

CHAPTER-VI

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The women in India had enjoyed considerable respect and freedom to participate according to their choice in different social, cultural, political and religious functions and economic activities and had enjoyed a very respectable position and honour in the prevailing socio-cultural system during *Vedic* period. In fact the presence of women along with their male counterpart was regarded compulsory for the success of performing various social and religious functions. However, it was after 500 .BC the social status of women started deteriorating due to the sudden development of various social evils. The changing socio-cultural system during the post vedic period had increasingly reduced the involvement of women in carrying out certain activities and were largely deprived the opportunities of education, participating in outdoor socio- economic and cultural activities. Though the upper caste women had the higher privilege and greater freedom to participate in certain activities than the low caste women, as the consequences the former groups of women had found the opportunity to improve their socio-economic status and social status in the society at higher level than the latter groups of women.

The changes which emerged in the political social and economic pattern during the Medieval period had further marginalised and discriminated women in providing freedom for participating certain activities and were deprived of various social and economic rights and were brought out under the overall control of their male family members. Certain social evils, such as *Sati Prathe*, *Psrdeh Praths*, *Child Marriage*, *Postitution*, *Girl's Kil1ings*, division of women based on caste, race and socio-economic status and the economic dependency of women on men gradually emerged during this period, more especially during 712 AD when the Turks entered in India. These socio-

economic problems of women continued during the British rule in India. With the formation of various social and political organisations, including the Indian National Congress, in the late nineteenth century and initiating certain movements against the existing deteriorating situation and deprivation of women from various rights, by these institutions at different forms and before the British rules some legal measures were introduced by the Government for favour of improving the status of women.

After attaining independence, various measures were initiated and are still in operation for improving the socio- economic status and empowerment of women in India. The Directive Principles of State Policy enshrined in the constitution has the special bearing on the status and empowerment of women. The constitution guarantees equal rights and opportunities of socio-economic development and betterment of living through providing freedom of speech, personal liberty to participate in all kinds of welfare, social political and economic activities to all Indian citizens so as to establish an egalitarian and prosperous society. The political equality through the institution of adult franchise, equality in matters relating employment and appointment with any public office, and to prohibit discrimination practices on account of religion, sex, dissent and place of birth for providing certain opportunities are some of the additional constitutional provisions and measures for providing equal chances of bringing improvements in the socio-economic status of both men and women.

Beginning from the introduction of first five-year plan in India, several development programmes and welfare schemes have also been initiated especially for developing the socio- economic status of women. At policy level, different legal reforms

and resolution in the forms of acts have been introduced to achieve the favourable changes in the status and to strengthen the empowerment of women. Provisions have also been made to maximise the participation of girls in the availing of different level of educational systems with the notion that educating women would be an instrumental measure for awaking them about their rights, duties social standing and responsibilities and as prime element for maximising their participation in different development programmes, welfare schemes, socio-cultural activities and in different categories of remunerative occupations of employment. In this regard, initiatives are made to provide increasing emphasis on the expansion of girls educational institutions on a priority basis, providing subsidised educational facilities, developing educational curriculum according to the needs and requirement of girls, recruitment of women teachers and developing different social infrastructural facilities for the girls' schools.

The outcome of various constitutional measures, initiatives undertaken under the various plans and legal measures and social legislation adopted for the upliftment of women status and achieving overall equality among men and women, has been that the participation of women in availing different level of educational system, in different categories of occupations in both public as well as private sectors, social cultural and political activities, various development programmes and welfare activities, and availing certain amenities of life has been consistently increasing. But, in real terms, the women are still lagging far behind men in availing different facilities and participating in different activities due to widespread developed traditional form of social evils and cultural backwardness and are limiting the scope of women to participate in different activities according to their choice, even in the affairs and decision-making processes on certain

matters of own family and the freedom to move for participating outdoor socio-economic activities which can provide them an opportunity of bringing improvements in their status. Even the rural 'women are visualised lacking the freedom to participate in various rural development programmes and welfare schemes, which are especially introduced with the intention of improving their socio-economic status, because of lacking freedom from the households, social restrictions to move outside, prevailing illiteracy and increasing control of male family members over the decisions of women.

