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SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF SCHEDULE TRIBE (YANADI) WOMEN: A STUDY IN CHITTOOR DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH

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ABSTRACT:

The present study was explored to find out the socio-economic status of the schedule tribe (yanadi) women. Survey method was conducted on a purposive sample of 400 women from yanadi tribes from Chittoor district. Results found that 74.5% of the yanadi tribe women's occupation of the family is labours(coolies), 37.5% are in the age group of 21-30yrs, 60.5% are illiterates, 60% are having income below 5000, and 81.5% are coolies as their nature of work.

KEYWORDS: Socio-Economic Status, Yanadi Tribes.

INTRODUCTION

Human society is a complex structured functional unit. It perpetuation depends upon genetic and cultural codes. Human beings transmit culture behaviour by cultural code which has enormously greater plasticity over genetic code which is fixed and rigid. The roles, responsibilities, duties and relationships among the members of a society are the scales of measure of cultural behaviour. These in turn vary among male and female members and also by age. The role to be played by women, no doubt is more than what expected from man. Besides the implicit character of propagation of species she gives psychological and moral support to man in his endeavours, looks after

children and other domestic works at home and even contributes to family income. Such a venture envisages her status i.e. being half of the mankind. However, the age-old tradition, work-out customs still block the woman's way to rise her to full structure of "being fully human."

TRIBAL POPULATION IN INDIA

India is the second most populous and the seventh largest (area wise) country in the world. The total geographical area of India is 32,87,263 sq km of which 6,92,027 sq km is covered by forests, which constitutes 21.1% of its total (forest Survey of India 2011). The overall population density of India is 382 per sq km (Census of India, 2011). According to the 2011 census there are 24,94,54,252 households, of which 2,14,67,179 households belong to ST population.

Total population in the country is 1,21,05,69,573 out of these 10,42,81,034 are classified as ST with 5,24,09,823 males 5,18,71,211 females. The decadal growth rate of the tribal population during 2001-2011 is 23.7% which is higher than Indian's total decadal growth (17.6%). The total population of India constitutes 8.6% of total population of the country and majority of them reside in the rural areas (90%).

OBJECTIVES

- To study the socio-economic status of schedule tribe women based on their

family's occupation, age, education, income.

METHODOLOGY

The primary data is collected through semi-structured schedule, which comprises of general information for socio-economic condition in tribal people. The secondary data is collected through various books, journals, articles, periodicals, newspapers, websites, and theses. The sample consists of 400 women from Yanadi tribes in Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh. Purposive sampling has been adopted for the study. This sample was collected by multistage sampling method to the accessibility and reliability of the respondents in Yanadi tribes in Chittoor District.

DATA ANALYSIS

Table 1: Occupation of the Family of the Respondents

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
Pension Holders	19	4.8
Labours (Coolies)	298	74.5
Farmers	24	6
Workers (MGNREGA)	10	2.4
Drivers	14	3.5
Mestries	11	2.8
Housewives	12	3
Employees (Government/Private)	12	3
TOTAL	400	100

Table-1 shows that around two third of the members are coolies followed by agricultural labourers. Moreover around 5% of the members are pension holders. On the contrary, it is also observed that 3% of the members are housewives and employees. It can be concluded that majority of the members are coolies.

Table 2: Age of the Respondents

Age (years)	Frequency	Percentage
Below 20yrs	13	3.3
21-30yrs	137	37.5
31-40yrs	97	24.3
41-50yrs	76	19
51-60yrs	39	9.8
61-70yrs	31	7.8
Above 60yrs	7	1.8
TOTAL	400	100

Table-2 depicts that 37.5% of the respondents are in the age group of 21-30yrs, more than 24% of the respondents are in the age group of 31-40yrs, 19% of the respondents are in the age group of 41-50yrs and around 10% of the respondents are in the age group of 51-60yrs and around 8% are in the age group of 61-70yrs. On the contrary only 3.3% of the respondents are in the age group of below 20yrs. It is concluded that majority of the respondents are in the age group of 21-30yrs.

Table 3: Education of the Respondents

Education	Frequency	Percent
Illiterate	242	60.5
Primary	57	14.2
Secondary	75	18.8
Intermediate	14	3.5
Degree	12	3
TOTAL	400	100

Table-3 reveals that around 61% of the respondents are illiterates and around 19% of the respondents have secondary education, a little more than 14% have primary level of education. On the contrary, the percentages of the respondents who have more than secondary education have less than 4. It is concluded that majority of the respondents are illiterates.

Table 4: Income of the Respondents

Income (Rs.)	Frequency	Percent
Below 5000	240	60
5000-10000	121	30.2
above 10000	39	9.8
TOTAL	400	100

From Table-4, 60% of the respondents have the income below Rs.5000, 30.2% have income of Rs.5000 to Rs.10000 and 9.8% of the respondents have their income above Rs.10000. It is concluded that majority of the respondents have the income below Rs.5000.

Table 5: Nature of Work of the Respondents

Nature of Work	Frequency	Percent
Business	5	1.3
Government	3	0.8
Private	4	1
Cooli	326	81.5
Agriculture	5	1.3
Housewife	57	14.3
TOTAL	400	100

Table-5 presents that around 81.5% of the respondents are coolies, 14.3% of the respondents are housewives, 1.3% of the respondents each have business and agriculture, 1% of the respondents are working in private sector and 0.8% of the respondents are working in government sector. By and large, it is concluded that majority of the respondents are coolies.

CONCLUSION

The relationship of the tribals with their physical environment is intimate and direct and by the nature of their habitat and ecology. The tribals depend heavily on their forest environment for their livelihood, shelter, occupation and employment. Considering the fact that the tribals and habitat constitute a system, the objective is not to destroy the forest, but to preserve and perpetuate it, because it is a multifaceted resource for sustenance and survival. The results highlights that there is every need

that governmental and non-governmental organizations should come forward to develop social forestry with medicinal plants to protect the traditional herbal medical knowledge of yanadi women in particular other public in general.

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