



Poverty among tribal households-A study in Mahabubabad district of Telangana state

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Abstract

The poverty due to the absence of access to elementary goods/services is economical or consumption-focused. It clarifies poverty in material terms and explicitly utilises consumption-based classifications to clarify the degree and profundity of poverty and set up who is poor or not. Hence, the poor are imagined as the people or families in a specific society who cannot afford a listed package of essential goods and services. Most tribal households are illiterate, have more family members, and adopt a nuclear family system. Tribals are tenant agriculturists, not getting sufficient employment and income and possessing the land. More than 40 per cent of tribal households still use firewood, lack sanitation facilities, drinking water is a hand pump and katch houses, but mobile phones and Television at homes.

Keywords: poverty, vulnerability, tribes, Telangana

Introduction

Poverty in India is widespread, with the nation estimated to have a third of the world's poor. The World Bank reported (2010) ^[4] that 32.7% of the Indian people fall below the international poverty line of US\$ 1.25 per day, while 68.7% live on less than US\$ 2 per day. Poverty in India is mainly due to a lack of proper government policies and the economically weaker section's exploitation by the more prosperous class. The primary outcome of poverty is hunger. Hunger's seriousness can be understood easily from the fact that every year, 5.8 million children die from hunger related-causes around the world— (that is, 16,000 children die each day) Hunger report (2008) ^[2].

Review of Literature

Dev (2016), poverty declined faster in the second half of the 2000s than in the 1990s. However, inequality increased in urban areas. Among other things, the creation of productive employment is crucial for a reduction in poverty and inequality. The new generation wants equality of opportunity rather than just a rights-based approach. India should invest in human capital and improve human development to be a global power.

The curse of poverty: The main reason for child labour in India is poverty. Most of the country's population suffers from poverty. Due to poverty, parents cannot afford their children's studies and make them earn their wages from a tender age. They are well aware of the grief of losing their loved ones to poverty, Lal (2019) ^[8].

Meena, (2016), this study explained to measure the income dynamics, inequality, determinants, and policy implications for sustainable livelihoods of tribal households in Jharkhand. Data were solicited from 160 households during 2011-12. The study shows a vast gap in the annual income of tribal households, i.e. 8,493, while non-farm activities dominated (37.19 to 63.67%) over other sources. The highest income inequality was observed among the labour class (Gini ratio 0.55). Furthermore, the study reveals that education, family size, non-farming income and adoption of high-yielding varieties were found to be the main income determinants.

All the poverty indicators show that India is in a difficult situation. The entire South Asian region has to improve a lot. However, the reduction in poverty, especially in Bangladesh and India, from the data analysed under the WHO's poverty line is prolonged, Rozarina (2013) ^[13].

Education is a strong predictor of poverty status. For example, among individuals living in families with less than high school education, 31.3 per cent are below the poverty line, compared with just 9.6 per cent of those whose head has at least a high school education, Hoynes (2006) ^[3].

Many adolescent girls miss one in four weeks of school because of a lack of facilities to deal with menstrual hygiene. Menstrual hygiene is a problem for many adolescent girls and women who lack the privacy to wash and dry menstrual rags properly. In some rural areas, superstition and tradition mean that rags are dried in the dark, away from the male view. As a result, about two in five rural women commonly experience vaginal infections caused by damp rags, Kavitha (2013) ^[5].

Lal (2011) ^[10], in his study on "Economic analysis of health care Services: a study in tribal areas of Andhra Pradesh India", find out that the common diseases, general fever, malaria, typhoid, diarrhoea, anaemia and jaundice etc. are more common in tribal areas. The majority of respondents are suffering from fever (35%), followed by malaria (20%), typhoid (15%), diarrhoea (12%), anaemia (8%) and jaundice (10%). This study examines the majority of sufferers in low- and middle-income groups. Nearly 40 per cent of sample respondents had spent between Rs.150 to 200 per visit (consultation of the doctor and medicine), and 35 per cent of respondents had spent Rs.100 to 150 per visit. As a result, these diseases cause heavy financial burdens for treatment and loss of employment to the tribals.

Mishra (2018), in their study "levels of living of scheduled tribes of rural Telangana", the improvements in the levels of living of socially disadvantaged such as scheduled tribes indicate the direction and pace of inclusive growth. The levels and shifts in the private consumption expenditure of these groups can be construed as proxy indicators and reveal their welfare status and future growth prospects. The shifts

and patterns of consumption expenditure of tribes of Telangana in different rural locations/ typologies during 2004-05 and 2011-12 were examined. The rate of decline of poverty and reducing expenditure inequality among STs and in tribal concentrated districts suggest that the state policies effectively improve STs' living standards. The intake of food items in quantitative terms by STs had gone up, which was desirable from the nutrition point of view. The food expenditure pattern was getting more diversified to favour quality food items in economic growth.

