

## **A Study On The Knowledge Level Of Tribes Towards Government Welfare Programmes With Special Reference To Kanjiyar Gramapanchayath, Idukki District In Kerala.**

**Sincymol K.C.**

*Centre For Rural Development, Periyar Maniammai University, Vallam, Thanjavur - 613 403*

---

**ABSTRACT:-** The tribal people of India constitute an integral part of the Indian population and represent a part of Indian culture. The total population of the Scheduled tribes in the country is about 67.8 million. They constitute about 8.08% of the total population. The present study is about the knowledge level of Mannan tribes towards the Government welfare programmes'. Kanjiyarpanchayath is inhabited by the tribal community Mannan. The Mannan community has unique culture and rituals. This community is the only tribal community in Kerala that has a king, and one of the only two such tribes in India. The objective of the study is to know the socio- demographic details, the knowledge level of the tribal welfare programme and its effectiveness of the implementation. This study reflects that above 66% of the respondents are aware about the Government welfare programmes. As a result of the lack of motivation the implementation of the programme is in a grass root level. The researcher also aims to conduct an awareness programme which will provide equal services to the needy one.

**KEYWORDS-** *constitution, knowledge, mannan, tribal, welfare programmes.*

---

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Scheduled Tribes in India are generally considered to be 'Adivasis,' meaning indigenous people or original inhabitants of the country. The tribal people of India are a part and parcel of the Indian population and represent a true synthesis of Indian culture. The original tribes in India have been divided and sub-divided into large number of sub-tribes. They are mutually exclusive, each having the endogenous and exogenous clan with their own named and culture, customs, location practice and lifestyle. The Adivasis are an inseparable part of Kerala population and for that reason the state holds a unique position in the tribal map of India. They have a unique culture and civilization of their own. Though the need for a clear classification of Adivasis in Kerala has been pointed out, it has not been attempted so far successfully. As per the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Act, 2002 (Act 10 of 2003) vide Part-V11 Kerala-Second Schedule notified in the Gazette of India, dated 8th January, 2003, the government of Kerala has enlisted 36 Adivasi communities in the state as Scheduled Tribes. Adivasi concentrations in the state are seen in the districts of Kasaragod, Kannur, Kozhikode, Malappuram, Wayanad, Idukki, Palakkad and the north eastern parts of Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram districts. As per 2011 census, the Adivasi population of these districts together constitutes 73 percent of the total Adivasi Population in the state. According to the 2011 census, Kerala has a total population of 3,34,06,061 of which the population of Adivasi communities constitutes 4,84,839 (1.45 percent). A well-established criterion being followed is based on certain attributes such as: Geographical isolation: They live in cloister, exclusive remote and inhospitable areas like hills and forests, Backwardness: Livelihood based on primitive agriculture, low cost closed economy on low level of technology, which caused of poverty. They have a low level of literacy and poor health, Distinctive Culture, Language and religion: They have developed community wise their own distinctive culture, language and religion, Shyness of contact. They have margin degree of contact with other culture and people. Tribes in Kerala or Adivasis of Kerala are the indigenous population found in the southern Indian state of Kerala. Most of the tribal people of Kerala live in the forests and mountains of Western Ghats, bordering Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. In the 1970s, tribal peoples came again under intense land pressure, especially in central India. Migration into tribal lands increased dramatically, as tribal people lost title to their lands in many ways – lease, forfeiture from debts, or bribery of land registry officials. Other non-tribals simply squatted, or even lobbied governments to classify them as tribal to allow them to compete with the formerly established tribes. In any case, many tribal members became landless labourers in the 1960s and 1970s, and regions that a few years earlier had been the exclusive domain of tribes had an increasingly mixed population of tribals and non-tribals. Government efforts to evict nontribal members from illegal occupation have proceeded slowly; when evictions occur at all, those ejected are usually members of poor, lower castes.

