
Sustainable Development and Building Inclusive Societies

Building Skills for Social Sustainability of Tribal Youth through Micro Enterprise Development - A Study Conducted in Kudumbashree Mission Pathanamthitta District-Kerala.

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Abstract: *In Kerala the social sustainability of Tribal Youth is vested with the social innovations. In Kerala the social mobility and social inclusion are programs mainly impacted by the Community Development Programs of Kudumbashree Mission. The Tribal Development Project of Kudumbashree implemented has a lot of convergence programs for tribes. Among these the social innovation programs of Tribal Youth is successful in Pathanamthitta district. The Tribal Youth in Kerala considered as the age group belongs to 18 to 40 years as per State Youth Policy norms in the specified areas. This paper strictly explains the social sustainability of the tribal youth and role of Kudumbashree for empowering their sustainable development through micro enterprise development. The objectives of the study: (1) to explain the demographic profile and livelihood patterns of Tribal Youth in Kerala. (2) To explain the social sustainability of Tribal Youth through micro enterprise development in Kerala. (3) To find out the role and impact of Kudumbashree programs for their sustainability. (4) To observe the impact of social sustainability in decentralization process. The methodology for the study is mainly used by secondary data analysis. Social survey, observation visit conducted in various government departments and collected secondary data and it is extracted exclusively for youth studies as per the youth policy norms. The data analysis and interpretation done with the support of Tables and Figures collected from various sources. The study concludes that, to explain demographic profile and livelihood patterns of tribal youth in Kerala, they make a conceptual frame work about the tribal youth in Kerala. The important thing is that Kudumbashree is a poverty eradication mission and specially focusing the Youth Empowerment.*

Key Words: *State Youth Policy, Tribal Youth, Social Sustainability, Community Participation, Decentralized Governance, Empowerment and Leadership.*

Introduction

In Kerala the social sustainability of Tribal Youth is vested with the good governance and better community participation. Kerala State Youth Policy

provides the base line for their development. Age group belongs to 18 to 40 considered to be the Tribal Youth in Kerala as per the State Policy Norms. Now a day's Youth are frequently a focal point in our country and they are considered as highly emotional, high risk taking behavior, vulnerable, treated as power for future. To bring their energy in positive and creative way, through the ages, men and women have interacted with the environment for their social sustainability and social inclusion. Urbanization, industrialization, depletion of forests and natural resources, and growing population have all led to the world's current environmental resources. In Kerala the youth play a great role in socio economic and political development. The attitude of the youth now-a-days move forward against the social and political environment. In the coming scenario, youth will be the change makers, who through their knowledge, observation and action will combat challenges for the better social inclusion.

Objectives

1. To explain the demographic profile and livelihood patterns of Tribal Youth in Kerala.
2. To explain the social sustainability of Tribal Youth through micro enterprise development in Kerala.
3. To find out the challenges and issues that is considered as obstacles in active community participation.
4. To find out the role and impact of Kudumbashree programs for social sustainability of Tribal Youth.
5. To observe the impact of social sustainability in decentralization process.

Methodology

The methodology used for the study was analysis of data available through secondary sources. Observation visits conducted in various government departments and collected secondary data and it is extracted exclusively for youth studies as per the youth policy norms. FGDs, Group Discussions are conducted for the purpose of statistical analysis of Kudumbashree.

Literature Review

85 percent of youth population lives in developing countries of which 60 per cent in Asia. The annual growth rates of youth population have

slowed down in every region during the 1990s, according to United Nations statistics. Developed regions, and Eastern Asia — comprising China, Japan and others suffered a negative growth rate. As a proportion of total population between 1980 and 1995, the number of young people has dropped everywhere except Africa. In industrialized countries and East Asia, declining fertility rates have created aging populations, and social and economic policies are sometimes tilted in their favour. At the same time, middle-aged people still consider themselves young. Occurrence known as the “prolongation of youth” — which is now considered a global phenomenon. Young people in developing nations worried more about crime and the environment, while those in the industrialized world expressed grave doubts about the future of the world and tended to reject “the old way of doing things”. American high school students were somewhat unique because, unlike most young people, they often held part-time jobs after school hours and on weekends, were more involved with dating, spent less time reading and doing homework, and had the highest levels of self-reported stress and academic anxiety.

