



A STUDY ON TRANSITION OF LIVING CONDITIONS FROM ZUMPADAS - TO THE PUCCA HOUSES OF LAMBADA TRIBES IN NARSAMPET OF WARANGAL DISTRICT, TELANGANA.

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ABSTRACT:

The Lambada tribe, also known as Banjara, is a prominent tribal community in Telangana with a rich cultural heritage and historically nomadic lifestyle. Traditionally, the Lambadas resided in Zumpadas—informal, thatched huts constructed using mud, bamboo, and other locally sourced materials. These structures, though deeply rooted in their culture, were often characterized by limited durability, vulnerability to natural elements, and a lack of access to basic amenities. In recent decades, especially in the Narsampet region of Warangal district, a significant transition has been observed in their housing patterns, with many families shifting to pucca houses—permanent, concrete structures—through both government housing schemes and self-funded initiatives. This study aims to explore the transformation in the living conditions of the Lambada tribes as they move from traditional Zumpadas to pucca housing. Using a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods, including field visits, structured interviews, and community observations in selected thandas, the study examines the drivers behind this transition, such as socio-economic development, state-sponsored welfare programs, aspirations for modern living, and increasing integration into mainstream society. The findings indicate that pucca housing has contributed positively to health, safety, sanitation, and access to infrastructure. However, the transition also presents challenges, such as the erosion of communal living patterns and the dilution of traditional architectural identity. The study concludes that while modernization has improved physical living conditions, future housing policies must incorporate elements that respect and preserve the cultural context of tribal communities to ensure sustainable development.

Keywords : Lambada Tribe, Zumpadas, Housing Transition, Cultural Identity, Rural Infrastructure, Socio-economic Change, Sustainable Development.

INTRODUCTION :

Housing is an essential component of human well-being. Housing facilities, includes drinking water, sanitation, and drainage, play a crucial role in people's quality of life, in addition to shelter requirements. Inadequate housing is a sign of deprivation and housing plays a crucial role in human growth, increasing productivity, efficiency, and social dignity. While struggles for other basic entitlements, such as food security, employment, social security, education, and health care, are ongoing, there is a lack of long-standing advocacy for housing.

According to **Abraham Maslow**, the hierarchy of needs the first level are about **Physiological needs**. In this needs the important components are the food, water, shelter, air etc., Human beings are very most needed to survive on this earth. House is used for various purposes like storing, sleeping, cooking etc., In case, these basic needs are not satisfied / achieved, the person will be deprived and goes to trauma, which causes to health issues. Shelter plays a key role in the Human wellness. If good shelter is not there for a human being, person has various chances to get affected from the Environmental Hazards. So, House is very essential for human kind.

The Lambada, also known as Banjara, are a significant tribal community in Telangana, including the Warangal district. Traditionally, they have resided in settlements called "thandas," often situated separately from main villages to preserve their distinct cultural identity. Historically, Lambada homes were constructed using locally sourced materials such as mud, bamboo, and thatch. These structures were typically modest, designed to suit their nomadic lifestyle and the climatic conditions of the region. In recent years, there has been a transition towards more permanent housing.

Zumpadas are the traditional houses of lambadas where they live in the thandas from long period of time. The shape of the zumpadas are oblong, but the zumpadas doesn't have the windows attached to it. The doors are made with the Bamboos. And to built the zumpada it takes almost three to four days. House builder requires 30 to 40 bamboos and 15 to 20 wooden rafters, that is, ropes, and so on. Lambadas gather the material from near by forests for free of cost and some materials will be purchased by them. Cost to prepare a zumpada varies from person to person and from region to region depends on the availability of the natural resources available to them. Usually it costs all around from the ₹3000/- to ₹5000/- depends upon the size. Oblong zumpada are divided into three parts with the help of thatch. One part is used for kitchen , other for sitting - sleeping and last part for the Store room. Lambadas store their food grains , cotton and other crop cultivated in their zumpadas.

