

TRIBAL EMPOWERMENT –A STUDY ON WAYANAD DISTRICT OF KERALA

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ABSTRACT

The term tribe is probably derived from the Roman word 'Tribua' which means a political unit and was applied to refer to social group defined by the territory they are occupied. As the name implies tribals are 'adivasis' or original dwellers living in the subcontinent from unrecorded time and possibly driven into the forest by more aggressive settlers Wayanad has the highest number of tribes in the State of Kerala. 36 % of the tribal population of the State live in the district of Wayanad. Problem of landlessness, indebtedness, houselessness, rehabilitation unemployment and health problems remain unsolved among the tribals. This situation calls for special programmes, projects and approaches for their integrated development. In Kerala Scheduled Tribal Development Department is a major agency which implement beneficiary programmes for scheduled tribal people. This study includes the supports given by the institutions like ITDP of Wayanad and some NGOs to these tribes.

Key Words: *Tribal Empowerment, Tribes, Tribal community, Paniya, Kurumar, ITDP, NGO, sanitation, health, education, indebtedness*

INTRODUCTION

A process of tribal empowerment was initiated in India through the 73rd Constitutional Amendment in 1993. The reasons for this amendment were the largely ineffective Panchayati Raj System in the country and the need for adapting to the tribal system of local self governance. Tribal development and empowerment activities are carried out in India by both the government and the NGO's. The government gives constitutional guarantees to the tribals and the NGO's also joins hand with the secular civil society groups and work for the upliftment of the tribals.

The accelerated tribal development efforts and empowerment programmes were started in Kerala in 1974-75 with the introduction of Tribal sub-plan strategy in India. Till this period tribal welfare programmes were carried by government departments without a specific fund and programmes. Under the sub-plan strategy separate funds were allotted for implementing the specific development by the Central and State governments. It gave new phase to tribal development activities. ITDPs were also introduced in tribal regions to co-ordinate the programmes. Later in 1995, Panchayathi Raj System offered some opportunities to tribal participation and involvement in decision making through Ooru Kootams. This Opportunity of participating helped to improve the way of lives of the tribal people.

Considering the number of tribal population, Wayanad has the highest number of tribes in Kerala. As per 2011 Census 136062 tribes were living in the Wayanad District and about half of the population made the interiors of Wayanad their home. Tribes were the original inhabitants of Wayanad region. The various sects of adivasis of Wayanad district include Paniyas, Kurumars, Adiyas, Kurichyas, Ooralis, Kattunaikkans etc. But once the British era opened roads to this region, there occurred a migration to this region and during 1940s, and these aborigines were misplaced tremendously..Tribal development aims at increasing the incomes and strengthening the material aspects of tribal culture through better utilization of the environmental resources such as forests, minerals, flora& fauna, agriculture etc.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Wayanad has the highest number of tribes in the state of Kerala.36 % of the tribal population of the State live in the district of Wayanad. The social, economic and educational interest of tribes are protected through legislation and promoted by government through various departments and agencies for the last six decades, still the tribes live in poverty and unemployment. This situation calls for special programmes, projects and approaches for their integrated development and well being. Studies show that the socio-economic condition and standard of living of tribals are not yet improved as expected. Even though there are different schemes and programmes, tribals of our State still remain exploited and depressed and are in poverty and unemployment.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- i) To examine the tribal empowerment activities undertaken in Wayanad district.
- ii) To make an appraisal of tribal development programmes of Wayanad district.
- iii) To analyse the role of government and non-government institutions in tribal development
- iv) To know about the financial assistance programmes in tribal areas.

HYPOTHESIS

H0 1: There is no significant difference among the tribal community with regard to Income.

H1 1: There is significant difference among the tribal community with regard to income.

H02: There is no significant difference among the tribal community with regard to activities of NGOs

H12: There is significant difference among the tribal community with regard to activities of NGOs

H0 3: There is no significant difference in the health and sanitation activities among the tribal sub-groups.

H1 3: There is significant difference in the health and sanitation activities among the tribal sub-groups

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Profile of the Respondents

The present study includes 300 respondents selected from three Taluks in Wayanad, namely, Mananthavady, Sulthan Bathery and Kalpetta. The selected respondents include tribes selected from Paniya and Kurumar community. The respondents from both of the gender groups, various age groups, income groups, education level and employment status are included in this study. At the time of analysis it is necessary to know the influence of demographic factors on the various aspects of the study. Thus, profile of the respondents on various bases are presented below.

Taluk wise classification of the sample

In order to provide a fair representation for the selected data, the respondents are selected from the three taluks of the district of Wayanad such as Vythiri, Sulthan Bathery and Mananthavady.

The sample of respondents selected from each taluk is given in Table 5.1.

Table 1.1
Taluk wise classification of the sample

Taluk	Frequency	Percent
Vythiri	100	33.33
Sulthan Bathery	100	33.33
Mananthavady	100	33.34
Total	300	100.0

(Source: Survey Data)

It can be observed from the table that a total of 300 respondents are selected. From each Taluk 100 respondents ie,33.33% of respondents are selected, to get a fair distribution of the sample.

