



Impact and Effect of Development Scheme Among Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups in Andhra Pradesh: An Anthropological Evaluation Research Study

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Abstract: Tribes in India constitutes the second largest population, next to Africa. The state of Andhra Pradesh consists of 34 tribes with the population of 27,39,919(5.53%) as per the 2011 census. Tribal population in Andhra Pradesh state is distributed in almost all the districts, but large chunk of tribal population is concentrated in Eastern Ghats forest environment. The scheduled tribes are considered as one of the excluded communities or social groups, experiencing the severity of social exclusion due to geographical isolation, segregation and sparsely distributed, added with deprivation, marginalization and impoverishment. The scheduled tribal population stand at the bottom most position of human development index. Among the total 635 tribes of India 75 tribes has been classified as particularly vulnerable tribal groups based on the

criteria of pre- agricultural stage of economy, low literacy, stagnant or diminishing population and living in most economic backward condition. These tribes are unable to participate fully in the ongoing development process, and not access and availing the development schemes because of illiteracy, innocence and ignorance. Many PVTGs habitats are not having proper infrastructural facilities. After India's

Received : 28 April 2025

Revised : 27 May 2025

Accepted : 10 June 2025

Published : 30 June 2025

TO CITE THIS ARTICLE:

V. Subramanyam, D. Ramesh & S. Narayana Rao 2025. Impact and Effect of Development Scheme among Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups in Andhra Pradesh: An Anthropological Evaluation Research Study. *Skylines of Anthropology*, 5: 1, pp. 87-108.

independence, Indian Government focus much attention towards tribal development (including PVTGs) by allocating certain amount in each five year plan periods but the development among them stand still. This research paper content provides the details about the impact and effect of development sachers among PVTGs in Andhra Pradesh state based on the empirical anthropological study. It explains anthropological perspective of tribal development in India, population of PVTGs in Andhra Pradesh, who are Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups, development situation among PVTGs in India and state of Andhra Pradesh, impact and effect of development scheme among PVTGs in A.P state livelihood activities and new strategies for PVTGs development. The paper reveals that is the impact and effect development scheme among PVTGs , how to develop them in future with effective development policies and programmes considering both *etic* and *emic* perspectives.

Keywords: Development, Anthropology, Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups, Tribal Sub-Plan Areas, Integrated Tribal Development Agencies.

Introduction

Tribes in India constitutes the second largest population, next to Africa. As per the 2011 census , India represents 635 tribes with total tribal population of 10,42,8134 which constitute 8.6% to total population of the country. The aboriginal people in India are found to live in almost all states except Hararyana and Punjab. Large chunk of tribal population in India is concentrated in high altitude forest zones of Eastern Ghats, Western Ghats, North Eastern, Central and Himalayan Mountains. The newly carved Andhra Pradesh state consists of 34 tribes with the population of 27,39,919 (5.53%) as per the 2011 census. Tribal population in Andhra Pradesh state is distributed in all the erstwhile thirteen districts with varied in number. Large majority of the tribal population in A.P state is concentrated in the tribal sub-plan areas of Srikakulam (Seethampeta) Vizianagaram (Parvathipuram Manyam), Visakhapatnam (AlluriSeetha RamaRaju) East Godavari (Rampachodavaram agency) west Godavari (Kota Ramachandrapuram agency) Prakasam, Kurnool, Guntur, (Nallamalai forest area of Srisailam ITDA) and Nellore district. In A.P state most of the tribal habitats are found mainly in the forested zone of Eastern Ghats. Eastern ghats is considered as abode for tribal population. Generally the scheduled

tribes are referred as **Adivasis** (aboriginals) and **Vanavasis** (forest dwellers). They are also referred as auto-chthonous and indigenous people. They have established symbiotic relationship with forests since age immemorial. Forests and tribals are inseparable. They relatively live in isolation of hills and forests. They are experiencing with the problem of geographical isolation due to habitation disadvantage. Scheduled tribes in India are considered as one of the socially excluded communities living in most economic backward condition and its population stand at the bottom most position of human development index. Among the total tribes of India, 75 tribes have been classified as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups by Government of India considering the criteria of geographical isolation, very low literacy rate, stagnant or diminishing population, living in most economic backwardness. These groups are experiencing with vulnerability, economic deprivation and severity of social exclusion. Due to this literally they are unable to participate fully in the ongoing development process of nation and states and severally affected with the problems of impoverishment, deprivation, and marginalization. In order to evade them from the **clux** of these problems the government of India, has initiated separate scheme of development for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups.

Since India's Independence in every five year plan period certain amount has been specifically allocated for the development of tribal communities including PVTGs. Many earlier Anthropological research studies as well as the evaluation studies pointed out that the development among various tribes, living indifferent tribal pockets of India stand still and not reached to expected levels and stages of development in different spheres of their life. Many tribal habitats still lacking certain minimum infrastructural facilities like roads, electricity, protected drinking water, proper housing, sanitation health, education and market. In tribal development perspective the introduction of tribal sub-plan with integrated tribal development agency strategy during fifth five year plan period is considered as a land mark in the history of tribal development in India. This strategy is still continuing, and in addition to it since Xth five year plan period onwards Government of India has drifted its focus much on inclusive growth and development among the marginalized, deprived and socially excluded social groups and communities including the tribal communities.

