and cultural aspects into three categories viz., Adivasis, Primitive Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) and Dispersed Tribal Groups (DTGs). The details of these tribes are given below (Empowering Tribals, Annual Report, Tribal Welfare Department, GOT-2018-19).

Adivasis: Among the Adivasi category, there are four tribal communities are included they are Koya, Gond, Pardhan and Andh. A brief profile of the Adivasi tribes has given in the following lines.

Koya: They are the numerically largest Adivasi Community of Telangana with a population of 3.81 lakhs spread across Bhadradi Kothagudem, Jayashanker Bhupalpally, Mulugu & Mahabubabad districts. Their main occupation is agriculture

and livestock rearing. Their Samakka Saralamma Jatara (Medaram Jatara) is the largest Tribal fair in Asia.

Gond: The Gonds of Telangana State have a population of 2.97 lakh and reside in Adilabad, Asifabad and Mancheriyal districts. Their main occupation is agriculture. Their traditional festivals are Nagoba Jatara and Dandari.

Pardhan: Pardhan community is spread across Adilabad, Asifabad and Mancheriyal districts with a population of 0.24 lakhs. Their traditional occupation is Singing and storytelling as Bards of Gonds

Andh: Andh community is spread across Adilabad and Asifabad districts with a population of 0.13 lakhs. Their main occupation is agriculture. They have a vast knowledge of medicinal herbs and plants. Their main festival is Sira

Primitive Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)

While among the PVTGs category, there are four tribal communities are included area Kilam, Cehnchu, Thoti and Konda Reddy. The brief profile has been given under.

Kolam: Kolam is the largest PvTG Community with a 0.44 lakh population, spread across Adilabad, Asifabad and Mancheriyal districts. Their main occupation is Basketry and Bamboo craft. Their traditional festivals are Bheemanna jatara and Laxmidevara Jatara.

Chenchu: Chenchu tribal community in Nallamalla Forests, with a population of 0.16 lakhs. Their main occupation is foraging, Honey gathering, Hunting and fishing. Their traditional festivals include Saleshwaram and Bhourapur Jataras.

Thoti: Thoti tribal community in Adilabad Tract with a population of 0.04 lakhs. They are a dependent community on Gonds. Their traditional occupation is Barding, Body art / Tattooing.

Konda Reddy: Konda Reddy tribal community with a population of 0.02 lakhs. Their main occupation is a bamboo craft. Their important festivals are Mamidi Kothapanduga.

Dispersed Tribal Groups (DTGs)

Among the DTG's category, there are two tribal communities are included they are Lambada and Yerukala. A brief profile of these two tribes has been given.

Lambada: They are the largest Tribal Community of Telangana with a population of 20.44 lakhs spread across the State. They speak the Banjara language. Their main occupation is agriculture. Their colourful native dress and intricate needlework are distinct. Their main festivals are Santh Sevalal Jayanthi and Teej

Yerukala: These Tribals inhabit the plain areas of Telangana with a population of 1.44 lakhs, concentrated around Hyderabad, and Rangareddy Districts. They speak

yerukalabasha. Their main occupation includes piggery and Basket weaving. Their traditional culture includes Sooth Saying by women. Their main festival is Nancharamma jatara.

District-wise Tribal Population in Telangana

According to the Census 2011, the majority of tribes are constituted in Khammam at 27.37% and it is followed by Adilabad at about 18.09%, 15.11% in Warangal, and 11.30% in Nalgonda respectively. While Nizamabad, Karimnagar, Medak, Hyderabad, Rangareddy and Mahbubnagar Districts are constituted below 9% of the ST population i.e., 7.56%, 2.84%, 5.68%, 1.27%, and 4.18% respectively.

Area-wise Tribal Population: According to the Census 2011, it is observed that among the total ST total population, the majority of the STs are residing in rural areas (about 89.05%) and 10.95% in urban areas. Among the all-districts majority of them i.e., above 61% are residing in rural areas except for Hyderabad district (2011 Census).

Literacy Rate among Tribes: Among the ten districts, the majority of the literature (2011 Census) was reported from Hyderabad and the remaining districts constituted less than 57%. Out of the 49.80% of total literates, 61.02% are male and 40.64% female, while among the male literate's majority are reported in Hyderabad and below 54% in Mahbubnagar district, while in the female category, the majority of literates are reported in Hyderabad (62.08%) and lowest is in Mahbubnagar district (30.44%).

Main Workers: Among the main workers, the majority of the main workers are found in Khammam District about 24.62% and the lowest at 0.93%, in the cultivator's category 20.63% are found in Warangal and the lowest in Hyderabad at about 0.03%. Among the main workers, Agricultural Labours the majority are found in the Warangal district about 32.39% and the lowest in Hyderabad about 0.04%. In the household Industries category, the majority are found in Adilabad at 20.48% and the lowest in Hyderabad at about 1.48%.

Marginal Workers

It is observed that the majority of the marginal workers reported in Khammam district at 25.59% and the lowest in Hyderabad at about 1.57%. Among the cultivator's majority of STs, we find them in Khammam district and lowest in Karimnagar i.e., 24.83% and 1.47% respectively. Regarding agricultural labourers, the majority are reported in Khammam district at 28.22% and the lowest in Hyderabad at about 0.04%. Among the marginal workers in household industries, the majority of the workers are reported in Adilabad and the lowest in Hyderabad with 28.09% and 2.74% respectively (2011 Census).

Total Workers: Of the total workers in the state, the majority of them are reported in Khammam district and the lowest in Hyderabad about 24.78% and 1.03% respectively.