Radhika (2017), in her study, explained that the survival of any household, especially poor in developing countries, majorly depends upon the visible and invisible work done by women. However, the critical role played by women is more pronounced in the marginalised section; Tribal Households are one of the significant vulnerable sections where women play a crucial role in providing food security to ensure the survival and sustenance of their family.

Sale of baby girls: There are incidents, and Banjara's level of debt and poverty compels them to sell their baby girls in Andhra Pradesh in general and the Telangana region in particular. (Tribal girl sold in Mumbai surfaces in Warangal, Lal (2015).

While there is a broad agreement on a link between disability and poverty, the empirical evidence for this association is less clear. Typically, a small set of statistics are routinely cited—for example, people with disabilities are twice as likely as people without disabilities to be living in poverty. However, despite their widespread citation, upon tracing to the source, many such figures were based on decidedly weak evidence, Banks (2017) [1].

Debt Trap, nearly 72 per cent of Banjaras living in rural areas and practising/ working in agriculture as small farmers or as coolies are in high debt traps. Non-beneficial cultivation led them into debt traps. In addition, low levels of productivity, high levels of inputs cost, and lack of institutional credit facilities push them into Poverty, Lal (2015).

More than 50 per cent of the age group 25-35 years consumes regularly, and many drink excessively. Of all the legal and illegal drugs, alcohol is by far the most widely used by teenagers, and according to a national survey, many are regularly drinking to excess, Naik (2013) [11].

Lal's (2010) [6] paper examines the victim's social status, expenditure and income patterns, reasons for the spread of

disease, and how respondents' economic conditions are responsible for exposure to this epidemic. It also examines and focuses on psychological and stigma/ discrimination in society. To reduce their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, improve household nutrition and clean up their environment to reduce opportunistic infections.

Illiteracy, the inability to read or write, costs the global economy an estimated \$1.19 trillion annually, a new report from the World Literacy Foundation examined the impact of illiteracy in developing, emerging, and developed countries and found, in all three categories, clear-cut links to poverty, unemployment, and long-term illness, dependence on welfare, social exclusion, and crime, Lal (2015a) [7].

Objectives of the study

1. To study the Socio-economic condition of Scheduled Tribes
2. To examine Inequalities and Poverty among Tribes and
3. To find out the Factors Responsible for Inequalities and Poverty among Tribes

Method

The study adopted a purposive sampling design and collected 150 samples from households of two tribal groups in the Mahabubabad district of Telangana State. Used percentage and frequency analysis.

The Tribal People and Study Area

Mahabubabad district is a district in the Indian state of Telangana. The district was carved out from the erstwhile Warangal district following the re-organisation of districts in the state in October 2016. The district shares boundaries with Suryapet, Khammam, Bhadradi, Warangal, Mulugu and Jangaon districts. The population of Mahabubabad district in 2011 was 774549. Out of that 388058 males, 38649 females among total population literacy is 57.1per cent. The district is predominating with a tribal population; their percentage is 38, per the district profile report (2022).

Results and Discussion

The study analysed core parameters of demographic variables, facilities available in the study area, occupation, land and income, health particulars for poverty measurement, education particulars for poverty measurement and living standard of sample respondents.

Table 1: Demographic Particulars of Sample Respondents

Variables	Parameters	Frequency	Percentage
Age Group in Years	25-35	48	32
	36-45	37	24.7
	46-55	48	32
	56-65	16	10.6
	Above 65	1	0.7
	Total	150	100
Sex	Male	111	74
	Female	39	26
	Total	150	100
Marital Status	Married	128	85.3
	Unmarried	13	8.7
	Widow	9	6
	Total	150	100
Name of the Tribe	Lambada	75	50
	Koya	75	50
	Total	150	100
Type of Family	Nuclear	109	72.7

	Joint	41	27.3
	Total	150	100
Size of Family	Below-3 Members	67	44.7
	4-6 Members	80	53.3
	Above-6 Members	3	2
	Total	150	100
Language Spoken	Gor Boli & Telugu (Lambada)	75	50
	Telugu (Koya)	75	50
	Total	150	100
Place of Residence	Rural	84	56
	Semi-Urban	66	44
	Total	150	100
Literacy Status	Illiterate	81	54
	Literate	69	46
	Total	150	100

Table.1 reveals the demographic particulars of the sample respondents. Thirty-two percentage sample respondents are in the age group of 25-35 years and 46-55 years each. The percentage of respondents in the age group of 36-45 is 24.7. Another 10.6 per cent of respondents belong to the 56-65 age group, and a meagre percentage (0.7) to above 65 age group. Most of the respondents are male (74 per cent), while females are 26 per cent only. Most respondents are married with 85.3 per cent, whereas 8.7 per cent are unmarried and 6% are widowed. The sample respondents are taken from two tribes, Lambada and Koya, with 50 per cent each. It is known from sample respondents that the majority (72.7) have a nuclear family.

