



The Socio-Economic Lifestyle Of Soliga Tribe In Chamarajanagara District

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Introduction

India has the second largest tribal population after African continent. The scheduled tribe population is focused in the central belt covering eight states of Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal. (Verma1990). Each tribe has its own social and economic system. The total tribal population of India is of 8.61% according to 2011 census. In Karnataka only it has 42,48,987 (6.8%) tribal population and the growth rate is 22.66%. In Karnataka 14 tribes are notified and among them Jenukuruba, Kadukuruba/Bettakuruba, Yerava & Soligas are the ethnic groups which is found in the southern state of India i.e., Mysore and Chamarajanagara. A number of studies have been made on tribal development and socio economic status of this populations by different researchers, anthropologists and authors. Soligas are the major tribes in Chamarajanagara Districts and they belongs to Schedule tribe. They are living in all the taluk / block of Chamarajanagara district.

In the present study researcher try to understand socio economic life of Soliga tribal community of the Chamarajanagara district.

About Chamarajanagara District

Chamarajanagara is the district headquarters and it was previously known as “Arikotara”.The present name was bestowed in 1880 by Krishnaraja Wodeyar of Mysore. The district lies between the north latitudes of 11 degrees 35 minutes to 12 degrees 19 minutes and east longitudes between 76 degrees 24 minutes to 77 degrees 46 minutes. The district is bound on north by Mandya and part of mysore districts. On the east and south by Tamilnadu State. Heggadadevanakote – Bandipur Forested upland of Mysore district and Wayanad on the Western Ghats of Kerala State forms its Western boundary.

The total population of the district as per 2011 Census is 10,20,791 of the total population, 5,12,232 are males and 5,08,560 are females. The district’s share to total Karnataka’s population is 1.67 percent and it ranks at 28th place among the districts. The population of the district is further distributed as 8,45,817 living in rural areas and 1,74,974 in urban areas, constituting 82.86 and 17.14 percent of rural and urban population respectively. Scheduled Tribe population contributes 11.8 percent to the total population of the district. Soliga, Jenukuruba, Bettakuruba, Kaniyan, Dongrigarasia, Nayaka communities are the main tribes of district. Soliga and Nayaka community inhabited all district but Jenukuruba, Bettakuruba and Dongrigarasia are inhabited only Gundlupettaluk.

Objective of the Study

- To study the social and economic lifestyle of Soliga
- To understand source of the income/revenue of Soliga

Materials and Methods

The study focuses on the Soliga tribal community in the Chamarajanagaradistricts of Karnataka state. In the present study two types of data will be collected. (a) Primary data and (b) Secondary data. The primary data collected through Household survey, Observation (Participant observation and non-participant observation), Interview method,

Case study, Focus group discussion. Secondary data collected by books, Reports, Journals, internet etc.,

Social lifestyle of Soliga Tribe

The soliga tribe prefer the nuclear family. The tribal society is elementary in nature. The individuals are grouped according to Kin and Clan. The Soliga are divided into a number of exogamous steps and they known as **Kula**. In different area they follow number of Kulas, some of them five (Eidukuladavan), some of them Seven (Yelukuladavaru) and some others twelve (Hanneradukuladavaru).

The three endogamous divisions among the Soligas, namely:

- UraliSoliga: Living in the low lying areas of Biligirirangana Hills and Madheshwara Hills, bordering the forest area.
- PoduSoliga; Living in the high mountains and in the interior forests of Biligirirangana Hills and Madheshwara Hills.
- Deva Soliga: Living in the Heggadadevanakotetaluk.

The below are names of clans in different regions of chamarajanagara district. Bellara Kula, Hongelara Kula, Surya Kula, Alara Kula and TaneruKula

Dress pattern

The Soliga's dress pattern is very simple. Conventional dress of men include a loin cloth extending up to the knees (known as mundu). The younger ones may use a shirt and in place of mundu, a tailored half pant like under garment of cheap cloth. According to them, the latter is cheaper than mundu. The Soliga males living in podus wear scanty dress, normally a short loin cloth extending up to the knee. No special ceremonial dress is used by the members of the community. None of them wears foot-wear of any sort of headgear.

The Soligas in the past, both males and females used to wear a number of ornaments but now few do so. In case of the males particularly, this is mainly due to

change in their outlook. The ornaments commonly used by females are rings, ear-rings, nose-screws, anklets, bracelets and neck ornaments. A few of them are described below.

The Tattooing (HasaruHakisikolluvadu) is still found among Soliga men and women, though its importance is considerably reduced. The Soliga believe that tattooing cures diseases like Vayuroga (Dyspepsia). Males get tattooed on their forearms motifs of snake scorpion star rath (chariot) etc., Sometimes the names of their beloved friends are tattooed. Females get their foreheads, chins, cheeks, forearms, backside of the palms and the arms tattooed with geometrical designs, flower motifs, stars, rath (chariot) figures of birds pet animals and so on. Women belonging to BurudeBesta community do tattooing for the Soliga and other communities. First the designs are drawn on the part of the body to be tattooed with some green liquid extracted from certain plant and then the actual tattooing is done with needles. Seven needles are used in the process. It is the usual practice that the remuneration for tattooing is paid by another person at whose instance the tattooing is done.

Economic life of Soliga tribe

The main occupation of Soliga is collection of forest produces like edible roots, Honey, fruits and lichens also with Animal husbandry. They are cultivate to do the agriculture and they basically cultivate Ragi and Pulses. They also engage in sericulture and the Plantation. During the un-season they also go for daily wage labourer in cleaning and repairing the roads maintained by forest department. Carpentry work, Mason work, cooks under private organisations are their other source of income places. They own the provision stores, Petishop and photo framing works. Few of them are engaged in Govt/Public sector works such as ward boy, Nurses, Compounder. Driver and Postman.

The Soliga economic status have categorised into two groups i.e., upper and lower groups. The lower income group is upto Rs.3000/- per annum and above Rs.3000/- is upper income group. The upper income group engage in doing daily wage labour along with Agriculture activities, animal husbandry, Govt/Public jobs. The lower income group

engages in Agriculture and daily wages and skilled works. Some of them are landless people who are mainly depending of daily wages and animal husbandry.

Conclusion

Soligas are presently engaged in economic pursuits ranging from sifting cultivation to settled agriculture government land is the main assets possessed by the Soliga. Their miseries are compounded by a low level of infrastructural and social services and the existence of a greater inequality among the tribes. Regarding educations, the respondents are aware of their educational status. Though the respondents are illiterates, they want their children to avail the education provided by the government.

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