

DEVELOPMENT OF SCHEDULED TRIBES IN INDIA – AN OVERVIEW

* Dr. Ravikumar S.

* Lecturer, Department of P.G. Studies and Research in Economics,
Sahyadri College, Shivamogga,

Abstract-India is a pluralist country with rich diversity reflected in the multitude of cultures, religious, languages and racial stocks. The Scheduled Tribes are one of the principal deprived sections of the Indian society. They constitute 8.6 per cent of the total population as per the census 2011. From the beginning of the Independence the Government of India initiated several sorts of programmes for the holistic development of Scheduled Tribes in the Country. Despite the efforts made by central government for the development of Scheduled Tribes ever since Independence, their socio-economic status gradually increasing trend but as compared to general population they are suffering several sorts of problems such as malnutrition, hunger, poverty, housing, pure drinking water facility. Hence the study focus on some of the indicators like population, sex ratio, literacy, work rate participation and basic amenities in Indian scenario to analyses the status of STs in India.

The objectives of the present study is to know the Scheduled Tribes population since 1981 to 2011 in India and to trace out sex ratio and educational status of STs in India and to identify the poverty, Work Force Participation Rate and occupational distribution of STs in India and also to find out the Household Availability of Housing, Toilet and Electricity Facilities Access and Household Assets of STs in India. For the purpose of analysis the present study based on secondary data which are gathered from various published sources such are books, articles, journals, Census reports, and Development reports.

Key Words : India, Scheduled Tribes, population, Independence, Central Government, Development

1. Introduction

In India, the Scheduled Tribes (STs) are one of the most disadvantaged groups in the Indian Society. They constitute 8.6 per cent out of the total population of the country as per the 2011 Census. Development of STs in India is a constitutional obligation. But, how to develop STs is the burning issue for country's policymakers, planners, administrators and all those concerned with the welfare and development of the STs. Laws have been enacted with regard to the protection, safeguard and development of STs and these have been put into practice. Right from the independence, large number of programmes has been undertaken by the Government of India for the development of STs to ensure better quality of life for them and also special provisions are made for protection of Scheduled Tribes from exploitation for their development. Thousands of millions of rupees have been spent for developing these people ever since Five-Year Plans. Special programs are formulated and the central government extends adequate resources for developmental programmes in the tribal habitations. Despite the various efforts made by the central government, the results show that the quality and quantum of development achieved is far from being satisfactory. STs are still facing the problems of hunger, malnutrition, poverty, illiteracy, ill health and deprivation from natural resources. Though the Government of India provides special attention for the development of these sections still a majority of the people in these categories are excluded from the development programmes. In order to get a clear view of these issues present study has been attempted at.

2. Review of Literature

For the purpose to study some of the important earlier works which were made to get insight on the topic:

Pradip Kumar Singh (2004), in his study on *Tribal Development in India: What Went Wrong*, argued that even though many schemes have been conceived and implemented for over five decades by the governments most of them have failed. In most cases, the tribal life worsened. He argued that the existence of a scheme does not ensure its utility to all.

In an article on *Globalization and Indigenous Knowledge Systems-An Indian Tribal Case* by Avinash Kumar Singh (2008) opined that the tribal people are those groups that remained isolated from the mainstream culture for a long time and have a well-developed knowledge system based on their livelihood and culture.

A study on *Status of Tribals in India: An Analysis*, by Anupam Hazra (2010) opined that more than half of the tribal population is found to be living below the poverty line and they constitute a larger proportion of agricultural labourers, casual labourers, plantation labourers and industrial labourers.

Gadadhara Mohapatra and Kiran Sharma (2013), in their article on *Inclusive Growth, Poverty and Human Development in India*, argued that inclusive paradigm of growth is highly essential to promote development of weaker sections of the society. According to them inclusive development is needed to improve the condition of the vulnerable groups of the society and there is necessity of a better governance and deeper involvement of the local people in the development programs.

Snehalata Panda (2015), an article on *Health Status of Tribes and New Initiatives*, found that Five Year Plans since independence have a major health component for tribes with huge fund allocated for human resource and infrastructure development. Comprehensive measuring has been initiated for sanitation, water purification, communication and education. Primarily health centre's are instituted for every 20,000 persons in tribal sub-centre's are available for 3,000 populations.

3. Objectives of the Study

Following are the objectives of the present study:

1. To know the Scheduled Tribes population since 1981 to 2011 in India Scenario
2. To trace out sex ratio and educational status of STs in India
3. To identify the poverty, Work Force Participation Rate and occupational distribution of STs in India.
4. To find out the household availability of housing, toilet, electricity access and assets of STs in India.