The tribal communities constitute about 7 percent of the total population (now it is over 8 percent) in India. The tribal communities generally live in the inaccessible hilly and forest regions. The economy is largely self-sufficient, unstructured and non-specialized. Their social system is simple. This situation has however changed with the process of new developments in India. Industrial and mining complexes have been established making the tribal economy quite uneven. Coupled with it the government policies and programmes also alienated the tribals from natural resources such as land, forest produce, etc.

Tribal women play an active role in both household affairs and also in providing economic input in some form or the other for survival of families. They contribute the major part of the labour required for agriculture and collection of forest produce. In addition to this, they take up wage labour whenever available. In extreme cases, as is observed in some parts of Orissa, tribal women even work during night shifts in canal and tunnel excavation work for irrigation projects. Women are usually paid less than men for the same labour time. In social and household matters, the status of tribal

women is generally higher than that of non-tribals. They are often viewed by outsiders as “strong” and “independent”. But their relative “freedom”, and visibility far away from villages, is tied to a very heavy work burden, and they usually have little influence on village level decision making.

With this background the present attempts to study the role of NGOs in improving the socio-economic conditions of the Scheduled Tribe women .The study is mainly confined to assess the impact of the activities of three NGOs namely Rural Development Trust, RUDSETI, and Timbaktu Collective on Scheduled Tribe women in Anantapur District of Andhra Pradesh. The study is mainly confined to the beneficiaries of NGOs in six Revenue Mandals, namely, Narpala, Rapthadu of Anantapur Revenue Division, Kanaganapalli, Bathalapalli of Dharmavaram Revenue Division, Bukkapatnam, Nallamada of Penukonda Revenue Division. The study examines whether the Scheduled Tribe women have made any real progress with the physical and financial help rendered by NGOs..

The study is particularly confined to six Mandals of Anantapur district, where the highest percentage of Scheduled Tribe Population is concentrated. Almost all Scheduled Tribe population are bi-lingual i.e. they converse in their local dialect as well as Telugu. The researcher collected data at random. Fifty questionnaires were administered in each sample Revenue Mandal.

The researcher has adopted the questionnaire method and keenly observed while interviewing the respondents and obtained the required data and information. In addition, the researcher has also collected the secondary data from the Government records at the State and District levels. During the survey the researcher has personally involved in several of the activities and functions to record the genuine information. The chapter wise summary of the study is narrated hereunder.

In the first chapter as stated, it is summarized with the following objectives and hypotheses.

Objectives of the Study

The specific objectives of the study are:

- 1) to discuss the status of women in India in general and Scheduled Tribe women

in particular;

- 2) to narrate the socio-economic dimensions and resource endowment of the study area Anantapur district;
- 3) to critically analyse the various governmental programmes introduced and implemented for the welfare Scheduled Tribes with particular reference to women;
- 4) To study the role playing by Non-Governmental Organizations in addressing the issues related to women in the study area.
- 5) to assess the impact of welfare programmes on the generation of additional income and employment among the sample Scheduled Tribes women; and
- 6) to suggest measures, in the light of the empirical study, for the effective implementation of Scheduled tribes welfare programmes for enhancement of livelihood opportunities of tribal women.

Hypothesis

Following hypotheses have been empirically tested:

1. The awareness campaigns organised by Non-Governmental Organizations have tremendous impact on the knowledge levels of tribal women.
2. The welfare and development programmes of Central and State Governments implemented through NGOs have little impact on economic empowerment of tribal women.
3. The NGO's work has brought out very clearly, the contradictions and the total failure of the approach followed by the government to change the realities the poor tribal women.

