

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT AND ROLE OF THE LARGE SIZED ADIVASI MULTI PURPOSE CO- OPERATIVE SOCIETIES AT TRIBAL AREA IN TAMIL NADU

G. SUBASHCHANDIRABOSE

Ph. D Research Scholar, Department of Commerce, Annamalai University, Annamalai Nagar - 608 002, Tamil Nadu, India

Dr. P. NAGARAJAN

Assistant Professor and Research Supervisor, Department of Commerce, Annamalai University, Annamalai Nagar-608 002, Tamil Nadu, India

ABSTRACT: *This study assesses the role of co-operative Societies in general and a specific study on Tamil Nadu. The Large Sized Adivasi Multi-Purpose Co-operative Societies (LAMPS) are organized at the rural community level to meet the credit and other necessities food of the tribal people. Tribal beneficiaries are the members LAMP Societies and they have benefited almost all the incorporated services provided by the LAMPS for their economic upliftment. This study highlights the history, trends and growth of co-operatives. It also highlights the national policies, problems and suggests measures for the existence and viability of co-operative institutions, designed particularly for the welfare of the common man in general and for upliftment of tribes and weaker sections of the society in meticulous. This study is an empirical and field based, interview techniques are used for the collection of essential data on the problems from the sample tribal respondents.*

KEYWORDS: *Lamps, Upliftment, Beneficiaries, Weaker section.*

Introduction

Formal co-operatives for meeting the credit requirements of the rural households with the poor are at the present are existence for more than a century in India. The worsening debt conditions of the farmers had compulsory the colonial rulers to explore creation of the credit cooperatives through enactment of legislation in 1904. While these cooperatives have traversed a long distance since then, but their aim of reaching the poor has remained largely indefinable till now. The challenge of meeting the credit requirements of the poor and other weaker sections by the cooperatives has been a main debating problem since their appearance. In the context of tribal development, it is not merely the improvement of tribal areas but also the development of quality of life of the rural sufficient into self reliant and self sustaining communities. Therefore, tribal development implies the development of tribal areas in such a way that every component of tribal life altered in a desired direction. Besides, tribal improvement also encompasses structural changes in the Socio-economic situation in the countryside tribal dominated regions by which human welfare is protected. Thus tribal development should contain all objectives of enhancement and betterment of quality of rural masses through appropriate development of resources, infrastructure and livelihood. In 1973, K.S. Bawa Committee suggested the organization of Large Sized Multipurpose Societies in tribal areas. Accordingly, large sized multipurpose societies came into existence in different states in India.

Tribes in India

India is a diversified country in terms of language, religion, region, caste, tribe, race etc. Tribal Communities is one of the significant segments of this nation. According to 2011 census of India, the tribal population is about 104.28 million, constituting about 8.614 % of India's population. Tribal population in India is second in the world, after that to Africa. There are 577 Adivasi communities all over the country acknowledged by the government as Scheduled Tribes; some of them are sub-tribes of larger tribes. The different tribal communities represent various regions with different cultures. There are also wide similarities in between these different tribes. Though huge numbers of tribal communities are spread all over the country, the majority of them are concentrated a lot in forest areas. The wealth of most of the tribes is subsistence agriculture or hunting and food gathering. The majority of the tribes are economically, politically backward and they belong to weaker sections of the Indian society. The tribals are economically weak and socially exploited by the middleman, money lenders and petty traders because of insufficient arrangement or providing credit and marketing of agricultural and forest produce in the tribal areas. Therefore, the planners and policy makers have taken efforts to organize and grow the Co-operative in the tribal regions to accelerate the process of tribal development.

The Tribal Problems

A tribal in India as well as Tamil Nadu has been experiencing different problems. Taking the benefit of their illiteracy, simplicity and ignorance, the money lenders, the middle man and of dishonest trader enter in to the tribal regions and exploit them through different dubious means. As well, they are also facing troubles of land alienation, exorbitant rate of interest, large increase poverty and indebtedness, bondage, exploitation, leading to sell of child and starvation death. The core problem along with these is poverty and indebtedness. Majority tribes live below poverty line. Indebtedness is approximately inevitable, since heavy interest is to be paid to these money lenders. These miseries of tribals

are due to rapid growth of population, pressure on land holdings, illiteracy, deforestation, insufficient infrastructural and social service facilities etc.

