



Status of Scheduled Tribes (STs), Scheduled Tribes-Groups and Particularly Vulnerable Tribe Groups (PVTGs) in andhra pradesh

Dr. N. Sundara Ramaiah¹ and Mrs. G. Anantha Varalakshmi²

¹Individual Senior Consultant, Watershed Project, Andhra Pradesh

²Individual Consultant, Horticulture Project, Andhra Pradesh

ABSTRACT:

India has the second-largest concentration of tribal population in the world, next only to Africa. For thousands of years, they lived in forests and hilly regions with little or no contact with centers of civilization. According to the 2001 Census, the Scheduled Tribe (ST) population was 84.3 million, representing 8.2% of the country's total population. This figure increased to 8.6% in the 2011 Census. Scheduled Tribes (STs) are population groups in India explicitly recognized by the Constitution under the Presidential Order of 1950, which listed 744 tribes across 22 states in its First Schedule. In the newly carved state of Andhra Pradesh, there are 34 recognized tribes with a population of 27,40,133 (5.53%) as per the 2011 Census. The tribal population is distributed across all thirteen districts of the state, though unevenly. The majority are concentrated in the Tribal Sub-Plan (Scheduled) areas of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Kurnool, Prakasam, Guntur, and Nellore districts. The tribes of Andhra Pradesh possess a rich cultural heritage and lead simple, innocent lifestyles. Owing to their habitation in forests and hill areas, they exhibit certain distinct characteristics such as primitive traits, unique cultural practices, shyness of contact with other communities, geographical isolation, and socio-economic backwardness. To address these challenges, both central and state governments have been implementing various developmental programs and schemes since 1951. After the Ministry of Tribal Affairs was constituted in 1999, there has been greater focus on the development of Scheduled Tribes across India, with special emphasis on Andhra Pradesh.

The main objective of this paper is to analyze the status of the Scheduled Tribes in Andhra Pradesh with respect to population size, gender distribution, sex ratio, literacy levels, work participation rate, child population, Scheduled Tribe (ST) groups, and Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). This study is based on secondary data collected from the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, the Statistical Abstract of Andhra Pradesh, and various Census reports. The analysis makes use of district-wise data on the Scheduled Tribes population, literacy levels, and work participation. The study is limited to data from the 2011 Census.

KEYWORDS: Scheduled Tribes (STs), Population, Gender, Sex Ratio, Literacy Rate, Work Participation Rate, Scheduled Tribe Groups, Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

INTRODUCTION:

Concept of Scheduled Tribes:

Conceptualizing "Tribe" Hasain (1991) explains that the term *tribe*, according to Western writers, generally refers to an ethnic group that is geographically isolated or semi-isolated, associated with a particular territory,

and possessing distinct social, economic, and cultural traditions and practices. In the Indian context, as per Article 366 (25) of the Constitution, *Scheduled Tribes* are defined as such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under Article 342 to be Scheduled Tribes for the purposes of the Constitution. The President may specify these tribes by public notification, while Parliament, by law, may include or exclude any tribal community or part thereof from the list of Scheduled Tribes in any state or union territory. Unlike Scheduled Castes, there is no religious bar for recognizing a community as a Scheduled Tribe. Sociologically, a tribe may be understood as a collection of families bearing a common name, speaking a common dialect, occupying or claiming to occupy a common territory. While not usually endogamous in the present day, tribes may originally have practiced endogamy.

Tribes in Andhra Pradesh constitute 5.53% of the total population of the state and represent 34 recognized tribes. The tribal population is distributed across all the thirteen districts, though in varying proportions. A large concentration of the tribal population is found in the Tribal Sub-Plan areas of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Kurnool, Prakasam, Guntur, and Nellore districts. The tribes of Andhra Pradesh are broadly classified into two categories based on their ecological and geographical background: 1. Hill Tribes, 2. Plain Tribes.

The hill tribe population is largely concentrated in the Eastern Ghats Forest environment, whereas the plain tribe population is mostly found in the plains and rural caste villages of Andhra Pradesh. Among the hill tribes, some are classified as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). These groups exhibit certain distinctive features such as being at a pre-agricultural stage of economy, having low literacy levels, showing stagnant or declining population trends, and living in extremely backward socio-economic conditions.

OBJECTIVE OF THE PAPER:

The main objective of this paper is to analyze the status of the Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in Andhra Pradesh with respect to population size, rural–urban distribution, sex ratio, literacy levels, work participation rate, child population, population and literacy levels of different ST groups, and the population and literacy of PVTGs.

METHODOLOGY:

This paper is based on secondary data collected from the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, the Statistical Abstract of Andhra Pradesh, published research articles, and various census reports. The study utilizes data related to district-wise, group-wise, and PVTG-wise Scheduled Tribe population, sex ratio, literacy levels, and work participation rates. The analysis is limited to data from the 2011 Census.

REVIEW OF LITRATURE:

"Subramanyachary, P. (2013), in *Status of Scheduled Tribes in Andhra Pradesh*, emphasizes the need for increased support from the government, as well as from voluntary organizations and like-minded NGOs, for the effective implementation of development programs and for raising awareness among tribal communities. Such collaborative efforts are essential to ensure a prosperous future for the Scheduled Tribes."

Balanarasimhulu, D., & Naik, N. T. K. (2024). *Status of Scheduled Tribes in Andhra Pradesh*. According to the authors, Andhra Pradesh is one of the Indian states with a significant tribal population. The proportion of Scheduled Tribes (STs) in the state has gradually increased over the decades: from 4% in 1971 to 6.1% in 1991, 6.6% in 2001, and 7% in 2011. Despite this growth, the ST population in Andhra Pradesh remains slightly below the national average, which was 8.6% in 2011.