Among the total workers, 32.39% belong to cultivators. Among the cultivators, the majority of them are reported in Warangal and the lowest in Hyderabad at 20.53% and 0.06% respectively. Out of the total workers, 51.48% belong to agricultural labourers. Among the agricultural labour, the majority are reported in Khammam and the lowest in Hyderabad i.e., 31.22% and 0.04% respectively. Out of the total workers 1.73% are working in household industries, among the total household industries workers majority are found in Adilabad about 22.55% and the lowest is in Hyderabad (1.82%) (2011 Census).

Land Utilization Pattern: According to the Statistical Year Book (2016), the forest area has gradually decreased from 23.88% to 22.66% between 2010-11 and 2014-15. The barren and uncultivable land increased to 5.41% from 5.37%. The land put to non-agricultural uses increased from 7.58% to 7.89% and Culturable Waste increased from 1.45% to 1.62%. The Permanent Pastures and other Grazing Lands decreased from 2.63% to 2.66%. Land under miscellaneous tree crops and groves not included in the net area sown area increased from 0.99% to 1.00%. The current fallows increased from 12.16% to 12.49%, while other fallow lands increased from 6.78% to 7.18%. Finally, the total cropped area decreased from 51.09% to 47.42%.

Cropping Pattern: Food and Non-Food Crops: According to the Statistical Year Book (2016), 57.71% of the land is being utilized by the STs to raise food crops and the remaining 42.28% is under non-food crops. Out of the total food crops, the highest land utilized by STs is in the Karimnagar district (14.74%) and the lowest in Rangareddy 5.75%. While the cultivation of non-food crops is found more in Mahbubnagar (18.75%) and lowest in Rangareddy at 3.50%.

Operational Holdings and Area of Operation: Among the size class of STs, it can be observed that the majority of the tribes are in the marginal farmer category (58.67%), 25.99% are small farmers and 12.48% are semi-medium farmers and only 0.18% of tribes belong to the large farmer's category. In other words, the majority of the tribes are in the category of marginal and small farmers, while the average area operated by the STs is 0.5 to 3.0 hectares.

Number and Area of Operational Holdings: Among the ten districts of Telangana State, the majority of tribes (in number) about 23.24% of tribes are found in Khammam district and the lowest in Karimnagar District i.e., 2.57%. The highest area operated reported in Khammam district about 23.37% and followed by Adilabad and Warangal i.e., 22.65% and 13.30%, while the lowest in Karimnagar about 2.16%. The average size of area operated by STs is highest in Adilabad is 1.68 and the lowest in Nizamabad and Karimnagar is 0.86 hectares.

Poverty: According to the NSSO 68th Round (2011-12) it is estimated that nearly 19.84% of the tribal population is found poor in the state, of which 13.59% are from rural and 16.08% from urban areas.

Employment: Regarding the employment status among STs, according to NSSO 61st Round (2011-12), it is estimated that 42.4% of STs are employed in the formal sector, 46.7% informal sector, 11.0% in other sectors and 42.3% are self-employed, 11.5% are regular salary holders, and of the employed 46% are casual labour.

Tribal Welfare Policies

For the benefit of the tribal population, the Telangana government has taken up serious action to implement various welfare schemes as given below:

Education Schemes: Ashram Schools and Hostels: There are 319 Ashram Schools with a strength of 90548 students, 203 hostels with a strength of 45,918 students and 101 Post Metric hostels with a borders strength of 24,616 presently functioning in the state.

Telangana Gurukulam (TTWREI Society): Under the Telangana Tribal Welfare Residential Educational Institution (TTWREI) 175, English-medium residential educational institutions (including schools, junior colleges and degree colleges) are functioning. The Tribal Welfare Department is also running 2136 educational institutions including Gram Panchayat Schools, TW Ashram Schools, Best Available Schools, TW Hostels and Post-Metric College Hostels. There are 1,432 government primary schools, and the Government of India has sanctioned the conversion of 50 of those schools into model schools. Apart from these, the department is running 136 pre-matric and 163 post-matric hostels, as well as 326 Ashram schools for ST students. Ashram schools are equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructural and academic facilities to help ST students excel. IIT Study Centre has been set up in Hyderabad to train the ST students to get admission into premia/National levels institutions such as IITs, NITs, JIPMER and other medical institutions.

Pre-Matric Scholarships: 6179 ST students pursuing education in 86 Best Available Schools which includes 179 students of Hyderabad Public School at Begumpet and Ramanthapur. Under Rajiv Vidya Deewana, a program conceived by the Government of India to encourage classroom attendance among boarders studying IX and X classes, an amount of Rs.150 per month for 10 months and Rs.750 as Book Grant i.e., a total of Rs.2250 per annum is being sanctioned to Day Scholars. Similarly, an amount of Rs.300 per month for 10 months and 1500 as a Book Grant i.e., a total of Rs.4500 per annum is being sanctioned to Hostellers. On the same analogy, to prevent drop-out rate and improve classroom attendance among Day Scholars of classes V to VIII, the Telangana State Government is also providing a scholarship of Rs.150 per month for 10 months = Rs.1500 per annum "for girls" and Rs.100 for 10 months = Rs.1000 per annum "for boys".

Post-Matric Scholarships: Online sanction and disbursement of post-matric scholarships of Rs.132.24 Crore for 1.37 lakh students have been completed for the year.

Coaching for Admissions in Foreign Universities (New Scheme): Coaching in TOEFL/IELTS/GRE/GMAT is being given to ST students to secure admission to pursuing

higher professional studies in Foreign Universities. The target during 2015-16 is 100. So far 85 ST students are undergoing coaching.

Ambedkar Overseas Vidya Nidhi: Under this Scheme, it is aimed to assist the bright poor ST students inclined to pursue Post Graduation and other professional courses abroad in reputed Foreign Universities Financial assistance of Rs.10.00 Lakh with the incidental expense like VISA fee, one-way Airfare etc. would be sanctioned. During the year 2015-16, an amount of Rs.500.00 Lakh is earmarked and 24 ST students have been assisted.

