

CONSUMPTION PATTERNS OF SCHEDULED TRIBES IN ANDHRA PRADESH: A STUDY OF JATAPU TRIBES IN SEETHAMMAPETA MANDAL OF SRIKAKULAM DISTRICT

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Abstract

The Constitution of India seeks to secure for all its citizens, among other things, social and economic justice, equality of status and opportunity and assured the dignity of the individual. Several provisions have been incorporated in the constitution for safeguarding and promoting the interests of the scheduled tribes in various spheres so as to enable them to join the national main stream. In our study the income and expenditure relationship examined across different income groups indicate that, there is a decline in the share of food expenditure as the income increase, indicating an inverse relationship between per capita income and share of food expenditure. More than half of the food expenditure of these households is found to be on the consumption of cereals while it is on non-cereals items in case of households living in the villages in the plain areas. The tribes living in the villages in plain areas are using relatively more number of commodities than the people living in the very interior areas.

Key words- Consumption Pattern, Tribes, Living Standards, Expenditure on Food.

Introduction

The tribes generally have a group of families living together and these groups have pre-historic economy, with several rituals and customs. Certain tribal languages have no script except speech. They live in interior forest areas far away from the civilized world. They have slash burn cultivation and hunting of the wild animals as the way of life. They have a common religion, common customs and live as a community. In general tribes are of peculiar type of people living all over the world. Agriculture is the prime and predominant occupation of tribals and the culture of the tribal communities is reflected in their agricultural practices. The agro-climatic conditions and the resource potentialities differ from one tribal area to another. This is due to the nature of soil, fertility, availability of water etc. Due to prevalence of unemployment and underemployment, agriculture alone cannot sustain them throughout the year. So the tribals must rely on labour works and the forest produce which occupies and play an important role in their daily life. Hence the tribal economy may rightly be called as agro forest based economy. The isolated location of the tribes from the main stream of life is hindering their economic activities. The illiteracy among the tribals and the rich forest produce tempted the money lenders and small traders to exploit the tribals. India ranks the second in having the tribal concentration in the world next only to Africa. India holds unique position in the concentration of tribal communities. There are about 532 scheduled tribes in India. They speak about 100 languages and 255 subsidiary languages.

The growth rates of scheduled tribe population in Andhra Pradesh are 5.47, 2.24, 6.50, 2.79, 3.01 and 8.60 for the years 1951, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2011 respectively. Except 1961 and 1991, the decadal growth rate of tribal population is more than the growth rate of general population. From 1951 to 2011 the tribal population has increased by five times but for the general population it is only 1.5 times.

The tribal villages are inhabited by different variety of tribes. The important tribes are Gonds, Andhs, Thothis, and Kolanes in Adilabad district. Koya, Konda Reddies, Naikpads in Khammam, Warangal and Godavari districts. Bagatha, Valmiki, Kondhs and Jatapus in the districts of north coastal Andhra Pradesh. Chenchus in the pockets of Mahaboob Nagar, Kurnool and Prakasam Districts. The social structure of the various tribal groups resemble with each other tribal groups. It is due to their similar clan organizations. The social practices, customs, beliefs and code of conduct are very nearer to each other tribal groups. Almost all the tribal groups in Andhra Pradesh eat cooked food. Some tribes in higher community status generally do not accept cooked food from other tribal communities who have lower than their status. The tribal economy is with very poor economic conditions and almost intertwined with the social phenomena.

Methodology

The primary data comprise of collecting information during the months of June and July of 2017 from the selected sample tribal households in the tribal areas the multi stage stratified random sampling method is used for the study. There are four stages in which sampling process is carried out. The first stage is selection of district, the second stage consists of selection of mandal, the third stage consists of selection of villages and the fourth stage is of selection of households. Out of the nine districts of Andhra Pradesh which have concentration of tribal population Srikakulam District is selected.

