STUDY ON SCHEDULED TRIBE POPULATION OF VISAKHAPATNAM DISTRICT: SOCIAL GEOGRAPHY APPROACH

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Abstract

According to the 2011 census of India, about 8.6% of the total population of India was recorded as a scheduled tribe population. The entire tribal population is grouped into 705 subgroups/sub-categories/sub-communities and it also includes about 75 primitive tribal communities. Most of the ST population is distributed in central India and also in northeastern states of India. The growth of the ST population in India and also in Andhra Pradesh shows a low level of population growth, stagnant or diminishing population size, low level of literacy rate particularly in women, isolation from the mainstream population, dwelling in remote, inaccessible hilly terrain, some people not in a position claim religion and finally unaffected by the developmental process undergoing in India. In this context, an attempt is made in this paper to study the changes in population growth, literacy rate, and religious structure of the ST population in the agency region (Tribal region) of the Visakhapatnam district to know the status and level of development of the ST population.

Keywords: *Population, Scheduled Tribe, Literacy, Religion, Mandals*

Introduction

The Scheduled Tribe (ST) population is one of the most disadvantaged groups in the Indian society and showing backwardness of economic conditions, low level of literacy, malnutrition, poor health conditions, poor housing conditions, etc. Hence the development of scheduled tribe population is a constitutional obligation of the Indian government.

According to the 2011 census of India, about 8.6% of the total population of India were recorded as scheduled tribe population. The entire tribal population grouped into 705 subgroups/sub-categories / sub-communities and it also includes about 75 primitive tribal communities.

Out of the total tribal communities in India, the highest number of ST   population belong to Gonds, Bhils, Santals, Oraons etc., communities whereas some tribal communities like Onge, Andamanese, and Jarawar were very few in number. It was also reported that about 64 tribal communities counted in less than 500 in number.

Most of the ST population is distributed in central India and also in northeastern states of India. In the northeastern states of India, the highest ST population was recorded in Mizoram, and lowest ST population was recorded in Assam state (12.4%). In the central Indian states, the highest ST population recorded in Chhattisgarh (30.6%) followed by Jharkhand ((26.2%), Orissa (22.8%), Madhya Pradesh (21.1%) Gujarat (14.8%) Rajasthan (13.5%), J&K (11.9%), Goa (10.2%), Maharashtra (9.4%), Telangana (9.3%), Karnataka (7%), West Bengal (5.8%), Himachal Pradesh (5.7%) and Andhra Pradesh (5.3%).

Regarding the importance of literacy, it empowers and liberates people and improves lives by expanding capabilities which in turn reduces poverty, increases participation in the labour market, and also have positive effects on health and sustainable development. The literacy rate of ST population during different census periods in India, about 8.53%, 11.30%, 16.35%, 29.6%, 47.1%, and 63.1% were recorded for the years 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001, and 2011, respectively.

Religion is a set of organized beliefs, practices, and systems related to controlling force such as a personal god or another supernatural being. Religion can contribute to a sense of community, provide support, and offer guidance. Some studies have shown religion has impact on the physical and mental health of human beings. Regarding the religious faith in ST communities, it was observed that about 1.21 million ST population did not adhere or claim any major religion of India during the 2011 census period.

According to the 2011 census, about 5.53% population recorded as scheduled tribe population to the total population of Andhra Pradesh. In Andhra Pradesh about 34 tribal subgroups were recorded in which about 7 tribal subgroups were recognized as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). The growth rate of the ST population during different census periods in Andhra Pradesh, about 5.47%, 2.24%, 6.50%, 2.79%, 3.01%, 1.81%, and 1.78% were recorded for the years 1951,1961,1971,1981,1991,2001, and 2011 respectively. Except in 1981, the ST population growth showing a decreasing trend. The literacy rate of ST male population recorded was 68.80% and the female literacy rate was about 47.70% which was very low and poor.

