

Educational Status of Scheduled Tribes in Andhra Pradesh: A Study in Visakhapatnam and West Godavari Districts

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Abstract

Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Scheduled Castes (SCs) and denotified tribes constitute the weakest segment of the poor in India. In the present scenario, the development paradigm has shifted towards people-centred approach which recognises human and social capital for leading to sustainable development and health and education are regarded as the most important indicators for human development. Tribal people encounter different problems in the context of socio-economic, cultural and political development because of their poor educational status. In India imbalance in the development front is conspicuous because economic growth has not been properly tuned to established social justice. Lack of equal opportunities in education and employment and poor access to resources hinders their over all development. In this study, an attempt has been made to identify the educational characteristics of the sample households like literacy levels, dropout rates, and reasons for dropouts. It was concluded that the literacy levels of the respondents in the study area are higher in the Visakhapatnam than in the West Godavari district. But the literacy rates to total population are more in West Godavari (56.61%) than in Visakhapatnam District (53.80%). The dropout rates in the age group of 6-11years of sample households are almost negligible in both the districts.

Keywords: Education, equal opportunities, literacy levels, dropout rates, Scheduled Tribes

1 Introduction

In the present scenario, the development paradigm has shifted towards people-centred approach which recognises human and social capital for leading to sustainable development. Health and education are also most important indicators for the human development. Tribal people encounter different problems in the context of socio-economic, cultural and political development. Hence they are considered to be weaker sections of the society. In India imbalance in the development front is conspicuous because economic growth has not been properly tuned to established social justice. The societal righteousness is declared to the equal chances in society to access the improvement efforts and own the same. Before speaking about the progress of STs, it is important to study their background physiognomies of education. The deprived educational attainments of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes can be best implicit in the perspective of deeply entrenched caste and social hierarchies that

are endorsed and articulated in unremarkable social connections of society, school and economic life. Purposeful from pre-colonial times, the system of communally authorised discernment and preconception against communities labelled as outside the castes system has had far-reaching impacts on the self-worth, poise and pecuniary life of SC and ST groups. As we enter the twenty-first century, caste is no longer the conclusive mode of organizing economic and social relations in India, but it continues to have an enduring influence on the economic, political and societal life of communities. Recent studies show that caste-based discrimination continues to be an influential factor in the low educational mobility of both Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe groups, despite government programmes that selectively target aid to children from these communities.

This paper addresses the educational characteristics of the sample households like literacy levels, dropouts, and reasons for dropouts, distance of educational institutions and conclusions.

2 Methodology and Sample Design

This Study is based on both primary and secondary data collected from various sources. The state of Andhra Pradesh is the study area, which has significant tribal population in almost all districts. By using multi-stage purposive sampling technique, in the first stage among all the districts of the Andhra Pradesh, West Godavari and Visakhapatnam have been selected.

In the second stage one Mandal has been selected from each district viz, Polavaram from West Godavari and Gudemkothaveedhi from Visakhapatnam districts. Two Panchayats from each of the Mandals have been selected viz, Kommugudem and Molagalagudem from Polavaram and Sankada and Pedavalasa from Gudemkothaveedhi. In the final stage 100 ST households have been selected from each Panchayat by using simple random technique. A pre-tested and well designed schedule has been canvassed among the selected sample Households to elicit information on demographic characteristics and educational status. The secondary data have been collected from various issues of Statistical Abstracts of Andhra Pradesh, District Handbooks of West Godavari and Visakhapatnam and Census reports of India. The reference period of the Study was from May 2010 to April 2011.