4. Non-Governmental Organizations showed the people an alternative way of coping with their problem.

Second chapter presents and depicts the status of women in tribal economy. Besides the chapter also discusses various programmes implemented by the Central and State Governments for the benefit of tribal women. Women constitute 48.1 percent of the country's population. They are playing important role in various fields such as agriculture, dairy farming, handicraft etc., but their contribution in these fields has not been viewed as economic activity. A large number of them work in the primary sector as unskilled workforce and get wages lower than men. A large number of women are illiterate; hence, most of them suffer from economic subjugation, powerlessness, isolation, vulnerability, and poverty. The issues of economic upliftment of women and their empowerment have been the prime concern of the government in various schemes. The government felt that NGO's might be involved in this area for implementation of the some of the programmes such as DWCRA by organizing self-help groups (SHGs).

In chapter three an attempt is made to study the role of NGOs in the development of rural areas. Development is a dynamic and multifaceted phenomenon. The correct philosophy of development like equity participation, gender equality, sustainability and empowerment of the weaker sections cannot be incorporated in the process of prosperity by Governmental Organizations or Non-Governmental Organizations alone but by their collaboration. As a result of which, the voluntary sector gains momentum for accelerating development in the socio-economic field. Being familiar with the conditions of people voluntary organizations really makes things viable, communicable, and accessible to them and tries its very best for the reestablishment of their attitudes,

aspirations, accomplishments and abilities in a proper way. Developmental role of NGOs is preparing the people for a change which is basically an advocacy role, viz. development of education, incorporating self-sustainable development philosophy, and form public opinion about govt. policies or social issues, consciences for environmental problem, literacy, health, use of appropriate technology for family planning and empower the poor to overcome psychological inhibitions and opposition of appraisers. NGOs work in relief and delivery of public goods as direct suppliers and majority of the development by NGOs are involved directly in productive activities. Role of direct supplier or implementer is relevant where bureaucracy is indifferent or inefficient, programmes lack flexibility and cost effectiveness, poor are ignorant, elites are ambitious, success and services are reconditions for motivation, etc.

It can be noted from the above that the sample NGOs working in the study area has been focusing mainly on the economic development of the schemes by involving particularly youth, women and poor and marginal farmers. As there are functionaries of this NGO at the grass root level to organize local communities in the village there is a possibility of effective implementation of the schemes. More over it deals with the primary concerns of the people- food and clothing. To make people self-reliant and the NGO plans to slowly withdraw, so that dependency of the people on external agencies may be minimized which is sound objective for the real development of the local communities.

NGOs are playing an important role in the overall tribal development process. This is due to the various policies adopted by the Government of India. Many NGOs

have grown in size and capabilities conducting research and training's and developing effective and innovative programmes in the fields of education, micro-financing, and income generation activities etc. These have made an important contribution in the effort to eradicate various socio-economic problems up to certain extent, because all these are all closely intertwined with the vital health behaviour of the tribes. Unless NGOs make significant improvement in promoting scientific and culturally suitable approaches to improve health seeking behaviour of tribes, their best efforts may not prove sufficient for ending various health problems being faced by the tribals today. The role of NGOs in sensitizing tribal people and make them demand their entitlements for health rights is very significant. Research evidences have shown that NGOs have done positive impact on tribal's health status in many part of India. In this context, the place of these NGOs in the health improvement process needs a detailed scientific study.

The general profile of the Anantapur district and sample NGOs is presented in chapter four. Special emphasis is made on the socio-economic profile of the district with special emphasis on the Scheduled Castes. The district has good infrastructure with a net work of transport and communication connecting Anantapur. The district is well endowed with minerals which promotes fast rate of industrial growth, utilizing locally availing rich mineral and solar energy. Thus, the district is placed from achieving fast rate of all round development with the implementation of the local resource endowment. It is needless to say that Scheduled Tribes has good infrastructure facilities for the development of the district.

