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Role Of ITDA On Tribal Women Empowerment – A Study In Rampachodavaram Division

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Abstract

Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) programmes are executing all the government supported developmental schemes and welfare schemes in the scheduled areas of tribal population for improvement of living conditions among tribal people. But the benefits of all these welfare programmes are not reaching the tribal population competently. It may be due to the lack of awareness among the tribal population of the study area on the welfare schemes executed by the ITDA. In this context the study aimed to invest the role of ITDA on empowerment of tribal women in education, economic, social and political dimensions. In this process the data was collected from the tribal women through an interview schedule in Rampachodavaram Division, in East Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh state by random sampling method. As the results from the study revealed that the tribal women still could not receive the benefits of the welfare schemes and do not reach the goals of government and ITDA due to lack of awareness and knowledge. Hence, it can be recommended that the ITDA should give more publicity on their welfare schemes and should generate awareness on how to get benefitted from these programmes and schemes.

Keywords: ITDA, empowerment, education, economic, social, political.

Introduction

Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) plays a crucial role in tribal women's empowerment by implementing government schemes focused on economic development, skill training, health, education, and political participation. These agencies facilitate access to loans, promote women's self-help groups (SHGs), organize leadership training, and raise awareness on critical issues like health and trafficking. By providing

support in these diverse areas, ITDA aims to improve tribal women's socio-economic status, increase their self-confidence, and ensure their active involvement in community development. The ITDA empowers tribal women mainly in four areas, i.e. economic empowerment, social and health empowerment, political empowerment and holistic development (Pushpalatha, 2023). Hence, the economic empowerment of tribal women through financial assistance by the ITDA to promote government schemes like the Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojna (AMSY) and the Term Loan Scheme, providing concessional loans and financial support for tribal women entrepreneurs and self-help groups (Manohar Kumare and Anita Dhurvey, 2025). Another economic empowerment is Skill Development & Livelihoods through programs like support skill development and provide training in various sectors like agriculture, animal husbandry, and crafts, enhancing income generation opportunities for tribal women. In Social and Health Empowerment the ITDA works to improve educational opportunities and construction of schools in tribal areas for tribal women and girls, and promote health initiatives by conducting programs in tribal areas focusing on health, sanitation, menstrual hygiene, and screening for gynecological diseases among tribal women (Rashmi Salpekar and Navjeet Sidhu Kundal, 2024). In addition the ITDA conduct awareness campaigns and organizes workshops to raise awareness about crucial issues such as women trafficking, drug addiction, and superstition within tribal communities (Priyanka Joshi and Dinesh Kumar, 2025). For the Political Empowerment of tribal women the ITDA organizes leadership training programmes in the tribal areas to facilitate leadership and empowerment training programs for elected women Scheduled Tribe representatives, encouraging their greater participation in local governance. For strengthening Gram Sabhas ITDA advises on increasing women's presence and participation in Gram Sabha and Mahila Sabha meetings, ensuring their voices are heard in community decision-making. With reference to holistic development by the ITDA integrated approach adopted to development and addressing various needs of tribal populations, with a particular focus on uplifting tribal women from underprivileged backgrounds. In promoting SHGs ITDA support the formation and functioning of women's self-help groups to foster collective empowerment and mutual support.

Literature Review

Tedabariki Suresh Kumar and Govada Veerraju (2024) studied on effectiveness of ITDA as a tool in socioeconomic development of Tribals. In this study the authors made an attempt to examine the ITDA activities and the Public Responsibility/Participation. The primary object of this study is to examine the effectiveness of ITDA as a tool in socioeconomic development of Tribals. In this purpose this study enquire about satisfaction levels of tribes on welfare and development projects taken up by ITDA, and opportunities created by ITDA to achieve socio-economic and family development of the tribes. This study also verifies the existing administrative mechanism of ITDA and its suitability in implement the development programs effectively and satisfactorily. Moreover, participation of tribal women in local government is an important issue that has gained increasing attention in recent years, they have faced multiple forms of discrimination and marginalization, which have prevented them from participating fully in decision-making processes. In this regard Balaram Pradha and Seema Rani Sethi (2024) studied on empowering tribal women by exploring their roles and participation in local government and found that tribal women are often excluded from decision-making processes and their voices are not adequately represented in policymaking and implementation. However, there have been efforts to promote greater participation of tribal women in local government in recent years. Choppara Balakotaiah (2022) studied on women empowerment in tribal area and found that functional literacy and education, health and nutrition, development of skills to take up new income generating schemes, social and cultural development and organization of thrift, credit and processing societies are The important areas to be considered for empowerment of tribal women. Valya Lunavath (2021) studied about the role of ITDAs in eradication of poverty among tribal people of Telangana state to assess the change that has been brought about in the life of tribals as a result of developmental planning. In this study an attempt has been made to examine the institutional dimensions of change, especially with reference to people's participation in various development programmes in order to initiate development programmes from below so as to make them a part of decision making. Thimmaiah and Shrinidhi (2019) studied the role of Integrated Tribal Development Programme for the upliftment of tribal communities to analyze the overall picture of developmental programme by the Government for the upliftment of tribal communities in Virajpet taluk of Kodagu District. In this study the authors found that integrated tribal development programme is executing with all the government supported developmental schemes and welfare schemes for development of the living

