

"Socio-Economic Status Of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (Pvtgs) In Karnataka: A Comprehensive Study"

Dr. Jyothi E Singh¹, Dr. Deepak R²,
Dr. Vaijanath Babshetti³, Dr. Madhu B K⁴

¹ Associate Professor, Dept of MBA, BMS Institute of Technology and Management.

² Associate Professor, Dept of Management Studies, Ramaiah Institute of Technology.

³ Assistant Professor, Dept of Management Studies, Ramaiah Institute of Technology.

⁴ Assistant Professor, Faculty of Management Studies, Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences.

Abstract

The present study aims to assess the socio-economic status of PVTGs in Karnataka, which includes Jenukuruba tribe from Hunsur taluk of Mysuru district and Koraga tribe from Sulya taluk of Dakshina Kannada district. Descriptive research design was adopted for the study. Primary data was collected through a structured interview schedule and focus group discussion. The sample size Judgemental sampling and convenience sampling technique was used to select the sample. The sample size consists of 200 respondents from Jenukuruba tribe and 50 respondents from Koraga tribe. The study reveals that majority of the respondents were illiterates and they belong to middle aged group. Most of them belonged to low-income group and their social participation was very poor.

Key words: Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups, Socio-economic status.

Introduction

The scheduled tribes are the tribes which are notified under Article 342 of the Indian constitution. There is no such definition to define tribes in the constitution but they are locality, self-identification, and isolation from the main stream of population. As per census 2011 in Karnataka there are 42,48,987 scheduled tribe population (Scheduled Tribe

(ST) Data - Census 2011 India, n.d.), which constitutes 7% of total population in Karnataka and 4.1% of ST population in India. Currently there are 50 Scheduled Tribes (ST) in Karnataka, out of which, 2 of them are categorised as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) (Samvaad, n.d.), namely “Jenukuruba” and “Koraga”. According to Ministry of Tribal Welfare, India PVTGs are categorised based on low level of literacy, economic backwardness, poverty, declining or stagnant population, relatively physically isolated. Therefore, PVTGs are more vulnerable among tribal groups. Social development paves the way for economic development but then the level of inequalities in socio-economic development is very high among PVTGs. They always face major difficulties in socio economic development due to various factors like geographical and cultural isolation, lack of proper health facilities, inability to satisfy basic needs, lack of control over resources and assets, lack of education and skills, malnutrition, lack of shelter, poor access to water and sanitation, violence and crime, lack of access to proper infrastructure facilities and technologies and lack of political freedom and voice. Social sector comprising of sub-sectors like access to education, health and medical care, housing and water supply is very much essential for their economic development (Lakshmi & Paul, 2019). At the same time safeguarding the culture of PVTGs are equally important, but now a days the tribal culture is eroding. The reason being, majority of the tribals depend on forest for their livelihood. Due to various reasons legal ban of hunting, decreased availability and demand of forest products, climate changes etc., they cannot support themselves by depending purely on forests. As a result, they have forgotten their ancient crafts and most of them are working as laborers in plantations and agricultural farms. The rich cultural heritage of the tribes is facing drastic changes. The practices of healing through herbs, which were passed down from their ancestors, are now almost extinct. Understanding the social, economic, and cultural life of PVTGs can be helpful to the Government of India to come up with different schemes to plan for the socio-economic upliftment of the PVTGs while retaining their culture and heritage by adopting habitat development approach and intervening in all spheres of their social and economic life, so that a visible impact is made in improvement of the quality of life of PVTGs.

Literature Review

(Paul et al., 2020) aimed to study the socio-economic status of tribal people in Netrokona district of Bangladesh. The results of the study revealed that socio-economic condition of tribal is better day by day. Though there are some problems having in the area like poor communication, unemployment, electricity, social security, and pure drinking water but primary health and education condition look enough good as well as socio-cultural bonding with in tribes is also very strong (Mullah et al., 2007) described the socio-economic characteristics of the Tribal people of Rangamati Sadar Thana. The study revealed that tribal people fall behind the mainstream population with respect to economical, political, social and technological standings and still going on with outmoded lifestyle and ideology. (Murthy & Mahendrakumar, 2019) aimed to study the socio-economic status of tribes in Chamarajanagar district of Karnataka. They found that lack of education, lack of awareness about Govt schemes and cultural constraints are the major reasons for poverty and backwardness. (K. & Shinde, 2014) found that socio-economic condition of tribal people in Yadgir district, Karnataka are poor and they are suffering from various infected activities land allegation activities, political uncertain activities its activities and also their condition is poor in the district. (B.R et al., 2019) studied the socio-economic condition of Iruliga tribe in Karnataka and the study concludes that economic condition of this tribal community is very low and they are not aware about the facilities and schemes available for tribal community.