1. POPULATION AND VILLAGES:

The table-1 presents the district-wise general population and number of villages in Andhra Pradesh as per the 2011 Census. Among the districts, East Godavari recorded the highest population (52.85 lakhs), while Vizianagaram reported the lowest (23.44 lakhs). In terms of villages, Visakhapatnam had the highest number (3,265), whereas Guntur had the fewest (712). According to the 2011 Census, the total general population of Andhra Pradesh was 495.77 lakhs, with a total of 17,366 villages.

Table-1: District wise population, 2011 Census

S.No	District	Total Population (Persons)	Total Census Villages
1	Srikakulam	2703114	1802
2	Vizianagaram	2344474	1520
3	Visakhapatnam	4290589	3265
4	East Godavari	5285824	1654
5	West Godavari	3995742	928
6	Krishna	4517398	968
7	Guntur	4887813	712
8	Prakasam	3397448	1081
9	S.P.S. Nellore	2963557	1177
10	Y.S.R Kadapa	2882469	919
11	Kurnool	4053463	898
12	Ananthapuramu	4081148	949
13	Chittoor	4174064	1493
Andhra Pradesh-Total:		49577103	17366

Source: Statistical Abstract Andhra Pradesh, 2022. Directorate of Economics & Statistics,
Andhra Pradesh

2. Rural and Urban Population:

Table-2 presents the district-wise rural and urban Scheduled Tribe (ST) population as per the 2011 Census. It is noted that out of the total Scheduled Tribe population in Andhra Pradesh (27,40,133), about 24,02,090 (87.66%) reside in rural/tribal areas, while 3,38,043 (12.34%) live in urban towns and cities. Interestingly, the urban tribal population is mostly concentrated in the districts of Krishna, Kadapa, Guntur, Kurnool, Chittoor, Ananthapur, Prakasam, and Nellore. The majority of these urban dwellers belong to the plain tribes such as Lambada/Sugali, Yanadi, and Yerukula. In contrast, a very small proportion of the urban tribal population is found in the districts of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, and West Godavari. These districts, often referred to as the *scheduled districts* of Andhra Pradesh, are primarily inhabited by hill tribes, whose population is largely concentrated in these areas.

Table-2: District wise General & Scheduled Tribes (ST) Rural and Urban Population, 2011 Census

S. No	District	General-Population			ST-Population		
		Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total
1	Srikakulam	2266411	436703	2703114	160438	5680	166118
2	Vizianagaram	1853563	490911	2344474	226130	9426	235556
3	Visakhapatnam	2254667	2035922	4290589	579968	38532	618500
4	East Godavari	3971852	1313972	5285824	282547	14497	297044
5	West Godavari	3186965	808777	3995742	124798	9413	134211
6	Krishna	2673738	1843660	4517398	93915	38549	132464
7	Guntur	3235075	1652738	4887813	190905	56184	247089
8	Prakasam	2732866	664582	3397448	124386	26759	151145
9	S.P.S. Nellore	2105927	857630	2963557	240972	45025	285997
10	Y.S.R Kadapa	1903337	979132	2882469	58181	17705	75886
11	Kurnool	2904177	1149286	4053463	64735	18096	82831
12	Ananthapuramu	2935437	1145711	4081148	126362	27765	154127
13	Chittoor	2942678	1231386	4174064	128753	30412	159165
Andhra Pradesh		34966693	14610410	49577103	2402090	338043	2740133

Source: Statistical Abstract Andhra Pradesh, 2022. Directorate of Economics & Statistics,
Andhra Pradesh

3. General and Gender Population:

According to the 2011 Census, the general population of Andhra Pradesh was 495.77 lakhs, while the Scheduled Tribe (ST) population was 27.4 lakhs (this figure includes about one lakh population from the seven mandals of Khammam district in Telangana, which were added to Andhra Pradesh as per the Reorganisation Ordinance, 2014). The STs account for 5.53% of the state's total population. Andhra Pradesh contributes about 2.5% to the overall Scheduled Tribe population of India.

Out of the 13 districts of Andhra Pradesh, five districts-Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, and Nellore-have a higher share of Scheduled Tribe (ST) population than the state average of 5.53%. Together, these districts account for about three-fifths of the total ST population in the state. Numerically, however, the ST population is concentrated in Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, Nellore, Guntur, and Vizianagaram, which together constitute nearly half of the total ST population of Andhra Pradesh. Among them, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, and Nellore districts show a higher concentration of STs both in absolute numbers and in percentage share compared to the state average.

Table-3: District wise and Gender wise General and Scheduled Tribes Population, 2011 Census

S. No	District	General-Total	ST-Total	% to ST to Total Population	General-Males	ST-Males	% to ST Males Total to Males	General-Females	ST-Females	% to ST Females to Total females
1	Srikakulam	2703114	166118	6.15	1341738	81382	6.07	1361376	84736	6.22
2	Vizianagaram	2344474	235556	10.05	1161477	114687	9.87	1182997	120869	10.22
3	Visakhapatnam	4290589	618500	14.42	2138910	302905	14.16	2151679	315595	14.67
4	East Godavari	5285824	297044	5.62	2633304	144548	5.49	2652520	152496	5.75
5	West Godavari	3995742	134211	3.36	1993747	65548	3.29	2001995	68663	3.43
6	Krishna	4517398	132464	2.93	2267375	66734	2.94	2250023	65730	2.92
7	Guntur	4887813	247089	5.06	2440521	125105	5.13	2447292	121984	4.98
8	Prakasam	3397448	151145	4.45	1714764	76677	4.47	1682684	74468	4.43
9	S.P.S. Nellore	2963557	285997	9.65	1492974	145168	9.72	1470583	140829	9.58
10	Y.S.R	2882469	75886	2.63	1451777	38571	2.66	1430692	37315	2.61
11	Kurnool	4053463	82831	2.04	2039227	42052	2.06	2014236	40779	2.02
12	Ananthapuramu	4081148	154127	3.78	2064495	78573	3.81	2016653	75554	3.75
13	Chittoor	4174064	159165	3.81	2090204	79756	3.82	2083860	79409	3.81
	Andhra Pradesh	49577103	2740133	5.53	24830513	1361706	5.48	24746590	1378427	5.57