The second stage of sample consists of selection of mandal. The selected Seethampeta is only the tribal concentrated mandal out of 37 mandals of Srikakulam district. Out of 37, 19 mandals have tribal population in Srikakulam district, with a total of 11, 9304 tribal population. Seethampeta alone is having 40, 189 tribal population (33.69 per cent of total tribal population of the district).

The third stage of sample consists of selection of villages. The Seethampeta mandal consist of 113 revenue villages and five uninhabited villages formed by 24 panchayats and 290 hamlets. To examine the socio economic conditions of prominent tribes in Srikakulam District i.e. Jatapu, the specific tribe population concentration is considered in the selection of villages. Specific tribe population with 80 per cent and less than 90 per cent in the respective panchayats are considered as criteria for selection. After identification of specific tribe concentration in the panchayats the Jatapu concentrated 10 villages are selected. To examine the differences in the living patterns of Jatapu tribe households in Plain and Interior villages, among the 10 selected villages purposively 5 villages Panukuvalasa, Manapuram, Pedduru, Pedarama and Valegaadda villages on road side plain villages of the Seethampeta mandal are selected. Similarly the remaining 5 villages Jayapuram, Kusumuru, Talada, Tadipai and Pedapolla are selected from the interior parts of the Seethampeta Mandal.

In the final stage from Jatapu concentrated villages a number of 20 households are selected from each selected village and as a whole from the selected 10 villages a total of 200 Jatapu tribe households are selected. This paper deals with the consumption patterns of Jatapu Tribes in Seethampeta Mandal of Srikakulam District of Andhra Pradesh.

Consumption Patterns of the Sample Households

The consumption expenditure pattern at a point of time speaks about the living standards of the people. To analyze the patterns of consumption, household data have been obtained from individual households regarding the expenditure on food and non-food items. Data relating to daily routine items of expenditure have been obtained for a period of 30 days. Where as data relating to occasional items of expenditure are collected for a period of one year. The expenditure data on specific items obtained for one year have been converted for one month to facilitate comparison.

The relationship between income and expenditure on food and non-food items, has assumed greater importance in the thinking of many economists. Notable among them is Engle. Engle's hypothesis regarding the income consumption relationship, postulates that, the share of expenditure on food declines with the rise in income of the families. Against this background of Engle's hypothesis, the income-consumption relation of the different tribes is analyzed; as the present study refers to a single point of time, cross-section analysis is attempted. Village-wise average household monthly income and expenditure and average per capita monthly income and expenditure on food and non-food items is estimated.

Consumption on Food Items

It can be observed that the share of expenditure on food items is high in case of all villages and also for the total as a whole. Thus, the results of this study are consists are with the Engle's hypothesis of income expenditure relationship. To examine Engle's hypothesis in detail the sample household's average household and average per capita expenditure of all the sample households on various food and non-food items is collected. It is evident from Table-1 in the total quantity of food consumption; rice constitutes a substantial quantity (58.30%). Out of 58.30 per cent of rice 32.78 per cent of it purchased from open market and the rest of 25.52 per cent from the fair price shops, run by government at subsidized prices.

The other important items purchased from the fair price shops by the tribal households are Sugar, Kerosene and Vegetables that constitute about 14.00 per cent in their total purchases. Other items like pulses, edible oils and meat constitute less than 5 per cent each. The variation in the percentage of quantity purchased by the households in the interior villages is relatively low when compared to their counter parts in the villages in the plain areas.

Table-1: Consumption Pattern of Quantities of Food

(Quantity in Kgs.)