Table 1.2
Community wise classification of the sample

Tribal Community	Frequency	Percent
Paniya	150	50.0
Kurumar	150	50.0
Total	300	100.0

(Source: Survey Data)

It can be observed from the above table that among the 300 respondents 150 respondents or 50% belong to the Paniya community and 150 respondents or 50% belong to the Kurumar community.

Table 1.3
Classification according to activities of NGOs

Activities of NGOs	Paniya		Kurumar	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Creating awareness	2.3960	1.20707	2.4933	1.34487
Educating	2.5241	1.25323	2.5743	1.36073
Creating self-confidence	2.6149	1.34783	2.6284	1.40592
Form as groups to get benefit	2.6552	1.34050	2.7838	1.39260
Conduct weekly meetings	2.3378	1.23748	2.5270	1.24237
Organise awareness programes	2.4730	1.18635	2.5000	1.42141
Organise educational activities	2.6200	1.37411	2.7568	1.40273
Door to door campaigns	2.5034	1.36374	2.8163	1.33458

(Source: Survey Data)

From the above analysis it is observed that in the activities of NGOs Paniya tribe form as groups to get their benefit, for it has the highest Mean 2.6552 and SD 1.34050. Next comes organising educational activities and creating self-confidence among the Paniya tribes for it has the Mean

score of 2.6200 and 2.6149 and SD of 1.37411 and 1.34783 respectively. The least mean score comes for conducting weekly meetings among the Paniya tribes. In case of Kurumar tribes door to door campaigns has the highest mean score of 2.8163 and SD 1.33458. They also agree that the activities of NGOs help to form as groups to get their benefit because it has the Mean score of 2.7838 and SD of 1.39260. The next comes organising educational activities as the Mean score is 2.7568 and SD of 1.40273. The least mean score is for creating awareness programmes among the Kurumar tribes as it has the Mean score of 2.4933 and SD of 1.3448.

Table 1.4
Classification according to Procedures of ITDP

Procedures of ITDP	Paniya		Kurumar	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Very complicated	2.4333	1.25418	2.6133	1.32435
Cause enormous delay	2.2568	1.21846	2.4932	1.32222
Serves the interest of officials	2.2481	1.21257	2.3103	1.37725
Harass the tribals	2.2133	1.35318	2.2667	1.44606

(Source: Survey Data)

It is noticed from the table 5.18 that among the procedures of ITDP for Paniya tribes, the procedures are very complicated has the highest mean score of 2.4333 and SD of 1.25418. The next comes it causes enormous delay and serves the interest of officials because it has the Mean score of 2.2568 and 2.481 and SD of 1.21846 and 1.35318 respectively. The least mean score of 2.2133 and SD of 1.21257 is for harassing the tribals by the officials. If the procedures of Kurumar tribes are considered very complicated procedures has the highest mean score of 2.6133 and SD of 1.32435. The next comes the procedure that cause enormous delay has Mean score of 2.4932 and SD of 1.32222. The least Mean score occurs for harassing the tribals by the officials which has a Mean score of 2.2667 and SD of 1.44606.

Table 1.5
ANOVA Table

Null Hypothesis	Level of significance	Df	F	Sig.value
There is no significant difference among tribal sub-groups with regard to their daily income	139.107	2	10.311	.001

(Source: Survey Data)

From the above ANOVA table, it is clear that there is significant difference among the tribal community as regards their daily income. Because the F value is 10.311 and sig. Value is .001 which is less than .05. Therefore, we reject the null hypothesis that there is no significant difference among the tribal community as regards their daily income.

Table 1.6
ANOVA Table

Null Hypothesis	Sum of Squares	Df	F	Sig.
There is no significant difference among NGOs with regard to their activity	204.247	2	1.088	.298

(Source: Survey Data)

The above ANOVA table shows that there is no significant difference among the type of NGOS as regards their activity. The F value is 1.088 and sig. value is .298, which is greater than .05, so we accept the null hypothesis that there is no significant difference among the type of NGOs as far as their activity is concerned.

Table 1.7
Classification according to Changes after involvement in ITDPs and NGOs

Changes after involvement in NGOs	Paniya		Kurumar	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Self Esteem and Dignity	2.6467	1.38611	2.6600	1.45551
Social Status	2.4800	1.20246	2.5733	1.23346
Change in the attitude of Govt.officials	2.6467	1.30120	2.6622	1.34293
Accessibility of Govt officials	2.0604	1.13440	2.1533	1.22467

(Source:Survey Data)

It is noticed from the table that after involving in the activities of NGOs self esteem and dignity of the Paniya tribes increased as well as the attitude of Government officials changed, as the mean score is highest ie,2.6467 and SD is 1.38611 and 1.30120 respectively. Social status of the Paniya tribe has 2.4800 and SD is 1.20246. Accessibility of Government officials has mean score 2.0604 and SD 1.13440. In case of Kurumar change in the attitude of Government officials has the highest mean score of 2.6622 and SD of 1.34293. Self esteem and dignity of Kurumar tribe is 2.6600 and SD is 1.45551. Social status of the Kurumar tribe has increased as the mean score is 2.5733 and SD is 1.23346. Accessibility of Government officials has also increased as mean score is 2.1533 and SD is 1.22467.