conditions of tribal population in the study area, but the benefits of all these welfare programmes are not reaching the tribal population competently. Chittabai (2017) studied on role of Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) in the development of tribal areas in Visakhapatnam Dist., A.P., and found that the ITDA is implementing all the government sponsored developmental schemes and welfare schemes for improving the living conditions of tribal population living the study area. But the fruits of all these welfare programmes are not reaching the tribal population efficiently. Rajendra Prasad (2016) studied the initiatives of ITDA for tribal development through coffee plantation in Paderu Division, Visakhapatnam district. The main objectives of this study are to know the initiative programmes of ITDA in Paderu division and to understand the impact of the ITDA for tribal development. The study found that the ITDA, Paderu division is concentrating mainly on agricultural sector and paying little attention on other sectors and at the same time its benefits are reaped by a limited number of tribals only who are politically influential and economically better off. Therefore, it is suggested that there is a need of creating awareness among tribal coffee growers and giving necessary technical support will go a long way in sustenance of the Coffee Project.

Need and significance

The government has been designing and implementing a number of welfare schemes for the welfare of the tribal people throughout India but the living styles and socio-economic conditions of tribal people have not improved. The East Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh is also not exception to this. So that a lot of research is utmost important to study the tribal welfare measures of the governments of both state and center, especially on women empowerment. Most of the existing studies on tribal welfare measures are at district level and state level mostly concentrated on the socio-economic standards of the tribal people and neglected the functioning of the Integrated Tribal Development Agency on tribal women empowerment. Hence, it can be said that there is dearth of studies on the functioning of ITDA in Rampachodavaram division, in East Godavari district and its welfare measures. In reality, the ITDA takes important decisions that are useful to the dwellers of the tribal areas. Thus, it is an urgent need to study the activities of ITDA, Rampachodavaram Division, East Godavari district, and how the ITDA has been organizing various tribal welfare measures in women empowerment in education, economic, social and political aspects. With this background, an attempt has been made to study the “Role of ITDAs in Tribal Women Empowerment - A Study in Rampachodavaram Division” with the following objectives.

Objectives

Since, the main objective of the study is to analyze role of ITDA in empowerment of tribal women, the specific objectives of this study are to examine the role of ITDA on empowerment of tribal women with reference to education, economic, social and political aspects in Rampachodavaram division of East Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh.

Methodology

In this study the data was collected from the primary source for qualitative and quantitative research. While the primary data was collected through a pre-designed questionnaire, it was followed some methodological measures in data collection and data process. In the data collection a survey method was followed, where random sampling method was observed and in data process frequency and percentage were considered. For the purpose of primary data collection research schedule/questionnaire was administer to the tribal women in ITDA area of Rampachodavaram Division. The required data was also obtained through direct interactions with the officials and non-officials who involved in the programmes of ITDA in East Godavari district. The researcher also gained field experience from various tribal areas during her trip and compared poverty alleviation programmes of different ITDAs and suggested remedies to arrest the poverty of the poor tribal women.

Sampling

For the purpose of selecting respondents, a multi stage random sampling technique has been adopted. In the first Stage, the Integrated Tribal Development Agency has been selected purposively for the study. In the second stage the total 11 tribal mandals which comes under the administrative jurisdiction of Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA), Paderu have been divided into four areas i.e., Area – I, Area –II, Area –

III and Area – IV and three mandals from each area have been selected except area – III. Hence, the distribution of sample tribal women by their demographics are presented in the following table and analysed.

