



Demographic study of scheduled caste and scheduled tribes population in Andhra Pradesh

Karnikoti Srinu

Research Scholar, Dept. of Economics, Acharya Nagarjuna University, Andhra Pradesh, India

Abstract

The main objective of the paper is to analyse the status of the Scheduled Tribes in Andhra Pradesh with respect to size of the population, Literacy levels and work participation rate of the scheduled tribes. This paper base on the secondary data, such data collected from the directorate of Economics and statistics, Statistical abstract of Andhra Pradesh and various census report will be used. The data related to District wise Scheduled Tribes Population, District wise Literacy levels data will be utilized. The data limited to 2001 and 2011 census data is used.

Keywords: population, scheduled tribes, scheduled caste, literacy

Introduction

Indian population consists of 8 per cent of tribal population in the country. The percentage of tribal population to the total population in the country has increased by 1 per cent during last century. The country is not able to maintain the culture, traditions and customs of the ST population. Poverty is very high among these indigenous people as compared to general population. They are mostly agricultural labourers with meager assets like land and houses. The literacy gap between tribals and non-tribals is widening year after year. They are not politically empowered. Laws that are passed to improve tribal people but they are grossly inadequate. There is a special need to empower tribal population socially, economically and politically. Their active participation in the developmental activities will go a long way in national building.

Policies which are long term in nature are very much needed. The emphasis should be on quality and equity rather than quantity. There is every need to build up proper environment and decentralized management, skill development and teacher motivation programmes. But tribal development programmes failed to protect the interests of the tribals and take them to advanced level of development. However, the programmes adopted has brought awareness and unity among themselves. But still the aim of raising abilities of STs to enable them to compete and avail the quality of opportunity provided in the constitution has not been fulfilled. Thus the tribal community is yet to catch up with the rest. They are not on par with other communities and lagging behind in all social and economic parameters. Though studies are available on tribals covering various aspects of their life, but area specific studies are not many. We need more area specific studies in order to know more about ST in a particular state or location. The present study is an attempt in this direction.

Objective of the paper

The main objective of the paper is to analyse the status of the Scheduled Tribes in Andhra Pradesh with respect to size of the population, Literacy levels and work participation rate of

the scheduled tribes.

Methodology

This paper base on the secondary data, such data collected from the directorate of Economics and statistics, Statistical abstract of Andhra Pradesh and various census report will be used. The data related to District wise Scheduled Tribes Population, District wise Literacy levels and work participation data will be utilized. The data limited to 2001 and 2011 census data is used.

Position of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

The Scheduled Caste Population constituted 16.2 per cent of the total population in census 2001 and has increased marginally around 16.9 per cent in census 2011. People belonging to SC Communities, by and large are spread all over Country, with about 80 per cent of them living in the rural areas. Around half of the SC population is concentrated in the five States of Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar.

Andhra Pradesh SCs and STs Development: 2011 Census

In all religions, castes poor were there. But more concentration is found SCsSTs only. In Andhra Pradesh development SCs and STs were abundantly found in Coastal Districts Guntur and follows Rayalaseema Districts. STs were placed more in Visakapatnam and other Hill areas. The income and employment were extended only to literate classes among these. Much of them are left-farm labourers construction workers and doing petty business in slum locations. The crude Reservation system was enjoyed by urban bounded households, who were cornered as creamy layer. Though Kanshiram, the founder of Bahujan Samaj Party observed that Reservation System reached centenary celebration, which are to be removed and every caste, class has to get the spirit of competitiveness. Of Course, many classes are not accepting his advice. The following tables provided a bird's eye view of SCs and STs Development in Andhra Pradesh.

Table 1: Scheduled castes and scheduled tribes population in Andhra Pradesh – 2011 census

S. No.	District	Persons	SCs	% of SC Population to total Population	STs	% of ST s Population to total Population
1.	Srikakulam	27,03,114	2,55,664	9.46	1,66,118	-6.15
2.	Vizianagaram	23,44,474	2,47,728	10.57	2,35,556	-10.05
3.	Visakapatnam	42,90,589	3,29,486	7.68	6,18,500	-14.42
4.	East Godavari	51,54,296	9,45,269	18.34	2,13,195	-11.14
5.	West odavari	39,36,966	8,11,698	20.62	1,09,072	-2.77
6.	Krishna	45,17,398	8,71,063	19.28	1,32,464	-2.93
7.	Guntur	48,87,813	9,57,407	19.59	2,47,089	-5.06
8.	Prakasam	33,97,448	7,87,861	23.19	1,51,145	-4.45
9.	SPS Nellore	29,63,557	6,66,588	22.44	2,85,997	-9.65
10.	Chittoor	41,74,064	7,85,760	18.82	1,59,165	-3.81
11.	YSR Kadapa	28,82,469	4,65,794	16.16	75,886	-2.63
12.	Anantapur	40,81,148	5,83,135	14.29	1,54,127	-3.78
13.	Kurnool	40,81,148	7,37,945	18.21	82,831	-2.04

Source: DES (2013) Statistical Abstract of Andhra Pradesh -2013 pp.16 & 50

The table 1 have been highlighted that as per census 2011, Prakasam District stood first (23.14%) in concentration of Scheduled Castes to total population follows Nellore and West Godavari Districts. The least SCs were found in Visakapatnam (8%) Srikakulam and Vizianagaram. Where as in Scheduled Tribe, much of them are concentrated in Visakapatnam 14.42% Vizianagaram (10.05%) and least was found in Kurnool District (2.04%). Kadapa and West Godavari Districts.

