BRINING OUT TRANSFORMATION IN SOCIO-CULTURAL ASPECTS OF SCHEDULED TRIBES THROUGH DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMMES - A STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Though there exists a multiple strand of tribal developmental programs those designed an implementing for empowering the Indian tribal population, there have been braided evidences of material findings that relate to the standards of tribal life. Hence there is an urgent need to verify these developmental programs in both semantic and scientific methods using empirical applications. The legislative mechanism of the state had made strenuous efforts to uplift the status of tribal people in all the nooks and corners of the country and had achieved partial success. Inspite of their efforts, the status of tribal people is pathetic and deplorable and the existing situation demands immediate attendance. Thus there is every need to evaluate the effectiveness of developmental programs in bringing out transformation in socio-cultural aspects and adoption of modern methods, hence the present research study was conducted on Scheduled Tribes in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh.

KEY WORDS: *Transformation, Socio-Cultural Aspects, Scheduled Tribes.*

1. INTRODUCTION

India is the home to large number of indigenous people, who are still untouched by the lifestyle of the modern world. With more than 84.4 million, India has the largest population of the tribal people in the world. These tribal people also known as the adivasi's are the poorest in the country, who are still dependent on haunting, agriculture and fishing. Some of the major tribal groups in India include Gonds, Santhals, Khasis, Angamis, Bhils, Bhutias and Great Andamanese. All these tribal people have their own culture, tradition, language and lifestyle.

The principle of social justice demands that the marginalized sections of the people be given protection and preferential treatment for furthering their progress and development. The tribals of India constitute one such group who must be supported and protected by the government. As a result of the peculiarity of the Indian social structure, they have been exploited, discriminated against, and ostracized - socially, economically and politically- from as far back as the Vedic times.

In the wake of the scientific advancement of exponential magnitude that humankind has achieved during the past 150 odd years in comparison with what our forbearers did theretofore since the symphony of creation had closed full in man, the wide world we live in has been reduced, as it were, to a sprawling village sans frontiers. The hallmarks of this world are efficiency, productivity, technique, integration and prosperity.

People belonging to different nations are engaged in a fierce struggle to attain socio-economic progress. But the absence of a level playing ground makes this struggle highly iniquitous and excludes the underprivileged sections of the society from taking advantage of the new blessings and choices of the fast moving world order.

The creation of an egalitarian social order with equity for all sections of the society, free from any form of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, sex or place of birth is the cherished goal of our nation enshrined in the constitution. Equity for the weaker sections of the society, therefore, is the moving spirit of the constitutional schema and permeates the same.

The founding fathers of our constitution desired to secure justice, social, economic, and political for all citizens. They realized that the inequitable forces embedded in the socio-economic system and also political organizations, had resulted in deprivation and disadvantages for the poor and the weaker sections of the society. They, therefore, considered it necessary to provide specific safeguards in the constitution for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, who, due to tradition and a combination of circumstances, were the most deprived, weak and vulnerable amongst the various sections of the society. The various safeguards and protective measures sought to ensure for them all round development and freedom from exploitation

and social injustice so that they could form part of the mainstream of the society.

Article 46 of the Constitution of India provides that "the state shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and in particular of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation". Thus the Constitution of India gives due recognition to the problems and aspirations of the tribals. The policy of reservation forms the central part of the social justice dispensation of the constitution. Reservation is meant to compensate for the unprecedented discrimination perpetrated against them from antiquity thereby empowering and integrating them with the mainstream society. The global initiative of placing people at the centre of development can proceed with added force through the empowerment of the peripheral socio-economic groups, especially the tribals.