Anthropological Perspective of Tribal Development in India

Development Anthropology is one of the sub-fields of Social and Cultural Anthropology. The development issue of the tribal, communities in India is to be

seen in Anthropological holistic, *etic* and *emic* perspectives and need to address in multidimensional perspective too. Tribes of India in general and tribes in A.P specific is considered as under developed communities living in most economic backward condition, and encountering with the problems of poverty, illiteracy, indebtedness, marginalization, and deprivation. In general, under development treated as social exclusion I both administrative and academic perspectives. Under development in a broader sense is a synonym for the process that constitute social exclusion. The socially excluded tribal communities are those who have been actively under developed. Contemporary debates and discussion about social exclusion began in the domain of political discourse (Administrative) during 19890's and only then entered the discourses of academic . social science, including Anthropology. The pioneer anthropologists debated the issue of social exclusion in tribal development perspective and still continuing this debate how to bring them in mainstream under the *clux* of exclusion due to geographical isolation and segregation (Subramanyam V 2020).

The concept main stream came in to Indian anthropology visibly in the post-independence era specifically in relation to the integration of tribes. The term used was also national culture which was meant to denote. The industrialized, democratic, secular and universalistic post-colonial culture, self consciously adopted by our national leaders. However, the concept 'Mainstream' which developed as a synonym to the national culture which was ideally meant to be universalistic and non-specific raised questions casting doubt on its very assertion of universalism. The modern mass media educational and transportation communication are currently playing a vital role in bringing to isolated communities (including tribes) into the mainstream and facilitating such communities to participate in the ongoing development process Nation and State. The PVTGs are not access to such facilities, even if it is available they are unable to avail it due to impoverishment, illiteracy and ignorance.

The earlier anthropological literature on tribal development clearly indicates that for the purpose of administration and development of tribes several policies were laid down. The first was the policy of isolation. It was implemented for the first time before the 1935 reforms, proposed by J.H.Hutton (1969), when the government had declare four tracts as excluded areas. This policy of isolation received vehement criticism. Elwin believed that the tribals should be kept outside some time from debating and impoverishment contact. In his words " the aboriginal

can not remain as he is but it is necessary for him to pass through degradation before he emerged as civilized man in future (Elwin 1960). This policy was criticized by many Anthropologists and expressed their views that how long we can keep the aboriginal people in dark and isolation condition when the world is marching towards globalization, modernization and scientific advancement.

Later came the policy of assimilation, proposed by the social worker A.V.Thakkar (1940) and sociologist G.S. Ghurye (1942), they believed that tribals should not kept in isolation, rather they should be assimilated with the mainstream society, had it became successful, it would have again become fatal for the tribals because then the mainstream meant to Hindu mainstream. Further, the tribals would have lost their culture, tradition, beliefs and values. Finally came the policy of integration proposed by Jawaharlal Nehru. It is known as tribal '*pancha sheel*' where Nehru gave five principles (*panch sheel*). They are 1) people should be allowed to develop on the lines of their own genius and nothing should be imposed on them 2) tribal rights on land and forest should be respected 3) induction of too many outsiders into the tribal areas should be avoided 4) there should be no over administration of tribal areas and work should be done through their own institution as far as possible and 5) the results should be judged not by the amount of money spent but quality of human character that is involved. The above principles implied three goals a) culture specific and need based development programmes for the tribals b) participation of people in both planning implementation and c) empowerment leading to the formation of self -identity and self- esteem.

Accepting the view of Nehru and his vision towards tribal development on the line of policy of integration, several planned development programmes were implemented for the development of tribals. Different five year plans provided different programmes which were implemented through different agencies. In the third five year plan period (1961-66) small multi purpose tribal blocks were created, later on renamed tribal development blocks. There are 504 such blocks operating in the country (including Andhra Pradesh) today. Further in the five year plan period during 1969-74, Area Development Approach was followed, which later on became Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDAs) since 1975 (fifth five year plan period) a number of ITDAs were established in to tribal pockets of India under tribal sub-plan strategy and it is considered as a land mark in the history of tribal development in India. The fifth five year plan period saw a major boost for the upliftment of tribals and sub-plan approach, which has possessed the following

components; 1) Integrated Tribal Development projects to be opened up in tribal concentrated districts 2) Modified Area Development Approach (MADA) to be implemented in less concentrated districts and 3) Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) now termed as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) were classified and categorized with a view to implement special need based programmes. In the seventh five year plan period another programme called cluster approach was implemented in twenty one states and two union territories where 194 ITDAs, 259 MADAs 75 PVTGs and 82 clusters are under operation (Ministry of Tribal Affairs 2003). The Integrated Tribal Development Approach under Tribal sub-plan strategy is continuing currently in all the scheduled areas of our country for the benefit of tribal people. Apart from this, since tenth five year plan period onwards the government of India is focusing its attention towards the inclusive growth and development of marginalized and excluded communities (including tribes of A.P) across the country. It is possible in the case of tribes in A.P and other states only when these communities very well integrated into the mainstream of the society without losing its cultural identity. The process of acculturation ((culture contact with the castes) definitely pave way for the integration of aboriginal people in the mainstream of society (Subramnyam V 2020).

Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups in Andhra Pradesh

It has been already mentioned that out of the total tribes of India, 75 tribes were classified as particularly vulnerable tribal groups. In Adhra Pradesh state ten tribes namely Bodo Gadaba, Gutob Gadaba, Dongri Kondh, Kutia Kondh, Bondo Porja, Kondh Porja, Parangi Porja Savra, Chenchu and Konda Reddy are clasified and given the status of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups. It is very interesting to note tat only six principal tribes namely, Chenchu, Gadaba, Kondh, Konda Reddy, Porja and Savara are listed in the scheduled tribes list of 34 tribes in A.P state. The PVTGs population in A.P State as per 2001 census is 452186(17.19%) , out of which 222390 are males and 229796 are females, the female population is slightly higher than that of male population. The population data pertaining to PVTGs in A.P state clearly indicates that the Chenchu, Konda Reddy, Kondh and Savara tribes population is distributed in all the former 13 districts with varied in number, whereas Gadaba tribe population is found in 12 districts except Ananthapur, the Porja tribe population is found in 9 districts except Prakasam, Nellore, Kurnool and Ananthapur. Large chunk of PVTGs population in A.P state is concentrated in

tribal sub-plan areas of Visakhapatnam (AlluriSeetha RamaRaju) Vizianagaram (Parvathipuram Manyam), Srikakulam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Prakasam, Kurnool and Guntur districts. Among the five tribal sub-plan areas, the tribal sub-plan area of visakhapatnam (AlluriSeethaRamaRaju) district represents highest number of PVTGs population followed by Srikakulam, Prakasam, East Godavari, Vizianagaram, Guntur, and West Godavari districts respectively. In general, the PVTGs habitats in A.P State are found in the interior, remote forest areas of Eastern Ghats forest environment, still largely depending on its physical environment and eking out their livelihood. Most of their habitats are located inaccessible areas, experiencing with geographical isolation and segregation., their settlements are small and scattered homesteads. The age old cultural practices of customs and traditions still persists among these tribes. The feature of egalitarianism still persists among these tribes in some extent it is so much in practice among the Chenchus of Nallamalai forests who are subsisting largely on foraging activity. The PVTGs people are not much exposed to outside even in the globalization era basically due to geographical exclusion, added with economic deprivation and marginalization. Very slow population growth rate is also noted among these tribes due to high incidence of malnutrition, morbidity and mortality rates. Declining population trend is also noted in Kondh, Porja and Chenchu tribes.

Who are the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)?

Initially the PVTGs otherwise known or called as primitive tribal groups. Recently government of India renamed it as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups and defined that the tribal communities that show either a declining or stagnant population, use of pre-agrarian technology, economic backwardness and low literacy levels. They used to live predominantly in some of the remotest and most inaccessible areas of mountains, forests, deserts, valleys and islands in the country. The government of India has identified and recognized 75 such tribal communities which are spread 18 states and union territories. A book titled “ The Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups in India: Privileges and Predicaments, published by the Anthropological survey of India Kolkata in the year 2016, which was edited by K.K.Misra and others clearly indicates that highest number of PVTGs are found in Odisha (15), followed by combined state of Andhra Pradesh (12), Bihar and Jharkhad (9), Madhya Pradesh and Chattisgarh (7) Tamil Nadu (6), Kerala and Gurjarat (5 each). the authors of the book said that I the rest of the states PVTGs are scattered in Maharastra and West

Bengal (3 each) Karnataka and Utrakhand (2each) and one each in Rajasthan, Triura and Manipur. All the four tribal groups in Andaman and one in Nicobar island are recognized as PVTGs. In general, most of these groups were small in number and so far not attained any significant level of social and economic progress, stand in the under developed category as well as stand at the bottom most position of human development index. These groups usually inhabits in the remote localities with poor infrastructure and lack of proper administrative support. Thus, the PVTGs are becoming the most vulnerable sections among the scheduled tribes which needs special attention by the Indian government at national level, as well as at each and every state level where PVTGs population found and concentrated. For the upliftment of PVTGs a special package and scheme was introduced by the government of India under the label of Pradhan Mantri Jana Jati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) in the year 2023 with a view to provide basic infrastructural facilities like roads, power, homes, mobile connectivity etc, to the most backward among the scheduled tribes, the PVTGs habitats. The finance minister has announced that a PM-PVTG development mission would be launched, for which the government was planning a Rs 15,000 crore expenditure to be spent over a period of three years. The concerned officials said that the package has seen a massive contribution from the office of the president of India (now) who took a special interest in overseeing the plans.

Development situation among PVTGs in India: Some Observations of Earlier Research Studies

It is a well known fact that the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups still experiencing the severity of exclusion due to geographical isolation, segregation and spatial distribution added with ecologically linked resources constraints. There are several factors for the under development among this category of aboriginal people all over India and in specific to study area of Andhra Pradesh. Geographical exclusion is the major constraint or hindrance for under development or slow progress among PVTGs people. They are unable to participate fully in the ongoing development process of nation or state due to the problem of exclusion. Moreover, they are not access, unavailing and under utilize various welfare and development programmes because of illiteracy, ignorance and innocence.