Source: Statistical Abstract Andhra Pradesh, 2022. Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Andhra Pradesh

4. SEX RATIO:

Table 4 presents the district-wise sex ratio of the general and Scheduled Tribe (ST) populations in Andhra Pradesh according to the 2011 Census. For the general population, the highest sex ratio was observed in Vizianagaram, with 1.019 females per 1,000 males, while Ananthapuramu recorded the lowest, at 0.977 females per 1,000 males. In the case of the Scheduled Tribe population, East Godavari had the highest sex ratio, with 1.055 females per 1,000 males, whereas Ananthapuramu again had the lowest, at 0.962 females per 1,000 males.

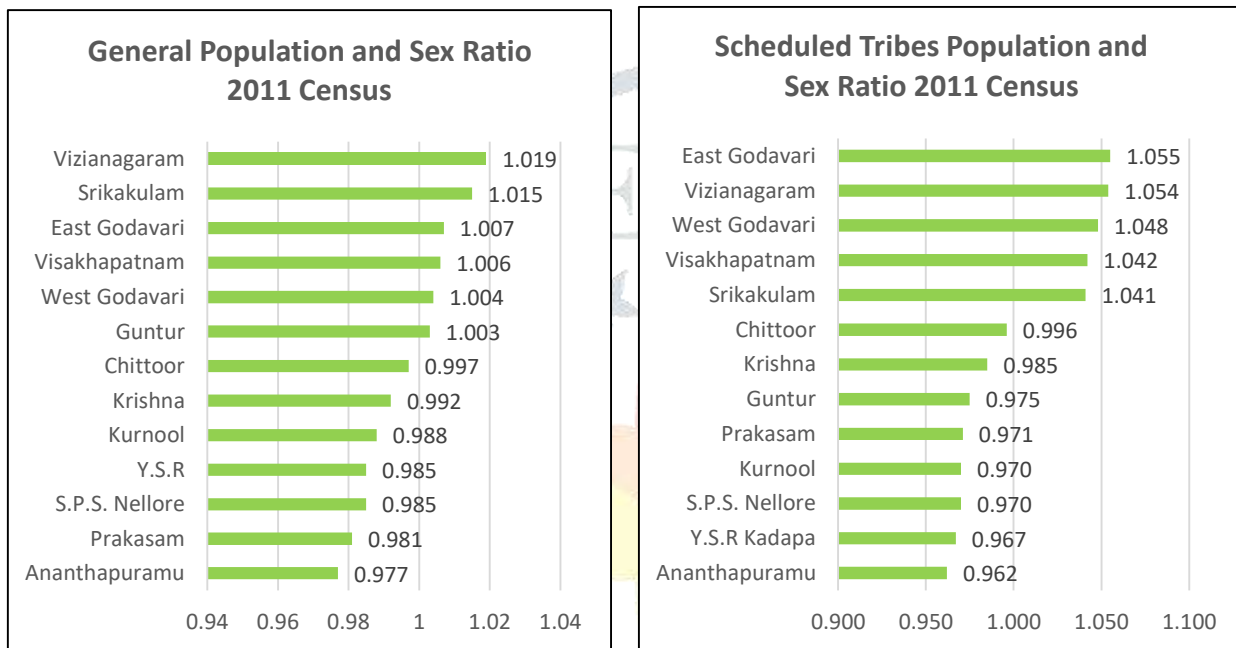
Table-4: District wise General and Scheduled Tribes Population and Sex Ratio 2011 Census

S. No	District	General-Total	General-Males	General-Females	Sex Ratio	ST-Total	ST-Males	ST-Females	Sex Ratio
1	Srikakulam	2703114	1341738	1361376	1.015	166118	81382	84736	1.041
2	Vizianagaram	2344474	1161477	1182997	1.019	235556	114687	120869	1.054
3	Visakhapatnam	4290589	2138910	2151679	1.006	618500	302905	315595	1.042
4	East Godavari	5285824	2633304	2652520	1.007	297044	144548	152496	1.055

5	West Godavari	3995742	1993747	2001995	1.004	134211	65548	68663	1.048
6	Krishna	4517398	2267375	2250023	0.992	132464	66734	65730	0.985
7	Guntur	4887813	2440521	2447292	1.003	247089	125105	121984	0.975
8	Prakasam	3397448	1714764	1682684	0.981	151145	76677	74468	0.971
9	S.P.S. Nellore	2963557	1492974	1470583	0.985	285997	145168	140829	0.970
10	Y.S.R	2882469	1451777	1430692	0.985	75886	38571	37315	0.967
11	Kurnool	4053463	2039227	2014236	0.988	82831	42052	40779	0.970
12	Ananthapuramu	4081148	2064495	2016653	0.977	154127	78573	75554	0.962
13	Chittoor	4174064	2090204	2083860	0.997	159165	79756	79409	0.996
	Andhra Pradesh	49577103	24830513	24746590	0.997	2740133	1361706	1378427	1.012

Source: Statistical Abstract Andhra Pradesh, 2022. Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Andhra Pradesh

5.



