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SOCIO ECONOMIC STATUS OF MALAYALI TRIBES IN JAWADHU HILLS, VELLORE DISTRICT

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Abstract:

This paper makes the attempts to study the socio economic status of malayali tribes in jawadhu hills, Vellore district. Most of the tribes' location (tribes' areas) are in accessible to modern day importance like education, health and other indicators. Tribes are living in the different regions of the forest as well as in the urban. Tribes' literatures are found in the ancient period. Purposive random sampling method was adapted for this study Well-structured interview schedule was prepared by researcher to collect data from selected respondents. By adopting personal interview method the data and information collected from the selected 87 respondents from all the three panchayats. Standard of primary education and quality of teaching faculty should be improved and periodically assessed in Jawadhu hills.

Keywords: Education, Health, Income, Expenditure, etc.

INTRODUCTION:

Development economics is one of the branches of economics which improves the economies of the country. It is believed that the nature of economic status among tribes' population is

abysmally low. According to **American Psychological Association**, socio economic status (SES) is not only encompasses income but also financial security, education, social class. Socio Economic Status is defined as individual and group within a hierarchical social

structure and it is the combination of education, income and occupation.

Tribes can be defined as a people who are having distinct mode of their life, society and different traditional way. According to **Dictionary definition**, tribes are a division of ancient culture and ethnic. According to **L.P. Vidyarthi**, Tribes are the social groups who have common culture, common system and common names in the society.

Tribes in India:

Most of the tribes location (tribes areas) are in accessible to modern day importance like education, health and other indicators. Tribes are living in the different regions of the forest as well as in the urban. Tribes literatures are found in the ancient period. Tribes are known in different names like indigenous tribes, primitive tribes and so on. Tribes are the weakest section while comparing to others and majority of them are very poor. India has the higher number of tribal population and it has the second largest tribal populations in the world next to Africa. Tribes are indigenous people (Adivasi) which mean people who are living in hilly area. According to 2011 census, 8.9% of tribes people are in India.

Tribes in Tamil Nadu:

In Tamil Nadu 39 tribal community are available in different names. They are Adiyar, Aranadan, Eravallan, Irular, Kadau, Kammara, Kanikaran, Kanikkar, Kaniyan, Kanyan, Kattunayakan, Kochuvelan, Kondakapus, Kondareddis, Koraga, Kota, Kudya, Kurinchchan, Kurumans, Kurumbas, Madugar, Mahamalar, Malaiarayan, Malaipandaram, Malaivedan, Malakkuravan, Malasar, Malayali, Malayekandi, Mannan, Melakudi, Mudvan, Palleyan, Palliyan, Palliyar, Paniyan, Sholaga, Toda, Uraly. Southern part hill stations in Tamil Nadu are Jawadhu hills in Vellore district and Thiruvannamalai district, Yelagiri hills in Vellore district, Anai malai hills in Coimbatore district, Kolli hills in Namakkal district, Yercaud hills in Salem district, and Chiteri hills in Dharmapuri hills. Most of the southern part of tribes are belonging to **Malayali, Irular, Kurubans, Kattunayagan** and **Kondareddies**. **Malayali** are the largest population in Tamil Nadu with 47.6% . Indian constitution established several policies and schemes to promote and safeguard the cultural, social, economic and education. After the independence of India, Government of India initiated welfare programs for tribal development.

In this context this paper will study the socio economic status among tribal people with reference to Jawadhu hills. It will also outline steps in harnessing socio economic condition by evaluating government sponsored scheme Indira Awas Yojana (I.A.Y) implemented in the study area.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

. This study is about the socio economic status of tribes in Jawadhu hills. Even though government has introduced many schemes and welfare projects in favour of tribes in the study area but still tribal people have not developed.

There is no proper education, no proper training for tribes, and no awareness among them and no proper road facilities. There is only one primary health care centre which is located in Pudurnadu. This is the only health care centre for all the 32 villages in this hill and there are no proper equipments, for treatment. In case of emergency they have to travel 40km to reach tirupattur for further treatment.