The Scheduled Tribes particularly the primitive tribes are placed in the most disadvantageous position in modern India. The backwardness of the tribe is attributed largely to their long isolation from the general society and their exploitation by the non-tribes. Tribals who have contributed to the richness of our culture and heritage have been neglected and isolated particularly during 19th and early 20th centuries. India started her large scale planned development planning in 1951. This development planning derives its objectives and social premises from the 'Directive Principles of the State Policy' set forth in the Constitution of India. The objectives of our development plans are to initiate a process of all round balanced development which would ensure a rising national income and steady improvement in the living standards. Ironically the backlash of these efforts resulted in the suffering of some tribals in the form of displacement and prompted the evolution of planned efforts for tribal development and suitable policies for the protection of their rights. These efforts have initiated the process of social transformation among them. Therefore in the present study an attempt is made to profile the changes in social and economic life in the context of a Primitive Tribe namely Chenchus, who are mostly spread in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh.

Tribals are 'Adivasi' or original dwellers, living in the subcontinent from time immemorial and forbidden to the forests by more aggressive settlers - Aryans being the earliest one to socially subjugate them. In order to resist complete domination, tribals evolved their distinct identity through endogamy, their cropping pattern, hunting and food gathering. Above all, in their intensely personal relationship with the
forest around them, they formed perfectly balanced rhythms which can best be described as symbiotic (Mehta, 2000).

According to Vidyarthi (1981), the tribe is a social group with definite territory, common name, common district, common culture, behavior of an endogamous group, common taboos, existence of distinctive social and political system, full faith in leaders and self-sufficiency in their distinct economy.

Krishna Iyer (1985) defines "tribe is a social group of simple and kind, the members of which speak a common dialect, have a single government act together for common purposes and have a common name, a contiguous territory, a relatively uniform culture or way of life and a traditions of common descent."

Bardhan (1973) defines the tribe as "course of socio-cultural entity at a definite historical stage of development. It is a single, endogamous community with a cultural and psychological makeup".

According to Majumdar (1961) the tribe is "a collection of families or common group bearing a common name, the members of which occupy the same territory, speak the same language and observe certain taboos, regarding marriage, professions and have developed a well assured system of reciprocity and mutuality of obligations."

Kamala Devi Chatopathayaya (1978) defines "a tribe ordinarily has an ancestor or a patron deity. The families or groups composing the larger units are linked through religions and socioeconomic functions.". The term 'tribe' has not been defined clearly anywhere in the Indian constitution. Only the term 'Scheduled Tribe' explained as "the tribe or the tribal communities or parts of or group within tribes or tribal communities". These groups are presumed to form the oldest ethnological sector of the people (Constitution of India, Article.342).

2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Out of 427 Identified Tribal Communities in India, 33 Tribal groups, who are at different stages of socio-economic development, are living in Andhra Pradesh state. Of the 33 Scheduled Tribes of Andhra Pradesh, 8 trial groups have been recognized as Primitive Tribal Group (PTG) by the Govt. of India. These 8 tribes (Chenchus, Kolam, Kondareddy, Kondasavaras, Gadabas, Gonds, Porjas and Thotis) are extremly backward tribal groups who are identified as Primitive Tribal Groups because they are at the pre-agricultural stage of economy characterized by low level of literacy and who largely depend on food gathering for their subsistence.

The constitutional machinery had designed various programs and policies that aims at the welfare and social security of these indigenous tribal people in the country. Yet the process of total empowerment of tribal people did not reached the zenith and there have been mixed experiences of effectiveness in the form of quality and standard of these tribal people.

The Tribal people are mainly engaged in the agriculture and other forms of hard labour. The use to collect forest products and their income levels are based mainly on Minor Forest Produce (MFP). Degradation and Deforestation had reduced the income level of tribal people drastically.

Though there exists a multiple strand of tribal developmental programs those designed an implementing for empowering the Indian tribal population, there have been

braided evidences of material findings that relate to the standards of tribal life. Hence there is an urgent need to verify these developmental programs in both semantic and scientific methods using empirical applications. The legislative mechanism of the state had made strenuous efforts to uplift the status of tribal people in all the nooks and corners of the country and had achieved partial success. Inspite of their efforts, the status of tribal people is pathetic and deplorable and the existing situation demands immediate attendance. Thus there is every need to evaluate the effectiveness of developmental programs in bringing out transformation in socio-cultural aspects and adoption of modern methods, hence the present research study was conducted on Scheduled Tribes in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY
1. To measure the effectiveness of developmental programs in bringing out transformation in socio-cultural aspects and adoption of modern methods.
2. To suggest necessary measures in the light of the findings of the study.

