



Tribal Communities In Telangana : A Study

Dr.Sagi Ravi kumar

ICSSR- Post Doctoral Fellow

PSR Telugu University

Hyderabad, Telangana

Abstract

A state in southern India called Telangana has a rich and varied cultural history. There are numerous tribes in the area, and they have long coexisted peacefully with the environment. These tribes have distinctive traditions that have been handed down through the generations. The Gond, Koya, Lambada, and Banjara and Yerukala are notable tribes in Telangana. There are numerous different tribal communities also there in Telangana, each tribe with its own distinctive culture, traditions, and way of life. The tribal communities are crucial to preserving and promoting the state's renowned rich cultural history. The present article deals with different tribal groups in Telangana and also its socio, economic and cultural conditions.

Key words: Southern India, Telangana, culture, traditions tribal communities,

Introduction

A state in southern India called Telangana has a rich and varied cultural history. There are numerous tribes in the area, and they have long coexisted peacefully with the environment. These tribes have distinctive traditions that have been handed down through the generations. The Gond, Koya, Lambada, and Banjara are notable tribes in Telangana. Over the years, these tribes have encountered several difficulties, such as land acquisition, displacement, and a loss of cultural identity. However, via several government initiatives and community-based programs, efforts are being undertaken to maintain their culture and give them more authority.

The Tribes of Telangana comprise about 31 lakh population, i.e., 9.08% of Telangana population, as per 2011 census, which is relatively higher in proportion when compared to the overall Tribal population in India.

The aboriginal Tribes of Telangana are mostly concentrated around the Godavari river basin and hill tracts adjoining it. The Chenchus inhabit the hills north of the Krishna river in the Nallamala hills (also known as Amrabad).

The aboriginality of Tribal communities is expressed in their physical features, their dependency on forests for their livelihoods and animistic traditions of worship of nature.

The Telangana Tribes can be classified into three broad categories, based on their relative assimilation with the mainstream societies.

A. The Adivasis, the ancient stock,

B. The Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups(PvTGs), who are relatively smaller communities and still inhabiting the remote hinterlands and

C. The Plains Tribes who have assimilated with the mainstream society, but still retaining their distinctness.

The Tribal communities of Telangana are characterized by their attachment with their geographic territories and sacred spaces, totemism, ancestral worship, and religious symbolism.

Their deeply embedded belief system and rich animistic traditions echo in the culture and traditions of all indigenous communities of Telangana.

Their ecosophy reverberates in fusion with the traditions of other communities in Telangana and enriches the culture of the State.

Solidarity in terms of egalitarian system, segmentary pattern of unity, peoples assembly, customary laws and collective decision making marks harmonious co-existence in the Tribal societies.

The richness of their indigenous knowledge systems like that of ethnobotanical and ethnozoological knowledge, coupled with symbiotic association with nature, encourages a sustainable style of living which is an inspiration for the modern world.

The diversity of Telangana Tribes is rich with distinct forms of aesthetics. The art, music and dance, stories and songs, coupled with musical instruments, costumes and jewellery form a rich repository of culture and art.

List of tribes in Telangana

There are numerous different tribal communities in Telangana, each with its own distinctive culture, traditions, and way of life. The tribal communities are crucial to preserving and promoting the state's renowned rich cultural history. The tribes in Telangana, which range from the Chenchus, noted for their nomadic lifestyle, to the Gonds, one of the state's most prominent tribal communities, have a long history with and a strong bond with the land they have. The list of the powerful tribes of Telangana and give a quick insight into their social and cultural customs.