Pudurnadu is the centre for all the villages. Even though there are elementary schools and high schools in most of the villages but there is only one forest higher secondary school which is located in Pudur village. The main

problem in the study area is that there is no proper road facility. Recently, in the month of November 2017 protest has been organized by the people of all 32 villages in the study area to construct a road. At last, government accepted their request to construct a road from pudurnadu to singarapettai via Nellivasalnadu.

The students are struggling a lot to come to school for their higher education. And the teachers are not coming regularly to the primary schools. It may be one of the main causes for illiteracy in the study area. Government should take necessary steps to solve this problem. This project may also helpful to find out the problems in the study area.

The main indicators in the study area are socio economic status and effectiveness of government schemes for the development of tribes in study area.

In this paper will try to find the answers for the following questions,

1. How are the tribes living?
2. Where do the tribal students go for the schools and college education?
3. How much the study area has been developed?
4. Income and expenditure pattern of the tribes in study area.

5. Whether their socio economic status has improved or changed their life style?

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

Following are the main objectives of the study.

1. To know the socio economic status of the tribal in Jawadhu hills.
2. To know the income and expenditure pattern of tribal in Jawadhu hills.
3. To know the literacy status of the tribal people in Jawadhu hills.
4. To know the health status of the tribal people in study area.
5. To know beneficiaries status of Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) scheme in the study area.
6. To suggest suitable measures to enhance socio economic status in Jawadhu hills.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

This chapter attempts to give a brief account of certain empirical studies conducted on different aspects of the economic conditions of the tribal population.

Shankar.R and Manimaran.S (July 2013), in this article, they examines about the socio-economic conditions of pachamalai tribes and they discussed about the health and economic status of the tribes in trichy district of Tamil Nadu. This paper observed

one third of the respondents are in the age group of 35-45 years. Agriculture dominated the tribes economic condition in Tamil Nadu and rest of the 2% is engaged in the non-agricultural activity. Tribes possessed the forest land as their main assets

Padmaja Chetia(January 2015), she describes about inclusive growth and tribes people. The main objective of this paper is to find out the socio economic condition of the tribes people in Guwahati and the benefits received by the tribes people from the government. More than 80% of the households are depending on agriculture. The researcher found that female headed households getting less income than the male headed households and also 5% of the people are daily wage labours. The standard of living of the tribes people in the study area are very low and there is no impact and changes in the development of the tribes in Guwahati.

Senapati (March 2015) discussed about the Holistic Tribes Education in Odissa, India. He argued that education is the main indicator and instrument for the development and education is the main factor of human capital. This paper analyses the role of primary education, higher education, vocational training programs and also delivers the innovation in holistic education.

Brahmanandam (December 2016), described about Educational status among tribes and issues and challenges. Education is one of the essential for every human. This paper attempts the educational status of schedule tribes in India. Education is the power weapon to develop in the social status and economic status of the tribes. Usually, tribes are living closed to forest so they do not know about the outside. and also providing mid-day meals, special classes.

Pulla Rao (July 2013), discussed about the Socio Economic Status of Scheduled Tribes in Andhra Pradesh. This paper examines the social and economic status among the tribe in Visakhapatnam district, the study area occupied by the Konda Dora tribes community. Government promoting cultural, education, economic conditions to bring them the tribes to the mainstream in the country.

METHODOLOGY

This research requires library research using resources of various libraries. Since there is not written material on the origin and development of socio economic development works done among malayali's.

Number of Households in the Panchayats

Name of the Village	Number of Households
Arumbalpattu	112
Nadukkupam	237
Valathalampattu	252
Kelanoor	137
Belur	82
Thakkarakuppam	200
Puliyur	420
Melpattu	390
Sembarai	132

The villages are stratified on the basis of population.

The researcher chooses the villages on the basis of highest households in all the three panchayats.10% of the households have been selected as a sample in each village by using purposive sampling method.

- In Pudurnadu Panchayat, Valathalampattu village is selected, 10% of 250 is 25 samples.
- In Pungampattu Panchayat, Thakkarakuppam village is selected, 10% of 200 is 20 samples.