Infrastructure Development: Tribal Welfare Engineering Wing has been created for the development of various infrastructural facilities i.e., road works, buildings, drinking water schemes etc. as identified from time to time in tribal areas/villages.

Nearly One Lakh Tribal Households benefited from the waiver of electricity charges to ST households in the state. As part of the CSR activity, Rural Development Trust has taken up the program to construct houses for Chenchus' in the Nallamala region. The central government has sanctioned Rs.5.82 crore in 2019-20 to construct model PVTG colonies.

Under Educational infrastructure, providing facilities to 377 Ashram Schools Residential Schools Dormitories, Kitchen & Dining Halls, and Tribal Blocks with an estimated cost of Rs.279.20 Crore and 275 works have been completed.

During the year 2014-15 & 2015-16, 102 works are in progress. Infrastructure to 29 Ashram Schools converted from Hostels has been taken up at an estimated cost of Rs.29.00 Crores of which 24 are completed with Rs.1758.99 Lakhs.

Nearly 53 staff quarters in Ashram Schools were taken up with Rs.15.90 Crore, 108 Post Matric Hostels taken up at Rs.11200.00 Lakhs and 65 are completed incurring Rs.6078.38 Lakhs. Additional infrastructure facilities for Ashram Schools and Hostels such as additional dormitories and dining & kitchen etc. (108) works taken up with Rs.93.56 crores under the NABARD (Bankers Institute of Rural Development) program. So far 84 works completed with Rs.5179.74 lakhs.

There are 14 Youth training Centers, 02 Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras, 316 DR Depots, 587 MFP purchase points, 02 Adivasi and Banjara Bhavans and 04 Tribal Museums as part of the infrastructure development of Tribal Educational institutions and for skill development of tribals.

Additional facilities to TW Educational Institutions: During 2015-16 it is proposed to provide additional facilities like Laboratories, Libraries with required infrastructure, equipment, books & magazines, LCD TVs with DTH connection, Digital Projectors, Solar Water Heaters, RO Water Plants, Dual Desks, Computers, Furniture, Mosquito Nets, Play Material, additional seats under Best Available School (BAS) scheme 2021 with an outlay of Rs.200.00 crores in all Tribal Welfare Educational Institutions.

Other Developmental Schemes

1. **Kalyana Lakshmi:** To alleviate financial distress in the families of STs, the “Kalyana Lakshmi” scheme under which financial assistance of Rs.51,000 shall be paid to every ST unmarried girl of 18 years and above or at the time of marriage parental income shall not exceed 2 lakhs per annum.
2. **Komaram Bheem memorial:** In memory of the brave Gond tribal leader who fought against the Nizams under the slogan “Jal, Jameen, Jungal” the Government sanctioned the construction of Komram Bheem Smriti Chihanam and also the development of Jodeghat village as Tribal Cultural Hub and Tourism Center, with an outlay of 50 Crores.
3. **Construction of Roads under the NABARD Program:** The objective of the program is to provide road connectivity in tribal areas with financial assistance from NABARD.
4. **Construction of Go-downs and Storage Points:** This program is intended to provide Go-downs /Storage Points for the supply of daily food requirements of the people living in tribal areas.
5. **Works under Medaram Jathara:** Under this program, all infrastructural works required for the conduct of the biggest Tribal Jathara “Sammakka Saralamma Jathara” are being held once in two years at Medaram village in Warangal District.
6. **Construction of buildings for Integrated Residential Schools:** The objective of this program is to provide additional infrastructure for Ashram High School and Residential Schools in tribal areas with financial assistance from NABARD.

Economic Support Schemes

Girijan Co-operative Corporation (GCC) undertakes procurement of minor forest produce (MFP) and agricultural produce from tribals at remunerative prices, and public distribution in remote tribal areas and provides seasonal agricultural credit to ST farmers.

Telangana State Tribal Mining Company Limited (TRIMCO) is established to take up mining activities with the active participation of Tribal Mining Co-operative Societies, as there is the availability of mines and minerals in Telangana State.

Consequent to State Reorganization Act - 2014, the Telangana Scheduled Tribal Cooperative Finance Corporation Limited was bifurcated into two separate operational units. Telangana state is Telangana State Scheduled Tribe Cooperative Finance Corporation. The major activities of TRICOR are to provide financial assistance to STs for economic support in the areas of:

1. Agriculture
2. Fisheries

3. Animal Husbandry
4. Minor Irrigation
5. Indian School of Business sectors
6. Self-Employment

Conservation Cum Development Plan (CCDP) was introduced during the XI Five Year Plan period effective from 1st April 2008. The program aimed at planning capacity-building special programs, and the socio-economic development of PVTGs holistically by adopting a habitat development approach and intervening in all spheres of their social and economic life to enhance the quality of life so that a visible impact is made. The major activities of the program are as follows:

1. Construction of a Multi-purpose building
2. Construction of Internal roads/drains
3. Providing Corpus fund to SHG for livelihood interventions
4. Any other felt the need of the PVTG community for which there is no source from any other government program/scheme.

Skill Development Programs

The Skill Development Training Programs of SC/ST Corporations cater for the needs of educated and unemployed youth from SC and ST communities, and train them in various trades such as IT, healthcare, hospitality, aviation, banking, construction, and so on, with reputed institutions. The program is 100% subsidized and gives participants a 75% placement assurance.

A separate Sub Mission was constituted for STs to implementation of Skill Development initiatives in the Scheduled Areas. Multiple Skill Development activities have been initiated to provide employment opportunities to the unemployed tribal youth on their own and through training partners from Government training institutes/ Private training institutes for the benefit of tribal unemployed youth. The Strategy for implementation of this program is:

1. Organizing orientation programs in the name of Bhavitha for creating awareness among the tribal youth.
2. Imparting placement-linked training for ST youth for up-gradation of their skills.
3. Organizing Direct Placement drives in tribal areas.
4. Organizing Self Employment/Entrepreneurial Development Program (SEDP).