Table 1.8
Chi-Square Analysis

Factors	Level of Significance	Degree of Freedom	Chi-square Value	Sig. Value
Sanitation	95%	3	193.013	.000
Health	95%	3	12.200	.000
Education	95%	3	191.220	.000
Indebtedness	95%	3	219.877	.000

(Source: Survey Data)

From the above chi-square analysis, it is clear that sanitation activities are associated with the tribal community as the chi-square value is 193.013 and sig. value is .000. Thus, the null hypothesis is rejected and we accept the alternative hypothesis that sanitation activities among the tribal community are dependent. As far as health factor is considered, the chi-square value is 127.200 and sig. value is .000. So we reject the null hypothesis that health activities are not related with the tribal community. If the education factor is considered, the chi-square value is 191.220 and sig. value is .000. Thus, we accept the alternative hypothesis that educational activities and tribal community are closely related. Similarly, if we consider indebtedness factor the chi-square value is 219.877 and sig. value is .000, we come to the conclusion that tribal community and their indebtedness are closely associated and reject the null hypothesis.

SUMMARY, FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS

Attempts have been made by both government and NGOs for the upliftment of the tribals ever since independence. A series of programmes and policies have been designed to promote social and economic development. Anyway the fruits of development have not yet been reached the tribal poor. The Constitution of India has provided many provisions and safeguards for the welfare and development of the tribals. It include protective provisions, development provisions, administrative provisions and reservational provisions.

Ministry of Tribal affairs frame various programmes and schemes for the tribal development and is implemented through the State Government and voluntary organisations as centrally sponsored schemes. These schemes may be for social, economic and educational development of the tribals. The process of tribal empowerment was initiated in India through the amendment of 73rd Constitution. The Government provides Constitutional guarantees to the tribals but fails to implement them properly. The NGOs addresses the tribal problems and issues more considerably. They reach to disadvantaged tribal groups in the remote area. All these institutions facilitate the empowerment of tribals.

FINDINGS

1. It is found that majority of the tribes who interact with the society are male persons.
- 2 It is noticed that most of the Paniya and Kurumar tribes are illiterate or does not get any type of education.
3. The Kurumar tribal community are more better in the educational level as compared to the Paniya tribes ,so they give more emphasis to the education of their children.
4. As the financial aspect is considered, the Paniya as well as the Kurumar tribes are financially weak.
5. The percentage of separated or widowed persons are higher in tribal community as compared to other non - tribe people.
6. The usage of alcohols and drugs are more in tribal community so their life expectancy is very low
7. The living conditions of Kurumar tribe are more better than the paniya tribe.
- 8.It is noticed that after involving in the activities of NGOs, tribes get dignity and self esteem and their social status also increased.
- 9.It is observed that through the interaction with the Governmental and NGOs tribes get more accessibility to the Government offices to get their services.
- 10.It is found that the activities of NGOs may be in different form such as creating awareness, educating, creating self-confidence, conducting weekly meetings,form as groups to get benefit etc.
- 11.It is observed that there is significant difference exist among the tribal sub-groups as regards their income. The income earning capacity of Kurumar tribes are more than the Paniya tribes.
- 12.It is noticed that there is no significant difference exist among type of NGOs as far as their activities among tribal sub-groups are considered.
- 13.It is observed that the health and sanitation activities are depending on the tribal sub-groups.
- 14.It is found that the educational and indebtedness factors are also associated with the tribal community.

SUGGESTIONS

1. The Governmental organisations and NGOs should arrange some more awareness programmes with regard to the factors such as education, income, health, sanitation etc.
2. Emphasis should be given to the Paniya tribes because they are far behind other tribal community.
3. Ensure that the assistance are really reached in the hands of the tribes.
4. Develop a comprehensive policy on tribal development which protects nature and natural resources
5. Follow-up programmes should arrange for the fruitful results of activities by both the Governmental organisations and NGOs.

CONCLUSIONS

Through the study the extent of tribal development among the tribal people are analysed as well as their awareness about the avenues of tribal development. The role of governmental and NGOs to support the tribal development are also analysed. Mainly two tribal sub-groups are selected and the differences existing among those sub-groups with regard to the tribal development are also noticed in this study.

The challenge faced by Government of India since Independence is how to give proper provision to the tribal people for ensuring social and economic justice. The tribal people are born and grow as the children of nature. They lead a traditional life of their own, therefore, encourage their traditional arts and culture. The Government and NGOs should try to train and build up a team from the tribal people to do the administration services or development work. The Constitution of India has made definite provisions for the administration and upliftment of tribal people. We can conclude that human development is people centric. Socially and economically disadvantaged people like Scheduled Tribes should give proper formal and institutional support to ensure development and thereby we achieve empowerment.

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