- In Nellivasalnadu Panchayat, puliyur village is selected, 10% of 420 is 42 samples.
- Totally 87 samples.

• **Method of Data Collection:**

Well-structured interview schedule was prepared by researcher to collect data from selected respondents. By adopting personal interview method the data and information collected from the selected 87 respondents from all the three panchayats.

Method of Data Analysis:

- The collected data are analyzed in Statistical package for Social Science. Descriptive statistics method is adopted for this research on Socio Economic Status on tribes in Jawadhu hills.

PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA:

Jawadhu hills is famous for jackfruit and sandalwood. In Jawadhu hills, panchayats are *Pudurnadu*, *Pungampattu Nadu*, and *Nellivasalnadu* which comes under the control of Tirupattur Taluk. Pudurnadu panchayat is the centre for all other two panchayats. Pudurnadu contains 10 villages, pungampattu panchayat contains 14 villages and nellivasalnadu contains 7 villages. The

main occupation of this tribe's people is agriculture and during off season people migrates to different cities like Bangalore, Chennai as coolie worker.

Analysis and Interpretation

In this chapter a detailed analysis of the collected data has been attempted as per the objectives stated earlier. The following statisfied techniques for the analysis of the data gathered for the present study viz. descriptive analysis and inferential statistics.

Table No-1. Age of the Respondent

Age	Frequency	Percentage
Below 25 years	12	13.8
25 to 30 years	21	23.8
31 to 40 years	25	40.2
41 to 50 years	26	29.8
Above 50 years	3	2.4
Total	87	100.0

(Source- Primary data)

The above table shows age of the respondents. Table shows that age wise distribution, out of the total samples. 40.2 percentage of them age group of 31-40 years and 41-50 years is 29.8 percentage age group of the respondents.

Table No: 4.2. Annual Income of the Respondents

Annual Income of the respondent	Frequency	Percentage
Less than 30,000	13	14.9
30,001- 60,000	9	10.3
60,001- 90,000	19	21.8
90,001- 1,20,000	27	31.0
1,20,001 and above	19	22.0
Total	87	100.0

(Source- Primary data)

The above table shows annual income of the respondent. The table shows that 31.0% of the respondents getting their annual income of the family range between 90,001 to 1, 20,000. 10.3% of the respondent family income between 30,001 to 60,000 and 14.9% of the respondent family income is less than 30,000.

Table No-3 Annual Expenditure of the family

Annual expenditure of the family	Frequency	Percentage
Less than 20,000	27	31.0
20,001 to 40,000	6	6.9
40,001 to 60,000	10	11.5
60,001 to 80,000	24	27.5
80,001 and above	20	23.1
Total	87	100.0

(Source-Primary data)

The above table shows annual expenditure of the family. Table shows that majority of 31.0% of the respondents annual expenditure is less than 20,000 and 27.5% of the respondents annual expenditure is between 60,001 to 80,000. Only 6.9% of the respondents annual expenditure is between 20,001 to 40,000. The majority of the respondents expenditure is less than 20,000.

Table No- 4. Debt of the Family

Debt of the Family	Frequency	Percentage
Below 50,000	17	19.5
50,001 to 1,00,000	26	29.9
1,00,001 to 2,00,000	19	21.8
2,00,001 to 3,00,000	15	17.3
3,00,001 and above	10	11.5
Total	87	100.0

The above table shows the debt of the family. Table shows that 29.9% of respondents having debt of 50001 to 100000, 19.5% of the respondents having debt below 50,000. 11.5% of the respondents having debt between 3, 00,001 and above.

From the table majority of the respondents having debt range between 50001 to 100000.

Table No- 5. Mode of Savings?

Mode	Frequency	Percentage
Self-help group	19	21.8
Chit fund	41	47.2
Post Office	27	31.0
Total	87	100.0

(Source- Primary data)

The above table shows mode of savings of the respondents in the study area. Table shows that 47.2% of the respondents saving their amount in chit fund, 31.0% of the respondents saving their amount in post office. Rest of 21.8% respondents savings in self-help group. Majority of the respondents saving their income in chit fund.