Scheduled Tribes Special Development Fund (STSDF): The Government of Telangana brought in "The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Special Development Fund (Planning, Allocation and Utilization of Financial Resources) Act/ Act 18 of 2017

on March 30, 2017. Against 9.08% of the ST Population, the allocations were made to the tune of 9.55% of the total Pragathi Paddu (scheme expenditure) of the State as ST Special Development Fund. The allocations made across various Departments amount to Rs.7184.87 crores.

Exposure Visit to Tribal Farmers: The Department of Tribal Welfare has initiated a new program called 'Exposure Visit to Tribal Farmers' to organize exposure visits to various locations in India to inculcate knowledge of the latest methods and technology interventions in sectors like Agriculture, Horticulture, Floriculture, Vegetable cultivation, Fisheries and Dairy etc., in collaboration with ICRISAT, Hyderabad.

Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs): The Department has proposed to build a prosperous and sustainable agriculture sector among the tribal farming community by the collectivization of small and marginal tribal farmers into Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs). It has proposed to promote Tribal FPOs in association with the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

Girijan Cooperative Corporation (GCC): The Girijan Cooperative Corporation (GCC) is playing an important role in providing remunerative prices for minor forest produce such as Honey, Tamarind, Brooms, Nuxvomica, cleaning nuts, Mohwa flowers and Mohwa seed, etc., collected by the tribals. GCC also procures agricultural produce from the tribals. The GCC collection and storage network includes 361 regular and 177 sub-depots, which are functioning under 18 Girijan Primary Cooperative Marketing (GPCM) Societies in three divisions of the State.

The TSGCC is marketing herbal opaque bathing soaps, glycerin soaps, aloe vera shampoo, detergent soaps, and honey under the brand name GIRI. The TSGCC has started 2 manufacturing units at (i) Rajendranagar for manufacturing opaque soaps and shampoo, and (ii) Jeedimetla for manufacturing detergent soaps. The TSGCC has also established 5 petrol and diesel outlets across the State.

The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006: The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 aims to recognize and record the rights of forest dwellers who have been residing and depending on the forest for generations for their bona fide livelihood needs without any recorded rights.

As per Rule 16 of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Rules, the forest rights holders will get support for land improvement, land productivity, basic amenities and other livelihood measures. Rule 16 of the Act also provides support for land improvement, land productivity, basic amenities and other livelihood measures including irrigation facilities for improving land productivity.

Youth Training Centres (YTC): Nineteen State-of-art residential skill training centres are being constructed at a cost of Rs.3.00 crore each and funded under Insurance Affordability Programs (IAP), Additional Central Assistance (ACA) of the Government of India. Out of which, 18 YTCs have been completed and one is in progress.

1. Constructed 6 fully furnished (27,000 sq. ft.) training halls, 6 trade labs, an open-air auditorium and a dormitory for 200 youth.
2. Allotted 17 YTCs to 11 National level reputed skill training agencies
3. Aim to train 500 unemployed youth per YTC, per year

Giri Poshan-Nutri-basket Scheme: As part of the program, the nutritional status of ST Women and Children is aimed to improve in 3 selected Tribal aspirational districts of Asifabad, Bhadrachalam and Bhupalpally/Mulugu.

Accordingly, the scheme is being implemented in coordination with ICRISAT through the Anganwadi centres of the Women and Child Welfare Department. 12 mandals with total beneficiaries of 13098 women and children covered with Rs.2.70 Crore.

To address malnutrition among PVTGs, an exclusive scheme of Nutribasket for Chenchus through ICRISAT is being implemented with a project cost of Rs.3.75 Crore under the Health and Nutritional support program benefitting approximately 12,000 Chenchu women and Children.

Health Scheme for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups: To address the needs of poor tribals in remotely located ST habitations of PVTGs for timely health care, a new scheme of the Tribal Relief Fund (TRF) for emergency health care and hospitalization was started.

Relaxation of Norms for KCR Kit for PVTGs: To address the dwindling population of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups, the Health and Family Welfare Department, upon request of the Tribal Welfare Department, has to extend the scheme of KCR Kits to Multigravida Pregnant women beyond the general norm of 2 deliveries benefitting approximately 20,000 PVTG Women.

Health Screening Program for PVTGs: Health screening has been conducted for all the PVTGs in the ITDA Utnoor area covering 12 varieties of screening tests like WBC, RBC, Hemoglobin, XCT, MCV, MCH, PLT, LYM, MXD, NEUT & Lipid Profile etc., in convergence with Nizam Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) and issued Health Profile Cards to 12,000 PVTGs.

Research on Tribal Health and Indigenous Food Resources of Chenchus

The Nutritional Status of Chenchus along with the nutritional value of the seasonal tubers and leafy vegetables accessible to the Chenchus of Nallamala Forest is studied in coordination with the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN). The seasonal tubers and leafy vegetables are inventoried along with their calorific values.

Workshops for Tribal Artists: To revive the art and craft forms of the STs, and fine-tune the skills of the artists, the workshops are organized in coordination with the experts from Jawaharlal Nehru Architecture and Fine Arts University (JNAFAU), Hyderabad. The Tribal painters from Gond, Koya and Naikpod communities are groomed through the professional guidance of the State art Gallery and their works are marketed through CII and Amazon to provide avenues for marketing them for creating livelihoods. To preserve and promote tribal culture the state government with the support of the central government is encouraging all the tribal festivals and sanctioning festival-wise funds.

Health Care Programs

The Telangana State Government has implemented the following healthcare programs.