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY
For the present study, descriptive research design was adopted. The study utilized both primary and secondary data. Primary data was collected through schedule method (Interview + Structured questionnaire) and the respondents were taken on Probability Sampling technique i.e Disproportionate stratified random sampling Technique. The sample size was 150 Households, 75 – Male members and 75 Female members were selected for the study. The sample belong to Chenchu tribe.

5. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Table – 1 Effectiveness of Tribal Development Programmes- A Gap Analysis   **N=150**

S.no	Unit	Tribal Development Programs	Mean	SD	Mean Diff.	t	d.f	Sig.
1	I	Integrated Protection Schemes (E)	4.44	.986	2.59	22.126	299	0.000
		Integrated Protection Schemes (P)	1.85	.986				
2	II	Central Government Grants and Financial Assistance (E)	4.56	.982	2.82	24.712	299	0.000
		Central Government Grants and Financial Assistance (P)	1.74	.982				
3	III	Grants from consolidated Fund of India (E)	4.66	.978	2.88	26.418	299	0.000
		Grants from consolidated Fund of India (P)	1.78	.978				
4	IV	Multi Purpose Tribal Projects (E)	4.76	.948	2.98	29.228	299	0.000
		Multi Purpose Tribal Projects (P)	1.54	.948				
5	V	Special Schemes for the development of Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) (E)	4.72	.926	3.14	28.312	299	0.000
		Special Schemes for the development of Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) (P)	1.58	.926				
6	VI	Tribal Development schemes for integration (E)	4.16	1.428	1.72	16.256	299	0.000
		Tribal Development schemes for integration (P)	2.44	1.142				
7	VII	Employment Generation through Business Units/ Cottage industries (E)	3.84	.962	2.16	22.315	299	0.000
		Employment Generation through Business Units/ Cottage industries (P)	1.68	.962				
8	VIII	Schemes for Tribal Colonization (E)	4.56	.812	2.74	29.223	299	0.000
		Schemes for Tribal Colonization (P)	1.82	.812				
9	IX		4.49	1.126	2.87	24.295	299	0.000
		Cooperative Farming Societies (P)	1.62	.864				
10	X	Shifting cultivation and better soil management practices (E)	4.72	.966	3.08	26.334	299	0.000
		Shifting cultivation and better soil management practices (P)	1.64	.966				

11	XI	Scholarship schemes and education facilities (E)	4.12	.968	1.86	17.472	299	0.000
		Scholarship schemes and education facilities (P)	2.26	.968				
12	XII	Scheme of Tribal Hostel Facilities for Boys / Girls (E)	3.38	1.468	2.22	18.963	299	0.000
		Scheme of Tribal Hostel Facilities for Boys / Girls (P)	1.16	1.004				
13	XIII	Vocational Training Centers (E)	4.56	1.514	3.12	22.812	299	0.000
		Vocational Training Centers (P)	1.44	1.226				
14	XIV	Special Educational Programs for the Tribal Girls (E)	4.12	1.012	1.96	16.714	299	0.000
		Special Educational Programs for the Tribal Girls (P)	2.16	1.012				
15	XV	Tribal Coaching Centers (E)	4.74	.984	3.11	25.639	299	0.000
		Tribal Coaching Centers (P)	1.63	.984				
16	XVI	Government Departmental Concession (E)	4.96	.872	3.74	34.552	299	0.000
		Government Departmental Concession (P)	1.22	.872				
17	XVII	Tribal Cultural Institutions (E)	4.68	.894	3.06	26.298	299	0.000
		Tribal Cultural Institutions (P)	1.62	.894				
18	XVIII	Reservation Policy in Government Posts (E)	4.48	1.134	2.56	21.184	299	0.000
		Reservation Policy in Government Posts (P)	1.92	1.116				
19	XIX	Credit Enactment Regulation (E)	4.32	.986	2.16	19.326	299	0.000
		Credit Enactment Regulation (P)	2.16	.986				
20	XX	Tribal Welfare Offices (E)	4.64	.946	3.42	31.462	299	0.000
		Tribal Welfare Offices (P)	1.22	.824				
21	XXI	Grant-in-Aid to Voluntary Organizations working for the welfare of Schedules Tribes (E)	4.76	.892	3.08	28.658	299	0.000
		Grant-in-Aid to Voluntary Organizations working for the welfare of Schedules Tribes (P)	1.68	.856				
22	XXII	Large Sized Adivasi Multipurpose Cooperative Societies (LAMPS) (E)	4.12	1.814	2.46	18.132	299	0.000
		Large Sized Adivasi Multipurpose Cooperative Societies (LAMPS) (P)	1.66	1.592				