1. Gond
2. Koya
3. Banjara
4. Lambada/Labbayi
5. Kolam
6. Yerukula/Yerukala
7. Thoti/Thotti
8. Chenchu
9. Sugali/Sugalis
10. Savara/Sabara
11. Jatapus
12. Konda Kapus/Konda Reddi
13. Valmiki Boya
14. Nayaka
15. Kammara
16. Bhil
17. Dharoji
18. Kisan
19. Yenadis/EnugulaYerukala
20. Manne Dora
21. Medari
22. Koli
23. Gadaba
24. Manna Dhora
25. Padma Sali/Panchama Sali



Some prominent tribes in Telangana

Telangana is home to several notable tribes, each with its own culture and way of life. One of the most prominent and influential tribes in the area, the Gonds are distinguished by their own song, dancing, and customs. A prominent tribe noted for its traditional ways of doing things like farming and raising cattle is the Koya tribe. The Lambadi community has a long migration history and is dispersed throughout numerous districts in Telangana. They are recognized for their distinctive attire and jewelry. The nomadic Banjaras are renowned for their expert craftsmanship and vibrant clothing. Due to government policy and land acquisition, the Yerukula community, which had previously participated in hunting, gathering, and livestock husbandry, has experienced displacement and a loss of livelihoods. Given below are such prominent tribes and some information about them.

○ **Gond tribe**

One of Telangana's biggest and most well-known tribal communities is the Gond. The districts of Adilabad, Warangal, Karimnagar, and Khammam are where you can find them most frequently. The Gonds are distinguished for their extensive cultural legacy and distinct language, Gondi. They are talented in various artistic mediums, including painting, music, and dancing. Shifting farming and hunting-gathering were traditional Gond lifestyles. However, many have made the switch to settled agriculture in recent years. Despite this, the tribe still has to contend with several issues, such as exploitation, illiteracy, and poverty. By providing education, healthcare, and other necessities, the government and NGOs are attempting to improve the lot of the Gond people.

○ **Koya tribe**

Another notable tribal group in Telangana is the Koya tribe. Adilabad, Karimnagar, Warangal, and Khammam districts are where you can find them most frequently. The Koyas are renowned for their rich culture, customs, and distinctive jewelry and clothing. Subsistence farming and shifting cultivation were traditional practices of the Koya people. However, they have experienced displacement and a loss of livelihoods due to government policies and land acquisition. Malaria and undernutrition are only two of the illnesses that have impacted the Koya population. These problems are being addressed, and the Koya community is receiving assistance from the government and NGOs.

○ **Banjara tribe**

Telangana is home to the nomadic Banjara tribe, also referred to as the Lambadas. They are talented in various crafts, including weaving and embroidery, and are well-known for their vibrant apparel and jewelry. Historically, the Banjaras traveled in caravans and conducted trade in various items. Over the years, the Banjara community has encountered several difficulties, such as poverty, illiteracy, and discrimination. The government and NGOs are trying to offer healthcare, education, and other necessities to improve the Banjara community.

- **Lambada/Labbayi Tribe**

Another well-known tribal community in Telangana is the Lambada, also called the Labbayi. The districts of Adilabad, Warangal, Karimnagar, and Khammam are where you can find them most frequently. The Lambadas are well-known for their thriving culture and customs, as well as their distinctive jewelry and clothing. In the past, the Lambada population engaged in subsistence farming and animal husbandry. However, they have experienced displacement and a loss of livelihoods due to government policies and land acquisition. Malaria and undernutrition are just two of the illnesses that have an impact on the Lambada population. These problems are being addressed, and the Lambada community is receiving assistance from the government and NGOs.

- **Kolam Tribe**

Telangana is home to the Kolam tribe, a tiny but influential tribal community. The districts of Adilabad and Khammam are where you can find them most often. The Kolams are well-known for their peculiar culture, traditions, and dance, among other things. The Kolam community has always engaged in hunting, gathering, and shifting farming. However, they have experienced displacement and a loss of livelihoods due to government policies and land acquisition. The government and non-governmental organizations are striving to support the Kolam community.

- **Yerukula/Yerukala Tribe**

Telangana is home to the small yet influential Yerukula or Yerukala tribe. They are mainly located in the Warangal and Khammam districts. The Yerukula people are renowned for their peculiar culture, traditions, and music and dance styles. The Yerukula community has always engaged in cattle rearing and hunting-gathering. However, they have experienced displacement and a loss of livelihoods due to government policies and land acquisition. Malaria and undernutrition are just two of the illnesses that have an impact on the Yerukula population. These problems are being addressed, and the government and NGOs are assisting the Yerukula community.

