

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF RESEARCH IN COMMERCE, IT & MANAGEMENT

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STATUS OF SCHEDULE TRIBES IN TELANGANA REGION

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ABSTRACT

Schedule Tribes (ST's) are Indian population groups that are explicitly recognized by the constitution of India order 1950. The order lists 744 tribes across 29 states in its first schedule. In telangana 33 types of Schedule Tribes are living in 6 districts. ST's are 4.1% are in total population of Telangana. They have rich heritage along with their innocent life style. As they are living in hill areas and forests they have some peculiar characters like indications of primitive traits, distinctive culture, and shyness of contact with other communities, geographical isolation, backwardness etc. So, for their development central and state governments are implementing different programmes and schemes since 1951. After the Ministry of Tribal affairs were constituted in 1999, there is more focus on development of Schedule Tribes in Indian society especially in Telangana. The persisting problems like low literacy and high drop-outs, inadequate health services, lack of nutrition food, extreme poverty, and ineffective implementation of schemes etc are putting them away from economic development. Hence, there should be more commitment by both central and state government and local bodies to develop Schedule Tribes in the society. As literacy is 37% NGO's and other voluntary organizations have to play key role to bring awareness among schedule tribes regarding programs and scheme for their development. Awareness and participation of Schedule Tribes in the implementation of policies leads to prosperity of ST community in the state as well as country.

KEYWORDS

schedule tribes, primitive traits, economic development.

INTRODUCTION

The Constitution of India does not define Scheduled Tribes as such, Article 366(25) refers to scheduled tribes as those communities who are scheduled in accordance with Article 342 of the Constitution. According to Article 342 of the Constitution, the Scheduled Tribes are the tribes or tribal communities or part of or groups within these tribes and tribal communities which have been declared as such by the President through a public notification. The Constitution of India incorporates several special provisions for the promotion of educational and economic interest of Scheduled Tribes and their protection from social injustice and all forms of exploitation. These objectives are sought to be achieved through a strategy known as the Tribal Sub-Plan strategy, which was adopted at the beginning of the Fifth Five Year Plan. The strategy seeks to ensure adequate flow of funds for tribal development from the State Plan allocations, schemes/programmes of Central Ministries/Departments, financial and Developmental Institutions. Schedule Tribes (ST's) are Indian population groups that are explicitly recognized by the constitution of India order 1950. The order lists 744 tribes across 29 states in its first schedule. In Telangana 33 types of Schedule Tribes are living in 6 districts and total population in telangana region is 36.22 lakhs. ST's are 4.1% are in total population of Telangana.

HISTORICAL FACTS

From the 1850 ST community is referred to as the depressed class. During British period the Minto-Marley report, Montagu-Chelmsford reforms report, Simon Commission etc. proposed the issue of reservation of seats for depressed class (SC & ST's) in provincial and central legislations. In 1935 British passed the government of India Act 1935 in which reservation of seats for depressed class was incorporated in to the act. After independence the constitution assembly continued the prevailing definition of Schedule Tribes and gave the president of India and governance of states responsibility to compile a full listing of tribes and also the power to edit it later as required. The actual complete listing of tribes was made with the Constitution (Schedule Tribes) Order 1950. Article 366(25) of the constitution of India refer the Schedule Tribes as those communities, who are scheduled in accordance with Article 342 of the constitution. The essential characteristics of Schedule Tribes are identified by the Locur committee. Indications of primitive tribes, distinctive culture, shyness of contact with the community at large, geographical isolation and backwardness are most identified features of ST's community. There is 7.5 % percent reservation facility for employment opportunities and they are experiencing political reservations also at present based on their population.

