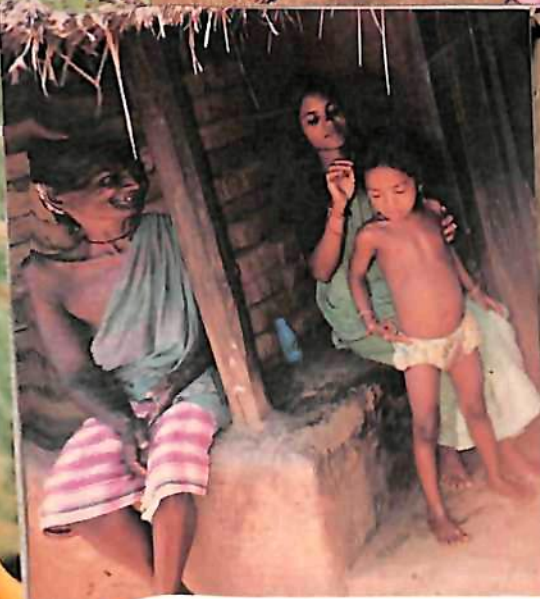
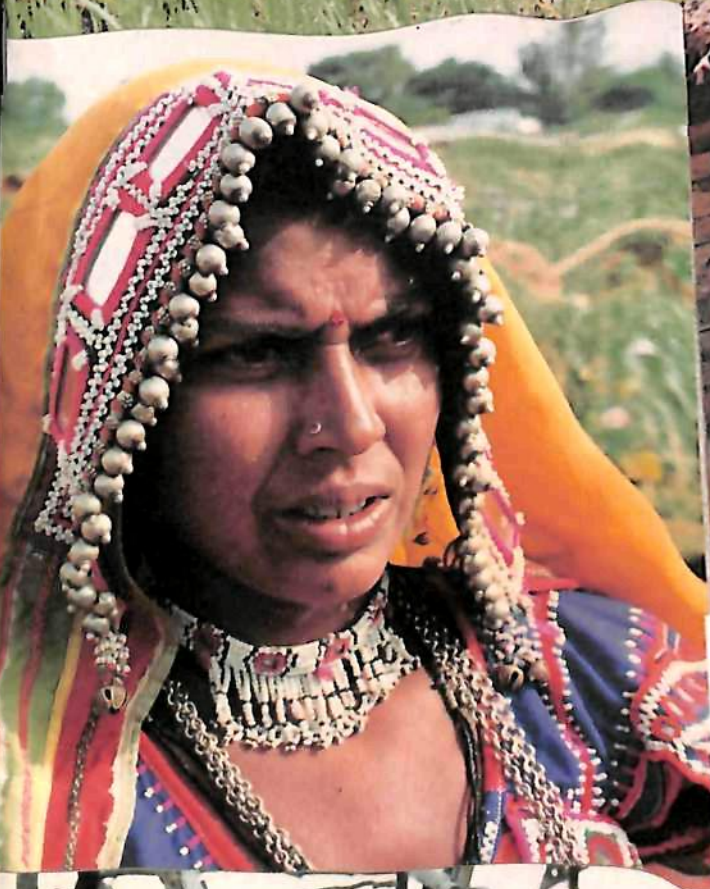


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Andhra Pradesh  
**TRIBAL  
WOMEN &  
CHILDREN**  
— An Overview







# Andhra Pradesh Tribal Women And Children — An Overview

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14th September, 1992

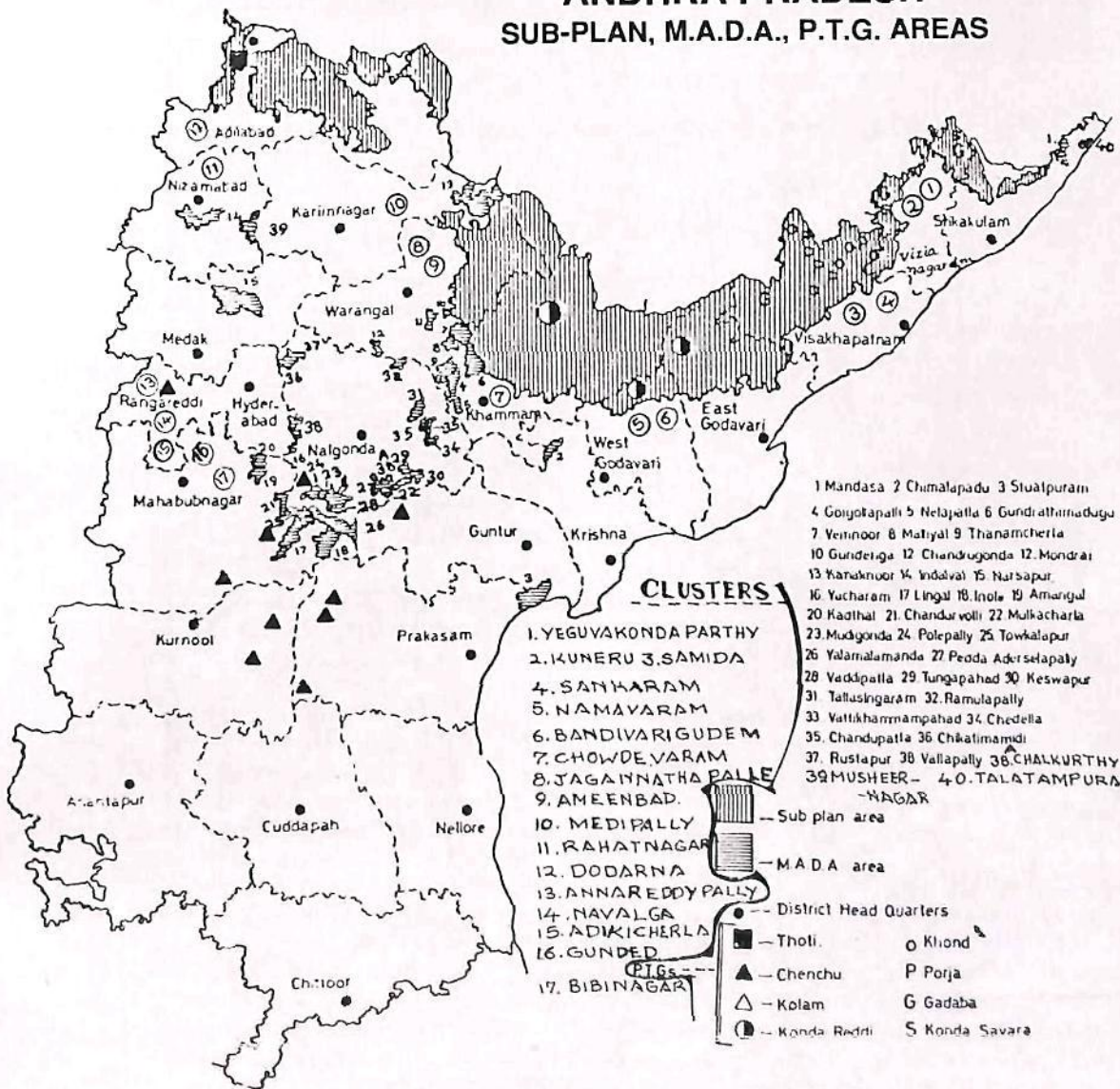
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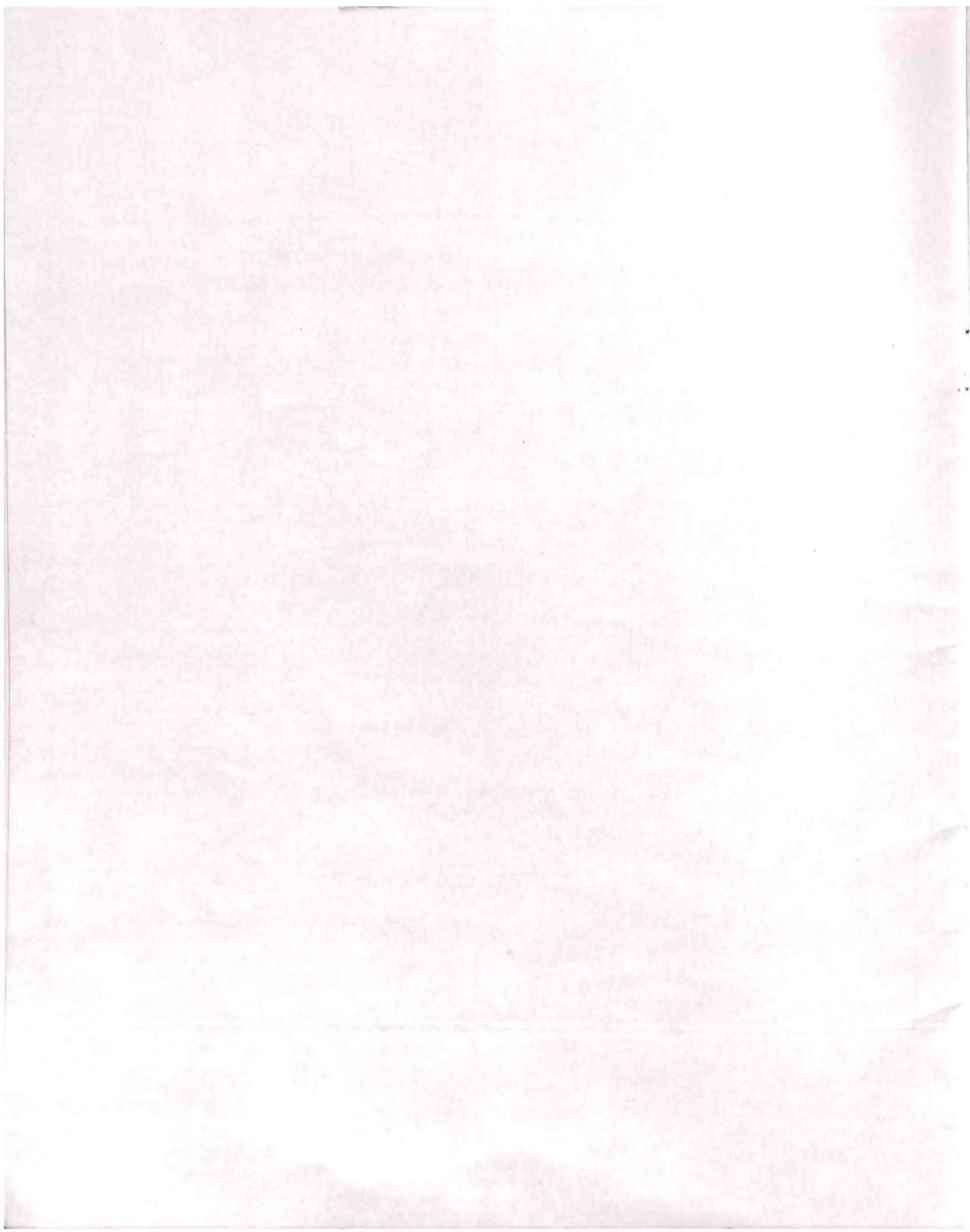




