CHAPTER II

PROFILE OF THE TRIBALS
TRIBAL SITUATION IN INDIA:

India is one among few nations of the world noted for its tribal concentration. The Scheduled Tribes in India constitutes about 7.8 percent of the country's total population and they number 53.8 million as per 1981 census. The tribal communities are concentrated in hilly and forest regions. There are about 250 major Scheduled Tribes who are scattered throughout the country.

The largest population of Scheduled Tribes are concentrated in the North-Eastern states and union territories like Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, etc., where more than 80 percent of the population belongs to the tribes. About half of the country's tribal population is concentrated in the three states of Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Bihar. The most dominant communities among the Scheduled Tribes of India are, the Gonds of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh; the Bhils of Rajasthan and Gujarat; and the Santals of Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal. Among them are groups numerically as large as about 5 millions and as small as below 30 members.

The tribal communities of India have been divided into five territorial groupings, taking into
account their historical, ethnic and socio-cultural relations, viz., a) the sub-Himalayan region of north and north west India; b) North-East India comprising Assam, NEFA, Nagaland, Manipur and Tripura; c) Central and east India comprising West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh, d) Western India comprising Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharastra; and e) South India comprising Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala (Roy Burman, 1972, p.39).

There are three important tribal — concentrated zones in India where most of the tribals inhabit. These zones are:

1. North and north-eastern zones of India comprising the sub-Himalayan mountainous region with dominating tribes e.g., Naga group like Konyak, Rengama, Sengama Ao, Angama, Lhota, Phom, Chang, Kabus; Kuki group including Lushai, Lakher, Chins; Khasi, Garo, Kachari, Lepcha, Bhutia, Rabha, Tharu, Khasa, Cherl etc.

2. The central or middle zone comprising the states of West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, southern Uttar Pradesh, northern Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, northern Rajasthan in which a good number of tribal communities live. The important tribal communities live in these areas are Santhal, Munda, Oraon, Bhumif, Kora,
Lodha, Saur, Juang, Khond, Korke, Gond, Bhil, Birhor, Kol, Maler, Asur, Baiga, Pradhan, Birjhia, Agaria, Hill Maria, Bison-Lorn Maria etc.

3. The southern zone consisting of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh states where the important tribal communities like Chenchu, Toda, Badaga, Kota, Panian, Irula, Kuruba live.

Tribal communities are also found living in some other pockets like Andaman and Nicobar islands, Lakshadeev etc. The hostile Jarawa, Nicobarese, Onge, etc. are notable for their primitive style of life (Vidyarthir, L.P. 1968, p.198).

TRIBAL SITUATION IN ANDHRA PRADESH:

Andhra Pradesh has now the largest concentration of tribals in southern India. The forest clad hill ranges and the chequered valleys traversed by hill streams of the Eastern Ghats and the forests flanking the mighty Godavari and Krishna river constitute the traditional habitat of as many as 30 forest tribes. It is in this isolated habitat that each tribe has fashioned its artifacts, mentifacts and socifacts in consonance with their environs and according to its genius. (Pratap, D.R. 1975).
According to the 1981 census, the population of the Scheduled Tribes in Andhra Pradesh was 31.72 lakhs which constituted 5.92 percent to the total population of the state. There are 33 tribal communities in the state. Most of the tribal groups are found living in forest and hill tracts of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Khammam, Warangal, Adilabad and Mahaboobnagar districts.

Savara and Jatapu tribal groups are predominantly found in Srikakulam and Vizianagaram districts out of total 30 hill tribal groups in the state. Nearly 15 tribal groups are found in scheduled areas of Visakhapatnam district. Bagatas, Mukha Doras, Reddi Doras, Kotias, Khonds, Konda Doras, Porjas, Gadabas, Goudu, Mali, Manne Dora and Valmikis are important tribal groups living in mountainous tracts of Visakhapatnam district. In East Godavari, West Godavari and Khammam districts, Koyas and Kondareddis are predominantly found. Koya, one of the numerically predominant tribal group is also found in Warangal, Karimnagar and Adilabad districts. Gond, Kolam Pardham and Lambadis are chief tribal groups in Adilabad district. Chenchus who are at food gathering stage of economy are
Lambadis, a pastoral tribe is found in all parts of Andhra Pradesh except in upper coastal districts. Yerukula, the traditional basket makers and soothsayers are found in all the districts of Andhra Pradesh. Yanadi, the traditional inland fisherman and rodent catchers are found in the entire Andhra region of the state (Mohan Rao, K. 1988).