TRIBES IN TELANGANA

As per 2011 in India the population of tribes is 8.2%. In Telangana 6.6% tribes populations exists. In the telangana region Tribes are of two groups. One group is at presently across the hilly tract of the Deccan Plateau and by the rivers Godavari and Krishna. The second group is present along the extended areas between the forest and hilly stations of Godavari river. According to ST order Act 1976 there are 33 types of Tribes in 6 districts i.e Khammam, Adilabad, Warangal, Nalgonda, Mahabubnagar, Hyderabad and other 50 lakh nomads are surviving. The prominent tribes are Khonds, Kholamis, Nayakpods, Koyas, Kondadoras, Valmikis, Bhagats, savaras, Jatayus, Godabas, Yanadis and Chenchus. 76% of Tribes are covered by Sugali (4.4%), Koya (11.3%), Yanadi (9.2%), Yerukula (8.7%), gonda (5%) and remaining 24% of population belongs to small tribes. Nomadic tribal are pichukaguntulu, Balasanta, Saradakandru, Veeramustivar, Bhavaneelu, Birannalavar, Golla Suddulu, Pasaralu, Gangamulu, Kommuvaru etc. are other tribes surviving in Telangana. They don't have scripts for their language. They follow their customs and traditions strictly. 92.5% population is living in rural areas. Their livelihood based on the occupations like making of toys, baskets, mates, cosmetics and collection of leaves, honey etc. The life style of tribes has been changing gradually after initiation by the government contribution. Reservation in education, employment and in legislative assemblies and local bodies are changing the life style of the tribal's.

CONSTITUTIONAL SAFE GUARDS

The constitution of India mentioned development of schedule tribe in Directive principles. The Constitution (Schedule Tribes) Order 1950 identified schedule tribes' population based some peculiar characteristics. Those communities are in accordance with Article 342 of the constitution. Some other safe guards are there in the constitution of India. Article 23 and 24 mentioned social safe guards. Articles 244 and 275(1) referred special Economic safe guards. Education and cultural safeguards are referred by Articles 15(4), 29(1) and 350(a). Political safe guards are mentioned in accordance with 164 (1), 330, 332, 334, 243(D), 371(A), 371 B, 371 C, 371 F etc. Service safe guards are mentioned by articles 16(4), 16(4A), 16 (4B), 335, 320(4) etc. Article 335 puts limitations for reservations, Article 338 emphasis appointment of Special officer whenever necessary regarding Tribe matters. Article 339(1) refers establishment of commission on Tribal issues by President of India. But it is the responsibility of state to look after the benefits which are available from these articles.

EDUCATIONAL STATUS

In Telangana literacy rate is 60.4%. But, the literacy of schedule Tribe is 37.04. Before 30 years illiteracy rate was 63%. In rural areas the illiteracy rate of ST's is 70%. For the improvement of literacy the Telangana Government has started Hostels for boys and girls. Residential schools, vocational training centers etc. National Policy of Education (1986 and revised Policy in 1992) suggested the following programmes for education of tribal people.

- 1) Opening primary schools in Tribal Areas
- 2) Need to develop curricula of their language
- 3) Promoting schedule tribes youth to work as teachers
- 4) Ashram schools, Residential schools should be established in large scale in Tribal areas.
- 5) Incentives to encourage their life style through education.

PROBLEMS

To promote education in schedule tribes two types of problems are there. Internal problems like school system, content, curricula, medium, pedagogy, academic supervision etc., and external problems like education policy, planning, implementation and administration etc are influencing education in tribal areas.

ECONOMIC STATUS

In telangana state, agriculture labor of ST's is 10.3%. In the telangana state 115.31 lakh land holdings are there. Among them ST's have only 7.5% of holdings. In total land of Telangana ST's have only 8.2% of land. So there is need for distribute of land for tribes. In total employees, STs are representing 4.9%. As literacy rate is 37% the work participation rate (WPR) is 53.9. Male work participation is 55.7% and female work participation is 52%. A report in 2000 said that 45% of Rural ST population is below poverty line and in urban areas 35.6% is under below poverty line. According to National Sample Survey Organization 61st round estimates, in India Monthly per capita expenditure of Tribes is Rs.426.19. In Telangana monthly per capita expenditure is Rs.420.01. Less population is able to use schemes of government for their opportunities. Majority population survival is used on their Traditional occupations like making of toys, baskets, mats, cosmetics and collection of leaves, honey, shifting, agriculture etc.

The main obstacles to Economic Development of Schedule Tribes are destruction of forests, illiteracy, indebtedness lack of awareness about the schemes for them, strict follow of traditions and customs, in effective implementation of schemes etc. Though there is an improvement of conditions of Schedule Tribes, it is not at desired level. So, much more measures to be taken by the governments.