# ANDHRA PRADESH

## SUB-PLAN, M.A.D.A., P.T.G. AREAS







# Tribal Development Issues And Perspectives

## Issues:

1. Of the 538.16 lakh Scheduled Tribe population in India, the Scheduled Tribe population in Andhra Pradesh is 31.76 lakhs which constitutes 6.15% of the total population of Andhra Pradesh. The 33 scheduled tribes in Andhra Pradesh form a very large component in the entire South India.
2. Based on the spatial distribution and the level of development, the Scheduled Tribe Population in Andhra Pradesh can be categorised into five groups as detailed below:
  - a) Tribals living in areas of concentration covered by 8 ITDAs in the districts of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Khammam, Warangal and Adilabad;
  - b) Smaller but compact pockets of tribal concentration outside ITDA areas covered by 41 MADA areas;
  - c) Tribal population living in 17 smaller clusters;
  - d) Areas inhabited by primitive and isolated tribal groups; and
  - e) Dispersed tribal groups living in rural areas.
3. An analysis of the situation of the tribal population and their status on the various development indicators points that this population lags behind in almost every area of development. The community is characterised by higher death rates, low age of marriage, high fertility, high infant mortality rates and lowered life expectancy than the general population.
4. Nutritional levels of most of the tribal population is low with dietary intakes often being far below required levels. The dependance of the communities on certain forms of livelihood such as collection and sale of minor forest produce etc., makes wage earning difficult during certain periods of the year resulting in enforced starvation.
5. The poor nutritional levels, in turn, lower the resistance of the tribals and when coupled with the hazardous environmental conditions and poor sanitation, make them more prone to infection and ill-health. The inaccessibility of their habitations and the non-availability of health infrastructure results in chronic illness and higher mortality rates.
6. As in the case of health and nutrition, the literacy levels among the tribal population is the lowest in the state. Female literacy stands at a low 4.3%. There has been no substantial increase in the literacy of the female tribal population over the last 3 decades and the present rates of their enrolment and retention in school does not hold out great hope for an improvement in the coming years without drastic interventions.
7. Poverty and perpetual indebtedness are a reality in the life of the tribal community. The majority of the tribals do not own agricultural land or have marginal land holdings which do not produce enough for sustenance. Many tribals work as agricultural labourers, and are also engaged in the collection and sale of minor forest produce. The extreme poverty conditions often force them to take loans given by traders and middle-men who in turn charge high rates of interest or buy their produce at extremely low rates. Often the tribals are not able to return the loan and lose possession of their lands. Caught in the bind of poverty and indebtedness, they are unable to break out of the cycle of undernutrition and disease. Education which would help them to combat the exploitation and improve living conditions has not reached them to any appreciable extent. The government is keenly aware of the situation of the tribals and has special schemes which encourage children going to school, but these have yet to make substantial difference.

## Perspectives:

8. What is needed is a multi-pronged programmes that will help increase the economic, health and educational levels of the tribal population!!!



9. In order to implement the programmes in an integrated fashion, the ITDAs have been established in the 8 districts where there one a large concentration of tribals.
10. The thrust of the Eighth Tribal Sub-plan is to improve the economic and educational levels of the tribal community. Strategies for economic development include:
  - a) The development of better agricultural practices, provision of irrigation infrastructure, development of horticulture – all measures that will go towards improved yield and resultant income.
  - b) The plan also provides for provision of short term agricultural loans and consumption loans during lean seasons, collection and marketing of agricultural and forest produce-measures which will loosen the hold of the money lenders and free the tribals from indebtedness.
  - c) Introduction of Non-agricultural occupations are also being planned to provide employment.
  - d) The survey of land records, and issue of pattas is another important aspect of the programme which will ensure formal rights over land which can be used as the basis for financial assistance.
11. Experience in the past has shown that tribal children who study in residential schools have a greater chance of completing school possibly because of the greater attention paid to them in the school. At present the number of schools for girls are far less than those for boys. This lacuna is to be addressed in the new plan. 25 Ashram schools and 10 residential schools exclusively for girls are being planned. The provision of hostels, new school building and incentives for education will continue under the state plan for tribal development.
12. In addition, there is a special plan envisaging the development of remote and interior tribal areas, which include the development of roads, training for employment of local youth, provision of drinking water and acquisition of land assigned to tribals.
13. In the areas of health, apart from the regular programmes of the health department, the state plan envisages preparation of separate projects for tackling diseases which are specific to the tribal population such as Goitre and Malaria.
14. In addition to the programmes under the tribal plan, the Department of Women Development & Child Welfare will be expanding the ICDS project to the entire tribal belt with the support from the World Bank. Through this programme it is envisaged to bring children and women under the cover of the six services of supplementary nutrition, health and nutritional education, and health checkups, pre-school education, and referral services for health. A nutrition rehabilitation centre for severely malnourished children is a part of the programme. These ICDS projects will also have components of income generating activities, a programme for adolescent girls and the learning of life skills in addition to the usual programmes.
15. The scheduled tribes will also have access to the poverty alleviation programmes of the rural development department. Under the Integrated Rural Development Programme, a total of 1.8 lakhs families from the S.T. community will benefit from the subsidiary programmes which will pay up to Rs. 3,000/- per family.
16. The Jawahar Rojgar Yojna is another programme which has special provisions for the scheduled tribes in the creation of assets under this scheme. Government of India has indicated that highest priority be given to works benefitting the SC and ST. A minimum of 15% of the JRY funds released to the Panchayats have to be spent on the above. More than one-third (36.46%) of the states budget for the JRY will flow to the SCs and STs at a ratio of 15:6. This works out to approximately to Rs. 1,996.11 lakhs for the tribal sub-plan.
17. The Tribal Development Department also plans for the survey of tribal land which will include the survey of 3.35 lakh acres of land in tribal areas and issue of pattas.
18. Since many of the schools and other incentive schemes in the tribal areas are administered by the ITDA, the Education Department has no specific programme. The provision of non-formal centres in SC and ST areas will continue as in the previous plan.



19. Special emphasis is laid by most departments in the monitoring of coverage of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe beneficiaries. The thrust areas of economic development is aided by a number of departments. The areas of nutrition and health are catered to by the tribal department and the ICDS programmes which caters to community level nutrition and regular health check up.
20. An analysis of service infrastructure available in terms of hospitals and PHC buildings, schools, doctors, ANMs and teachers show that there are present in ratios similar to the general population. The problem is one of personnel in the posts. Often 50% or more of the posts are vacant which renders the infrastructure useless. The long distances also make programming difficult. This is a problem that needs to be addressed specifically. Programming in tribal areas needs special skills, attitude and a great deal of motivation which has to be addressed if the planned projects are to be effectively delivered.

# Demographic Features & Economic Status

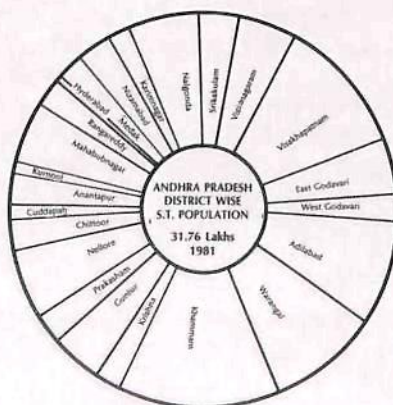
## Tribal Population Profile:

- Scheduled Tribes form 5.9% of the total population of Andhra Pradesh. There are 33 Scheduled Tribes with a population of 31,76,001 as per 1981 Census. Of these more than 50 percent live in a contiguous belt of inaccessible hilly and forest areas extending from Adilabad district in North Telangana area to Srikakulam district in north coastal Andhra (via) Karimnagar, Warangal, Khammam, West Godavari, East Godavari, Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram districts. While these areas form the exclusive habitat for 30 scheduled tribes, three tribal groups-Lambada Yerukala and Yanadi-live in both these hilly areas and plain areas. 93.78% of the total tribal population live in rural areas.

**Table I Districtwise Tribal Population**

Name of District	Population of District	Schedule Tribe		Predominant Tribes
		Population	% age	
Adilabad	16,39,003	2,72,886	16.64	Gond, Kolam, Naik, Thoti, Pardhan
Khammam	17,61,574	4,29,959	24.54	Koya, Lambada, Konda Reddy
Visakhapatnam	25,76,474	3,54,127	13.74	Khonds, Gadaba, Valmiki, Savara, Porja, Mali
Warangal	23,00,295	2,92,772	12.7	Koya, Lambada, Naik
Vizianagaram	18,04,196	1,53,344	8.49	Savara, Jatapu, Mooka Dora, Konda Dora
Srikakulam	19,59,358	1,05,142	5.36	Savara, Jatapu
East Godavari	37,01,040	1,43,422	3.87	Konda Reddy, Koya
West Godavari	28,73,958	66,586	2.31	Koya, Konda Reddy

- The largest concentration of tribal population is in Khammam district where they form almost 1/4th of the total population followed by Adilabad and Visakhapatnam with a small percentage in East and West Godavari. Three districts have shown a great increase in tribal population over the decade. These are Medak with an annual growth of 6340, Nizamabad 1495 and Nalgonda 3904.



**Figure I: Distribution of tribal population in the districts**



3. An analysis of the population among the various tribals reveals that the Sugali (Lambada) tribe is the largest with a population of over 11.5 lakhs. The second largest tribe is the Koya who are about 3.6 lakhs followed by the Yanadi (2.4 lakhs), Yerukula (1.6 lakhs), Gond (1.6 lakhs) and Konda Dora (1.01 lakhs).