District wise distribution of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) population with respect to literacy are presented in table 2. From the table it can be observed that the literacy levels in the state of Andhra Pradesh have increased considerably during the period from 2001 to 2011 for both the SC and ST population. The literacy rate among SC population has increased from 49.60 per cent in 2001 to 64.47 percent by 2011. The literacy rate among ST population has increased from 33.06 per cent to 48.83 per cent during the same period indicating the fact that the increase in the literacy level is less in the case of ST population when compared to SC population of Andhra Pradesh.

Regarding the district wise literacy performance of SC population, West Godavari district, ranks the highest among all districts with 68.75 percent in 2001 and 71.43 percent in

2011 and this may be attributed to the development performance of West Godavari. On the otherhand Anantapur district is with the lowest percent (44.48 percent) of literacy of SC population in 2001 and Kurnool district accounted for the lowest literacy level (55.26 per cent) in 2011. It is also observed from the study that the districts like Kurnool, Anantapur, Vizianagaram, Prakasam, Srikakulam, YSR Kadapa and Guntur are falling below the state average literacy rate indicating the need for special initiatives towards the educational development of SC in the state of Andhra Pradesh. Regarding the levels of literacy among ST population of Andhra Pradesh again West Godavari ranks the highest position both in 2001 and 2011 with (50.86 percent) and (57.05percent) respectively. On the otherhand, Visakhapatnam district accounted for the lowest literacy (34.34per cent) in 2001 while SPS Nellore accounted for the lowest literacy (42.78 percent) in 2011. Further, the literacy level among STs is found to be lower than the state average literacy in the districts like SPS Nellore, Vishakapatnam, Guntur, Vizianagaram, Prakasam and YSRKadapa. On the whole there are many districts which are lagging behind in terms of literacy in the state of Andhra Pradesh indicating the need for immediate attention of the government towards the development of education among SCs and STs

Table 2: District wise distribution of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes by level of literacy in Andhra Pradesh. (In numbers)

	2001 Census				2011 Census			
	Scheduled Caste Population	S C Literacy Rate	Scheduled Tribe Population	ST Literacy Rate	Scheduled Caste Population	SC Literacy Rate	Scheduled Tribe Population	ST Literacy Rate
Srikakulam	2,55,664	60.78	1,66,118	53.36	2,29,609	52.88	1,51,249	41.92
Vizianagaram	2,47,728	58.64	2,35,556	46.57	2,38,023	49.31	2,14,839	35.28
Visakhapatnam	3,29,486	69.99	6,18,500	44.90	2,91,219	61.99	5,57,572	34.34
East Godavari	9,45,269	69.33	2,13,195	54.15	8,81,650	61.14	1,91,561	44.60
West Godavari	8,11,698	71.43	1,09,072	57.05	7,28,963	68.75	96,659	50.86
Krishna	8,71,063	70.46	1,32,464	53.69	7,46,832	63.87	1,07,611	43.75
Guntur	9,57,407	64.12	2,47,089	46.45	8,18,005	58.26	2,08,157	37.28
Prakasam	7,87,861	59.75	1,51,145	47.12	6,51,498	52.90	1,18,241	38.15
S.P.S. Nellore	6,66,588	65.29	2,85,997	42.78	5,87,157	59.27	2,42,257	37.42

Y.S.R Kadapa	4,65,794	61.20	75,886	48.76	4,09,492	54.25	61,371	41.20
Kurnool	7,37,945	55.26	82,831	55.04	6,28,637	45.77	69,635	42.73
Anantapuram	5,83,135	56.29	1,54,127	54.98	5,14,896	44.48	1,27,161	44.52
Chittoor	7,85,760	66.28	1,59,165	52.66	7,02,320	59.99	1,28,085	44.44
Andhra Pradesh	84,45,398	64.47	26,31,145	48.83	7428301	49.60	2274398	33.06

Source: Directorate of economics and Statistics of Andhra Pradesh

The table 2 has been revealed that as per 2011 census in SCs the highest literacy rate was found in west Godavari (71.43%) Krishna and Visakapatnam Districts whereas least were found in Kurnool (55.26%) Kadapa and Vizianagaram. Among STs, the highest literacy rate was observed in West Godavari (57.05%), East Godavari, Srikakulam where least was in Nellore (43%) Visakapatnam, Vizianagaram Districts.

Generally employment (Main, Marginal workers) generates income to the people. Among SCs to total population, Guntur stood first with 54%, follows Prakasam and Kurnool. The least employment was found in Visakapatnam (42%) follows East Godavari and Srikakulam Districts. Among STs, the employment opportunities were found top in the Districts of Visakapatnam (58%) follows East Godavari and Vizianagaram. The least employment opportunities were observed in Kurnool (49%) and follows Anantapur and Kadapa. In overall, it shows that both rural classes have not benefitted from the State support, the same is found in other States also.

Conclusion

From the analysis of census data between 2001 and 2011 it is evident that the fruits of development have accrued most to the non-SCs and STs, followed by SCs and the least to ST communities. development continue to remain quite low in states like Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh (IAMR and Planning Commission 2011). At the state level, a recent study on human development showed that the indicators of human development. This study also shows that most of the indicators of levels of living and household assets were found to be low in these states, and the SCs and STs living in these states have the worst living conditions and one of the lowest level of asset ownership. Any study on the status of marginal communities like SCs and STs and minority communities must take into account the regional dimension of India's social reality. Nowhere is this better reflected than by census-based indicators. However, the large variations within SC and ST communities cannot be assessed only with the help of census data as Census does not publish data on living conditions and assets by individual SC and ST, although demographic data is available. As per state-specific lists declared by the president of India, there are 1221 individual castes within the SC category¹ and 663 distinct tribes within the ST category.² The large number of communities within each scheduled category is not homogeneous, and availability of data by individual SC/ST will be helpful in enhancing the utility of census-based studies.

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