CHAPTER-7
A society can be called a just society, when all are equal before law, and all are provided with equal opportunities for participation in the process of governance and economic development of society. Unfortunately a large part of underprivileged people in India, even after six decades of development still suffer from humiliation of social exclusion, economic deprivation, political segregation and oppression. Thus there is an immense need to empower the underprivileged people especially Scheduled Tribes in all aspects of life, since they are the most suppressed and depressed group of people among all sections in the Indian society.

India has been described as of a races and tribes. India has the second largest concentration of tribal population in the world, next to Africa. In India, there are 573 Scheduled Tribes and they speak more than 106 languages. Tribal population have specialized characteristics which are different from others. They are simple people with exotic customs, traditions and practices. For centuries they lived a life of geographical isolation. In India primitive tribes have lived for thousands of years in forests and hills without any type of contacts. There is a need for integrating them into the mainstream of the society as rightful members, failing which, the ethnic division would persist and deepen, which is dangerous for the very existence of human sanctity and human well being.

The term “tribe” originated at the time of the Greek city-states and the early formation of the Roman Empire. The Latin term, “Tribus” has since been transformed to mean a group of person forming a community and claiming descent
from a common for ancestor. There is no exact definition or the criteria. Different scholars defined it in different ways at different times. There is ambiguity so far as concept and definition of "tribe" are concerned. Sometimes they are called as "aboriginal" or "depressed classes" or "Adivasis".

During the Pre-British period tribal communities in India remained fully or partially isolated from others in the country, and consequently they remained backward and suffered from poverty, malnutrition, disease, exploitation and ignorance in varying degrees. The Colonial Government did not pay any attention to the development of tribal communities, because it mainly aimed at regulatory functions, such as maintenance of law and order and collection of revenues. It enacted the Scheduled Districts Act in 1874 and kept large tracts of tribal areas outside the jurisdiction of normal administration. In 1935, the Colonial Government introduced the Excluded and Partially Excluded Area Act in order to make the legislations of Provincial Governments non-applicable to tribal areas. However, the British policy of isolation increased the misery of the tribal communities, and they were exposed to unhindered exploitation. Their plight was heightened by the introduction of the National Forest Policy in 1894. This curbed their traditional rights in forests. The forest policy led to the induction of contractors, traders and non-tribal labour to forest areas in a substantial manner. Other consequences of the commercialization of the forests were: continued depletion of forest cover, soil erosion and decline of fertility in the soil. This further widened the socio-economic gulf between the tribal communities and non-tribal communities. On the eve of independence it was decided to put all the communities, hitherto recognized as
aborigines, in separate Schedules of the Constitution of India. Thus the "excluded
and partially excluded" areas were enlisted in Fifth and Sixth Schedules.

The National Government decided to provide constitutional safeguards to the
tribal communities and enshrined them in the Constitution of India, which came
into force on 26 January 1950. The Fifth Schedule contains provisions as to the
administration and control of scheduled areas and scheduled tribes in the states
other than the north-eastern ones; whereas the Sixth Schedule contains provisions
for the administration of tribal areas in the north-eastern states.

Thus, welfare and development of the tribal communities have been the
national goal, and special responsibility of the central and various state
governments.

The Socio-economic status of various tribal communities is not uniform.
They continue to be at various levels of the socio-economic parameter. Scholars
have variously categorized them, but in the context of the present scenario they may
be divided into the following six categories:

Hunting, Collecting and Gathering, Cattle -Herder, The Simple Artisan , Hill and
Shifting Cultivation, Settled Agricultural, Tribe as Industrial Urban Worker.

India is one of the few nations in the world with a thriving tribal population
in different parts of the country. There are 573 different tribal communities spread
all over India. As per official data, only 258 tribal communities speaking about 106
different languages are notified as Scheduled Tribes.