S. No	Village	Rice from Open market	Rice from F.P shops	Other items from F.P shops	Pulses	Edible oil	Meat	Vegetables	Total
I. Villages in plain areas									
1	Panukuvalasa	581	335	340	68	70	72	286	1752
2	Manapuram	575	315	215	65	61	75	253	1559
3.	Pedduru	512	418	196	75	75	75	282	1633
4	Pedarama	545	431	148	68	63	65	225	1545
5	Valegedda	584	445	185	82	60	60	254	1670
II. Villages in Interior areas									
1	Jayapuram	350	325	220	55	49	65	189	1253
2	Kusumuru	425	380	237	65	57	58	130	1352
3	Talada	355	319	204	59	59	58	151	1205

4	Tadipai	395	345	139	65	63	40	195	1242
15	Pedapolla	450	402	160	55	55	45	180	1347
	Total	4772 (32.78)	3715 (25.52)	2044 (14.04)	657 (4.51)	612 (4.20)	613 (4.21)	2145 (14.74)	14558 (100.00)

Note: The figures presented in the parenthesis are percentages to total.

Tribal people in general spent a higher proportion of their income on food items. Their food items include the cereals like rice, Ragi, Samalu, Maize, Jowar, Bajra, pulses, like red-gram, black-gram, green-gram, horse-gram etc., They also consume other items like vegetables, meat, fish, edible oil, salt, tamarind, jaggery etc., It is evident from the field data that almost 58.56 per cent of the average monthly household expenditure spent on food items. Among different villages, expenditure on food items is relatively higher among the households living in the interior villages rather than counter parts in the villages in plain areas. Further it is noticed that nearly 70 per cent of food expenditure is spent on rice by all households. The information relating to the consumption pattern of value of food is presented in Table-2.

It can be noticed from the table that the information relating to consumption patterns of value of food corroborates with their consumption pattern of quantities of food. The households living in the interior villages are spending more proportion of their incomes on food items rather than their counterparts living in the villages in the plain areas.

Table-2: Consumption Pattern of Values of Food

(Amount in Rs.)

Sl. No	Village	Rice from open market (Kgs.)	Rice from fair price shop (Kgs.)	Other items from fair shop (Kgs.)	Pulses (Kgs.)	Edible oil (Kgs.)	Meat (Kgs.)	Vegetables (Kgs.)	Total (Kgs.)
I. Villages in plain areas									
1	Panukuvalasa	3680	1530	720	1090	2020	1680	844	11564
2	Manapuram	3300	1442	772	920	1820	1520	635	10409
3.	Pedduru	3929	1096	800	980	1760	1590	725	10880
4	Pedarama	3640	1313	718	1046	1800	1115	778	10410
5	Valegedda	3650	1306	681	990	2000	1560	710	10897
II. Villages in Interior areas									
1	Jayapuram	3370	1569	670	650	1712	900	720	9591
2	Kusumur	3330	1236	685	890	1600	1250	680	9671
3.	Talada	3100	1220	640	780	1240	985	625	8590
4	Tadipai	3100	1390	690	790	1260	1020	643	8993
5	Pedapolla	3127	1306	572	755	1820	1520	635	9735
	Total	34326 (34.07)	13408 (13.38)	6948 (6.90)	8891 (8.85)	17032 (16.91)	13140 (13.04)	6995 (6.85)	100740 (100.00)

Note: The figures presented in the parenthesis are percentages to total.

Expenditure on Food and Non-Food Items

Average monthly household expenditure and per capita expenditure of tribal households on non-food items reveal that about 46 per cent of the average household and per capita expenditure has been spent on non-food items. On the average monthly per capita expenditure on non-food items is relatively higher on items such as clothing, fuel lighting, cosmetics etc., by the households living in the villages in plain areas. On the other hand the households living in the interior villages are spending more on the items like tobacco, pan, beverages, festivals and ceremonies, house repairs etc. It is interesting to note that the per capita intoxicants expenditure is very higher among the households in the interior villages rather than their expenditure on education and health. The information relating to consumption on food and non-food items by the selected households in the interior and plain villages are presented in Tables 3 and 4.