SOCIAL AND POLITICAL STATUS

The article 338A relates the population ST's. Before and After Independence ST's as vulnerable section were given reservation to enter into parliament and legislative assemblies, but this facility is not applicable to Rajya Sabha at present. After 2002 separate National commission for schedule Tribes was started and priority is to effect from 19th February 2004 due to 89th amendment. Priority will be given to protect their culture and traditions and customs by the constitutions. To protect their rights and to avoid suppression from other communities' Prevention of Atrocities Act was formed in 1989. The ministry of tribal affairs was constituted in October 1999 with the objective of development of Schedule Tribes in a coordinated and planned manner. This is also significant step to lift the tribal communities. In Telangana region 7MLA's belongs to ST communities. The implantation of political reservations should be reviewed and revision as per their population. The health policy 1983 emphasis improving tribal health especially through detection and treatment of endemic and other diseases specific to tribes.

SCHEMES FOR THE PROSPERITY OF THE SCHEDULE TRIBES

For the development of Schedule Tribes Special Central Assistance grant has been released under 275(11) article of Indian constitution. Investment share, price support, village train Bank scheme etc. are introduced. Besides this National Schedule Tribe Financial and Development Corporation was established with 500 crore authorized capital. Integrated area development and modified area development were introduced.

The following are important land marks in Tribal development:

1. Programmes were designed with as special fusion ST's (1951)
2. Adoption of Panchsheel principles for process of Tribal development (1956)
3. Opinions of multi-purpose Tribal development blocks for intensified development of ST's 1961
4. Introduction to strategies of TSP and SCA for Tribal development (1974)
5. Expansion of infrastructure facilities for poverty alleviation in 1985.
6. Setting up of Tribal cooperative marketing development federation 1987 and finance Development Corporation in 1989.
7. 73 and 74 amendments and Panchayath extension to scheduled areas Act.
8. Sections up on separate ministry of Tribals 1999 and National Schedule Tribes finance and Development Corporation 2001.

The following are recent measures taken by the governments:

1. Recognition of forest Act 2006 will be administered by the Ministry of Tribal affair to protect interest of the Tribal's in forests.
2. The scheme of vocational Training Centers has been revised as vocational training in Tribal areas with effect from 01-04-09.
3. During 2012-13 the ministry has founded 14 education complexes under the scheme of strengthening education among schedule tribe girls in low literacy districts.
4. Under the scheme of grant – in- aid to voluntary organization during 2011-12. The ministry funded about 237 projects covering schools, hostels, libraries etc.
5. Under the scheme of development of particularly vulnerable Tribal groups, the ministry re-leased Rs.40.43 crore for 6 states.
6. Under the scheme of Market development of Tribal products/produce ministry released Rs.9.68 crores. But states have to take responsibility to give fruits of the schemes.

MEASURE TO BE TAKEN FOR PROSPERITY OF SCHEDULE TRIBES

Many programmes helped tribal to improve their conditions. The following are important for further improvement.

1. Strict implementation of reservation of seats in public sector employment
2. Proper looking into reservation of seats in institutions of higher learnings.
3. Formulation of proper welfare schemes for prosperity of Tribals based on fact data.
4. In private sector also these should be reservations for schedule tribes.
5. The present 7.5% of reservation for government services should be increased whenever necessary.
6. Destroy of their habitations should be reduced because, major projects, SEZs and other pro-jects are causing for migration of ST's
7. Their habilitation (Thandas) should be converted into gram panchayaths.
8. Development of forest villages is needed for Tribal prosperity
9. Empowering Tribals in governance is the most needed one.
10. During every plan review and revision is must to alter policies.
11. Stopping of corruption and ineffective work progress in the implementation of schemes be-longing to schedule Tribes.

CONCLUSION

The directive principles of Indian constitution referred the development of Schedule Tribes in the society. Though policies are vast implementation is not proper so both state and central govt have to take proper steps. Since 1951 governments are implementing number of programmes and schemes for the development of Schedule Tribes. But the implementation is not effective. Besides this, lack of awareness about the programmes is also strong factor due to illiteracy among

tribes. Therefore, there is need for extension of contribution from government side and other voluntary organizations and likeminded NGOs for effective implementation of programmes and bringing awareness among Tribes. Then only the future of the Schedule Tribes will be in good prosperity.

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