The growth of ST population in India and also in Andhra Pradesh were showing low level of population growth, stagnant or diminishing population size, low level of literacy rate particularly in women, isolation from the mainstream population, dwelling in remote, inaccessible hilly terrain, some people not in a position claim religion and finally unaffected by the developmental process undergoing in India.

 In this context, an attempt is made in this paper to study the changes in population growth, literacy rate, and religious structure of the ST population in the agency region (Tribal region) of the Visakhapatnam district to understand the status and level of development of ST population.

Objectives

1. To study changes in scheduled tribe population growth.
2. To study changes in literacy rate in the ST population.
3. To study changes in the religious structure of the ST population.

Data Base and Methodology

Data with regard to population, literacy, and religion were collected from the Visakhapatnam district handbook of statistics, District census books, and records of Mandal revenue offices, and Visakhapatnam district collector office for the periods of 1981, 91, 2001, and 2011. With the help of data, scheduled tribe population distribution calculated in percentages, and also population growth changes observed for three decades. The population changes were also observed according to their subcategories. Changes examined in literacy rate and religious structure of the scheduled tribe population of Visakhapatnam district.

Study area:

Fig no-1: Study area showing eleven mandals (agency region) in Visakhapatnam district
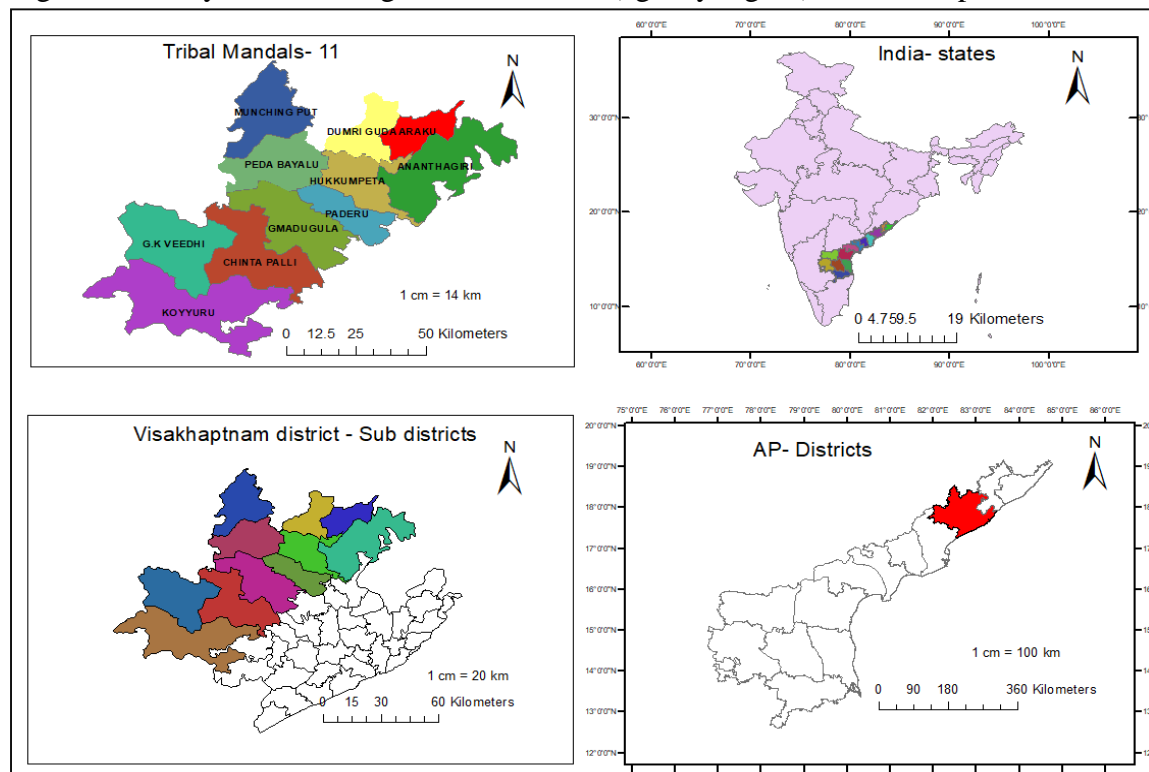
 The study area lies in the northern and western parts of the Visakhapatnam district and it lies between 17^0 $30^|$ to 18^0 $30^|$ North latitude and 81^0 $54^|$ to 83^0 $30^|$ East longitude. Physiographically it is a part of the Eastern Ghats region. This region is situated between