The Scheduled Tribes have been specified, as per Article 342 of the
Constitution, in all States and Union Territories except Chandigarh, Delhi, Haryana,
Pondicherry and Punjab. About 80 percent of tribal populations spared over along the Central belt, starting from Gujarat, Maharashtra, running through Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhastigarh, Orissa, Jharkhand and West Bengal. The rest 20 percent are in the North-Eastern States, Southern States and Island groups. The numerically strong Scheduled tribe groups include Santhals, Gonds, Bhil, and Oraon. Smaller tribal groups are to be found in A&N Islands (Andamanese, Ongies) and Kerala-Tamil Nadu (Paniyans and Kattunaickens). These and other smaller groups numbering 75 in the country have been categorized as particularly vulnerable tribal groups (Earlier known as Primitive Tribal Groups) for special development assistance. Some of the major tribes of different states with the dawn of independence and adoption of the constitution of free India, the British policy of isolation and non-interference was replaced by a policy of integration through development. The Constitution of India has many safeguards for the welfare and development of the tribals. The relevant articles can be classified under four major heads: (a) Protective Provisions (Arts. 15, 16, 19, 46, 146, 342, etc.); (b) Developmental Provisions (Arts. 46, 275, etc.); (c) Administrative Provisions (Arts. 244 & 275) and (d) Reservation provisions (Arts. 330, 332, 334, 335, 340, etc.). The Protective Provisions safeguard tribal people from social injustices and all forms of exploitation, while the Developmental Provisions promote with special care of educational and economic interests of the weaker sections like the Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes. The Administrative Provisions under the Fifth and Sixth Schedules give special powers to the states for the protection and governance of tribal areas and the Reservation Provisions ensure due representation.
of the Scheduled tribes and Scheduled castes in legislative bodies and government jobs.

The weekly markets or sandhies are very popular in tribal areas. It is known as such in tribal areas of Viskapatnam and santa in other parts. The weekly markets are organized at fixed places and at fixed timing on a particular day. The transaction in the weekly markets are mostly exploitative as the traders never reveal the prevailing market rates and adopt various mal practices to cheat the tribals both in purchase of agricultural produce and sale of consumption goods. The weekly markets not only serve as places of economic transactions but also serve as meeting places for the tribals and contract places with other ethnic groups. Thus they play an important role in promoting socio-economic and cultural change.

The tribal do not eat new fruits, flowers etc., unless they are ritually offered to their gods and goddesses. They observed annual rituals have their own names for self identification. Different patterns of housing are found among different tribes in Andhra Pradesh. Most of the tribes live in small thatched huts with poor ventilation and with out basic facilities such as electricity, sanitation, drainage and drinking water. So do most of the tribal groups rise in schedule places. But in case of plain tribes, thus live in mixed villages.

The tribal communities in Andhra Pradesh may be broadly classified into six groups on the basis of economic levels wise. Food gathering, pastoeoralism, shifting cultivation, settled cultivation, artisans and industrial and mining labours. Among the tribals in Andhra Pradesh, Chenchus may be classified as food gathering, Sugalies, pastoral, savaras and Kondas as shifting cultivators. According
to 1971 census 47 percent of the tribals are categorised as workers. Among males 61 percent are workers. The share of workers among females is 33 percent and both the participation rates are higher than among non-tribals. According to 1981 census and 1991 census tribals' main workers are 44 percent and 47 percent respectively.

According to 1981 census agricultural labours are 7 percent among males and females; i.e. 4 and 3.3 percent. According to 1991 census agricultural labours are 46.57 percent. According to 2001 it is 41.86 percent

Review of earlier research studies on the development of scheduled Tribes and contribution of different factors responsible for their development it is essential to formulate an appropriate perspective for any further study. It is of vital significance in any study in order to collect up to date information about what has been thought and done in the particular area. Several studies, on the implementation of reservations and development its impact on scheduled tribes and other developmental programmes and policies adopted by government to develop the scheduled tribes are confined to one or two aspects and only to some regions of a state or a country. As no study is likely to be absolutely completed, the available literature will not help to broaden the scope and nature of successive research. Therefore the present study is taken up to bridge this gap. In this chapter an attempt has been made to synthesize the findings of the earlier studies on the evaluation of socio-economic conditions, impact of the developmental programmes of various government schemes and policies for improving the scheduled tribes.

Indian population consists of 8.19 per cent of tribal population in the country. Poverty is very high among these indigenous people as compared to
general population. They are mostly agricultural labourers with meager assets like land and houses. They are not politically empowered. Laws are passed to improve tribal people but they are grossly inadequate. There is a special need to empower tribal population socially, economically and politically. Their active participation in the developmental activities will go a long way in nation building.

Policies which are long term in nature are very much needed. The emphasis should be on quality and equity rather than quantity. There is every need to build up proper environment and decentralized management, skill development and teacher motivation programmes. But tribal developmental programmes failed to protect the interests of the tribals and take them to advanced level of development. However, the programmes adopted have brought awareness and unity among themselves. But still the aim of raising abilities of STs to enable them to compete and avail the quality of opportunity provided in the constitution has not been fulfilled. Thus, the tribal community is yet to catch up with the rest. They are not on par with other communities and lagging behind in all social and economic parameters. Though studies are available on tribals covering various aspects of their life, but area specific studies are not many. There is need more area specific studies in order to know more about STs in a particular state or location. The present study is an attempt in this direction.