Table – 1: Distribution of sample tribal women in the selected area

Demographics	Age	Frequency	Percent
Age groups	21 - 30 years	62	25.8
	31 - 40 years	72	30.0
	41-50 years	38	15.8
	51 - 60 years	68	28.3
Education level	Secondary	45	18.8
	Pre - University	75	31.3
	Degree	84	35.0
	Master's Degree	36	15.0
Occupational Status	House wife	59	24.6
	Self - employee	53	22.1
	Employee	74	30.8
	Agriculture / Labor	54	22.5
Monthly income levels	< 5000	95	39.6
	5 - 10 thousand	58	24.2
	10 - 15 thousand	41	17.1
	Above 15 thousand	46	19.2
	Total	240	100.0

Source: Survey data

The Table-1 represents the distribution of sample respondents by the age, education, occupation, and monthly income levels. As it is found from the data that out of the total respondents 30.0 percent tribal women are in 31-40 years age group, 28.3 percent tribal women are in 51-60 years age group, 25.8 percent tribal women are in 21-30 years age group, and 15.8 percent tribal women are in 41-50 years age group. The distribution of respondents by their education qualification, it shows that a majority of 35.0 percent tribal women studied up to degree, 31.3 percent studied pre-university, 18.8 percent studied secondary school and 15.0 percent studied master's degree. Whereas, the occupational status of tribal women indicates that 30.8 percent are employee group, 22.5 percent are agriculture / labor group, 22.1 percent are self-employees and 24.6 percent are house wives. The monthly income wise distribution of tribal women observed that 39.6 percent are earning less than 5000, 24.2 percent are earning 5-10 thousand, 17.1 percent are earning 10-15 thousand and 19.2 percent are earning above 15 thousand per month.

Role of ITDA on Empowerment of Tribal Women

The ITDA has been created for the development of tribals in the schedule areas in order to provide single line administration and development, to deliver prompt and accessible government services. The ITDA officials and extension agencies should concentrate their efforts in providing need based information to the tribals, especially the women through formal sources even to remote them in education, economic, social and political aspects. Thus, the ITDA is paying a vital role in development of tribals, especially in empowering tribal women through its activities in its jurisdiction. Hence, the following tables represent the perceptions of tribal women on the role of ITDA towards women empowerment various aspects.

A) Educational Empowerment

Empowering the marginalized tribal women through education will contribute a lot to national development. The educational status of tribal women is very low compared their counterparts in other communities. Education is a powerful tool for national development. It has the power to raise the status of tribal women. Educational development is a far distant dream for Tribal women. in this context the ITDA is paying an important role in education development of tribal women through its various empowerment

activities. Hence, the perceptions of tribal women on role of ITDA in educational empowerment activities are presented in the following table.

Table-2: Perceptions of tribal women on the role of ITDA in Educational Empowerment

SL. No	Statements	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Total
1	ITDA encourages free and compulsory education for all in tribal areas	49 (20.4)	144 (60.0)	26 (10.8)	13 (5.4)	8 (3.3)	240 (100.0)
2	ITDA provides needful provisions to encourage tribal children to go to schools	80 (33.3)	74 (30.8)	62 (25.8)	16 (6.7)	8 (3.3)	240 (100.0)
3	ITDA encourage illiterate tribal women to educate through adult education centers.	84 (35.0)	88 (36.7)	40 (16.7)	23 (9.6)	5 (2.1)	240 (100.0)
4	ITDA encourage tribal students with scholarships for higher studies	84 (35.0)	94 (39.2)	44 (18.3)	14 (5.8)	4 (1.7)	240 (100.0)
5	ITDA looks after the academic aspects of the schools in tribal area	62 (25.8)	101 (42.1)	49 (20.4)	21 (8.8)	7 (2.9)	240 (100.0)
6	ITDA organises educational programs to empower tribal women	47 (19.6)	92 (38.3)	68 (28.3)	28 (11.7)	5 (2.1)	240 (100.0)
7	ITDA provides book & uniforms to school going children in tribal areas	60 (25.0)	78 (32.5)	63 (26.3)	25 (10.4)	14 (5.8)	240 (100.0)
8	The ITDA supervises the educational institutions in TSP are	57 (23.8)	90 (37.5)	42 (17.5)	44 (18.3)	7 (2.9)	240 (100.0)
9	The ITDA provides education facilities in schools of TSP area	63 (26.3)	75 (31.3)	47 (19.6)	37 (15.4)	18 (7.5)	240 (100.0)
10	ITDA take care of extending general education for the tribals in the agency area	69 (28.8)	72 (30.0)	43 (17.9)	42 (17.5)	14 (5.8)	240 (100.0)
11	ITDA encourage teachers to provide quality education to the children in tribal area schools.	75 (31.3)	66 (27.5)	43 (17.9)	42 (17.5)	14 (5.8)	240 (100.0)
12	ITDA gives top most priority for education in TSP areas	69 (28.8)	82 (34.2)	49 (20.4)	29 (12.1)	11 (4.6)	240 (100.0)