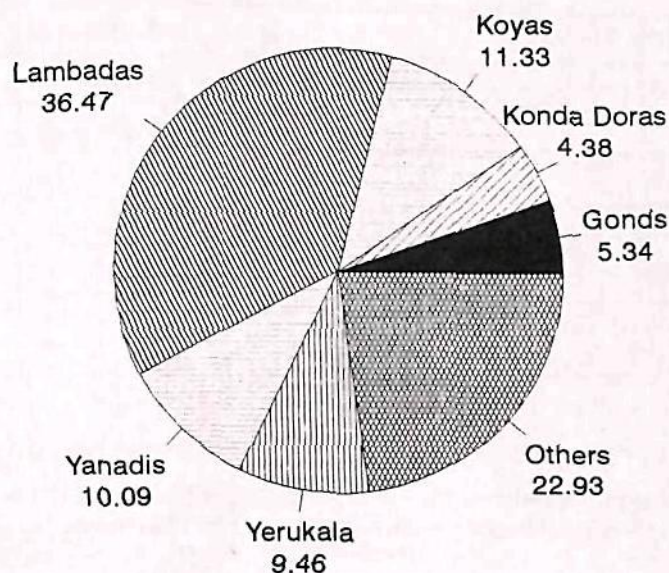


Figure II: Population of major tribes

#### Population Growth:

4. The growth rate over a decadal period shows vast variations. The Sugali tribe has registered an annual growth of 77% over the decade increasing their population from 13,25,000 in 1971 to 11,580,00 in 1981 mainly due to recognition of their counter-parts Lambada in Telangana as Scheduled Tribe in 1976. Other tribes that have shown a considerable increase over the decade have been the Yerukula recording a 8.49% growth, and the Manne Dora 10.43%. Tribes such as the Konda kapu and Kolam have decreased over the decade. The annual growth of the tribal population in Andhra Pradesh is 9.16% compared to 2.31% of the general population.

#### Sex Ratio:

5. Of the total population (31,76,001), 16,18,689 are males, while females are less in number i.e. 15,57,312 during 1981 census. The sex ratio is 962 females per 1000 males compared to 975 in Andhra Pradesh and 934 in all India over the same period. Four tribes – the Gonds, Gadabs, the Kotia and the Pardhans have higher female sex ratios. There has been a steep decline in the sex ratio of schedule tribes during 1971-81.

#### Age at Marriage:

6. There is nearly a 2 year gap between mean age at menarche (14.19) and mean age at marriage (16-22). Most of the girls are withdrawn from schools on menarche and are married as soon as possible.

Majority of the marriages occur before 17th year while most of the remaining marriages occur before 19 years. A lower age of marriage in turn affects fertility and infant mortality rates.



**Table II Distribution of women according to age at marriage**

Age Group	Chenchu (Nallamala Hills)	5 tribal groups (Srikakulam & Vizianagaram District)	Kolam (Adilabad District)	Konda Reddy (Godavari Agencies)
11 Years	12.93	—	6.19	2.81
11-13 Years	14.93	—	14.66	8.63
13-15 Years	15.42	11.28	20.20	10.04
15-17 Years	55.23	29.02	49.51	20.08
17-19 Years	1.49	26.42	4.56	32.74
19-21 Years	—	28.84	2.61	25.70
> 21 Years	—	4.44	2.27	25.70

**Age Structure:**

The Table shows the age composition of the Tribal population. Children constitute 42%, and the old 11%, of the tribal population. The life span of the tribal is thus shorter than the general population.

**Table III Age Group wise scheduled tribe population in 8 I.T.D.A. districts  
(Tribal sub plan area) and non-I.T.D.A. districts of Andhra Pradesh**

Age Group		Andhra Pradesh S.T. Population	Andhra Pradesh General Population
0-14 YEARS	Males	680,014	10,437,421
	Females	648,020	10,207,436
	Total	1,328,034 (41.83)	20,644,857 (38.61)
15-19 YEARS	Males	128,230	2,511,299
	Females	119,832	2,350,964
	Total	248,062 (7.18)	4,862,263 (9.09)
20-49 YEARS	Males	615,994	10,471,898
	Females	618,676	10,339,122
	Total	1,234,670 (38.89)	20,805,020 (38.91)
50 & ABOVE	Males	193,775	3,618,543
	Females	170,156	3,536,665
	Total	363,931 (11.57)	7,154,208 (13.38)
TOTAL	Males	1,618,013	27,039,161
	Females	1,556,684	26,433,187
	Total	3,176,001	53,472,348



### **Fertility, Birth/Death Rates and Infant Mortality Rates:**

6. There are no official estimates for fertility, birth, death and infant mortality rates for the tribal population separately. However the Tribal Cultural Research and Training Institute conducted a number of studies on the tribals of Srikakulam district; the Chenchus and the Konda Reddy populations to study these indicators. A summary of the trends in these tribes on the above indicators are given below:
- 6.1 Srikakulam Tribals: These consists of the Savaras, the Jatapus, the Gadabas, the Mukha Doras, and the Konda Doras. The following were the salient features of the population study:
- Except among the Konda Doras 40% of the population is dependent.
  - The mean age of marriage for girls was 17.65
  - The average age of first conception was 19.13
  - IMR varied among the tribes. It was highest for the Gadaba at 239 followed by the Savaras at 213, Konda Doras at 102, the Jatapu at 102 and least among the Mukha Doras at 88.
  - General Fertility rate was 155.14 which is lower than the average fertility rate of All India of 172.5
- 6.2 Konda Reddys: These tribes live in the regions of East and West Godavari and Khammam. The findings of the study were:
- Dependency ratio was .99 with 43% of the population below 15 years.
  - The mean age of marriage was 17.8 years
  - The mean age of first conception was 19.5 years
  - The general fertility rate was 172.5
  - Birth rate was 45 and death rate was 25.14
  - The IMR was approximately 153 and the maternal mortality rate 11/1000.
- 6.3 Chenchus: The study revealed as below:
- Nearly 43 out of every 100 persons are below 15 years.
  - The mean age of marriage was  $10 \pm 1.2$  but consummation of marriage is frequently delayed till the girl is 14.76-15.85 years.
  - Average age at first conception was  $16.61 \pm 1.6$  years.
  - Fertility rates were 238 and Crude Birth Rate was 55.97.
  - The maternal mortality rate was 44.44 and Infant Mortality Rate 165.60.

Though the studies were done on a sample population, the findings show the high levels of fertility, maternal mortality and infant mortality rates.

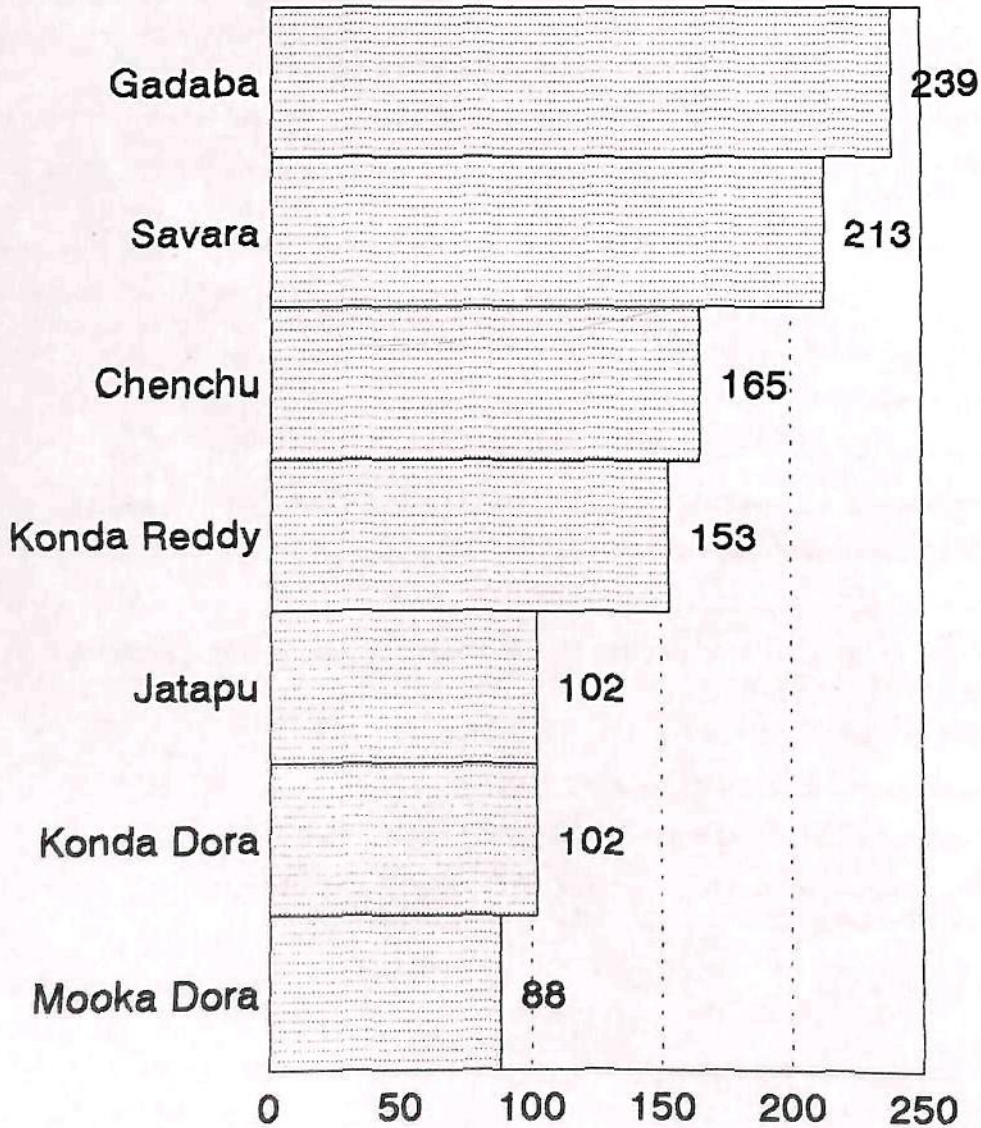


Figure III Infant Mortality Rates  
Selected Tribal Groups



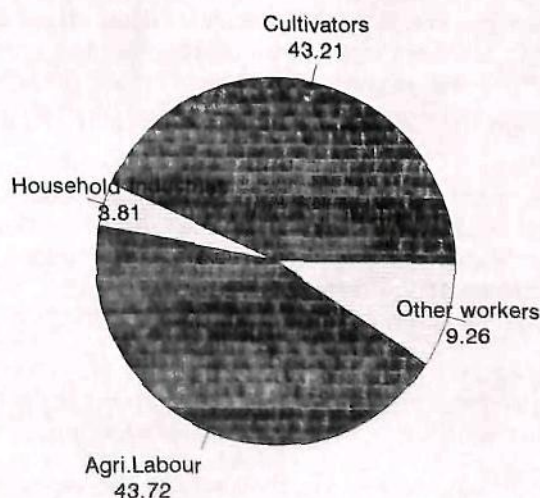
### Economic Status:

7. The tribals are involved in a number of economic activities from agriculture, collection of minor forest produce and the other household industries. An analysis of the 1981 census data to determine occupation patterns is given below:

**Table IV Category of Workers among Tribal Population**

Sl. No. District	Cultivators	Agricultural Labours	Household Industries	Other Workers
1. Srikakulam	19,652 (33.18)	32,967 (55.65)	1,759 (8.19)	4,854 (8.19)
2. Vizianagaram	33,951 (43.05)	38,241 (48.48)	2,110 (2.68)	4,571 (5.79)
3. Visakhapatnam	1,22,396 (75.86)	30,699 (19.03)	1,374 (0.85)	6,868 (4.26)
4. East Godavari	39,408 (52.44)	27,211 (36.21)	1,753 (2.33)	6,775 (9.02)
5. West Godavari	11,111 (30.31)	18,986 (51.80)	1,765 (4.82)	4,794 (13.08)
6. Adilabad	66,989 (50.78)	57,594 (48.66)	1,486 (1.13)	5,832 (4.43)
7. Warangal	74,336 (53.61)	53,092 (38.29)	3,361 (2.42)	7,881 (5.68)
8. Khammam	97,464 (46.06)	98,998 (46.79)	2,653 (1.25)	12,483 (5.91)

8. Majority of the tribals in all the districts are employed in agriculture either as cultivators or as agriculture labour. The largest number of cultivators are in Visakhapatnam district where they form 75% of the total population. Agricultural labour is the most predominant occupation of the community across all districts.



**Figure 4: Occupational Pattern of Scheduled Tribes – A.P. 1981 Census**



9. An analysis of land holding an average size of holding is given in the table below:

**Table V Land holdings among Scheduled Tribes**

Sl. No.	Size Group	Number of Holdings	Percentage
1.	Marginal (below 1 hectars)	2,06,799	43.76
2.	Small (1-2 Hectars)	1,09,044	23.07
3.	Semi-Medium (2-4 Hectars)	1,01,995	21.58
4.	Medium (4-10 Hectars)	48,472	10.26
5.	Large (10 Hects. & Above)	6,296	1.33
All Categories		4,72,606	100.00

10. The large majority of tribal cultivators are marginal farmers owing below 1 hectare of land. A little below 50% of them hold land between 1-2 and 2-4 hectares respectively. A district wise analysis also shows that in Visakhapatnam though 75% of tribals have land, their combined holdings are only 8.6% to the total number of holding.
11. Most tribals work on their own land holdings as cultivators and also work as agricultural labour. Refer Table VI.
12. Within the Integrated Tribal Development Agency areas, there are interior and inaccessible areas mostly inhabited by backward and primitive Tribal Groups. For sizeable population among them, gathering and sale of Minor Forest Produce is the main occupation while forest foods like roots and tubers, small game etc., fill the gap in their food intake.

#### **Traditional Ownership pattern among the Chenchus**

Each of the tribal village community has a defined territory owned by it and recognised by the other villages. It consists of forests around the village. Even if the villagers leave that village for any reason, their ownership over the area continues after their return temporarily during season or permanently. Within this traditionally recognised territory, the individual families own the tapsi trees identified and cut by them. As per necessity, requirements and abilities, the total territory is divided among families. The traditional leaders and elders in the village/settlement exert moral pressure on others to honour the right of fellow villagers in tapping the gum trees. The Chenchus generally honour the traditional rights of others.

Once cuts are made on the bark of a tapsi tree by any individual Chenchu, his ownership is established over the trees. Chenchus own 40 to 200 tapsi trees per family depending on the area of their habitation. On the other hand, in some villages on the periphery of the forest, there are several Chenchus who do not own any tree at all. But all tribals living in the interior forest do own tapsi and kondagogu trees unless they do not wish to collect gum for various reasons such as old age, settled agriculture etc.

Relatives of Chenchus who are poor and desirous to settle in a village after migration from their native village, are also allotted some trees. However, the trees are not heritable. Children about 10 years of age also go for gum collection and they start owning trees after they attain marriageable age.

In case of honey combs the person who first see it keep a heap of pebbles before it so that others may know that someone has already owned it. Some times, Chenchus go in groups and tap honey from combs immediately after finding them. Tamarind trees are owned generally by the community and the crop is watched and shared equally by the members of the community.



Table VI Land use pattern in tribal areas (Hect. lakhs)

Sl. No.	NAME OF THE I.T.D.A.											Total
	Srikakulam	Vizia-nagaram	Visakha-patnam	East Godavari	West Godavari	Khammam	Warangal	Adilabad				
1	2.43	2.84	15.30	10.36	2.84	28.94	7.81	15.35				85.87
2	1.51	1.77	11.40	5.12	1.61	18.62	6.60	7.21				53.30
3	62.14	62.32	74.50	49.42	56.69	64.34	77.59	46.97				62.07
4	0.28	0.32	0.07	0.62	0.16	0.96	0.21	1.04				3.66
5	--	--	--	0.60	0.10	1.02	0.11	0.42				2.25
6	--	--	0.79	0.21	0.04	0.49	0.06	0.55				2.14
7	0.02	0.02	0.27	0.41	0.02	0.66	0.06	0.15				1.61
8	0.11	0.14	0.72	1.21	0.16	0.59	0.12	0.16				3.21
9	0.08	0.09	0.39	0.61	0.01	0.49	0.26	0.22				2.06
10	--	--	0.32	0.52	0.09	1.04	0.11	0.44				2.52
11	0.43	0.50	1.50	0.99	0.65	5.07	0.82	5.18				15.14
12												6.6%

An analysis of the land use pattern shows that forests occupy more than 60% of the available land and net area sown is only about 15.14% of the total area.



Rainy season is an adverse season for food gathering populations depending on "gathering economy" as economic activity is virtually impossible. Added to this is the ill health caused by water borne diseases and Malaria etc. There is near starvation for a number of days in this season. Once the dry days start, there is plenty of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) available for collection and sale. Tribals also needed financial support to meet expenditure on marriage, death, birth ceremonies and medical expenses. As these groups do not have land base or patta lands, the private money lenders or landlords are generally reluctant to give loans. They fall into the clutches of money lender who for the few rupees given on loan insists on their selling M.F.P. exclusively to him at cheaper rates.

13. Among the Primitive Tribal Groups, and other tribal groups living in interior forest areas, there is section of population who are in the process of settling down to agriculture. For them agriculture, is a gamble with the monsoon.
  - The tribal cultivators in interior tribal areas are mostly not served by either nationalised banks or by branches of district central cooperative banks. Therefore, they are forced to depend on private money lenders.
  - The hold of private money lender, referred to as 'Sowkar' locally, on the economy is so much, that very few of the cultivators are able to really enjoy the fruits of labour. Poor returns from agriculture, exploitation by money lenders and market forces and middlemen (Dalaries) make tribal indebtedness a perpetual problem.
  - Different kinds of usurious money lending systems are in vogue in different tribal areas but the most typical and deceitful method of money lending is found in tribal areas of Adilabad district. Under the money-lending system called "Dedi" existing in tribal areas of Adilabad district, if a tribal takes a loan of Rs. 2,000/- in cash in the month of June i.e., before start of agricultural season he has to repay Rs. 3,000/- in November or December i.e., after the harvest. The interest for six months is 50% which means 100% per annum. On the other hand, if Jowar is taken as loan, either 1.5 times the quantity or the equivalent has to be paid at the time of harvest. In this case also the interest works out to 100%. For a marginal or small tribal cultivator the returns from agriculture, depending on rains, will be sufficient only to pay interest. When the seasonal conditions are adverse, even the interest is carried forward resulting in compound interest. The poor tribal cultivator has to lease or sell the land or he may go as attached agricultural labour in his own land to a non-tribal farmer.
14. While this is so in the field of loaning, the tribal is also exploited in the market. Higher rates are charged for the inputs while higher commissions are charged by middlemen (Dalaries) and merchants. He is also deceived in weighments. For whatever little payments is to be done, the Sowkar gives a receipt and the cash payment against the receipt is inordinately delayed. The tribal gets money only after making three or four trips to the Sowkar.
15. The hold of money-lender is seen at input and output stage. The entire money-lending is done by two or three Sowkars who are also purchasers of cotton at procurement centres. They also own the ginning mills. So the tribals who take loan in Cash and kind (seeds, food material, clothes etc.) have to sell the produce only to the same sowkar because of the "word" taken from them. Even other-wise, the tribals do not have any choice as the same money lender is the sole purchaser in the market. He thus efficiently controls the market committee and market yard also with the smaller merchants as his agents. This monopoly of private traders has to be broken if tribal have to benefit from their labour and move out of perpetual indebtedness and poverty. The Girijan Cooperative Corporation is implementing successfully a programme of consumption and agricultural (crop) loan programme to save the tribals from money-lenders. The involvement of tribal elders at every stage of programme is the main reason for success of the programme.

#### **Cotton Procurement Programme — Dalari Style**

The 'Dalari' announce an attractive procurement price that could never be imagined by tribals only to attract the produce. When the carts arrive, they will be made to wait for a day or two on the excuse that the market will be opened at an auspicious time. By the time the market opens, the tribals exhaust the food and little money brought by them. The market incharge then announces that the prices have fallen down and only the first five or ten carts will be paid the originally announced price. By this time the tribal cultivator is given a receipt for his cart and the merchant accepts only that receipt. The poor tribal has no choice but to wait be cheated.