The entire humanity has entered the new millennium with sea changes in the various aspects of life. These changes mainly pertain to the techno-scientific and psycho-social areas of human culture in the era of globalization, economic liberalization and free market economy on one side of the coin. On the other side of
the coin, scheduled Tribes in India are still living with lower level of socio-economic conditions, lower level of literacy, lower sex ratio and poor conditions of housing as compared to state and National average. Both the central and State Governments have implemented policies, developmental programmes and welfare schemes directed at the socio-economic empowerment of the scheduled tribes and scheduled castes (SCs). But the status and development of the scheduled tribes has not changed hitherto. They are the weakest in terms of political, economic, social and cultural resources.

When a man remains in the same occupation throughout his life, his economic and political development, and behavior inevitably becomes very rigid and non-flexible. On this account, the behavior of the people of the same status approaches uniformity, while that of people in different social positions becomes widely divergent. A Quite different picture is given by the behavior of the members of mobile society. A great versatility and plasticity of human behavior is a national result of social mobility.

Human development as a concept will have value or significance until the human development levels of disadvantaged people particularly of the scheduled tribes and scheduled castes are raised to the levels of those of the dominant classes. The present study in this direction has studied the development of the scheduled tribes. The suggestions made by the study if implemented will surely ensure scheduled tribes to enjoy equal rights and equal access to good and services in the society and to attain overall development on par with dominant castes.
The present study is confined to the Guntur district which can represent the State of Andhra Pradesh with three prominent regions of various levels of development and resources. The primary data used in this study is subject to certain limitations and the findings are based on the opinions and information given by the sample beneficiaries. Since the size of the sample is small and confined to rural areas of the district, the inferences drawn from this study may not equally be applicable to the rest of areas in the district as well as other districts of the state.

However, the findings and suggestions may be useful for the policy makers for designing and implementing the programmes not only in other districts of the State but also in the country. Moreover, as the majority of the respondents are illiterates and only a small number of them have received basic education, the possibility of giving incomplete information can not be ruled out. So, utmost care was taken while collecting information from the respondents and adjustments were made as per the requirements. Rigorous econometrics and statistical techniques were not used in the analysis of the study.

1. To study the Socio-Economic conditions of Tribals in selected area.
2. To examine the implementation of developmental programmes for tribals in the study area.
3. To analyze the awareness and participation of tribals in developmental programmes.
4. To assess the impact of developmental programmes in generation of income and employment among tribals.
5. To offer appropriate suggestions for effective implementation of developmental programmes.
The main objective is to facilitate the overall development and welfare of the tribal people through empowering them educationally, socially, economically and politically while recognizing their special identity, culturally, habitationally, traditionally and in terms of their age-old rights and privileges and mainly with the developmental programmes which are the present study concern.

A multi-stage sampling technique was employed for the study. In the first stage Guntur district was chosen and divided into three revenue divisions as Narasaraopet, Tenali and Guntur. From each division, one mandal is selected for purposive sampling. In the second stage Bellamkonda mandal from division-I, Bollapalli mandal from division-II and Bapatla mandal from division-III, which is having the highest percentage of plain Scheduled Tribes population. In the third stage in each mandal one village was selected which is Chitayalatanda from Bellamkonda mandal, Malapadi tanda from Bollapalle mandal and Chintaipallem from Bapatla mandal. Finally in each village 100 samples were selected altogether, and 300 samples were taken by representing the rural areas from each division in the Guntur district are selected.

The five-year plans in the country revealed that these measures achieved only a limited success in bringing about a significant improvement in the quality of life of the tribals.

The micro-level analysis of the implementation of constitutional safeguards and tribal developmental programmes during the first five-year plan indicates improvement in the quality of life of the tribals.
It appears that there are some serious flaws in the strategies and approaches adopted for tribal development. The discontent among the tribals in different parts of the country is also growing since the state intervention has not resulted in a qualitative change in their living standards. While some programmes led to the dispossession of a large number of tribals from their traditional resources, some others posed a threat to their identity in terms of language and distinct culture. Further there apprehensions among the tribal people about the consequences of new economic policies.

Hence, there is a need for initiating corrective measures to facilitate the process of integration of tribals in to the national mainstream in a smooth manner. The existence of tribal groups at different levels of development suggests the need for specific strategies and approaches against the backdrop of diversities in the socio-cultural conditions and needs of various tribal groups. This calls for intensive research to understand the development problems of different tribal groups in the right perspective and to evolve appropriate programmes to tackle the same. It is heartening to note that the approach to the Ninth five year plan envisages the protection of tribals as per the provisions of intellectual property Rights, launching of an action plan to address the specific needs of primitive tribal groups and formulation of a National policy on tribal development.