Table.No.1. Population Census: 2011-District Wise Rural and Urban Scheduled Tribal Population

Sl. No	District	Rural			Urban			Total		
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1.	Salem	110233	55806	54427	9136	4683	4453	119369	60489	58880
2.	Thiruvannamalai	86775	43864	42911	4179	2062	2087	90954	45956	44998
3.	Viluppuram	71370	35789	35581	3489	1781	1708	74859	37570	37289
4.	Vellore	65015	32675	32340	7940	3988	3952	72955	36663	36292
5.	Dharmapuri	60385	30730	29655	2659	1400	1259	63044	32130	30914
6.	Namakkal	55326	28491	26835	1733	892	841	57059	29383	29676
7.	Thiruvallore	35044	17521	17523	12199	6171	6028	47243	23692	23551
8.	Kancheepuram	27057	13486	13571	14153	7119	7034	41210	20605	20605
9.	The Nilgiri	22752	11167	11585	10061	4924	5137	32813	16091	16722
10.	Coimbatore	19622	9815	9807	8720	4430	4290	28342	14245	14097
11.	Krishnagiri	21041	10720	10321	1347	699	648	22388	11419	10969
12.	Erode	20025	10068	9957	1855	956	899	21880	11024	10856
13.	Tiruchirappalli	13784	7171	6613	4414	2243	2171	18198	9414	8784
14.	Cuddalore	9923	4974	4949	5779	2969	2810	15702	7943	7759
15.	Madurai	4866	2487	2379	6230	3135	3095	11096	5622	5474
16.	Ariyalur	9946	4897	5049	776	377	399	10722	5274	5474
17.	Tirunelveli	3822	1923	1899	6448	3186	3262	10270	5109	5161
18.	Chennai	-	-	-	10061	5207	4854	10061	5207	4854
19.	Dindigul	4521	2294	2227	3543	1801	1742	8064	4095	3969
20.	Kanniyakumari	3741	1808	1933	3541	1746	1795	7282	3554	3728
21.	Tiruppur	2650	1318	1332	2808	1422	1386	5458	2740	2718
22.	Thoothukkudi	1264	620	644	3647	1846	1801	4911	2466	2445
23.	Nagapattinam	2210	1090	1120	1546	757	789	3756	1847	1909
24.	Thanjavur	1340	665	675	2221	1074	1147	3561	1739	1822
25.	Thiruvarur	939	461	478	2095	1005	1090	3034	1466	1568
26.	Perambalur	2156	1086	1070	428	206	222	2584	1292	1292
27.	Virudhunagar	1078	541	537	1216	641	575	2294	1182	1112
28.	Theni	1377	714	663	458	240	218	1835	954	881
29.	Pudukkottai	835	416	419	448	231	217	1283	647	636
30.	Ramanathapuram	501	244	257	604	315	289	1105	559	546
31.	Sivagangai	491	236	255	299	158	141	790	394	396
32.	Karur	191	101	90	384	196	188	575	297	278
	Total	660280	333178	327102	134417	67890	66527	794697	401068	393629

Source: Directorate of Tribal Welfare board, Chennai-05.

Tribes in Tamilnadu

In Tamil Nadu State according to the current Census Report, 32 communities have been included in the list of Scheduled Tribes and very recently Irula community, Narykurava community, Kammara community and Kattunayakan community have been scheduled in the list of Scheduled Tribes. At present formally there are 36 Scheduled Tribe communities in Tamil Nadu. There are some other tribal communities which have tribal characteristics but they have not been officially listed in the list of Scheduled Tribes, due to identity crisis. According to 2011 census tribes constitute 1.10 % (7, 94,697) of the total population of the state. The concentration of tribes are high (according to 2011 census) in the districts of Salem (15.02%), Thiruvannamalai (11.44%), Viluppuram (9.41%), Vellore (9.18%), Dharmapuri (7.93%), Namakkal (7.17%), Thiruvallore (5.94%), Kancheepuram (5.18%), where their population varies between 5 to 15 percent compared to the total population. In The Nilgiri (4.12%), Coimbatore (3.56%), Krishnagiri (2.81%), Erode (2.75%), Tiruchirappalli (2.28%), Cuddalore (1.97%), Madurai (1.39%), Ariyalur (1.34%), Tirunelveli (1.29%), Chennai (1.26%), and Dindigul (1.01%) districts, the percentage of Scheduled Tribes population is 1 to 5 percent. Remaining all districts in Tamil Nadu has below 1% of Scheduled tribal population category.

In Kanniyakumari (0.91%), Tiruppur (0.68%), Thoothukkudi (0.61%), Nagapattinam (0.47%), Thanjavur (0.44%), Thiruvarur (0.38%), Perambalur (0.32%), Virudhunagar (0.28%), Theni (0.23%), Pudukkottai (0.16%), Ramanathapuram (0.13%), they constitute between 0.13 percentages to (0.91%) percentage. However, in Sivagangai (0.099%), and Karur (0.072%) district tribal population is below 0.1 percentages.