LETERACY RATE:

Tables 5, 6, and 7 present the district-wise General and Scheduled Tribe (ST) literacy rates in Andhra Pradesh as per the 2011 Census. In the case of the general literacy rate, the highest was recorded in West Godavari (74.32%), while Vizianagaram district accounted for the lowest literacy rate (58.89%). The state literacy rate stood at 67.35%. Similarly, in the case of Scheduled Tribe (ST) literacy, the highest was recorded in West Godavari (57.05%), while SPS Nellore district accounted for the lowest literacy rate (42.78%). The overall state Scheduled Tribe (ST) literacy rate was 48.83%.

Table-5: District-wise General Lterate population and Leteracy rate, 2011 Census

S.No	District	General- Total Population	No. of Literates			Literacy Rate		
			Total	Males	Females	Males	Female s	Total
1	Srikakulam	2703114	1495381	857824	637557	71.61	52.08	61.74
2	Vizianagaram	2344474	1238388	707503	530885	68.15	49.87	58.89
3	Visakhapatnam	4290589	2568249	1422878	1145371	74.56	59.34	66.91
4	East Godavari	5285824	3348077	1749296	1598781	74.10	66.95	70.50
5	West Godavari	3995742	2680339	1394384	1285955	77.65	71.01	74.32
6	Krishna	4517398	3009718	1598959	1410759	78.30	69.18	73.74
7	Guntur	4887813	2960441	1634726	1325715	74.79	60.09	67.40

8	Prakasam	3397448	1904435	1107686	796749	72.92	53.11	63.08
9	S.P.S. Nellore	2963557	1832189	1011922	820267	75.74	61.99	68.90
10	Y.S.R Kadapa	2882469	1716766	994699	722067	77.78	56.77	67.30
11	Kurnool	4053463	2127161	1246369	880792	70.10	49.78	59.97
12	Ananthapuramu	4081148	2310960	1338474	972486	73.02	53.97	63.57
13	Chittoor	4174064	2667878	1484794	1183084	79.83	63.28	71.53
Andhra Pradesh		49577103	29859982	16549514	13310468	74.77	59.96	67.35

Note: Literates excluded Children in the age group of (0-6) years.

Source: Primary Census Abstract, Census 2011, Director of Census Operations, Hyderabad.

Table-6: District-wise Scheduled Tribes (ST) Literate population and Literacy rate, 2011 Census

S. No	District	Scheduled Tribe Population	No. of Literates-ST			S.T. Literacy Rate		
			Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
1	Srikakulam	166118	45731	33104	78835	63.46	43.74	53.36
2	Vizianagaram	235556	55631	41069	96700	55.19	38.44	46.57
3	Visakhapatnam	618500	146129	95453	241582	55.62	34.67	44.9
4	East Godavari	213195	54850	46788	101638	59.82	48.75	54.15
5	West Godavari	109072	28726	26242	54968	61.22	53.09	57.05
6	Krishna	132464	35510	26652	62162	61.07	46.24	53.69
7	Guntur	247089	59459	39559	99018	55.26	37.47	46.45
8	Prakasam	151145	35111	25804	60915	53.68	40.4	47.12
9	S.P.S. Nellore	285997	58051	48360	106411	46.15	39.34	42.78
10	Y.S.R	75886	18875	12767	31642	57.39	39.89	48.76
11	Kurnool	82831	23552	15720	39272	65.23	44.6	55.04
12	Ananthapuramu	154127	44757	29435	74192	65.44	44.24	54.98
13	Chittoor	159165	40982	31793	72775	59.36	45.97	52.66
Andhra Pradesh		2631145	647364	472746	1120110	56.91	40.89	48.83

Note: (1) Data excludes merged villages of Khammam.

(2) Literates excluded Children in the age group of (0-6) years.

Table-7: District-wise General & ST Literacy Rate Ranks, 2011 Census

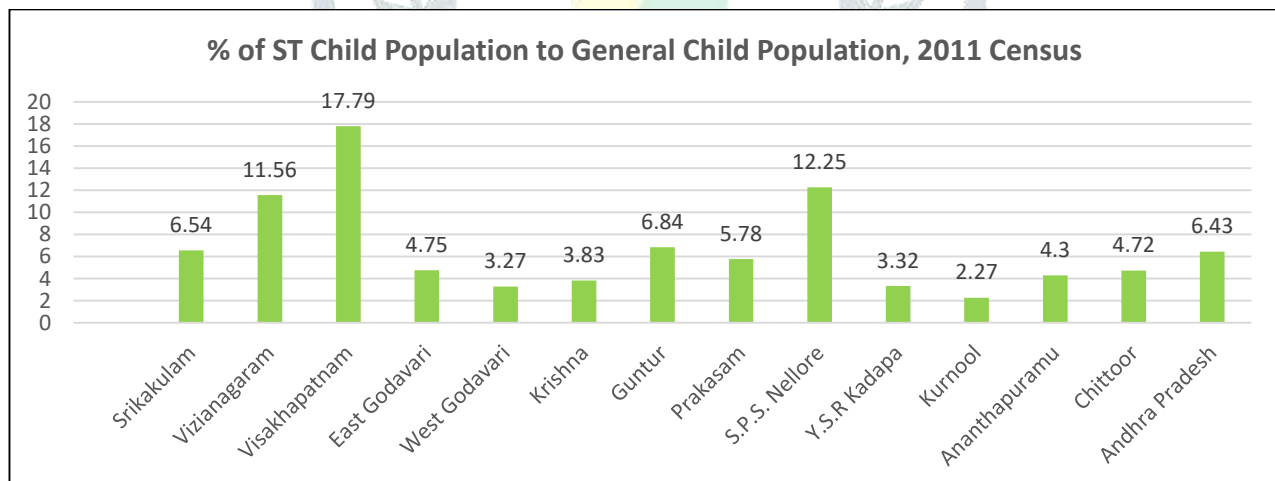
General Literacy Rank, 2011 Census				Scheduled Tribe (ST) Literacy Rank, 2011 Census			
S. No	Name of the District	Literacy Rate	Rank	S. No	Name of the District	Literacy Rate	Rank
1	West Godavari	74.32	1	9	West Godavari	57.05	1
2	Krishna	73.74	2	3	Kurnool	55.04	2
3	Chittoor	71.53	3	7	Ananthapuramu	54.98	3
4	East Godavari	70.50	4	2	East Godavari	54.15	4
5	S.P.S. Nellore	68.90	5	8	Krishna	53.69	5
6	Guntur	67.40	6	10	Srikakulam	53.36	6
7	Y.S.R Kadapa	67.30	7	13	Chittoor	52.66	7
8	Visakhapatnam	66.91	8	1	Y.S.R	48.76	8
9	Ananthapuramu	63.57	9	6	Prakasam	47.12	9
10	Prakasam	63.08	10	4	Vizianagaram	46.57	10
11	Srikakulam	61.74	11	12	Guntur	46.45	11
12	Kurnool	59.97	12	11	Visakhapatnam	44.90	12
13	Vizianagaram	58.89	13	5	S.P.S. Nellore	42.78	13
Andhra Pradesh		67.35		Andhra Pradesh		48.83	