The Table-2 elucidates the perceptions of the respondents on the role of ITDA in educational empowerment of tribal women in the study area. The data reveals that 60.0 percent of the respondents agreed and 20.4 percent strongly agreed that ITDA encourages free and compulsory education for all in tribal areas. It is also observed 30.8 percent agreed and 33.3 percent strongly agreed that ITDA provides needful provisions to encourage tribal children to go to schools. In addition to that 36.7 percent agreed and 35.0 percent strongly agreed that ITDA encourage illiterate tribal women to educate through adult education centers. While the government encourages free and compulsory education of all in the country, the data shows 39.2 percent agreed and 35.0 percent strongly agreed that ITDA encourage tribal students with scholarships for higher studies. In this regard it shows 42.1 percent agreed and 25.8 percent strongly agreed that ITDA looks after the academic aspects of the schools in tribal area. Therefore, ITDA organises educational programs to empower tribal women, for which 38.3 percent agreed and 19.6 percent strongly agreed. In this regard 32.5 percent agreed and 25.0 percent strongly agreed that ITDA provides book & uniforms to school going children in

tribal areas. According to the data 37.5 percent of the respondents agreed and 23.8 percent strongly agreed that ITDA supervises the educational institutions in tribal sub-plan area. While the ITDA provides education facilities in schools of tribal sub plan area, the data shows 31.3 percent of the respondents agreed and 26.3 percent strongly agreed. It shows 30.0 percent of the respondents agreed and 28.8 percent strongly agreed that ITDA take care of extending general education for the tribals in the agency area. The data also observed 27.5 percent of the respondents agreed and 31.3 percent strongly agreed that ITDA encourage teachers to provide quality education to the children in tribal area schools. Finally, 34.2 percent agreed and 28.8 percent strongly agreed that ITDA gives top most priority for education in Tribal Sub-Plan areas.

B) Economic Empowerment

Women in a tribal society play a vital role in their social, cultural, economic and religious ways of life and are considered as an economic asset in their society. Economically empowering may be understood as enabling weaker sections like poor women, especially tribal women to acquire and to possess power and resources, in order to make decisions on their own. In this regard the government has to prepare suitable plans and programmes for the economic empowerment of tribal women. Hence, the following table represents the perceptions of respondents towards the role of ITDA on economic empowerment of tribal women in the study area.

Table-3: Perceptions of tribal women on role of ITDA in Economic Empowerment

SL. No	Statements	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Total
1	ITDA enable the tribal women to gain control over their economic assets	63 (26.3)	83 (34.6)	61 (25.4)	28 (11.7)	5 (2.1)	240 (100.0)
2	ITDA enable the tribal women to achieve financial independence	74 (30.8)	81 (33.8)	43 (17.9)	32 (13.3)	10 (4.2)	240 (100.0)
3	ITDA encourage the tribal women to establish cottage industries	92 (38.3)	67 (27.9)	39 (16.3)	21 (8.8)	21 (8.8)	240 (100.0)
4	ITDA promote the tribal women to establish businesses	74 (30.8)	88 (36.7)	43 (17.9)	23 (9.6)	12 (5.0)	240 (100.0)
5	ITDA encourage the tribal women to improve production and productivity in their economic activity	52 (21.7)	109 (45.4)	48 (20.0)	24 (10.0)	7 (2.9)	240 (100.0)
6	ITDA enable the tribal women to utilize the self employment opportunities	71 (29.6)	79 (32.9)	57 (23.8)	27 (11.3)	6 (2.5)	240 (100.0)
7	ITDA enable the tribal women to improve economic bargaining powers	60 (25.0)	92 (38.3)	44 (18.3)	37 (15.4)	7 (2.9)	240 (100.0)
8	ITDA enable the tribal women to improve their saving ability	71 (29.6)	76 (31.7)	40 (16.7)	44 (18.3)	9 (3.8)	240 (100.0)
9	ITDA enable the tribal women to market their goods & services	79 (32.9)	72 (30.0)	46 (19.2)	33 (13.8)	10 (4.2)	240 (100.0)
10	ITDA enable the tribal women to achieve the goal of economic self-efficiency.	78 (32.5)	80 (33.3)	37 (15.4)	31 (12.9)	14 (5.8)	240 (100.0)

