

Socio economic status and issues of toda tribes in Nilgiris district: A study

¹ D Magimairaj, ² Dr. S Balamurugan

¹ Ph. D Research Scholar, Department of Political Science & Public Administration, Annamalai University, Annamalai Nagar, Tamil Nadu, India

² Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science & Public Administration, Annamalai University, Annamalai Nagar, Tamil Nadu, India

Abstract

Indian Tribes are grouped beneath seven areas regarding their vicinity. Which are Central – Southern Tribal Regions, Central – Northern Tribal Region, Western Tribal Region, Southern Tribal Pockets, North – Eastern Tribal Region, Northern – Western Tribal Region and Oceanic Tribal Region. The state of Tamil Nadu has 32 districts. Among these 32 districts, the Nilgiris district has the largest population of tribes. In Nilgiri district there are six particularly vulnerable tribal groups they are Todas, Irulars, Kotas, Kurumbas, Paniyas, and Kattunayakans. The Todas are the unique inhabitants of the Nilgiri Hills and they may be one of the most picturesque tribes in India. The Todas are acknowledged through numerous names like Tudas, Taudava and Todar. This paper mainly highlights the socio-economic and education conditions of Todas Tribe of Nilgiri District in Tamil Nadu.

Keywords: issues, social, economic, education, religion

Introduction

A scheduled Tribe is he who is scheduled in Article 342 of the Indian Constitution, which says that Scheduled Tribes are the tribes or tribal communities or a part of a group inside tribes or tribal communities which can be certain through the President of India by way of a public notification. The Scheduled Tribes may be typically ascertained by means of the truth that aside in the hills or even where they live on the plains, they lead a separate excluded life and are not absolutely assimilated within the predominant frame of the people. They are indexed as scheduled tribes because of the sort of lifestyles lead through them.

Indian Tribal Areas

Indian Tribes are grouped beneath seven areas regarding their vicinity. They are as follows.

- Central – Southern Tribal Regions, comprising Buster in Southern Madhya Pradesh, Southern Tribal Belt of Orissa, Eastern Tribal Belt of Maharashtra and Northern Tribal Belt of Andhra Pradesh.
- Central – Northern Tribal Region, comprising Chotta Nagpur belt of Bihar, Eastern Tribe belt of Orissa and Northern Tribal belt of West Bengal.
- Western Tribal Region, comprising southern Tribal belt of Rajasthan, Eastern Tribal belt of Gujarat, Western Tribal belt of Madhya Pradesh, and Northern Tribal belt of Maharashtra.
- Southern Tribal Pockets, comprising tribal areas of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala.
- North – Eastern Tribal Region, comprising; Hill regions in Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Manipur. Plain regions in Assam and Tripura.

- Northern – Western Tribal Region, comprising tribal belt of Himachal Pradesh and Western Uttar Pradesh.
- Oceanic Tribal Region, comprising Little Andaman, Nicobar institution of Island and Lakshwadeep.

Tribals in Nilgiri Hills

The state of Tamil Nadu has 32 districts. Among these 32 district, the Nilgiris district has the largest population of tribes. In Nilgiri district there are six particularly vulnerable tribal groups they are Todas, Irulars, Kotas, Kurumbas, Paniyas, and Kattunayakans. Total population of Nilgiri District is 7, 62, 141. The Tribal populace is 28,373 which are 3.7% in overall populace.

Toda Tribes

The Todas are the unique inhabitants of the Nilgiri Hills and they may be one of the most picturesque tribes in India. Even though, there are six main primitive tribes in the district, the Todas have attracted a long way extra attention each here and abroad, then every other unmarried community.

Todas are pastoral humans and to sure extend, nomadic maximum the Todas, possess huge herd of buffaloes and milk products are their predominant source of residing. Large extends of land are set aside as Todas patta lands, over which Todas have partial right to live, graze their farm animals and to take cultivation. The Toda women have a exquisite talent in Embroidery paintings. The Toda embroider garments are in remarkable demand which the visitors from different a part of India and abroad.