Table No- 6. Annual Savings

Annual Savings	Frequency	Percentage
1000-5000	1	1.1
6000-10000	17	19.5
16000-20000	69	79.3
Total	87	100.0

The above table shows the annual savings. 79.3% of the respondents annual savings range between 16000-20000, 19.5% of the respondent annual savings range between 6000-10000 and rest of the 1.1% of respondent savings is between 1000-5000.

Table No- 7. Awareness of Educational Scholarship

Awareness	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	45	51.7
No	42	48.3
Total	87	100.0

(Source- Primary data)

The above table shows the awareness of respondents on educational scholarship. 51.7% of respondents are having awareness about educational scholarship and rest of 48.3% of respondents are not having awareness on educational scholarship.

Table No- 8. Distance to Hospital

Distance	Frequency	Percentage
6-10kms	29	33.3
11-20kms	39	44.8
Above 20 kms	19	21.8
Total	87	100.0

(Source- Primary data)

The above table describes the distance from the respondent's home to hospital. Table shows that 44.8% of the respondents are away from their home from 11-20kms to hospital, 33.3% of the respondents are having short distance to the hospital between 6-10kms and rest of 21.8% of the respondents are living more than 20 kms away from the hospital.

Table No- 9. Awareness of Indira Awas Yojana

Awareness	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	24	27.5
No	63	72.5
Total	87	100.0

(Source- Primary data)

The above table describes awareness among sample respondents about Indira Awas Yojana in the study area. The table shows that, 72.5% of the respondents do not have awareness about IAY scheme and rest of 27.5% of the respondents are only having awareness about IAY scheme.

Table No- 10. Beneficiary of Indira Awas Yojana

Beneficiary	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	17	19.5
No	70	80.5
Total	87	100.0

The above table explains beneficiary of Indira Awas Yojana Scheme among selected sample respondents. 80.5% of the respondents are not beneficiaries of Indira

Awaj Yojana and rest of 19.5% of the respondents are the beneficiaries of IAY scheme.

Major findings and suggestions

- The study is concerned with minimum age of the respondents is 18 years age and the maximum was 60 years age. The majority of the sample respondents were between the age group of 36-40.
- This study states that average income earned by the respondents is less than 30,000. This income is not sufficient to live but only 14.9% of respondents are earning less than 30,000. The majority of 31.0% of respondents earning between 90,001-1, 20,000. The family income is good than the respondents income.
- The majority of annual expenditure of the family is less than 20,000. 23.1% of the respondents annual expenditure range between 80,001 and above because they adopting a urban life style. Everyone having households amenities like bike, television, smart phone, fridge, etc. Respondents are spending much money than their income for buying goods and services and also spending reasonable amount of money due to they are admitting their children in government school and private nursery and primary school, health, cloth and recreations. Expenditure on education and health are more costly than others.
- Majority of the respondents are spending least amount of money for the hospital and medicine purpose.
- Debt is major problem in every family. When the expenditure is more than income they need to borrow money from others like pawn brokers, friends, relatives and commercial banks. The majority of 29.9% of the respondents are having debt between 50,001 to 1,00,000 due their expenditure level is higher than the income level.
- Literacy is more important factor which determines the employment. Literacy rate is very low in study area. In the study area majority of 55.2% respondents are illiterate, they do not able read and write. There is no quality education in Jawadhu hills. Many people are migrating to towns and cities for their children's education.
- The majority of the 52.2% of respondents are illiterate and the 21.8% of the respondents are having primary education. 18.4% of respondents are studied their higher