Youth in India

Youth in 21st Century are aspiring for just global order. They are looking for democratic process in all spheres of life; whether it is education, employment or decision making the issues concerned for youth is fast changing in tune with the technological innovations affecting the day to day life of them. As ESCAP has pointed out “it is important to recognize youth as a unique group in society due to the many aspects of vulnerability they face while passing through a major stage in their lives”. Youth defined as those who belongs to the age group of 13-35 in the National Youth Policy 2003, is considered as the most vital segment of the population. Across the globe youth is being treated as assets for their countries’ development and enormous investment is going on to develop the human capital. As per the 2001 Census of India, the size of youth population in the country is 422.3 million, with 219 million males and 203 million females. Apart from this with 2011 census the percentage is with slight difference. The table below shows the general population of Youth in India on the basis of 2011 Census. The data analysis done with the help of secondary sources collected from different government departments and other organisation.

Table 1: General and Youth Population of India - 2011 Census

| | Total | Male | Female |
|---|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| General Population | 1210854977 | 623270258 | 587584719 |
| Sex Ratio | 1000 | 940 | |
| Youth Population-India (15-29 years) | 333364636 | 172911297 | 160453339 |
| Percentage | 27.53 | 27.74 | 27.30 |
| Sex Ratio | | 1000 | 927 |
| Youth Population- UN norms (15-24 years) | 231950671 | 121567089 | 110383582 |
| Percentage | 19.15 | 19.50 | 18.78 |
| Sex Ratio | | 1000 | 908 |

Note: The figure shows the youth population of India as per the Census report. As per the National Youth policy the total youth population is 27.53 percent. Among this male youth population is 27.74 percent and the female youth population is 27.3 percent.

Socio-Economic Profile of Tribal Youth in India

Scheduled Tribes are the ethnic groups of historically disadvantaged people that are given recognition to the tribes in the constitution of India. The term tribe is nowhere defined in the constitution and in fact, there is no satisfactory definition for the same. According to Dr D N. Majumdar scheduled tribe refers to a collection of families or groups of families, bearing a common name, members which occupy the same territory, speak the same language and observe certain taboos regarding marriage, profession or occupation and have developed as well as assessed system of reciprocity and mutuality of obligations

Table 2: Scheduled Tribe Youth population of India-2011 Census

| | Total | Male | Female |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| General Population | 104545716 | 52547215 | 51998501 |
| Sex ratio | | 1000 | 989 |
| Youth Population-India (15-29 years) | 28310793 | 14190928 | 14119865 |
| Percentage | 27.79 | 27.00 | 27.15 |
| Sex Ratio | | 1000 | 994 |
| Youth Population- UN (15-24 years) | 19927193 | 10009621 | 9917572 |
| Percentage | 19.06 | 19.04 | 19.07 |
| Sex ratio | | 1000 | 990 |

Source: 2011 Census

Note: The table shows the comparison of Tribal Youth population with National Youth policy and UN Youth policy. The figure shows the total population of India is that 104455716. As per National Youth policy the total Tribal Youth population of India is 27.9 percent and among this 27 percent is male youth and 27.15 percent is female youth are residing in India. As per UN norm the age group is 15 to 24 Years. From this the total Tribal Youth in India is 19.06 percent among this 19.04 percent is male and 19.07 percent is female Tribal Youth are residing in India.

Tribal Youth in Kerala-An overview

In Kerala there are 43 communities of scheduled tribes residing in the rural places of Kerala as per the SC ST orders Amendment act 2002. The total families of scheduled tribes in Kerala are enumerated as 107965 spread over all the districts of the State. Wayanad District has 36135 ST families (33.47%) followed by 14315 families (13.26%) in Iduki, 13223 families (12.25%) in Palakkad and 11598 families (10.74%) in Kasargod.

78 percent of Scheduled Tribe families in the State are located in five districts, namely; Wayanad, Iduki Palakkad, Kasargod, and Kannur. Apart from the Tribal Youth population there is no data base with the government and any other document. So for the study purpose the data extracted from the census report 2011, as per the Kerala State Youth Policy 2012. The data belongs to the age group of 18-40.

Table 3: Scheduled Tribe Youth Population of Kerala-2011 Census

| | Total | | | Rural | | | Urban | | |
|--------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|--------|
| | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female |
| General | | | | | | | | | |
| Population | 484839 | 238203 | 246636 | 433092 | 213208 | 219884 | 51747 | 24995 | 26752 |
| Tribal youth | | | | | | | | | |
| Population | 196281 | 94674 | 101607 | 177195 | 85593 | 91602 | 19086 | 9081 | 10005 |
| Percentage | 40.48 | 39.74 | 41.19 | 40.91 | 40.14 | 41.65 | 36.88 | 36.33 | 37.39 |
| Sex Ratio | | 1000 | 1073 | | 1000 | 1070 | | 1000 | 1101 |

Source 2011 Census

Note: The table shows the Tribal Youth population of Kerala. Total Tribal Youth population in Kerala is 40.48 percent among this 39.74 percent is male and 41.19 percent is female. In rural area the total youth population is 40.91 and among this 40.14 percent is male and 41.65 is female. In urban area the total Tribal Youth population is 36.88 percent among this 36.33 percent is male and 37.39 percent is female and 40.48 percent are youth in Scheduled Tribe in the State. 1000:1073 is the sex ratio among STs. Scheduled tribes' youth are 0.58 percent of the total population of the state. Above table shows Scheduled Tribe Youth are residing more in rural areas.