The Todas are acknowledged through numerous names like Tudas, Taudava and Todar. The call Toda is derived from the phrase ‘Tud’ the sacred tree of Todas.

Linguistic Emeneau stated that, “Toda dialect is an

independent language of the Dravidian family affiliated with Tamil-Malayalam. The area of expertise of the half-barrel formed houses given speculations concerning their beginning ranged from Rome to Sumerian. The Toda village is called a Mund, means a herd of cattle-pen. It is often a series of 3 or five 1/2 barrel shaped huts every 18 toes via nine feet by way of 10 ft high with a small doorway measuring handiest 32 inches by 18 inches. Besides the huts, the Mund has every other hut with a smaller doorway referred to as 'Tirierl' or dairy temple. The Toda people are very truthful in colour, being tall, strong built and well fashioned. The hanging features of the girls is the arrangement of their hair which is dressed in ringlets and flows waving right down to the shoulders, the tradition garment of the Toda is called 'Put-Kulli' is of thick white cotton garments with pink and blue stripes that's embroider.

Socio-Economic Condition of Toda Tribes

The Toda population in Nilgiri District isn't always calmly allotted within the six taluks. 32.08% of them are living in Pandalur Taluk. Sixteen percent of the tribes are dwelling inside the Kotagiri Taluk. 14.33% of the tribes are living in Udagamandalam Taluk and 6.96% are dwelling in Conoor and Kundah Taluks.

The Toda people are a small pastoral community who stay at the remote Nilgiri plateau of Southern India. Before the 18th century the Toda coexisted regionally with different communities such as the Badaga, Kota and Kurumba in a free caste like network agency in which the Toda were the top rating.

Economy

Their sole career is livestock rearing and dairy. Toda tribal have taken up the career of farm animals rearing and dairy farming. Most of the participants have large herd of buffaloes. This Toda Tribal community sustains with their livelihood from milk merchandise. Toda Tribals have additionally developed information in silver smiting. Mund encompass cooperative shops there may be additionally petty save. Toda are properly in doing artwork.

Toda Dwellings and Lifestyle

The Toda stay in small hamlets known as munds. The Toda huts of an oval, pent-formed construction is generally 10 ft (3m) high, 18 feet (5.5m) long and 9 ft (2.7m) wide. They are constructed of bamboo fastened with rattan and thatched. Each hut is enclosed within a wall of loose stones. The back and front of the hut is typically product of dressed stones (generally granite). Hut has only tiny entrance at the front approximately 3 ft (9cm) wide, 3 ft (90cm) tall. This small entrance is a means of safety from wild animals. The front portion of the hut is adorned with the Toda artwork. Dried grass is stacked over this as thatch.

Religion

According to the Todas, the Goddess Teikrshy and her brother first created the sacred buffalo after which the primary Toda man. The first Toda female was produced from the right rib of the primary Toda guy. The Toda religion also forbids them from walking throughout bridges, rivers have to be crossed

taking walks, or swimming.

Among the Todas of South India the Holy milkman, who acts as priest of the sacred. Dairy is subjected to style of irksome and burdensome regulations for the duration of the whole time of his incumbency which may additionally final many years. Thus, he must stay on the sacred dairy and might in no way visit his home or any everyday village. He must be celibate; if he is married he must go away his wife. On no account, many any regular character contact the holy milkman or holy dairy. Such a hint might so defile his holiness that he would forfeit his office. It is best on two days of a week, specifically Monday and Thursday that a trifling layman may even technique the milkman.

Further, the holy milkman never cuts his hair or pares his nails so long as he holds office. He never crosses a river by a bridge. If must no longer attend any of the funeral ceremonies, even for a demise of his own extended family.

