CHAPTER VII

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS
India's tribals constitute eight per cent of the country's total population. India occupies second place with respect to tribal population in the world next to Africa. Generally, these tribal groups are spread over the length and breadth of our country and concentrated mostly in the hilly and forest regions. The tribes differ considerably from one another in race, language, culture and beliefs and present a spectacle of striking diversity. This diversity causes varied social characteristics and diverse cultural traditions and linguistic traits that lend lusters to the cultural mosaic of our country. In general these tribes are broadly categorized as disbursed and primitive groups. Primitive groups deserve to be given special treatment in the poverty alleviation programmes of the country.

The life style of Chenchus, one of the primitive groups, vividly portrays many interesting features of anthropological as well as economic interest. India, after Independence, has been striving her best to uplift the living standard of the Chenchus and overcome many perennial disadvantages though various welfare programmes have been undertaken to protect their interests. Since hoary past, this group of people have been living in isolation in the plateau and the sylvan setting on both sides of the banks of gorging Krishna. This dense forest possibly shielded them
against the inroads of the outsiders and thus they were able to maintain a balanced ecologically adoptive mechanism and equilibrium.

More than eighty per cent of the Chenchu population depend on minor forest produce collection, agriculture and on some activities which come under ISB sector which could hardly generate any surplus income to raise their standard of living. Among the factors responsible for their development, ITDA’s schemes and their implementation are the most important. However, credit supply plays major role. With the advent of green revolution and breakthrough in agricultural technology, the credit needs in the rural have increased. Due to the intervention of ITDA, Chenchus are now slowly attracting towards agricultural sectors and most of them are now mainly depending on this sector inspite of unfavourable natural conditions like scanty and erratic rainfall, infertile and fragmented lands etc. The task of ITDA is challenging in these areas, because most of the people have the potential inclination and willingness to work and generate income, but did not possess the necessary where-withall.

Finance is an essential and important input for breaking the vicious of poverty. The ITDA has come in a big
way to provide institutional credit to the tribal developmental programmes. Very few studies made so far regarding the impact of ITDA programmes have shown that the informal sector still continues to cater to the needs of primitive Chenchu in a significant way. Over the years, the strategy for rural development in general and tribal development in particular has been evolving a family beneficiary oriented approach. Its objective is to enable selected families in the rural areas to cross the poverty line by providing productive assets and inputs to the target group. Presently there are 191 ITDPs in the country. At the end of 1992 the IRD programme effectively covered all the 837 blocks in the tribal sub-plan area.

In the present micro-level study, an attempt is made to assess the performance of ITDA programmes implemented in the project area in agriculture, animal husbandry and industry, services and business sectors. The main focus of the study is to make an indepth analysis of the impact of credit on income generation, employment creation and assets improvement of beneficiary households. Of the many programmes aimed at eradication of poverty and creating productive employment opportunities, the Integrated Tribal Development Programme is the most comprehensive programme in operation since 1975-76 for implementing the intensive and
developmental programmes for the benefit of Chenchus. The project area is covering 254 villages spread over 6 districts.

A state level committee with the Director of Tribal Welfare as the Chairman and the Project Officer as the Member-Secretary has been entrusted to formulate broad-based policies and oversee the implementation of the developmental programmes in the six identified districts.

During the year 1988, in order to keep the development administration in the vicinity of the people for whose benefit it has to function, the ITDA was shifted from Hyderabad to Srisailam. Chenchus in general till the recent past were engaged in food gathering and hunting for their livelihood and were depending on the immediate surrounding nature without any skills to exploit resources like land, water etc. Now the ITDA is striving hard to settle the Chenchus on land based activities by providing sustainable assets and inputs and imparting necessary skill. Accordingly land development, land ploughing with tractors and sowing, supply of agricultural input like seeds, fertilizers and pesticides, minor irrigation, soil conservation, horticulture, backyard vegetable garden, backyard horticulture etc., are given priority in its action plans. After shifting the headquarters of ITDA from Hyderabad to Srisailam initially an amount of Rs. 600.73
lakhs was allotted to the six identified districts upto 1996 and covered 16,106 beneficiaries in different schemes.

