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## “ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF THE IRULIGA TRIBAL COMMUNITY IN THE RAMANAGARA DISTRICT, KARNATAKA STATE”

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### Abstract:

Iruliga is one of the tribal communities of Karnataka. Iruliga are living in the area of the Nilgiri Mountains, in the states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Kerala. A Scheduled Tribe, their population in Karnataka is estimated at 25,000 people. The populations of Iruliga civilization are called Irular, and speak Irula, which belongs to the Dravidian family. Irular means "dark people" in Tamil and Malayalam, from the root word viral, meaning "darkness", about their dark skin complexion. The tribe numbers 1,89,621 in a significant region of Tamil Nadu and 23,721 in Kerala. This paper focuses on the economic status of the Iruliga tribal community of the Ramangara District of Karnataka.

**Keywords:** Iruliga, Irula, Ramanagara, Economic status, Schedules Tribe, Traditional activities.

### Introduction:

Iruliga Tribal people are very different in their culture and traditional activities in the country as well as the state. There are kinds of economic activities like catching snakes, rat catching, honey collection, forest produce activities, etc. Traditionally, the foremost occupation of the Iruliga Tribal people has been snake, rat-catching and honey collection in the areas. They also work as laborers coolies in the fields of the property owners during the sowing and harvesting seasons or in the rice mills, fish rearing, goat and sheep rearing, and cattle farming is also a main livelihood activity. To combat this pest, Iruliga men people use a traditional earthen pot smoking method. Smoke is blown through their mouths, which leads to severe lung and heart problems.

When natives made inroads to their settlements, Iruliga Tribal people shifted their forest centers from one to another and in this process, cultivation too experienced transition. The major crops are Ragi, mustard, grains, and pulses with bamboo activity. There are Iruliga Tribal people property owners, who own 5 to 10 acres of land. However, due to a shortage of rains and lack of irrigation, the cultivation of grains is becoming less. They used to change the land of cultivation although they did not shift their houses and agricultural materials. That means they have some kind of shifting cultivation. Cattle production is another source of income. The main forest resources like honey, bamboo activity, frankincense, firewood, etc., are also being collected. In the previous, rice was consumed only during festivals and some days like family ceremonies (Birth and ear name celebration, marriage, etc.). Presently, as the government due to the lack of cultivation, rice has become their staple food. Some Iruliga Tribal people do not consume beef. However, meats of chicken, goat, pig and fish are favorites.

### **Objectives:**

1. To study the traditional culture and occupation of Ramanagara district of Karnataka.
2. To analyze the present socio-economic conditions of the Iruliga Tribal people in Ramanagara district.

### **Methodology:**

The study is mainly based on both primary and secondary sources of data. Primary collected from Household census, Participant observation, Interviews method, Case Study method, and Focus Group Discussion. secondary data collected from annual reports, experts committee reports, Integrated Tribal Development program office, Annual reports of the Government of Karnataka like Directorate Economics and Statistics, Ramanagara District Statistical Office Documents, Ramanagara ZillaPanchayat, Economic Survey of India and Karnataka and World Bank Reports; the articles published in the learned journals and the books written by authorities on the dairy sector.

The present study uses the simple random sampling technique to select the respondents from the Ramanagara district of Karnataka state. The size of the total sample is 100 respondents of the district.

### **Study area**

Ramanagara district is a study area of the present study. This district is one of the important districts in South Karnataka and it was divided from Bangalore Rural district in 2007. In the district, the headquarters is located at Ramanagar Taluk along with three taluks namely Channapatna, Kanakapura, and Magadi. Ramanagar Town is located along with Bengaluru - Mysuru State Highway 17 at a distance of 50 km from Bengaluru. The town is located about 622.80 meters above sea level and is receptive to an average rainfall of 931.58 mm annually. The area is around 3,556 km (1,373). Ramanagara district has 130 GramaPanchayats and

a total population of 10, 82,739 according to the census of 2011. This district has a more rural population and its economy depends more on the rural economy. Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 5.06 percent. The district has a population density of 303 inhabitants per square kilometer (780). The majority of the religions living in the district are Hindu is 88.60 percent and Muslim is 10.56 percent of the total population respectively. The Gross Domestic Product of Ramanagar is 4930.21 crores. The per capita is Rs.39472. Ramanagar has a sex ratio of 976 females for every 1000 males and a literacy rate of 69.20 percent.