Social Life

The Toda community is split into five endogamous divisions referred to as teivalion and thartharol, which might be similarly divided into fourteen exogamous clans. They keep away from marital alliance inside a clan. In the beyond the Toda accompanied adelphio form of polyandry, a shape of plural marriage. But now they strictly observe monogamy. The lifecycle rituals are markedly exclusive from different tribes. During the useless body cremation, they sacrifice a buffalo. Rules of inheritance are limited to the sons best. Todas had been merely a pastoral human. The care of buffaloes and the obligations connected with the dairy fashioned the only work of the Toda men. The Toda tribe council isn't permanent body, but best a collection of aged Toda decided on men selected by using common consent for a specific dispute. The Government of Tamil Nadu currently blanketed a Toda guy as a member in its 'Tribal Development board'. The Toda concept of faith is associated with a surprisingly ritualized dairy and buffalo cult. They have monks to perform rituals. The Goddess Tokisya is commemorated through them as their essential spirit. Todas have particular folkore embedded with kind of songs, proverbs, myths, and so forth...and their traditional dance is an exclusive ceremony. A few Todas who are dwelling closer to cities have joined the primary movement improvement. A few of them are working inside the Government and private sectors. Todas as internationally popular ethnic community like polyandry, social paternity through bow and arrow rite, vegetarianism, buffalo sacrifice, priesthood sacred dairies etc. All the Tribal human beings are in the habit of liquor taking their go through for appetite. Todas get their water from water tank.

Issues of Todas

Toda issues may be categorized into the subsequent heads:

1. Land alienation within the name of development

Mega Projects by way of the Government and MNCs: Dams, Mining (coal, aluminium, bauxite and so on), Hydro / Thermal Power Generation, National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries (Nilgiris' instance) Denial of Land Rights for Wastelands (sales poromboke lands) – G.O. 1168 R.D. 26/7/1989 Tourism Drive.

2. Denial of constitutional rights

Fifth Schedule: Indian Constitution – Part. 10 - Article 244 (1): Self Rule

New Panchayat Raj Act: PESA - Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) ACT 1996:

A nation regulation on panchayats in the scheduled vicinity should cope with the customs, non-secular practices and traditional management practices of network resources Every village shall comprise a gram sabha whose participants are protected inside the electoral listing for the panchayats at village stage The advice of the gram sabha is mandatory for granting mining licenses inside the scheduled regions Planning and management of juvenile water bodies are entrusted to the panchayats Non – Implementation of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006

Salient Features: 1. Right to keep and live within the forests 2. Community rights 3. Right of possession (difficulty to a maximum of 4 hectares), get right of entry to collect, use, and take away minor forest produce four. Rights for conversion of Pattas or rentals or offers issued with the aid of any nearby council or any State Govt. On forest lands five. Right of get right of entry to biodiversity and community right to highbrow belongings and traditional understanding.

Conclusion

This study shows that Toda is the only tribe which has a literacy up to graduation and post-graduation levels and another positive phenomena with Toda tribes is the minimum number of respondents are at the illiterate level.

A remarkable phenomena we can find with Toda tribes is, only less number of them are un-employed. As majority of the respondents are not illiterate, it is found that very less number of respondents are poor.

Though majority of the Toda tribe live either in thatched house or tile roof house, all of them have electricity. The type of houses do not reflect the economic status of the Toda tribe. As majority of them have either ‘thatched’ house or ‘tile roof’ house, though economically they are little more improved than the other tribal group, they prefer to live on these type of houses which shows that they do not concentrate much on the type of houses. It means that the houses not only lack in space but also lack in required amenities.

Majority of the respondents are aware of the availability of scholarship and fellowship to the tribal children and also know the ways and means to obtain it. Similarly, majority of Toda respondents are satisfied with the quality of infrastructure of government schools. It is a very positive phenomenon that majority of respondents are either feel good or satisfied with the infrastructure of government schools. Again regarding the opinion on the nearest public health centre also reflect the same trend among the Toda tribe. The study shows the Toda tribe, a Primitive Vulnerable Tribal Group in the Nilgiris district of Tamilnadu state are well placed socio and economically than most of the counterparts.

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