# Health Status

## Introduction:

1. The sizeable portion of 31.76 lakhs tribal population of Andhra Pradesh live in inaccessible forests and hilly areas extending from Srikakulam district in North Coast to Adilabad district in North Telangana forming into a tribal belt. In these areas, tribal groups face various disadvantages as most of the area they inhabit is inaccessible for most part of the year. Most of their health problems are due to mal nutrition, lack of hygiene, non-availability of safe drinking water etc. The illiteracy and ignorance added to their *superstitions beliefs make the solutions to the health problems more difficult.*
2. *Lack of medical and health institutions, and non-functioning of the existing institutions, makes the situation worse as even tribals who wish to utilise modern medical services do not get the facility. At the same time, the knowledge of traditional medicine and its hold over the community is fast vanishing due to modernisation. All these factors contribute to the poor health status of tribals, especially those living in interior tribal areas.*
3. The forest foods such as the roots, tubers, fruits, flesh foods etc., have dwindled due to commercial forestry and encroachments of outsiders, resulting in a shortage of foods. At the same time the non-availability of outside foods for most of the year due to the inaccessibility of the tribal locations and the high costs of food items imported from outside etc., add to under-nourishment. Excess alcohol consumption also contributes to lesser expenditure on food. The net result is that even a casual visitor to the backward tribal areas finds several tribals suffering from starvation and disease.
4. Motherhood and Childhood are unsafe due to various reasons such as superstitions, malnutrition, and lack of medical and health facilities and environmental sanitation.
5. Health statistics on infant and child mortality rates, and morbidity rates point to the low health levels among tribals.

**Table VII Infant and Child Mortality among Tribals**  
(as per sample studies conducted by TCR & TI, Hyderabad)

Age Group	Chenchu Groups (Nallamala Hills)		5 Tribal Groups (Srikakulam & Vizianagaram)		Kolams (Adilabad)		Konda Reddy (Godavari Agency)	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Upto 1 year	44.16	38.92	72.50	77.33	79.61	87.50	64.28	70.37
1-3 yrs	38.96	38.92	11.25	16.00	11.65	3.57	12.86	16.29
4-6 yrs	11.69	12.43	5.62	—	1.94	4.46	15.71	5.92
6 years	5.19	9.73	10.62	6.66	6.79	4.46	7.15	7.42

Above table reveals that over 80% deaths among infants and children occur before the 3rd year.

6. Outbreak of epidemics is frequent and expensive in terms of human life. During 1988-89 an epidemic of meningitis occurred in 310 villages of Vizianagaram and Srikakulam districts killing 126 persons, mostly children. Local leaders reported that the tribals were reluctant to go to the hospitals due to lack of amenities. The vaccines supplied were inadequate and even the available facilities could not be utilised due to their ignorance.
7. Measles is another epidemic disease prevalent in tribal areas. During February 1989, 17 children died in one village alone in Prakasam district. The villagers did not inform the authorities fearing the anger of the goddess and believing that there was no treatment other than propitiation of the goddess.



8. Given the low accessibility to health services as well as poor environmental sanitation it is inevitable that communicable diseases, diarrhoeal diseases and respiratory infections take their toll on childrens lives. Given below is an analysis of some causes of childhood deaths in five tribal regions of Andhra Pradesh.

Nearly 80% of the deaths occurred before the 1st year. Diarrhoea is the chief offender accounting for 25.5% of the deaths. A sizeable number of deaths is due to unknown causes. The reasons are not known to the tribals who therefore explain the deaths to the supernatural influences.

**Table VIII Causes of Death of Children at various Ages**  
(as per sample studies conducted by TCR & TI, Hyderabad)

Age Group	Gastro— enteritis	Diarrhoea	Fever	Bronchities	Reasons not known	Tetanus	Total deaths
Below 1 year	13 (81.25)	46 (83.64)	22 (75.86)	22 (81.48)	77 (89.53)	—	180 (83.72)
1-3 yrs	3 (18.75)	5 (9.09)	4 (13.79)	— —	4 (4.65)	—	16 (9.44)
4-6 yrs	— (6.90)	—	2 (5.81)	— —	5 (3.26)	—	7
Above 6 years	— (7.27)	4 (3.45)	1 (18.52)	5	— (100.00)	2 (5.58)	12
Total	16	55	29	27	86	2	215

#### Common Diseases Among Tribals:

9. While ill-health due to fever is very common especially during rainy season, tribals suffer from various serious ailments such as T.B./Goitre, Malaria etc., which are increasing in tribal areas. Vomiting and diarrhoea and consequent dehydration are causes for death among the infants and children. Skin diseases, especially scabies, are also prevalent.
- i) **Malaria:** Out of 746,859 blood smears examined by Health Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh, during 1989 in tribal areas, 23,591 were found to be positive. There are as many as 19059 Plasmodium Falciparum (P.F.) cases which are referred to as Cerebral Malaria and are more dangerous as they cause death. During 1990, out of 8,42,903 blood smears examined, 37036 (Nos.) were found to be positive and 29,127 (Nos.) Plasmodium Falciparum Cases. The maximum number of cases occurred (nearly 50%) in Khammam district while P.F. cases from tribal areas formed 85% of the total cases in the state. A high percentage of cases of Malaria are from tribal areas (48%) while only 17% are from urban areas and 25% from rural areas. Non-availability of medical attendance, inaccessibility of areas, malnutrition and ignorance are some of the reasons attributed to the occurrence of the phenomenon. For those tribals who are basically gatherers of Minor Forest Produce, absence from work due to fever means loss of income for that period and starvation for the next few days as they do not have surplus income or buffer stocks of food.
  - ii) **Goitre:** According to a report of UNICEF, there are about 120 million population in India who live in iodine deficient areas of which one third are goitrous. Endemic goitre has been reported from 16 out of 22 states in India. Goitre prevalence in the tribal areas of Andhra Pradesh-Visakhapatnam (34.7%), Adilabad (50.2%) and East Godavari (59.8%) was attributed to less percentage iodine intake as revealed in sample studies conducted by the Medical and Health Department and ICMR.
  - iii) **Tuberculosis:** Is also increasing due to malnutrition. In sample studies conducted in Chenchu areas, it was found that nearly 20% are affected by T.B. while 5% are in an advanced stage. A detailed survey is being taken up by TCR & TI, Hyderabad.



### **Health Infrastructure:**

10. There are 31 hospitals, 110 PHCs, 22 Dispensaries and 29 MM Units, 5 Hospitals, and 8 CHCs, in tribal areas. The geographical coverage is one institution per 20,000 population which is very close to the existing norm for such an institution but functioning of these institutions results in wastage of the infrastructure due to the following reasons.
  - a. Small and scattered villages.
  - b. Lack of building for institutions and residential quarters.
  - c. Lack of required medicines.
  - d. Lack of vehicles for extension services.
  - e. Lack of Doctors.
  - f. Lack of knowledge of incidence of various diseases and definite programme to deal with them.
11. A major problem is lack of Doctors as nearly 50% of posts in the tribal areas as a whole and 90% in interior institutions are vacant at any given point of time. In places where doctors are posted, they try for transfer or absent themselves for most part of the year.
12. One suggestion to set right this problem is to start Diploma courses in Medicine just as it is done in case of Engineering so that the diploma holders can serve at village level while graduate doctors (MBBS) can serve at taluk level hospitals.
13. The health problems of the tribals are related to a number of factors which include ignorance of the disease, and how to prevent it, poor nutrition coupled with poor environmental sanitation which makes the people more vulnerable to infections as well as lack of necessary health facilities to which they can turn to for cure and prevention.



# Dietary Habits and Nutritional Levels

## Dietary Habits and Nutrition Deficiency Diseases:

1. The tribals inhabiting the forest and mountainous tracts largely subsist on flora and fauna of nature. Due to their primitive levels of technology and rigorous habitats, their crop yields are too low to meet their food requirements round the year. Whatever little they grow is sometimes not sufficient to pay back the money lenders. Therefore, they have to supplement their diet with edible wild roots, tubers, leaves, fruits, nuts and occasionally small game from the surrounding forest. The staple food of tribals varies from region to region: Ragi or chodi in Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam and East Godavari, and Jowar in Godavari gorges, Warangal and Adilabad districts. Maize and bajra are also consumed in some areas.
2. The diet pattern varies seasonally depending on the availability of various items of food in the forest. During the periods of scarcity, they resort to the consumption of even unfamiliar roots and tubers, which often results in diarrhoea. Psychological, social and cultural factors also influence the selection of foods, which generally result in the monotonous consumption of relatively large quantities of a single food item causing specific deficiency diseases, while certain highly nutritious foods are rejected due to their beliefs and value systems. Milk is generally not consumed in tribal areas of Srikakulam and Visakhapatnam districts because of their belief that it is meant only for the calf, on the analogy of a mother's milk for her child. Specific totem animals and plant species sacred to various tribal groups are totally prohibited from consumption.

## Dietary Patterns among Children:

3. Studies conducted by the Tribal Cultural Research Training Institute bring out the inter-tribal variations in dietary patterns among tribals as well as the obvious gaps and deficiencies in the diet.

Usually breast feeding starts immediately after the delivery and generally continues till three years or till the mother conceives again. Very rarely does a tribal child suffer for want of mother's milk. Supplementary feeding starts around the 9th month. Surveys show that 36.8% of babies are weaned from mother's milk before second year, while 82.4% of total babies are weaned between 3-4 years of age. There are no special foods for children except foods that are considered heavy and cause indigestion are avoided for them.

4. Food intakes of pre-school children across the different food groups are given in the table below:

Table IX Food Intake of Pre-school Tribal Children

Food	Adilabad Tribals	Godavari Agency Tribals	Srikakulam Tribals	Chenchu	Balanced Diet
Cereals (gms)	171.00	140.00	127.98	207.00	270.00
Pulses, Nuts & Seeds (gms)	58.00	7.50	45.30	9.70	35.00
Leafy Vegetables (gms)	9.00	7.50	112.28	13.30	50.00
Roots & Tubers (gms)	6.50	33.00	12.89	22.30	30.00
Flesh Foods (gms)	0.35	16.16	1.88	10.00	—
Milk and Milk Products (gms)	18.50	27.00	2.07	2.50	250.00
Oil & Fats (gms)	1.30	1.60	0.12	0.25	0.25
Sugar & Jaggery (gms)	1.40	5.00	1.14	8.50	30.00



The life situations and occupations determine the quantity and quality of food consumed.

