



## **SOCIO – ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE KOYA SCHEDULED TRIBES IN TELANGANA (With Special reference to Khammam District)**

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### **Abstract**

*One of the numerous diverse ethnic groupings that make up the Indian population is the tribes. While they have always been regarded as the smallest group within Indian society, they continue to face disadvantages. Cultural and geographical exclusion, a lack of adequate health centers, an inability to meet basic needs, a loss of influence over materials and resources, a lack of training and education, inadequate nutrition, a shortage of affordable housing poor clean drinking water and sanitation, vulnerability to shocks, violence, and crime, a lack of access to adequate infrastructure facilities and technologies, and a lack of political freedom and voice are all things that continue to disadvantage people. These difficulties could make their lives challenging. The government is making an effort to help the tribes due to these problems by implementing various social programmes. The study's goal was to find out more about the socioeconomic circumstances of the tribal residents of the Khammam district. A set of structured questionnaires were used to gather primary data in order to understand their sociocultural status. Conversations with knowledgeable and perceptive tribe elders were place, and background information was gleaned through reading tribal magazine articles. The tribal's socioeconomic status has improved daily, according to the study's conclusions. Although there are several problems in the region, including poor communication, unemployment, power generation, social security, and clean drinking water, the basic health and education are generally considered to be "sufficient," and the socio-cultural ties amongst the tribes are also quite strong.*

**Keywords:** *Koya, Scheduled Tribes, Socio – Economic Status, khammam District.*

### **1. Introduction**

India is a multicultural nation with diverse caste systems, religions, cultures, and customs. India. Even in India, each state has its own customs and culture. It is important to underline that tribes are among them. One such team. Due to the existence of these tribes, India receives unique flavours and actual riches. The term "Adivasis," which literally translates to "Indian People" or "Original People of a Given Area," is also used to refer to the indigenous people of India. Many people live in the northeastern states of Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Economic expansion is being made possible by social change. Due to a variety of issues, including geographic and cultural isolation, subpar sanitary facilities, a lack of control over resources and properties, a lack of education and power, malnutrition, shelter, a lack of access to water and sanitation, shock vulnerability, violence and crime, a lack of access to housing, etc., the tribes frequently struggle with their socioeconomic development. Tribes in the state of Telangana are incredibly diverse in terms of its cultures, which span all eras of human development. It still has Gonds, Andhs, and Bhils, Koyas, and Konda Reddis who are inclined to engage in shifting cultivation, as well as Chenchus who are as primitive as those who lived in the Stone Age. They can be found primarily in the highlands of the Khammam, Karimnagar, Warangal, and Khammam districts, as well as in the Mannanur district's Nallamala Plateaux and the Mahaboobnagar district's Farahabad. Women from the Yerukala tribe engage in the age-old profession of fortune telling. At numerous festivals, celebrations, and fairs, pradhans in the Khammam district read mythology, folktales, and songs about their gods and goddesses in exchange for payment in cash or in-kind.



## 2. Social Status of the Koya in Telangana

The findings of a study on the socioeconomic advancement of aboriginal tribes in Telangana's Khammam district revealed that the majority of survey participants were illiterate, had nuclear families, and owned their own homes. Farmers made up the majority of the respondents, then agricultural laborers. They used a mono cropping plan since they lacked the knowledge of contemporary farming techniques. The respondents received financial support and modern inputs from Integrated Tribal Development Agency. The majority (87%) of people had monthly incomes of less than 1500 rupees, and they spent the money primarily on food. The findings revealed a substantial correlation between tribals' standard of life and government policies and programmes. The literacy rate in the study region is 72%, according to a case study on the socioeconomic conditions of Scheduled Tribes in a few villages in Telangana State's Khammam District. The Koya community had the lowest literacy rate, while the Lambada community had the highest. In terms of income levels, the Koya community had the lowest and the Lambada community had the highest. The Lambada community in the study region was the most developed of the five sub-caste groupings. More employment possibilities and welfare programmes should be offered, according to the study's suggestions, in order to improve the wellbeing of indigenous populations.

## 3. Economic aid programmes

The Addivasi Co-operative Corporation (GCC) buys minor forest produce (MFP) and agricultural products from tribal people at fair prices, organises public distribution in distant tribal areas, and gives ST farmers seasonally available agricultural loans. As there are mines and minerals available in Telangana State, the Telangana State Tribal Mining Company Limited (TRIMCO) was founded to engage in mining activities with the active participation of tribal mining cooperative societies. The Telangana Scheduled Tribal Cooperative Finance Corporation Limited (TRICOR) has been divided into two distinct operational units as a result of the State Reorganization Act of 2014. Thus, Telangana State Scheduled Tribal Cooperative Finance Corporation (TRICOR) and Telangana Scheduled Tribal Cooperative Finance Corporation Limited (TRICOR) are for the newly constituted state of Telangana and the remaining state of Telangana, respectively.

## 4. Economic development Schemes

**Kalyana Lakshmi:** The "Kalyana Lakshmi" scheme, which provides financial support of Rs. 51,000 to every ST unmarried girl of 18 years and older if her parents' income does not exceed Rs. 2 lakh per year at the time of marriage, aims to ease financial hardship in the homes of Scheduled Tribes.