300 mt to 600 mt. This region is also called an agency region or tribal region. About 60% of this region is occupied by forest vegetation and receives about 1300 mm of average annual rainfall per annum. Administratively this region contains eleven mandals and they are 1. Munchingput, 2. Pedabaylu, 3. Dumbriguda, 4. Araku, 5. Hukumpeta, 6. Anantagiri, 7. Paderu, 8. G. Madugula, 9. G.K. Veedhi, 10. Koyyuru, 11. Chintapalli of this region about 90% population belongs to scheduled tribe communities. Hence, it is a tribal population-dominated region.

Results and Discussion

Distribution of the total scheduled tribe population in the agency region of Visakhapatnam district during the 2011 period:

  Regarding scheduled tribe population distribution, it can be observed from Table no-1(A) that, highest ST population recorded in Chintapalli mandal (11.8%) followed by G. K. Veedhi (10.4%), Araku (9.5%), Hukampeta (9.1%), G. Madugula (9.1%) Pedabayalu (9.1%) Paderu (8.9%), Dumbriguda (8.5%), Ananthagiri (8.1%), Munchingput (8.1%) and the lowest ST population recorded in Koyyuru (7.5%).

Table no-1. Distribution (A) and Growth rate (B) of ST population of agency region in Visakhapatnam dist.,

S. No	Name of the mandal in agency region of VSP dist.,	(A) Distribution of ST population in 2011 (%)	(B) population growth rate during 1981-91	(B) population growth rate during 1991-2001	(B) population growth rate during 2001-2011
1	Munchingput	8.10%	28.60%	19.00%	6.90%
2	Pedabayalu	9.10%	25.30%	14.10%	7.00%
3	Dumbriguda	8.50%	27.90%	15.90%	10.8%
4	Araku	9.50%	36.90%	29.10%	10.3%
5	Hukumpeta	9.10%	26.00%	16.40%	3.80%
6	Ananthagiri	8.10%	34.20%	12.50%	10.3%
7	Paderu	8.90%	33.90%	17.70%	11.9%
8	G. Madugula	9.10%	38.80%	21.60%	4.90%
9	G. Veedhi	10.40%	53.00%	25.80%	15.3%
10	Koyyuru	7.50%	33.70%	21.80%	-3.10%
11	Chintapalle	11.80%	33.60%	20.50%	15.60%
	Total region	100%	33.40%	19.50%	8.70%

(Source: Computed from Handbook of statistics-1981 to 2011)

Changes in scheduled tribe population growth in the agency region during the 1981-91, 1991-2001, and 2001-2011 periods:

It can be observed from Table no- 1(B) that, during the 1981-1991 period highest ST population growth rate was recorded in G.K.Veedhi mandal (53%) followed by G. Madugula (38.8%), Araku (36.9%), Paderu (33.9%), Koyyuru (33.7%), Chintapalle (33.6%), Ananthagiri (34.2%), Munchingput (28.6%), Dumbriguda (27.9%), Hukumpeta (26%) and lowest ST population growth rate recorded in Pedabayalu (25.3%).

During the 1991-2001 period highest population growth rate recorded in Araku Mandal (29.1%) followed by G.K. Veedhi (25.8%), Koyyuru (21.8%), G. Madugula (21.6%), Chintapalle (20.5%) Munchingputtu (19%), Paderu (17.7%), Hukumpeta (16.4%), Dumbriguda (15.9%), Pedabayalu (14.1%), and lowest population growth recorded in Ananthagiri (12.5%).

