



## **SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CONDITIONS OF TRIBALS IN TELANGANA: A STUDY**

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### **Abstract**

*Tribes are one of the diverse groups among the Indian population. They remain disadvantaged mostly as they are considered as the lowest section of the Indian society since the ancient times. The tribes remain disadvantaged due to various factors like geographical and cultural isolation, lack of proper health facilities, inability to satisfy basic needs, lack of control over resources. The level of socio-economic and cultural conditions of scheduled tribes indicates their level of status in any society. In a heterogeneous, complex and highly stratified society like ours, the position and status of scheduled tribes naturally differ from region, from region to region, from tribe to tribe, from one occupation to the other consequently, even tribes' own perception to their condition varies, although the overall picture is of deprivations and discrimination. India is marked by its rich traditional heritage of Tribal/Folk Arts and Culture. Since the days of remote past, the diversified art & cultural forms generated by the tribal and rural people of India, and the Telangana also have about 10 percent scheduled tribes population. In this context the present article will discuss the socio, economic and cultural aspects of tribals in Telangana.*

**Key words:** Tribes, Indian Society, Socio, Economic and Cultural Conditions, Telangana.

### **Introduction**

The level of socio-economic and cultural conditions of scheduled tribes indicates their level of status in any society. In a heterogeneous, complex and highly stratified society like ours, the position and status of scheduled tribes naturally differ from region, from region to region, from tribe to tribe, from one occupation to the other consequently, even tribes' own perception to their condition varies, although the overall picture is of deprivations and discrimination. It is often observed that an individual's background plays a significant role in the formation of his attitudes, beliefs, commitment to work and it all makes up his entire personality. Tribes' family, neighborhood, level of education, type of occupation and income derived there from, all determine to a great extent the type and quality of his attitudes and values. Similarly, the social class from which they come from has a very significant impact on motivation for work which intern determine their status. Significantly, large number of research studies use frequently socio-economic and cultural status as one of the independent demonstrated that socio-economic and cultural factors bear an important relationship to experimental outcomes.

Tribes are one of the diverse groups among the Indian population. They remain disadvantaged mostly as they are considered as the lowest section of the Indian society since the ancient times. The tribes remain disadvantaged 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, vulnerability to shocks, violence and crime, lack of access to proper infrastructure facilities and technologies and lack of political freedom and voice. All these challenges can make their living a difficult task. Considering these issues, the government is trying to help the tribes through different welfare schemes. This paper tries to analyse the socio-economic status of the tribal communities, the government.



India is marked by its rich traditional heritage of Tribal/Folk Arts and Culture. Since the days of remote past, the diversified art & cultural forms generated by the tribal and rural people of India have continued to evince their creative magnificence. Apart from their outstanding brilliance from the perspective of aesthetics, the tribal/folk art and culture forms have played an instrumental role in reinforcing national integrity, crystallizing social solidarity, fortifying communal harmony, intensifying value-system and promoting the elements of humanism among the people of the country. However, with the passage of time and advent of globalization, we have witnessed the emergence of a synthetic homogeneous macro-culture. Under the influence of such a voracious all-pervasive macro-culture the diversified heterogeneous tribal/folk culture of our country are suffering from attrition and erosion. Thus, the stupendous socio-cultural exclusivity of the multifarious communities at the different nooks and corners of our country are getting endangered.

### **Telangana state**

The state of Telangana was carved out of the former Andhra Pradesh and came into force from June 2, 2014. The state is the 29th largest in the Indian Union and the youngest in the Indian Union. Km (after calculating the Seven zones transferred from the former Khammam district to Andhra Pradesh) And the twelfth largest state in terms of area and population size. Telangana lies on the Deccan Plateau and is located in the southern part of India. The state is strategically located in the central part of the eastern seaboard of the Indian peninsula. It is bordered by the states of Maharashtra in the north and Chhattisgarh in the west, Chhattisgarh in the north, and southern, eastern and northeastern states of Andhra Pradesh. Is the percentage.

