UTILIZATION OF INTEGRATED TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY SERVICES BY TRIBAL FARMERS OF SALUR MANDAL, VIZIANAGARAM DISTRICT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

K Sai Sankar[1] & Jahanara[2]

[1]Research Scholar, Department of Agricultural Extension & Communication, SHUATS, Prayagraj, India

[2]Professor, Department of Agricultural Extension & Communication, SHUATS, Prayagraj, India

ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in Salur Mandal of Vizianagaram district, Andhra Pradesh. A total number of 120 respondents were selected purposively from ten villages under Salur Mandal to measure the level of utilization of ITDA services by the tribal farmers. The data was collected by personal interview method by using pre-structured interview schedule and latter appropriate statistical analysis was done to draw logical conclusion. The study revealed that 45 percent of respondents belong to old age group and combined, 54.17 percent of respondents are under illiterate and primary school level. It was found that majority 50 percent of respondents are belong to high level of land holding i.e. above 7 acre. The findings also revealed that 45 percent of respondents are having high level of utilization of ITDA services followed by medium 37.5 percent and low 17.5 percent level of utilization of ITDA services.

KEYWORDS*: ITDA, Utilization*

INTRODUCTION

The tribes are the autochthonous or native people of the land who are believed to be the earliest settlers in the Indian Peninsula. According to 2011 censes there are 1,043 population of scheduled tribes in lakhs and 8.16 percentage of scheduled tribes to total population. They are generally called *Adivasis*, implying original inhabitants. The ancient and medieval literature mentions a large number of tribes living in India. India has one of the largest and diverse tribal populations in the world. (Wikipedia)

Andhra Pradesh occupies 8th position among the states having tribal population and has largest tribal population in the south Indian peninsula. Tribal's belonging to aboriginal inhabitants of the forest and the high lands of Andhra Pradesh have been an inseparable part of the cultural, social and political history of Andhra Pradesh. Currently, there are 33 tribal groups with 5.9 million population in Andhra Pradesh as per 2011 census and most of them inhabit the traditional tribal areas also known as scheduled areas and every tribal group irrespective of its size of population, has a distinct and unique culture, tradition, and lifestyle of its own. The concentration of tribal population is very high in rural areas especially in mountain and forest zones of Eastern Ghats when compared to urban areas. Andhra Pradesh is the traditional home of nearly 33 tribal groups with a population of 6.59 percent of its total population. In Andhra Pradesh, the scheduled

area comprises of 29,683 square kilometres, which forms 10.70 percent of the total geographical area of the state and 11.00 percent of the total scheduled area of the country. The tribal villages are inhabited by different variety of Primitive tribal groups (PTGs). The important PTGs are Koya, Konda Reddies, and Naikpads in Godavari Districts, Bagatha, Valmiki, Savara, Gadaba, Konda Dora and Kondhs in the district of North Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Kurnool and Prakasam district. A large chunk of tribe population in the state is mainly concentrated in the seven districts of A.P: Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Nellore and Kurnool. Most of these communities are found inhabiting in the forests. The population density in tribal areas is 125 persons per sq.km as against 194 in the plain areas. In this land of cultural diversity, along with the general population, people belonging to underprivileged sections of society including schedule castes and tribes have contributed a lot for our national heritage by their unique style of performing certain jobs and festivals. Every community has its own way to meet its basic needs for the existence of its members failing which they are threatened with extinction. Nature here comes forward and joins hands with tribals to fulfil their needs fashioned of course in their way depending on their customs, traditions, demographic structures etc (Vidyarthi and Rai, 1976). Besides providing food crops, a number of forest produce are harvested seasonally by the tribal's to eke out hand to mouth living. Over millennia, these people learnt to live in harmony with the nature in a sustainable manner and stand as custodians of the valuable natural resource base "the forests". The socio-economic structure in tribal communities is markedly different from that of the non-tribal. They have a very simple technology which fits well within their ecological surroundings and conservative outlook. (Wikipedia)

ITDA started and functioned at Vizianagaram initially on 3rd March' 1980. Subsequently the Head Quarters shifted to Parvathipuram in the year 1982 keeping in view the proximity to the tribal sub plan area. The main objective of the ITDA is to identify the problems of tribals inhabiting the contiguous groups of villages called the sub plan tribal area, signifying the areas based approach to the problems with a view to formulate viable and firm strategies in an Integrated manner to achieve socio-economic development of the tribals and also to improve infrastructure and standard of Administration in the Tribal area. Totally there are 8 sub-plan Mandals: Gumma Laxmi Puram, Kurupam, Jiyyammavalasa, Komarada, Parvathipuram, Makkuva, Saluru, and Pachipenta. (ITDA Profile)

Tribes in Vizianagaram district are Jatapus, Konda Dora, Savara, Gadaba (ITDA Profile)

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted in Salur Mandal of Vizianagaram district, Andhra Pradesh. Descriptive research design was adopted for the study as it describes the characteristics or phenomena that are being studied. A total number of 120 respondents were selected purposively from ten villages under Salur Mandal to measure the level of utilization of ITDA services by the tribal farmers. The data was collected by personal interview method by using pre-structured interview schedule and latter appropriate statistical analysis was done to draw logical conclusion. The data was collected by personal interview method by using pre-structured interview schedule and latter appropriate statistical analysis (i.e. frequency, percentage, correlation etc.) was done to draw logical conclusion.

OBJECTIVES FOR THE STUDY

Study on the utilization of ITDA services by tribal farmers of Salur Mandal and its impact on the socio-economic status of the respondents.

