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The Socio-Economic Conditions of Chenchu tribes in Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh

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It deals with the analysis and interpretation of the data collected from field regarding socio-economic and personal profile of the sample beneficiaries and their family background. Important socio-economic profile covered include religion, caste, age, level of literacy, marital status, family size, assets, occupation etc. The study main objective is to assess the socio economic conditions of the Chenchu tribe.

Table - 1: Age of the Respondents

Sl. No	Age	Frequency	Percent
1	< - 25	41	11.4
2	26 - 35	78	21.7
3	36 - 45	97	26.9
4	46 - 55	94	26.1
5	56 - >	50	13.9
Total		360	100.0

The table 1 shows that the age group composition of Chenchu tribe sample respondents. In order to facilitate further analysis, five age categories have been developed. The table shows that in the age group of 26 to 35 and 36 to 45 are 21.7 percent and 26.9 percent respectively. About 26.1 percent in the age group of 46 to 55 and remaining 13.9 percent are in the age group of 56 years and above. Hence, the majority are 36 to 45 years of the households are leading their family as head of the social institution and the average mean age of the households are 43.0583 years.

Table-2: Sex wise distribution of Respondents

Sl. No	Sex	Frequency	Percent
1	Male	313	86.9
2	Female	47	13.1
Total		360	100.0

The sex wise distribution of the sample respondents are given in the table 2. From the table it is clear that the survey covered 86.9 percent male and 13.1 percent of the female households are widows as leading head of the family and who are lost their husband in the study area. Most of the families are headed in the study area. Most of female are headed and dominated by the male tribe. In the tribal area its common trend and less gender discrimination prevails in some aspects.

Table - 3: Education of the Respondents

Sl. No	Education	Frequency	Percent
1	Illiterate	263	73.1
2	Primary	40	11.1
3	Secondary	31	8.6
4	SSC & above	26	7.2
Total		360	100.0

It is often held that education leads to empowerment. Education is believed to inculcate knowledge, understanding, confidence and independence. It follows that, generally speaking, literate people would tend to be more vulnerable than illiterate or educated ones. Most of the respondents were found poor in terms of education and literacy development. Even, 73.1 percent respondents were reported to be illiterate. Importantly, educated respondents were reported high in primary education about 11.1 percent. Remaining 8.6 percent were belongs to secondary education and 7.2 percent are studied SSC and above. Thus, majority Chenchu tribe are not given importance to education.

Table-4: Type of House of the Respondents

Sl. No	Type of House	Frequency	Percent
1	Hut/Thatched	171	47.5
2	Tiled/Asbestos	39	10.8
3	Pucca/Slab	150	41.7
Total		360	100.0

The table 4 gives the details of the housing of the sample respondents. The table 5.9 and figure 10 shows that out of 360 respondents 47.5 percent possess huts and constructed at their own efforts and by own expenses in the forest areas. The rest of 41.7 percent of chenchu's possess the pucca (Concrete) houses which are provided by the government agencies under the Prime Minister AwasYojana Scheme. Remaining 10.8 percent are constructed with tiled and asbestos roof.

Here, the nature of the houses of the sample head of the households has been classified into three categories namely, hut/Katcha, Semi-Pacca and Pucca. Building with no proper basement, walls and ventilations are treated as huts. The hut is made of grass, leaves or reeds. At the same time building with stone basement and bamboo with ventilations are Kacha houses. They are with thatched roofs. The structures with the main opinion having proper stone basement, walls, windows, ventilations etc. of standard materials are considered as semi-pucca building. Building the strong stone basements stoned or bricked plastered walls, windows, proper ventilation are considered as pucca houses. They are having tiled or concrete roofs.

Table-5: Satisfaction level on staying in their house

Sl. No	Satisfaction level	Frequency	Percent
1	Yes	109	30.3
2	No	251	69.7
Total		360	100.0

The table 5 can be revealed that the satisfaction of staying in their house. The houses are just constructed with mud and other material which are available in the forest area. Among the majority 30.3 percent households are only satisfied in staying at their houses. About 69.7 percent of the households are not satisfied by staying in their houses such as no protection, lack of ventilation, lack of privacy etc.