5. The food intake of children is very low as compared to the balanced diet norm as can be seen above. Because of the variations in food habits, the deficiencies vary across different groups. For instance, Srikakulam tribal children eat much less cereals than the other tribals and they make up for it by a higher intake of seeds and nuts, especially mango seed flour mixed with ragi flour and vegetables. Since Srikakulam tribals and Gonds of Adilabad have taken up settled cultivation, they consume less meat (game) while the Chenchus and the Godavari tribals who are still hunters eat more meat. Consumption of milk and milk products, oils and sugar are low in all tribal children.
6. Nutritional intake of the children vary with the contents of the diet. The table below gives the nutritional intake of children in tribes of 5 different regions.

**Table X Nutritional intake levels of Tribal Children as a % of RDA**

Food	RDA (Actual)	Srikakulam Tribals	Chenchus	Godavari Agency Tribals	Gonds of Adilabad District
Calories (K cal)	1500	42.9	60.1	59.7	48.1
Protein (gms)	22	86.1	130.9	153.5	120.4
Calcium (mg)	401	65.8	67.2	47.9	49.9
Iron (mg)	15	132.1	123.7	114.5	94.7
Vitamin "A" (IU)	300	1273.7	84.7	139.0	235.7

7. Among the different nutrients, calorie and calcium deficiencies are more severe among tribal children. Protein intake is highest among Gonds of Adilabad because their staple food is pulses. Children of Srikakulam tribals and Chenchus also consume protein over the recommended allowance. Calcium deficiency is common to all categories, but the position of Srikakulam tribals and Chenchus are slightly better. The tribals in Srikakulam consume larger quantities of green leafy vegetables and hence have an adequate intake of Vitamin A.
8. The gap in consumption of micro-nutrients especially Calcium, Iron etc., needs to be bridged. The impact of the deficiency is reflected in their heights, weights and growth patterns.
9. The prevalence of protein - calorie malnutrition (PCM) signs among the pre-school children among Gonds and Chenchus is very high (16-19%) compared to other tribal groups studied. They are also found to be lighter and shorter. 89% to 98% of the pre-school children were also found to be anaemic.
10. The Vitamin-A deficiency leading to blindness is also found in some cases but detailed studies are to be taken up in this sphere to initiate programmes for prevention of Vitamin A deficiency.

#### **Dietary Intake among Pregnant & Lactating Women:**

11. The diet consumed by the tribal women consists mainly of cereals, pulses, vegetables and small grains which are available in the forests. Their main staple food is ragi. The consumption of rice has increased recently due to the opening of daily requirement Depots and better Economic status.
12. Tribals in general observe taboo on certain foods for pregnant women and lactating mothers. Pregnant mothers are not supposed to eat papaya which is believed to cause abortion. They also avoid eating twin banana as they believe that it will result in twin births. Mutton and milk products are not served to lactating mothers till third month while bringal and green leaves are avoided for six months, and all roots and tubers are avoided for one year.
13. Food intake of pregnant women reveals deficiency in cereal consumption across all groups and the lowest position is occupied by Godavari agency tribals. Intake of pulses, nuts and seeds is very low for Chenchus



and Godavari agency tribals. Srikakulam tribals have higher intake because of their consumption of mango seeds and Gonds consume redgram and beans. Chenchus and Gonds do not consume leafy vegetables. Srikakulam tribals consume more leafy vegetables and less vegetables. Srikakulam tribals consume more leafy vegetables and less vegetable roots and tubers. The intake of milk, milk products, sugar and jaggery are very low across all the groups. The consumption pattern of Godavari agency tribals appears to be more diversified.

14. Given below are the comparative tables showing the dietary intake of various foods as well as the nutritional intake of the diet as a percentage of the R.D.A.
15. As in the case of children there is an increased consumption of pulses among the Adilabad and Srikakulam tribals and flesh foods among the Chenchus.
16. Most tribal diets are low on cereal content and calorie intake is deficient in all groups. The protein requirements of the Adilabad tribals are met from the higher pulse diet but other groups fall short of the recommended allowances. Deficiencies in iron and calcium intake is also evident. The leafy diet of the tribals of Srikakulam and Godavari meets the Vitamin A needs.
17. However the intake in the most nutrients is below the recommended allowances across all tribes and nutritional deficiencies are prevalent in all the group.

**Table XI Dietary Intake of Pregnant Women**

Foods	Adilabad	Godavari Agency	Srikakulam	Chenchus Area	R.D.A.
Cereals (gms)	396.00	265.40	411.60	419.00	400.00
Pulses (gms)	126.00	18.44	141.70	12.00	55.00
Leafy Vegetables (gms)	6.30	68.00	164.24	—	150.00
Roots & Tubers (gms)	24.50	65.80	8.27	31.50	75.00
Flesh Foods (gms)	—	20.30	—	27.60	30.00
Milk & Milk Products (gms)	37.20	26.50	3.31	—	225.00
Sugar & Jaggery (gms)	—	4.50	2.50	10.70	40.00
Oil & Fats (gms)	0.38	1.60	0.88	0.24	35.00

18. Nutritional levels in pregnant women compared with the RDA is shown in the table below:-

**Table XII Nutrient Intake of Pregnant Women**

Item	Adilabad	Godavari Agency	Srikakulam	Chenchus Area	R.D.A.
Protein (gms)	76.90	35.90	42.10	41.70	55.00
Calcium (mg)	320.00	528.00	623.00	304.00	1000.00
Iron (mg)	31.90	24.00	32.00	19.70	40.00
Calories (K Cal)	1931.00	1188.00	1602.00	1638.00	2500.00
Vitamin A (I.U.)	848.00	6622.00	6085.00	192.00	3000.00



### Dietary Intake of Lactating Women:

19. There are some differences in the diets between the pregnant women and lactating mothers in the tribal groups. In general, lactating mothers consume more cereals than the pregnant women, except Srikakulam tribal women. The Gond women consume much more cereals and pulses than the balanced diet norm. The consumption of Godavari agency tribals is deficient in cereals. The consumption of Chenchus is deficient in almost all food items. The dietary intake of lactating women is presented in the following table.

**Table XIII Dietary Intake of Lactating Women Vs R.D.A.**

Foods	Adilabad	Godavari Agency	Srikakulam	Chenchus Area	R.D.A.
Cereals (gms)	440.00	329.00	387.00	548.00	450.00
Pulses (gms)	11.30	22.80	79.25	198.00	65.00
Leafy Vegetables (gms)	—	15.00	204.00	6.00	150.00
Roots & Tubers (gms)	49.00	190.00	11.40	22.00	75.00
Flesh Foods (gms)	27.00	22.70	2.60	—	30.00
Milk & Milk Products (gms)	27.00	66.60	1.31	1.33	225.00
Sugar & Jaggery (gms)	18.00	2.18	2.14	1.66	50.00
Oils & Fats (gms)	—	2.70	0.64	0.40	50.00

20. The consumption of cereals among the Srikakulam women are far lower than the Gonds and Chenchu women, but higher than Godavari women. The consumption of cereals among lactating women is more than other women in the same community. The consumption of oil in all communities is negligible. Vitamin A intake in the case of Srikakulam tribals and Godavari agency tribals is much more than the norm. There is nutrient deficiency in almost all the tribals groups.

21. Nutrient intake of lactating mothers Vs R.D.A

**Table XIV Nutrient intake of lactating mothers Vs R.D.A.**

Foods	Adilabad	Godavari Agency	Srikakulam	Chenchus Area	R.D.A.
Protein (gm)	96.60	53.00	44.40	32.80	65.00
Calcium (mg)	456.00	334.00	432.00	170.00	1000.00
Iron (mg)	43.00	27.00	46.00	18.40	30.00
Calories (K Cal)	2647.00	1891.00	1646.00	2900.00	
Vitamin A (I.U.)	1070.00	3353.00	131.00	4600.00	

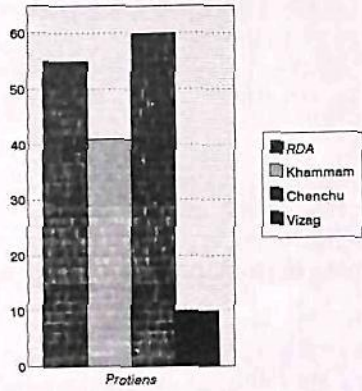
22. The nutrient intake levels reveal that except Gonds all the lactating tribal women are facing nutrient deficiencies. Even Gonds face severe deficiency of Calcium and Vitamin A. Srikakulam tribals derive high levels of iron and Vitamin A but are deficient in the other three nutrients. The position of Chenchus and Godavari agency tribals is low, with deficiency in all nutrients. Chenchus experience severe deficiency in Calcium and Vitamin A.



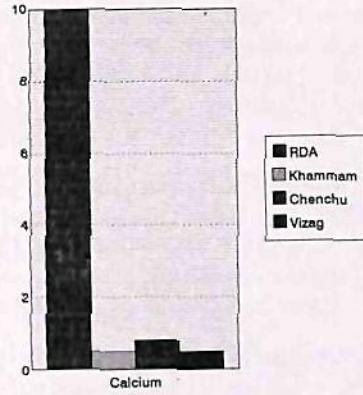
23. The above analysis of dietary and nutritional intake clearly show a deficiency in food and nutrient intake which coupled with repeated infections lead to malnutrition and poor health. In order to mitigate the deficiencies in their diet the following steps can be taken:
- 23.1 The tribals consume excess quantities of cereals whenever they have enough money, but neglect pulses, vegetables and oils. It is necessary to persuade them to increase the consumption of pulses, and other foods by suitable reduction in cereals in times of plenty. Nutrition education through demonstrations and audiovisual aids may be taken up at the mandal level to bring this change.
- 23.2 The high deficiency in the consumption of vegetables and fruits can be tackled only by encouraging them to develop kitchen gardens and poultry. Milch cattle development may be encouraged.
- 23.3 The tribals do not display an aversion to any food items. This aspect may be utilised in devising generalised dietary patterns by supplying alternatively jowar, rice, ragi, wheat, red gram, green gram, horse gram etc., through daily requirement Depots and also through contractors.
- 23.4 In certain seasons of the year food stuffs like mangoes, amla and certain leaves are available in plenty. The tribals may be educated to preserve them for use during the off season by drying and pickling. Deficiency of calcium may be made upto some extent by using dried leaves along with ragi.
- 23.5 Lack of habit of thrift is the main draw back in tribals's economy. As they have no avenues for saving, the surplus amounts earned during the work season are wasted on excessive drinking and consequently almost all tribals suffer during the lean season for food. Schemes to save their earning will be of great help in improving their nutritional standards.