3 Discussion & Analysis

Table – 1 furnishes the district wise distribution of sample respondents according to their tribe and study area. For this purpose six major tribe groups, viz., Sukhali, Koyadora, Bhagatha, Valmiki, Kondhu, and Kondakapu have been observed in these two districts and the distribution of sample respondents according to these six groups have been analysed. It is evident from the table that the tribal groups to which most of the sample respondent have been belonged to Bhagatha Tribal group. In percentage terms, around 43 per cent of the

sample respondents are belonging to Bhagatha, followed by Koyadora (around 38 per cent), Sukhali (around 13 per cent), Valmiki (around five per cent), Kondhu and Konda kapu (One

per cent each). District level analysis reveals different picture, which shows that all the respondents from West Godavari District are belonging to only two tribe groups viz., Koyadora (75 per cent) and Sukhali (25 per cent), while the respondents from Visakhapatnam District have been scattered among five tribe groups viz., Bhagatha (85 per cent), Valmiki (around 10 per cent), Sukhali (0.50 per cent) Kondhu and Kondakapu (two per cent each).

Table -1 District wise Distribution of sample respondents according to their tribe in the study area

District	Sukhali	Koyadora	Bhagatha	Valmiki	Kondhu	Konda kapu	Total
West Godavari	50 (25.00)	150 (75.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	200 (100.00)
Visakhapatnam	1 (0.50)	0 (0.00)	170 (85.00)	21 (10.50)	4 (2.00)	4 (2.00)	200 (100.00)
Total	51 (12.75)	150 (37.50)	170 (42.50)	21 (5.25)	4 (1.00)	4 (1.00)	400 (100.00)

Note: Figures in the parenthesis indicate the percentages with their totals.

District wise distribution of sample respondents according to gender in the study area has been presented in Table – 2. It is very clear from the table that around 80 per cent of the sample respondents belongs to male category and the remaining 20 per cent belongs to female category. A more or less similar picture with slight variations in the percentages can also be found at disaggregate level i.e., at West Godavari (around 75 per cent are male and 25 per cent are female) and Visakhapatnam (around 85 per cent are male and 15 per cent are females) Districts.

Table-2 District wise Distribution of sample respondents according to Gender in the Study area

District/ Village	Male	Female	Total
West Godavari	149 (74.50)	51 (25.50)	200 (100.00)
Visakhapatnam	169 (84.50)	31 (15.50)	200 (100.00)
Total	318 (79.50)	82 (20.50)	400 (100.00)

Note: Figures in the parenthesis indicate the percentages with their totals.

Table – 3 furnishes the details pertaining to the district wise distribution of sample respondents according to their age in the study area. It is apparent from the table that only around five per cent of the sample respondents are in the unproductive age group i.e. above 60 and the remaining 95 per cent

are in the productive age group i.e., 15 to 60 years. Disaggregate level analysis also shows the same picture with negligible variations in the percentages.

Table-3 District wise Distribution of sample respondents according to Age in the Study area

District/Village	20-25	26-35	36-50	51-60	60 Above	Total
West Godavari	25 (12.50)	66 (33.00)	77 (38.50)	22 (11.00)	10 (5.00)	200 (100.00)
Visakhapatnam	29 (14.50)	74 (37.00)	67 (33.50)	19 (9.50)	11 (5.50)	200 (100.00)
Total	54 (13.50)	140 (35.00)	144 (36.00)	41 (10.25)	21 (5.25)	400 (100.00)

Note: Figures in the parenthesis indicate the percentages with their totals.

District wise distribution of sample households according to their family size in the study area has been presented in Table – 4. It is clear from the table that around 64 per cent of the sample households can be treated as small family, while around 30 per cent of the families can be treated as large families with the family size of more than five members and the remaining six per cent of the households have only one family member without any support in times of urgent needs. District wise analysis also reveals that in West Godavari District 70 per cent of the households are small families, 20 per cent are large families and the remaining 10 per cent of the household have only one member. In Visakhapatnam District 58 per cent are small families, 40 per cent are large families and the remaining 2 per cent are with only one member.

