



# PARTICIPATION OF SCHEDULED CASTES IN POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMMES

(A Study of Krishna District in Andhra Pradesh)

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## ABSTRACT

*According to the Census 2011, the demographics of India are inclusive of the second most populous country in the world, with over 1.21 billion people which constitutes more than a sixth of the world's population. India has more than 50 of its population below the age group of 25 years and more than 65 years below the age of 35 years. It is expected that, in 2020, the average age of an India will be 29 years, compared to 37 for China and 48 for Japan; and by 2030, India's dependency ratio should be just over 0.4. In the terms of population density, India's position is 24<sup>th</sup> out of 212 countries in the year 2010 and male-female ratio it was at 12<sup>th</sup> position in the same year. Expect the Union Territories of Delhi and Chandigarh all the states have rural population higher than the urban population.*

**KEYWORDS:** Poverty, Human Development, human being, Panchayat Raj, women's empowerment

## INTRODUCTION

Poverty in India still reality. The poverty and Human Development initiatives Global Multi Dimensional Poverty Index of 2017 gave rich insights about the number of poor people living across the world. Poverty rates can be classified into three categories based on per day expense ability of an individual. If a person is deprived in 20-33.3% of the weighted indicators they are considered "Vulnerable to Poverty" and if they are deprived in 50% or more they are identified as being in severe poverty. As for the oxford poverty and Human Development initiatives Global Multi Dimensional Poverty Index of 2017, Andhra Pradesh one of India's 29 states is located on the southwestern cost of the country with a population of almost 50 million people. East Godavari district has the Lowest Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), among the districts with a value of 0.047, while Vizianagaram has the highest with a value of 0.127.

### Definition of poverty

Amartyasen defined poverty is not just a lack of money, it is not having the capacity to realize ones full potential as human being. Poverty is defined as deprivation in well-being and comprises many dimensions; it includes low incomes and inability to acquire the basic goods and services necessary for survival with dignity. It also encompasses low levels of health and education, attainment poor access to clean water and sanitation, inadequate physical security and insufficient capacity, and opportunity to better one life.

Poverty alleviation programmes have been designed from time to time to enlarge the income earning opportunities for the poor. In the fifties and sixties measures like land reforms, credit reforms credit forms, introduction of Panchayat Raj and others were implemented to improve the economic earning power of the small and marginal farmers, Scheduled Castes and scheduled tribes. In the eighties, the endowment of assets to the poor for self-employment under the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP-1978), the special programmes for wage employment, programmes for women like Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas DWCRA 1982-83, Self-help groups (SHGs), Rastriya Mahila kosh (RMK 1993) were designed to empower the poor. Drought Prone Area Programme (1971-1972), Minimum Needs Programmes (1974-1978), 20-Points Programmes (1975), Food For Work Programme (1977-1978), Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (1979), Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (1989), Employment Assurance Scheme (1993), Deepam Scheme (Liquid Petroleum Gas 1999), Swarnajayanthi Gram Swarozgar Yojana (1999), Pradhana Manthri Gram Sadak Yojana (2000), Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (2001), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGS 2005), Self-Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation Of Manual Scavengers (2007), Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (2009-2010), National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)-2011, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Grameen (2016), Mission Antyodaya-2017 etc.,

## Andhra Pradesh–hub of Innovative Poverty Alleviation Programmes

Andhra Pradesh enjoys the legacy of introducing and implementing innovative poverty alleviation programmes. Apart from general economic policies, targeted poverty alleviation programmes for women's empowerment and overall development of marginalised sections, providing housing other infrastructure like pensions, land distribution, health insurance helping the poor in various dimensions. Increasing budgetary allocations, improving delivery system in poverty alleviation programmes and effective monitoring can help reduce severity of poverty.

Poverty alleviation has been one of the guiding principles of the planning process in India. The role of economic growth in providing more employment avenues to the population has been clearly recognized. The growth-oriented approach has been reinforced by focusing on specific sectors which provide greater opportunities to the people to participate in the growth process. The various dimensions of poverty relating to health, education and other basic services have been progressively internalized in the planning process. Central and State Governments have considerably enhanced allocations for the provision of education, health, sanitation and other facilities which promote capacity-building and well-being of the poor. Investments in agriculture, area development programmes and afforestation provide avenues for employment and income. Special programmes have been taken up for the welfare of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and scheduled tribes (STs), the disabled and other vulnerable groups. Anti-poverty programmes that seek to transfer assets and skills to people for self-employment, coupled with public works programmes that enable people to cope with transient poverty, are the third strand of the larger anti-poverty strategy.

