

AN EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS ON ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF TRIBALS –A STUDY IN ANANTAPUR DISTRICT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

Dr.G. Vijaya kumar, Prof.K.Thulasi Naik

The objective of the present paper is to analyse the economic conditions of Tribals in Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh. There are many sub groups within the Tribals. Among them, Lambadas constitute 70% followed by Yerukal (29%) and Yanadi (1%). The present paper is based the research work done by the authors. Most of the Tribals both lambada and non-lambada have been living in houses provided by the government and Rural Development Trust (RDT), Anantapur – a local Non-Governmental Organisation. 43% of lambada tribes and 36% of non-lambada tribes have agricultural land holdings. 18% of the lambada households and 28% non-lambada households are agricultural labourers. 7% of the lambada households and 10% non-lambada households have been maintaining animal husbandry. 13% of the lambada households and 4% of non-lambada households are engaged in micro and small business activities. The study inferred that lambada households stand in a better position with regard to possession of assets when compared to Non-lambada households, which shows that there is a significant difference in income derived from the assets possessed by the lambada and non-lambada households.

Keywords: Economic Conditions, Lambada households, Non-Lambada households, Tribals.

INTRODUCTION

Tribal communities live in abject poverty having very little access to capital assets, health and educational facilities and hardly any protection against vagaries of nature. There are approximately two hundred million tribal people on the entire globe, which constitute, about 4 % of the global population. They are found in many regions of the world and a majority of them are the poorest amongst the poor. There are 533 tribes as per notified schedule under Article 34 of the constitution of India. According to 2001 census, the population of scheduled tribes in the country was 84.3 million, consisting about 8.19 % of total Indian population. There are 33 tribes in Andhra Pradesh with a total population of 16.58 lakhs. Total scheduled area in Andhra Pradesh is 9,683 sq. kilometers, which forms 10.7 percent of the total area of the state.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The lambada tribe constitutes nearly 70 percent of the tribes while the remaining 30 percent of tribes is composed of non-lambada tribes which include Erukala (29%) and yanadi (1%). The lambadas lead a well settled life while non-lambadas lead a nomadic life. As such it has become difficult to enroll them as beneficiaries under government schemes. The study aims to examine the progress achieved

by both the tribal groups through the implementation of various tribal developmental programmes initiated and implemented by the district administrative machinery.

OBJECTIVE OF THE PRESENT STUDY

The main objective of the present study is to study the present economic conditions of tribals in Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The data have been collected by interview method. Multistage Random Sampling Technique has been adopted for the selection of sample size. There are three Revenue Divisions, which cover 63 Revenue Mandals in Anantapur District. The sample of study covers 5 Revenue Mandals in each Revenue Division and 2 villages in each revenue mandal. 70 Lambada beneficiaries and 30 Non-lambada beneficiaries from each sampled Revenue Division have been randomly selected for the purpose of the study. Thus, the study covers all three Revenue Divisions, 15 Mandals, 30 Villages and 300 sample beneficiaries: 210 Lambada beneficiaries (70%) and 90 Non-Lambada beneficiaries (30%).

Table– I: House Particulars of the Family Respondents

Position of House	No. of Tribes				Total	Percentage
	Lambada	Percentage	Non-lambada	Percentage		
Own House	66	31.43	23	25.56	89	29.67
Rented House	3	1.43	0	0.00	3	1.00
Houses provided by the Govt	105	50.00	40	44.44	145	48.33
RDT houses	36	17.14	27	30.00	63	21.00
Total	210	100.00	90	100.00	300	100.00

The Chi-square value = 7.379674, The Chi-square Table Value = 7.815

Note: 5 % level of Significance

Source: Field Survey data

It is clear from the table that more than 31 % of the lambadas reside in their own houses in contrast with 26 % of the non-lambadas. 50 % of the lambada were provided houses by the state government through scheme such as, Indira Avas Schemes on the other hand its only 44 % of beneficiaries from non- lambadas. The local NGO-RDT, Anantapur covered 17.14 % of the sampled beneficiaries of lambadas under its housing scheme as against to 30 % of the non-lambdas. The chi-square test makes it clear that there is no significant difference between lambada and

non-lambada than with regard to housing programmes, vide table –1. One thing that needs to be mentioned here is the non-lambadas keep frequently changing their places of living, for the types of occupations pursued do not allow them to live in a place permanently. Most of the non-lambadas have taken up piggery, basket making and hunting as their bread –winning jobs, and as they live a nomadic life, their houses are generally given to tenants on rent for most of the year.

Table– II: Primary Occupation of the Respondents

S.No	Occupation	No. of Tribes				Total	Percentage
		Lambada	%	Non-lambada	%		
1	Agriculture	90	42.86	32	35.56	122	40.67
2	Agriculture labour	38	18.10	25	27.78	63	21.00
3	Animal husbandry	15	7.14	9	10.00	24	8.00
4	Non-form labour	12	5.71	5	5.56	17	5.67
5	Business	28	13.33	4	4.44	32	10.67
6	Rural artisans	14	6.67	12	13.33	26	8.67
7	Others	13	6.19	3	3.33	16	5.33
	Total	210	100.00	90	100.00	300	100.00

The Chi-square value = 13.14584, The Chi-square Table Value = 12.592

Note: 5 % level of significance: Source: Field Survey data

Agriculture sustains good number of households among the tribes. 43 % of the lambada tribe households put up primary occupation in contrast with 36 % non-lambadas. Over 18 % of the lambada households pursue agricultural labour activity against to 20 % non-lambadas; 7 % of the lambada households look after animal husbandry as against to 10 % non-lambada households, over 13 percent of the lambada tribe households are engaged in business only 4% non-lambadas households.