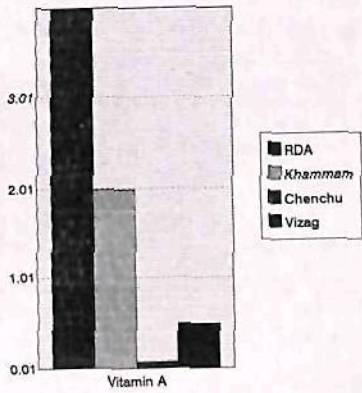
### NUTRIENT INTAKE



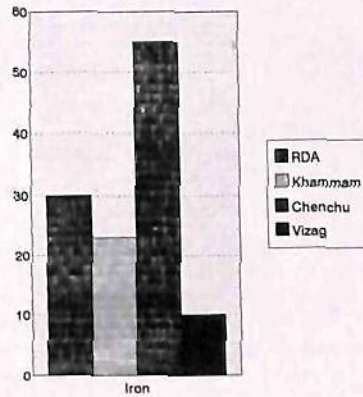
### NUTRIENT INTAKE



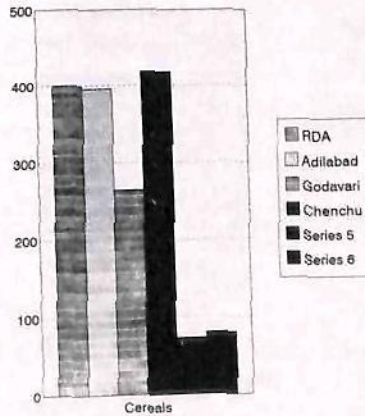
### NUTRIENT INTAKE



### NUTRIENT INTAKE



### DIETARY INTAKE AMONG TRIBALS



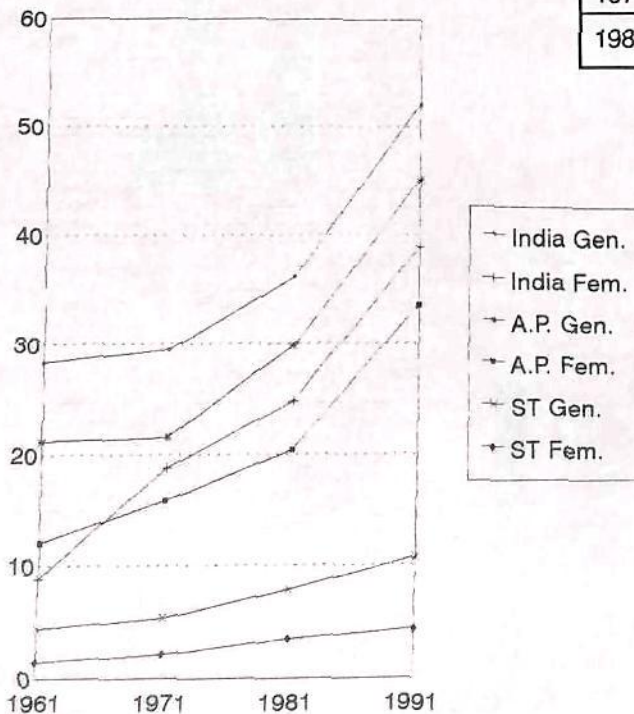
# Educational Status

## Literacy:

1. The educational status among tribal population across the country continues to remain a cause for concern and Andhra Pradesh is no exception. Very often it is difficult to get educated persons among the tribal community to fill the posts in the various community based projects such as ICDS and Adult Education. The tribal communities are often caught in a circle of low education - low availability of locally educated people-dependence on outsiders who are either disinterested or exploitative which in turn serve to slow down the process of educating the community.
2. Andhra Pradesh being one of the educationally backward states in the country, it is not surprising that the levels of literacy among the more disadvantaged sections of the society are still very low. Literacy rates among the tribals is one of the lowest which in turn is reflected in the educational status of the district where they form a sizeable proportion of the population. Among the tribal population, the literacy rates of women is almost dismal and cause for much concern.
3. The table below compares the literacy rate among tribal men and women across two decades. As can be seen there has been no appreciable increase in the literacy level of tribal men and women, especially women over the last three census period. The increase of literacy in women over two decade has been only half of that of men and even now stands at a dismal level of 3.4%.

**Table XV: 1961 to 1981 – Andhra Pradesh  
Scheduled Tribe – Literacy Rate (%)**

Census	Male	Female	Total
1961	7.26	1.47	4.41
1971	8.47	2.12	5.34
1981	12.02	3.46	7.82



**Tribal Literacy over Three Decades**  
General and Female Literacy



4. The literacy rates of Scheduled Tribes in Andhra Pradesh when compared with the general population and the literacy rates in the country show that tribal literacy at 7.82% is approximately 25% of Andhra Pradesh figures (29.90%) and around 21.5% of that of the country (36.23%).
5. A district based comparison of tribal literacy in the eight tribal districts shows inter district variation. Literacy is highest among the East Godavari tribals and lowest in Adilabad. This trend is in keeping with the literacy trends in the general population.

A comparison of the Literacy rates among the 33 scheduled tribes reveals that as per 1981 census, the maximum number of illiterate population (less than 2% literacy) are among Khonds living in the tribal areas of Visakhapatnam district. The comparative literacy rates are presented below.

**Table XVI Literacy Ranges of Scheduled Tribes – 1981**

Sl. No.	Literacy Range	Name of the Sub-Group
1.	0 — 2.0%	1. Khond
2.	2.1 — 4.0%	2. Kolam, 3. Mukha Dora, 4. Porja, 5. Reddy Dora
3.	4.1 — 6.0%	6. Gond, 7. Konda Dora, 8. Naik, 9. Rona-Rena
4.	6.1 — 8.0%	10. Gadaba, 11. Konda Reddy, 12. Koya, 13. Manne Dora, 14. Savara, 15. Lambada, 16. Yanadi
5.	8.1 — 10.0%	17. Andh, 18. Bagata, 19. Chenchu, 20. Jatapu, 21. Kammara, 22. Kotia-Bento-Oriya, 23. Malis
6.	10.1 — 12.0%	24. Kulia
7.	12.1 — 14.0%	25. Hill Reddi
8.	14.1 — 16.0%	26. Pardhan, 27. Yerukala
9.	16.1 — 18.0%	28. Thoti, 29. Gond
10.	18.1 — 20.0%	30. Bhil, 31. Konda Kapu, 32. Valmini
11.	20+	33. Kattunayakan

6. Among the tribal population there are clear inter regional and inter tribe variations in literacy levels. Tribals settling in Urban area have a slightly higher rate of literacy as can be seen in the table below:

**Table XVII Tribal Literacy Rate in Urban and Rural Areas**

Area	Males (%)	Females (%)	Total (%)
Urban	14.1	31.5	23.3
Rural	2.7	10.7	6.8
Tribal	2.4	10.6	6.6
TOTAL	3.4	12.0	7.8



**Enrolment:**

7. The following chart shows the enrolment particulars among tribal children over the school period. It is clear that dropouts in the first five years is a serious problem with almost 71.8% children dropping out. Approximately 75% of the girls drop out in the first five years. It is interesting to note that there are only about 14,150 girls studying in the high school. It is important that special efforts be made to follow-up these girls and utilize them for community development programmes.