1. **Arogya Laxmi:** The Arogya Laxmi scheme was launched in the year 2013 in Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) with the most adverse health and nutrition indicators. The Aarogya Lakshmi scheme is a nutritional program to support pregnant and lactating women by the Government of Telangana.
2. **Balamrutham:** This program was launched in 2019 to provide supplementary nutrition to children between seven months to three years.
3. **Supplementary Nutrition Program (SNP):** The SNP is provided to kids below six years of elderly, pregnant and nursing mothers and adolescent women of a low financial gain cluster to enhance health and biological process standing and enforcement through the Anganwadi centres.
4. **Aarogyasri Scheme:** Aarogyasri (Rajiv Aarogyasri) was a flagship aid program, introduced in 2007, before the AP Re-organization. once split of state in 2014 into Telangana and state, Aarogyasri became the flagship aid theme of the Government of Telangana also and is run by Aarogyasri Health Care Trust. It is also serving the needs of tribals.
5. **108 Ambulance Services:** The 108 Ambulance Service launched in 2005 is still functioning in Telangana, to achieve public health goals of safe transportation in types of emergencies being implemented by the GVK-EMRI. It is also serving tribals.
6. **104 Seva Kendra:** The 104 Seva Kendra was launched in the year 2006-07 for the patients and beneficiaries to provide medical and health care centres also been continued in the state to the tribal population along with the general public.
7. **KCR KIT:** A spread of interventions has been taken by the Government of Telangana with targeted attention on the welfare of pregnant women. This includes payment of wage compensation to pregnant women within the variety of KCR Kit. Telangana government has set to atone for the wages gone

by pregnant ladies. The KCR Kit program serves 3 objectives viz., to eliminate excess cesarean surgeries; to reimburse the wage loss throughout physiological conditions, and to scale back further maternal mortality. And Mothers and kids can get the advantages till the baby turns a few months and the help of Rs. 12000/- is given to pregnant women. The primary instalment is Rs. 4000/- is given to pregnant women and the remaining amount at equal intervals at a rate of Rs. 4000/-. It is also serving tribals along with the general population.

8. **Amma Vodi (102 Services):** This is often a pick-up-and-drop-back service between home and public health facilities for pre-natal and post-post-natal care for pregnant women and infants within the State. This program was at first started in select areas under the '102 Referral Transport Service' with forty-one vehicles, that later extended to the total State. This service also extended to the tribals along with the general public.
9. **Maternal Health Initiatives:** Other major maternal health initiatives include ASHA Program, Village Health and Nutrition Days (VHNDs), Referral Transport Services for pregnant and young women, JSSK, Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matriva Abbiyan (PMSMA), Maternal Death Review (MDR), Dakshatha Program and different Infrastructure Development programs being enforced within the state for making certain improvements in the Maternal Health Care System for tribes along with the general population.
10. **Child Health Services:** The government of Telangana puts all efforts into saving the lives of infants and children, and 100% coverage has been achieved under Mission Indradanush. As a state initiative, Mission Indradanush was conducted in non-aspirational districts, and 92% of the children were immunized. A total of 28 Special Newborn Care Units (SNCUs) were functional of these 9 are to be made functional in 2019-20, and 8 SNCUs were accredited by NNF. There is real-time monitoring of SNCU, Nutrition Rehabilitation Centre (NRC), and KMC (Kangaroo Mother Care).
11. **Family Planning and Fruitful Health:** The overwhelming thrust on family planning throughout the past 20 years has contributed to outstanding action in reducing the TFR among the tribals along with the general population.

Other Supportive Schemes

Some of the economic supportive schemes that benefit individuals and communities as such by the state government are;

- i) Chief Minister ST Entrepreneurship and Innovation Scheme
- ii) Rural Transportation Plan
- iii) Driver Empowerment Program

- iv) MSME Plan
- v) Conservation Cum Development Program (CCDP) for PVTGs
- vi) GIRI Supper Bazars
- vii) Fuel Filling Stations

Objectives of the Study

1. To find out the demographic features of the Lambada, Koya and Nayakpod tribes in the agency and plain areas.
2. To make a comparative study on socio-economic and living conditions between Lambada, Koya and Nayakpod tribes of agency and plain area.
3. To make a comparative study on agriculture, education and health conditions between Lambada, Koya and Nayakpod tribes of agency and plain area.
4. To examine the impact of tribal development programs in agency and plain areas concerning Lambada, Koya and Nayakpod tribes.
5. To propose valid and viable suggestions for the betterment of these tribes,

Hypothesis

The study proposes the following hypothesis:

1. There is no significant difference between income and age group.
2. There is no significant relationship between education and utilizing development programs by tribes.
3. There is no significant difference in development among the tribal group (Lambada, Koya and Nayakpod) and Area of living (agency area).

Research Methodology

The database for the study comprises data collected from primary and secondary sources. The primary data were collected by administering a structured questionnaire. Applying random sampling 300 sample respondents were chosen from different Mandals of the erstwhile Warangal district of Telangana State viz., Eturunagaram, Govindaraopet, Tadvai and Mulug. The sample respondents have been selected with multi-phase sampling in three phases. In the first phase undivided Warangal district of the Northern Telangana Region. In the second phase, 3 Mandals viz. Eturunagaram, Tadvai and Mangapeta are selected from the same district. In the third phase, village selection took place based on the total households in sample villages; one household for every three has been selected for the study. A total of 6 villages are covered by the 3 Mandals. The sample villages are Dodla, Shankarajpalle and Kondai (Eturunagaram), Gangaram and Bayyakapeta (Tadvai), and Mallur (Mangapeta) are selected for the

study. Further, the sample villages are divided into Agency Area villages and Plain Area villages (see table 3). The sample size is not similar in all Mandals selected households for the study.

Sources of the Data

1. This study uses primary and secondary data.
2. Primary data is collected from the respondents of the sample villages of the sample district by administering a questionnaire. For first-hand information on various parameters chosen for the study personal interview with elders, officials and NGOs of the concerned villages have been conducted.
3. The secondary data included books, journals and periodical reports published Government of India and Telangana, records and reports of the ITDA, research workers and some internet websites etc.