The perceptions of respondents on role of ITDA in economic empowerment of tribal women are presented in the Table-3. The data reveals 34.6 percent agreed and 26.3 percent strongly agreed that ITDA enable the tribal women to gain control over their economic assets. Regarding that statement 'ITDA enable the tribal women to achieve financial independence' it shows 33.8 percent agreed and 30.8 percent strongly agreed. According to the perceptions of respondents 27.9 percent agreed and 38.3 percent strongly agreed that ITDA encourage the tribal women to establish cottage industries. The data shows 36.7 percent agreed and 30.8 percent strongly agreed that ITDA promote the tribal women to establish businesses. Whereas 45.4 percent agreed and 21.7 percent strongly agreed that ITDA encourage the tribal women to improve production and productivity in their economic activity. According to the perceptions of respondents 32.9 percent agreed and 39.6 percent strongly agreed that ITDA enable the tribal women to utilize the self-employment opportunities in their area. The data shows 38.3 percent agreed and 25.0 percent strongly agreed that ITDA enable the tribal women to improve economic bargaining powers. On the other hand 31.7 percent agreed and 29.6 percent strongly agreed that ITDA enable the tribal women to improve their saving ability. According to the data 30.0 percent agreed and 32.9 percent strongly agreed that ITDA enable the tribal women to market their goods & services. Finally, 33.3 percent agreed and 32.5 percent strongly agreed that ITDA enable the tribal women to achieve the goal of economic self-efficiency.

C) Social Empowerment

Empowerment of women is essentially the process of upliftment of social status of tribal women, the traditionally underprivileged ones in the society. It is found from the previous studies that Tribal women play a vital role in the social empowerment of tribal area as they contribute in various social activities. Since, poverty pushes them down to the lowest strata. When we think about tribal women, they are more backward and their social empowerment issues are even more complicated. Social empowerment creates a favorable environment for women to take part in the development programs. Therefore, the government is establishing various schemes and programmes for the social empowerment of tribal women. In this view the ITDA is playing an important role in implementation of these programmes and schemes in tribal sub-plan area. Hence, the perceptions of respondents on the role of ITDA in social empowerment of tribal women are presented in the following table.

Table-4: Perceptions of respondents on role of ITDA on Social Empowerment of tribal women in the study area

SL. No	Statements	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Total
1	The ITDA enable the tribal women to work for social equality	78 (32.5)	116 (48.3)	28 (11.7)	11 (4.6)	7 (2.9)	240 (100.0)
2	The ITDA enable the tribal women to achieve the goal of social freedom	91 (37.9)	97 (40.4)	30 (12.5)	14 (5.8)	8 (3.3)	240 (100.0)
3	The ITDA enable the tribal women to gain the benefit of social justice	83 (34.6)	84 (35.0)	54 (22.5)	7 (2.9)	12 (5.0)	240 (100.0)
4	The ITDA avoid superstitions among tribal women	66 (27.5)	94 (39.2)	28 (11.7)	43 (17.9)	9 (3.8)	240 (100.0)
5	The ITDA enable the tribal women to fight against human trafficking	65 (27.1)	97 (40.4)	31 (12.9)	24 (10.0)	23 (9.6)	240 (100.0)
6	The ITDA enable the tribal women to fight against violation of human rights	49 (20.4)	107 (44.6)	35 (14.6)	19 (7.9)	30 (12.5)	240 (100.0)
7	The ITDA Great awareness about importance benefits of small family	52 (21.7)	79 (32.9)	73 (30.4)	17 (7.1)	19 (7.9)	240 (100.0)
8	The ITDA work for the prevention of atrocities	62 (25.8)	83 (34.6)	36 (15.0)	54 (22.5)	5 (2.1)	240 (100.0)

	against tribal women						
9	The ITDA motivate tribal women to fight against the drug and liquor addiction	74 (30.8)	89 (37.1)	19 (7.9)	42 (17.5)	16 (6.7)	240 (100.0)
10	The ITDA enable the tribal women to work for the prevention of child labor and bonded labor	49 (20.4)	79 (32.9)	76 (31.7)	26 (10.8)	10 (4.2)	240 (100.0)
11	The ITDA enable the tribal women to work for the prevention of dowry system.	58 (24.2)	64 (26.7)	71 (29.6)	33 (13.8)	14 (5.8)	240 (100.0)
12	The ITDA enable the tribal women to fight against child marriage	53 (22.1)	68 (28.3)	43 (17.9)	49 (20.4)	27 (11.3)	240 (100.0)
13	The ITDA enable the tribal women to promote the remarriage of divorced / widowed persons	66 (27.5)	74 (30.8)	31 (12.9)	39 (16.3)	30 (12.5)	240 (100.0)
14	The ITDA enable the tribal women to get social security	66 (27.5)	75 (31.3)	40 (16.7)	41 (17.1)	18 (7.5)	240 (100.0)

The Table-4 represents the perceptions of respondents on role of ITDA on social empowerment of tribal women in the study area. The data shows 18.3 percent agreed and 32.5 percent strongly agreed that ITDA enable the tribal women to work for social equality. Whereas 40.4 percent agreed and 37.9 percent strongly agreed that ITDA enable the tribal women to achieve the goal of social freedom. On the other hand 35.0 percent agreed and 34.6 percent strongly agreed that ITDA enable the tribal women to gain the benefit of social justice. Thus, 39.2 percent agreed and 27.5 percent strongly agreed that ITDA avoid superstitions among tribal women. While women are suppressed in all communities, the ITDA enabled them in tribal sub plan areas through various programmes and schemes. In this regard it is observed 40.4 percent agreed and 27.1 percent strongly agreed that ITDA enable the tribal women to fight against human trafficking, and also 44.6 percent agreed and 20.4 percent strongly agreed that ITDA enable the tribal women to fight against violation of human rights.

