Socio-Economic Condition of Malayali Tribes: With Special References to Salem District.

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ABSTRACT

According to the 2011 census, 1.10 per cent of the total tribal population is living in Tamil Nadu. In Salem accounts for 3.34 per cent of the total tribal population, in which the larger tribal population is concentrated in Yercaud, the proportionately Maramangalam village (6,645) tribal population is high. This outcome shows the very poor socio-economic condition of the tribal community in this area. Around 90 per cent of households are nuclear families in the study area. Besides, the scheduled tribes have affected several problems in the way of a low level of education and wide range of literacy gap between men and women, a very less number of job opportunities, around 70 per cent of the households do not have toilet facilities in this study area. These are the issues that are creating several socio-economic condition inequalities and health-related problems. Both union and state governments are creating more suitable policies to improve the tribal socio-economic condition not only in the study area and in other parts of the remote area also.

Keywords: Income, Family type, Occupation, Education.

Introduction

According to a World Bank report worldwide, there are roughly 476 million Indigenous Peoples in over 90 countries. Even though, they cover 6 per cent of the global population. In which 15 per cent of the tribal population are living in extreme poor. In India, most of the tribal population are concentrated in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, and Karnataka this is the state has a larger number of Scheduled Tribes (STs) these states account for 83.2 per cent of total STs population, in another side Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Jammu & Kashmir, Tripura, Mizoram, Bihar, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu, are accounting for another 15.3 per cent of STs population. The Government of India (GoI) identified around 75 primitive tribal groups (PTG), and 645 tribal subgroups in all the states and islands except Pondicherry, Delhi, Punjab, Chandigarh, Haryana these states are no STs

Population. The government of India gives the constitution approved these groups in the 5th scheduled.

According to the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER, 1994) report mention, a high level of poverty among the STs population, and more than half of the population was live in Below Poverty Line (BPL). In other dimensions of capability poverty ratio also highlight that 68 per cent of the STs compared to 60 per cent of the SCs and 52 per cent of for the Non-STs / SCs population are living in below poverty. Continuing BPL in STs, the Planning Commination of India also explained that, in the poor economic status of STs are 40.6 per cent of the populations are lived below the poverty line as against 20.5 per cent of the non-tribal population **(Ministry of Tribal Affairs, 2015).** Based on above the results denote that proportionately poverty decreased but still they are facing lot of problems to come out the BPL.

According to 2011 census 1.10 per cent of the total tribal population in Tamil Nadu, in Salem district have 3.34 per cent of the total tribal population, in this proportionately high in Yercaud. In Yercaud taluk Maramangalam panchayat (6,645) have proportionately high in the tribal population (Panchayat Office 2017). Here all are in Malaiyali tribals. Malaiyali means In Tamil *malai* means hill or mountain, and *yali* means ruler or inhabitants **(Saravanan. V, 2017)**.

The objective of the study

1. To analysis the socio economic condition of the STs (Malaiyali tribe) in Tamil Nadu.

Methodology

This study is based on both primary and secondary data were used. Primary data collected through a structured interview schedule among 134 households in this study area. Collected information related to population, family size, education, occupation, income, and sanitation facilities of the households. The main aim has to find the socio economic condition of the sample households. And simple statistical tools are employed for the analysis for this study.

Results and discussions

Type of Families

In general, family types and family sizes are determined by the household socio economic condition. This study area has classified two types of families one is a nuclear family and second join family.

Table 1. Type of Families

Sl. No	Type of the households	Number of households (%)
1	Nuclear	120 (89.6)
2	Join Family	14 (10.4)
	Total	134 (100)

Source: compiled data.

This table has classified family systems based on collected information in tribal areas. Most of the tribal households are nuclear families. The main reason is for a male after marriage starts a separate family system for their convenience and to manage for there all the expenditures. Those are the reasons 90 per cent of the sample households are under the nuclear category and only 10 per cent of the sample are joint family systems.

Nature of house and rooms availability

The nature of the house is one of the socio-economic indicators of the living condition. The house condition and room availability also determine the health status, because privacy is an important one for the women to manage their menstruation period and other time also. The different types of houses built in the sample area explain in the below table.

Table 2 Nature of House

Type of house	Rooms availability				Total	Percentage
	Single Room	Two Rooms	Three Rooms	More than Four		
Hut	1	0	0	0	1	0.7
Tiled	4	31	42	8	85	63.4
Pacca	0	12	8	9	29	21.6
IAY house	1	3	11	4	19	14.9
Total	6	46	61	21	134	100

Source: compiled data.