Telangana, there are 33 different categories of scheduled tribes living in 33 separate districts. Telangana's ST population is 9.34 percent of the total population. They have a lengthy and illustrious history, as well as a unique way of life. They have contact with various cultures and groups, geographical seclusion, and backwardness since they dwell in mountainous hills and woods. Since 1951, the federal and state governments have been adopting various development and development initiatives. The Scheduled Tribes have been focused on the development of the Scheduled Tribes in Indian society, notably in the newly developing state of Telangana, since the creation of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in 1999. Low literacy and high dropout rates, insufficient access to health care, a lack of healthy food, extreme poverty, and incompetent programme execution are all obstacles to economic progress.

### **Tribal culture of Telangana**

In the newly formed state of Telangana (2-June-2014) which was earlier a part of Andhra Pradesh. Telangana has many things in common with Andhra Pradesh but however Telangana has its culinary journey as the Telangana cuisine is more on the mellower side as compared to Andhra Cuisine or say it is less spicy because in Telangana they don't use much of red Guntur chili. The state comprises of people from tribes like Banjara, Koya, Gond, Yerukala, and Pradhan. These tribal communities play a major role in the food that is consumed in Telangana. Telangana cuisine is famous for its roti made from millets and spicy & tangy curries which comes from the cuisine of tribes like Banjara, Koya and Gond as they had a staple diet of rotis made from millets and spicy & tangy curry. Further the Koya tribe contribute to preserved food and pickles and Banjara tribe to the fried delicacies.

The Yerukala tribe consumed more of rice and hence the consumption of rice as a part of meal comes from this tribe. India receives various flavours and real treasures. The tribal peoples of India are also known as "Adivasis", which literally means 'Indigenous People' or 'Original inhabitants of a given region'.



Culture is the lifestyle of the people learnt naturally by imitating animals or observing nature or one's adaptation to his physical and demands of the social environments. To define culture of an individual or a group, it includes his language, arts, food, dress, housing, religion beliefs, medicine and many more. All the advanced facilities which our modern world is enjoying now have its roots in the tribal or indigenous people, our forefathers. Tribes have rich and diverse cultures based on a profound spiritual relationship with their land and natural resources. Dichotomies such as nature vs. culture do not exist in indigenous societies. Indigenous peoples do not see themselves as outside the realm of nature, but as part of nature, and they have their own specific attachment to their land and territory and their own specific modes of production based on a unique knowledge of their environment. The Indigenous tribe Chenchu of Telangana state is selected for the study of social and economic aspects and compare its cultural aspects with development programmes. In Telangana State, the tribal population is the most disadvantaged section socially and economically with a negligible political voice. They live in remote areas and are subjected to land alienation on a large scale. According to the 2011 Census, the ST population constituted around 9.3% in Telangana as against 5.3% in the residual state of Andhra Pradesh. Thus, as much as 60% of the ST population of undivided Andhra Pradesh is concentrated in Telangana. Tribals of Telangana state has diverse cultural and it has significant role in social and economic and cultural status of society and separate identity in food , marriages, dance and festivals.

### Conclusion

Social and economic justice, equality of status and opportunities, assurance of the individual's dignity are ensured by the Constitution of India for all the citizens among other things. The constitution of India is enriched with several provisions for schedule castes and schedule tribes to safeguard and promote their cultural, social, educational, and economic interests to bring them in the mainstream of the nation. Changes in the tribes are clearly visible in their language, dress pattern, use of ornaments, food, Health, education, religion, ritual and entertainment aspects. The new generation of tribals are forgetting their festivals and celebrating Telugu traditional festivals like Deepavali, Sankranti and Vinayakachavithi. Many customary festivals and rituals in tribals society are decaying day by day. To conclude we can say that the whole tribal society at present moment is going through the critical stage of transformation. In past, In keeping with the declaration there are moves to displace them completely from the forest area and resettle them elsewhere. The tribals of telangana has great history and culture but there is a mobility and transforming from forest area to plain area that's why they are losing their original culture and adopting to new habits and cultures.

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