Table-3: Annual Per Capita Consumption Expenditure by Food and Non -food Items by the Households in Interior Villages

S. No.	Items	Annual average per capita income groups						Total (In Rs.)
		Below 2000	2000-2500	2500-3000	3000-3500	3500-4000	4000 above	
I. Food items								
1.	Cereals	55.63	53.16	49.76	44.67	40.72	-	49.30
2.	Pulses	3.26	3.47	4.62	5.68	6.03	-	4.14
3.	Other food items	10.29	10.95	11.14	12.51	13.03	-	11.56
	Total food	69.18	67.58	65.52	62.86	59.78	-	178 (65.00)
II. Non – Food items								
1.	Fuel & light	3.25	3.46	3.72	4.24	4.71	-	4.12
2.	Tobacco & Pan	5.24	5.12	4.79	4.16	3.68	-	4.51
3.	Intoxicants	5.29	4.46	5.12	4.91	3.78	-	4.68
4.	Clothing	4.14	4.67	4.79	5.28	5.87	-	5.13
5.	Festivals	5.19	4.37	3.26	4.14	4.12	-	4.62
6.	Health	0.56	0.83	1.37	1.46	2.23	-	1.24
7.	Education	0.37	1.29	1.44	2.43	3.02	-	1.68
8.	Travel	1.23	2.12	2.16	2.14	2.38	-	2.91
9.	House repairs	1.12	2.31	2.66	3.12	3.46	-	2.82
10.	Cosmetics	1.21	1.41	1.58	1.16	1.12	-	1.21
11.	Consumer durables etc.	1.27	2.36	2.46	2.28	2.69	-	2.03
	Total Non-food	30.82	21.42	34.48	37.4	40.22	-	1104 (35.00)
	Total Expenditure	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	-	282 (100.00)

Note: The figures presented in the parenthesis are percentages to total.

It is evident from the Tables 3 and 4 that the percentage distribution of annual per capita consumption expenditure according to different villages income groups of households. It can be observed from the field data that the expenditure on food item is relatively high among the households in the first three lower income groups who are particularly from the interior villages. That means the proportion of expenditure on total food items is declining with an increase in income in case of all villages. Among the different food items, expenditure on cereals is decreasing while that on pulses and other food items is increasing with an increase in the income in all the individual cases. On the front of non-food items, the expenditure on tobacco and pan, intoxicants and festivals is relatively higher in the lower income groups particularly households from the interior villages. On the other hand the expenditure on clothing, health, education, cosmetics and house repairs are relatively higher in case of higher income groups particularly among the households from the plain areas. Thus the expenditure patterns of the households synchronies with the general expenditure pattern of the rural sector.

Table-4: Annual Per Capita Consumption Expenditure by Food and Non Food Items by the Households in the Villages in Plain Areas

S. No.	Items	Annual average per capita income groups						Total (in Rs.)
		Below 2000	2000-2500	2500-3000	3000-3500	3500-4000	4000 above	
I. Food items								
1.	Cereals	-	43.16	40.54	36.82	33.67	28.46	36.52
2.	Pulses	-	5.34	5.69	6.21	6.52	7.18	6.71
3.	Other food items	-	8.64	9.97	12.33	15.03	16.62	10.66
	Total food	-	57.14	56.26	55.36	53.22	52.26	192 (54.00)
II. Non – Food items								
1.	Fuel & light	-	4.12	3.29	4.47	4.80	5.26	4.27
2.	Tobacco & Pan	-	3.19	3.16	3.41	3.53	1.59	2.86
3.	Intoxicants	-	4.12	3.35	2.81	3.72	2.12	3.12
4.	Clothing	-	3.27	4.28	5.32	5.16	6.43	5.26
5.	Festivals	-	4.56	3.28	3.16	2.53	1.66	3.23
6.	Health	-	3.12	4.46	5.10	5.24	5.37	5.16
7.	Education	-	3.61	4.72	5.02	5.41	5.48	5.33
8.	Travel	-	3.12	4.16	4.27	4.38	4.33	4.29
9.	House repairs	-	2.53	3.23	3.36	3.52	4.67	4.52
10.	Cosmetics	-	3.68	4.32	6.12	6.74	6.92	6.43
11.	Consumer durables etc.	-	1.46	1.71	2.16	2.76	3.06	2.53
	Total Non-food	-	42.86	43.74	44.64	46.28	47.74	164 (46.00)

Total Expenditure	-	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	356 (100.00)
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Note: The figures presented in the parenthesis are percentages to total.