World Bank has observed that “exclusion among Indian PVTGs is more structural in nature that have kept entire groups trapped unable to take advantage

of opportunities that economic growth offers. Social and culturally rooted systems continue inequality and rather than a culture of poverty that afflicts the disadvantaged groups like tribes. It is in fact, these inequality traps that prevent these groups from breaking out". Various governments have implemented many schemes like housing, land distribution, land development, agricultural development, animal husbandry, construction of link roads, installation of non- conventional sources of energy for lighting purpose, including social security for the comprehensive socioeconomic development of PVTGs in the country. Strong thrust has been given to social security programmes for aiding the homeless PVTGs. Assistance and encouragement to voluntary agencies and training of functionaries, forms parts of the emphasis on accelerated PVTG tribal development programmes. However, situation is not improved yet in the northern part of the country (Sainath 2010).

It is found that integrated areas development plan has focused on solving specific problems of the PVTGs. Priority is also given to PVTGs under Special Central Assistance (SCA) and Tribal Sub-Scheme (TSS). Government has also implemented various programmes like habitat development approach crossing social and economic life for visible impact in improvement of the quality of life of PVTGs. Funds also allocated to state governments based on proposal in annual Conservation Cum-Development (CCD) plan funds approach by the experts committee. However, we found that the socioeconomic situation is still pathetic in various survey reports and they are still socially excluded when compared to other tribes (Thakur and Sharma 2012).

In dealing with the poor educational attainment of PVTG children, researchers have emphasized the economic marginalization of these communities, their literacy, home environments and inadequate facilities affecting their education and the culturally alien nature of the school system. Very poor education status and low literacy level are largely responsible for the exploitation and pitiable plight of the PVTGs. Due to this, the PVTGs are having many health problems at present. Experts opined that the established tribal health seeking behavior should not be underestimated citing them as illiterate or superstitious. Even today, major sections of the PVTGs are not ready to accept modern health care system because of their cultural background (Nayak, 2014). It is assumed that health behavior depends on health culture, geographical area and eco- system. Medical Anthropologists opined that modern health programmes failed to respect tribes inherited culture, emotions and spiritual meanings associated with health and disease. Moreover, it is found that

health seeking behavior of the tribes varies according to the type of illness, causation of illness, gender and age of the persons affected by a disease and illness. Hence, health interventions must be culture specific. Kurane (2008) has some work on PVTGs and has noted, rapid change in the life and culture of mankind as, a PVTGs community in Orissa. He mentioned that mankind are adapting to a sedentary life style. In a techno economic changing scenario, they are in an oscillation from hunter – gatherers to wage labourer. Now they have restored cultural contacts with other communities, such with tribal communities like Kolhas, Bathudies in the state and with other caste communities and gradual changes can seen among them. Similar kind of situation observed among the Chenchus of Nallamalai forests in Andhra Pradesh by the researcher of the present study.

The problem of impoverishment among PVTGs has long been both an economic and social problem. According to the latest ILO Report, today 0.1 million children of PVTGs are working in different corners of India because of poverty. Studies on poverty and unemployment in PVTGs from Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have revealed note worthy geographic imbalances with much higher levels and concentration of poverty and unemployment issues. Regional patterns are found to be reasonably consistent. Trends in unemployment estimates for the tribes living in Karnataka and Maharashtra has shown that there has been regular increase in the proportion of unemployment as evident from the poverty estimates emerging from different rounds of NSSO survey on consumption expenditure and standards of living since 1993. Study has been found that along with poverty, illiteracy, policy problem are some of the reasons for health inequalities in case of PVTGs. Lack of effective prevention measure, development behavior, absence of strong political will, bureaucratic negligence, poor medical infrastructure, malnutrition, transport system, peoples ignorance are some of the hurdles in the way providing quality development services to the PVTGs today , which is largely influenced by their socioeconomic and other institutional factors (Kurane 2008).

The strategy of Integrated Tribal Development Programme (ITDP) was very ambitious in scope, trying to focus on growth, employment and anti-poverty orientations of India's tribal development effort is one single programme with due assistance to the reputed local NGOs. The objective of ITDA was harmonize the social welfare approach with the production approach, but it should not succeed completely. The consensus seems to emerge that the ultimate purpose of all tribal development activity is to provide growing opportunities for the tribes for a better

life, bring about a more evenhanded allocation of income and wealth, achieve a superior quantity of economic movement, expand and improve facilities for health, education, nutrition, and other welfare measures and moreover to preserve the ecology. Despite the formation of specific policies, and projects for dealing with tribal poverty and the implementation of a large number of programmes by the government and NGOs in pursuance of these policies, the impact on tribals in the country is just minimal as various studies found. The basic reason for the failure of many programmes is that they are simply not designed to do so. Experts feel all programmes, which are being implemented by the Government and NGOs are not geographically and culturally specific and there is no emphasis upon the dynamics of cultural patterns of each tribe (Rajesh, 2012).