**KomaramBheem memorial:** The government approved the construction of KomramBheem Smriti Chihanam and the development of Jodeghat village as a Tribal Cultural Hub and Tourism Center, at an outlay of 50 Crores, in honour of the valiant Gond tribal leader who fought against the Nizams under the slogan "Jal, Jameen, Jungal."

**Road Building Program of NABARD:** The goal of the programme is to establish road connectivity in tribal communities through financial support from NABARD.

**Building Go-downs and Storage Points:** This plan aims to give tribal residents access to Godowns and Storage Points for their daily food needs.

**The Medaram Jathara programme:** All infrastructure projects necessary for the conduct of the largest tribal festival, SammakkaSaralammaJathara, which is held every two years in the hamlet of Medaram in the Warangal District, will be undertaken under this programme.



## 5. Socio-Economic Status of the Tribal Communities

According to the study's findings, the majority of respondents was illiterate, followed the nuclear family structure, and owned their own dwellings in a study on the socio-economic status of primitive tribes in Telangana's Khammam district. Farmers made up the large majority of individuals who responded, followed by agricultural labourers. They had little idea of modern agricultural methods; therefore they relied on a single planting design. Both the contemporary inputs and the financial assistance were obtained by the respondents through the Integrated Tribal Development Agency. The bulk of people, or 87 percent, earns less than 1,500 rupees each month, with the majority of that amount going for food. The results showed a strong correlation between the quality of life enjoyed by indigenous people and the policies and programmes carried out by the government.

According to a case study on the socioeconomic conditions of Scheduled Tribes in particular villages in the Khammam District of Telangana State, literacy was found to be at a rate of 72% in the area under consideration. The Koya community had the lowest reported literacy rate, while the Lambada village had the highest. The Koya group claimed the lowest income levels, whilst the Lambada community reported the highest income levels. Of the five sub-caste groupings discovered in the area under study, the Lambada community had the highest development. The research's findings prompted a variety of recommendations, the most among which was expanding the amount of social and economic programmes available to indigenous populations.

The majority of the sample homes in the area were run by males who were either farmers or agricultural labourers, according to the findings of a study performed in the Khammam District of the Telangana state that aimed to evaluate the socio-economic situation of scheduled tribes. Farmers typically made between 6,000 and 10,000 rupees a year, whereas labourers typically made less than that. There were fewer children of each gender born in this civilization, and households clearly preferred having sons. They tried to get loans, but the financial institutions took advantage of their lack of other revenue sources and charged them significantly higher interest rates (3 per cent). In order to promote greater financial stability among such groups, the researchers recommended that the government enhance the banking services offered to the scheduled tribes and give them access to more advanced technologies.

The socioeconomic circumstances of the scheduled tribes residing in the Telangana region's khammam were examined by researchers. The majority of the families in the population were from the Koya tribes, and more than 70% of those in the sample population were illiterate. The bulk of individuals made their living mostly from agriculture, and the typical household yearly income was less than Rs. 10,000. The annual expenditure pattern placed the cost of food first, followed by the cost of paying interest on loans and the cost of medical expenses. The majority of the study's households lacked any substantial household assets. Approximately 37% of the sample's landowners did not actually own ownership rights. Utilizing private money lenders helped more than 60% of people satisfy their credit standards. Therefore, it is essential to provide education to the scheduled tribes more priority because it may provide them with motivation for their future life.

There have been a number of initiatives launched with the intention of improving the living conditions of the tribal people, but the progress has not been satisfactory, according to the findings of a study that examined the socioeconomic and health conditions of the Yandi tribes and other tribes that live in the jungle in the north coastal districts of Telangana. The reason for this is because forests are vanishing at an alarmingly quick rate; they can no longer produce the food that forest people require through the long-practiced hunting and gathering methods. They are largely dependent on the agricultural sector,



working as cultivators or farm labourers. Despite possessing a wealth of conventional knowledge regarding how to keep healthy, they frequently go without food and lack access to education. They thus have appallingly poor scores on all health metrics. Forests play a significant role in the economic development of the forest-dwelling tribes of Telangana since they provide food (in the form of tubers, roots, leaves, fruits, and the flesh of animals and birds) and medication (in the form of medicinal herbs) for the treatment of illness. Wild animal hides, horns, and skins, as well as other minor forest products, are frequently used for commercial purposes. This agricultural forest economy is, nevertheless, vulnerable to the forces of nature. Due to the hard seasonal conditions, rocky terrain, low soil, freak nature, lack of year-round water supplies, predatory birds and animals, and the parasitic hold of money lenders and plains sowcars, they are compelled to live in a state of perpetual poverty.

### Conclusion

The populace of the Tribe is the most economically excluded and backward tribe in the State of Telangana and the entire world. These civilizations lack economic, social, and political mobility despite having certain constitutional safeguards. Similar to Scheduled Castes and other Backward Castes, Scheduled Tribes too live in tough environments but have made some progress in being protected from unfair government laws. The Indian Constitutions, among other things, guarantee the dignity of every person and social and economic fairness, as well as equality of status and opportunity. The India Constitution has been increasing with various provisions for calendar castes and calendar tribes in order to conserve and enhance its cultural, social, educational, and fundamental freedoms and to integrate these into the mainstream of India. Telangana's government makes significant efforts to enhance tribal living.

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