The Constitution of India, Article 366 (25) defines Scheduled Tribes as "such tribes or tribal communities or part of or groups within such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under Article 342 to be the scheduled Tribes (STs) for the purposes of this Constitution". In Article 342, the procedure to be followed for specification of a scheduled tribe is prescribed. However, it does not contain the criterion for the specification of any community as scheduled tribe. An often used criterion is based on attributes such as:

- Geographical isolation – they live in cloistered, exclusive, remote and inhospitable areas such as hills and forests.
- Backwardness – their livelihood is based on primitive agriculture, a low-value closed economy with a low level of technology that leads to their poverty. They have low levels of literacy and health.
- Distinctive culture, language and religion – communities have developed their own distinctive culture, language and religion.
- Shyness of contact – they have a marginal degree of contact with other cultures and people.

The Mannans who belong to Scheduled Tribe community are found in Thodupuzha, Devikulam, Udumbanchola and Peermade Taluks of the Iduki District. In the past, the economic activity of the Mannan community was centered round shifting cultivation. They collected minor forest produce like honey etc. All these conditions have now changed. The government has declared most of the forest areas in their region at Thekkadi as Wild Life Sanctuary. They, now form part of the Periyar Project Tiger Sanctuary. The forest officials have mercilessly put down the shifting cultivation by the tribal communities. The former are incapable of preventing large-scale encroachments on forestlands, poaching of protected wild life and stealing of valuable timber from even the core area of the forest lands, of which Mannan families had been in possession and enjoyment for ages. These lands were encroached upon, grabbed and alienated by the settlers and the greedy land grabbers. Tea, coffee and cardamom estates were formed by all sorts of entrepreneurs in the Mannan homeland, each of which deprived the right to their livelihood. The forest department also put an axe on the tribal right of the collection of minor forest produce.

## **II. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

Government provides various services or schemes to the tribes in country. Especially the central and state Government provides various services and funds for their betterment. Government can take up activities for strengthening the infrastructure in the sectors critical to enhancement of human development indices such as education, income generation, health irrigation, roads, bridges, forests, forests villages, electrification, communication, rural marketing, agriculture, animal husbandry, food processing, human resource development in technical and vocational spheres, water harvesting, resettlement of displaced persons, tribal land management, sports promotion, Assured Drinking Water, and Other activities meant for welfare of Tribal population different from conventional development etc. The tribal people are mistreated by the government and the corporate sector. It can easily be seen that in our country the tribes are discriminated against but we forget that by doing this we not only lose rich heritage and skills that have no parallel in the world but also the knowledge of how to live peacefully with nature, the way these people have been living for many centuries. Most of the tribes might be unaware of the schemes which are available to them. Not only the schemes, legal aid are also available to them for their protection and security.

## **III. RELEVANCE OF THE STUDY**

Tribes constitute a sizable proportion of the total population of India. The tribes are also the citizens of India and hence promotion of their welfare is of equal importance. Not only the central and state Government has taken various steps for it but also various voluntary organizations have evinced interest in their task. The tribes are being aware about all the schemes but they are being mistreated by the authorities. The tribes may or may not aware or informed of the various schemes available to them. So this research is very relevant to conduct and to know about their knowledge about various government services.

### **GENERAL OBJECTIVE**

To study the knowledge level of tribes regarding the Government welfare programmes

### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

- To know about the socio-demographic details of the respondent
- To know about the effectiveness of Tribal Welfare Programmes on respondents.