Table. No. 2. Scheduled Tribes Population Community-wise (2001 census)

Sl.No.	Name of the Tribal Community	Male	Female	Total	%
1.	Malayali	159772	154267	314039	48.22
2.	Irulas	79999	79605	159604	24.50

3.	Kattunayakan	22476	22751	45227	6.94
4.	Gurumans	12782	12181	24963	3.83
5.	Kontareddy	9908	9745	19653	3.02
6.	Malakuravas	9151	9145	18296	2.81
7.	Panyan	4532	4589	9121	1.40
8.	Urally	4562	4554	9116	1.40
9.	Malayvedan	3267	3144	6411	0.99
10.	Malasar	3107	2936	6043	0.93
11.	Gurumbash	2707	2791	5498	0.85
12.	Sozhaka	1908	1945	3853	0.59
13.	Kurichaan	1639	1529	3168	0.49
14.	Malayppantaram	1598	1558	3156	0.48
15.	Kanikkaran Mudhalyor	1541	1595	3136	0.48
16.	Kottas	1548	1574	3122	0.48
17.	Palyar	1507	1545	3052	0.47
18.	Athyan	1151	1079	2230	0.34
19.	Kanyan Mudhalyor	802	848	1650	0.25
20.	Dhotash	757	803	1560	0.24
21.	Iravalan	739	815	1554	0.24
22.	Palyan	793	732	1525	0.23
23.	Mudukar Mudhalyor	645	652	1297	0.20
24.	Kammara	302	291	593	0.09
25.	Kadar	292	276	568	0.09
26.	Kondakappus	261	255	516	0.08
27.	Malay Aryan	251	248	499	0.08
28.	Malaya Kandy	228	236	464	0.07
29.	Mudhuvan	178	161	339	0.05
30.	Pallyan	160	179	339	0.05
31.	Mahamalar	87	96	183	0.03
32.	Korago	81	78	159	0.02
33.	Kochuvelan	64	69	133	0.02
34.	Kudya Mudhalyor	61	67	128	0.02
35.	Mannan	41	41	82	0.01
36.	Aranadan	20	24	44	0.01
	Total	328917	322404	651321	100.00

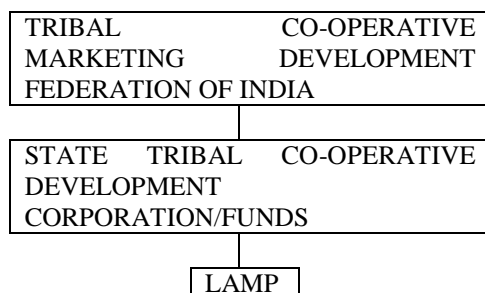
Source: Directorate of tribal welfare board, Chennai-05.

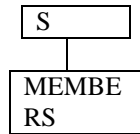
Among the 36 communities listed in the list of Scheduled Tribes, Malayali constitute in highest percent followed by Irulas, Kattunayakan, Gurumans, Kontareddy, Malakuravas, Panyan, Urally, Malayvedan, Malasar and Pallyan, Mahamalar, Korago, Kochuvelan, Kudya Mudhalyor, Mannan and Aranadan constitute relatively less in number.

Co-operative Societies

Co-operatives have been conceived as a shield to the weak and one of the main thrusts of Co-operative improvement programmes has been to guarantee that benefits of the Co-operative flow increasingly to weaker sections including the Scheduled Tribes. The Co-operative have strived to achieve this through expansion of the membership of the weaker sections in the existing PACS and ensuring bigger flow of funds and services to them. In this regard, particular and functional Co-operative for activities like dairy, poultry keeping and fisheries have been organized. For forest labour, the forest labour corporations have been organized. Likewise, labour contract societies have also come up countryside artisans have also of Co-operatives. In the tribals have come up in a large way in states like Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. At the national level, the Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) was launched in 1987- 1988 to lend support to Tribal Co-operatives in marketing operations including price support incentives.

TRIBAL CO-OPERATIVES





The Large-Scale Adivasi Multi-Purpose Societies (LAMPS) are co-operative Societies set up by the government for integrated tribal development in regions with essential tribal populations. They are generally one per taluka, and their membership is controlled to adult members of any Scheduled Tribe community. In the detailed analyze of the LAMPS in Tamil Nadu (Mahalingam S, 1987). The present functioning of the Large Sized Adivasi Multi-purpose Societies (LAMPS) in Tamil Nadu is neither economically viable and socially empowering nor ecologically sustainable.