Sample Design of the Study

The sample design for this study is multi-stage stratified random sampling. A multi-stage sampling procedure was adopted for selecting the district. In the first phase, the Warangal district is selected and in the second stage 4 Mandals have been selected from the sample district, in the third stage 6 villages are selected and in the final stage, households' selection has taken place. The details of the sample size have given in table 3.

Table 3: Profile and Sample size of the Study Area

Sl. No	Tribe	Name of the Mandal	Name of the village		Sample Size
			Agency Area	Plain Area	
1	Lambada	Eturunagaram		Dodla	50
		Tadvai	Gangaram		50
2	Koya	Eturunagaram	Kondai		50
		Tadvai		Bayyakkapeta	50
3	Nayakpod	Mangapet	Malluru		50
		Eturunagaram		Shankarajpalle	50
Total	3	3	3	3	300

Source: Data collected from ITDA Eturunagaram, Warangal District

Statistical Tools Used

The data collected through field investigation from sample villages were coded and then it was processed for simple frequency counts and cross-tabulations. Simple statistical techniques like percentages, averages and Chi-Square tests are applied to find out intra and inter-sample area-wise and tribe-wise comparisons.

Period of the Study

The field investigation and data collection for this study have been carried out to study the socio-economic development of the tribes in Telangana State with a particular focus on Lamada, Koya and Nayakapodu of the undivided Warangal district. The present study depends on the primary and secondary data. The study pertains to a point in time only. From initial field-level observation, selection of the sample Mandals and Villages, gathering of secondary information to support the methodology, finalization of the questionnaire to pre-testing the researcher i.e., I followed scientific methods. Then, started data collection in the year 2018. To strengthen the theoretical framework secondary sources of information were gathered from different sources. The data processing, tabulation, interpretation/analysis and finalization of the PhD thesis have been taken up in chronological order. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the work has been delayed. However, the study pertains to a point in time.

Limitations

1. Region-specific and tribe-specific features come in the way of the generalization of the findings of this study.
2. It is a micro-level study about the tribes in the Telangana State and so conclusions may not be of universal application.
3. General shyness of tribes in their responses and over-enthusiasm with high expectations may affect the data
4. Ability to recall while responding to some questions, like the cost of cultivation may be limited as the tribes are illiterate and innocent.

An effort is made in this research work to identify the different facets of the Tribals' economic, political and sociological aspects by taking 4 Mandals.

Findings

It is observed that the majority 62% of the sample respondents in the study area are in the age group between 26 and 45 years of age implying that the majority belong to an active and effective workforce. In the sample area, 71% of respondents are male and 29% are female. About 55% of the respondents are illiterates and the majority of the respondents 57% have more than three to four family members. Nuclear families are relatively more in the study area to an extent of 60%.

Labour work is the primary source of employment as more than 39% of the sample respondents depend on both agriculture and non-agricultural employment. Cultivation is the major single source of occupation for 39% of the respondents in the study area. Further, 63% of the respondent households are depending on agriculture either directly or indirectly. Nearly 18% of the sample respondents live in thatched houses/sheds which reveals the awful housing conditions of the respondents. It is also found that nearly 49% of the respondents were landless. The majority of the respondents

in the study area i.e., 50% depend on open wells/bore wells as a source for their farming. It is also found that on average 59% of the respondents possess livestock.

Facilities in the households like toilets, bathrooms, and drinking water were found to be discouraging. Safe drinking water is a problem for 33% of the households and electricity is available to 81% of the households. Firewood is noted as the source of cooking in the majority of households 39.5%. It is observed that about 94% of respondents belong to BPL families, of this 76% are highly poor in the study area. Though some of the respondent households possess domestic assets like T.V, bicycles, two-wheelers, fans, and furniture, and like the asset possession reveals inequalities in the study area, a considerable number of households are without any assets.

Regarding the income status of the respondents, more than 62% of the respondents' income ranges between Rs. 7501 and Rs. 10000 and above. Concerning the expenditure and savings status, 29% of respondents' households' monthly expenditure is between Rs.7, 501 and Rs.10, 000 and 29% of respondents' savings ranged between Rs.501 and Rs.1, 000. It is also found that 23% of respondents do not have savings due to insufficient income.

Referring to the indebtedness among the sample respondents, 63% of respondents are indebted to one or the other source. Purchase/hiring of agricultural inputs, payments of the old loan, health care and performing the ritual are the main purposes for borrowing. The main source of credit in the study area is SHGs (30%) and more than 26% from banks and it is a welcoming trend. While 44% of respondents borrowed from non-institutional sources 56% are from institutional agencies. The majority of the respondents 56% borrowings ranged from Rs.5, 000 to Rs.25, 000.

As to the health status, the majority have been affected by diseases like Malnutrition, Malaria, Skin diseases and Typhoid. It is pertinent to note that more than 8% of the affected persons adopt traditional methods of healing and almost all respondents are approaching PHCs and RMP for medical treatment of health problems.

The overall observation reveals that there are inter and intra-tribe variations in the socioeconomic and demographic profile of plain area and agency area tribes in the sample area of the Warangal district. The plain area respondents are somewhat ahead of agency area respondents in socio-economic aspects. Similarly, plain area respondents very much resemble the general population in many aspects. In the case of the Nayakpod community, they are averse to revealing their identity even in plain areas.

The plight of the Nayakpods of the plain area is quite pathetic. This might be mainly attributed to the fact that avenues opened up by tribal welfare programs are not being used by these tribes. It is unjust not to mention the impetus and catalyst role played by the Telangana government in implementing tribal welfare programs. However, it is also the responsibility of social media, print media and NGOs to create awareness among tribals regarding the availability of various welfare schemes.

