

# **ATTAPPADI TRIBES: CASE STUDY ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS**

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*Project submitted to the University of Calicut*

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Submitted By,

Name:

Register Number:

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**SCHOOL OF DISTANCE EDUCATION**

**UNIVERSITY OF CALICUT**

**MALAPPURAM**

**2016**

## DECLARATION

I, ..... hereby declare that this project and title is the genuine work done by me and the project titled “**Attappadi Tribes: Case study on Socio economic problems**” has not previously formed the basis of any degree, diploma or other similar title of any other universities earlier.

I further declare that if it is proved that this study is submitted for any other studies earlier, university will have the authority to reject its submission.

Place:

(Signature)

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Name of the Student

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# INTRODUCTION

The tribal people were the earliest among the present inhabitants of India. They are still in primitive stage and are far from the impact of modern civilization. They live in the forest areas, hilly regions, mountainous regions and deep valleys. They are known by various names such as jungle people, Girijans, aboriginals, adivasis etc. The constitution of India has referred to them as the Scheduled Tribes. A tribe is development of or outside. A tribe is a distend people, dependent on their land for their livelihood, who are not integrated into the national society. There are an estimated one hundred and fifty million tribal individuals worldwide, constituting around forty percent of indigenous individuals. The tribal people in Kerala are residing in Wayanad, Palakkad, Idukki, Malappuram, Kozhikode etc. The study conducted in Attappadi, a tribal area situated in Palakkad district in Kerala.

## **Socio-economic Background of Attappadi Tribes**

Attappadi is an extension mountain valley of 731 Sq. Km in area lying at Western Ghats ranges. It is located in the mid eastern part of Kerala on the north east of Palakkad district adjoining Coimbatore and Nilgiri district of Tamil Nadu. Attappadi tribal area constituted by Agali, Pudur and Sholayar tribal villages. Though there are three Panchayaths its area is 745 Sq. Km. Over 10,000 adivasi families are live in 187 Ooru (hamlets)scattered all over Attappadi. Each Ooru contains over average of 50 houses densely constructed rows. The three major tribal group in Attapadi are Muduga (10%), Irula (84%) and Kurumba (6%). Irula is the largest group in Attappadi tribal area. Mudugas are the second largest group and Kurumbas are a small group in Attappadi tribal area. The Mudugas have the highest literacy. Kurumabas are the most primitive tribal group and they are still residing in the interior forest area. The name of Muduga was derived from the primitive custom of carrying children on Muthuk meaning back. The name of Irula is derived from their physical appearance, pitch black complexion. Tribes have traditional

occupation. The traditional occupation of Irula tribe is shifting cultivation, occasionally they engaged in hunting and fishing. Kurumbas are traditionally engaged in food gathering and hunting. But in present day society Muduga and Irula are working as an agricultural laborer in the land of non-tribal land owners. Kurumbas are working as laborers in coffee plantations. In early times nuclear family is the unit of production. The speaking languages of these three tribal groups are belonging to the south Dravidian family (elements of Malayalam, Tamil and Kannada). The land ownership of the tribes is collective, in the sense that descendents of a common ancestor are joint owners of the hamlet and its territory. Regarding right to land, it is not the absolute freedom of the individual or the family that matters, but he consents of the council members especially the headman of the hamlet. Nuclear family is the primary unit of economic production and a new unit will be set up on the marriage of each young man.

Health and nutrition are the two fundamental dimensions of the social development process without having intake of nutritious food on continues basic sound health status is a distant dream. But nutritious food is a necessity and not a condition for a good health status. Status of health has both positive and negative impacts on the process of development at the levels of individual, community and society. If the health status of population, irrespective of their social background, is good as per the observation of health experts, it has positive socio-economic impact at all levels. Such population is considered physically fit to participate in the developmental process. But if the population is sick and suffering from various diseases and is also deprived of nutritious food, they have to suffer all levels, process going on the rest of the non-tribal areas of the country. Malnutrition and mortality have a positive co-relation among themselves. However, it would be a kneejerk, if other variables affecting the above health indicators are not taken into consideration. They are poverty or poor economic conditions, illiteracy and low literacy, unavailable / inadequate / inaccessible health care services resulting in high mortality, socio-cultural barriers preventing utilization of available health care service etc.

