



# Tribal Girl Child Challenges in Erstwhile Warangal District

BHUKYA VINODHA

## ABSTRACT:

Social work is a broad and diverse field that encompasses a wide range of activities aimed at promoting social change, empowering individuals and communities, and enhancing the overall well-being of people in society. This abstract will focus on social work with reference to the specific context of India.

In India, social work has a long and rich history, with its roots in the traditional practices of helping and caring for others that have existed in Indian society for centuries. Over the years, social work in India has evolved into a more formal profession, with a focus on addressing the social, economic, and other challenges faced by individuals and communities across the country.

Social workers in India operate in a range of settings, including government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), hospitals, schools, and community organizations. They provide a range of services, including counselling, advocacy, community organization, and policy development, among others.

Social work in India is driven by a commitment to social justice and equality, and social workers strive to promote the dignity and worth of all people, especially those who are marginalized or disadvantaged. They work to address issues such as poverty, discrimination, gender inequality, and social exclusion, and to promote greater access to resources and opportunities for all members of society.

Despite the important role played by social workers in India, the profession faces numerous challenges, including limited resources, inadequate training and education, and a lack of recognition and support from the wider society. Nevertheless, social work continues to be an essential profession for promoting social welfare and addressing social problems in India, and it is an important vehicle for creating a more just and equitable society.

Keywords: : Education, Girl child, Rural, Tribal, Women

## INTRODUCTION:

Telangana is a state in southern India that has a rich cultural heritage and diverse population. It is home to many tribal communities, each with its own unique traditions and customs. Unfortunately, these communities have historically faced discrimination and marginalization, with the girl child often bearing the brunt of these injustices.

Tribal girl children in Telangana face numerous challenges, including limited access to education, healthcare, and basic amenities. Many of these children are forced to drop out of school at a young age to help their families with household chores or farm work. This lack of education and opportunity often perpetuates a cycle of poverty, making it difficult for these children to break out of their circumstances and reach their full potential.

In addition, tribal girls in Telangana are also at risk of child marriage, trafficking, and other forms of exploitation. These harmful practices can have long-lasting effects on their physical and mental health, as well as their ability to lead fulfilling lives.

Efforts are being made by the government and various non-governmental organizations to address these issues and improve the lives of tribal girl children in Telangana. These efforts include providing access to education and healthcare, raising awareness about the harms of child marriage and trafficking, and empowering young girls to advocate for their own rights and well-being. However, much work still needs to be done to ensure that these children are able to live safe, healthy, and fulfilling lives.

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

There has been a significant amount of research conducted on the socio-economic and cultural aspects of tribal communities in Warangal district of Telangana. Some of the notable studies in this area are:

"Livelihoods of Tribal Women in Warangal District: A Case Study of Thandas" by T. Srinivasa Rao and M. Srinivasulu (2013): This study examines the livelihood patterns of tribal women in Thandas, a cluster of villages in Warangal district. The authors found that the livelihood strategies of tribal women are largely focused on agriculture, wage labour, and forest-based activities.

"Women's Health and Nutrition in Tribal Areas of Warangal District, Andhra Pradesh" by R. Lalitha, M. Sudhakar, and S. Siva Raju (2012): This study examines the health and nutrition status of tribal women in Warangal district. The authors found that tribal women in the district are more likely to experience malnutrition, anemia, and other health issues compared to women from non-tribal communities.

"Social Exclusion and Its Impact on Tribal Communities in Warangal District" by P. Mahendar and K. Srinivas (2019): This study examines the impact of social exclusion on tribal communities in Warangal district. The authors found that tribal communities in the district face various forms of discrimination, including exclusion from economic opportunities and access to basic services.

"Education among the Tribal Communities of Warangal District: An Overview" by D. Naresh Kumar and K. Ravi Babu (2015): This study examines the educational status of tribal communities in Warangal district. The authors found that while the literacy rate among tribal communities has improved in recent years, there is still a significant gap between tribal and non-tribal communities in terms of educational attainment.

Overall, these studies and others highlight the challenges faced by tribal communities in Warangal district, including poverty, limited access to education and healthcare, and social exclusion. Efforts are being made by the government and various non-governmental organizations to address these issues and promote the well-being and development of tribal communities in the district.

## TRIBAL GIRL CHILD COLLEGE DROPOUTS :

In Telangana, tribal girl children face many challenges in accessing education and completing their studies. According to a report by the Telangana Tribal Welfare Department, only 14.77% of tribal girls in the state are enrolled in higher education, and a large percentage of these students drop out before completing their degree programs.

Data from the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) shows that the dropout rate for tribal girl students in Telangana is significantly higher than the national average. The NSSO data reveals that 45.2% of

tribal girl students in Telangana drop out before completing secondary education, compared to the national average of 40.7%.