PROFILE OF KURNOOL DISTRICT

Kurnool district where the present study has been carried out is one among the four districts of the Rayalaseema region in Andhra Pradesh state. The district covers an extent of 17,658 Sq.Km consisting of 29.173 lakhs population as per 1991 census, of which the rural population accounts for 22.04 lakhs (74 per cent) of total while urban population account for 7.68 lakhs (25.8 per cent) of the total population. In the entire district, the literates are 9.67 lakhs forming 33 per cent of the total population as against the state’s literacy rate of 44.1 per cent. Among Chenchus 17 per cent are literates. As per 1991 census, the scheduled tribe population in the district is 55.891 thousands. Among those 4767 thousands are the Chenchus with 1518 families living in the entire district. Since Kurnool district is a drought-prone district, maximum importance was given to minor irrigation schemes and lot of emphasis was laid on agriculture and allied activities in the IRDP programmes.

The district has been served by various financial institutions, among them the ITDA is one which is striving
for the upliftment of the primitive (Chenchu) tribals in this area. The district has three Revenue divisions, 54 Revenue Mandals, 53 Mandal Prajaparishads, 821 Grama Panchayats and 918 Revenue villages. The ITDA had covered all the Chenchu Gudems of the Kurnool district.

The main objectives of the study are:

1. To critically review the working of various developmental programmes for primitive tribal groups with particular reference to I.T.D.A;

2. to study the socio-economic conditions of the beneficiary households before and after the implementation of the programmes;

3. to assess the impact of the programmes on income, employment and asset structure of the beneficiary households; and

4. to study the attitude of the personnel of ITDA towards the implementation of the developmental programmes and their impact on tribals.

The methodology adopted is to compare the economic position in the post loan period of sample beneficiary
households with their pre-loan position. A sample of 200 beneficiaries financed under various schemes were selected and the data was collected with the help of a well structured questionnaire. The sector-wise sample beneficiaries represented are 105 sample households in the agricultural sector, 57 households in the animal husbandry and ISB sector is represented by 38 sample households. A multi-stage sampling procedure has been employed, where Kurnool district in Rayalaseema has been chosen first and later the villages and the sample households. The selected villages are Byrluti gudem and Nallakalva gudem of Atmakur mandal, Ahobilam gudem of Allagadda mandal; Basavapuram gudem of Mahanandi mandal, Mekalabonda gudem of Srisailam mandal. In addition to this, to study the problems of officials, 25 officials of various organisations who are responsible for the implementation of ITDA programmes were interviewed for the purpose.

The second chapter carries an overview of Chenchu tribal development in India. This group in scheduled tribe constitutes a specific segment of population which is socially and economically lagging far behind the other communities in the scale of development. This particular tribe is still in search of a 'Survival Technique' without any comfortable shelter.
The main concentration of the Chenchus in Andhra Pradesh can be seen in the districts like Mahaboob Nagar, Nalgonda, Ranga Reddy, Kurnool, Prakasam and Guntur. It is believed that the Chenchus inhabited in this area much earlier than the Dravidians. Their ancestors were referred to as Adi-Chenchus which means that they existed from times immemorial. Chenchu groups were undertaking early traditions of human society.

The Chenchus are predominantly found living in Nallamala hills which are a portion of eastern ghats of Kurnool, Prakasam and Mahaboob Nagar districts. These hills are endowed with rich flora and fauna. According to 1991 Census, their total population is 29,100.