Source: Computed with primary data

The above table 1 shows the effectiveness of the tribal development program by using gap analysis. The effectiveness was measured by calculating the key value with the help of mean difference, standard deviation and mean value. Each unit was tested for two counts for the expectations and perceptions of the beneficiaries on the identified development programs. In order to test the statistical validity of the proposed hypothesis every unit was examined and its relevancy was tested. The unit wise results are follows:

1. The analysis of unit-1 shows that the beneficiaries perceived effectiveness is less effective than the average expectations of the beneficiaries with a mean value of 1.85 and the mean difference is found to be statistically significant with a t-value of 22.126. Hence it can be concluded that the identified program under unit-1 is very less effective.

2. The analysis of unit-2 shows that the beneficiaries perceived effectiveness is less effective than the average expectations of the beneficiaries with a mean value of 1.74 and the mean difference is found to be statistically significant with a t-value of 24.712. Hence it can be concluded that the identified program under unit-2 is very less effective.

3. The analysis of unit-3 shows that the beneficiaries perceived effectiveness is less effective than the average expectations of the beneficiaries with a mean value of 1.78

and the mean difference is found to be statistically significant with a t-value of 26.418. Hence it can be concluded that the identified program under unit-3 is very less effective.

4. The analysis of unit-4 shows that the beneficiaries perceived effectiveness is less effective than the average expectations of the beneficiaries with a mean value of 1.54 and the mean difference is found to be statistically significant with a t-value of 29.228. Hence it can be concluded that the identified program under unit-4 is very less effective.

5. The analysis of unit-5 shows that the beneficiaries perceived effectiveness is less effective than the average expectations of the beneficiaries with a mean value of 1.58 and the mean difference is found to be statistically significant with a t-value of 28.312. Hence it can be concluded that the identified program under unit-5 is very less effective.

6. The analysis of unit-6 shows that the beneficiaries perceived effectiveness is less effective than the average expectations of the beneficiaries with a mean value of 2.44 and the mean difference is found to be statistically significant with a t-value of 16.256. Hence it can be concluded that the identified program under unit-6 is very less effective.

7. The analysis of unit-7 shows that the beneficiaries perceived effectiveness is less effective than the average expectations of the beneficiaries with a mean value of 1.68 and the mean difference is found to be statistically significant with a t-value of 22.315. Hence it can be concluded that the identified program under unit-7 is very less effective.

8. The analysis of unit-8 shows that the beneficiaries perceived effectiveness is less effective than the average expectations of the beneficiaries with a mean value of 1.82 and the mean difference is found to be statistically significant with a t-value of 29.223. Hence it can be concluded that the identified program under unit-8 is very less effective.

9. The analysis of unit-9 shows that the beneficiaries perceived effectiveness is less effective than the average expectations of the beneficiaries with a mean value of 1.62 and the mean difference is found to be statistically significant with a t-value of 24.295. Hence it can be concluded that the identified program under unit-9 is very less effective.