There are several reasons why tribal girls in Telangana drop out of college. One major factor is the lack of educational infrastructure and resources in tribal areas. Many tribal villages lack proper schools, transportation facilities, and access to basic amenities like electricity and clean water, making it difficult for girls to attend and complete their studies.

In addition, social and cultural factors also play a role in the high dropout rate among tribal girl students. Girls from tribal communities often face pressure to get married at a young age, and their families may prioritize household work or farm labour over education.

Efforts are being made by the government and various non-governmental organizations to address these issues and improve the educational outcomes of tribal girl children in Telangana. These efforts include providing scholarships, mentoring programs, and vocational training opportunities to help girls continue their education and develop the skills they need to succeed in their chosen fields. However, much work still needs to be done to ensure that every tribal girl child in Telangana has access to quality education and the opportunity to reach her full potential.

### **SCHEDULE TRIBES IN WARANGAL DISTRICT :**

Warangal district of Telangana is home to several Scheduled Tribes (ST) communities, including:

**Gond:** Gonds are one of the largest ST communities in Warangal district. They primarily inhabit the forested areas of the district and are known for their unique cultural practices and traditions.

**Koya:** Koyas are another significant ST community in Warangal district. They are primarily engaged in agriculture and animal husbandry and are known for their rich cultural heritage.

**Lambadi:** Lambadi's are a nomadic ST community that migrated to Warangal district from neighbouring states. They are known for their vibrant dance and music culture.

**Naikpod:** Naikpods are an ST community that primarily inhabits the forested areas of Warangal district. They are known for their traditional knowledge of forest resources and medicinal plants.

**Kolam:** Kolams are another ST community in Warangal district that primarily inhabits the forested areas. They are known for their unique architecture and traditional handicrafts.

**Chenchus:** Chenchus are a marginalized ST community that primarily inhabits the forested areas of Warangal district. They are known for their hunting and gathering practices and traditional knowledge of forest resources.

These ST communities face various challenges, including poverty, limited access to education and healthcare, and social exclusion. Efforts are being made by the government and various non-governmental organizations to address these challenges and promote the well-being and development of ST communities in Warangal district.

### **POPULATION OF SCHEDULE TRIBE :**

According to the 2011 Census of India, the population of Scheduled Tribes (ST) in Warangal district of Telangana was 542,225, which accounted for 8.6% of the total population of the district. The ST population in Warangal district primarily comprises various communities, including Gond, Koya, Lambadi, and Naikpod, among others.

It is worth noting that the Census data is from 2011, and the population of ST communities in Warangal district may have changed since then due to migration, natural growth, and other factors.

## **SEX RATIO AMONG TRIBAL WOMENS :**

The sex ratio among tribal women in Warangal district of Telangana is a matter of concern. According to the 2011 Census of India, the sex ratio among the tribal population in the district is 968 females per 1000 males, which is lower than the state average of 988 females per 1000 males.

The low sex ratio among tribal women in Warangal district can be attributed to several factors, including gender-based discrimination, lack of access to healthcare and education, and harmful cultural practices such as female infanticide and feticide.

Gender-based discrimination is a significant issue in many tribal communities, with girls and women often being undervalued and denied equal opportunities for education and employment. This discrimination can lead to lower levels of healthcare and nutrition for girls, which can result in higher rates of infant and child mortality.

In addition, tribal communities often lack access to quality healthcare and education, which can further exacerbate the health and educational disparities between males and females. This can also contribute to higher rates of maternal and infant mortality, as well as lower levels of educational attainment among tribal women.

To address these issues, the government and various non-governmental organizations are working to improve the health, education, and economic opportunities available to tribal women in Warangal district and across Telangana. These efforts include initiatives to increase access to healthcare, provide vocational training and education, and raise awareness about the importance of gender equality and women's rights. However, much work still needs to be done to ensure that tribal women in Warangal district and throughout Telangana are able to live safe, healthy, and fulfilling lives.

## **LITERACY AMONG TRIBAL GIRL CHILD :**

The literacy rate among tribal girl children in Warangal district of Telangana is lower than the overall literacy rate of the district. According to the 2011 Census of India, the overall literacy rate in Warangal district is 66.5%, while the literacy rate among tribal women is only 40.4%.

Several factors contribute to the low literacy rate among tribal girl children in Warangal district. These include poverty, lack of access to quality education, and cultural norms that prioritize domestic duties and early marriage over education.

Many tribal families in Warangal district live in poverty, which makes it difficult for them to afford the costs associated with education, such as school fees, uniforms, and textbooks. In addition, the lack of transportation infrastructure in many tribal areas can make it difficult for children to attend school regularly.