4. Scope

Geographically, this study is restricted to India. The issues related to the Development of Scheduled Tribes in India, have been taken up for the study.

5. Methodology

The present study is based on the secondary sources of data which have been collected from various books, journals and periodicals, websites, articles, census reports and various reports.

6. Scheduled Tribes - Indian Scenario

The details of the composition of STs in total population are presented in Table 1.

Table 1
ST Population in India, 1981-2011

Year	SC	S T	Total
(01)	(02)	(03)	(04)
1981	15.8	7.8	23.6
1991	16.5	8.1	24.6
2001	16.2	8.2	24.4
2011	16.6	8.6	25.2

(Percentage)

Source: Venkatanarayana Motkuri (2013), Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Tribes (STs) in Andhra Pradesh :

A Situation Assessment Analysis, S. R. Sankaran Chair (Rural Labour), National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad, p. 3.

The SC and STs together constituted 23.6 per cent of the total population as per 1981 census and 25.2 per cent as per 2011 census. The share of SC population was 15.8 per cent in 1981 which was increased to 16.6 per cent in 2011. Proportion of the ST population, which has 7.8 per cent in 1981 increased to 8.6 per cent in 2011. It is clear that the population of SC and STs increased during the various Census periods.

7. Sex Ratio of STs Population in India

The sex ratio indicates the social development of the ST population. The details of sex ratio is presented in Table 2.

Table 2
Sex Ratio of STs in India

Year	Sex Ratio (Females per 1000 Males)	
	General Population	ST
(01)	(02)	(03)
1981	934	983
1991	927	972
2001	933	977
2011	943	990

Source: 1. Data compiled from Scheduled Caste Sub Plan Guidelines for Implementation (2006) Planning Commission, New Delhi, p. 4.

2. Arup Maharatna (2011), How Can 'Beautiful' Be 'Backward'? Tribes of India in a Long-Term Demographic Perspective, Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. XLVI, p. 44.

3. Tarun Bikash Sukai (2010), Tribal Development in India – An Overview, Kurukshetra, The Monthly Journal Ministry of Rural Development, Vol. 59, No. 1, p.4.

The sex ratio in India is increased to 943 from 934 during the census period 2011 from 1981, females per 1000 males as per 2011 census. The sex ratio of STs stood at 990 from 983 in the same period which are more favorable than for general population.

8. Educational Status of STs in India

Education is a vital tool for achieving inclusive growth by eradicating poverty and unemployment. Education is not only a tool for enhancing efficiency but also an effective instrument for augmenting and widening democratic participation and improving the overall quality of individual and the society.

8.1. Literacy Rates of STs and General Population

The crude literacy rates distinguish of STs and the general population from 1981 to 2011 clearly indicates the gap between STs and the rest of the country's population. The details are shown in Table 3.

Table 3
Literacy Rate of STs and General Population

(Percentage)

Year	Particulars		Literacy Gap
	Scheduled Tribes	General Population	STs and General
(01)	(02)	(03)	(04)
1961	8.53	28.3	19.77
1971	11.30	34.45	18.15
1981	16.35	43.57	19.88
1991	29.6	52.2	22.6
2001	47.1	65.38	18.28
2011	63.1	74.04	14.03

Source: 1. Educational Statistics of Selected Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Ministry of Human Resource development 1993 and Primary Census Abstract, Census of India 2001, Reproduced in Population Dynamics and Deprivation in Crude Literacy among Scheduled Tribes in India by C.M. Lakshmana (2009), Population Research Centre, Institute for Social and Economic Change, pp. 23-24; National Commission for SC and STs, Fifth Report and Census, 2011, Reproduced in Kabita Kumari Sahu (2014), Challenging Issues of Tribal Education in India, IOSR Journal of Economics and Finance (IOSR-JEF), Vol. 3, Issue 2, Ver. II, p. 50.

2. Primary Census Abstract for Total Population, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, 2011 Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India.

3. Statistical Profile of Scheduled Tribes in India 2013, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Statistics Division, Government of India, p. 13.

The literacy rate of STs has increased from 8.53 per cent in 1961 to 63.1 per cent in 2011, registering an increase of 54.57 percentage points in five decades. The literacy rate for the general population increased from 19.77 per cent to 74.04 per cent in the same period. It is a welcome development that the literacy gap between the general population and ST population is narrowing down.

9. Poverty of STs in India

The strategy of creating employment-cum-income generating activities to alleviate poverty of STs has proved its impact in raising a large number of ST families from the level of 'Below Poverty Line'. Details of the progress of rural and urban poverty of STs have been presented in Table 4.