Pucca Houses are being constructed by the lambadas from very recent times. The well of lambadas are being constructing good number of houses in the thandas with very spacious rooms and with good ventilations. Lambadas also go for construction labour works as daily wage, but they hire the labourers from outside as per the need arises. The cost of pucca house constructions is rising day by day due price rises in the construction materials, daily wage labourers, etc.. Its costing all around ₹1,00,000/- and above to finish a pucca house. This houses are very much preventive as compared to the zumpadas from the natural calamities and disasters. Now, In most of the thandas (Hamlets) we find more number of pucca houses as compared to the zumpadas post 20th Century.

Parshanayak Thanda is a hamlet located in Madannapet, Narsampet, within the Warangal Rural district of Telangana, India. The community has been involved in various developmental activities, including those under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). For instance, there have been projects such as land leveling and other infrastructure improvements aimed at enhancing the living conditions of the residents. In that hamlet till today, double bedroom scheme has been not implemented in the Thanda. They're severely facing issue with the basic need which is required for human being.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE :

Nair Tara S (2016) : this study focuses on the housing's unmet issues and there are two important ways to achieve the aims by striking a balance between affordability and viability. The components of this study are utilized to prevent the concentration and abuse of power and material resources, as well as through proper legislative measures. According to the study's findings, financing is just one aspect of the housing supply industry. Many of the supply limits cannot be solved by other factors, such as inexpensive building materials, reasonably priced land, both skilled and unskilled labor, and institutional reforms like land distribution. As a result, the changes are implemented, and housing resources are allocated fairly, which is still a pipe dream.

Kaur Ravneet (2013) outlined the housing finance and issues facing India's housing market, including population growth, low incomes, slow housing stock additions, and poor maintenance. According to the findings, HDFC has approved the largest loan. In order to provide loans at reasonable rates and lessen their reliance on moneylenders, the institutions should design new programs with the needs of those living below the poverty line in mind.

Ramotra (2008) , Housing is essential for human survival since it gives him a place to live and protection along with food and clothes. The indication of human settlements is the building and clustering of homes. It is significant when analyzing settlements geographically and the intricate relationship between humans and their surroundings.

Nayar (1997) , It is widely accepted that elements that promote health, such as adequate housing, access to clean drinking water, sanitary facilities, electricity, fans, etc., have a significant role in maintaining people's good health and outweigh medical facilities and services. It has also been discovered that residents in crowded, run-down areas, particularly slums, are more likely to get sick.

Naik (1981) , defined a contemporary man's ideal home is a pleasant shelter with modern facilities and surroundings that promote health and happiness throughout the year. It not only provides shelter and protection, but also fosters etiquettes and relationships among family members. Some housing initiatives for destitute tribals, particularly those living below the poverty line (BPL), have yet to be fully realized.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY :

1. To study the living conditions transition of lambadas from zumpadas to pucca houses.
2. To describe modern housing of lambadas in the thandas.
3. To analyse the progress of the double bed room housing scheme in the Telangana state.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY :

Research methodology is a list of all the steps and information involved in creating a research endeavour. It is the argument of the requirements for data collecting and analysis in a way that seeks to blend social in the process with relevance to the research objective. To get current and reliable information on the research, a thorough review of books, socio economic outlook, journals, magazines, and internet surfing was undertaken. In addition, data was acquired through the study of relevant material, both published and unpublished, Gazette Reports of the Government of India and the Government of Telangana, including research papers, news articles, and documents from the government, census reports, and yearly reports from different ministries and directorates.

TWO-BHK HOUSING PROGRAMME – TELANGANA :

The Government announced a 2 - BHK housing program in October 2015, with the aim of providing cheap and quality housing to those in need and to provide dignity to the poor by providing 100% subsidized housing. This unique arrangement requires no recipient contributions. In rural locations, where recipients rely exclusively on seasonal circumstances for income, the 2BHK house served to safeguard them from debt traps, as was the case previously. By providing them with financial and technical support to build permanent (Pucca) homes with sufficient facilities, the Telangana government hopes to restore dignity to every BPL household. The financial aid is given in accordance with the different programs of the Indian and State governments. To ensure a good livelihood for families, it's crucial to have access to clean drinking water, suitable housing, sanitary facilities, and a safe environment that protects against human and environmental threats.