Table -4 District wise distributions of sample households according to their family size in the study area

District	1	2-4	5-7	8-10	Total
West Godavari	21 (10.50)	139 (69.50)	39 (19.50)	1 (0.50)	200 (100.00)
Visakhapatnam	4 (2.00)	116 (58.00)	72 (36.00)	8 (4.00)	200 (100.00)
Total	25 (6.25)	255 (63.75)	111 (27.75)	9 (2.25)	400 (100.00)

Note: Figures in the parenthesis indicate the percentage with their totals.

District wise distribution of sample respondents according to the various levels of literacy in the study area has been presented in Table – 5. It can be observed from the table that around 60 per cent of the sample respondents are illiterates without any informal education also. Out of the remaining 40 per cent, around 12 per cent are having primary level education, around 17 per cent are secondary level education and around 11 per cent are higher level education. With slight variations in percentages, a more or less similar picture can be seen from disaggregate level analysis also. With regard to the

literacy rate, the total study area recorded 39.5 per cent, whereas West Godavari and Visakhapatnam Districts registered 37.50 and 41.50 per cent respectively.

Table –5 District wise Distribution of sample respondents according to various levels of literacy in the study area

District	Primary	Secondary	Higher	Illiterate	Total	Literacy rate
West Godavari	23 (11.50)	37 (18.50)	15 (7.50)	125 (62.50)	200 (100.00)	37.50
Visakhapatnam	23 (11.50)	30 (15.00)	30 (15.00)	117 (58.50)	200 (100.00)	41.50
Total	46 (11.50)	67 (16.75)	45 (11.25)	242 (60.50)	400 (100.00)	39.50

Note: Figures in the parenthesis indicate the percentage with their totals.

The particulars pertaining to the District wise and Gender wise distribution of family members of the sample households according to various levels of literacy have been presented in Table –6. It can be seen from the table that the percentage of literates to total population is 55 per cent in the study area out of which 63.03 per cent are males and 47.48 per cent are females. The percentage of literates to total population is 56.61 and 53.81 per cent for West Godavari and Visakhapatnam respectively. With respect to gender wise analysis, 65.74 and 48.64 per cent for West Godavari District and 61.15 and 46.57 per cent for Visakhapatnam District.

Table -6 District wise and Gender wise distribution of family members of the sample households according to various levels of literacy

District	West Godavari			Visakhapatnam			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Primary level	57 (19.72)	49 (14.80)	106 (17.09)	91 (21.82)	75 (17.73)	166 (19.76)	148 (20.96)	124 (16.45)	272 (18.63)
Secondary level	91 (31.49)	78 (23.56)	169 (27.26)	91 (21.82)	76 (17.97)	167 (19.88)	182 (25.78)	154 (20.42)	336 (23.01)
Higher level	42 (14.53)	34 (10.27)	76 (12.26)	73 (17.51)	46 (10.87)	119 (14.17)	115 (16.29)	80 (10.61)	195 (13.36)
Total literates	190 (65.74)	161 (48.64)	351 (56.61)	255 (61.15)	197 (46.57)	452 (53.81)	445 (63.03)	358 (47.48)	803 (55.00)
Total illiterates	99 (34.26)	170 (51.36)	269 (43.39)	162 (38.85)	226 (53.43)	388 (46.19)	261 (36.97)	396 (52.52)	657 (45.00)
Total(literates+ illiterates)	289 (100.00)	331 (100.00)	620 (100.00)	417 (100.00)	423 (100.00)	840 (100.00)	706 (100.00)	754 (100.00)	1460 (100.00)

Note: 0-6 year's population is not included in the literacy levels.

Note: Figures in the parenthesis indicate the percentage with their totals.

District wise and gender wise distribution of family members of the sample households according to literacy rates has been presented in Table – 7. It is evident from the table that the total literacy rate in the study area is 55 per cent. It is also evident from the table that the male literacy rate (around 63 per cent) is higher than the female literacy rate (around 47 per cent) in the study area. District wise analysis reveals that the total literacy rate in West Godavari District is around 57 per cent, whereas in

Visakhapatnam, it is around 54 per cent. In West Godavari and Visakhapatnam Districts also the male literacy rate is higher (around 66 per cent and 61 per cent respectively) than that of female literacy rate (around 49 per cent and 47 per cent respectively).