Due to the illiteracy and ignorance of tribal women they unable to avail various benefits of government programmes and schemes. In this context it is noted 32.9 percent agreed and 21.7 percent strongly agreed that through ITDA the tribal women get awareness about important benefits of small family. Regarding atrocities against tribal women the data reveals 34.6 percent agreed and 25.8 percent strongly agreed that ITDA work for the prevention of these social evil practices. Most of the families in the society disturbed with the drugs and alcohol, especially in tribal communities it is more when compared to their counterpart other communities. So, in this regard, 37.1 percent agreed and 30.8 percent strongly agreed that ITDA motivates tribal women to fight against the drug and liquor addiction. It is one of the important mobility bring among tribal women by the ITDA that prevention of child labor and bonded labor, in this regard it is observed 32.9 percent agreed and 20.4 percent strongly agreed.

Regarding prevention of dowry system among tribal communities it is found 26.7 percent agreed and 24.2 percent strongly agreed that ITDA enable the tribal women to work for this social problem. Child marriage is another social crime is prevailing still in some tribal communities, therefore, 28.3 percent agreed and 22.1 percent strongly agreed that ITDA enable the tribal women to fight against child marriage. Another social reform is remarriage of divorced / widowed persons, for this activity 30.8 percent agreed and 27.5 percent strongly agreed that ITDA enable the tribal women to promote this social reform. Hence, the overall data reveals that 31.3 percent agreed and 27.5 percent strongly agreed ITDA enable the tribal women to get social security.

D) Political Empowerment

Political participation is a major component of empowerment for women. Political empowerment supports creating policies that would best support gender equality and agency for women in both the public and private spheres. Popular methods that have been suggested are to create affirmative action policies that have a quota for the number of women in policy making and parliament positions. Women's political empowerment and leadership increasing women's political participation and leadership are vital mechanisms that support women to realize their human rights. Increasing women's participation in leadership and decision-making has proven to be good for economic and social development around the world.

This part of research tries to highlight the barriers faced by tribal women in entering politics and the support of ITDA in this regard. It also tries to draw attention to the position of tribal women in politics and the adverse effects of low participation of tribal women in political process. Besides, it also tries to suggest some strategies for political empowerment of tribal women in Rampachodavaram ITDA division in East Godavari district.

Table-5: Perceptions of respondents on role of ITDA in promoting political empowerment of tribal women

SL. No	Statements	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Total
1	ITDA enable the tribal women to understand the constitutional provisions	57 (23.8)	115 (47.9)	40 (16.7)	15 (6.3)	13 (5.4)	240 (100.0)
2	ITDA enable the tribal women to gain the benefit of tribal political reservation	56 (23.3)	111 (46.3)	43 (17.9)	14 (5.8)	16 (6.7)	240 (100.0)
3	ITDA enable the tribal women to understand the significance of adult franchise	78 (32.5)	91 (37.9)	31 (12.9)	35 (14.6)	5 (2.1)	240 (100.0)
4	ITDA enable the tribal women to understand the significance of electoral reforms	75 (31.3)	84 (35.0)	38 (15.8)	37 (15.4)	6 (2.5)	240 (100.0)
5	ITDA enable the tribal women to acquire leadership development opportunities	80 (33.3)	77 (32.1)	30 (12.5)	42 (17.5)	11 (4.6)	240 (100.0)
6	ITDA enable the tribal women to actively participate in the political activities	58 (24.2)	76 (31.7)	55 (22.9)	33 (13.8)	18 (7.5)	240 (100.0)
7	ITDA enable the tribal women to enhance their political status	40 (16.7)	97 (40.4)	54 (22.5)	36 (15.0)	13 (5.4)	240 (100.0)
8	ITDA enhance the knowledge of tribal women to manage political crisis	66 (27.5)	72 (30.0)	53 (22.1)	38 (15.8)	11 (4.6)	240 (100.0)
9	ITDA enable the tribal women to participate actively in political movements	66 (27.5)	85 (35.4)	43 (17.9)	29 (12.1)	17 (7.1)	240 (100.0)
10	ITDA enable the tribal women to participate actively in elections	73 (30.4)	75 (31.3)	40 (16.7)	32 (13.3)	20 (8.3)	240 (100.0)