The Chenchus are divided into following endogenous sub-divisions viz., (1) Adi-Chenchus (forest dwellers), (2) Deva Chenchus (temple servants), (3) Bontha Chenchus (who prepare bamboo sticks), (4) Krishna Chenchus (nomadic mendicants). The Chenchus habitat is significant not only from a religious point of view but also from an archaeological and historical perspective. Mannanur appears on the main road leading to Srisailam from Hyderabad and it is a focal point for Chenchu development activities. The Chenchus are not civilised and the government has included the Chenchus under
primitive tribal group to improve their living conditions. The governments since 1930 has been making efforts to bring these Chenchus nearer to the stream of society.

There is a large variation in the growth rate of Chenchu population from district to district and from decade to decade. The variation and abnormal increase of Chenchu population may be due to inter-district migrations or errors in enumeration. By and large the family size of Chenchus is small. A Chenchu family with 5 to 6 children is a rare feature.

The general feeling is that Chenchus can be developed economically and educationally only when they settle permanently at a particular place. The erstwhile British government in Andhra Pradesh region and erstwhile Nizam government laid the foundation for the development of Chenchus in forest areas by creating exclusive enclosures in the forest areas. The former Madras government has allotted 6141 acres of land to the Chenchus for their house sites, cultivation and raising of their goats and sheep. Similarly, in Mahaboob Nagar district nearly one lakh acres were notified as Chenchu reserves. In early 1950s the forest department was incharge of the implementation of welfare programmes for the Chenchus living in the forest villages.
In order to develop the primitive tribal group the Government of India has established an Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) for primitive tribes (Chenchus) during Fifth Five Year Plan i.e., 1975-76 at Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh. For effective implementation of various schemes and to have closer supervision of various programmes which are meant for the upliftment of Chenchus, the ITDA for primitive tribes has been shifted from state headquarters to Srisailam, the central place of Chenchu habitat. This agency has been implementing poverty alleviation schemes for Chenchus in all six districts viz., Kurnool, Mahaboob Nagar, Prakasam, Guntur, Nalgonda and Ranga Reddy districts with 80 per cent subsidy and 20 per cent margin money from central and state governments.

Success of the developmental programmes mainly depends on the socio-economic conditions of the beneficiaries. Hence a brief discussion on the socio-economic conditions of the sample beneficiaries regarding their family structure, literacy status, assets positions etc., has been made. The study also attempted to evaluate the impact of financial assistance of ITDA on income and employment of the sample beneficiaries in the post-loan period.
Sample beneficiaries engaged in agriculture sector have given assistance for land development, agricultural implements, plough bullocks, bullock carts etc. On an average, each beneficiary was assisted with Rs.5801. The average financial assistance provided per beneficiary for land development activity was Rs.1542 and agricultural implements Rs.7500 and on an average Rs.9000 was given to plough bullocks and Rs.8700 for bullock carts.

In Animal husbandry sector, the beneficiaries have received assistance for purchasing milch animals, sheep units, fishing nets and breeding bull. On an average an amount of Rs.8733 was given per beneficiary household. The average scheme-wise assistance for milch animals, sheep units, fishing nets and supply of breeding bulls works out to Rs.10,200, Rs.8,800, Rs.5,000 and Rs.10,000 respectively.

In ISB sector an average assistance of Rs.8592 was given per beneficiary household. The beneficiaries financed through ITDA have direct (quantitative) and indirect (qualitative) benefits in the post loan period in all the three sectors which are summarised below. Sector-wise average assistance by ITDA works out to Rs.5801, Rs.8733 and Rs.8592 for agriculture, animal husbandry and ISB sectors respectively.
Impact of Financial Assistance of ITDA

Impact on Net Irrigated Area: Financial assistance for agriculture enabled the Chenchus to bring the additional land under cultivation. Before, availing financial assistance of ITDA, the sample beneficiaries in the agricultural sector were possessing 282 acres, out of which 137 acres of rainfed land and 146 acres of irrigated land. But after ITDA's assistance, the net irrigated area has increased to 159.65 acres.