## Result and discussion:

The details of the number of Iruliga Tribal Population sample respondents are presented in the below table. The research study includes four taluks of Ramanagara district. In the district, all the taluks have been selected for the field study based on the high concentration of people Iruliga Tribal Population. From each taluk, 25 sample respondents were selected based on a simple random sampling method.

**Table: 1 Total Number of Sample Respondents in the Study Area**

Name of Taluks	Number of Iruliga Tribal Population Sample Respondents
Channapatna	25
Kanakapura	25
Magadi	25
Ramanagara	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey

## Gender Classification of the Respondents

The Iruliga Tribal Population so many faces of poverty and livelihood problems is not a matter of male or female but it is about to how the people are solved these problems is very important factor.

**Table 2: Gender-wise Distribution of the Respondents**

Gender	No. of Respondents	Percent
Male	87	87
Female	13	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey

Table 2 shows the details of the gender-wise distribution of the sample respondents in the study area. Out of 100 sample respondents, the majority of respondents are male about 87 percent and female respondents are 13 percent in the district.

## Educational Status

Education is one of the most important elements of solving the poverty and livelihood problems where people can get the benefits provided by the government with the help of knowledge. It is nothing but knowledge without which man cannot develop his personality and family survival. Those people, who have an education, have good personality development. Therefore, education is a base for leading the standard of living and achievement. But here, in the area educated members engage in low levels of occupation/ working conditions. Therefore, those people are various problems faced by poverty and livelihood. In the following table (3) tells about the education details of the respondents in Ramanagara district.

**Table 3: Educational Status of the Respondents**

Qualification	No of Respondents	Percent
Illiterate	47	47
Literate	27	27
Primary	17	17
Secondary	9	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field Survey

From the above Table no 3 show the educational status of the sample respondents in the study area. Out of 100 respondents, the majority of the respondents 47 percent are uneducated and illiterate. Of the total respondents in the study area, the number of problems of poverty and livelihood is 47% illiterates. The next position of respondents that completed their knowledge is literate is 27%. Then, the respondents who have completed their education up to primary is only 17% and the remaining respondents completed their secondary level of education is only 09%. The reason for poor education development is poverty, livelihood, low level of work, depending on coolie, and socially they occupy very low status in the society. Therefore, they cannot give importance to education.

## Occupation of the Sample Respondents

The occupation of every individual is determined by capacity, life security, family maintenance, skill and efficiency. The level of occupation and income always go hand in hand. A good occupation always gives a good income level. Table 4 indicates the occupation details of sample respondents in Ramanagara district.

**Table 4: Occupational Status of the Respondents**

Occupational Status	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Daily Wages / Labours	54	54
Agriculture	31	31
Business	7	7

Others	8	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field Survey

Out of 100 samples, the majority of the respondents 54 percent are engaged in the daily wages in construction work and 31 percent are involved in agriculture activity in their village and other villages. 7 percent of Iruliga tribal are engaged in other work like Preparing Price of Chalk, Handloom Works, Preparing the Agarbathi Activities, and Caste Based Occupation and the remaining only 7 percent of respondents are involved in business activities in the area.

### **Annual Income of the Iruliga tribal population Respondents**

In this part detail of the annual income of the respondents is one of the important livelihood factors where it increases the standard of living level of the people. Table- 7 details of the annual income level of the Iruliga community in the field study area.

**Table 5: Annual Income Status of the Respondent**

<b>Family Size Income Level</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Below Rs.10,000	54	54
Rs.10,001 to 15,000	33	33
Rs.15,001 to 20,000	08	08
Rs.20,001 and above	05	05
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field Survey

Out of 100 respondents, the majority of the respondents 54 per cent belong to below Rs.10,000 among sample respondents. 33 percent belongs to Rs.10,001 to Rs.15,000 income level, 08 percent are in Rs.15,001 – 20,000 income level and the remaining only 05 percent are in the income level of Rs.20,001 and above. It is observed this study is very low in the annual income of the Iruliga tribal population community in the study area. Therefore, there is critical life of living place in their families.