Table -7 District wise and gender wise distribution of the family members of the sample respondents according to the Literacy rates in the study area

Gender/district	West Godavari	Visakhapatnam	Total
Male	65.74	61.15	63.03
Female	48.64	46.57	47.48
Total	56.61	53.80	55.00

Note: Figures in the parenthesis indicate the percentage with their totals.

District wise distribution of sample households according to their response to whether they are sending their 6-11 years aged children to schools has been presented in Table – 8. It is evident from the table that around 35 per cent of the sample respondents have reported that they are sending their 6 to 11 children to schools while two per cent have reported that they are not able to send their children to school and the remaining 65 per cent of the sample respondents have no 6 to 11 year aged children.

In West Godavari District, around 25 per cent of the sample respondents have reported that they are sending their 6 to 11 children to schools while one per cent has reported that they are not able to send their children to school and the remaining 74 per cent of the sample respondents have no 6 to 11 year aged children. In Visakhapatnam District, around 40 per cent of the sample respondents have reported that they are sending their 6 to 11 children to schools while 3 per cent have reported that they are not able to send their children to school and the remaining 57 per cent of the sample respondents have no 6 to 11 year aged children. District wise distribution of sample households according to their perception on Reasons for not able to send their children to school has been presented in Table –9. It can be seen from the table that out of the two per cent of the sample households who are not able to send their 6 to 11 years children to schools have opined that Household works and financial problems are the reasons for the situation.

Table-8 District wise distribution of sample households according to their response to whether they are sending their 6-11 years aged children to schools

District	Yes	No	NA	Total
West Godavari	51 (25.50)	2 (1.00)	147 (73.50)	200 (100.00)
Visakhapatnam	80	6	114	200

	(40.00)	(3.00)	(57.00)	(100.00)
Total	131 (32.75)	8 (2.00)	261 (65.25)	400 (100.00)

Note: Figures in the parenthesis indicate the percentage with their totals.

Table-9 District wise distribution of sample households according to their perception on Reasons for not able to send their children to school

District	Household work	Finance	NA	Total
West Godavari	0 (0.00)	2 (1.00)	198 (99.00)	200 (100.00)
Visakhapatnam	2 (1.00)	4 (2.00)	194 (97.00)	200 (100.00)
Total	2 (0.50)	6 (1.50)	392 (98.00)	400 (100.00)

Note: Figures in the parenthesis indicate the percentage with their totals.

Table –10 furnishes the particulars pertaining to the District wise distribution of sample households according to the Distance to various governmental educational institutions from their house in Kms. It can be observed from the table that 50 per cent of the sample households have a primary school within one kilo meter from their house, 25 per cent have to travel 2 Kms and the 25 have to travel 4 Kms. In West Godavari District, the distance between house and primary school is 2 Kms for 50 per cent of the households and 4 for the remaining 50 per cent of the households. In Visakhapatnam, all the sample households have a primary school within one kilometer distance.

It can also be observed from the table that 25 per cent of the sample households have a secondary school within one km from their house, whereas another 25 need to travel 5 Kms, another 25 per cent need to travel 6 Kms and the another 25 per cent need to travel 12 Kms for secondary school. In West Godavari District, 50 per cent need to travel 5 Kms and 50 per cent need to travel 6 Kms. In Visakhapatnam District, 50 per cent of the sample households have secondary school within one km whereas the remaining 50 per cent need to travel 12 Kms for secondary school. With regard to Junior College, same picture can be found.