Table 4
Rural and Urban Poverty of STs in India (2004-05 and 2009-10)

(Percentage)

Year	Scheduled Castes		Scheduled Tribes		Others		Total	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
(01)	(02)	(03)	(04)	(05)	(06)	(07)	(08)	(09)
2004-05 (Revised Estimates)	52.7	40.0	61.9	35.0	26.2	15.8	41.8	25.7
2009-10	43.5	33.0	47.1	28.8	21.1	11.9	33.8	20.9

Source : Government of India, Planning Commission, Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-2012), Vol. 1, Inclusive Growth and NSSO Primary Data 2009-10, Reproduced in Rural Development Statistics (2011-12), National Institute of Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, (Edit by K. Hanumantha Rao), Rajendranagar, Hyderabad.

Table 4 presents the data on the rural and urban poverty of STs in India. The percentage of the ST families living below the poverty line has declined from 61.9 per cent as per revised estimates of 2004-05 to 47.1 per cent in 2009-10 in rural areas and in urban areas it declined to 28.2 per cent from 35.0 per cent during the same period. Despite a remarkable reduction in the proportion of the population living below poverty line, the incidence of poverty of STs continues to be very high, when compared to the general population but showing definite signs of decline. The reason for this is that the Central and State Governments have implemented various poverty alleviation and unemployment generation programmes.

10. Work Force Participation Rate of STs in India

The workforce participation rate of STs by using the criteria of usual principal and subsidiary status reveals that the Work Force Participation Rate (WFPR) of STs is greater than that of all other social groups in rural areas. Similarly, WFPR in urban areas too is comparatively larger of STs. The details are given in Table 5.

Table 5
Details of Work Force Participation Rate of STs in India (2011)

Sector	Scheduled Tribes		Total Population	
	2001	2011	2001	2011
(01)	(02)	(03)	(04)	(05)
Rural	50.4	50.0	41.7	41.8
Urban	34.6	37.2	32.3	35.3
Total	49.1	48.7	39.1	39.8

(Percentage)

Source : Primary Census Abstract for Total Population, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, 2011 Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India, Data downloaded from <http://www.google.com> dated on 10.10.2014 at 9.04 p.m.

The work participation rate of STs has declined from 49.1 per cent to 48.7 per cent from 2001 to 2011 Census. In the case of general population it has increased to 39.8 per cent from 39.1 per cent in 2001.

11. Occupational Distribution of STs and General Population

It is interesting to note that the type of economic activities pursued by different categories of population in general and STs in particular. The details of occupational distribution offered are given in Table 6.

Table 6
Occupational Distribution of STs and General Population, 2001 to 2011

Type of workers	General		Scheduled Tribes	
	2001	2011	2001	2011
(01)	(02)	(03)	(06)	(07)
Main workers	77.8	75.2	68.9	64.8
Marginal workers	22.2	24.8	31.1	35.2
Cultivators	31.7	24.6	44.7	34.5
Agricultural Labourers	26.5	30.0	36.9	44.5
Household Industry	4.2	3.8	2.1	1.8
Other Workers	37.6	41.6	16.3	19.2

(Percentage)

Source : Primary Census Abstract for Total Population, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, 2011, Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India, New Delhi, Data downloaded from <http://www.google.com> dated on 10.10.2014 at 9.04 p.m.

The data presented in Table 6 show the distribution of workforce among various occupations. As per 2011 census, 64.8 per cent of STs are main workers as against 75.2 per cent for general population. Similarly, 35.2 per cent of STs, 24.8 per cent in general population are marginal workers and 34.5 per cent for STs are cultivators. About 44.5 per cent of STs and 30.0 per cent of all groups are agricultural labourers. About 1.8 per cent of STs and 3.8 per cent of general population are in household industry as per 2011 census. Further, 19.2 per cent of STs and 41.6 per cent of the general population are other workers.

12. Household Availability of Housing, Toilet and Electricity Facilities of STs and General Population in India

Housing is one of the basic requirements for human survival. For a normal citizen, own house provides a significant economic security and dignity in the society. For a shelter less person, possession of a house brings about a profound social change in his existence, endowing him with an identity, thus integrating him with his immediate social milieu. Similarly, toilet and electricity facilities are also the basic needs. The details are presented in Table 7.