(Marpady & Singhe, n.d.) examined the demographic profile of Koraga community to understand the current situation. They found that the koraga population has decreased when compared to census 2001, the major reason being health reasons like tuberculosis, malnutrition and cancer. (Venugopal & Mukherjee, 2018) concluded that health culture of the tribal hamlets largely being influenced by the social and cultural factors.

(Shihab & Patil, n.d.) found that a Koraga youth are heavily dependent on the nature for their livelihood and are engaged in menial works for their livelihoods like coolie, daily wages, cleaning works, etc. The study identifies that Koraga youth are in need of skill training, capacity building/enhancement programs and targeted schemes, which can be hamlet specific. (B.R & mysore rajagopal, 2021) opined that the performance of the Jenukuruba tribe in education is much

lower than that of the other Scheduled tribal communities. (HMA & BHARADI, 2018) analysed the cultural life of tribes in Chitra Durga district. The folk literature of Kadugollas of Chitradurga is rich. The inhabitants of hamlets still have a strong belief in their ancestors and elders, and they often worship them as deities.

(Deepak & Sindhu, n.d.) studied the socio-economic status of Hakki Pikki tribes of Karnataka. The study revealed that more than half of the respondents belong to low income group and their social participation and interaction with non-tribal was very poor. Their living conditions is very poor and have unhealthy feeding habits. (Muthamma, n.d.) analyse the socio-economic status of Yerava tribal women. The results concluded that women in this community play a significant role in social, economic, cultural and religious aspects of life and they are considered as economic assets in their society. They have a rich cultural heritage, eternal traditions and hard workers but they lack socio-economic status.

Research Methodology

Research Design: The study has adopted a descriptive research design. As the study aims to describe the socio-economic status of Jenukuruba and Koraga tribes, the researchers affirm that a descriptive research design is more appropriate

Selection of respondents: The study has been mainly conducted with PVTG tribes in Karnataka. The study area includes Hunsur taluk of Mysuru district and Sulya taluk of Dakshina Kannada district.

Sampling technique: A sample of 250 respondents (200 – Jenukuruba and 50 – Koraga) was selected using non probability sampling i.e. judgemental sampling and convenience sampling.

Sources of data: The study was predominantly based on primary data and the required primary data was collected using the structured schedule, interview, focus group discussion and survey method.

Results and discussion

The study captured social variables such as age, gender, literacy, family size, family type, type of house owned and social status to identify the social status of the respondents.

The economic status of tribes can be measured using the variables like primary occupation, land holding size, income, savings, possession of animals, materials etc.

Table:1 Social parameters of Jenukuruba and Koraga Tribes

Variables	Categories	Jenukuruba Tribe	Koraga Tribe
Age	Young (<20years)	84(42%)	19(38%)
	Mid (20-40 years)	104(52%)	25(50%)
	Old (>40 years)	12(6%)	6(12%)
Gender	Male	98(49%)	26(52%)
	Female	102(51%)	24(48%)
Literacy	Read only	30(15%)	8(16%)
	Read and write	52(26%)	12(24%)
	Illiterate	118(59%)	30(60%)
Family size	Small (<2)	30(15%)	7(14%)
	Medium (3-5)	112(56%)	30(60%)
	Large (>5)	58(29%)	13(26%)
Family type	Nuclear	142(71%)	36(72%)
	Joint	58(29%)	14(28%)
Type of houses owned	Kutch house	60(30%)	18(36%)
	Semi-pucca house	124(62%)	29(58%)
	Pucca house	16(8%)	3(6%)
Social Participation	Yes	14(7%)	4(8%)
	No	186(93%)	46(92%)

Age : In both the Jenukuruba and Koraga Tribes, most people are in their "Middle" years, which means they are between 20 and 40 years old. This is the largest group in both tribes, making up more than half of each community. There are also quite a few "Young" people (under 20 years old), especially in the Jenukuruba Tribe, where they make up about 42% of the population. In the Koraga Tribe, about 38% of the population is in this category. On the other hand, there are fewer "Older" people (above 40 years old) in both tribes, with only around 6-12% of the population falling into this age group.