During the 2001-2011 period highest ST population growth rate was recorded in Chintapalle Mandal (15.6%) followed by G.K. Veedhi (15.3%) Paderu (11.9%), Dumbriguda (10.8%) Araku (10.3%), Ananthagiri (10.3%), Pedabayalu (7%), Munchingputtu (6.9%), G. Madugula (4.9%), and lowest population growth recorded in Hukumpeta (3.8%) whereas population decreased in Koyyuru (-3.1%).

During 1981-1991period the total agency region recorded 33.4% growth rate which decreased to 19.5% during 1991-2001 period and further ST population growth decreased to 8.7% during 2001-201 period. From the above discussion, it can be observed that ST population growth rate showing decreasing trend during the study period in all Mandals and also the entire Agency region.

Distribution of scheduled tribe population according to subcategories in the agency region of Visakhapatnam District:

It can be observed from Table no- 2 (A) that, the highest number of scheduled tribe population belongs to Konda Dhoras, Kubi sub-category type, and their percentage was about 23.7% (1,31,287) followed by Bagata (22.7%), Kondhs & osg (17.4%), Valmiki (8.4%), Porja & osg (5.9%), Mukha Dhora, NookaDhora (6.3%), Kotia & osg (5.1%), Kammara (4.0%), Gadabas & osg (2.6%), Goudu (1.2%). About 97% of the total Scheduled Tribe population was distributed in these ten sub-categories and the remaining 3% of the Scheduled Tribe population was distributed in the remaining seventeen ST sub-categories (from s.no. 11 to 27 of Table no-3).

Table no-2. Distribution of scheduled tribe (A) Sub-category-wise population & (B) Changes in total sub-category population & (C) changes in Male population & (D) changes in Female population   in   agency regions of Visakhapatnam dist., during 2001&2011 periods

S. No	Name of sub-category in scheduled tribes & other subgroups in agency region of VSP dist.,	(A) Distribution of total ST population according to Sub-Category during the 2011 period (100%)	(B) Percentage of changes in ST subcategory total population during 2001-2011.	(C) Percentage of changes in ST subcategory male population during 2001-2011	(D) Percentage of changes in ST subcategory female population during 2001-2011
1	Konda Dhoras,kubi	23.70%	-0.1%	-1.9%	1.5%
2	Bagata,	22.40%	-3%	-5.6%	-0.3%
3	*Kondhs, & osg	17.40%	18.3%	15.9%	20.7%
4	Valmiki,	8.40%	-3%	-6.7%	0.5%
5	*Porja & osg	5.90%	13.1%	10.6%	15.7%
6	Mukha Dhora, Nooka Dora	6.30%	16.1%	626%	661%
7	Kotia, & osg	5.10%	2.9%	1.7%	4%
8	Kammara,	4.00%	0.6%	-1.2%	2.5%
9	*Gadabas, & osg	2.6%	-2.7%	-5.5%	0.03%
10	Goudu,	1.20%	-16.2%	-16.7%	-15.8%
11	Manna Dhora ,	0.80%	-5.5%	-5.5%	-5.5%
12	Yerukulas, & osg	0.60%	-8.2%	-11.7%	-4.5%
13	Malis,	0.50%	23.4%	23.6%	23.2%
14	Koya, & osg	0.40%	-35.5%	-34.9%	-36.2%
15	Konda Kapus,	0.20%	-31.7%	-30.7%	-32.6%
16	*Reddi Dhoras, & osg	0.20%	-48.5%	-48.7%	-48.3%
17	Kondareddis,	0.09%	-14.9%	-20.6%	-7.4%
18	Dhulia,Paiko,Putiya	0.08%	NR	NR	NR
19	Yanadis, & osg	0.06%	3.8%	-1.2%	9.2%
20	Kulia,	0.06%	46.3%	52.3%	40.7%
21	*Chenchu,	0.04%	177%	164%	192%
22	Gond, & osg	0.03%	1480%	825%	4.00%
23	Rona, Rena,	0.03%	4025%	4400%	3650%
24	Sugalis, & osg	0.03%	5.9%	16.5%	-8.9%
25	*Savaras, & osg	0.02%	-16.5%	0	-32.4%