The perceptions of respondents on role of ITDA in promoting political empowerment of tribal women in the study area are presented in the Table-5. Among the total respondents the data shows 47.9 percent agreed and 23.8 percent strongly agreed that ITDA enable the tribal women to understand the constitutional provisions, and also 46.3 percent agreed and 23.3 percent strongly agreed that ITDA enable the tribal women to gain the benefit political reservation of their community. It is observed 37.9 percent agreed and 32.5 percent strongly agreed that ITDA enable the tribal women to understand the significance of adult franchise. This leads 35.0 percent agree and 31.3 percent strongly agree for ITDA enable the tribal women to understand the significance of electoral reforms. Therefore, it is noted 32.1 percent agreed and 33.3 percent strongly agreed that ITDA enable the tribal women to acquire leadership development opportunities.

According to the data 31.7 percent agreed and 24.2 percent strongly agreed that ITDA enable the tribal women to actively participate in the political activities. This makes 40.4 percent agree and 16.7 percent strongly agree for ITDA enable the tribal women to enhance their political status. On the other hand 30.0 percent agreed and 27.5 percent strongly agreed that ITDA enhance the knowledge of tribal women to manage political crisis, and also 34.4 percent agreed and 27.5 percent strongly agreed that ITDA enable the tribal women to participate actively in political movements. Hence, the overall political empowerment of tribal women indicates 31.3 percent agreed and 30.4 percent strongly agreed that ITDA enable the tribal women to participate actively in elections.

Role of ITDA on empowerment of tribal women

According to the Indian constitution the Article-46 denotes that the State shall promote, with special care, the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and in particular, of the Scheduled Castes, and the Scheduled Tribes, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation. In this regard the role of the ITDA is paramount in delivering inclusive and equitable development services to Scheduled Tribes (STs), particularly in geographically and socioeconomically isolated regions. Thus, in the part of this research the findings from perceptions of the respondents about the role of ITDA on tribal women in educational empowerment, economic empowerment, social empowerment and political empowerment are discussed in the following.

Educational Empowerment

1. Regarding impact of ITDA on educational empowerment of tribal women the study infers that 74.2 percent opined that ITDA encourage tribal students with scholarships for higher studies.
2. With reference to literacy rate of the tribal women, the disparity is clearly visible and even worse as the Scheduled Tribe women have the lowest literacy rates in India (Hameed Basha, 2018)¹. Thus, the data reveals that 71.7 percent respondents felt ITDA encourages illiterate tribal women to educate through adult education centers. It is also noticed from the data that 80.4 percent respondents opined ITDA encourages free and compulsory education for all in tribal areas.
3. When compared to the total dropout, the tribal dropout was significantly higher in many tribal areas (Joy & Srihari, 2014)². In this regard it is found that 64.1 percent respondents said that ITDA provides needful provisions to encourage tribal children to go to schools. Therefore, it is observed 67.9 percent of the respondents felt ITDA looks after the academic aspects of the schools in tribal area.
4. While ITDA gives top most priority for education in TSP areas 37.0 percent respondents did not agree for this.
5. While 57.9 percent of the respondents opined ITDA organizes educational programs to empower tribal women in the tribal sub-plan areas, 42.1 percent did not agree for this.
6. Since, 61.3 percent tribal women felt ITDA supervises the educational institutions in TSP area, 38.7 percent not agreed with this.

¹ Hameed Basha (2018), A relook on literacy rate of tribal women: Issues and prospects, International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research Review, Vol.4, Issue-11, November-2018, Page – 108.

² Jobin Joy & Srihari M. (2014), A Case study on the School dropout Scheduled Tribal students of Wayanad District, Kerala, Research Journal of Educational Sciences, Vol. 2(3), 1-6, June (2014)

7. 58.8 percent respondents obeyed that ITDA encourage teachers to provide quality education to the children in tribal area schools, but 41.2 percent did not agreed for this.
8. In the part of education development in tribal areas the government is providing free textbooks and uniforms to the students (Sarita Arya and Tanushree Chauhan, 2012)³, above fifty percent of the respondents (i.e. 58.8 percent) opined ITDA take care of extending general education for the tribal's in the agency area, and 57.5 percent felt ITDA provides book & uniforms to school going children in tribal areas.
9. Poor physical facilities in the classroom at tribal area schools are constraints of education development of tribals (Raj Pathania, et al. 2005)⁴. Therefore, ITDA provides education facilities in schools of TSP area.