Regarding the socio-economic life of tribals in Andhra Pradesh, our analysis has revealed that the tribal societies are characterised by subsistence agriculture, absence of adequate employment opportunities, inadequate supply of credit and marketing facilities and lack of communication facilities. They reside in poor
houses and in scheduled places, having limited interaction with other communities. They are also subjected to different kinds of exploitation by the non-tribal land lord, money lenders and business man. As a consequence, the tribals are still leading a meager life in economic and social spheres when compared to the non-tribal sections of the state.

The impact of tribal development programmes on the quality of life of the tribals in Andhra Pradesh has been no better compared to the national level. The percentage of tribals living below the poverty line in the state is higher than the national average for tribal population. The tribal literacy rates are also lower in the state when compared to those at the national level. Besides there was a decline in the percentage of cultivators among the scheduled tribes over a period of time indicating loss of land among the tribals which is a major cause for discontent among them. This is despite a remarkable performance by the state government in respect of initiating enquiries in to the cases of occupation of land in agency areas by the non-tribals, disposal of such cases and restoration of land to tribals under the Andhra Pradesh scheduled Area Land Transfer Regulation Act, 1959.

The dispersed tribes are far more than one-fourth of the tribal population in the state. Most of them are still left uncovered under special programmes such as Tribal sub-plan (TSP), Modified Area Development Approach (MADA) and cluster Approach. The dispersed tribes are distinct from the agency tribes in terms of quality life and cultural ethos. Because of their limited coverage under tribal development programmes, most of them remained backward. Hence, these tribes
need to be given special attention while formulating tribal developmental programmes in future.

The important findings with regard to socio-economic characteristics of the sample house holds are as follows:

1. A majority of the sample house holds (66 percent) resided in thatched houses. (26 percent) of the respondents were residing in mud walls/tiled houses only 25 percent of the sample house holds were residing in pucca houses. A vast majority of sample house holds (90 percent) had access to electricity connection. With regards to toilet facility only 27 percent of the sample house holds got toilet facility. Thus, the housing conditions of the sample house holds were poor.

2. As many as 63 percent of the sample house holds were land less. Though the rest of the 37 percent sample house holds possess land most of them were small and marginal farmers by having below 2 acers of land. Only 4 percent of sample house were having 5 acres of land. Thus, a majority of sample house holds were land less and poor as they got small size of land holdings.

3. As many as 78 percent of sample house holds were having nuclear families.

4. With regards to house hold size one-third of the sample house holds (37 percent) were having 4 members in their family equal percent of sample respondent was having 5 members and more than 5 members.
5. The literacy rate was only 42 percent among the respondents however most of them have studied up to primary education only. Thus more than half of the respondents (52 percent) are illiterates due to poor socio economic conditions.

6. As many as 89 percent of the sample respondents were found to be engaged in agriculture sector out of which 25 percent were pursuing agriculture and the rest agriculture and non-agriculture labour as the main occupation. Thus majority of the respondents source of livelihood was labour as they were landless.

7. As many as 64 percent of the respondents annual income was below Rs.10,000/- remaining sample respondents annual income are between Rs.10,000/- to Rs.15,000/- only 4 percent of the respondents were having above Rs.50,000/- annual income. Thus majority of the sample respondents were below poverty line.

8. More than half of the 58 percent sample respondents family expenditure was below Rs.20,000/- rest of the sample respondents annual expenditure was below Rs.40,000/- and above Rs.40,000/- only. Thus there was a variation between the incomes of the sample respondents from their incomes to expenditure levels which ultimately pushed them into debt drap.

9. As many as 87 percent of the sample households were in debt. About 54 percent of the debt was used for agriculture and about 73 percent of the debt was taken from non-institutional sources.
10. Only 11 percent of the sample respondent were in habit of savings of which majority of sample respondents had savings below Rs.10,000/-. The respondents saved amount deposited in post office and banks.

The following are the important findings with regard to the impact of the developmental programmes among scheduled tribes.

1. There has been an increase of 32 percent in the generation of employment from pre availing developmental programmes to post availing developmental programmes. Thus there is a positive impact of developmental programmes among the sample respondents.

2. There has also been increase 58 percent in the annual income prior to availing developmental programmes, after availing developmental programmes. Thus due to the availing the developmental programmes, the sample respondents annual income has been increased.

3. In regard with the spending money on different aspects such as health sending children’s to schools, nutritious food also increased to a limited extent after availing developmental programmes.