| 26 | *Kolam, Kolawar, | 0.01 | 1000% | 800% | 1500% |
| 27 | Jatapus, Nayaks, Hill Reddis, Pardhan, Bhil | 0.01% | -4.1% | 41.1% | -43.6% |

(Source: Computed from 2001&2011 census of VSP dist.,) *PVTG: Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group; NR: Not reported,

Changes in scheduled tribe population growth according to subcategories during the 2001-2011 period:

It can be observed from Table no- 2 (B) that the highest population growth was recorded in Kondhs & other sub-groups during the 2001-2011 period followed by Mukkha Dhora, Nooka Dora (16.1%), Poorja & other subgroups (13.1%), Kotia & other subgroups (2.9%), lowest growth recorded in Kammara (0.6%) whereas ST population reduction/decrease noticed in Gondu (-16.2%), followed by Bagata (-3%), Valmiki (-3%), Gadabas & osg (-2.7) and lowest decrease noticed in Konda Dhoras, Kubi (-0.1%).

Regarding the subcategories present from serial number 11 to 27, the highest growth recorded in Rona, Rena sub-category (4025%) and lowest growth recorded in Yanadis & osg (3.8%) whereas highest population decrease noticed in Reddi Dhoras & osg (-48.5%) followed by Koya & osg (-35.5%), Konda Kapus (-31.7%), Savaras & osg (-16.5%), Yerukulas & osg (-8.2%), and lowest population decrease noticed in Manna Dhora sub-category (-5.5%),

Changes in scheduled tribe male population growth according to different subcategories during the 2001 – 2011 period:

It can be observed from Table no- 2 (C) highest ST male population growth recorded in Mukha Dhora, Nooka Dora, sub-category (626%) followed by Kondhs & osg (15.9%), Porjas & osg (10.6%) and lowest is recorded in Kotia & osg (1.7%) whereas male population decrease noticed in Goudu (-16.7%) followed Valmiki (-6.7%) followed by Bagata (-5.6%), Gadabas & osg (-5.5%), Konda dhoras (-1.9%) and lowest decrease of male population noticed in Kammara sub category (-1.2%). ST sub-categories from serial numbers 11 to 26, highest male population growth recorded in Rona, Rena (4400%) followed by Gond & osg (825%), Kolam Kolawar (800%), Chenchu (164%), Kulia (52.3%), Malis (23.6%), Sugalis & other subgroups (16.5%), whereas highest male population decrease noticed in Reddi Dhoras &osg (-48.7%), Koya & osg (-34.9%), Konda Kapus (-30.7%), Kondareddis (-20.6%), Yerukulas & osg (-11.7%), Bagata(-5.6%) Manna Dhora (-5.5%) Gadabas & osg(-5.5%) and the other remaining subcategories male population also showing further decreasing tend in male population growth.

Changes in the scheduled tribe female population growth according to different subcategories during the 2001 – 2011 period:

It can be observed from table no- 2 (D) that, highest female population growth noticed in Mukha Dhora, Nookadora, sub category (661%) followed by Kondhs & osg (20.7%), Porja & osg (15.7%), Kotia & osg (4%), Kommara (2.5%), Konda Dhoras, Kubi (1.5%), Gadabas & osg (0.03%) whereas highest female population decrease noticed in Goudu (-15.8%) followed by Bagata (-0.3%) only. The sub-categories from serial number 11 to 27 highest female population increase noticed in Kolam, Kolwar (1500%), followed by Rona, Rena (3650%), Yanadis (9.2%), Kulia (40.7%), Malis (23.2%), Chenchu (192%) whereas highest female population decrease noticed in Reddi Dhora & osg (-48.3%), followed by Koya (-36.2%), Konda Kapus (-32.6%), Savaras & osg (-32.4%), Sugalis & osg (-8.9%), Kondareddis (-7.4%), Manna Dhora (-5.5%), Yerukulas & osg (-4.5%) sub categories.