The position of tribal health is even more alarming, as these group inhabit in the remote forest and hilly areas far from civilization, they are largely unaffected by the developmental process going on the rest of the non-tribal areas of the country. Malnutrition is a divesting problem, particularly among the poor and unprivileged. Children are more vulnerable to malnutrition due to low dietary intakes, inequitable distribution of food within the house hold, improper food storage and preparation, dieting taboos, infectious diseases and care. Prevalence of malnutrition has remained a problem of considerable magnitude in most developing countries. Malnutrition cause both emotional, physical suffering and is responsible for than one-half of all children deaths worldwide. Adults who survive malnutrition as children are less physically and intellectually productive and suffer from higher level of chronic illness and disability (smith 2000). Among the Pudur tribes in Attappadi region in Kerala, the prevalence of poor health status of tribes are remarkable. Factors that are leading to socio-economic problems are given below.

1. Educational backwardness: it is an important and a common problem suffering from tribes for centuries. Tribal language, culture, believes etc. is different from the non-tribal culture, so they cannot cope up with modern education. Educational backwardness also leading to economic backwardness. Due to non-pursuance of modern education they cannot compete in good jobs in private and government sector.
2. Feeling of isolation: peculiar tribal culture and tribal language extract tribes from mainstream society.
3. Lack of nutritious food: it is the basic problem of tribal people. Due economic and educational backwardness leading to the lack of nutritious food. This also leading a diseased society.
4. Low availability of the hospital facilities: it is an important problem commonly found in tribal inhabiting areas. Commonly tribal lands are situated in interior forest areas, their life is also closely related with forest. The availability of the hospital facilities is very low in that area. Besides governmental welfare programs related health is not reach among the tribal group. Even if the hospitals are situated in that are the doctors and other officers are not in there.

5. Language problem: is a basic problem suffering from tribes. Tribal culture is totally different from non-tribal culture. Their belief is closely related with forest and they are following a traditional occupation. Owing to intrusion of modern culture tribal culture is on the edge of extinction, but they could not extract from their own culture. So they could not accept modern culture and remain in their own culture, which leads them to isolation from modern society. Besides, those leading an identity crisis.

Tribal culture is very different from the non-tribal culture. Above explained factors are the important factors come in tribal culture. Culture is underlying in their life, so these problems leading to serious socio-economic problems.

### **Objectives of the Study**

1. To analyze the socio-economic problems of Attapadi tribes.
2. To study about the factors those are leading to socio-economic problems.
3. How health issues arise the social problems

### **Importance of the Study**

The socio- economic and health problems of tribes in Pudur panchayath are numerous. They are the most backward group. Poverty, unemployment, isolation from mainstream society, malnutrition, lack of health institution facilities etc. are the problems suffered by them, but the government's welfare programs is far from satisfactory. No serious attempts have been made from government or private sector to reduce the problems.

### **Methodology**

Methodology is the systematic theoretical analysis of the method applied to the field of study. The study relied upon the primary and secondary data. Primary data collected through the technique of interview and questionnaire. The researcher interviewed two eminent personalities in the field of health and education. Secondary sources data collected from the books, journals, and internet sources.

**Tools of Data**

Questionnaire contented with open-ended questions.

**Area of study**

The area of the study constitutes in Pudur Panchayath of Attapadi block in Palakkad district. The study mainly focused only the tribes in Pudur panchayath.

**Population and Sample**

Population; Pudur panchayath consist of 500 tribal hamlet.

Sample; Out of 500, 20 sample taken from Pudur panchayath.