4. The respondents’ perception with regard to change the occupation among their children is about 72 percent. This occupational change indicates a shift from wage depends to independent income earning this is a result of the impact of the developmental programmes made the respondents to Opt their children better occupation.

5. After joining into developmental programmes the knowledge of the sample respondents on various contemporary issues has increased to
some extent. Thus developmental programme facilitates them to acquire knowledge.

6. In regards with the social relations there has been increase to limited extent among sample respondents. Thus developmental programmes have helped the respondents to develop the relations in the society.

7. There has also been change in taking nutrition after availing developmental programmes: this is due to the increase in income and they are able to spend the money on nutritious food.

8. Regarding Girl education respondents are not keen to send their daughters to schools.

9. There has also been increase in their economic conditions after joining the developmental programmes to a limited sample respondents are 36 percent.

10. After availing of the developmental programmes 40 percent of the respondents are getting regular income. Thus, there is a positive impact of the developmental programmes in getting regular income to limited respondents.

On the basis of above findings the following broad conclusions are drawn:

1. The Socio – Economic conditions of the scheduled tribes in India has undergone several changes during the last six decades. Though there has been improvement but it is a limited extent. Thus developmental programmes have not been much effective among the schedule tribes. Hence there is need to introduce need based and area wise developmental programmes for the development of tribals.
2. The Socio – Economic profile of sample house holds discloses, that still they are in low levels of living and is evident from their poor housing facilities more land less respondents, low income and high expenditure large scale debt, taken from non – institutional sources.

3. Tribals are availing of developmental programmes intended for their socio-economic upliftment. This is due to the village Sarpanch as well as mass media who create awareness about the developmental programmes among the sample house holds. So in this aspect Panchayatraj institution are playing significant role for creating awareness and motivating the tribals to avail developmental programmes. So there is a felt need to strengthen the Panchayathiraj institution so as to play effective role in the process of implementation of developmental programmes for schedule tribes.

4. Nearly half of the sample respondents only to availed the developmental programmes, respondents who are literates, better sections having land and who got access with the functionaries could only get benefits while the others are ignored in extending benefit. Due to this there is a variation between beneficiaries and non – beneficiaries in respect of socio – economic conditions as it is evident between pre schemes and post schemes in both income and employment. Hence there is need to take special care about who could not get benefited the tribals, while implementing developmental programmes.
5. The developmental programmes have contributed in Socio-economic transformation among the tribals and it can be seen in generation of employment, increase in knowledge level of various aspects, position of economic conditions. All these positive changes have reached late to the empowerment of tribals in terms of economic independence, though these changes are serving only to a limited extent. But, when we compare the conditions of tribals prior to the implementation of developmental programmes there has been considerable impact. This is worthwhile to recognize that development approach to an individual should replicate to the area approach. Hence there is need for a comprehensive and concrete strategy for the tribal development.

6. The impact of the developmental programmes is evident, apart from economic development, on the social life of tribals. As it is transpired that the social status of the respondents has been increased and also changes in recreational activities and they are taking better care in sending children to convent/schools, using quality dresses. Thus the main objective of constitution to empower the tribals both in social and economic aspect has been achieved due to the implementation of the developmental programmes. However, these benefits are confined to only few tribals. Therefore there is need to introduce a policy to extend benefit to all the tribals.
On the basis of these conclusions the following suggestions are offered for the effective implementation of the tribal developmental programmes in order to improve the socio-economic conditions and to integrate them into the mainstream of the society.

1. There is ample need to evolve suitable mechanism at the gross root level for implementation of tribal developmental programmes by making the people participation with transparency. For the functioning of panchayat Raj institutions credit agencies and non-Governmental organizations needs to be strengthened.

2. The comprehensive policy has to be chalked out so as to extend benefits to all the tribals by giving special emphasis on the tribals who have not availed of the developmental programmes till now.

3. Much emphasis should be given for distribution of land by providing necessary inputs, so as to enable them for their sustainable development.

4. There is need to create awareness about the current developmental programmes for the tribals by the involvement of Non-Governmental organization.

5. Bankers should be given targets for covering more number of tribals to provide credit.

6. Special efforts should be made for providing house with all the basic amenities under Indiramma scheme and Indira Avas Yojana.

7. Primary schools should be established in every tribal habitat and by implementation of mid-day meals more effectively.
8. There is also need to equip the tribal youth the skills for self-employment.

9. There is also need to introduce need based and area wise programmes for attaining desired results.

10. There is need to appoint multi-purpose Health workers and ANMs with necessary primary medicines for rendering preliminary Health services.

11. There is also need to establish tribal development agencies in every district similar for on par with ITDAs for holistic tribal development.