In contrast, 27.3 per cent only have a joint family system which shows the diversion of the Indian family system from joint in ancient and medieval ages to the nuclear system in

modern days. Despite implementing many population control methods, including the slogan 'One or Two', the tendency of the size of family shows that 4-6 members in the majority of respondents (53.3 per cent). In comparison, 44.7 per cent have below three family members, and only two percentage respondents have above six members as the family size. Lambadas speak Gor Boli and Telugu languages, while Koyas speak only Telugu. Fifty-six percentage respondents reside in rural areas, while 44 per cent reside in semi-urban areas. Despite implementing various literacy programmes, the literacy rate among respondents is not desirable. There is 46 percentage of literacy among the respondents, which is very low compared to the Indian average literacy rate (77.7 Percentage). A large number of respondents (54 per cent) are still illiterates.

Table 2: Facilities Available in the Study Area for Respondents

Variables	Parameters	Frequency	Percentage
Road Facility	Available	142	94.7
	Not Available	8	5.3
	Total	150	100
Education Facility	Available	139	92.7
	Not Available	11	7.3
	Total	150	100
Street Lights	Available	101	67.3
	Not Available	49	32.7
	Total	150	100
Electricity Connection	Available	138	92
	Not Available	12	8
	Total	150	100
Drinking Water	Well-Hand Pumps	69	46
	Mission Bhagiratha	81	54
	Total	150	100

The details of the facilities available in the study Area are given in Table 2. The road facility is available for 94.7 percentage respondents, while for 5.3 percentage respondents, it is not available. 92.7 per cent of respondents have access to education, while 7.3 per cent do not. Only 67.3 per cent of respondents are away in street light facilities, and still, 32.7 per cent are waiting. Even though it

is a rural and semi-urban area, 92 per cent of respondents have an electricity connection, but eight per cent are waiting for it. Only 54 per cent of respondents have a safe drinking water facility by Mission Bhagiratha, a flagship programme of the government of Telangana, while 46 per cent of respondents are still depending on wells and hand pumps which may cause diseases.

Table 3: Occupation, Land and Income Particulars of Respondents

Variables	Parameters	Frequency	Percentage
Occupation	Tenant Cultivation	109	72.7
	Agricultural Labour	41	27.3
	Total	150	100
Size in Acres	Below-2 Acres	59	39.3

	2-4 Acres	50	33.3
	Not Applicable	41	27.3
	Total	150	100
Source of Water for Irrigation	Canal-Well-Pond	93	62
	Rain Fed	16	10.7
	Not Applicable	41	27.3
	Total	150	100
Technology Used for Farming	Tractor & Harvesting Machine	99	66
	Manual (Labour)	10	6.7
	Not Applicable	41	27.3
	Total	150	
Crop Details (Last year, Paddy Chilli/ Cotton Maise/ Groundnut Output)	Below-5 quintals	16	10.7
	6-10 Quintals	48	32
	11-15 Quintals	35	23.3
	16-20 Quintals	10	7
	Not Applicable	41	27.3
	Total	150	100
Total Expenditure per an Acre	Below-5000	4	2.7
	6000-10000	23	15.3
	11000-15000	23	15.3
	16000-20000	59	39.3
	Not Applicable	41	27.3
	Total	150	100
How do you Market Your Produce	Direct Govt	38	25.3
	Middle Man	71	47.3
	Not Applicable	41	27.3
	Total	150	100
Livestock	Cow/ Goats/ Sheeps Buffaloes	96	64
	Nil	54	36
	Total	150	100
Income Particulars (p. a)	Below-11000	25	16.7
	11001-15000	15	10
	15001-20000	44	29.3
	Above-20000	66	44
	Total	150	100

The details of respondents' economic conditions, like occupation, land and income particulars, are shown in Table.3. The majority of respondents (72.7 per cent) are tenant cultivators only. Other 27.3 per cent are agricultural labour. 39.3 per cent of respondents have land below 2 acres only. All these are marginal farmers. 33.3 per cent of respondents' small farmers have an average land size of 2-4 acres. 27.3 percentage respondents are landless. In the case of the water source for irrigation, the majority of respondents (62 per cent) have it from a canal-well-pond. Next it, rainfed is the source for 10.7 percentage respondents. The technology is widely used for agricultural activities. Sixty-six per cent of respondents use tractors and harvesting machines, whereas only 6.7 per cent depend on manual labour. Various crops like paddy, chilli, cotton, maise, and groundnut are grown in the study area. The average output is 6-10 quintals for most respondents (32 per cent). It is 11-15 quintals, below five quintals, and 16-20