**Table XVIII Enrolment Particulars of S.Ts in Andhra Pradesh 1990-91**

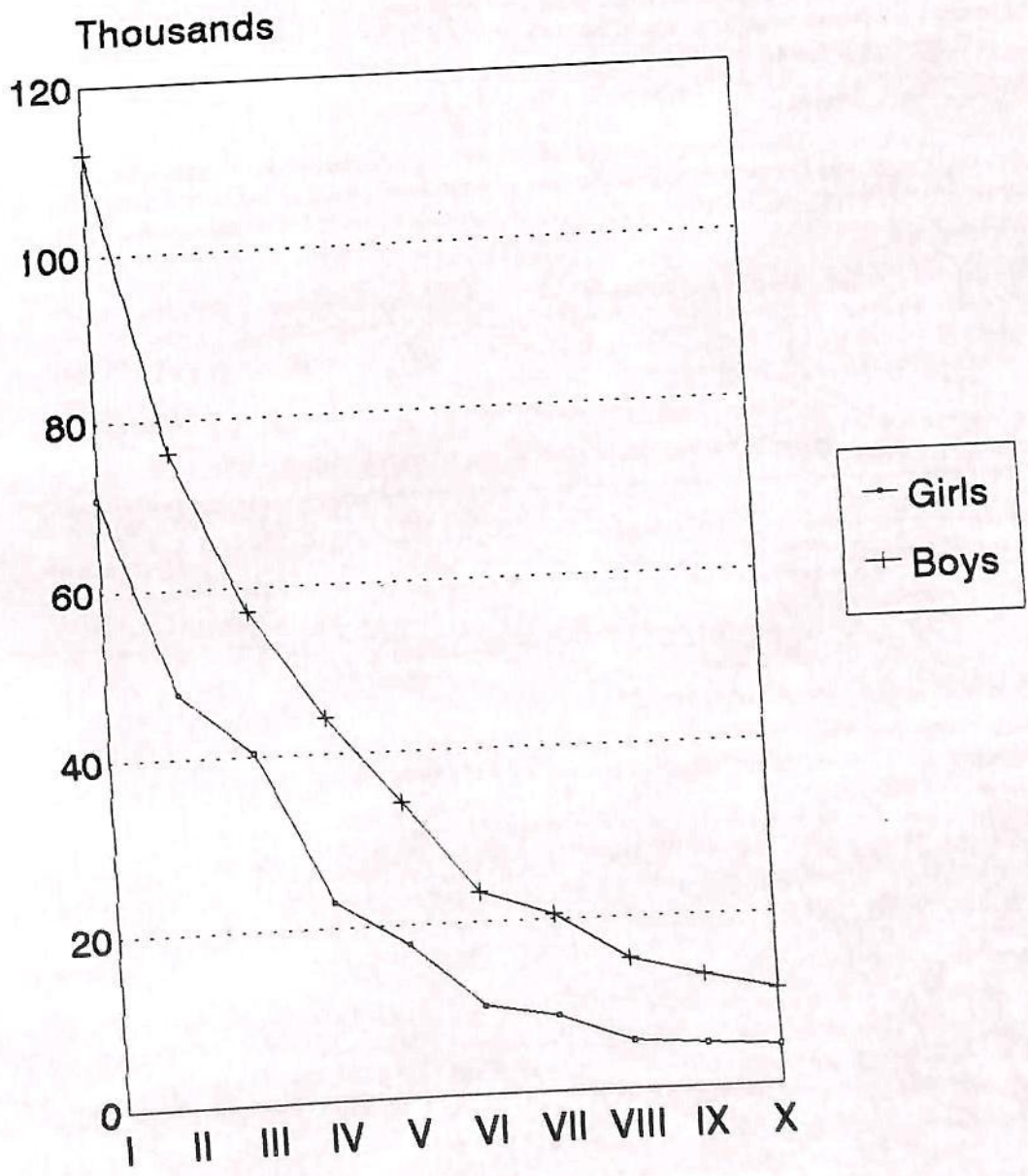
Stage	Class	Boys	Girls	Total
Primary	I	1,12,050 (61.21)	71,001 (38.79)	1,83,057 (100.00)
	II	76,142 (61.57)	47,519 (38.43)	1,23,661 (100.00)
	III	57,144 (58.61)	40,356 (41.39)	97,500 (100.00)
	IV	44,210 (65.83)	22,948 (34.17)	67,158 (100.00)
	V	33,930 (65.77)	17,706 (34.29)	51,636 (100.00)
	Sub-Total	3,23,476 (61.85)	1,99,536 (38.15)	5,23,012 (100.00)
Upper Primary	VI	23,353 (69.86)	10,077 (30.14)	33,430 (100.00)
	VII	20,543 (70.24)	8,700 (29.76)	29,246 (100.00)
	Sub-Total	43,896 (70.04)	18,780 (29.96)	62,676 (100.00)
High School	VIII	15,070 (73.24)	5,507 (27.68)	20,577 (100.00)
	IX	12,878 (72.32)	4,928 (27.68)	17,806 (100.00)
	X	10,955 (72.53)	4,550 (27.47)	15,105 (100.00)
	Sub-Total	38,903 (72.73)	14,585 (27.27)	53,488 (100.00)
	Grand Total	4,06,275 (63.56)	2,32,901 (36.44)	6,39,176 (100.00)

Source: Director of School Education, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.  
(Figures in the paranthesis indicate percentages)

8. Literacy rate being so low, it is evident that educational levels among the children will be correspondingly low. Through there has been considerable effort to improve tribal status on education through the provision of schools, residential facilities, incentives, etc., enrolment figures still leave much to be desired.



### Enrolment of ST children in School



9. There are many reasons for the low enrolment of girls. Parents believe that investment in a girl is not rewarding. Further, early marriages in the tribes is a great obstacle in the development of education among girls.
10. A factor to be kept in mind is that in tribal areas, enrolment and attendance vary significantly. Studies have shown that only 20% of the enrolled pupils attend schools and that too irregularly. There may be two reasons for this. Enrolment figure itself may be exaggerated or alternatively may be due to other factors as irregularity of teachers, disinterest among parents, frequent festivals, children going to work, family responsibilities, etc. Irregular attendance finally leads to drop-outs.
11. If enrolment and retention rates continue at present level the problem of low literacy among tribal and lack of trained manpower as well as lack of awareness, poor health etc., which are associated problems, will be with them for the next two decades.

**Government Programmes:**

12. The tribal children upto six years of age receive pre-primary education through a network of ICDS scheme covering supplementary feeding of nutritious food, immunization, health check-ups and nutrition education. There are 1977 Anganwadi Centres in the state catering to 1,52,888 children between the ages of 6 months-6 years.
13. Besides the normal incentives like scholarships, free supply of dresses, books etc., there is a special emphasis on girl education. Government of India and State Government share expenditure equally for construction of buildings for educational institutions for girls. Government of Andhra Pradesh has also opened six residential schools exclusively for tribal girls.

**Table XIX Educational Institutions exclusively for girls**

Institutions	Number	Strength
Girls Hostel	121	9231
Girls Residential Schools	6	990

**Educational Institutions exclusively for girls**

14. In addition there are 423 Ashram Schools functioning in the tribal areas which caters to 40,069 children. Free boarding, books, uniforms, toiletries are provided to these children, most of whom are in the primary sections.
15. In order to tackle adult literacy, the government has started a number of adult literacy centres. Approximately 13% of the total Adult Education Centres in the State Cater to the tribal population covering about 2032 villages/hamlets.

**Conclusion:**

16. The education scenario in tribal population of Andhra Pradesh is a cause of great concern and requires careful area based planning with all out efforts to improve adult literacy, universal enrolment and better retention. Non-formal education centres need to be established in tribal hamlets which do not have schools. It is also important to maintain contact, with the small number of girls who do reach high school to use them as 'models' for other girls in the community.



# The Development of Scheduled Tribes — Government Strategy

## The Tribal Sub-Plan:

1. The Tribal Sub Plan strategy which was initiated in the 5th Five Year Plan has been established and institutionalised in order to ensure:
  - a) Socio-economic development of tribals and
  - b) Protection of tribals against exploitation.
2. In the areas of tribal concentration, Integrated Tribal Development Agencies have been constituted and headed by Project Officers of senior time scale J.A.S., or equivalent state cadre who are supported by subject matter specialists like Agriculture, Horticulture, Engineering, Sericulture, Fisheries, Information, etc. All the development functionaries working in ITDA areas have been brought under the control of Project Officer to ensure a Single Line of Administration. In order that all the funds meant for Tribal Sub Plan are budgeted separately, a Single Demand (Demand No. XXVI) was created in Tribal Sub Plan from the year 1987-88. While the State Plan funds of the various departments are generally used for providing the infrastructure facilities for the development of the areas, the Special Central Assistance and IRDP funds matched by institutional finance (Margin Money Bank Finance) is being used for implementing poverty alleviation programme with the tribal family as a unit of development. From the year 1990, the Girijan Co-operative Corporation has also entered into financing the Short Term Agricultural Operations and consumption needs of tribals. The Girijan Cooperative Corporation was recognised as District Cooperative Central Bank. From 1991, medium term loans are also being given.
3. Andhra Pradesh is one of the pioneering states in the implementation of Tribal Sub Plan, both on the policy side and on the programme side.

## Plan Formulation:

4. *Plan formulation and implementation of the programmes have been a continuous process in the State which helped in redesigning of some of the programmes wherever necessary and also for formulating new programmes in areas where they are required. The formulating of the scheme is done by I.T.D.As, and the District Tribal Welfare Officers after holding detailed discussions at Village level, Mandal level and also at ITDA level with various officers and tribal participants of the programmes so that the programmes are duly related to the actual needs of tribals while securing people's participation fully.*

## Single Budget Demand for Tribal Sub Plan:

5. *Introduction of single demand for Tribal Sub Plan from the year 1987-88 in Andhra Pradesh constitutes a significant step in the direction of translating the sub-plan concept into action. Till then the allocations for tribal sub-plan were shown under the demands of the respective departments, as a result of which it was found difficult to take a holistic view of the development situation for drawing up a comprehensive action plan for development of the identified areas of tribal concentration.*
6. The need to pool all the funds intended for tribal development and drawing up schemes from which scheduled tribes can directly benefit has been recognised. It was decided that the funds for the Tribal Sub Plan should be pooled and planned to be utilised for the total development of Scheduled Tribes by the Commissioner of Tribal Welfare.
7. The financial planning as per above orders for the tribal sub-plan is as follows:
  - 7.1 Planning Department quantifies the flow of funds for Tribal Sub Plan each year in accordance with a percentage to be prescribed and indicate this to the Commissioner of Tribal Welfare.
  - 7.2 The Commissioner of Tribal Welfare draws up the relevant schemes in identified priority sectors and furnish the sector wise scheme break-up for these funds in consultation with the Heads of the Departments. The objective is to ensure that the funds will be utilised for the total and comprehensive development of Scheduled Tribe people in the sub-plan areas with reference to their needs and priorities.



7.3 Girijan Co-operative Corporation (GCC) Ltd., established in 1956, is an undertaking of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, working for the socio-economic upliftment of the tribals. The Corporation's main activities are:

- i) procurement of minor forest produce (MFP) and agricultural produce (AP) from the tribals and marketing of the same to the best advantage of the tribals
- ii) supply of public distribution system (PDS) supplies and other domestic requirements to the tribals, at reasonable prices and
- iii) provision of agricultural and consumption credit to the tribals.

The Corporation is an apex body of 28 Girijan Primary Co-operative Marketing Societies (GPCMSs). The Corporation's head office is located at Visakhapatnam and it has a network of Regional Office, 8 Divisional Offices, 33 Branch Offices and 800 D.R. Depots.

During the year 1990-91, the Corporation has been recognised by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), as a nodal agency for routing credit to the tribals. Earlier, the primary societies of the Corporation used to carry out their loaning programme in co-ordination with the local District Co-operative Central Banks. Consequent to recognition of NABARD, GCC started functioning as direct link between APCOB and GPCMSs. The loaning programme has been devised keeping in view the salient features of the tribal community and the needs of the tribal farmers.

During 1990-91, the Corporation has advanced loans to the tune of Rs. 1.62 crores. To begin with the Corporation has identified the remote clusters of villages (villages hitherto not covered by conventional credit institutions (like Banks, PACs, etc.) in various divisions and taken up intensive credit operations in such areas. The disbursement and repayment has been made flexible and the tribal community has been involved at all stages of the credit operations. The credit programme of GCC has received an encouraging response from the tribals and the Corporation has advanced loans to the tune of Rs. 6.81 crores in 1991-92.



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