The tribals and the areas in which they live in Andhra Pradesh, have been divided into four categories to promote socio-economic development expeditiously. They are:

1. Tribals in sub-plan area—areas of tribal concentration.
2. Tribals in special pockets of tribal concentration in plain areas (M.A.D.A.).
3. Primitive tribal groups who are still at pre-agricultural economic subsistence level, and
4. Dispersed tribal groups in plain areas.

In pursuance of Government of India policy and the objectives of State Government in view, eight Integrated Tribal Development Agencies have been established in eight districts of Andhra Pradesh, viz.,
Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Khammam, Warnagal and Adilabad. Integrated Tribal Development Agencies are established in various districts for promoting development of tribals. A separate integrated tribal development schemes for tribals, has been launched under primitive tribal groups and also Modified Area Development Approach (M.A.D.A.) programmes in the entire state with its headquarters at Hyderabad, the capital of Andhra Pradesh.

PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA:

a) DISTRICT:

As the name of the district indicates, East Godavari is closely associated with the river Godavari occupying a major portion of the delta area. The district is situated on the Eastern flank of the river Godavari. East Godavari is located between the northern latitudes of 16° 30' and 18° and between the eastern longitudes of 81° 30' and 82° 30'. The district is bounded on the north by Visakhapatnam district and the state of Orissa, on the East and the South by the Bay of Bengal and on the West by Khammam and West Godavari districts. The headquarters of the district is located at Kakinada.
The district can be broadly divided into three district zones, namely agency or the hilly tracts, the delta and the uplands. The Eastern Ghats rise by gradation from the level of the sea coast and spread throughout the agency. Most of its area is covered by the dense forests and hills. The district covers an area of 10,970 Sq.Kms., with a total population of 37.01 lakhs of which the tribal population is 1.43 lakhs, forming 3.86 percent, as per 1981 census. The district comprises of 57 mandals attached to revenue divisions.

There are seven agency mandals in East Godavari district. They are Addateegala, Devipatnam, Gangavaram, Maredumilli, Rajavomangi, Rampachodavaram and Y. Ramavaram.

Climate:

The climate is characterised by high humidities almost throughout the year, oppressive summer season and good seasonal rainfall. The summer season starts about the middle of February to the first week of June is oppressive. This is followed by the south-west monsoon season which lasts till the end of September. October and November constitute the monsoon season, whereas the season from December to mid February is fine.
Rainfall:

The average annual rainfall is 1139 mm. Both the south-west monsoon and the retreating monsoon bring rains. The rainy season starts with June and ends with September. October is the rainiest month.

Temperature:

In the interior of the district, the temperature in summer is very hot when compared with coastal region. From about the middle of February, temperature rise rapidly till May which is the hottest month.

Soil Condition:

The soils are mainly classified into red (53%), deltaic alluvium (29%), coastal sands (14%) and lateritic soils (4%). The red soil occurs over a large area in the northern parts. Deltaic alluvium soil is found throughout the district, while the lateritic soil is confined only to some parts.

Forests:

The forests occupy an area of 3.23 lakh hectares which forms 30.70 percent of the total geographical area of the district. The main products of the forests are soapnuts, tamarind, adda leaves honey and brooms.
Rivers:

The principal river is the Godavari. The other important river is the Yeluru.

Mineral resources:

The minerals available in the district are clay, graphite, magnetite and limestone.

Irrigation:

The undulating and plain terrains level to irrigation form canals, streams, tanks and wells. The main source of irrigation is the canal from the river Godavari.

Industries:

The industries in the large and medium scale sector functioning in East Godavari district consist of sugar mills, spinning and textile mills, fertilizers and electrical and paper manufacturing units. The industries in the small scale sector are mostly agro-based i.e., rice mills, oil mills etc. Handloom weaving is an important cottage industry of the district.

Animal Husbandry:

According to livestock census (1983) the total livestock is 12.63 lakhs. Out of this 1.43 lakhs are cows, 2.75 lakhs are bullocks, 1.60 lakhs are goats,
0.79 lakhs are sheep and 15.73 lakhs are poultry stock.

**Agriculture:**

The principal crop of the district is paddy. The district gets second place in the paddy production in the state. The other food crops are jowar, bajra, ragi where as redgram, sugar cane, groundnut, tobacco, oil seeds, mango, banana, coconut are the commercial crops.