Table no. 3. Changes in literacy rate of total ST population in the agency regions of VSP dist., during the 2001 – 2011 period

S. No	Name of the Mandal in agency region	Percentage of literacy in total ST population during 2001	Percentage of literacy in total ST population during 2011	Changes in literacy rate of total ST population during 2001 – 2011 period
1	Munchingput	25.24%	33.09%	40.20%
2	Pedabayalu	27.46%	32.90%	28.10%
3	Dumbriguda	24.56%	35.40%	59.70%
4	Araku Valley	36.40%	44.80%	35.80%
5	Hukumpeta	27.78%	37.40%	39.90%
6	Ananthagiri	23.06%	31.90%	53.00%
7	Paderu	34.47%	51.00%	65.80%
8	G. Madugula	23.54%	32.04%	42.90%
9	G. K. Veedhi	22.48%	34.80%	78.50%
10	Koyyuru	32.19%	41.80%	25.80%
11	Chintapalle	26.23%	34.80%	53.20%
	Total region	27.60%	37.20%	46.80%

(Source: computed from Handbook of Statistics 2001 & 2011)

Distribution of literacy rate of total scheduled tribe population according to mandals in agency region during 2001 – 2011 period:

It can be observed from Table no-3 that, during the 2001 period highest literacy rate recorded in Araku mandal (36.40%) followed by Paderu (34.47%), Koyyuru (32.19%), Hukumpeta (27.78%), Chintapalle (26.23%), Munchingput (25.24%),

Dumbriguda (24.56%), G. Madugula (23.54%), Ananthagiri (23.06%), and lowest literacy recorded in G.K. Veedhi (22.48%) whereas the total region recorded 27.6% literacy rate.

During the 2011 period the highest literacy rate was recorded in Paderu mandal (51%), followed by Araku (44.8%), Koyyuru (41.8%), Hukumpeta (37.4%), Dumbriguda (35.4%), Chintapalle ((34.8%), G.K. Veedhi (34.8%), Munchingput (33.09%), Pedabayalu (32.9%), and lowest literacy rate recorded in G. Madugula (31.9) and   Ananthagiri (31.9%) whereas the total region recorded 37.2% literacy rate.

Changes in the literacy rate of the total scheduled tribe population during the 2001 – 2011 period:

Regarding changes in literacy rate during 2001 – 2011 period, highest increase noticed in G.K. Veedhi mandal (78.5%), followed by Paderu (65.8%), Dumbriguda (59.7%), Chintapalle (53.2%) Ananthagiri (53%), G. Madugula (42.9%), Munchingput (40.2%), Hukumpeta (39.9%) Araku valley (35.8%), Pedabayalu (28.1%) and lowest growth recorded in Koyyuru (25.8%) whereas the entire study region recorded 46.8 % growth rate in literacy during 2001 and 2011 period.

Distribution of scheduled tribe male population literacy rate according to mandals in the agency region during the 2001 – 2011period:

Table: 4. Changes in literacy rate of ST male population in the agency region of VSP dist.   during 2001 – 2011 period

S. No	Name of the Mandal in agency region	Percentage of male literacy during 2001	Percentage of male literacy during 2011	Changes in literacy rate of ST male population during 2001-2011 period
1	Munchingput	35.50%	42.90%	25.20%
2	Pedabayalu	39.14%	44.30%	21.40%
3	Dumbriguda	35.45%	46.60%	42.80%
4	Araku	48.59%	54.90%	20.00%
5	Hukumpeta	38.34%	47.80%	28.00%
6	Ananthagiri	31.62%	40.20%	38.00%
7	Paderu	45.58%	60.50%	46.00%
8	G. Madugula	33.36%	41.50%	27.90%
9	G. Veedhi	30.44%	42.50%	56.50%
10	Koyyuru	39.38%	49.10%	18.60%
11	Chintapalle	36.42%	44.40%	37.00%
	Total region	68.00%	61.30%	32.30%