Implementation of PESA and FRA programmes are also not up to the mark as per the experts. However, there is no study on why it is happening. As far as organic linkage with the PVTGs development schemes are concerned, there is no basic or comprehensive study or data attempt to understand development culture as a sub culture complex in developing culturally suited developmental programmes specifically for the PVTGs in India till date (Mishra 2007). Generally the PVTGs shows a unique behavior towards development and required change in their life. In this regard, there is no cultural and geographically specific data which would help in the long term development of the target population and these research findings would certainly help to find out how culturally compatible and acceptable developmental interventions strategies must be adopted at the grass root level by both Government and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs). And also there is no data which provides additional analysis that will aid in understanding the theoretical and practical implications of various inclusive developmental interventions among PVTGs. Moreover, the impact of various programmes like habitat development approach, Special Central Assistance (SCA) programme, Tribal Sub-Scheme (TSS) programme needs fresh data about its success or failure for future policy making. Forest rights are also a great concern (Thakur and Sharma 2012).

Since the historical ancient times, development behavior of the tribal people is greatly governed by cultural values, beliefs and traditions. In this process development of the tribals as sub system will be mainly infused by attributes of the entire social system. The Anthropologists felt that a cultural response of the community to the various socio- economic problems confronted by it determines

the way individual members perceive different ways of dealing the development problems. Today, any development is conceived differently in debates, models, process, approaches and practices. It is essential to comprehend a right development model with its action and output for the tribes. The debates on development model with its action and output for the tribes. The debates on development and its practices different widely based on the target groups. Anthropologists have mainly conceptualized tribal development both as activity and practices and have come out with the hurdles for their speedy social inclusion (Thakur and Sharma 2012). In this respect, it is suggested that any study must come out with the cultural and geographically specific inputs which would help in the long term development of the target population and research findings should help in development culturally compatible and acceptable developmental intervention strategies at the grass root level for both Government and NGOs. Moreover, Anthropologists say new research is required to understand how different programmes and approaches of NGOs and Government have succeeded in the socio- economic development of the PVTGs and explore the pattern and reason for the specific developmental behavior of tribal people for these programmes. They must focus on the impact on development practices as interventions on PVTGs ecology. There is a need for shedding light on the effectiveness of infrastructure interventions, capacity building effectiveness of cultural conservation intervention etc. “(Rao 2001)”.

The problems and developmental issues of aboriginal people need to be examined in multi-dimensional and it should be resolved in Anthropological holistic perspective. It is high time to promote participatory Action Research and intervention studies along with fundamental research (Ethnographic research) from various academic bodies and voluntary organizations for the benefit of the poor aboriginal people in India, who are living in most economic backward condition and experiencing with vulnerability in different spheres of their day to day life. In precise the tribals should have access to many development programmes and needs its availability to them and utilization of it fully by them, through their active participation in it without any kind of hindrances, then only it is possible to achieve inclusive growth and development among themselves. Inclusive development policy need to be adopted by the tribal development administration to achieve this goal among various tribal communities by following need and right based approaches truly without any kind of hesitation (Subramanyam V 2020).

Impact and Effect of Development Schemes Among PVTGs in Andhra Pradesh: Empirical Research Outcome (Finding)

The aim and objectives of this scheme of development specifically for PVTGs are good. The various implementing agencies are striving hard to focus on several activities laid down in the scheme frame work for the benefit of the PVTGs people all over India including the state of Andhra Pradesh. All these activities are mainly initiating and implementing the ITDAS of Paderu (Visakhapatnam), Parvathipuram (Vizianagaram), Seethampeta (Srikakulam), Rampachodavaram (East Godavari), Kota Ramachandrapuram (West Godavari) and Sundipenta (Srisailam-Kurnool) for the welfare and development of PVTGs in Andhra Pradesh. The ITDA located at Paderu catering the needs of the PVTGs like Kondh, Gadaba and Porja, the ITDA of Parvahipuram serving to the PVTGs like Gadaba and Savara, similarly the ITDA of Seethampeta serving to the PVTGs like Gadaba and Savara, whereas the ITDAs of Rampachodavaram and Kota Ramachandrapuram looking after the welfare and development of Konda Reddy PVTG, the ITDA situated at Sundipenta, Srisailam, Kurnool district is exclusively meant for the development of Chenchu tribe. This tribe population is distributed in Kurnool, Prakasam and Guntur districts but large majority of its population is concentrated in Nallamalai forests and mainly subsisting on forest resources daily wage employment with forest department and foraging activity. In recent times agriculture was also introduced in some habitats of Chenchus living in Kurnool, Prakasam and Guntur districts. Now they are transitional stage from food gathering to food production. Among the six PVTGs of Andhra Pradesh, the Chenchu is considered as most economic backward followed by Kondh, Porja Gadaba, Savara and Konda Reddy. The Konda Reddis inhabiting on the banks of Godavari and its adjacent are economically better than the people of the same tribe living in the hills and forests of in accessible areas. Generally the Konda Reddis have better livelihood and economic resources, when compared to other PVTGs in Andhra Pradesh, why because they are ensured with the natural resources like land, forest and water. Some of their habitats are located in the serene and thick forest environment of Papi kondalu which is part of Eastern Ghats. The empirical field work investigations at both macro and micro levels clearly reveals that still large majority of the PVTGs population in Andhra Pradesh state has not benefited much with the special development scheme both central and state governments due to varied reasons. The problems of marginalization, impoverishment, economic deprivation, illiteracy, ill health, exclusion and vulnerability still persists primarily

because of habitation disadvantage in association with geographical and ecological constraints. In general, the development among tribal population (including PVTGs population) taking place in a slow pace manner. The levels of exclusion and development also varies from one tribe to another and vice-versa to one PVTG to another PVTG. Moreover they are not equal access to almost all the welfare and development facilities of both central and state governments. The performance levels of the scheme activities in each particularly vulnerable tribal group status report briefly presented below:

Under the scheme the concerned I.T.D.As has taken up fifteen different activities such as 1) livelihood 2) Employment and economic development, 3) Education 4) Health and Nutrition 5) Clean/ safe drinking water 6) Land distribution /land development 7) Social security 8) housing and habitat 9) Connectivity (road and TDE communication) 10) Supply of electricity 11) Irrigation 12) urbanization / urban development 13) Culture 14) Games and 15) innovative activity. The levels of performance of each PVTG in each activity as follows:

Livelihood Activities: Livelihood status of Chenchu tribe inhabiting in Nallamalai forests ecosystem is not much improved, still more than 60% of its population stand at below poverty line. They are at present in transitional stage from food gathering to food production but largely still subsisting foraging activity partly on agriculture, livestock, diary and labour employment in forest development. At the time of field study a few government salaried employees of teachers, forest guards and police noted in the community. Even today, majority of its population striving hard to eke out their livelihood. The livelihood status of Gadaba tribe is slowly improving only 50% of its population stand at below poverty line . the Gadabas living in valleys are having better livelihood sources in the form of land and water where settled cultivation is seen. Large majority of its population is depending on shifting (*podu*) cultivation, non-timber forest produce collection, livestock and wage labour employment. Around 10% of government employees are found in the pathetic, more than 6% of its population stand at below poverty line. Majority of its population facing the problem of food insecurity and affected with malnutrition. A very few government salaried employees are found in the community. They mainly subsisting on shifting (*podu*) cultivation and NTFP collection. Livestock and pig rearing are the other sources of their livelihood.

The livelihood status of Konda Reddy tribe is better than the other PVTGs in the study area. However, still 45% of its people stand at below poverty line. They mainly

subsisting on shifting and settled cultivation along with horticulture. The Konda Reddies living on hill tops and interior forests are lacking food resources compared to the community people living on the banks of Godavari and plain areas. Some section of Konda redds who were displaced due to the construction of Polavaram irrigation project as well construction of medium irrigation projects like Bhupathipalem and Musirimilli. On the name of irrigation development project certain member of Konda Reddy families lost their livelihoods in the forms of loss of lands, homes, forest resources, labour employment etc. The Konda Reddis living on the banks of Godavari subsist on fishing also. The livelihood status of Savara PVTG inhabiting in plain areas is slightly better than the other PVTGs including Konda Savara subgroup. The Kapu Savara subsist on settled cultivation whereas Konda Savaras subsists on shifting cultivation, horticulture, livestock and NTFP collection. Overall 50% of its population stand at below poverty line: some of the Savara people are benefited with the permanent government employment as teachers, Grama Volunteers, ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers, ANMS, police and forest guards. The livelihood status of Porja tribe is also most vulnerable and pathetic. Large majority of them are still depending on shifting cultivation, NTFP collection and weaving bamboo mats and other articles. More than 55% of its population stand at below poverty line. The problems of food insecurity and poverty still persists among them.

In regard to the status of employment and economic development, almost all the PVTGs benefited with the MNREGs programme. Very slow economic progress observed among Chenchu, Kondh and Porja PVTGs. Economic development is seen in some extent among Konda Reddy, Kapu Savara and Gadaba tribes inhabiting in valleys and plain areas. Still a considerable number of educated un-employees are found in all the PVTGs in the study area. The Chenchus living in Nallamalai forest are got benefited with the labour employment of forest department occasionally and seasonally. Employment generation programmes need to be strengthen in PVTGs habitats.

In respect to education status, still more number of illiterates found among Chenchu, Kondh and Porja PVTGs. Now in almost all the PVTGs, school aged children are enrolled as per New Education Policy. The girls school dropout rate is very high among the Kondh and Porja tribe. At present almost all the PVTGs inhabiting plain lands scape areas are having access and availing formal education facilities of Tribal Welfare Department. The PVTGs inhabiting in the interior forests and mountains are not much access and availing it specifically college and

professional education. The functioning system of school education in the interior PVTGs habitats is neither good nor up to the mark due to lack of proper monitoring system. Very low literacy levels still found among Chenchu, Kondh and Porja tribes inhabiting inaccessible areas of forests and mountains. Slow educational progress observed among Konda Reddy, Gadaba and Savara PVTGs in the study area.

In regard to health and nutrition status still the incidence of malnutrition, morbidity and mortality rates is very high among PVTGs when compared with that of the other tribes of Eastern Ghats in Andhra Pradesh state. However, community health workers scheme, ICDS Anganwadi scheme shows some positive impact and effect in majority of PVTGs habitats which are access to road facility with good monitoring system. Whereas the health and nutrition condition of the PVTGs inhabiting in interior forests and inaccessible areas are not much improved as well as the programmes also not much effective and its impact is also very less when compared with that of the PVTGs habitats located nearly by road facility and ensured with permanent food resources with ecological balance. There is a felt need to strengthen the health and nutrition programmes in the PVTGs habitats located in inaccessible, remote forest areas and degraded forest environment.