There are 22 large sized Adivasi- Multi Purpose Co-operative Societies functioning in the state. These societies have been organized with the objective of developing the social and financial conditions of the Adivasis.

The Objectives of LAMPS are as follows:

1. Encouragement of subsidy-cum-loan production plan in the fields of agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, irrigation, Forestry, cottage and rural community industries.
2. Liberating the tribals from the control of money lenders through supply of production and consumption credit.
3. Purchase from tribals their additional agricultural produce and forest produce.
4. Supply of necessary commodities and agricultural inputs people to tribal.

The main action of the Large-sized Adivasi Multipurpose co-operatives Societies should be the obtainment and provide of minor forest produce (MFP). The dangerous Minor forest produce, by and huge preparations by LAMPS are Honey, Tamarind, Amla, Treemass, soapnut, Dalchinni, Antwala (*Sapindus emarginatus*), Gum, and Grasstick and so on Collection and marketing of minor forest produce is the important wage creating action embraced by LAMPS, though there has been greatly broadening in the exercises of LAMPS in following years, the primary point with which they were sorted out was to gather matchless minor forest produces from their tribal individuals and to market them as a business wander.

Main Functions of LAMPS

1. To facilitate, co-ordinate and promote the marketing of the tribal products by its members.
2. To assist in capability and capacity building of the members relating to the marketing development of the tribal products.
3. To enlarge and extend the markets for tribal products through marketing development and promotion programmes.
4. To strive for development of fair trade mechanism for tribal products and marketing thereof.
5. To develop quality specifications and quality preservation system for tribal products in collaboration with all related organizations/department/institutions.
6. To promote setting up of units for production/value addition of tribal products.
7. To start and promote creation of technologies and infrastructure for basic value addition on the tribal products.

Future Approaches of LAMPS

1. Undertaking livelihood generation projects in tribal areas for marketing development of tribal products.
2. Sectoral approach of cluster development in tribal areas on entrepreneurship model for economic development of tribals.
3. Capacity and capability building of members as well as tribal in marketing development of tribal products.
4. Developing markets through brand building of tribal products for national as well as international markets.
5. Promoting marketing infrastructure facilities and qualities for tribal/forest products.

Purpose of Tribal Co-operative Societies

The reason of the LAMPS and other tribal Co-operative is to offer diversity of services to the tribal population under one institutional set up. The services provided by their Co-operative include; Financial assistance, both short and medium term to meet the necessity of the tribals to carry on their agricultural operations and related activities, financial assistance for consumption purpose, marketing assistance to the tribal to dispose of their agriculture and minor forest produce at remunerative price and distribution of agricultural inputs and consumer goods. It is found that not at all the Tribal Co-operatives in the region are geared to perform all these functions due to sole demographic conditions, life pattern of Tribals and other operational constraints.

Tribal development is a extremely complex subject, which needs a multi-dimensional approach in which different ingredients like agriculture, industry, education, social-life living standards etc, have to be taken care. In the tribal development is an absolute and urgent need for the overall development of the economy.

Review of literature

Bose (1986) in this study made a general observation of the working of the LAMPS in West Bengal. The study did not make a comprehensive and critical evaluation of the functioning of LAMPS; instead it was confined to making certain common remarks about the benefits of LAMPS in West Bengal. The study also pointed out some of the hindrances in the functioning of LAMP societies. The author remarked that strategically, the LAMPS were the suitable agency to satisfy the needs of the tribal in the rural area.

Mahalingam (1987) conducted a performance appraisal of the LAMP societies in the tribal areas of Tamil Nadu. Based on the performance data of thirteen LAMP societies in Tamil Nadu he came to the conclusion that the co-operative movement was the only means for the development of tribal economy. He suggested some practical measures for strengthening the LAMP societies functioning in the tribal areas of

Tamil Nadu. The study also stressed the necessity of focusing all efforts on strengthening the co-operative structure in the tribal regions. The study was based on the official data collected from the office of the Registrar of co-operative societies at Chennai.

In a study of the role of LAMP co-operative societies in Tamil Nadu **Mahalingam (1990)** made a micro level analysis of the performance of tribal co-operatives in Salem District. Based on the data collected from the LAMPS and the two hundred tribal households in the study area, it was concluded that the integrated service rendered by the LAMPS were positively related to tribal Development. The researcher identified significant positive correlation between the services rendered by tribal co-operatives and development of the tribal economy. The study also made some useful suggestions for improving the efficiency and popularity of tribal co-operative.