6. CHILD POPULATION:

Table-8 presents the district-wise General and Scheduled Tribe (ST) child population in Andhra Pradesh as per the 2011 Census. Among the districts, Visakhapatnam records the highest proportion of ST child population, accounting for 17.79% of the total child population. In contrast, Kurnool reports the lowest proportion, with only 2.27% of the total child population belonging to Scheduled Tribes.

Table-8: District-wise General and Scheduled Tribes (ST) Child Population

S. No	District	General-Child Population (0-6 Years)			Scheduled Tribe (ST)-Child Population (0-6 Years)			% of ST Child Population to General
		Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
1	Srikakulam	143835	137202	281037	9319	9060	18379	6.54
2	Vizianagaram	123300	118357	241657	13893	14033	27926	11.56
3	Visakhapatnam	230630	221583	452213	40177	40269	80446	17.79
4	East Godavari	272655	264381	537036	12723	12790	25513	4.75
5	West Godavari	198111	191046	389157	6447	6277	12724	3.27
6	Krishna	225220	210664	435884	8590	8097	16687	3.83
7	Guntur	254833	240896	495729	17503	16418	33921	6.84
8	Prakasam	195753	182508	378261	11269	10604	21873	5.78
9	S.P.S. Nellore	156907	147402	304309	19368	17907	37275	12.25
10	Y.S.R Kadapa	172902	158684	331586	5684	5313	10997	3.32
11	Kurnool	261217	245022	506239	5946	5529	11475	2.27
12	Ananthapuramu	231369	214587	445956	10177	9012	19189	4.30
13	Chittoor	230283	214289	444572	10711	10256	20967	4.72
	Andhra Pradesh	2697015	2546621	5243636	171807	165565	337372	6.43



7. WORK PARTICIPATION:

The data relating to workforce participation of the General population and Scheduled Tribes (STs) is presented in the table-9. As per the 2011 Census, the total number of workers in Andhra Pradesh was 2.30 crores, while among Scheduled Tribes, the total number of workers was 14.57 lakhs. However, the composition of workers across different categories shows considerable variation. Out of the total workforce in 2011, the highest proportion was engaged as agricultural labourers (48.00%), followed by those in the 'others' category (35.00%), cultivators (14.00%), and household industrial workers (3.00%). In comparison, among the Scheduled Tribe (ST) workforce, the largest share was also found in agricultural labourers (63.00%), followed by others (18.00%), cultivators (17.00%), and household industrial workers (2.00%).

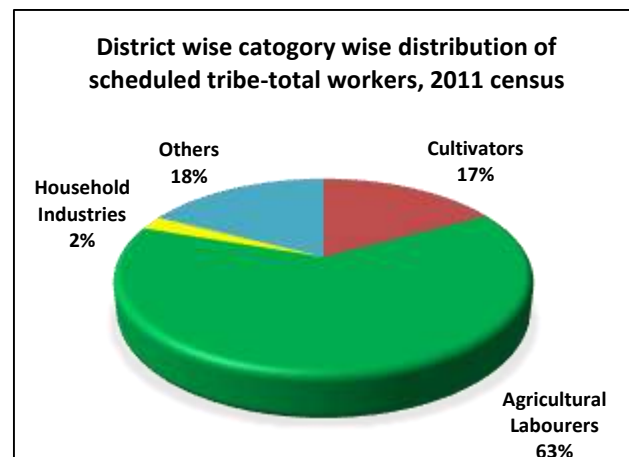
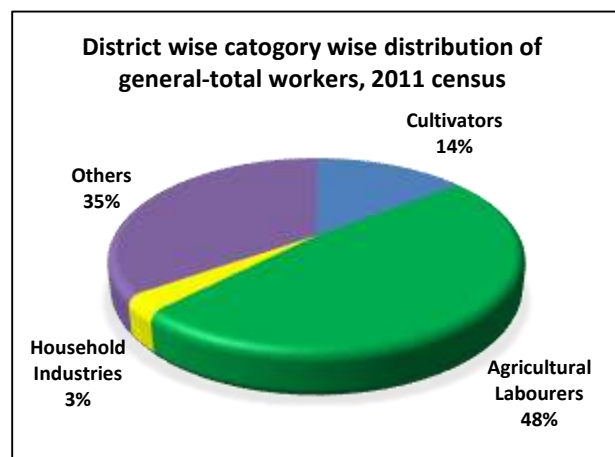
Table-9: District wise Catogory wise distribution of total workers in Andhra Pradesh, 2011 Census