### NEED FOR THE STUDY

Economic development in India even after five decades of planned development has by-passed Indian poor. For the poorest of the poor and for the members of Scheduled Castes who are doubly disadvantaged, the gap between the rich and the poor has been widening despite rapid technology changes and galloping globalization. The overall goal of economic development for the poor and for the members of Scheduled Castes have so far been seen in generalized improvement in agricultural production, sanitation, health care, schooling and other income generation schemes. But the lack of resources and capability deprivation have gone against the poorest section majority of whom are members of Scheduled Castes as discrimination, socio-economic and political, appears to operate at least partially through strong mechanism where the Scheduled Castes are either not represented at all, and if

represented in gainful employment, they are poorly paid in dead end jobs. Due to the historical disadvantage majority of members of Scheduled Castes having no access to basic resources of survival and growth, remain still deprived viz., other socially dominant groups.

In order to fill-up the said gaps in the earlier studies, the present study "Participation of scheduled castes in poverty alleviation programmes (A Study of Krishna District in Andhra Pradesh)" is initiated.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objectives of the present study are:

- 1) To study the socio-demographic status of Scheduled Castes in Andhra Pradesh.
- 2) To study the socio-economic conditions of selected Scheduled Castes respondents in the study area.
- 3) To examine the causes of poverty in Scheduled Castes respondents in Krishna district.
- 4) To suggest the measures to implement the programmes more effectively.

### METHODOLOGY

In the light of the above objectives, the present study is based on the source of primary data as well as secondary data. In first stage, Krishna district has been selected purposefully for the present study. In the next stage, Gannavaram mandal which mandal is highest Scheduled Caste population in Krishna District for examining the various government schemes related to poverty alleviation programmes. Gannavaram mandal has been divided into three clusters. From each cluster, one village has selected, which Scheduled Caste population is highest, middle, and lowest population as per the 2011 census. In each cluster one village, altogether three villages have selected randomly. From two villages 33 respondents (66 respondents) and one village (34) Scheduled Caste respondents have been selected for the study by adopting Random Sampling method with the total (one hundred) respondents.

### Source of Data

The data for the present data has collected from the Sources of primary and secondary data. The primary data has collected by interview schedule method covering the aspects of socio-economic and other aspects of the respondents. The secondary data has obtained from official records of different agencies and Gram Panchayaths of Krishna District, District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) beside other published and unpublished Sources.

### Tools of Data Analysis

A simple statistical tool such as averages, per centages has been used for the purpose of analysis the data.

**Table -1**  
**Gender-wise and Age-wise Distribution of the Respondents**

Sl.No.	Gender-wise	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Male	68	68.00
2.	Female	32	32.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.00</b>
	Age group	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	20-25	4	4.00
2.	25-30	17	17.00
3.	30-35	14	14.00
4.	35-40	14	14.00
5.	40-45	11	11.00
6.	45-50	19	19.00
7.	50-55	4	4.00
8.	55and Above	17	17.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Note:** The average age of the respondents is found to be 41 years.

*Source:* Field survey.

**Table -2**  
**Educational Status of the Respondents**

Sl. No.	Education	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Illiterate	26	26.00
2	Primary	35	35.00
3	Secondary	34	34.00
4	Intermediate	02	02.00
5	Degree	02	02.00
6	degree and above	01	01.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*Source:* Field survey.

**Table -3**  
**Type of Family of the Respondents**

Sl. No.	Variables	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Nuclear	83	83.00
2	Joint Family	17	17.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*Source:* Field survey.

**Table -4**  
**Occupational Level of the Respondents**

Sl. No.	Occupation	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Agricultural Labour	83	83.00
2	Agriculture farmers	7	7.00
3	Private job	2	2.00
4	Retired	5	5.00
5	Govt. Job	1	1.00
6	Any other	2	2.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.00</b>

*Source:* Field survey

**Table -5**  
**Annual Income of the Respondents**

Sl. No.	Income	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Rs.10,000-20,000	12	12.00
2	Rs.20,000-30,000	33	33.00
3	Rs.30,000 - 40,000	14	14.00
4	Rs.40,000-50,000	26	26.00
5	Rs.50,000 and Above	15	15.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Note:** The average annual income of the respondents is found to be Rs.34, 900.

*Source:* Field survey.