Table-10 District wise distribution of sample households according to the Distance to various governmental educational institutions from their house

(in Kms)

	West Godavari	Visakhapatnam	Total
Primary school			
0-1	0 (0.00)	200 (100.00)	200 (50.00)
2	100 (50.00)	0 (0.00)	100 (25.00)
4	100 (50.00)	0 (0.00)	100 (25.00)

Total	200 (100.00)	200 (100.00)	400 (100.00)
Secondary school			
0-1	0 (0.00)	100 (50.00)	100 (25.00)
5	100 (50.00)	0 (0.00)	100 (25.00)
6	100 (50.00)	0 (0.00)	100 (25.00)
12	0 (0.00)	100 (50.00)	100 (25.00)
Total	200 (100.00)	200 (100.00)	400 (100.00)
Junior college			
0-1	0 (0.00)	100 (50.00)	100 (25.00)
5	100 (50.00)	0 (0.00)	100 (25.00)
12	0 (0.00)	100 (50.00)	100 (25.00)
17	100 (50.00)	0 (0.00)	100 (25.00)
Total	200 (100.00)	200 (100.00)	400 (100.00)

Note: Figures in the parenthesis indicate the percentage with their totals.

Table-11 shows about the 0 to 6 years children size in the study area. It can be observe that, nearby 90 per cent families in West Godavari district and 95 per cent families in Visakhapatnam have no male & female children between the age group of 0 to 6 years. Overall 92 and 94 per cent families have no male and female children between the ages of 0 to 6 years respectively. In West Godavari 6 per cent families have 1 male child and 5 per cent families have 1 female child. In Visakhapatnam 2 per cent families have 1 male child and 3 per cent families have 1 female child.

Table -11 0 to 6 years children size by sex wise in the study area

Sex	West Godavari		Visakhapatnam		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Zero	177 (88.50)	185 (92.50)	190 (95.00)	191 (95.50)	367 (91.75)	376 (94.00)
1	12 (6.00)	10 (5.00)	4 (2.00)	6 (3.00)	16 (4.00)	16 (4.00)
2	8 (4.00)	4 (1.50)	4 (2.00)	3 (1.50)	12 (3.00)	7 (1.750)
3	3 (1.50)	1 (0.50)	2 (1.00)	0 (0.00)	5 (1.25)	1 (0.25)
Total	200 (100.00)	200 (100.00)	200 (100.00)	200 (100.00)	400 (100.00)	400 (100.00)

Note: Figures in the parenthesis indicate the percentage with their totals.

3 Conclusions

It can be found that in the study area most of the respondents belong to Bhagatha tribe (42.50 per cent) and followed by Koya Dora (37.50 per cent), Sukhali (12.75 per cent) and remaining households are Valmiki, Kondhu and Kondakapu. It is clearly pragmatic that in the study area 80 per cent of the respondents are male headed that means the dominance of males is predominant. The male headed families comparatively are higher in Visakhapatnam district with 85 per cent and where as in the matter of West Godavari it is only 75 per cent. The size of the family in the Study area is ideal and 69.50 per cent from West Godavari and 58 per cent from Visakhapatnam households are in the ideal size family of 2-4. Only 30 per cent of the families are in the range of 5 and above. This is the reason for that the sample population are separated from joint families after their marriages immediately. Most of the population in the study area is belong to productive age group with 70 per cent. It is similar for both the districts. The literacy levels of the respondents in the study area are more in the Visakhapatnam than the West Godavari district and the literacy rate to total population is more in West Godavari than in Visakhapatnam District with 56.61 per cent and 53.80 per cent respectively in both districts. It is practical that the female literacy in the study area is lower than the male literacy to the total sample households and as well as to both districts population. From the observation of the Study the dropout rates in the age group of 6-11years of sample households is almost negligible. The size of 0-6 year's population is very low in the both districts with 8.55 per cent in West Godavari and 3.45 per cent in Visakhapatnam respectively to their total populations. Availability of educational facilities has more favourable in Visakhapatnam than in West Godavari district.

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