**Communication:**

There is 120 kilometers of railway line passing through the district. The road length under Government control is 1,746 Kms. Under the Panchayat Samithi is 1,650 Kms, and the Zilla Praja Parishad is 1,226 Kms.

There are 8 Head Post Offices, 178 sub-offices and 862 branch Post Offices (1984) in the district. There are 342 telegraph offices and 127 telephone exchanges situated in the district.

**Medical:**

Medical facilities are available throughout the district. There are 22 hospitals and one district headquarters hospital, 29 primary health centres and
There are 66 ayurvedic dispensaries, 2 Yunani dispensaries and 14 homoeo dispensaries in the district.

**Education:**

There are 2,524 primary schools and 282 upper primary schools, 237 high schools, 45 junior colleges, 19 degree colleges, 2 Polytechnic colleges, 2 Industrial Training Institutes (I.T.I) 1 Medical college and 1 Engineering college.

**b) MANDAL:**

The present study area Rampachodavaram Mandal is the headquarters of Integrated Tribal Development Agency (I.T.D.A.) project. This mandal is situated at a distance of 54 kilometers from Rajahmundry railway station and is on the Rajahmundry-Gokavaram, Devipatnam bus route. Rampachodavaram, derived its name from the neighbouring tribal village Rampa. The mandal is bounded on the north by Maredumilli mandal, on the west and the south by Devipatnam mandal and on the east Ellavaram mandal.

The area of Rampachodavaram mandal is 603.23 Kms. The total villages of the mandal are 87. The revenue villages are 72. The mandal is having a
population of 26,786. Out of which 13,669 persons are males and 13,117 are females. Out of 26,786 persons, 20,386 persons are Scheduled Tribes, according to Mandal Statistics (1985).

Climate:

The temperature varies between 15°C in the winter to about 42°C in the summer. Most of the area experience a cool winter and mild to moderately severe summer depending upon elevation and nearness of forests.

Flora:

Good miscellaneous dry deciduous and semi-evergreen forests are found in Rampa reserve. There are good types of forests with a height of ranging from 10 to 25 metres. Terminalia Bellerica (Tadi), Terminalia Chebula (Karakkaya), Bauhinia Retusa (Nirpa), Schrebera Switerioides (Mokheb), Terminalia Arjuna (Tellamaddi), Mangifera indica (Mamidi), Syzygium Cumini (Neredu), Dillenia Pentagyna (Kalinga), Aelbizzia Odoratissima (Chinduga) are some of the species in the forest areas of the Rampachodavaram. The forests provide employment to the tribals through various forest operations such as feeling, logging, plantation, transportation of timber and collection of minor forest produce. The major forest produce are timber, firewood, and bamboos,
while the minor forest produce includes tamarind, soapnuts, tanning barks, adda leaves, honey and brooms.

**Fauna**:

The forests of this area are represented by all classes of animals that are normally found in the forest areas, though small in number. Gaur is found occasionally in the Rampa agency area. Sambar, spotted deer and barking deer, rabbits, hares and wild boars are also present. Peafowl, jungle-fowl, partridge and quail birds are found in this area. Pythons and snakes such as cobras, kraits and vipers are there in the hilly areas.

**Agriculture**:

Agriculture is the sheet anchor of the tribal economy as the majority of the working population earn their livelihood from the agriculture. Paddy cultivation is still prevalent in the Rampachodavaram area. The crops are paddy, jowar, bajra, ragi, maize, redgram, chillies, blackgram and greengram.

The 'Kondareddi!' tribe is the primitive tribal group in the area. The other tribes are Koya Dora, Kondakammara, Kondakapu and Valmikies.
Education:

There are 33 primary schools, 4 ashrama upper primary schools, 5 ashrama elementary schools, 1 unaided upper primary school, 13 unaided elementary schools, 3 Zilla Praja Parishad High Schools, 1 Junior college and 1 degree college in Rampachodavaram Mandal. In regarding hostels, there are 11 ashram hostels, 2 tribal welfare hostels and 1 social welfare hostel.