The major proportion of non-food consumption constitutes their expenditure on clothes health education and others. Across the villages the extent of expenditure among the households of interior villages is more on food items rather than on non food items. The percentage of money spent on entertainment constitutes less than 2.85 per cent and it is relatively higher in case of households in the villages in plains. Across villages the households of plain villages spent more income on clothes, health, education and others in their total non-food expenditure. Where as the expenditure on these items are very limited in case of households in the some of the interior villages. The households in the interior villages spent more of their incomes on tobacco, pan, intoxicants, ceremonies and festivals in their expenditure on non food items rather than on clothing, education, health etc., To know the further applicability of Engle's law, the percentage distribution of annul per capita consumption expenditure across different villages are income groups of households It can be observed from the field data that the expenditure on food item is relatively high in the first three lower income groups. That means the proportion of expenditure on total food items is declining with an increase in income in case of all villages. Among the different food items, expenditure on cereals is decreasing while that on pulses and other food items is increasing with an increase in the income in all the individual cases. On the front of non-food items, the expenditure on tobacco and pan, intoxicants and festivals is relatively higher in the lower income groups. On the other hand the expenditure on clothing, health, education, cosmetics and house repairs are relatively higher in case of higher income groups. Thus the expenditure patterns of the households synchronize with the general expenditure pattern of the rural sector and the law propounded by Engle's.

Possession of Consumer Durable Goods

Tribal economy is a subsistence economy and any possession of consumer durable goods can be taken as a positive response to modern ways of living. Information relating to the possession of 10 goods like; furniture, radio, watch, tape recorders, television, cycle, scooter, fan, iron, almirah, gas stove, cooker has been collected from the sample households. Scores are given on the basis of possession of the articles. A score of '0' is given for non possession of any of these goods and a score of '1' is given for possession of any one of these goods. Thus scores are obtained on the basis of minimum and maximum scores of '0' to 10. It has been found that no single household is having more than 8 of these identified items. So the scores of possession of goods across villages are presented in Table-5.

It can be observed from the table that as a whole nearly 40.50 per cent of the households are not having any of the selected goods and in this case among the tribes the proportion of households of interior villages are relatively higher than other households living in the villages in plain areas.. The households of interior villages possessed limited commodities compared to the households in the villages in plain areas. The change in the assets composition among the households of different villages reveals the process of transformation taking place in the living pattern of the households living in the plain areas.

Table-5: Distribution of Households by Score of Consumer and Other Durable Goods

S. No.	Village	No. of durable goods							Total
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	
I. Villages in plain areas									
1.	Panukuvalasa	8	5	3	2	0	1	1	20
2.	Manapuram	7	4	4	3	1	1	0	20
3.	Pedduru	6	6	3	2	2	0	1	20
4.	Pedarama	5	7	4	2	1	1	0	20
5.	Valegedda	7	5	3	2	1	1	1	20
II. Villages in Interior areas:									
1.	Jayapuram	9	6	2	2	1	0	0	20
2.	Kusumur	11	7	1	1	0	0	0	20
3.	Talada	8	6	3	2	1	0	0	20
4.	Tadipai	10	6	2	1	1	0	0	20
5.	Pedapolla	10	5	3	1	0	1	0	20
	Total	81 (40.5)	57 (28.50)	28 (14.0)	18 (9.0)	8 (4.0)	5 (2.50)	3 (1.50)	200 (100)

Note: The figures presented in the parenthesis are percentages to total.