 (Source: computed from Handbook of Statistics 2001 & 2011)

It can be observed from table no: 4 that, during 2001 period, highest literacy rate of the ST male population recorded in Araku mandal (48.5%) followed by Paderu (45.58%), Koyyuru (36.42%), Pedabayalu (39.14%), Hukumpeta (38.34%), Chintapalle (36.42%) Munchingput (35.5%), Dumbriguda (35.45%), G. Madugula (33.36%), Ananthagiri (31.62%), G.K. Veedhi (30.44%) and the entire study region recorded 68% literacy rate in ST male population.

During 2011period, the highest literacy rate of the ST male population literacy recorded in Paderu Mandal (60.50%), followed by Araku mandal (549%), Koyyuru (49.10%), Hukumpeta (47.80%), Dumbriguda (46.60%), Chintapalle (44.4%), Pedabayalu (44.3%), Munchingput (42.9%), G.K. Veedhi (42.5%), G. Madugula (41.5%) and lowest literacy rate observed in Ananthagiri (40.2%) whereas the entire study region recorded 32.30 % growth rate in literacy rate of ST male population

Changes in scheduled tribe male population literacy rate during 2001-2011period:

Regarding changes during the 2001-2011 period, the highest literacy changes of ST male population observed in G. K. Veedhi mandal (53.5%), followed by Paderu (46%), Dumbriguda (42.8%), Ananthagiri (38%), Chintapalle (37%), Hukumpeta (28%), G Madugula (27.9%), Munching put (25.2%), Pedabayalu (21.4%), Araku (20%), and lowest change noticed in Koyyuru (18.6%) whereas the entire Agency region recorded 32.3% literacy rate of ST male population during the study period.

Distribution of scheduled tribe female population literacy rate according to mandals in the agency region during the 2001 – 2011period:

It can be observed from the table no- 5 that, during 2001 period highest literacy rate of ST female population observed in Koyyuru mandal (24.86%) followed by Araku (24.11%), Paderu (23.79%), Hukumpeta (17.56%), Pedabayalu (16.18%), Chintapalle (15.83%), Munchingput (15.09%), G.K. Veedhi (14.7%), Ananthagiri (14.41%), Dumbriguda (13.89%), G Madugula (13.49%), whereas the entire agency region recorded 32% female literacy rate.

During 2011 period the highest literacy rate of the ST female population was recorded in Paderu mandal (42.2%) followed by Araku (35.3%), Koyyuru (34.7%), G.K. Veedhi (27.7%) Hukumpeta (27.6%), Chintapalle (25.5%), Dumbriguda (24.8%), Munchingput (24%), Ananthagiri (23.9%), G. Madugula (22%) and lowest female literacy was noticed in Pedabayalu (21.8%) whereas about 38.7% literacy rate recorded in ST female population in the entire study region.

Changes in scheduled tribe female population literacy rate during 2001-2011period:

Regarding changes in literacy rate of the ST female population during the 2001 – 2011 period, highest growth recorded in G. K. Veedhi mandal (123.2%) followed by Dumbriguda (102.4%), Paderu (101.8%), Chintapalle (91.2%), Ananthagiri (85.4%), G Madugula (80.9%), Munchingput (75.2%), Araku (67.9%), Hukumpeta (65%), Pedabayalu (43.9%), and lowest literacy rate recorded in Koyyuru (37.4%) whereas the entire study region recorded about 77.7% literacy growth rate in ST female population.