Other facilities:

Out of 87 villages, 70 villages are electrified. As per medical facilities are concerned one homoeo dispensary and one primary health centre is there and one mobile health unit is also there. Postal and telecommunications facilities are also there in the headquarters of I.T.D.A. Rampachodavaram mandal.

c) SELECTED VILLAGES:

i) Chilakamamidi:

The total area of the village is 86.60 hectares. The population of the village is 418 as per 1981 census. The total number of household are 118. In this village we find the tribe Kondareddis. The entire village represents this tribe. In regarding educational
facilities, only one primary school is there. Within 5 to 10 kilometres distance the medical and health, postal and other facilities are available. The village is situated at a distance of 8 kilometres from Rampachodavaram mandal. The drinking water takes from fountain. Most of the people depends upon "podu" cultivation for their livelihood.

ii) Pandirimamidi:

The village represents for Koyas or Koya Doralu. The number of households are 50 and the population of Koyas are 179 as per 1981 census. Only one primary school is there. The village is situated at a distance of 5 kilometres from the headquarters of I.T.D.A. Rampachodavaram mandal. The main occupation of the Koyas is agriculture.

PROFILE OF KONDAREDDIS:

The Konda (or hill) Reddis are the largest hill tribe in East Godavari district. They are mainly found in the agency areas. They are also in the districts of Khammam and West Godavari. They call themselves as Pandava Reddies, as they believe to the progeny of Pandavas. They usually talk a rough kind of Telugu. Physically the Kondareddis are of small
and sturdy stature with shorter legs when compared to
the length of the body. They are characterised by a
broad heart-shaped face with a small pointed chin,
high cheek bones and a flat nose. Moustache and beard
are very sparse.

The Kondareddis mainly depends upon podu
cultivation. Periodic felling of forest and the culti-
vation on various millets, maize, pulses and vegetables
in the resulting clearings. Sometimes of the year when
their stores of grain have runout, reddis subsist on
forest produce, eating the sago-like pitts of the
caryota palm or the kernels of mango stones.

The Kondareddis have deep faith in the black
magic and believe that illness and misfortune are caused
by the sorcerers. When a person is ill, a 'Veju'
(magician) is called in to discover the cause of ill-
ness and prescribe curative rituals. From sowing to
reaping, all the stages of agricultural operations and
forest work are started only after performing rituals
for the associated deity. The hills and forests are
believed to be inhabited by a host of anthropomorphi-
cally conceived divinities, many of whom have their
seats on mountain tops and are hence referred to as
Konda Devatha, i.e, 'hill deities' Gangalamma Panduga,
Bhudevi Panduga and Vana Devudu Panduga are some of their important festivals.

They recognise marriage by capture and it is a custom found only among poorer people. Polygamy is not uncommon but polyandry is never recognised. 'Oli' or 'Kanyasulka' custom is there in Kondareddis. The panchayat of Kondareddis is a highly democratic institution. Each village has a head man called Pedda Kapu, who presides over panchayat meetings. Kondareddis belong to a primitive tribal group.

KOYAS:

Koya is one of the largest tribe in Andhra Pradesh. They are mainly in East Godavari, West Godavari and Khammam districts. The Koyas who style themselves as 'Doralu' or 'Doralu Sattam' are believed to be a section of the Gondi speaking race because of their physical and linguistic affinities with Gonds. Like gonds they call themselves 'Koitur' in their dialect. Koyas are divided into numerous sub-groups such as Racha Koya, Gutta Koya, Gommu Koya, Kammara Koya, Musara Koya, Gampa Koya, Oddi Koya, Kapu Koya, Matwa Koya, Linga Koya and Doli Koya. Racha Koya claims superiority over the other sub-groups. Kammara Koyas
are blacksmiths, Musara Koya, drummers and Kapu Koyas are agriculturists.

Koyas are generally medium in stature, with medium dark complexion. They have a broad nose, full lips, small chain and low forehead. Regarding the dress habits men wear either gochi-lion cloth or shirtdhovati, women generally wear 'sari' very often below the waist.

The Koyas are believers of primitive and bloody thirsty deities like Mamili, Komalamma, Korra-raju, Katurudu, Kadidevara etc. On every festival day they propitiate the spirits of their dead ancestors. Koyas more or less follow Hindus in respect of various social functions.

Dancing plays an important part in all their feasts and also in marriages. The men put on head dresses of straw into which buffalo-horns are stuck and do the turns and twists with a weird kind of chant.

Most of the Koya people depends upon agriculture. Marriages are either by proposal or by force which includes elopement and capture. Divorce and widow remarriages are also there in Koyas. In the case of a marriage by proposal, the young man gives a wedding feast and also pays the bride's price. If the marriage
is by capture, matters become much simpler.

Powerful social organisation function at various levels among the Koyas particularly to observe the social norms maintain harmonious inter-tribal relations of the community. The social organisation is democratic which is managed by kula panchayats. The kula panchayat functions at the village level and it is headed by pinna pedda which is a hereditary office. Above him is the kula pedda.