- secondary their percentage is and only 4.6% of respondents are qualified with degree.
- At this century, literacy rate is increasing in Jawadhu hills. Education is powerful weapon which can change the society. Even though many of old generation are illiterate but the present generation is increasing their percentage in literacy rate.
 - 21.8% of respondents were completed their primary education, only few respondents only completed their higher secondary education and degree. At that time, there is no awareness on education and educational scholarship. In the study area, s majority of 45 respondents have awareness on educational scholarships gives by both central and state government. Out of 87 respondents only 41 respondents are receiving scholarships for their children from government, rest of 46 respondents are not receiving any scholarships.
 - Education is a weapon; education can only increase family's economy. Majority of the respondents said education will decide their family's economy.
 - And also one of the main findings in education is majority of 61 respondent's children are studying in government school and 19 respondent's children only studying in private school and rest of 7 respondent's children were studying in town. Majority of children are studying in Tamil medium only few are studying in English medium.
 - Health is one of the most important factors for everyone. We know the famous proverb "Health is Wealth" a person one who having good health condition they can live long life happily without any health care problems. In Jawadhu hills health conditions of the people are very good because they are taking proper healthy food for day to day life. Only few are affected by severe diseases like Tuberculosis, Jaundice and some diseases. Even though, severe cases are there but main thing is there is no proper hospital facility in jawadhu hills. Out of 32 villages, there is only one government hospital located in Pudurnadu village. In case of emergency, they need to travel 40km to take treatment in tirupattur, it is very difficult for the patients to take treatment. Sometimes it creates patient to death.

- In Jawadhu hills, there are some many fake doctors are available from them majority of 56 respondents were taking treatment. Government is not taking any steps to solve this problem. Those fake doctors do not have educational qualifications, few of those doctors are completed their UG degree in Arts stream, due to unemployment they changed their career to medical stream without qualification.
- The majority of respondents are taking treatment in Primary Health Care centre which is located in Pudurnadu. Many of the respondents are having government bus has their mode of travel to hospital. Only few respondents are using two wheelers and other sources like auto, free ambulances.
- It also one of the duty for researcher to study about status of government sponsored schemes like IAY, SBM, MGNREGA. These are the few schemes were implemented in study area. Indira Awas Yojana is central government sponsored schemes in which tribes people can get free houses. In the study area, out of 17 respondents only 70 are only the beneficiaries of IAY schemes and rest of 24 respondents are not the beneficiary. So far government introducing many welfare schemes to tribes but awareness is not created among them.
- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act by government of India for creating 100 days employment opportunities for people of our nation. It is one of good initiative step by government to make platform for people. In study area, majority of 80 respondents are not the members in MGNREGA work due to lack of awareness.
- Recently, government introduced Swatch Bharat Mission (SBM) scheme under in which government funding 12000 to construct free toilet. Majority of 48 respondents are beneficiaries of this SBM. This scheme implemented effectively in study area.
- Researcher asked respondents about welfare schemes in which need to concentrate. The majority of the 33 respondents said government need to create proper road facility to Jawadhu hills, 27 sample respondents said government should build more hospitals and rest of respondents are said government should focus more on to buildup educational institutions in study area

and also to create more employment opportunities for tribes in Jawadhu hills.

SUGGESTIONS:

- Standard of primary education and quality of teaching faculty should be improved and periodically assessed in Jawadhu hills.
- The absence of Primary Health Care centers which results in higher Maternal Mortality Rate and Infant Mortality Rate should be seen in a broader perspective and sufficient number of health care centre should be started.
- As agriculture being the only occupation among the tribes of Jawadhu hills which is solely dependent on rainfall should be given proper attention by the government and the farmers should be technology upgraded.
- Child marriages are very common among these tribes and average age of a girl getting married is less than 18 years of age. The government should take strict measures to prevent child marriages and early pregnancy.
- Climate change resulting in lesser rainfall forces farmers of this tribe to move towards daily wage labour

works such as construction works, textile industries which provide very less wages and instable income thus leaving agriculture being forgotten.

- Government should create proper transport facility and increase the number of buses to Jawadhu hills from Tirupattur.
- Beneficiaries of Indira Awas Yojana are very low in study area, it should be increased and government should evaluate this scheme in study area. And also government should create more employment opportunities for tribes in Jawadhu hills.

Conclusion

The Socio Economic Conditions of Malayali Tribes is very deplorable in Jawadhu hills. The government should take concrete action plan to formulate the programmes to address the specific needs and economic condition of tribes in Jawadhu hills and also bringing them up high level in the society.

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