10. The analysis of unit-10 shows that the beneficiaries perceived effectiveness is less effective than the average expectations of the beneficiaries with a mean value of 1.64 and the mean difference is found to be statistically significant with a t-value of 26.334. Hence it can be concluded that the identified program under unit-10 is very less effective.

11. The analysis of unit-11 shows that the beneficiaries perceived effectiveness is less effective than the average expectations of the beneficiaries with a mean value of 2.36 and the mean difference is found to be statistically significant with a t-value of 17.472. Hence it can be concluded that the identified program under unit-11 is very less effective.

12. The analysis of unit-12 shows that the beneficiaries perceived effectiveness is less effective than the average expectations of the beneficiaries with a mean value of 1.16 and the mean difference is found to be statistically significant with a t-value of 18.963. Hence it can be concluded that the identified program under unit-12 is very less effective.

13. The analysis of unit-13 shows that the beneficiaries perceived effectiveness is less effective than the average expectations of the beneficiaries with a mean value of 1.44 and the mean difference is found to be statistically significant with a t-value of 22.812. Hence it can be concluded that the identified program under unit-13 is very less effective.

14. The analysis of unit-14 shows that the beneficiaries perceived effectiveness is less effective than the average expectations of the beneficiaries with a mean value of 2.16 and the mean difference is found to be statistically significant with a t-value of 16.714. Hence it can be concluded that the identified program under unit-14 is very less effective.

15. The analysis of unit-15 shows that the beneficiaries perceived effectiveness is less effective than the average expectations of the beneficiaries with a mean value of 1.63 and the mean difference is found to be statistically significant with a t-value of 25.639. Hence it can be concluded that the identified program under unit-15 is very less effective.

16. The analysis of unit-16 shows that the beneficiaries perceived effectiveness is less effective than the average expectations of the beneficiaries with a mean value of 1.22 and the mean difference is found to be statistically significant with a t-value of 34.555. Hence it can be concluded that the identified program under unit-16 is very less effective.

17. The analysis of unit-17 shows that the beneficiaries perceived effectiveness is less effective than the average expectations of the beneficiaries with a mean value of 1.62 and the mean difference is found to be statistically significant with a t-value of 26.298. Hence it can be concluded that the identified program under unit-17 is very less effective.

18. The analysis of unit-18 shows that the beneficiaries perceived effectiveness is less effective than the average expectations of the beneficiaries with a mean value of 1.92 and the mean difference is found to be statistically significant with a t-value of 21.184. Hence it can be

concluded that the identified program under unit-18 is very less effective.

19. The analysis of unit-19 shows that the beneficiaries perceived effectiveness is less effective than the average expectations of the beneficiaries with a mean value of 2.16 and the mean difference is found to be statistically significant with a t-value of 19.326. Hence it can be concluded that the identified program under unit-19 is very less effective.

20. The analysis of unit-20 shows that the beneficiaries perceived effectiveness is less effective than the average expectations of the beneficiaries with a mean value of 1.22 and the mean difference is found to be statistically significant with a t-value of 31.462. Hence it can be concluded that the identified program under unit-20 is very less effective.

21. The analysis of unit-21 shows that the beneficiaries perceived effectiveness is less effective than the average expectations of the beneficiaries with a mean value of 1.68 and the mean difference is found to be statistically significant with a t-value of 28.658. Hence it can be concluded that the identified program under unit-21 is very less effective.

22. The analysis of unit-22 shows that the beneficiaries perceived effectiveness is less effective than the average expectations of the beneficiaries with a mean value of 1.66 and the mean difference is found to be statistically significant with a t-value of 18.132. Hence it can be concluded that the identified program under unit-22 is very less effective.

6. CONCLUSION

After analyzing the whole data it can be stated that the identified development programmes were tested on two counts under expectations and perceptions of the beneficiaries and are found to be less effective in terms of perceptions of the beneficiaries and their expectation on the programs are very high as revealed by the beneficiaries and hence their exists a wide gap in between the concepts of expected effectiveness and perceived effectiveness and the same was verified with the help of above applied gap analysis.

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