Social Sustainability of Tribal Youth through Micro Enterprise Development; a Study in Kudumbashree Mission at Pathanamthitta District Kerala

The three tier organisational structure is Neighbourhood Groups. (NHG). NHG is a voluntary association of 20-40 women members, who represent

poor households identified through the four risk factors of a neighbourhood. Area Development Society, the middle structure is formed at the ward level by federating 8-10 NHGs belonging to a particular ward or Area. Community Development Society is the crest of the structure formed ,at the Panchayath, Block or District level, by federating all ADSs. Kudumbashree now covers 991 Panchayath as well as 58 Municipalities across Kerala. Currently 7848 NHGs, ADS and CDS is remarkable. Each NHG selects a five member volunteer committee having specific responsibilities, such as president and secretary, Community Health Volunteer, Income Generation Activities Volunteer and Infrastructural Volunteer. While the health volunteer takes primary responsibility for assessing the health needs of the neighbourhood groups, the assessment of the nature and kind of income generation activities and infrastructure activities belongs to income generation and infrastructure volunteers respectively. The President and Secretaries of all the federated NHGs constitute general body of ADSs, which elects a Governing Body consisting of a President, Secretary and a five member committee. The Governing Body members and the Chair Persons of all ADSs constitute general Body of CDS. The General Body of CDS elects a Governing Body consisting of President and a five member committee. An important component of the kudumbashree structure is associated with, and backing from, Local Self Governments and bureaucracy both at the ADS and CDS levels. For instance, a ward level monitoring and advisory committee is formed under the chairmanship of a ward member of the local body to integrate the activities of ADSs with the local Governments. Also representatives of Resource persons selected from that local body who are involved in implementing poverty alleviation and women empowerment programs are also be nominated as members of the general Body of CDS. While the project Officer of the urban and rural programs is nominated as the member secretary, other Government Officials and representatives of Resource Persons are nominated as members of Governing Body of CDS. It also has a monitoring advisory committee with Municipal Chair Person or President of the Panchayath as its Chairperson and Municipal or Panchayath Secretary as Convener.

In Pathanamthitta district Youth has key concern of all social development programs of Kudumbashree initiated in Pathanamthitta district. As far as

NHG group of Tribal Youth is taken in to consideration, Sustainability means that NHG becomes permanent movement to carry out programs for their social sustainability. They are the ethnic groups of historically disadvantaged people that are given recognition in the Indian Constitution. They are Kanikan, Mala Arayan, Malai Pandaram, Malavedan, Malayan, Mudugar, and Ulladan. There are 7 categories of scattered settlements of Panjayaths such as, Ranni, Perunad, Seethethode, Chittar, Pandalam, Kodumon etc. However Ulladan, Malavedan, Mala Arayan and Arayan and Mali Pandaram are the major communities. These four communities constitute the 93.38 percent of the Scheduled Tribes in Pathanamthitta district. Malayan, Mudugarand, Kanikaran are the other communities settled in Pathanamthitta district. The non tribes as member of tribal families number 409 resulting their representation as 6.41 percent of tribal population in the district. The Project Implementation pattern of the Kudumbashree is Target areas of Tribal Settlement. Most of the people in tribal settlement belongs to BPL families, so the beneficiary selection is very easy to find out. With the support of Tribal Development Department, Kudumbashree implemented Developmental programs Such as Educational programs, Housing schemes, Health schemes, Assistance for Marriage of ST girls, Resettlement of Landless Tribes. Kudumbashree act as a mediator for implementing these projects. The sustainable livelihood and poverty eradication program of tribals in Pathanamthitta District is based on the Livelihood pattern of Tribes. Through the tribal special project especially focussed on the Tribal Youths. The programs and activities basically developed through the social sustainability and social inclusion activities. For this purpose formed the tribal youth SHGS and NHGs. Educational development, skill development, group micro enterprise development are mainly field level programs for their social inclusion in social mobility in the specified areas.