quintals average output is produced by 23.3 per cent, 10.7 per cent and seven per cent respectively. Most of the respondents (39.3 per cent) spend an average of Rs16000-20000 total expenditure per acre. It is the same (15.3 per cent) expenditure for slabs of an average of Rs.6000-10000 and Rs.11000-15000 per acre. Most respondents (47.3 per cent) sell their produce to mediators, which shows that the role of mediators in the agriculture market in rural areas is still significant. Though the government has taken measures to regulate markets, only 25.3 per cent of respondents sell directly to the government. Livestock like cows, goats, sheep and buffaloes are reared by 64 per cent of respondents, which shows that livestock is considered one in agriculture. Most respondents (44) are getting average income per annum above Rs. 20000. It is Rs.15001-20000, below Rs.11000 and Rs.11001-15000 average annual income for 29.3 per cent, 16.7 per cent and ten per cent respondents respectively.

Table 4: Health Particulars for Poverty Measurement

Variables	Parameters	Frequency	Percentage
Nutritious Food Intake	Beans and Pulses Nuts and Seeds	126	84
	Meat, Fish and Eggs	9	6
	No	15	10
	Total	150	100
Child Mortality (Child under the age of 5 years)	Yes	11	7.3
	No	139	92.7
	Total	150	100

The details of health particulars for poverty measurement are informed in Table 4. Most respondents (84 per cent) intake nutritious food of beans, pulses, nuts and seeds, whereas only six per cent intake meat, fish and eggs. Ten

per cent responded 'No' to nutritious food intake. In addition, 7.3 percentage respondents reported child mortality, but 92.7 per cent responded 'No'.

Table 5: Education Particulars for Poverty Measurement

Variables	Parameters	Frequency	Percentage
Year of Schooling	Primary Level	9	6
	Secondary Level	40	26.7
	Plus 2	13	8.7
	Under Graduation	14	9.3
	Post-Graduation	3	2
	Polytechnic	1	0.6
	Not Applicable	70	46.7
School Attendance (Child Attend School Regular)	Total	150	100
	Yes	112	74.7
	No	38	25.3
	Total	150	100

Table.5 gives out the education particulars for Poverty Measurement. 26.7 percentage respondents are with secondary level schooling, the highest among them. 9.3 per cent, 8.7 per cent, six per cent, two per cent and 0.6

percentage respondents are in Under Graduation, plus 2, Primary level, Post-Graduation and Polytechnic, respectively. For school attendance, 74.7 per cent responded positively, and 25.3 per cent negatively responded.

Table 6: Living Standards Particulars for Poverty Measurement

Variables	Parameters	Frequency	Percentage
Cooking Fuel	LPG (gas)	88	58.7
	Firewood	62	41.3
	Total	150	100
Sanitation (Lavatory in the house)	Available	80	53.3
	Not Available	70	46.7
	Total	150	100
Drinking Water	Well-Hand Pumps	69	46
	Mission Bhagiratha	81	54
	Total	150	100
Electricity	Available	138	92
	Not Available	12	8
	Total	150	100
Housing	Katcha	94	62.7
	RCC Building	56	37.3
	Total	150	100
Assets	Television Mobile Phone	127	84.7
	Cycle	18	12
	Motor Bike	5	3.3
	Total	150	100

The standard living particulars of poverty measurement are explained in Table 6. For cooking fuel, most respondents (58.7 per cent) use LPG, while 41.3 per cent still depend on Forest wood. 53.3 per cent of respondents' sanitation facility (Lavatory in the house) is available, but 46.7 per cent of respondents that facility is not available. Regarding drinking water, 54 per cent of respondents depend on Mission Bhagiratha, whereas 46 per cent depend on well-hand pumps only. The majority of respondents (92 per cent) accessed with electricity facility, but for eight per cent, it is not available. Most of the respondents (62.7 per cent) Katcha housing only, whereas 37.3 per cent reside in the RCC building. A more significant part of the respondents (84.7 per cent) have the assets like Television, Mobile phone etc. For 12 percent respondents, a cycle is available for 3.3 per cent of respondents, whereas a motorbike is available.

Conclusion and Suggestions

There is a need to provide excellent and dignified employment opportunities in tribal areas. Tribals who do not have land may be provided with a minimum of 5 areas. In addition, awareness should create among these communities on nutritional food intake; women's engagement in agricultural operations is gainful employment in tribal areas and horticulture.

Many people with disabilities can work and support themselves, leading lives as they choose because of support from computers, Rama (2004) [12]. IT poses new forms of learning, education, health services, livelihood options, governance mechanisms, and e-commerce options, leading to the ultimate goal, i.e., people's empowerment. Hence the use of IT will be a necessary condition, if not sufficient, for the people's empowerment, Rama (2004) [12].

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