The level of awareness of sample respondents is so low that 32% out of the total respondents (300) are aware of development programs. Among various agencies inculcating awareness, government officials are performing a relatively better role, closely followed by community leads.

Participation of respondents in the democratic network in the study area is highly discouraging. 74% of tribal respondents are not participating/representing in democratic channels. For those respondents participating in/on political platforms, their representation majorly (84%) was confined to village-level politics. Though some of the tribal respondents are in various democratic positions at the village level, their role in decision-making is mostly of medium level. Illiteracy, lack of awareness and passive attitude toward power politics may be some of the reasons for their moderate role in decision-making.

Further, the respondents in the study area are getting benefits from various central and state-sponsored development and welfare schemes. But their satisfaction level is highly moderate. The overall picture depicts that the tribals are mostly unaware of developmental programs and tribal organizations working for their welfare. They are weak in political participation and mostly excluded from the policy-making process.

Testing of Hypotheses

Chi-Square Test Analysis -Age on Income

Chi-Square Tests			
	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	96.82	4	.000
Likelihood Ratio	68.91	4	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	83.508	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	300		
Df=4, Chi-square (0.05) = 9.49			

DF=Degrees of freedom, Sig=Significance from two-tailed

Null hypothesis: There is no significant difference between income and age group. To test the null hypothesis Chi-Square test was performed. After testing the null hypothesis, it finds that the calculated chi-square value is greater than the table value of chi-square. Hence Null hypothesis is rejected and the Alternative hypothesis is accepted. There is a significant difference between income from agriculture and forest produce and age group. Hence younger the age group could be able to earn more income in the study areas of tribals.

Chi-Square Test Analysis Education and Utilization of Development Programs

Chi-Square Tests			
	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	3.79	12	.000
Likelihood Ratio	289.89	12	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	221.79	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	300		
Df=12, Chi-square (0.05) =21.0			

Null hypothesis: There is no significant relationship between education and utilizing development programs of tribes. To find out the null hypothesis Chi-square test was performed. The relationship between the level of education and utilizing development programs is strongly positive as is evident from the data in table-2, in the sensitivity level of education improves the knowledge to utilize development programs as per the opinion of the respondents. As the chi-square is significant at a 0.00 level, we reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis. It infers that the level of education can make use of development programs and schemes, which are meant for tribal development.

ANOVA Test Analysis Development and Area of Living

Source of Development	SS	Df	MS	F	P-Value	F crit
Between (Areas)	3900	1	3900	5.8851	.00	17.62
Between (Columns)	2982	2	1491	1.8232		18.00
Error	1402	2	701			
Total	8284	5				

Null Hypothesis: There is no significant difference in development among the tribal group (Lambada, Koya and Nayakpod) and Area of living (agency area). Table 1 reveals that the calculated p-value (.00) is less than the significant level (.05). Hence the null hypothesis is rejected, this implies that there is a significant difference in development among the different tribal groups (Lambada, Koya and Nayakpod) who are living in agency areas.

The overall observation reveals that there are inter and intra-tribe variations in the socioeconomic and demographic profile of plain and agency area respondents in

the study area of the unified Warangal district. The plain area respondents are somewhat ahead of their counterparts in the agency area in the socio-economic aspects and development perspectives. Lambada and Koya tribes in the plain area nearly resembled some of the demographic features of the general population, except for the literacy levels. But in economic aspects like income, expenditure and savings, these tribes' status is also very miserable. In the case of the Nayakpod community, they are averse to revealing their identity. The plight of the Nayakpods in the agency area is quite pathetic. This might be attributed mainly to the fact that avenues of tribal welfare programs usually are not enjoyed by this group because of their genetic characteristics, nature of migration from one place to the other and life-leading systems. The socio-economic standing of the Koya tribe is always next to Lambadas' in majority aspects in plain as well as agency areas.

Reasons for Disparities

In general, the Lambada tribe is mentally and physically superior in resource utilization compared to other tribes. They try to be ahead of other tribes economically and socially. Lambada tribes prefer to do agriculture and small businesses which led to them being better than other tribes compared in socioeconomic aspects. They quickly blend in with other groups. In this case, if they do not have any bit of agricultural land, they prefer to farm on leased land or improve their livestock to get a better livelihood. Further, they prefer to educate their children by utilizing the central and state government educational institutions than the other tribal groups for the betterment of their children.

While Koya and Nayakpod who are taken for the study are very passive towards change and thus unable to utilize the situations to improve their lives/ levels of living and this is particularly more among Nayakpods'. They are very distant from development. They place a high priority on rituals. They normally stay away from agriculture and depend on forest resources for their livelihood. They are mostly against going for credit and if they are indebted sell out assets to pay off the debts and thus always are poor. As a result, they may not be able to give their children a proper education and life.

Due to illiteracy and awareness, the Koyas' to some extent and Nayakpods particularly are not availing of the fruits of the development schemes of central and state governments. But in the case of Lambadas', they are well advanced to catch up with the developmental programs compared to Koya and Nayakpod tribes.

With regard the leadership, the Lambada tribes are better than other tribes because of the better education, awareness, and nature of mingling with the mainstream. However, Koyas' are picking up to reach nearer to Lambadas in many factors and more so in plain area and then in the agency area.

However, due to the implementation of recent development schemes and special attention towards these vulnerable groups, we can notice a definite change among

these tribal groups also. It can be hoped that the present and coming generations can come out of this vicious circle.