Chapter five, analyses the field survey data relating to socio-economic conditions of sample Scheduled Tribe households of six sample Mandals. It is observed in the study that there are several inequalities in social stratification and educational achievements of Scheduled Tribes in the research area. As a part of socio-economic study of sample households, size of the family, age group of respondents, type of the family, size of family, head of the family, land-holdings, primary occupation, ration cards etc details were analyzed. It is also observed due to the implementation of various schemes

by NGOs, the respondents have improved their socio-economic conditions, such as improvement in income, agricultural wage, educational and health status etc. A serious attempt has also made to study the impact of SC corporation schemes on social and economic empowerment of the Scheduled Tribe women. To assess the impact NGO activities on selected respondents, the beneficiaries of six schemes namely, community development programmes, educational programmes, women development programmes, self employment schemes, health schemes and agricultural schemes were selected for a detailed analysis. The impact of these schemes on socio-economic development were analyzed. While the economic impact is analyzed on the factors like income, permanent assets, non-permanent assets, employment generation and economic independence among the select respondents of ST communities in the study area.

In the sixth chapter an attempt is made to present summary of the findings, and conclusions including suggestions.

Findings

1. The study reveals that a preponderant majority i.e. 73.33 per cent of women are in the productive age group of 26 to 40 years.
2. As many as 95.67 per cent sample women households are the followers of Hindu religion.
3. The educational levels of sample scheduled Tribe women in the sample area below the National and State averages. The study reveals that 39.33 per cent of sample women are literate and the remaining 60.67 per cent are illiterates.
4. Nearly 84.33 per cent of sample women are married and the remaining 15.67 per cent are single due to widowhood or divorce or unmarried.
5. As per the study 34 per cent of sample Scheduled Tribe women families does not possess own house.
6. Around 63 per cent of sample families are living in safe dwellings.

7. The nativity of 91.67 per cent of sample women is rural areas. None of the respondents are living in urban areas.
8. The Scheduled Tribe people are slowly departing own joint family system. The study reveals that only 26.67 per cent are living in joint families. On the other hand 66.33 per cent are living in nuclear families.
9. Nearly 68.33 per cent of sample households possess some amount of agricultural land.
10. About 97.67 per cent of sample households are electrified.
11. Only 16.33 per cent of sample households have sanitary latrine.
12. Around 40 per cent households fetching drinking water within 150 meters radius.
13. About 86 per cent of sample scheduled Tribe women are aware of NGOs and their activities.
14. As per the knowledge of 46.67 per cent of sample respondent women the NGOs are actively functioning for last 5 to 10 years.
15. In case of agricultural related schemes nearly 73 per cent of sample respondents is benefited by the distribution of milch cattle. Around 31 per cent of sample respondent families were benefited by land development scheme of NGOs. Around 14.67 per cent of sample households benefited by sericulture and minor irrigation schemes like, sprinklers, drip pipes etc. About 12.3 per cent of sample households benefited by the Biogas units.
16. With regard to health schemes nearly 90.67 per cent of sample women households benefited by health checkups of NGOs. Nearly 83.33 per cent of sample women households got free treatment at rural health clinics of NGOs. Another 83.33 per cent of sample women households enlightened by the health education of NGOs. Free

nutritious food was given to 82.33 per cent of sample women households. Around 82 per cent sample women household children immunized at the clinics/hospitals of NGOs.

17. In case of community development programmes nearly 90 per cent of sample households benefited the scheme of construction of houses to poorer households by NGOs. About 15 per cent of sample households benefited by the repairing of houses by the NGOs.

18. In case of educational programmes nearly 90.67 per cent sample households are benefiting by enrolling their children in residential special training centres organised by RDT. In this case Sugali women households are slightly ahead with 92 per cent. Around 74.33 per cent of sample households benefited by the distribution of bicycles to girl students. The children of 64.67 per cent of sample respondent households are benefited by scholarship programme of NGOs. About 52.33 per cent of sample households are benefited by the educational grants of NGOs.

19. In case of women development programmes around 90.67 percent of women are the members of Self Help Groups initiated and maintained by NGOs. Around 65.67 per cent of women benefited by loans extended by NGOs. Nearly 49 per cent of sample women respondents provided protection against violence. The guidance and counseling is provided by 57.67 per cent of sample women.