Impact on Land Utilization

The impact of providing irrigation facilities has been observed on the pattern of land utilization by the sample beneficiaries in the agricultural sector. The gross cropped area in the post-loan period has increased slightly to 296.39 acres from 283.00 acres due to intensive use of land by the beneficiaries. Area sown more than once has increased from 146.00 to 156.36 in the post-loan period indicating an increase of 4.36 acres.

Impact on Cropping Pattern

Comparison of data on cropping pattern between the two periods i.e. before ITDA (pre-loan period) and after ITDA
(post-loan period) shows that the Chenchu farmers preferred to grow more groundnut and cotton after the implementation of the ITDA’s programmes.

Impact on Cost of Cultivation

The average cost of cultivation per acre was Rs. 6115.82 in the pre-loan period. This has increased to Rs. 1080.85 in the post-loan period indicating an increase of 34.27 per cent over the pre-loan period. This is due to use of modern inputs like HYV seeds, fertilizers etc.

Impact on Net Income from the Activities

The most important direct benefit derived by the beneficiary households is the substantial increase in the net income of the respective activities. This incremental net increase had a favourable influence to augment their net family income in the implementation of ITDA programmes.

In the agricultural sector, the average net farm income has increased from Rs. 4465 to Rs. 6480.29 after implementation of ITDA. The average net incremental income per household was Rs. 2014. All the schemes under this sector produced positive impact on the income level of the beneficiaries.
In the animal husbandry sector, the average net incremental income per household was Rs. 5526. If we see activity-wise, the average net incremental income per household was highest for the beneficiaries engaged in sheep rearing (Rs. 6902) followed by milch animals (Rs. 4,612), supply of breeding bulls (Rs. 4348) and fishing nets (Rs. 3,814).

In the ISB sector, the beneficiaries have retained an average incremental net income of Rs. 8746 per household after ITDA's assistance. With regard to individual performance of the activities under this sector, fancy stores have proved more effective in augmenting the net income of the beneficiaries with an increase of Rs. 10,007 per household over the pre-loan period followed by kirana shop (Rs. 9,984), bamboo cutting (Rs. 8,333), tea hotel (Rs. 8249) and cycle shop (Rs. 3,270). The average net incremental income per household was lowest for the beneficiaries engaged in cycle shop.

Impact on Employment

One of the important aims of the financial assistance of ITDA is to provide gainful employment opportunities for the beneficiaries after its involvement. In the agricultural sector irrespective of the activities, on an average,
mandays of employment per beneficiary household has increased to 43. Of the four activities, agriculture implements stands first in employment generation indicating that the net incremental employment of 51 mandays per household over the pre-loan period. The bullock carts activity stands last in the generation of employment i.e., only 39.92 mandays, on an average.

Since all the beneficiaries have received the financial assistance under ITDA, the beneficiaries could get gainful employment in the animal husbandry sector. The average employment generated per household was highest in sheep units (28 mandays) followed by supply of breed cattle (24 mandays), milch animals (22 mandays) and fishing nets (15 mandays). Sheep units and milch units have favourable impact on employment generation.

Regarding the performance of individual units in the ISB sector, bamboo cutting was able to provide additional employment of 818 mandays per beneficiary household, kirana shop 748 mandays. Fancy shop 550 mandays followed by tea hotel with 510 mandays, whereas cycle shop activity could provide only 140 mandays additionally.
Impact on Asset Creation

The financial assistance provided by ITDA had a significant impact on the asset position of the beneficiary households. The figures indicate that the value of farm assets and non-farm assets increased by Rs.3853.72 and Rs.255.20 respectively. The average asset value for all the beneficiaries under different activities in the animal husbandry has increased by Rs.6097.25 per household after ITDA. Similarly in ISB sector, the average asset value has increased by Rs.8,592 over the pre-loan period.