Expenditure on Selected Special Items

Information relating to the household expenditure on certain item, which reflects modern living has been obtained. The items chosen are toilet soaps, face powder, tooth paste/powder, wristwatch, transistor, torchlight, chairs, television, and cots. Scores are being given according to the possession of selected items by the households. It is interesting to note that a higher proportion of households living in the villages in plain areas are spending on more number of selected items rather than the households living in interior villages. It may be observed that the responsiveness to modernity in terms of household expenditure on selected goods is more pronounced in case of the households living in the villages in plain areas rather than the households living in the interior villages. Hence the scores of selected goods across villages are presented in the Table-6.

It is indicated that only 6.0 per cent of households are without any selected commodities and most of them belongs to the interior villages. In the group of 39.0 per cent who possessed one commodity also the households in the interior villages are more in number. The other 26.0 per cent possessed two items, 13.0 per cent has three items, 8.0 per cent are having four items, and 4.0 per cent are with five items. 2.5 per cent possessed with six items, 0.5 per cent with seven item and 1.0 per cent household are

possessed with a maximum of 8 selected commodities among these households the households living in the villages in plain areas are more in number

Table-6: Distribution of Households by Score of Expenditure on Selected Goods across Villages

S. No.	Tribes	No. of selected goods possessed									Total
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
I. Villages in plain areas											
1.	Panukuvalasa	-	6	6	3	2	1	1	-	1	20
2.	Manapuram	-	6	4	4	4	1	1	-	-	20
3.	Pedduru	-	7	5	3	2	1	1	1	-	20
4.	Pedarama	-	9	6	3	1	1	-	-	-	20
5.	Valegedda	-	8	4	3	2	1	1	-	1	20
II. Villages in Interior areas											
1.	Jayapuram	-	8	6	4	1	1	-	-	-	20
2.	Kusumur	4	10	4	1	1	-	-	-	-	20
3.	Talada	2	9	6	1	1	-	1	-	-	20
4.	Tadipai	6	8	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	20
5.	Pedapolla	-	7	6	3	2	2	-	-	-	20
Total		12 (6.0)	78 (39.0)	52 (26.0)	26 (13.0)	16 (8.0)	8 (4.0)	5 (2.5)	1 (0.5)	2 (1.0)	200 (100.00)

Note: The figures presented in the parenthesis are percentages to total.

Conclusions

The pattern of consumption expenditure of tribal households at tribe level reveal that the selected Jatapu households spend a higher proportion of their incomes on food items than non food items. However, the income and expenditure relationship examined across different income groups indicate that, there is a decline in the share of food expenditure as the income increase, indicating an inverse relationship between per capita income and share of food expenditure. This is more or less noticed in all the villages. Also it is observed that among the households living in the roadside plain villages they spend proportionately less amount of money on food items while in the remaining households living in the interior villages they spend relatively more income on food items. Further, more than half of the food expenditure of these households is found to be on the consumption of cereals while it is on non-cereals items in case of households living in the villages in the plain areas. Among the food items, the expenditure on cereals is decreasing while the expenditure on other food items like edible oils, vegetables etc is increasing with an increase in income.

On the front of expenditure on non-food items, the relatively lower income groups particularly those who are living in the interior villages spend more on tobacco and pan, intoxicants, festivals and ceremonies and fuel and light. On the other hand, the households living in the villages in plain and roadside areas the households spend more on clothing, health, education, cosmetics, travel, and consumer durables. It is evident from the analysis relating to the expenditure on selected 10 commodities which represents modernity and change in the consumption patterns among the households reveal that only 3.73 per cent households are not utilizing any one out of the ten commodities. The households living in the villages in plain and roadside areas are using relatively more number of commodities than the households living in the very interior areas. It may be observed that the responsiveness to modernity in terms of households' expenditure on selected goods is more pronounced among the households living in the plain and roadside villages.

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