In respect to clean / safe drinking water status position among PVTGs, still large majority of PVTGs habitats lacking protected drinking water facilities and still the people in such villages are largely depending on polluted stream and spring water. However, bore well water facility is available to majority of the PVTGs habitats which contains fluoride content not suitable for drinking purpose, using it exclusively for cleaning of utensils and cloths. Overhead tank gravitational water facility is available to a considerable Gadaba, Konda Reddy and Kapu Savara settlements, but still in such settlements the people are accustomed to use and drink stream and spring water bodies sources, without any kind of hesitation. Health awareness creation programmes need to be intensified in almost all the PVTGs habitats in order to eliminate and eradicate water borne diseases among these vulnerable people.

In regard to land distribution and land development status that a considerable number of Chenchu families were allotted some extent of forest lands, and waste lands provided with bore well along motor facility, but majority of them are not cultivating it by themselves and leased-out it to the neighbouring traditional peasant castes on rental basis. The PVTGs families who owns *podu* lands in the forest area were given legalized *pattas* as per 2006 forest right act, horticulture programme has introduced in certain Savara and Konda Reddy settlements in order to abolish

the practice of shifting cultivation and to intensify afforestation programme in the degraded forest due to the practice of shifting cultivation. Some kind of positive effect and impact has been observed in considerable number of PVTGs habitats in respect to the activity of land distribution and land development. Still much effort is needful to intensify this programme especially in Chenchu, Kondh and Porja settlements which situated in inaccessible areas, still largely depending on NTFP collection, as well as food gathering economic activities.

In regard to the status of social security activity, large majority of stakeholders and eligible persons belonging to all PVTGs availing both central and state government sponsoring pensions, health insurance, Bhima schemes. But still a few illiterate people are not aware of it, where much focus is essential from personnel concerned to implement it.

In respect to the status of housing and habitat activity the filed investigations clearly reveals that large majority of the PVTGS benefited with it, but still few thatched huts and houses are found in the interior PVTGs habitats especially, Chenchu, Kondh and Porja living areas of Eastern Ghats. The Konda Savaras, Konda Reddy inhabiting on the hill tops are also not much benefited with this scheme when compared with that of the same tribe inhabiting in the plain land scape areas located by the road side. In overall the effect and impact of this activity (scheme) among PVTGs shows a positive trend, but still certain concerted effort is needful to reach the programme even for the non-beneficiaries of deserved PVTGs families in the study area of eastern ghats in Andhra Pradesh state.

In regard to the status of road connectivity and telecommunication many PVTGs settlements of Chenchu, Kondh, Porja, Konda Savara still lacking proper road transportation and telecommunication facilities. The PVTGs settlements of Gadaba, Konda Reddy and Kapu Savara, located in the plain land scape areas are ensured with proper road connectivity, telecommunication and internet facilities. But a considerable number of persons among the Gadaba, Konda Reddy, Kapu Savara PVTGs are now using mobile phones for communication purpose. However, a few members among the other tribes are also using mobile phones for communication purpose. It is a well known fact that even to day the PVTGs and other tribes inhabiting inaccessible interior forest areas used to carry the severally affected sick persons on *doli* to the nearest health facility due to lack of proper road transportation facility to their respective habitats. It is a felt need to provide road connectivity and internet facility to each and every tribal habitats in order to avail all the development facilities including health without fail.

In the case of supply of electricity facility still a considerable number of PVTGs habitats are lacking it, and availing solar lamps gadgets in some extent. It is noted that there is no regular supply of electricity to certain PVTGs settlements and power breakdown is a regular feature in many tribal habitats including PVTGs habitats in the study area. However, considerable number of PVTGs families are availing free electricity supply both for domestic and agriculture purposes. A few families are using the electrical and electronic gadgets like fritze, iron box, television etc.

In regard to the status of irrigation activity, majority of the PVTGs families are not owning the wet lands, almost all the PVTGs families owns dry and *podu* lands. Hence, the impact and effect of this scheme is very limited in nature. However, a few wet cultivators among PVTGs were benefited with the water shed programme. The available irrigation facilities in the form of streams, springs and tanks are very limited in the studied PVTGs villages. A few check dam constructions are noticed in Konda Reddy and Kapu Savara settlements. There is a felt need of strengthening of irrigation activity in the PVTGs settlements where scope for wet cultivation is possible then it pave way for agricultural development among the vulnerable sections of tribal people who are experiencing severely with lack of livelihood sources and denial of food security.

In respect to the status of urbanization and urban development, activity , the PVTGs like Chenchus and Konda Reddy who have rehabilited on the road side colonies literally exposed to the nearby urban towns through marketing, education and employment the other PVTGs who are living nearby road side have contact with the nearby urban towns, mandal head quarters on various business and official purposes. They are very well integrated in to the main stream urbanized civilized people due to the process of acculturation and culture contact. Very few PVTGs people of plain areas have regular contact with the nearby urban markets. There is a very limited scope for urbanization in PVTGs areas but its impact also very less due to lack of industrial growth.