Economic Empowerment

1. According to the perceptions of the tribal women the data indicates 67.5 percent felt ITDA promote the tribal women to establish businesses, whereas 62.5 percent opined ITDA enable the tribal women to utilize the self-employment opportunities.
2. While 63.3 percent of the respondents felt ITDA enable the tribal women to improve economic bargaining powers, 64.6 percent felt ITDA enable the tribal women to achieve financial independence.
3. Even though 62.9 percent of the respondents felt ITDA enable the tribal women to market their goods & services, 65.8 percent observed ITDA enable the tribal women to achieve the goal of economic self-efficiency.
4. Since, 67.1 percent tribal women opined ITDA encourage the tribal women to improve production and productivity in their economic activity, 60.9 percent felt ITDA enable the tribal women to gain control over their economic assets.
5. While 61.3 percent of the respondents expressed that ITDA enable the tribal women to improve economic bargaining powers, 61.3 percent agreed that ITDA enable the tribal women to improve their saving ability.

Social Empowerment

1. Social empowerment of tribes involves promoting their access to essential services like education and healthcare, enhancing their livelihood opportunities through sustainable development and entrepreneurship, ensuring their rights and self-governance, and preserving their unique cultural identity. In this context the data reveals that as many as 80.8 percent of the tribal women felt ITDA enable the tribal women to work for social equality. This leads to 78.3 percent tribal women felt ITDA enable them to achieve the goal of social freedom.
2. While 69.6 percent of the respondents opined ITDA enable the tribal women to gain the benefit of social justice, 67.9 percent felt ITDA motivate tribal women to fight against the drug and liquor addiction.
3. Moreover, 67.5 percent opined that ITDA enable the tribal women to fight against human trafficking, 66.7 percent felt ITDA avoid superstitions among tribal women.
4. Regarding the role of ITDA to enable the tribal women in fight against violation of human rights 65.0 percent of respondents agreed, but 60.4 percent only agreed that ITDA work for the prevention of atrocities against tribal women.
5. With reference to role of ITDA for empowerment of tribal women the data indicate 58.8 percent opined ITDA enable the tribal women to get social security and 54.6 percent aware about importance of small family.
6. Since, 53.3 percent respondents felt ITDA enable the tribal women to work for the prevention of child labor and bonded labor, 50.4 percent felt ITDA enable the tribal women to fight against child

³ Sarita Arya and Tanushree Chauhan (2012), A critical study of Tribal Education: With special reference to women,

⁴ Raj Pathania, Praveen Kaur and Pawan Pathania (2005), Problems Faced by the Tribal Students in Education, Indian Journal of Social work.

marriage.

7. Hence, the data revealed that 58.3 percent of the respondents observed ITDA enable the tribal women to promote the remarriage of divorced / widowed persons and 50.9 percent opined ITDA enable the tribal women to work for the prevention of dowry system.

Political Empowerment

1. Political empowerment of tribal women involves increasing their representation and voice in decision-making processes to promote inclusivity, equity, and address historical marginalization. Thus, 71.7 percent of the respondents felt ITDA enable the tribal women to understand the constitutional provisions.
2. Moreover, 70.4 percent respondents opined ITDA enable the tribal women to understand the significance of adult franchise, 69.6 percent felt ITDA enable the tribal women to gain the benefit of tribal political reservation.
3. While 66.3 percent respondents opined that ITDA enable the tribal women to understand the significance of electoral reforms, 65.4 percent felt ITDA enable the tribal women to acquire leadership development opportunities.
4. According to the data 62.9 percent respondents agreed that ITDA enable the tribal women to participate actively in political movements and 61.7 percent agreed ITDA enable the tribal women to participate actively in elections.
5. Whereas, 57.5 respondents felt ITDA enhance the knowledge of tribal women to manage political crisis and 57.1 percent opined ITDA enable the tribal women to enhance their political status. But 55.9 percent respondents observed ITDA enable the tribal women to actively participate in the political activities.

Conclusion

It can be summarized and concluded from the analysis carried out so far that the ITDA is implementing all the government sponsored developmental schemes and welfare schemes for improving the living conditions of tribal population in education, economic, social and political aspects. But the fruits of all these welfare programmes are not reaching the tribal population efficiently. It may be due to the lack of awareness among the tribal population of the study area on the welfare schemes implemented by the ITDA. Hence, It can be suggested that the ITDA officials should give more publicity on their welfare schemes and should create awareness on how to get benefitted from these programmes and schemes. For this the ITDA can take the help of Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) established in the tribal area of ITDA, Rampachodavaram division, East Godavari district.

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