Gender: In the Jenukuruba Tribe, roughly half of the people are males (49%), and the other half are females (51%). Similarly, in the Koraga Tribe, about half are males (52%), and the other half are females (48%). This means that both tribes have a fairly even distribution of males and females, which is important for maintaining a balanced community. Each gender plays a crucial role in the tribe's social and economic activities.

Literacy: In both tribes, the majority of individuals (about 60%) are unable to read or write, which means they may face challenges in education and accessing written information.

There are some who can read but not write, and a smaller portion who can both read and write. Having varying levels of literacy within each tribe can impact how information is shared and how education is provided within these communities.

Family Size: In both tribes, the majority of families fall into the medium-size category, meaning they typically have 3 to 5 members. However, there are also families with smaller sizes (less than 2 members) and families with larger sizes (more than 5 members) in both communities. The size of families can impact various aspects of life, including resource sharing and household dynamics.

Family Type: Both tribes have a higher percentage of "Nuclear" families, where immediate family members live together, but there are also some families in both tribes with a "Joint" family structure, where extended family or multiple generations share the same living space. This information helps us understand how families are organized within these communities.

Type of houses owned: In both tribes, the majority of families have "Semi-pucca" houses, which are more solid than "Kutchra" houses but not as sturdy as "Pucca" houses. Some families have "Kutchra" houses, and a smaller percentage have the most durable "Pucca" houses. This information helps us understand the types of housing conditions within these communities.

Social Participation: In both tribes, most people are not actively engaged in social activities. This suggests that a significant portion of the population may not be involved in community or social gatherings, while a small minority does take part in such activities. Understanding social participation can provide insights into community engagement and involvement within these tribes.

Table 2 Economic parameters of Jenukuruba and Koraga Tribes

Variables	Categories	Jenukuruba Tribe	Koraga Tribe
Primary Occupation	Labour	50(25%)	11(22%)
	Agriculture	30(15%)	8(16%)
	Private employees	16(8%)	2(4%)
	Govt. employee	1(0.5%)	0
	Business	103(51.5%)	29(58%)
Land holding	Low <1 acres	112(56%)	26(52%)
	Mid 1-2 acres	70(35%)	18(36%)
	High >2 acres	18(9%)	6(12%)
Annual Income	Low<50000	136(68%)	31(62%)
	Mid 50000-1lakh	54(27%)	18(36%)
	High >1 lakh	10(5%)	1(2%)
Savings	LIC	24(12%)	7(14%)
	Chit Funds	30(15%)	8(16%)
	Bank Savings	8(4%)	2(4%)
	Other savings	16(8%)	3(6%)
	No savings	122(61%)	30(60%)
Possession of animals	Cattle	10(5%)	1(2%)
	Sheep and goat	24(12%)	7(14%)
	Backyard poultry	166(83%)	42(84%)
Material possession	Motorcycle	44(22%)	10(20%)
	TV	160(80%)	42(84%)
	Mobile	184(92%)	47(94%)
	Fridge	50(25%)	8(16%)
Consumption of livestock products	Chicken	200(100%)	50(100%)
	Mutton	200(100%)	50(100%)
	Milk	160(80%)	46(92%)

Primary Occupation: In both tribes, many people run their own businesses, while others work in various fields like labor, agriculture, and private companies. Government employment is relatively low in both tribes. This information helps us understand how people make a living within these communities.

Land holding: Most people in both tribes have relatively small plots of land. Some have medium-sized pieces of land, and a smaller percentage owns larger plots. This information helps us understand how much land each family has for farming and other purposes within these communities. Understanding these landholding patterns helps us grasp how much land each family has at their disposal for farming and other essential activities in their communities. It highlights the diversity in land ownership within these tribes, which can have implications for their livelihoods and economic activities.

Annual Income: In both tribes, the majority of individuals earn modest annual incomes, while a portion has moderate

earnings, and a smaller segment enjoys higher income levels. This data provides insights into the financial conditions prevailing in these communities, indicating that most residents have limited financial resources.