Suggestions

1. The major inference drawn from this study ultimately concludes that the Koya and Nayakpod tribes are socially and economically backwards. Hence, these tribes' who live in the interior areas need a much more intensive policy package for their fast socio-economic development.
2. As the agency tribes are struggling for their survival and some of them are even on the verge of extinction; there is an immediate need for the preparation of an "Action Plan for conservation and development of each tribal group. Keeping in view their socio-cultural conditions and special needs, the proposed action plan should have inbuilt flexibility to cater to the specific needs of each tribe and its environment besides ensuring the basic minimum services of food security/nutrition, drinking water supply, primary health care, primary education, housing, habitation environment etc.
3. Understanding the sociocultural and behavioural aspects of plain and agency tribes is vital for reducing inter-tribe variations in socio-economic status. But this requires continuous dedicated fieldwork, guidance, adoption of a bottom-up strategy with total transparency, genuine tribal empowerment and tribal participatory management in framing policies for tribal development.
4. The study also reveals that the tribes from the study areas are still being deprived of their land resources. Hence, the government should develop adequate provision of safeguards for land resources. There is no dearth of Forest land protection laws in the country, but, actual implementation at the grassroots is the core issue.
5. Literacy is one of the social indicators of development. There is a high correlation between literacy and development. Implementation of effective literacy programs and general awareness programs must be conducted at the local body level to reduce the dropout rates from school, among the children of tribes.
6. The Koya and Nayakpod tribal literacy levels are very poor among the tribes hail from the Warangal district. This is because they are highly isolated from the mainstream of life and they don't know the importance of education. Hence, special training should be given to school teachers for handling the tribal students with special care and affection. Moreover, only those teachers who hail from the STs should be posted to the schools located in the agency areas as these teachers know the depriving conditions of these communities and they can easily communicate with them and act accordingly.

7. The willingness and active cooperation of the tribals in the state are needed for making the plans effective. But they are usually illiterate and conservative and take a traditional view of things and are not prepared to adopt new ways. Awareness programs must be conducted to make the tribes involve themselves in the framing of policies and during the implementation process.
8. Tribals are susceptible to health problems since medical and healthcare facilities in the study area are found to be insufficient, as a result, a greater number of PHCs should be opened at the site of the tribal villages of the districts, particularly in remote agency areas. The Indigenous healthcare system should also develop simultaneously. Awareness needs to be created among the tribes regarding the adverse effects of excessive intake of alcohol and the use of tobacco/drugs by Health Workers.
9. Employment and income generation opportunities should be ensured either through wage or self-employment for a minimum period of 300 days a year to raise their economic status and thus liberated them from the shocks of poverty and indebtedness. Efforts should also be made to extend micro-credit for self-employment ventures and consumption credit when no work opportunities are available. For this, it is better to extend MNREGA works in tribal population-dominated areas and link them to tribal agriculture.
10. Lack of suitable roads, proper transport and communication facilities also delays the implementation of different schemes. Hence, providing these infrastructural facilities to the areas where these poor tribes live must be considered seriously by the development schemes introduced by the Government.
11. Awareness regarding the developmental programs to be created among the tribal dwellers to reach vision-oriented development. For this special awareness, camps should be conducted.
12. The tribal inhabitants should be connected by road with Mandal headquarters so that tribes can easily access government services.
13. Three -Phase electricity should be provided to every tribal village in view of the increased usage of pump sets. This leads to extensive cultivation in the tribal areas.
14. Tribal farmers are to be exposed to utilizing modern seeds, tools, equipment and technology to increase agricultural production.
15. The land titles should be given to the stakeholders so that tribals will be entitled to access the bank loans for agriculture and other related activities.
16. There is a dire need for the establishment of separate tribal hostels and schools under the ITDA, Eturnagaram. The existing Ashram schools required regular teachers.

17. Since most of the tribals dwell in huts and thatched houses owing to a lack of sufficient income and awareness, thus, Government has to provide constructed houses to the tribals instead of providing subsidies on housing.
18. Awareness of age at marriage is to be created to avoid early marriages among the tribes.
19. Skill development and vocational training programs should be started for the tribal youth for their economic empowerment.
20. Small-scale industries are to be established to produce a variety and unique products by using Minor Forest Produces (MFP) collected by the tribes.
21. Area Hospital with full- a ledged Maternity Department to be established at Eturnagaram for extensive healthcare delivery.
22. Cell/Mobile Phone network to be augmented by establishing Cell Towers in ITDA jurisdictions, thus, they can interact with the personnel who are working in various tribal welfare and development-related departments at times of need.
23. Participation of the tribal stakeholders should be encouraged concerning welfare and developmental programs and schemes.
24. Universities of Telangana State should maintain a rapport with tribals and ITDA by designing outreach programs to provide mainstream exposure and knowledge. Early completion of Tribal University with all facilities and faculty at Mulugu is urgently warranted.
25. Some of the tribals, especially Nayakpods' are doing *podu cultivation* and in recent times, we have witnessed several disturbing incidents between tribals and forest officials in Telangana. To avert this unhealthy situation, the government lands are to be allocated and whoever already doing *podu* in government lands is to be handed over permanent land titles.
26. Poverty and unemployment are two major problems confronted by tribals. For this, viable employment and thus income-generating programs should be innovated and implemented as soon as possible.
27. Displacement and alienation from forest resources is the basic problem of tribals elsewhere in the country. Comprehensive tribal and eco-friendly policies are needed as existing Laws and Policies are full of loopholes.
28. Under the PESA act, the tribal gram panchayats are more powerful. But mostly it is on paper, in practice, there is no voice for the tribals in Gram Sabhas. Whatever powers the act assigned are also grossly being violated by the concerned responsible persons.

The observation from the study ultimately concludes that inter-tribe and intra-tribe variations are prevalent in the socio-economic status of plain and agency tribes in the study area. The findings also suggest that despite Government initiatives and

developmental programs/schemes the existing socio-economic conditions of the tribes are very low compared to the mainstream population. It is believed that the above said findings and suggestions can guide the tribal policies of the central and state governments and thus reduce the inter-tribe and intra-tribe variations in the socio-economic status of Palin and Agency tribes and also improve the overall conditions of tribal people at par with the non-tribal population.

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