**Limitations of the study**

The tribes are not ready to respond properly to the questions. The field study was very expensive and wide range and a limited period of time was a major challenge.



## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

**BASU (1990):** Discuss the health status of tribal women in relation to sex ratio, age at marriage, nutritional status and malnutrition and child health care practices. Health status of tribal women and child found to be lower than that of Indian women and children general on most of these aspects.

He also revealed that maternal and child health care is an important aspect of health seeking behavior, which is largely neglected among the tribes. The planners how to take into consideration the life style, beliefs, cultural milieu, social organization and the channels of communication of the tribal people before introducing developmental activities.

**AMARTHYA SEN (1999):** In his point of view development can be seen as a process of expanding the freedoms that people enjoy. What development is about than it makes sense to concentrate on that rather than on some of the means are instruments of achieving it. This approach contrasts with other such as identifying development with the growth of GNP, rise in personal incomes, or with industrialization, technological advance, or social modernization. These are all important but are means and not ends

Freedoms depend also on other determinants eg; social and economic arrangements (eg; education and health facilities), political and civil rights, freedoms are not only the primary ends of development, they are also among its principal means. There are five distinct types of freedom, seen in this instrumental perspective; **1.** Political freedom, **2.** Economic facilities, **3.** Social opportunities, **4.** Transparency guarantees, **5.** Protective security. In his category of social opportunities he gives importance to health of women and child he asks. There

are millions of women missing. Why? Excess mortality of those of child bearing age is one reason

**ASHOK RAJAN BASU (1985):** In his work he describes the co-relation between development strategies of the nation and health states of the tribe. According to him, in primitive societies, the practice of medicine was related with religion, magic, and astrology. The development strategies of the tribal communities are to be linked up with the developmental strategy of the nation. One of the goals of social mobilization would therefore, be the integration of the tribal societies with the national policy. It is to be noted that modernization of tribal societies does not depend upon operational efficiency of administration and development apparatus alone.

**Dr. C.S. CHANDRIKA (2014):** Portrayed out that inadequate malnutrition of pregnant mothers, under weight of infants at the time of birth, un-proper vaccination caused infanticide in Attappadi. In the last year more than 32 children are died. Lack of houses, toilets, drinking water, food and primary education didn't get properly to Attappadi regions; it's the major criticism against Kerala development authority.

## ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

It is an important part of the study. This part is constituted by the presentation and analysis of the collected data.

**Table;1 Population of tribes in Pudur panchayath**

Name of tribes	Sample
Kurumbas	3
Mudugas	5
Irular	12
Total	20

Table 1 show that Irula is a major tribal group in Pudur Panchayath and Kurumbas are a very small group.

**Table 2 Feeling of isolation from the society**

Feeling of isolation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Being isolated	16	80
Not being isolated	4	20
Total	20	100

Isolation is a psychological as well as a social problem. Tribal group are living in thickly forested area, so they are being in socially isolated area. Majority people are suffering isolation from main stream society.

**Table 3 the educational status of the tribal people.**

Sl No	Educational status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	LP	20	100
2	UP	Nil	Nil
3	HS	Nil	Nil
4	HSS	Nil	Nil
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>20</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 3 explains about majority people are complete Lower Primary school education. Owing to language problem, low economic status, low facilities at home, discrimination from the part of teachers, teasing by others are the causes of low education status. They cannot pursue their education.

**Table 4 Occupational status of tribal groups**

Sl. No	Occupation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Coolie	4	20
2	Agriculture	12	60
3	Unemployment	4	20
	Total	20	100

Table 4 Shows that the occupation status of the tribal groups. Large number of people is engaged in agriculture. Even though the tribes are engaged in traditional occupation, the traditional occupation of tribes is cultivation but that

occupation not helps them in present day deforested society. So they are working as an agricultural laborer in land owners' land.