### **Expenditure Pattern**

Expenditure pattern is also considered as an active variable, which determines the economic status as well as the living conditions of the respondents. The more they spend on their requirements the better will be their livelihood. In the field study, the expenditure of the respondents is classified into expenditure on essentials, expenditure on education and health care and expenditure on social activities. This is given in the Table- given below.

**Table 6: Expenditure Pattern of the Respondents**

Particulars	No of Respondents	Percent
Essentials commodities	60	60
Health care	20	20
Education	8	08
Social activities	12	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Source:** Field Study

From the above Table no 6, it is clear that the expenditure pattern of the respondents in the study area. Out of 100 samples of ITPs respondents, 60% of the respondents spent on purchasing essential commodities, 20% spent on Health care, 8% spent on education and the remaining 12% spent on social activities. It found that the majority of the respondents are spent on essential commodities like food, clothes, daily usage costs, etc.

### Health Conditions of the Iruliga tribal population Respondents

Health is a resource for everyday life, not the objective of living. Health is a positive concept emphasizing social and personal resources, as well as physical capacities. It is more precious than gold as if it is true in their daily life. A person who possesses good health may become rich socially, economically, and culturally, moreover, there are so many benefited to over all personality development. The study reveals the family factors, the members of the family want to establish good family status, society, economically, culturally, and ethically maintenance of good health of the members of the family is very important.

**Table 7: Types of Sufficient Treatment Facilities for Diseases**

SL. No	Health Treatments	No of Respondents	Percent
1	Government Hospitals	60	60
2	Private Hospitals	10	10
3	Traditional Medicine	15	15
4	Homeopathy	05	05
5	Ayurveda	10	10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field Survey.

Table no 7 shows the types of sufficient health facilities for diseases of the Iruliga tribal population respondents in the study area. Out of 100 respondents, 60 percent of the respondents have depended on government hospitals till today for health treatment, 10 percent are accessible to private hospitals, 15 percent and 10 percent depend on traditional medicine and Ayurvedic medicine respectively, and only 05 percent are homeopathy treatment facilities.

## Living Conditions of the Respondents

The respondents of Iruliga Tribal people are living in nature of residence in the study area. The concept of community can be seen through their housing conditions and they have basic requirements at home. Housing a condition indicates the nature of their individuality. The status of an individual can be assessed based on the nature of the house in which they live. If the individual possesses low-quality houses, normally we can understand that they are economically, and socially poor, poverty, livelihood, etc. One factor that can be observed easily is that a person who possesses economic requirements naturally can lead a very comfortable life. The nature of houses depends on their income. Income which indicates their status and nature of the houses. Many Iruliga tribal population communities do not have good facilities because they are very poor.

The reveal the different sources of houses of the Iruliga tribal respondents in Ramanagara district. Many housing schemes in the district like tribal sub plan, Indira AwasYojana, NGOs, and own constructed. The Iruliga tribal population is aware of the development schemes implemented by the State Government for their socio-economic and educational development only through the local Panchayat. Gradually, the sanctioned numbers of houses are increased due to the impact of new development schemes. The nature of houses includes thatched, tiled, and terraced, with two or three rooms. The respondents have got houses through the different sources of housing schemes.

Access to safe and clean water and sanitation facilities is a basic right of all people, including people with disabilities, the denial of which can have serious implications for their well-being. This study observed that the majority of people do not have sanitation facilities in their living place, because problems of financial and not providing government facilities to them. Therefore, the Iruliga tribal people are very critical situation in poverty and livelihood situation. out of 100 sample respondents, the majority of respondents 77 percent are not accessible for sanitation facilities in their living place, 7.67% are toilet facilities, 6% are drainage facilities, 5.67 percent are rooms in their houses and the remaining only 3.67 percent are accessible for bathroom facilities.

Out of 100 respondents, the majority of respondents 92.33 percent have drinking water facilities like hand pump water, bore well water, and tap water in their houses and the remaining only 7.67 percent have no accessibility drinking water near their house, so they have using the water of canals/ lake/ pond waters in their living places.

### Conclusion:

The present study observed that the majority of the Iruliga tribal people are living below the poverty line in the study area. Due to the high unemployment, they have a low economic standard of living. They are socially stigmatized as Iruliga tribal people due to a lack of access to formal education. Their standard of living is based on their culture. They follow traditional occupations to earn their livelihood and earn very little out of it. The Iruligas are socially deprived in the community due to their low socio-economic status.

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