No.	District	Total Workers	Cultivators	Agricultural Labourers	Household Industries	Others
1	Srikakulam	1290288	165317	700833	34479	389659
2	Vizianagaram	1157962	212285	557254	27469	360954
3	Visakhapatnam	1889879	322164	578949	54545	934221
4	East Godavari	2169558	179660	1169767	58782	761349
5	West Godavari	1808293	160300	1089001	34220	524772
6	Krishna	2048880	150166	1006976	48444	843294
7	Guntur	2381624	302341	1227956	47436	803891
8	Prakasam	1700567	280029	889218	42603	488717
9	S.P.S. Nellore	1314561	165513	625262	35403	488383
10	Y.S.R Kadapa	1320404	243607	542455	55824	478518
11	Kurnool	2029425	310954	1037302	60791	620378
12	Ananthapuramu	2036166	413253	879537	105343	638033
13	Chittoor	1933357	434544	748093	57269	693451
Andhra Pradesh		23080964	3340133	11052603	662608	8025620

Table-10: District wise Catogory wise distribution of Scheduled Tribe workers in Andhra Pradesh, 2011 Census.

S. No	District	Scheduled Tribe-Total	Cultivators	Agricultural Labourers	Household Industries	Others
1	Srikakulam	90754	7818	71669	1204	10063
2	Vizianagaram	133562	14680	103537	2570	12775
3	Visakhapatnam	359897	157219	151760	8690	42228
4	East Godavari	121481	23277	82734	1119	14351
5	West Godavari	61890	3935	47488	931	9536
6	Krishna	68407	2014	44593	1360	20440
7	Guntur	138669	8780	99534	1564	28791
8	Prakasam	82532	3038	54504	1501	23489
9	S.P.S. Nellore	158821	2582	122211	2500	31528
10	Y.S.R	38844	2211	22640	2482	11511
11	Kurnool	40767	3771	20678	4648	11670
12	Ananthapuramu	77481	12385	43395	3028	18673
13	Chittoor	83922	6254	57445	1744	18479
Andhra Pradesh		1457027	247964	922188	33341	253534

8.

**SCHEDULED TRIBE – GROUPS**

POPULATION:

As per records, there are about 34 sub-groups among the Scheduled Tribes (STs) in Andhra Pradesh. These sub-groups differ significantly in terms of population size, geographical distribution, economic conditions, cultural practices, literacy, and educational levels. Some sub-groups are numerically strong, while many others have populations limited to only a few hundreds or thousands. A few ST groups, particularly those living in plains and semi-hilly regions, are numerically stronger compared to others. For example, Yanadis, Yerukalas, and Sugalis constitute some of the larger tribal populations in the state, primarily inhabiting plain areas.

Table-11: Population of Scheduled Tribe Groups in Andhra Pradesh ,2011

Sl No	Scheduled Tribe Group	Persons	% of ST Popula tion	Sl No	Scheduled Tribe Groups	Persons	% of ST Population
1	Andh etc.	315	0.10	19	Kotia etc.	45291	1.72
2	Bagata	132577	5.04	20	Koya etc.	104348	3.97
3	Bhil	69	0.00	21	Kulia	385	0.01
4	Chenchu etc.	47315	1.80	22	Malis	5244	0.20
5	Dhulias	665	0.03	23	Manna Dhora	13636	0.52
6	Gadabas	37798	1.44	24	Mukha Dhora etc.	42375	1.61
7	Generic Tribes etc.	74498	2.83	25	Nakkala	4584	0.17
8	Gond etc.	6691	0.25	26	Nayaks	1870	0.07
9	Goudu	6997	0.27	27	Pardhan	47	0.00
10	Hill Reddis	157	0.01	28	Porja etc.	36145	1.37
11	Jatapus	126659	4.81	29	Reddi Dhoras	390	0.04
12	Kammara	48912	1.81	30	Rona etc.	1012	0.04
13	Kattunayakan	57	0.00	31	Savaras etc.	137613	5.23
14	Kolam etc.	107	0.00	32	Sugalis etc.	361520	13.14
15	Konda Dhoras	210509	8.00	33	Valmiki	70513	2.68
16	Konda Kapus	10054	0.38	34	Yenadis	533746	20.29
17	Kondareddis	90937	3.46	35	Yerukulas	375209	14.26
18	Kondhs etc.	102378	3.89		Total	2739919	100.00

9. SCHEDULED TRIBE – GROUPS LITERACY RATE:

The data presented in Table-12 indicate that there are about ten sub-groups among the Scheduled Tribes whose literacy rate is above the state average for STs. For instance, the Andhs record a literacy rate on par with that of the general population, while for Kolam and Pardhan, the literacy rates are significantly higher than the state average for STs.