Houses for low-socioeconomic groups and BPL households are provided under the Weaker Section Housing Programme for Rs. 5.04 lakh in rural regions, Rs. 5.30 lakh in urban areas, and Rs. 7.0 lakh and Rs. 7.90 lakh per house in GHMC region. With a project cost of Rs. 15,698.56 crore, the government had taken up 2,30,336 homes as of March 31, 2024. A total of Rs. 12,560.74 crore has been spent on the completion of 1,54,260 homes thus far. The remaining 34,029 homes are in different phases of development, while 42,047 homes are almost finished. As on today a total of 1,31,237 houses were given to the beneficiaries.

TRANSITION TO MODERN HOUSING :

In recent years, there has been a notable shift towards permanent, pucca houses within Lambada thandas. This transition is influenced by several factors:

- **Government Initiatives:** Schemes like the 2BHK Housing Scheme in Telangana aim to provide free, durable housing to economically disadvantaged communities, including the Lambadas.
- **Economic Mobility:** Improved access to education and employment opportunities has enabled many Lambada families to invest in better housing.
- **Cultural Integration:** Proximity to urban areas and interaction with other communities have influenced housing preferences, leading to the adoption of modern architectural styles.

CULTURAL IMPLICATIONS :

While modern housing offers improved living conditions, it also brings challenges:

- **Preservation of Traditions:** The shift from traditional to modern homes may lead to the erosion of cultural practices and communal lifestyles inherent in thanda living.
- **Identity and Autonomy:** As Lambadas integrate into broader society, maintaining their distinct cultural identity becomes a concern.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF BENEFICIARIES :-

- a. Beneficiary family should be a BPL family having a valid Food Security Card with a number on her / her spouse name / his name (in case of widow/ widower/ Physically challenged.).
- b. House will be sanctioned in the name of house wife of the family.
- c. Houseless Families and families living presently in Huts, Katcha houses or in Rented houses.
- d. The following SC/ST/Minorities caste composition (of available eligible SC/ST/Minorities) shall be adhered to in selection of beneficiaries in each Assembly Constituency and the overall composition shall be maintained for the district as a whole.

Rural: SC /ST – 50% Minorities –7% and balance for others.

Urban: SC–17%, ST–6%, Minorities–12% and balance for others.

FRAMEWORK :

Previously, the standard was to give a 260 Sft home with a single room; the "Double Bedroom Housing" provides two bedrooms, a hall, a kitchen, and two toilets on a 560 Sft plinth space. The plot space for an independent home in rural regions is 125 square yards, which translates to 36 square yards of undivided land share for G++ type dwellings in urban areas. In addition to the purchase of the residential unit, land is supplied at no cost. This is maybe the only state in the country to implement such a generous policy for the poor. Under this system, participants do not have to take out a loan or contribute anything, which is a huge benefit for rural and urban poor families looking to purchase a home. It represents a paradigm change from a credit and subsidy-based scheme to a "fully subsidized scheme" that creates a sound economic asset and a sanitary living environment for the recipient, therefore significantly contributing to the socioeconomic progress of the person and the community.

THE DETAILS OF UNIT COST ARE SHOWN BELOW:

Sl.No	Area	Unit cost with Infra			Unit cost without Infra
		House	Infra	Total	
1)	Rural	5,04,000	1,25,000	6,29,000	5,04,000
2)	Urban	5,30,000	75,000	6,05,000	5,30,000
3)	GHMC up to G+3	7,00,000	75,000	7,75,000	7,00,000
	GHMC C+S+9	7,90,000	75,000	8,65,000	7,90,000

Source : <https://2bhk.telangana.gov.in/getInfo.do?key=unspecified&id=1&type=1>

TABLE – 1 BASIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PARSHANAYAK THANDA :