Over 13 % of the non-lambadas household pursues different rural artisans' works against 7 % lambadas households. Thus, one observes that the occupational pattern between two tribal groups is more or less similar, but one striking feature observed is that 13 % of lambadas households are engaged in business and 13 % non-lambadas households are engaged in rural artisans' works.

Table: III
Land Particulars of the Sampled Household Families

Land Holdings	No. of Tribes				Total	Percentage
	Lambada	Percentage	Non-lambada	Percentage		
Landless	47	22.38	41	45.56	88	29.33
Marginal Farmers(below2.5 acres)	70	33.33	30	33.33	100	33.33
Small Farmers (2.5–5 acres)	52	24.76	10	11.11	62	20.67
Medium Farmers (5–7.5 acres)	30	14.29	7	7.78	37	12.34
Large Farmers(above7.5 acres)	11	5.24	2	2.22	13	4.33
Total	210	100.00	90	100.00	300	100.00

The Chi-square value = 20.70092, The Chi-square Table Value = 9.488

Note: 5 % level of Significance

Source: Field Survey data

More than 22 % of the lambada households did not possess land as against 46 non-lambadas households. Surprisingly both lambada and non-lambada tribes had an equal percentage of marginal farmers 33percent. Nearly 25 percent lambada households have been categorized as small farmers as against 11 % of non-lambadas. Over 14 percent of the lambada tribes are under the medium farmers as against 8 % non-lambadas. In case of lambadas more than 5% are enrolled under large farmers. It was only 2% in the case of non-lambadas. Thus it's an abuse that lambada households have larger areas of land under their control when compared to non-lambadas in the study area.

Live stock Assets of the Households

29.5% of the lambada households have milch animals as against 22% of the non-lambda households. 12% of lambadas have bullocks as against 5.6% of non-lambadas. 28.5% lambadas own sheep/ goat as against 18% the non-lambada households. 11% of the non-lambada households took up piggery where as only 2% of Lambadas and 35% of the lambadas own poultry birds at their houses where as 33.3% of non-lambada households

Agriculture assets of the Households

53% of the lambadas own agricultural land as against 33% non-lambadas. Nearly 10% of lambada households have own bullock carts as against 6% of non-lambadas households. 10% of lambada households own electrical motor to pump water as against 3% of non-lambadas. 13.81% of lambada households have well/bore wells in their field as against 6.67 % non-lambadas households. Not a single non-lambada household with regard to owns a tractor while 3 lambada households have own tractors. Thus one finds a little difference agricultural assets owned by a lambada and non-lambada tribes.

Durable goods of the Household

77.14% of the lambda households have television sets as against 37.8% of non-lambada households' assets; 22.38% of the lambada households own motor cycle as against 18.9% of non-lambada households. 37.14% lambada households have bicycles where as only 5.6% of non-lambadas. 16.67% of lambada households have sewing machine against 20% non-lambada households. 77.6% of the lambada have mobile phones as against 62.2% of the Non-lambada households. Thus there is a difference between calculated chi-square value (22.03) and chi-square table value (11.07), implying the fact that there is a significant difference with respect to the possession of assets between lambada and non-lambada tribes in the study area.

Present value of the total Assets

66.67 percent of the lambada households own assets whose present value is less than 60000 rupees per house hold as against 80 % Non-lambada households. Over 24.28 % of lambda households own property in the range of below 60,000–1 lakh as against 17.78 % non-lambada households. Slightly over 9.05 % of the lambda households own assets whose present value is more than 1 lakh and above as against 2.22 % of the Non-lambada households. Thus it is clear that lambada households stand in a better position with regards to possession of the household assets when compared to Non-lambada in the study area.

Net income from the assets

14.3% of the lambada households derive less than 300 rupees per month as income from the assets they posses as against 41% non-lambda households. 47.6% of the lambda households derive monthly income in the range of 300 to 600 rupees while it is only 26.7% in non-lambda households. 14.3% of the lambada households' monthly income received is 600 to 900 as against 13.3% non-lambda households. The lambada households who derive monthly income of 900 and above constitute 11.90 % as

against 18.89 % among the non-lambda households. It is a significant mention that 11.90 % lambda household's remain without any income as against 3.33 % of the non-lambda household income. It reflects the fact that there exists a significant difference in income derived from the assets possessed by the lambda households and non-lambda households.

CONCLUSIONS

Most of the Tribals both lambda and non-lambda have been living in houses provided by the government and Rural Development Trust (RDT), Anantapur – a local Non-Governmental Organisation. 43% of lambda tribes and 36% of non-lambda tribes have agricultural land holdings. 18% of the lambda households and 28% non-lambda households are agricultural labourers. 7% of the lambda households and 10% non-lambda households have been maintaining animal husbandry. 13% of the lambda households and 4% of non-lambda households are engaged in micro and small business activities. The study inferred that lambda households stand in a better position with regard to possession of assets when compared to Non-lambda households, which shows that there is a significant difference in income derived from the assets possessed by the lambda and non-lambda households.

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Lecturer, Department of Humanities,
Sri Krishnadevaraya University College of Engineering and Technology,
S.K.University, Anantapur-515003, A.P, INDIA,
galiveeduvijay@gmail.com

Professor, Department of Economics,
Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapur-515003, A.P, INDIA