Table -6: Occupation of the Respondents

Sl. No	Occupation	Frequency	Percent
1	Cultivation	167	46.4
2	Collection of forest produces	155	43.1
3	Petty Business	15	4.2
4	Govt/Private employee	23	6.4
Total		360	100.0

The researcher examined socio-economic characteristics of the sample households of Chenchu communities. As the tribal economy of the Chenchus are basically subsistence economies agriculture occupies a predominant position. Though tribals depended upon forest for collection of minor forest products, in course of time collection of minor forest product become a nominal source of income. The witness in the Chenchu tribal economies is the very low degree of occupational diversification. The excessive dependence on agriculture both as self-cultivation and agriculture labour reflect, the limited availability or non-availability of agricultural employment opportunities. It is evident from the table 6 that the head of the tribal households have been classified into four groups according to major occupations. The major occupations are agriculture, collection minor forest produce and other works. Apart from major occupations, some of the head of the households are engaged in subsidiary occupations. About 46.4 per cent of the respondents occupation is agriculture, 43.1 per cent are collection of forest produces followed by 4.2 per cent engaged in petty business.

Table-7: Annual Income of the Respondents

Sl. No	Annual Income	Frequency	Percent
1	< - 15000	77	21.4
2	15001 - 25000	14	3.9
3	25001 - 35000	104	28.9
4	35001 - 45000	94	26.1
5	45001 - 55000	15	4.2
6	55001 - >	56	15.6
Total		360	100.0

Owing largely to the considerable progress attained by the chenchu's during the long period, the percentage of population below the poverty line is lower than the State and National averages for the Chenchu tribes. The table 7 shows the annual income of the respondents.

The Table shows that annual income of households. It is evident that a vast majority of the Chenchu tribe are below poverty line with low income. The majority 28.9 percent are earning 25001 to 35000. About 26.1 percent getting 35001 – 45000 of income, followed by 21.4 percent 15000 and below of income. It is good trend for getting some income through various sources such as Pension and

MGNERGA job card. The average annual mean income of the respondent is Rs. 35136. Thus, the majority chenchu's are having the MGNREGA job card through that they also some partly income engaging in this work at their village level. However, majority of the Chenchu's who completed the age of 60 years are getting pension under social assistance scheme and they receiving Rs2275/- per month. Some of the Chenchu tribes are also getting some additional income through collect forest minor produces.

Table -8: Possession of Agriculture Land

Sl. No	Agriculture land	Frequency	Percent
1	Yes	298	82.8
2	No	62	17.2
Total		360	100.0

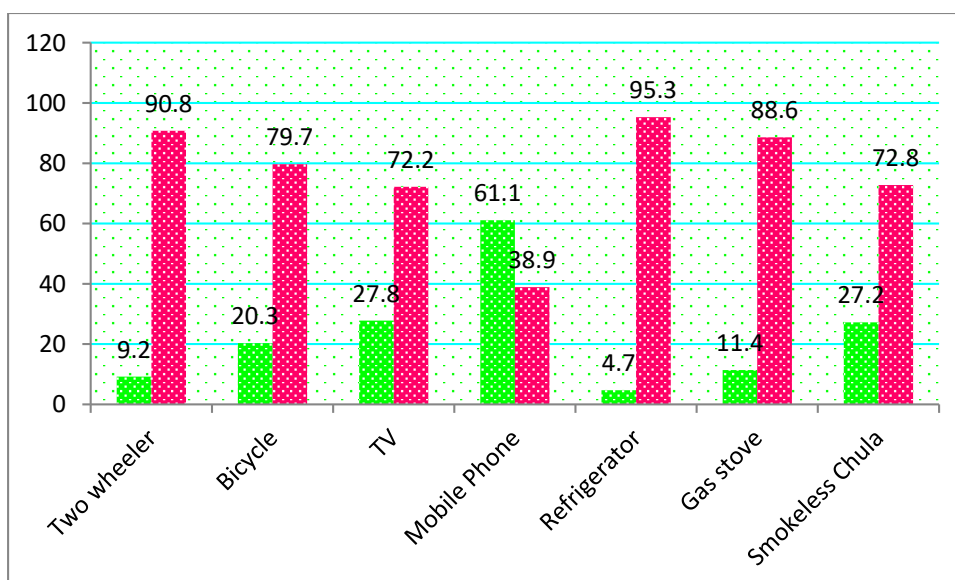
The Chenchu's were traditional agriculturists who once owned in the district of Prakasam. However, they were driven out of their traditional habitation in course of time. A few families in accepted, they have no ancestral land holdings.

Most of the beneficiaries are possessing small and marginal landholdings (82.8 percent) and the remaining 17.2 percent are land less. The landlessness has been reported high in the study area where they mostly belong to under privileged sections of the people. The study reveals that the majority of the Chenchu are marginal land holders. About majority of the households own less than two acres of land.