This table (2) mentions the different types of houses with room availability in the sample. Among the households 63 per cent of houses in tiled followed by 22 per cent of the sample houses are pacca. While 15 per cent of the households have Indira Gandhi Awas Yojana (IAY) housing scheme they have constructed the houses. Only a few of them (0.7 per cent) have hut houses. Its shows that people are constructed in tiled and pacca houses in this study area. But on another side, the room availability is very less in some of the houses. This

result revealed that around 40 per cent of the households have single rooms and two rooms only. The majority of them 45 per cent of the house have three rooms and 16 per cent of the houses have more than four rooms.

Education

In every society education is the major one to improve their lifestyles. Especially the poor people and who are living below the poverty line to overcome their socioeconomic conditions they need for education. In this study area also most of them are illiterate. Compared to males, females are very high gap in illiterate, the table shows below. Here the researcher used parents' education only for this study.

Table 3. Education status

S. No	Education level	Female		Male	
		No. of Respondents	%	No. of Respondents	%
1	Illiterate	102	76.1	79	58.9
2	Primary	20	14.9	30	22.4
3	Upper primary	2	1.5	10	7.5
4	High school	3	2.2	12	9
5	Higher secondary	2	1.5	2	1.5
6	Diploma and Tech	2	1.5	0	0
7	UG	3	2.2	1	0.7
	Total	134	100	134	100

Source: Compiled data.

In this table (3) clearly shows that 76 per cent of the female and 59 per cent of the male are illiterate, while 15 per cent of the female and 22 per cent of the male obtained primary level education only. Both males and females only a few of them get higher education. So this study infers that most of parents are illiterate and there is a huge gap in the education of both males and females.

Occupation

Occupation is one of the main determining indicators of the socio-economic condition of households. This occupation also determines the family health and nutritional status of the respondent's household. Below the table explained the main occupation of the respondent households.

Table 4. Households Occupations Details

S. No		Main Occupation		Secondary Occupation	
	Occupations	Male	Female	Male	Female
1	Agricultural work	131(**97.8**)	121 (**90.3**)	2 (**1.5**)	2 (**1.5**)
2	Non-Agricultural work	0	1 (**0.7**)	13 (**9.7**)	6 (**4.5**)
3	Govt. Job	1 (**0.7**)	1 (**0.7**)	1 (**0.7**)	0
4	PVT. Job	0	0	3 (**2.2**)	0
5	Self-Employed	1 (**0.7**)	0	11 (**8.2**)	0
6	Estate work	1 (**0.7**)	2 (**1.7**)	90 (**67.2**)	72 (**53.7**)
7	No Job	0	9 (**6.7**)	14 (**10.4**)	54 (**40.3**)
	Total	134 (**100**)	134 (**100**)	134 (**100**)	134 (**100**)

Source: compiled data.

The table (4) has classified in male and female occupation and also divided into a primary and secondary occupation. The tribal population is earning their income from different sources. In this area, most of the sample households are mainly engaged in cultivation but in this hill area maximum seasonal cultivation only possible because they are fully dependent on the monsoon and poor of irrigation facility in hill area. This cultivation income is not fulfilling their all the needs of households. So that, they are searching for another occupation like estate work a secondary sources of income through the year. This income has used for household consumption expenditure for the entire period.

The income of the households

Income level is prominent one of the indicators of the family wellbeing and social indicators. If income level has high health, nutrition, education status also high and poor income level all are low level. In India average annual income of a household is Rs. 1,13,222. The annual income of STs and SCs group stands at 0.7 times and 0.8 times lower than the all over Indian average income respectively (**Nitin Kumar Bharti 2018**).

Table 6. Monthly Income of the HHs

S. No	Monthly Income	No. of. HHs	Percentage of the HHs
1	Below 12,525	12	9
2	12,526 to 24,985	72	53.7
3	24,986 to 37,445	29	21.6
4	Above 37,446	21	15.7
5	Total	134	100

Source: compiled data.

In this result showed that nine per cent of the household income is below Rs. 12,525. The majority of the households (54 per cent) are earned up to Rs. 24,985. While 22 per cent of the households are earning Rs. 30,000 to 37,445 and only 16 per cent of the households earn the above Rs.37, 446 because those family members any one of the persons is working in government and private employees and doing cultivation also. So that is the reason they are earning more money. Here we note that the dependency ratio is also high in the study area. So it affects the socioeconomic condition of the households.

Conclusion

Caste still plays a vibrant role in Indian society. The socioeconomic condition is very important in our life. The tribal people continuously face difficulties in their socioeconomic development due to several factors like geographical and cultural isolation, lack of proper health, education, low level of income, low transport facilities, water, poor sanitation, etc (Vijaya Lakshmi 2019). The tribal people earn a low level of income which does not fulfil their needs. Several schemes and programmes are implemented for reducing the poor socio-economic condition, but still, now the objectives were not fulfilled. Both central and state governments are creating more suitable policies to improve the particularly tribal socio-economic condition not only in the study area and in other parts of the remote tribal area also.

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