**Table 5 Reason for health issues**

Sl. No	Reasons for health issues	No of responses
1	Alcoholism	16
2	Nutrition deficiency	20
3	Excess use of chemical	12
4	Poor economic condition	18
5	Lack of health instrumental issues	18

Table 5 shows that the majority responses recognize that they suffering from nutrition problem. Second majorities of responses are suffering from the health issues due to poor economic condition and lack of health instrumental issues. Alcoholism a serious and common problem suffered by tribal group. These health issues extract tribes from the mainstream of development. So health problem is a serious problem leading to socio-economic problem. Health problems hinder tribes from access of education, occupation etc.

## **FINDINGS**

Attappadi is a backward tribal block in Kerala State. Irular is the majority tribal group in Pudur Panchayath of Palakkad district. The socio-economic problem of tribes in Pudur is numerous. Large number of tribal people are engaged in agriculture, they are the agricultural laborers in the land of land owners. Their economic activities and collection of forest product is not sufficient to their lives, which are leading to nutrition deficiency. Besides that alcoholism, excess use of chemical etc. are other important health issues suffered by them. Due to the low educational status and economic status are leading to the feeling of isolation and health issues. Low educational status, economic status, being of isolation and health issues are the leading factors of socio-economic problems. For improving their living condition government effectively conduct the welfare programs and assure that programs reach to the tribes.

## **CONCLUSION**

Scheduled tribes are considered as the most vulnerable community in the State. The studying communities in Attapadi Ooru are vested as most backward group. The tribes in Kerala form an important part of the total population and it represents an element in society which is incorporated with the culture mixture of our nation. Tribal communities delay behind other communities with respect to attainment of income, occupation, schooling and other basics for good community nutrition. Education, isolation from mainstream society, low economic status and health issues are the contributing factors of socio-economic issues. Socio-economic problems leading the tribal groups in Attapadi region are vested as most backward group.

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# Appendix

## Questionnaire

### 1. Personal Details

Name	Age	Marital status	Relation to the head of Family	Education	Occupation	Income

2. What are the traditional occupations of your community?
3. Are you presently engaged in traditional occupation?
4. Can you satisfy your daily needs with your income? Yes/No
5. If no what are the reason for your poor economic condition?
6. Do you have any health problem? Yes/No

What is it?

7. What are the reasons of your poor health condition?

8. Did you notice any infant deaths in your area? Yes/No

If yes the period of infant?

Still birth, 1to 3 Weeks, Above 2 months

9. Do you think there have much infrastructural facilities in your PHC for better health of pregnant women? Yes/No

10. How society approaches you? Do you feel isolation from the society?

11. Did you aware about government programmes which implemented for the improvement of health of mother and children?

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*As a part of the requirements for BA program every student must do a project. Project work is meant for providing an opportunity to approach and study a problem in a systematic and scientific manner. It provides them an opportunity to apply tools they have studied and learn the art of conducting a study and presenting the report in a structured way. A project process includes formulating the research problems, literature survey, development of working hypothesis, preparing the research design, determining the sample design, collecting the data, execution of the project, analysis of data, hypothesis testing, generalization and interpretation and preparation of the thesis.*

### **Guidelines for doing a project**

**The topics should select from the core and elective paper. (Any idea may be taken)**

#### **Steps of the project**

1. Introduction
2. Research objectives
3. Important of the study
4. Methodology
5. Limitations of the study
6. Literature review
7. Research analysis
8. Findings
9. Conclusion
10. Bibliography
11. Appendix

### **Structure of the project report**

The report should be organized in the following sequence:

- I. Title page  
Name of the project  
Name of the candidate  
Register number.
- II. List of Tables, List of figures, Table of contents
- III. Introduction
- IV. Objectives,
- V. methodology
- VI. Literature review
- VII. Analysis
- VIII. Findings
- IX. Conclusion
- X. Bibliography

***Length of the project report-20 to 30 pages (paper A4, times New Roman, Front Size12, line spacing 1.5).***