In regard to the status of culture, the intangible cultural heritage is intact even today in many PVTGs habitats in the study area. Age old cultural traditions and custom still persists among the PVTGs. The impact of modernization, industrialization and urbanization is very limited in scope. It is observed that the modern education and employment among very few PVTG, people brought certain cultural change in their day to day life. Idigenous knowledge systems are still persists among the PVTGs in the study area. Age old cultural performances in the form of

dance, music, and art seen among PVTGs. The PVTGs usually perform the *dimisa* dance accompanied with music alike that of other tribes in the areas during socio-ceremoinal and religious festival occasion. The Savara tribal art is very popular in Andhra Pradesh even today.

In regard to the status of games, the PVTGs men usually participate in small hunting games now and then and observe the hunting game festival '*etum*' in the month of march in every calender year, climbing trees, rocks collection of honey, training in music and dance at dormitory by Porja tribe are common. Game with sticks playing with cater balls, *billa kodi*, jhumping, wrestling etc, are very common to PVTGs youth playing **dagudu moothalu**, **kundaata** games are very common to the PVTGs girls. In rcent times the PVTGs youth are playing cricket, volley ball, kabadi and ball batmineton, which they borrowed from the neighbouring castes communities as well as their exposure to T.V media.

In the case of innovative activity status a considerable number of PVTGs youth were benefited with the vocational training programmes such as tailoring, carpentry, painting, masonry and some of them were provided skill development training in making value addition NTFP products as well as agricultural produce items. The Savaras and Konda Reddis were given training in cashew seeds processing and package, whereas some of the Porja persons were given training in basket making, art and craft of bamboo produces. Some of the Chenchus were given training in farming, diary, honey processing and promoted business entrepreneurship among a few Chenchu men. The Agricultural Department of ITDAs currently focusing to promote organic farming among the PVTGs peasants and providing market facility to the surplus organic food materials of millet's, pulses and oil seeds which they produce in their dry and *podu* fields. The Girijan Cooperative Cooperation and Coffee Board as well as ITDA of Paderu promoting coffee and pepper crops among the PVTGs habitats of Gadaba, Kondh and Porja, located in Visakha agency area in recent times. In recent times, organic coffee of Aruku region became very popular world wide. Still modern technological innovative knowledge need to be spread among the PVTGs habitats along with strengthening formal education. There is a felt need to conserve and promote indigenous knowledge systems in PVTGs habitats, apart from introduction of modern new innovative technologies in order to ensure sustainable livelihoods and sustainable development among these vulnerable section of population. Innovative activity in different fields of their day to day life definitely pave way for their development in turn change in their life styles inevitable.

Conclusion

The PVTGs population in Anhdra Pradesh state specific and other tribal pockets of India is still living in most backward economic condition, stand at bottom most position of human development index. They are denial of equal opportunity to participate fully in the ongoing development process of nation and states due to severity of social exclusion embodied with the features of deprivation, marginalization, vulnerability, geographical isolation, segregation and spatial distribution. The central government initiated development scheme for PVTGs as well as Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PMJANMAN) programmes are also not yielded expected resulted so far as per this evaluation research study. However, certain slow progress in the fields of agriculture, health and education observed in the studied PVTGs habitats. Among the six studied PVTGs, Konda Reddy showing better progress when compared with the other PVTGs in Andhra Pradesh state. The Chenchus, Kondh and Porjas are still experiencing with the livelihood problem due to scanty of food and natural resources. Gadabas living in plain land scape and valleys are better in living condition when compared with the same community living in interior forests, hill tops and slopes. Some families in Konda Reddy and Savara tribes were benefited with the horticulture programmes.

The fruits of the various activities under the development scheme of PVTGs has not reached equally to all the PVTGs families, the educated and elite among them benefited much when compared with that of poor and illiterates section. Once egalitarian feature was found among the tribal communities (including PVTGs) in the form of reciprocity and reciprocal relationship. But in recent times certain caste features like hierarchy, endogamy as well as class system also entered into the tribal society due to acculturation process or culture contact with neighbouring castes. Even now the egalitarian feature found among the foragers of Chenchu tribe in Nallamalai forests. It is a felt need to establish a separate development wing for PVTGs in each ITDA level of each state, and a separate PVTGs development administration unit at national level is an immediate requisite for fulfilling the needs of these vulnerable section people and to address various developmental issues of these communities in a rapid manner. This kind of strategy definitely pave way for the removal of these groups under the *clux* of vulnerability, impoverishment and severity of social exclusion. This kind of evaluation research studies are much essential further to assess the impact and effect of various development schemes and programmes among

PVTGs in Anthropological holistic, *etic* and *emic* perspectives. It also gives lot of scope to identify the lapses and gaps of various development activities of both central and state governments and to provide appropriate guidelines to fill those gaps and lapses in future by planning workable and more effective development programmes considering both need and right based approaches very meticulously. Applied and advanced action oriented and intervention research studies are much essential from the academic bodies, apart from the tribal development administration to overcome the problem of under development among PVTGs and other tribal communities in India. Monitoring system of tribal development administration is needful and to be strengthened in order to achieve the targets of various development schemes initiated by both central and state governments. The community people participation in all development schemes and programmes are very essential to achieve fruitful results out of it. Anthropological humanitarian approach and welfare anthropology thematical methods are definitely useful to promote the well being and development among PVTGs and other tribal communities in India.

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