Number of Families Lifted above the Poverty Line

Though the ITDA programmes had positive impact, they could not improve significantly the living conditions of the Chenchus and it can also be noted that beneficiaries could not raise their income to Rs.12,000 per annum. It is gratifying to note that out of 200 sample beneficiaries, only six beneficiaries were able to cross the poverty line of Rs.12,000 annual income.

Testing of Hypotheses

In the present study three hypotheses have been framed. The analysis of these hypotheses were made with
standard statistical techniques and some were made with the help of tables only to prove that the impact of ITDA's assistance on income, employment and asset position is significant. To test three hypotheses, Paired 't' test was used to know the impact of ITDA's assistance on income, employment, and asset position between pre-loan and post-loan periods. It is found that there is positive relationship between the amount of loan disbursed and the household income, employment and asset position between pre-loan and post-loan periods in all the schemes of ITDA. To measure the elasticity of ITDA's finance on income, employment and assets of beneficiaries under various activities, Regression analysis was tabled and found that the elasticity coefficients of the ITDA's finance on income, employment and asset were positive but were of low magnitude in increasing income and employment.

Finally, the study aimed at testing the hypothesis that the quantum of loan and subsidy amount given was not adequate to finance the activity for which it was financed. On the opinion of beneficiary households, the hypothesis has been proved that the inadequate availability of financial assistance had negative impact on realization of income. In this case, the opinion of all the sample beneficiaries regarding suitability of the schemes and their implementation
was collected. The collected information was analysed by \( \chi^2 \) using \( \chi^2 \) test. The analysis reveals that the schemes are suitable to the context and the implementation of the schemes was effective as per the opinion expressed by the beneficiaries.

**Attitudes of the Beneficiaries and Officials of ITDA**

Besides the assessment of the impact of developmental programmes in quantitative terms, a qualitative change is also assessed. There is a considerable shift in their food and clothing habits. Earlier they were not having proper food, in the sense that they were depending on roots, sometimes which are poisonous in nature. But now they are trying to switch over to the consumption of rice, especially in the developed villages. Likewise, there is a shift in their clothing habits also and men are seemed to be wearing pants and shirts and women are also fully clad with sarees and blouses. Another interesting attitudinal change is that they are able to overcome their fear when dealing with the Government officials and they are also approaching the headquarters of ITDA for assistance.

Since the personnel play a pivotal role in administering the developmental programmes, the individual profiles of some of them along with experiences of the
respondents had been portrayed in Chapter-VI. Case studies of personnel administering these programmes revealed that, despite some lacunae, most of the programmes were implemented with zeal and enthusiasm by the officials.

The concept of development as visualised by the tribal respondents has been presented through the case studies. Principally the case studies were intended to understand the impact of the developmental programmes on the tribals. These case studies portray the development in tribal areas in a striking manner where unless the tribal households receive assistance under multiple schemes, they could not realise the betterment in their lives. Here it is not the resource crunch alone that is inhibiting development in tribal areas. Besides the commitment of the bureaucracy and the motivation of the tribals, the mode of assistance and the timing of it had also a role to play in the process of development that is taking place in tribal areas.

Though the scheduled tribes of Chenchus have derived benefits from the family oriented schemes under agriculture, animal husbandry and ISB sectors in varying degrees, as far as the impact of the ITDA schemes on area development and infrastructure development in the project area there has been an overwhelming response from the tribal
respondents that their life style and conditions have not changed after the implementation of ITDA schemes.

Suggestions

Based on the findings of the empirical study relating to the impact of the ITDA programmes on socio-economic development of primitive (Chenchu) tribals of the project Area of Andhra Pradesh, some suggestions are made here to bring about improvement in the planning and implementation of ITDA's programmes for primitive tribal development.