Table-12: literacy rate and gap Scheduled Tribe with subgroup wise 2011
(State General Literacy rate 67.3 5% and State ST Literacy 48.83% in 2011)

S. No	ST Sub-Group Names	Literacy Rate (%)		
		Persons	Males	Females
1	Andh, etc.	67.10	70.44	63.58
2	Bagata etc.	45.26	55.18	35.75
3	Chenchu etc.	32.92	37.78	27.98
4	Dhulia	47.82	57.99	38.44
5	Gadabas etc.	42.79	49.29	36.65
+6	Generic Tribes etc.	44.34	52.33	36.48
7	Gond etc.	37.60	41.20	34.00
8	Goudu (in the Agency tracts)	35.50	45.80	25.58
9	Hill Reddis etc.	55.41	61.45	48.65
10	Jatapus etc.	43.97	52.44	36.15
11	Kammara etc.	45.93	52.80	39.38

S. No	ST Sub-Group Names	Literacy Rate (%)		
		Persons	Males	Females
12	Kattunayakan etc.	66.67	65.63	67.86
13	Kolam, Kolawar	78.57	77.78	80.00
14	Konda Dhoras etc	40.32	48.00	32.81
15	Konda Kapus etc.	57.64	63.78	51.62
16	Kondareddis etc.	46.79	53.04	40.73
17	Kondhs etc.	24.30	33.32	15.56
18	Kotia etc.	43.34	55.04	32.19
19	Koya etc.	52.95	57.22	48.94
20	Kulia	44.94	54.04	35.29
21	Malis	38.81	47.56	30.42
22	Manna Dhora	50.89	57.21	44.82
23	Mukha Dhora etc.	31.03	39.08	23.34
24	Nakkala etc.	20.96	23.95	18.08
25	Nayaks etc.	59.63	63.19	55.81
26	Pardhan etc.	72.22	70.00	75.00
27	Porja, etc.	29.90	38.92	21.36
28	Reddi Dhoras etc.	38.71	49.69	27.15
29	Rona etc	55.73	61.57	49.80
30	Savaras etc.	43.52	51.74	35.61
31	Sugalis etc.	47.48	56.92	37.51
32	Valmiki etc.	59.87	67.96	52.30
33	Yenadis etc.	35.10	37.96	32.18
34	Yerukulas etc.	48.31	55.30	41.33

9. DISTRICT WISE DISTRIBUTION OF SCHEDULED TRIBE – GROUPS:

From the chart, it is observed that about 16 tribal groups reside in Visakhapatnam district, and all of them belong to the hill tribe category. A large extent of the geographical area in this district is notified as a Scheduled Area, which serves as the natural habitat of these tribes and is endowed with rich forest cover.

District wise predominant tribes found in Andhra Pradesh tate.

S. No	District	Predominant tribes inhabit
1	Srikakulam	Savara, Jatapu, Konda Dora, Kotia, Kondh
2	Vizianagaram	Gadaba, Jatapu, Konda Dora, Savara
3	Visakhapatnam	Bagata, Gadaba, Agency Goudu, Konda Kammara, Konda Dora, Konda Kapu, Kondh, Kulia / Dulia/ Mulia, Mali, Manne Dora, Mukha Dora, Porja, Rena / Rona, Valmiki
4	East Godavari	Konda Kammara, Konda Dora, Kaonda Kapu, Konda Reddy, Koya, Valmiki, Yerukula
5	West Godavari	Gond / Naik Podu, Konda Reddy, Koya, Sugali / Lambada, Yanadi, Yerukula
6	Krishna	Sugali / Lambda, Yanadi, Yerukula
7	Guntur	Chenchu, Sugali/ Lambada, Yanadi, Yerukula
8	Prakasam	Chenchu, Sugali / Lambada, Yanadi, Yerukula
9	Nellore	Yanadi, Yerukula, Nakkala
10	Kadapa	Sugali / Lambada, Yanadi, Yerukula
11	Kurnool	Chenchu, Sugali / Lambada, Yerukula
12	Ananthapur	Sugali / Lambada, Yerukula, Mali
13	Chittoor	Sugali / Lambada, Yandi, Yerukala, Nakkala

10. PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TRIBE GROUPS (PVTGS):

The Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) are considered to be more socio-economically backward compared to other Scheduled Tribe communities living in the Scheduled Areas. Across India, there are 75 PVTG communities identified by the Government of India. Out of these, six major PVTG communities are found in Andhra Pradesh, reflecting the state's significant share in the country's tribal diversity.

Gadaba

The Bodo or Gutob Gadabas are a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) predominantly inhabiting the Scheduled Areas of Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam districts of Andhra Pradesh. According to the 2011 Census, their total population is 37,798. Traditionally, the Gadabas live in thatched huts located in hilly and forested regions. They speak their own distinct dialect known as 'Gadaba', which reflects their unique cultural identity. At present, the Gadabas are mainly engaged in cultivation and agricultural labour, while also depending on the collection of minor forest produce for their livelihood.

Porja:

The Porja of Andhra Pradesh, particularly the Parengi Porja, belong to the Austro-Asiatic linguistic family and are considered to have migrated relatively recently from Odisha. According to the 2011 Census, their population in Andhra Pradesh is 36,145. They have their own distinct dialect, though many also speak Telugu and Adivasi Oriya for wider communication. The Porja residing in the interior forest and hill regions primarily depend on podu (shifting) cultivation carried out on hill slopes. They also collect minor forest produce for subsistence and livelihood. A section of the community, particularly the landless households, work as agricultural labourers in the fields of others to sustain themselves. Their economy is thus a mix of subsistence agriculture, forest-based activities, and wage labour, reflecting their dependence on natural resources and marginal agricultural practices.

Chenchu:

The Chenchus are one of the most primitive tribal communities of South India, primarily inhabiting the Nallamalai forests of Andhra Pradesh, with smaller populations spread across Telangana, Karnataka, and Odisha. They are recognized as a Scheduled Tribe (ST) and also classified as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) by the Government of India due to their distinct socio-economic and cultural characteristics. According to the 2011 Census, the Chenchu population in India is 47,315. Traditionally, they are an aboriginal food-gathering community, depending extensively on forests for their livelihood. Hunting, food gathering, collection of minor forest produce (such as honey, roots, tubers, fruits, and medicinal plants), and fishing form their subsistence base. A significant section of Chenchus still practice shifting cultivation (podu) on hill slopes, although some have gradually shifted to settled agriculture and wage labor. The Chenchus are known for their close symbiotic relationship with forests, which not only sustains their economy but also shapes their cultural practices, rituals, and social organization. Despite this deep ecological knowledge, the tribe remains socially and economically marginalized, with low literacy levels, poor access to healthcare, and limited integration into mainstream development.