- **Thoti/Thotti Tribe**

Telangana has a tiny but notable tribe known as the Thoti or Thotti. They are mainly located in the Warangal and Khammam districts. The Thotis are renowned for their peculiar culture, traditions, and music and dance styles. Traditional Thoti lifestyles included farming and hunting-gathering. However, they have experienced displacement and a loss of livelihoods due to government policies and land acquisition. Malaria and undernutrition are just two of the illnesses that have an impact on the Thoti population. These problems are being addressed, and the government and NGOs are assisting the Thoti community.

- **Chenchu Tribe**

Telangana is home to the Chenchu tribe, an important tribal community. Mahbubnagar, Kurnool, and Prakasam districts make up most of their distribution. The Chenchus are renowned for their unusual traditions and culture, including their particular dancing and music brand. Traditional Chenchu lifestyles included fishing, hunting, and obtaining food. However, they have experienced displacement and a loss of livelihoods due to government policies and land acquisition. Malaria and undernutrition are two other illnesses that have impacted the Chenchu people. These problems are being addressed, and the Chenchu community is receiving assistance from the government and NGOs.

- **Sugali/Sugalis Tribe**

Telangana is home to the small but influential Sugali or Sugalis tribe. Adilabad, Karimnagar, Warangal, and Khammam districts are where you can find them most frequently. The Sugalis are well-known for their particular culture and traditions, which also include their unique music and dance. In the past, the Sugali community engaged in agriculture and hunting-gathering. However, they have experienced displacement and a loss of livelihoods due to government policies and land acquisition. Malaria and undernutrition are just two of the illnesses that have an impact on the Sugali population. These problems are being addressed, and the Sugali community is receiving assistance from the government and NGOs.

- **Savara/Sabara Tribe**

Telangana has a tiny but substantial tribal group known as the Savara or Sabara. The districts of Adilabad and Khammam are where you can find them most often. The Savaras are renowned for their particular culture and customs, which include their unique dance and musical styles. In the past, the Savara community engaged in agriculture and hunting-gathering. However, they have experienced displacement and a loss of livelihoods due to government policies and land acquisition. Malaria and undernutrition are two additional ailments that have impacted the Savara people. These problems are being addressed, and the Savara community is receiving assistance from the government and NGOs.

Conclusion

A state in southern India called Telangana has a rich and varied cultural history. There are numerous tribes in the area, and they have long coexisted peacefully with the environment.

The Tribes of Telangana comprise about 31 lakh population, i.e., 9.08% of Telangana population, as per 2011 census, which is relatively higher in proportion when compared to the overall Tribal population in India. The Gond, Koya, Lambada, and Banjara are notable tribes in Telangana. Yerukala tribe in Telangana is nomadic and seminomadic tribe having special characters. Prominent tribal communities, have a long

history with and a strong bond with the land they have. Over the years, these tribes have encountered several difficulties, such as land acquisition, displacement, and a loss of cultural identity.

Reference

1. Census of India. (1961-2011).Census of India. Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, Government of India.
- 2.Kumar, P., & Rao, S. (2018). Educational attainment among the Yerukala community in Andhra Pradesh. International Journal of Social Sciences, 12(2), 45-58.
- 3.Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. (2017).National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4), 2015-16: Andhra Pradesh. International Institute for Population Sciences.
- 4 .Ministry of Tribal Affairs. (2013).Statistical Profile of Scheduled Tribes in India. Government of India
- 5.National Sample Survey Office. (Various years).NSSO Employment and Unemployment Survey Reports. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India.
- 6.Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner. (2011).Census of India 2011: Telangana. Government of India.
- 7..Planning Commission. (1993, 2004, 2011).Report of the Expert Group to Review the Methodology for Estimation of Poverty. Government of India.