Savings: The data indicates that while some individuals in these tribes do save money using various methods like LIC and Chit Funds, a substantial portion does not engage in savings activities. The preference for specific savings options may vary, but overall, there is room for promoting financial literacy and encouraging savings within these communities.

Possession of animals: While cattle and sheep/goat ownership is less common, backyard poultry ownership is widespread in both tribes. This suggests that these communities rely on backyard poultry for a significant portion of their animal-related needs and livelihoods.

Material possession: The data shows that while motorcycle ownership is quite common, television and mobile phone ownership are nearly universal in both tribes. Refrigerator ownership is less common but still present. These material possessions reflect varying levels of access to technology and modern amenities within these communities.

Consumption of livestock products: Both the tribes have a high consumption of chicken and mutton, indicating the importance of these meats in their diets. Milk consumption is also notable, especially in the Koraga Tribe. These dietary habits provide insights into the food preferences and sources of protein within these communities.

Conclusion

The study focused on two tribes in Karnataka, the Jenukuruba and Koraga, who are classified as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). These tribes face various challenges, including low literacy rates, small family sizes, and predominantly semi-pucca housing. Social participation is relatively low in both communities. In terms of economics, many individuals run businesses, while land ownership is mostly small-scale, and most people earn modest annual incomes. Savings practices vary, with room for promoting financial literacy. Backyard poultry ownership is widespread, and material possessions like mobile phones and televisions are common. Both tribes consume chicken and mutton as staple foods, with milk being popular in the Koraga Tribe. This study sheds light on the socio-economic conditions of these

tribes and highlights the need for targeted interventions to uplift their quality of life while preserving their culture and heritage. The challenges faced by PVTGs include geographical and cultural isolation, lack of education and skills, malnutrition, poor access to resources, and inadequate infrastructure. Understanding these factors is crucial for effective development initiatives in these communities.

References:

1. B.R, M., M, A., & K, S. (2019). Socio-Economic Life of Iruliga Tribe in Karnataka.
2. B.R, M., & mysore rajagopal, G. (2021). Status and Problems of Jenukuruba Tribal Students in Mysuru District of Karnataka. 17, 239–249.
3. Deepak, S. J., & Sindhu, M. G. (n.d.). ANALYSIS OF SOCIO ECONOMIC PROFILE OF HAKKI-PIKKI TRIBES OF KARNATAKA.
4. HMA, R., & BHARADI, H. (2018). Socio-Economic Conditions of Tribal People-A Case Study of Chitradurga District, In Karnataka.
5. K., D., & Shinde, R. (2014). Socio-Economic Conditions of Scheduled Tribes in Karnataka (SSRN Scholarly Paper 2498353). <https://papers.ssrn.com/abstract=2498353>
6. Lakshmi, V. V., & Paul, M. M. (2019). Socio-economic conditions of tribal communities in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh—A review.
7. Marpady, P., & Singhe, M. S. (n.d.). Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) of Karnataka: A Situational Appraisal of Koraga's. Editor's Note, 1, 39.
8. Mullah, M. A. S., Parveen, N., & Ahshanullah, M. (2007). Tribal people and their socio-economic characteristics in Rangamati sadar thana.
9. Murthy, K. R., & Mahendrakumar, S. (2019). A Study on Socio-Economic Status of Tribal Communities in Karnataka: A Case Study of Chamarajanagara District. ZENITH International Journal of Business Economics & Management Research, 9(2), 23–30.
10. Muthamma, K. K. (n.d.). SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF YERAVA TRIBAL WOMEN (WITH REFERENCE TO KODAGU DISTRICT, KARNATAKA). Editorial Board, 131.
11. Samvaad, D. (n.d.). Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India. Retrieved December 22, 2022, from <https://tribal.nic.in/>
12. Scheduled Tribe (ST) Data—Census 2011 India. (n.d.). Retrieved December 22, 2022, from <https://www.census2011.co.in/scheduled-tribes.php>
13. Shihab, H., & Patil, R. R. (n.d.). Struggles For Livelihood Among Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs): A Study Of

Koraga Tribal Youth In Kerala. JOURNAL OF SOCIAL WORK & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, 63.

14. Venugopal, P. N., & Mukherjee, K. (2018). An Epidemiological Investigation on Health Conditions of the Koraga PVTG of Dakshin Kannada district, Karnataka. Journal of the Anthropological Survey of India, 67(2), 275–281.