### **FINDINGS OF THE STUDY**

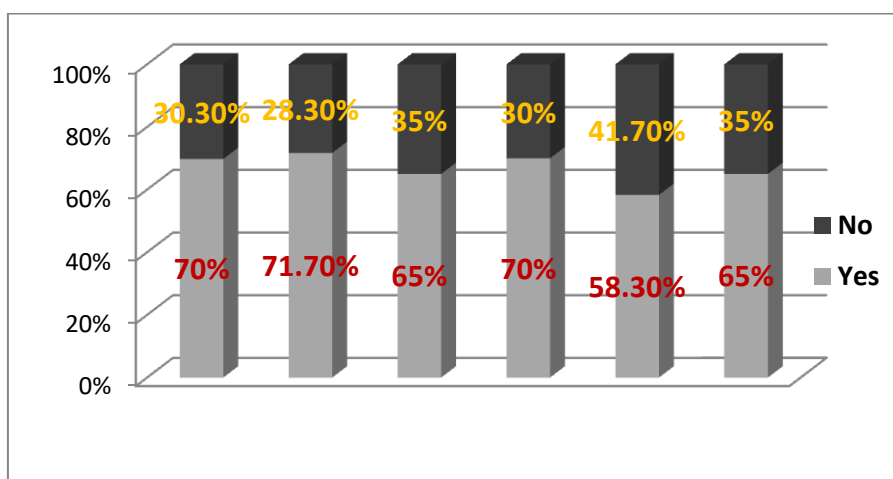
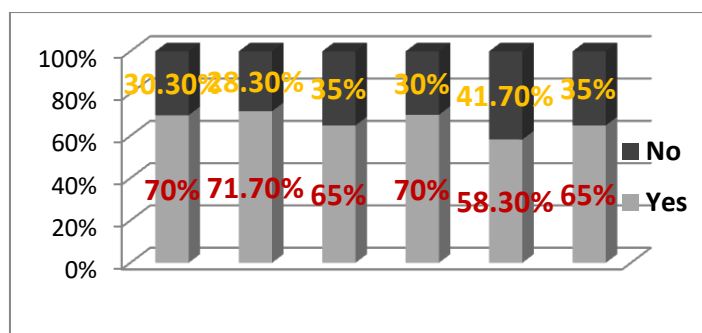
In this study, the age of the respondents is from 15 and above. All respondents belong to the Hindu religion and they are from Mannan caste. Half of the respondents are from the joint family. Most of the

respondents have the lower class education. The majority of the respondents depend on agriculture as the source of their livelihood.

**Table 1: Distribution of respondents based on the Government welfare programmes among Mannan tribe.**

ITEMS	STATUS			
	Yes		No	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Awareness about Government Training schemes	42	70.0	18	30.3
Free loans for self - employment	43	71.7	17	28.3
Financial Assistance for land purchasing	39	65.0	21	35.0
Free loans for housing	42	70	18	30.0
Financial Assistance for house maintenance	35	58.3	25	41.7
Financial Assistances for marriage	39	65.0	21	35.0

**Figure 1: Graphical representation of respondents based on the Government welfare programmes among Mannan tribe.**



The above table and graph show the distribution of respondents based on the whole Government welfare programmes and its status among Mannan tribe.

#### IV. SUGGESTIONS

Many programmes helped the tribal to improve their conditions. The following are important for further improvement:- To increase the permanent asset position of beneficiary households, the government shall evolve and implement the schemes like land purchase scheme, land development Scheme etc. To enhance

agricultural wages in tribal areas, the tribal development programmes should have wider scope to involve larger portion of population to take part. This automatically increases the demand for agriculture labour, which in turn increases agricultural wages. To ensure regular repayment of loan amount by the beneficiaries, the bankers or the government authorities shall provide opportunity to repay loan amount by enhancing the repayment period as per the economic conditions of the beneficiaries. The proper utilization of physical and financial components of a governmental programme largely depends on the awareness of the beneficiaries.

## **V. CONCLUSION**

The researcher learned about the knowledge level of tribal people about Government services. Through the study, the researcher came to know about the respondent's level of awareness and utilization of government services. The study reveals about the acceptance of various governmental services which are provided for them. Most of the respondents are aware about the services which are available to them through government such as availability of financial aid for various purposes, availability of bullocks, reservations, offences for atrocities against them etc. The study describes that most of the respondents are aware about the Governmental provisions and services which are available to them but many of them are not getting these provisions and services. Main drawback is that the services are getting to the person who already got it and not to the needy one. The authorities are providing these services to their favorites. The study is intended to take practical solutions to the causes and related issues. The researcher gave more information and awareness about the government services which avails to them.

## **REFERENCES**

- [1] T. Madhavamenon, ed. "*Mannan*" 1996: 254, s. v. "Dravidian Tribes".
- [2] <http://www.iosrjournals.org>.
- [3] <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kanjiyar>
- [4] <http://www.censusindia.gov.in>
- [5] International Journal of Scientific and Research Publications, Volume 4, Issue 1, January 2014 1 ISSN 2250-3153
- [6] Census Report of India, 2011.