The social sustainability and inclusive development of Tribal Youth are strictly based on the social entrepreneurship development programs of Kudumbashree. But the inclusion in the society decides their livelihood patterns and political conditions. 1. Employment Status, 2. Unemployment 3. Health 4. Basic Amenities 5. Land and Development 6. Social Security and Development etc are the main factors. Most of the Tribes are engaging in agricultural activities, animal husbandry, collection of forest

products, collection of herbal plants, work in forest area etc. 17.37 percent tribes are working in forestry sector and 23.41 percent of tribes are working in agriculture and allied sectors and also 59.22 percent of tribes are working in non agriculture sector such as petty trade MNREGS, plantation sector, and collection of herbal products from the forest. Kudumbashree implemented a holistic health program for tribes, because health is the major problem that they are facing. For effective sustainable development a proper health care is must. The main problems they are facing include lack of food security, sanitation, and safe drinking water, poor supply of drinking water, poor supply of nutrition etc. In Pathanamthitta District 43 families living without health care institutions and services. Services of health care workers are not available to 9 families of Seethethode Panchayath. There are 18 families based on the field experience are not benefited by the programs of Immunisation, cleaning, health awareness programs conducted by the tribal development department with the support of different agencies. Most of the tribal families of Pathanamthitta district are facing drastic health problems. There are 383 tribal families with differently abled and mentally retarded persons and patients of chronic deceases are facing serious health problems. Apparently the Malavedan, Mannan, Muduvan, and Mudugar families are affected by malnutrition. 387 families affected by malnutrition in Pathanamthitta district. Another important lively hood problem faced by the Tribal community is absence of basic amenities. In Pathanamthitta district 9.55 percent tribal families are Houseless families. Kudumbashree implemented House Program for houseless with the support of Tribal Development Department. It is the main responsibility to find out the landless beneficiaries. In Pathanamthitta District 19 families are settled in forest area. That means 44.19 percent of them are inside the forest. Kudumbashree organised social camps for forming SHGs in that area for their sustainable development. From the study in tribal Panchayaths of Pathanamthitta District there are 342 families belong to without ration cards. It was a drastic situation because 54.38 families belong to BPL, even though they didn't access apt social security measures. And also 16.98 percent of tribes are living without election ID cards. Being a democratic country, the marginalised and deprived sector but not seen by the bureaucrats are living without these types of socio-democratic measures.

MNREGS is successful projects implemented by Govt of Kerala, but specifically say some of the STs of Pathanamthitta district didn't register due to lack of awareness. 86.10 percent of tribal people didn't register in MNREGS. Apart from this Kudumbashree implemented convergence programs for Tribal Youth through different types of training programs and entrepreneurship development activities. They started small scale business and they become self reliant through the intensive programs of Kudumbashree.

Findings

The developmental programs of kudumbashree in Pathanamthitta district are successful based on the study. Micro entrepreneurship development program for youth is impacted for their social inclusion. They got EDI trainings, Skill development programs, additional acquisition programs and became social entrepreneurs. They started small scale group business with the support of Kudumbashree bank linkage scheme. The main problem traced out from the study is, educational status of Tribal Youths is very weak compared to other districts and the political influence and bureaucracy negatively affects the dignity and worth of the Tribal Youth for their active social participation. And also the Government funds are not properly utilised in such a manner. Active participation of Kudumbashree through micro enterprise development made positive change in the livelihood and sustainable development of Tribal Youth. Even though they are marginalised, empowerment programs of Kudumbashree made a social change and they come out to the society and actively participated in the Community Based Organisations of Kudumbashree Programs through micro enterprise development. They got Capacity Building Trainings, Entrepreneurship Development Programs, Gender Sensitive Trainings, Training for Marketing and other allied activities. It comes to a positive drastic change in the social cultural, educational, economical, and spiritual dimensions of their life.

Conclusion

Cultural disparity is the main problem of the Tribal Youth in Kerala. The modern culture must not be imposed on them. Tribal youth in Kerala plays a major role in state's development. So it is necessary to give apt support for their active community participation and with the implementation

of different developmental programs of government. The convergence programs of Kudumbashree lead to a change in their social sustainability. They have come forward for political participation and they are educationally developed. The socio cultural circumstances also are changed a lot. Apart from this the social mobility and social sustainability are much backward in Kerala. Their social sustainability has changed a lot through the social innovation programs of Tribal Youth. The Skill Development Programs and EDI programs changed the life style of Tribal Youth in Pathanamthitta district. They started small groups of organisations and it leads to improve the self sustainability and social mobility.

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