20. With regard to self employment programmes as many as 9.67 per cent of sample women are trained in jute products making like production of bags, door mats wall hangings etc. Nearly 9.33 per cent of women were trained by toys making. About 23.67 per cent women were trained in running women Beauty parlors. By attending to computer courses conducted by NGOs nearly 32.33 per cent women benefited. Artificial jewelry making benefited 3 per cent sample women. Around 31.33 per cent of sample women were trained in bamboo products making.

21. With regard to employment generation, around 49.67 percent of sample women reported moderate change. Significant change was reported 29 percent beneficiaries of sample NGOs. Only little or small change was reported by 13.67 percent of respondent women on their employment generation.
22. The impact of NGO activities on sample women households is positive. Around 80 percent of beneficiaries reported some amount of change in their income levels after benefiting from NGO's programmes. Among them 46.33 per cent reported moderate change and 21 per cent reported little change. Significant or considerable change was reported by 12.67 per cent of sample women.
23. As per the study the impact of NGOs awareness campaigns the agricultural wages also shown upward trend. Around 80.67 percent of beneficiaries reported some amount of change in the agricultural wages due to the activities and efforts of NGO's. Among them 42.67 per cent reported moderate change, nearly 26 per cent reported little change and around 12.67 per cent of sample women reported significant change.
24. On decision making front as many as 49.67 per cent of respondents reported moderate change in their decision making power on family issues at home. Little change is reported by 23.33 per cent of respondents and significant change is reported by 18.67 per cent of respondents.
25. Nearly 90 percent of sample women respondents reported little to significant change in their attitude of sending children to schools instead of sending them for work.
26. With regard to health conditions of sample tribal households, nearly 63 percent reported moderate change, 19.67 percent reported little change and 14 percent reported significant change.
27. Nearly 98.40 percent of women respondents expressed some kind of positive change in their awareness about governmental programmes.

28. As many as 84.34 percent of women respondents in study area expressed little to significant change in facing social evils.
29. Nearly 89 percent of sample respondents reported little to significant change in their indebtedness levels after getting benefits from NGO schemes.
30. With regard to overall economic status about 15.67 per cent of women reported little change and 60.67 per cent reported moderate change. Around 15 per cent of women reported significant change in their overall economic status.
31. Nearly 93 per cent of tribal women stated some amount of change in their overall social status.
32. Around 89.67 per cent of sample tribal women respondents reported some amount of change in their political empowerment after benefiting from NGO's programmes in the district.

Suggestions

1. The housing schemes of Central and State Government should give due priority to Scheduled Tribes, while sanctioning houses.
2. Special steps are to be taken to encourage rural people to construct individual sanitary latrine. For the construction of sanitary latrine, government shall provide special incentives.
3. Special incentives are to be provided for the NGOs, which are exclusively working for the cause of Tribals.
4. The non-governmental organizations working in the tribal areas should strive for the promotion of tribal education besides their regular programmes like promotion of thrift, promotion of irrigation facilities and better agricultural practices, and
5. Government of India should provide special grants to all the states to launch mid-day meal programme to all the tribal children living out-side the sub-plan area. Since, this scheme is found to be successful.
6. Special emphasis may be laid on the programmes meant for developing awareness about the multiple advantages of education among tribals. More and more special literacy and publicity campaign like “Kalajatas” and "Chaduvula Panduga” are to be launched in tribal areas more vigorously.
7. Economic well-being being the major concern of household, steps are to be taken to enable the poor households to cross the poverty line by adopting income generating programmes more vigorously. These schemes may enable the tribal households to raise their assets.

8. While framing a particular scheme for particular activity, the policy makers shall keep in mind the actual financial assistance needed to complete the task. So that the beneficiaries feels satisfactory over the financial help rendered by the government.
9. A step is to be taken to frame such schemes which not only give relief to the beneficiaries but also in creating permanent assets in tribal areas.
10. The economic conditions of tribal people are to be improved in two ways 1) By educating them 2) another is by financing them to take up small income generating activities for self-sufficiency .
11. Since education contributes overall development of the individual. The percentage expectation as on education total expenditure on tribal development in five year plan should be raised.