**Table -6**  
**Financial Assets and Investment Details of the Respondents**

Sl. No.	Particulars	Yes	No	Total
1	Minimum Maintenance of Cash in Hand	13	87	100
<b>If Yes, How Much</b>				
	Amount in Rupees	Number of persons		
	Rs.500/-	4		
	Rs.600/-	1		
	Rs.800/-	1		
	Rs.1000/-	4		
	Rs.1500/-	1		
	Rs.2000/-	2		
2	Deposits	1	99	100
3	Jewellery	1	99	100

Source: Field survey.

**Table -7**  
**Indebtedness details of the Respondents**

Sl. No.	Particulars	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	73	73.00
	No	27	27.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>If Yes, Amount in Rupees</b>			
	Rs. 1000-20000	3	4.10
	Rs. 20000 – 40000	12	16.43
	Rs. 40000 – 60000	23	31.50
	Rs. 60000 – 80000	11	15.10
	Rs. 80000 and Above	24	32.87
	<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Source of Debt</b>			
	Local money lender	47	64.38
	Land lords/Traders	12	16.40
	Bank	5	6.90
	Friends / Relatives	9	12.32
	<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Note:** The average indebtedness of the respondents is found to be 61,255.

Source: Field survey.

**Table -8**  
**Awareness of the Respondents on Poverty Alleviation Schemes**

Sl. No.	Particulars	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	<b>Know about Poverty</b>		
	Yes	83	83.00
	No.	17	17.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.00</b>
2	<b>Awareness on Government Schemes for Poverty Alleviation Programmes</b>		
	Yes	87	87.00
	No.	13	13.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.00</b>
3	<b>Awareness about Rural Development Programmes</b>		
	Yes	89	89.00
	No.	11	11.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.00</b>
4	<b>Understanding about Rural Development Programmes</b>		
	programmes only for the BPL's	16	16.00
	for the benefit of society as a whole	26	26.00
	for the benefit of rural people	58	58.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: Field survey.

**Table -9**  
**Details of Training Programmes attended by the Respondent**

Sl. No.	Particulars	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	86	86.00
2	No	14	14.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: Field survey

**Table -10**  
**Respondents Saving Habit in the Bank and Post Office**

Sl. No.	Particulars	Before Poverty Alleviation Programmes	Percentage	After poverty alleviation programmes	Percentage
<b>1</b>	<b>Saving Habit in the Bank</b>				
	Yes	39	39.00	100	100.00
	No	61	61.00	0	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Saving Habit in the Post Office</b>				
	Yes	26	26.00	58	58.00
	No	74	74.00	42	42.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: Field survey.

**Table -11**  
**Savings details of the family of the Respondent before and after Poverty Alleviation Programmes**

Sl. No.	Particulars	Before Poverty Alleviation Programmes	Percentage	After Poverty Alleviation Programmes	Per centage
<b>1.</b>	Rs.Below 5,000	25	25.00.	54	54.00
	Rs 5000-10000	14	14.00	32	32.00
	Rs.10,000-15,000	2	2.00	9	9.00
	Rs.15,000-20,000	1	1.00	3	3.00
	No Savings	58	58.00	2	2.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Note:** 1.The average savings of the respondents before poverty alleviation programmes are 5,000.

2.The average savings of the respondents after poverty alleviation programmes are 5,510.

Source: Field survey.

## CONCLUSION

Poverty is due to large population, unemployment, inflation, backwardness of agriculture, social causes and imbalance of economic resources of the country. Poverty eradication is main objective at beginning of the economic planning of India, eradication of poverty and ensuring social development by expanding the opportunities for gainful employment to the deprived sections of the society. Scheduled caste population is facing different socio-economic problems across the country; poverty is major problem for scheduled caste. Government of India and Andhra Pradesh government has implementing the different poverty alleviation programmes to eradicate the poverty in rural and urban areas. Most rural development programmes in India have been strongly focused on eradication of poverty.

The scheduled caste population in rural areas face in numerous problems which include lack of hygiene, poor housing, shortage of education for children etc...The present study focused on participation of scheduled caste in alleviation of poverty programmes and its attention on dimensions issues and challenges created by the rural areas for the scheduled caste in rural areas from the Indian Context. The poverty should not be understood from the point of view of "Lack of Income" done, but it has to be analyzed from the paradigm of created deprivation. The dimensions like lack of assets, unemployment, underemployment of the adult resulted

for child labour, lack of water, sanitation, drainage problem for basic health care are the agendas of own policy making bodies . The scheduled caste should be kept in confidence as not only beneficiaries of the any schemes, policies and programmes but participation also. No programmes can bring the desired results unless scheduled castes utilize the resources which create to them from time to time .Participation of the scheduled caste is the key as well as challenges for curbing poverty.

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