Table 7
Details of the Basic Needs in India, 2001 to 2011

Amenities (01)	2001			2011		
	SC (02)	ST (03)	Total (04)	SC (05)	ST (06)	Total (07)
House with concrete roof	13.1	6.1	21.2	21.9	10.1	29.6
Tap water	32.1	20.0	36.7	41.2	24.4	43.5
Electricity as a source of lighting	44.3	36.5	55.8	59.0	51.7	67.2
Latrine facility within the premises	23.6	17.0	36.4	33.8	22.6	46.9
Connected to drainage	42.8	21.8	46.4	46.6	22.7	51.1
With bathroom	22.2	15.0	36.1	27.7	17.2	42.0
LPG/PNG	7.9	5.3	17.5	16.9	9.2	28.5

(Percentage)

Note : LPG – Liquefied Petroleum Gas ; PNG – Piped Natural Gas.

Source : Census of India 2001 and 2011, Reproduced in R.B. Bhagat (2013), Conditions of SC/ST Households - A Story of Unequal Improvement, Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. XLVIII, No. 41, p. 64.

Table 7 shows the housing facilities available and conditions of houses, availability of electricity and toilet facilities of STs in India as per 2001 and 2011 census. About 10.1 per cent of STs and 29.6 per cent of all other groups have houses with concrete roof as per 2011 census. As far as tap water is concerned 24.4 per cent of STs have tap water connection as against 43.5 per cent among all households as per 2011 census. Electricity as a source of lighting was found to be availed on 51.7 per cent of STs and 67.2 per cent of all groups in 2011. The toilet facility within the premises is available to 22.6 per cent of STs and 46.9 per cent in all other groups during 2011.

Drainage connection has been availed by 22.7 per cent of STs and 51.1 per cent all groups. About 17.2 per cent of STs have bathrooms in the premises. The percentage of households using LPG/PNG was just 9 per cent of STs as compared to 29 per cent among all households in 2011.

13. Access to Household Assets of STs in India

Accesses to Household assets throw light on the living condition of the STs. The details are shown in Table 8.

Table 8
Household Assets of STs in India (2001 to 2011)

Assets (01)	2001			2011		
	SC (02)	ST (03)	Total (04)	SC (05)	ST (06)	Total (07)
Availing Banking Services	25.1	19.1	35.5	50.9	44.9	58.7
Television	21.2	12.0	31.6	39.1	21.8	76.7
Telephone	3.4	2.5	9.1	3.0	1.9	4.0
Mobile				47.5	31.1	53.2
Computer/Laptop	NA	NA	NA	64.4	5.2	9.4
Scooter/Motorcycle/Moped	5.3	4.1	4.7	12.0	8.9	21.0
Car/Van/Jeep	1.0	0.8	2.5	1.8	1.6	4.7
None of the assets including radio/transistor/cycle	42.6	54.0	34.5	22.8	37.3	17.8

(Percentage)

Source : Census of India 2001 and 2011 Reproduced R.B. Bhagat (2013), Conditions of SC/ST Households, A Story of Unequal Improvement, Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. XLVIII, No. 41, p. 64.

It is clear from the data show the access to household assets to STs in India. There has been a huge expansion of access to banking facilities of STs Households between 2001 and 2011. The access to banking services is found to have; it increased from 19 to 45 per cent of STs 2001 and 2011. This shows that the financial inclusion of ST communities has been increasing, as a result of several government programmes implemented through banking channels. The expansion of mobile phones is another significant development during the last decade which also benefited the ST communities. About 31 per cent of ST households

reported to have mobile phones and 53 per cent of all households in 2011. In the case of assets like car, jeep, van, scooter/ motorcycle/ moped and television, there has been a widening gap between STs and all other households in the country.

14. Findings

Based on the above analysis some of the major findings have been made as under:

- There is increasing trend of STs Population i.e., from 7.8 to 8.6 during the Census period 1981 to 2011.
- The sex ratio of STs stood at 990 which are more favorable than for general population.
- There is increasing trend of literacy rate of STs during the census period from 1981 to 2011 but as compared to general population there is widening gap between STs and general population.
- The work participation rate of STs has declined from 49.1 per cent to 48.7 per cent from 2001 to 2011 Census. In the case of general population it has increased to 39.8 per cent from 39.1 per cent in 2001.
- The distribution of workforce among various occupations. As per 2011 census, 64.8 per cent of STs are main workers as against 75.2 per cent for general population. Similarly, 35.2 per cent of STs, 24.8 per cent in general population are marginal workers and 34.5 per cent for STs are cultivators. About 44.5 per cent of STs and 30.0 per cent of all groups are agricultural labourers. About 1.8 per cent of STs and 3.8 per cent of general population are in household industry as per 2011 census. Further, 19.2 per cent of STs and 41.6 per cent of the general population are other workers.
- It is found from the analysis that, STs in India about 10.1 per cent of STs and 29.6 per cent of all other groups have houses with concrete roof and as far as tap water is concerned 24.4 per cent of STs have tap water connection as against 43.5 per cent among all households and Electricity as a source of lighting was found to be availed on 51.7 per cent of STs and 67.2 per cent of all groups in 2011. The toilet facility within the premises is available to 22.6 per cent of STs and 46.9 per cent in all other groups during 2011.
- It is evidence from the data drainage connection has been availed by 22.7 per cent of STs and 51.1 per cent all groups. About 17.2 per cent of STs have bathrooms in the premises. The percentage of households using LPG/PNG was just 9 per cent of STs as compared to 29 per cent among all households in 2011.
- It is clear from the data show the access to household assets to STs in India. There has been a huge expansion of access to banking facilities of STs Households between 2001 and 2011. The access to banking services is found to have; it increased from 19 to 45 per cent of STs 2001 and 2011. This shows that the financial inclusion of ST communities has been increasing, as a result of several government programmes implemented through banking channels. The expansion of mobile phones is another significant development during the last decade which also benefited the ST communities. About 31 per cent of ST households reported to have mobile phones and 53 per cent of all households in 2011. In the case of assets like car, jeep, van, scooter/ motorcycle/ moped and television, there has been a widening gap between STs and all other households in the country.

15. Suggestions

Based on the above discussion some of the useful findings (suggestions) have been made as under:

- There is need to effective implementation of family programmes to control growing population of STs in the country.
- Government should effectively implementation of educational development schemes for better attainment of education on par with general population.
- As compared to general population there is needed to create more employment generation for better standard of living of STs in the country.
- The distribution of workforce among various occupations is concerned there is essential to provide work participation for both main, marginal, and cultivators and agricultural labourers and industry and other workers in the country.
- Government should effectively implement housing scheme and water facility, Electricity facility, and toilet facility for better standard of living of STs in the Country.
- There is urgent need to provide sanitation facility for tribal areas in the country.
- There is urgent need to provide assets like car, jeep, van, scooter/ motorcycle/ moped and television, to STs on par with general population in the country.

16. Conclusion

Scheduled tribes are the one of the most disadvantaged groups in the Indian society. They are suffering several basic amenities such are health, education, sanitation and pure drinking water facilities. Since beginning from independence both the Central and State governments have been undertaken several measures for better standard of living of STs, some of the indicators shows the gradually increasing trend of above said category but as compared to general population the status of Tribal population is unsatisfactory. Hence there is urgent need to provide basic amenities such health, pure drinking water facility, educational facility, housing, electricity, assets, for the better standard of living of the STs in the Country.

References

1. Avinash Kumar Singh (2008). "Globalization and Indigenous Knowledge Systems - An Indian Tribal Case", Rawat Publications, New Delhi.
2. Census of India 2011, Primary Census Abstract at a Glance in India, Data Highlights.
3. Data gathered from Eleventh Five Year Plan 2007-12 (2008). Planning Commission, Government of India, Oxford University Press, Vol. 1, Inclusive Growth, New Delhi.

4. Gadadhara Mohapatra and Kiran Sharma (2013). Social Action, *A Quarterly Review of Social Trends*, Vol. 63, No. 1.
5. Hanuman Prasad (1990). The Socio-economic Status of the Scheduled Caste and Tribes - A Case Study of Azamgarh District (edited by Chaurasia, 1990), In: *Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India*, Chug Publications, Allahabad, India.
6. National Commission for SC & STs, Fifth Report and Census, 2011, In: *Challenging Issues of Tribal Education in India, IOSR Journal of Economics and Finance (IOSR-JEF)*, (Kabita Kumari Sahu, 2014), Vol. 3, Issue 2, Ver. II.
7. Pradip Kumar Singh (2004). "Tribal Development in India: What Went Wrong", *Journal Social Research*, Vol. 26, No. 1-2, Data downloaded from <http://www.google.com> dated on 10.7.2014 at 9.30 a.m.
8. Primary Census Abstract (2011). Data Highlights.
9. Snehalata Panda (2015). "Health Status of Tribes and New Initiatives", *Kurukshetra*, Ministry of Rural Development, Vol. 63, No. 9.
10. Statistical Profile of Scheduled Tribes in India (2010). Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Statistics Division, Government of India, New Delhi.
11. Suman (2010). "Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes", Data downloaded from <http://www.google.com> dated on 13-04-2013 at 9.30 p.m.