Table no: 5, Changes in literacy rate of ST female population in the agency region of VSP district during 2001 – 2011 period

S. No	Name of the mandal in agency region	Percentage of female literacy during 2001	Percentage of female literacy during 2011	Changes in literacy rate of ST female population during 2001-2011 period
1	Munchingput	15.09%	24.0%	75.2%
2	Pedabayalu	16.18%	21.8%	43.9%
3	Dumbriguda	13.89%	24.8%	102.4%
4	Araku	24.11%	35.3%	67.90%
5	Hukumpeta	17.56%	27.6%	65.0%
6	Ananthagiri	14.41%	23.9%	85.4%
7	Paderu	23.79%	42.2%	101.8%
8	G. Madugula	13.49%	22.8%	80.9%
9	G. K.Veedhi	14.70%	27.7%	123.2%
10	Koyyuru	24.88%	34.7%	37.4%
11	Chintapalle	15.83%	25.5%	91.2%
	Total Region	32.00%	38.70%	77.70%

(Source: computed from the Handbook of Statistics 2001& 2011)

Distribution of scheduled tribe population according to religions in the agency region of Visakhapatnam district during 2001 & 2011 period:

The religious composition of the scheduled tribe population is an important socio-cultural and demographic feature. In this context, an attempt is made in this paper to find the religious composition of the ST population living in the agency region of the Visakhapatnam district.

It can be observed from Table no-6 that, during the 2001 period about 98.4% of scheduled tribe population recorded as Hindus followed by Christians (1.4%), Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains & other religions (1%), and the lowest number of the population belong to Muslim religion (0.04%), whereas religion not stated by about 0.04% of the total scheduled tribe population.

During the 2011 period about 97.9% of the scheduled tribe population was recorded as Hindus followed by Christians (1.5%) and the lowest number of populations were recorded as Muslim Religion (0.3%) whereas religion was not stated by about 0.3% of the total scheduled tribe population. It can be observed that a decrease in number population was noticed in the Hindu religion and also in Sikhism, Buddhism, Jainism & other religions, whereas a population increase was noticed in the Muslim religions and Christian religions during the 2011 census period when compared to the 2001 census period.

Table no.6. Distribution and changes in the religious faith of scheduled tribe population in the agency region   of Visakhapatnam district during 2001 & 2011 periods

S. No	Religions of ST population in agency region of VSP dist.,	Distribution of ST population according to Religions.		Changes / Growth in population of different religions during 2001 to 2011 Period
		2001 period	2011 period	
1	Hindu	5, 30,200 (98.4%)	5, 67,847 (97.9%)	7.1%
2	Muslim	214 (0.04%)	1,733 (0.3%)	709%
3	Christians	7,460 (1.4%)	8,382 (1.5%)	12.4%
4	Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, & Other religions	523 (1%)	218 (0.3%)	-58.3%
5	Religion not stated	211 (0.04%)	1,788 (0.3%)	747%
6	Total	5, 38,608 (100%)	5, 79,968 (100%)	7.7%

(Source: computed from Handbook of Statistics 2001 & 2011)

Changes in scheduled tribe population according to religions in the agency region during the 2001-2011 period:

Regarding changes in religions of the scheduled tribe population during the 2001-2011 period, the highest growth of the ST population was recorded in the Muslim religion (709%), followed by the Christian religion (12.4%), and the very low growth of the population recorded in the Hindu religion (7.1%), whereas the highest ST population decrease noticed in Sikh's, Buddhist, Jains & other religions (-58.3%). From the above discussion, it may be assumed that the changes in the population of different religions were because of religious conversions.

Conclusion

It can be observed that, above discussion that the highest number of ST population is present in Chintapalli mandal and less number of the population is present in Koyyuru mandal but the difference between the 11 tribal mandals tribal population number was very little. It is observed that the ST population growth rate (including ST subcategories) constantly decreasing during the study period. The study observed that the male population literacy growth rate increasing but the female population literacy rate not showing satisfactory results. Religion not stated population number increased whereas the growth in other than the Hindu religion population increase observed during the study period.

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