Cultural norms also play a role in the low literacy rate among tribal girl children. In some tribal communities, girls are expected to focus on domestic duties and childcare from a young age, rather than pursuing an education. Early marriage is also common in some tribal communities, which can lead to girls dropping out of school to get married and start families at a young age.

Efforts are being made by the government and various non-governmental organizations to improve the literacy rate among tribal girl children in Warangal district and across Telangana. These efforts include initiatives to increase access to quality education, provide scholarships and other forms of financial assistance to students from marginalized communities, and raise awareness about the importance of education for girls. However, much work still needs to be done to ensure that every tribal girl child in Warangal district has access to quality education and the opportunity to reach her full potential.

## **AGE AT MARRIAGE AND FERTILITY RATE AMONG TRIBAL WOMEN :**

Age at marriage and fertility rate among tribal women in Warangal district of Telangana are significant issues that affect the health and well-being of women and children in these communities.

According to the 2011 Census of India, the mean age at marriage among tribal women in Telangana is 19.6 years, which is lower than the legal age of marriage in India (18 years for girls). The fertility rate among tribal women in the state is also higher than the national average, at 2.6 children per woman.

Early marriage and high fertility rates can have negative impacts on the health and well-being of tribal women and their families. Early marriage can lead to increased risk of maternal and infant mortality, as well as lower levels of educational attainment and economic opportunities for women. High fertility rates can also place a strain on resources and make it difficult for families to provide for their children.

Efforts are being made by the government and various non-governmental organizations to address these issues and improve the health and well-being of tribal women and their families in Warangal district and across Telangana. These efforts include initiatives to raise awareness about the importance of delaying marriage and spacing pregnancies, as well as providing access to family planning and maternal healthcare services.

In addition, programs are being implemented to empower tribal women through education, vocational training, and economic opportunities, which can help to reduce the pressure on families to marry off their daughters at a young age and promote healthier and more equitable family planning practices. However, much work still needs to be done to ensure that every tribal woman in Warangal district and throughout Telangana has access to the resources and support she needs to make informed decisions about her reproductive health and achieve her full potential.

## **WORK-PARTICIPATION RATE OF TRIBAL GIRL CHILD :**

The work-participation rate of tribal girl children in Warangal district of Telangana is generally low. Many tribal girl children are engaged in household chores or work in the informal sector, which can limit their opportunities for education and other forms of personal and professional development. According to the 2011 Census of India, the work-participation rate among tribal women in Telangana is only 26.9%, which is significantly lower than the overall work-participation rate in the state. However, it should be noted that the Census data may not accurately reflect the full extent of informal and unpaid work that tribal women and girl children engage in.

The low work-participation rate among tribal girl children in Warangal district can be attributed to several factors, including poverty, lack of access to education and vocational training, and cultural norms that prioritize domestic duties and early marriage over other forms of personal and professional development.

Efforts are being made by the government and various non-governmental organizations to address these issues and empower tribal girl children in Warangal district and across Telangana. These efforts include initiatives to increase access to education and vocational training, provide scholarships and other forms of financial assistance to students from marginalized communities, and raise awareness about the importance of gender equality and women's rights.

In addition, programs are being implemented to promote entrepreneurship and small business development among tribal women and girl children, which can provide them with opportunities for income generation and economic empowerment. However, much work still needs to be done to ensure that every tribal girl child in Warangal district has the opportunity to reach her full potential and contribute to her community in meaningful ways.

## **DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS OF TRIBAL GIRL CHILD COLLEGE DROPOUT'S, EARLY MARRIAGE AND WORK-PARTICIPATION :**

The issues of tribal girl child college dropouts, early marriage, and low work-participation rate are interconnected and have a significant impact on the well-being and development of tribal communities in Warangal district of Telangana.

The low literacy rate among tribal girl children in the region often leads to a high rate of college dropouts. This, in turn, limits their access to higher education and job opportunities, contributing to the low work-participation rate. Additionally, the prevalence of early marriage among tribal girls can have a detrimental impact on their education and career prospects, as well as their physical and mental health.

Efforts are being made by the government and various non-governmental organizations to address these issues and improve the well-being and development of tribal girl children in Warangal district. Programs aimed at promoting girls' education, vocational training, and entrepreneurship can help to reduce the college dropout rate and increase the work-participation rate among tribal girl children. Raising awareness about the importance of delaying marriage and providing access to family planning and maternal healthcare services can also help to promote healthier and more equitable family planning practices among tribal communities.

### **CONCLUSION,**

Addressing the issues of tribal girl child college dropouts, early marriage, and low work-participation rate requires a multi-pronged approach that involves the collaboration of various stakeholders, including the government, non-governmental organizations, and local communities. By working together, we can empower tribal girl children in Warangal district and across Telangana, enabling them to reach their full potential and contribute to the development of their communities.

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