Shivaprasad and Chandrashekar (2014) this research work was assess the impact of new forest policies on collection and marketing of non-timber forest products (NTFP), or in another word Minor Forest Products (MFP) in the study area with reference Large sized Adivasi Multipurpose societies (LAMPS). There has been increasing trends in the trade of forest products particularly Non-Timber Forest Products. Increasing trade of forest products has supported economic growth of a number of emerging countries. There is strong evidence that forest products play a significant role in the livelihoods of the rural poor. Forest products are the main sources of income for the tribal population of many countries. In India the central government came with legislation named as the scheduled tribes and other traditional forest dweller (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006 popularly known as Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006 to recognize the tenure and occupational rights of forest dwellers. The Forest rights act was the first act enacted in independent Indian that addressed the question of community ownership of MFP (minor forest product) and rights and management/ governance of forest at the legislative level. This study is based on primary and secondary data related to collection and marketing of minor forest product through LAMPS and dependency of Tribal population on minor forest produce through LAMPS and dependency of tribal population on minor forest products. The study intended to understand the collection and marketing status of MFP in LAMPS and how new forest policies impacts on the collection and marketing of MFP's in LAMPS societies. Collection and marketing of minor forest produce are highly influenced by the implementation of Forest Act of 2006.

Objectives

A co-operative is said to be a success only when it achieves success in both enterprise as well as institutional aspects. As such, the present study is conducted with the following objectives.

1. To assess the Tribal Co-operative societies functioning have achieved their institutional objectives.
2. To offer suitable measures for improving the performance of Tribal Co-operative societies.

Methodology

The study based on secondary data. The secondary data are collected from various government reports, Journals. An approach is employed for assessing the performance of Scheduled Tribes Co-operative Societies in Tamil Nadu. The success or failure of a co-operative organization can be determined only by assessing its achievements in the aspects of co-operative performance- institutional. The majority of the tribes lived in remote villages and also because of illiteracy and low level of education of the tribal members; the researcher went to their residences and collected the required information. Before asking for information, a relationship was established with the respondents and the purpose of the survey was clearly explained to them. Then the researcher asked them questions in the local language and marked the information in the schedules.

Major Findings

The success of Scheduled Tribes Co-operatives is the institutional aspect is appraised by analyzing the socio-economic benefits enjoyed by the members. For this, data were obtained from the financial statements of the societies choose for detailed study. Discussions with government officials, Presidents and Secretaries of different Tribal co-operative societies were also made as part of the study.

The current study is conducted with the principal objective of assessing the performance of co-operative societies functioning and suggests measures to overcome the problems encountered by the societies.

1. The LAMP co-operative societies in Tamil Nadu could bring small part of the total tribal population in the State.
2. The co-operative societies are running under the administrative control of various departments of the government. But the audit of all societies is conducted by the department of co-operation.
3. There is no co-ordination among the different departments concerned in the administration of co-operative societies.
4. Financial assistances to the LAMPS co-operatives by the government are fixed not on the basis of properly prepared projects.
5. The share of adult females in the tribal population is more than that of the adult males. But in the membership of co-operatives the share of adult males is much higher than the share of adult females. So, there is male domination in the membership of co-operatives.
6. The low level of income of the members is the major reason for default in repayment.
7. Director Board and General Body meetings are not held regularly.

Suggestions

1. To execute the public distribution scheme to remote tribal areas properly and efficiently and to mitigate the losses, government should bear the transportation costs, handling charges and shortages cost and other cost.
2. One central agency should collect and publish data relating to all the LAMP societies functioning in the state.
3. Proper training should be imparted to the members for undertaking technical work.

If all the suggestions given above are genuinely and truthfully implemented, the LAMP Co-operative societies will reach their institutional objectives. An integrated approach to revamp and revitalize the Scheduled Tribe Co-operatives is a must.

Conclusion

Co-operatives are the democratic institutions aimed at mitigate economic disparities and poverty among the tribals. The economically handicapped and the socially exploited tribals found some relief in the Co-operatives which help them to secure loan, market their produce and

get agricultural inputs. But in the context of tribal improvement, social justice and empowerment of poor tribals it is indispensable that unique provisions are to be made for ensuring concessional financial help through subsidised interest rate. But in the situation of economy, finance percolating to the poor tribes is unsatisfactory due to leakages, misappropriation and corruption. Therefore, there should be devoted and truthful officials for promoting the cause of tribal development.

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