Their classification as a PVTG stems from factors such as:

- Pre-agricultural level of technology
- Low and stagnant population growth
- Dependence on forest-based subsistence economy
- Low literacy and poor socio-economic development indicators

The Chenchus are often regarded as the "forest guardians" of the Nallamala region, yet they face challenges due to deforestation, displacement, and restricted access to forest resources caused by wildlife conservation policies.

Kodhu:

The Kondhs, locally referred to as *Kodhu* in the study area, are predominantly distributed across the densely wooded hill slopes of the Scheduled Areas in Visakhapatnam district. They are also known by several other names such as *Samantha*, *Kodu*, *Kodi*, *Kodhu*, *Kondu*, and *Kuinga* (Indira Dutta and Meera Lal, 2016). According to the 2011 Census, the Kondh population in Andhra Pradesh is 1,02,378. The community traditionally subsists on cultivation, particularly *Podu* (shifting cultivation), which they practice with considerable expertise. Apart from agriculture, they are also skilled in hunting, fishing, and various household and craft activities. The Kondhs have developed specialized skills in basket making, mat weaving, and oil extraction, which not only support their livelihood but also reflect their traditional ecological knowledge and cultural heritage.

Konda Reddis:

The Konda Reddis are a tribal community recognized as a *Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)* under the Scheduled Tribes (ST) category in India. They are predominantly found in the hilly and forested regions along the banks of the Godavari River in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. According to the 2011 Census, their population stands at 90,937. The community is noted for its distinct cultural identity and traditional lifestyle. Their primary occupation is Podu cultivation (shifting cultivation), supplemented by the collection of forest produce, bamboo crafts, and other minor forest-based activities. Their close association with forests not only shapes their economic life but also reflects in their social and cultural practices.

Savara:

The Savara community is predominantly found inhabiting hill slopes and areas near hill streams, particularly in the mandals of G.L. Puram and Kurupam in Vizianagaram District of Andhra Pradesh. According to the 2011 Census, their population stands at 1,37,613. They speak their own Savara dialect in addition to Telugu. The Savaras generally live in interior and hilltop regions, maintaining close ties with their natural surroundings. Agriculture and horticulture form their primary means of livelihood, supplemented by the collection of minor forest produce.

11. PVTGS MAJOR GROUPS LITERACY RATE:

There are some Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), earlier known as Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs), who remain backward in several respects, including education and literacy. In Andhra Pradesh, major six such PVTGs have been identified, and their literacy rates continue to be lower than the average literacy rate of the Scheduled Tribes (STs) in the state. However, notable variations are observed within the PVTGs themselves. For instance, according to the 2011 Census, the literacy rate of Khond (24.30%) and Porja (29.90%) was significantly below the state STs average of 48.83%. In contrast, other PVTGs such as the Konda Reddis and the Savara recorded relatively higher literacy levels, closer to the state STs average. This indicates that while all PVTGs face educational disadvantages, some groups have made comparatively better progress in literacy than others.

Table-13: PVTG's Major Groups Literate Population 2011

Sl. No	PVTGS Tribe Name	PVTG's Population	No. of Literates			S.T. Literacy Rate (%)		
			Population	Male	Female	Population	Male	Female
1	Gadaba etc.	37798	16175	9057	7118	42.79	49.29	36.65
2	Porja etc.	36145	10806	6837	3969	29.9	38.92	21.36
3	Chenchu	47315	15576	9009	6567	32.92	37.78	27.98
4	Khond etc.	102378	24874	16775	8099	24.30	33.32	15.56
5	Konda reddis	90937	42549	23730	18819	46.79	53.04	40.73
6	Savaras etc.	137613	59893	34936	24957	43.52	51.74	35.61
PVTG'S Groups-Total		452186	169873	100344	69529	37.57	59.07	69.29

CONCLUSION:

Scheduled Tribes in Andhra Pradesh constitute a significant section of the state's population, marked by cultural diversity, distinct languages, and unique socio-economic practices. However, they remain socio-economically disadvantaged compared to the general population. Among them, the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) are the most marginalized, with lower literacy rates, limited access to healthcare, and dependence on primitive occupations such as podu cultivation, hunting, food gathering, and collection of forest produce. Despite government interventions, challenges persist in improving their livelihood security, education, and health outcomes. There are also wide disparities among different tribal groups in terms of development indicators. Therefore, while constitutional safeguards, special development programmes, and welfare schemes have created opportunities, there is still a pressing need for focused, community-specific, and sustainable interventions. In conclusion, the overall status of STs and PVTGs in Andhra Pradesh highlights the urgent necessity of bridging socio-economic gaps, empowering tribal communities, and ensuring inclusive growth while preserving their cultural identity and ecological harmony.

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS:**Dr.N. Sundara Ramaiah****Mrs. G. Anantha Varalakshmi**

1. Dr. N. Sundara Ramaiah is working as Senior Individual Consultant. He has obtained Post Graduation in both Economics and Management and received his Ph.D in Rural Development from Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh. He has conducted different evaluation studies with different projects and contributed several papers in National and International Journals.

2. Mrs. G. Anantha Varalakshmi is working as Individual Consultant. She has obtained Graduation in Education and Post Graduation in Economics from Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh. She has conducted different studies with different projects.