1) There is a dire need of effecting the financial integration of the sectoral allocations at the ITDA level. Financial outlays of all sectoral departments are not made available to the project officer of the ITDA. Only three sectoral departments are at the disposal of the project officer and the other sectors were being utilized by the concerned sectoral heads in implementing their schemes without the coordination of the project officer. As a result, the cumulative effect of the impact of the investment in the absence of an integrated tribal development is not fully reflected in the living standard of the tribals. Infact the sectoral departments in consultation with the project officer should decide the priority schemes in tribal areas.
The project officer will thus be in a better position to know which sector should be given top priority in the light of the local needs of the tribals so that the necessary financial allocations will be made.

2) Presently the allocation of funds are made district-wise only. It is always better to make allocation of funds at micro level i.e., village wise or Gudem-wise which will reduce the disparities in the development of villages. At this juncture it is suggested that the Gudem growth centres (if possible) may be started to phase up the developmental activities.

3) Majority of the officials working in the ITDA are on deputation from other departments. They do not have a sustained and long term interest in the development of tribals. It is, therefore, felt that a regular cadre of Tribal Development Officers in the state should be created to achieve the continuity of the officers in one area of development.

4) Usually the Project Officer of the ITDA has been entrusted with the task of planning and implementation of development programmes in the sub-plan areas. It is, therefore, necessary that the project officer tenure should be
minimum of five years in his posting. Frequent transfers will disturb the momentum of the implementation of developmental programmes.

5) In the selection of beneficiaries, the Government officials are presently playing key role. Instead conducting the Grama Sabha meetings and village tribal development meetings should be the ideal method for the selection of the beneficiaries.

6) The Government should realise the essential difference between development administration and revenue administration, as development administration requires a positive approach for cultivating personal relations. Hence, those who had been well trained in such activities and those who had been acclaimed as an understanding personnel of the problems of tribal poor should be allowed to function in the same area for atleast a plan period so that they can fulfil the targets of a plan in a better manner.

7) Along with the beneficiary oriented programmes, the resources of the village economy should be harnessed for generating sustainable employment opportunities instead of concentrating more on special schemes.
8) Invariably the unit cost of the schemes must be adhered before grounding otherwise the under-financed schemes become non-viable and liability for the poor tribals.

9) In the project area, the physical and financial targets for IRDP family oriented schemes should be integrated with the similar component of the ITDA to avoid duplication of efforts and double counting of beneficiaries.

10) Presently monitoring mechanism for implementation of ITDA schemes is not appreciable. This should be strengthened by careful perusal of each case and attend to their on going difficulties in the implementation of the schemes and should also see that the developmental aid is put to proper use by the beneficiary households.

11) If the agriculture is not conducive to the local needs, the beneficiaries must be assisted financially for other developmental activities like sheep rearing, piggery etc.

12) The distribution of sowing seeds to the agricultural beneficiaries must be intime. The distribution of sowing seeds should take place before kharif season so that the beneficiaries could have realise the favourable results.
13) The forest land is generally allotted to the tribes by the local revenue department/ITDA and other related government agencies. The prime problem is that the forest department personnel will come in the way of the tribals in making the utilisation of the land. In this circumstances, the government has to take suitable remedial measures in dealing with the Forest Act and to allow the tribals to do farming and other activities for their development.

14) The time gap between the allotment of agriculture land and provision of infrastructural facilities must be shortened for proper agricultural development.

15) It is strongly suggested that there should be emphasis on introducing horticultural plantations and commercial crops in the project area. Though this is highly difficult, it is not at all a problem.

16) Lastly, but not the least, incentives may be offered to those personnel working sincerely for the cause of tribals.

ITDA is a most comprehensive programme being implemented throughout the country to uplift tribals in general. To improve the economic position of identified
groups, the poverty focussed approach for development hinges heavily on the easy accessibility of institutional finance to the beneficiary household. This is a modest attempt to evaluate the performance of ITDA in improving income, employment and asset position of beneficiaries. Formulation and implementation of the schemes of ITDA with greater forward and backward linkages will go a lot way in helping the deserving tribal people.