Table-9: Particulars of Domestic Assets

Sl. No	Domestic Assets	Yes	No	Total N=360
1	Two wheeler	9.2	90.8	100.0
2	Bicycle	20.3	79.7	100.0
3	TV	27.8	72.2	100.0
4	Mobile Phone	61.1	38.9	100.0
5	Refrigerator	4.7	95.3	100.0
6	Gas stove	11.4	88.6	100.0
7	Smokeless Chula	27.2	72.8	100.0
Total Average Percentage		23.1	76.9	100.0

Figure – 1: Particulars of Domestic assets



The above table 9 and figure 1 reveals the particulars of domestic assets of the sample households in the selected areas. In the overall study out of, 9.2 per cent having two-wheeler, 20.0 per cent owned bicycle, 27.8 per cent having TVs, subsequently, 61.1 per cent of the respondents having mobile phone, 4.7 per cent are owned the refrigerator followed by 11.4 per cent of the respondents are having gas stoves and 27.2 per cent owned smokeless Chula.

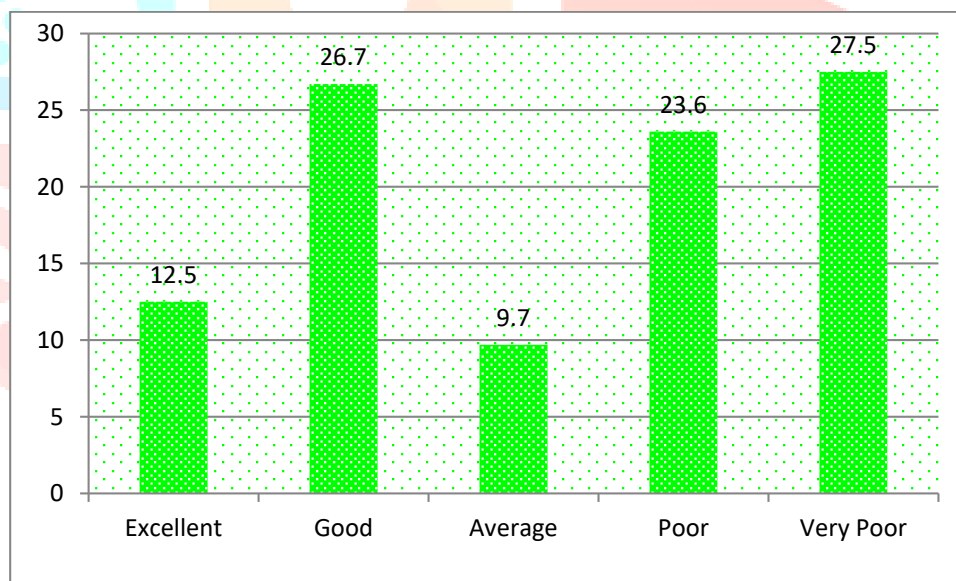
The mobile as the domestic asset is at the top in the sample area, Television are in the next place. In overall observation the domestic assets are TVs, Gas stove are relatively more in the study area.

The overall total percentage 23.1 per cent of the respondents having of the domestic assets whereas, 76.9 per cent of the respondents didn't have the domestic assets.

Table -10: Health status of Respondents

Sl.No	Variable	Frequency	Percent
1	Excellent	45	12.5
2	Good	96	26.7
3	Average	35	9.7
4	Poor	85	23.6
5	Very Poor	99	27.5
Total		360	100.0

Figure - 2: Status of the Health



The researcher asked the households about the health conditions and how do they rate regarding their health. The majority (26.7 percent) household respondents are opined that their health is good. Whereas 9.7 percent of the respondents opined that their health is average. Further, 12.5 percent they can be revealed that their health is an excellent and remaining 27.5 percent and 23.6 per cent are opined that their health is very poor and poor respectively.

Conclusion:

The social profile of the respondents presented. The study results indicate that, majority of the respondents are belonging to the age between 36 to 45 years and the study has taken in four mandals with equal ratio of sample from each mandal. The majority of them are belongs to Hindu religion. The study also assesses the education unfortunately, majority of the respondents were illiterate, primary followed by secondary level of education. Most of the respondents are not having the domestic assets in

the study area. The most of the respondents are primary occupation is agriculture and forest produces. They getting very low income and poor in terms of their social status.

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