Sl.No	Item	Responses
1.	Number of Households	80
2.	Population	250
3.	Primary School	Yes
4.	Distance to High School (Kms)	2.0
5.	Distance to Primary Health Centre (Kms)	0.6
6.	Distance to Panchayat Head Quarters (Kms)	0.5
7.	Distance to Mandal Headquarters (Kms)	3
8.	Distance to Police Station - Nearest (Kms)	3
9.	Distance to Post office – Nearest (Kms)	3

The above table shows that there are 80 households in the parshanayk Thanda, it's population is 250 members, thanda has one primary school from 1st - 5th standard classes, high school is 2 Kms away from the thanda, Thanda is also accessible for the primary health centre which is 0.6 Kms away, they have panchayat head quarters 0.5 kms away, to reach mandal head quarters its 3 kms far away, police station is 3 Kms away from the Thanda which is convenient to reach, they can access nearest post office 3 kms away from the Thanda.

TABLE - 2 HOUSING PARTICULARS OF THE PARSHANAYAK THANDA - 2001 - 2011:

Sl.No	Item	2001-2011
1.	Zumpadas	70
2.	Pucca Houses	10
Total No.of Households		80

The above table shows that, there are 70 zumpadas in the Thanda and 10 pucca houses which they're lacking basic need – housing.

TABLE - 3 OCCUPATIONAL DETAILS OF THE PARSHANAYAK THANDA – 2001 - 2011 :

Sl.No	Item	Frequency
1.	Farmers	120
2.	Government Services	20
3.	Plumbers	8
4.	Business	12
5.	Cattle Rearers	15
6.	Artisans	10
7.	Others (Children, Students, etc.)	65

The above table shows that, Population of farmers is 120, in Thanda there are 20 people working in the government services, 8 people does plumber work, 12 people has their own businesses, 15 people does cattle rearers as their occupation, 10 of them are artisans and others are 65 in total.

DELAY IN PARSHANAYAK THANDA :

- 1. Phased Implementation:** The scheme is being rolled out in phases, prioritizing areas based on various factors. It's possible that Parshanayak Thanda is scheduled for a later phase.
- 2. Administrative Challenges:** Delays can occur due to issues like land acquisition, beneficiary identification, or infrastructure development.
- 3. Resource Allocation:** Limited resources may lead to prioritization of certain regions over others.

CONCLUSION :

The 2BHK Housing Scheme is a landmark welfare initiative by the Telangana government aimed at providing dignified, permanent housing to the poorest sections of society. By offering free 2-bedroom homes without any financial burden on beneficiaries, the scheme has transformed lives by ensuring social security, better living conditions, and empowerment—especially for women, SC/STs, and other marginalized groups. While the scheme has shown significant impact in many areas, challenges like delayed implementation, land availability, and lack of awareness persist in certain regions. For the scheme to reach its full potential, continued community participation, transparent execution, and timely government action are essential. Ultimately, the 2BHK scheme is a bold step toward inclusive development and slum-free urbanization, setting a strong example for other states to follow.

The Telangana government's 2BHK Housing Scheme aims to provide free, dignified housing to economically disadvantaged families across the state. However, implementation varies by region, and certain areas like Parshanayak Thanda in Madannapet, Narsampet Mandal (Warangal District) have not received the benefits yet.

Telangana government to ensure that the benefits of the 2BHK Housing Scheme reach all eligible citizens across every district, including remote and marginalized areas like tribal thandas, forest hamlets, and backward mandals.

- A welfare scheme of this scale must be equitable, transparent, and inclusive, ensuring:
- No district is left behind, regardless of geography or political priority.
- All eligible beneficiaries, especially from SC/ST, BC, Minority, and economically weaker sections, receive their rightful housing support.
- Monitoring mechanisms are in place to track implementation progress across every mandal and village.
- Grievance redressal systems are accessible so citizens can report delays or exclusion.

To uphold the vision of "Housing for All", the government must commit to time-bound coverage, proper allocation of resources, and community engagement in every corner of the state.

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