Utilization of Integrated Tribal Development Agency Services by Tribal Farmers of Salur Mandal,
Vizianagaram District of Andhra Pradesh

199

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1: Socio-Economic Profile and Selected Independent Variables of the Respondents

S.No	Independent variables	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Age	Young (up to 35 years)	24	20.00
		Middle (36-50 years)	42	35.00
		Old (above 50 years)	54	45.00
2	Education	Illiterate	48	40.00
		Primary	17	14.17
		Upper primary	13	10.83
		Secondary	20	16.67
		Higher secondary	10	08.33
		Graduate & above	12	10.00
3	Family size	Small (1-3 members)	30	25.00
		Medium (4-6 members)	67	55.83
		Large (above 7 members)	23	19.17
4	Annual income	High (up to 1 lakh)	23	19.17
		Medium (2-3 lakh)	55	45.83
		Low (above 3 lakh)	52	43.33
5	Occupation	Agriculture	30	25.00
		Agriculture + Labour	62	51.67
		Agriculture + Business	12	10.00
		Agriculture + Service	16	13.33
6	Land holding	Low (1-3 acre)	18	15.00
		Medium (3-6 acre)	42	35.00
		High (Above 7 acre)	60	50.00
7	Farming experience	Low (1-5 years)	21	17.50
		Medium (5-10 years)	50	41.67
		High (above 10 years)	49	40.83
8	Mass media exposure	Low (4-6)	35	29.72
		Medium (7-9)	53	44.17
		High (10-12)	32	26.66

From the table -1. It was found that 45 percent of the respondents are under old age group (above 50 years). It was found that 40 percent of the respondents are illiterate. It was found that (55.83 %) of the respondents are under medium family (4-6). It was found that 45.83 percent of the respondents are under medium level (2-3lak). It was found that (51.67 %) of the respondents are under agriculture & labour as occupation. It was found that majority (50 %) of the respondents are under high land holding (above 6 acres). It was found that 40 percent of the respondents are under medium farming experience (5-10 years). It was found that 44.17 percent of the respondents are having medium level mass media exposure. Similar finding is also reported by **Kanitoli (2018)**

Table 2: Distribution of respondents According to Utilization of ITDA Services by Tribal Farmers of Salur Mandal.

S.No	Utilization of ITDA services	A		UD		D	A
		f	%	*f*	%	*f*	%
1.	Educational services	50	41.7	42	35	28	23.3
2.	Electricity	45	37.5	54	45	21	17.5
3.	Road and infrastructure	49	40.8	41	34.2	30	25
4.	Extension services	58	48.3	44	36.7	18	15
5.	Training camp (agriculture ,cottage industry, knowledge etc)	48	40	33	27.5	39	32.5
6.	Subsidiary seeds	71	59.2	49	40.8		
7.	Mini seeds kit under National Food Security scheme	86	71.7	34	28.3	--	--
8.	Subsidy for farm machinery	23	19.2	61	50.83	36	30
9	Subsidy for fertilizers and pesticides	44	36.7	59	49.2	17	14.1
10	Schemes under fruit crops (mango and cashew	67	55.8	34	28.4	19	15.8

From the table-3 we can find that (71.7%) of respondents are utilizing mini seeds kit under National Food Security scheme followed by subsidiary seeds (59.2%) schemes under fruit crops (mango and cashew) (55.8%) Extension services 48.3 percent , educational services 41.7 percent, road and infrastructure 40.8 percent, Training camp (agriculture ,cottage industry, knowledge etc) 40 percent, electricity 37.5 percent, subsidy for fertilizers and pesticides 36.7 percent and subsidy for farm machinery 19.2 percent. Similar findings also reported by **Puri (2019)**

Table 3: Distribution of Respondents based on Overall Utilization of ITDA Services Tribal Farmers of Salur Mandal

S.No	Utilization of ITDA services	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low	21	17.50
2.	Medium	45	37.50
3.	High	54	45.00
	Total	120	100.00

Table no.3 indicate that the most of the respondents 45 percent had high level utilization of ITDA services followed by medium 37.5 percent and low 17.5 percent levels of perceived their utilization of ITDA services among the respondents. Similar finding were also reported by **Puri (2019)**
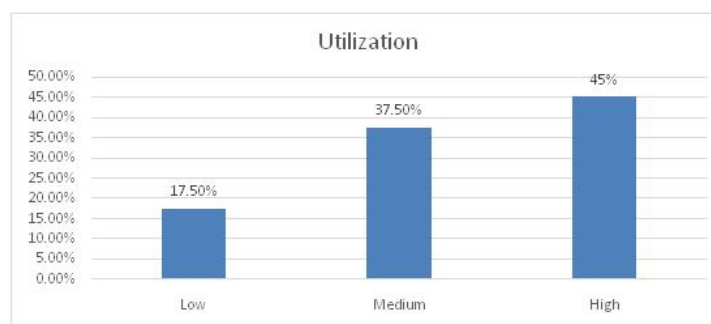

Figure 1: Distribution of respondents based on Utilization of ITDA Services.

Utilization of Integrated Tribal Development Agency Services by Tribal Farmers of Salur Mandal,
Vizianagaram District of Andhra Pradesh

201

Table 4: Association between Selected Independent Variables with Utilization of ITDA Services

S.No	Independent Variable	Correlation coefficient(r)
1.	Age	0.989*
2.	Education	-0.999*
3.	Family size	0.107*
4.	Annual income	0.775*
5.	Occupation	0.202*
6.	Land holding	0.984*
7.	Farming Experience	0.956*
8.	Access to mass media	0.123*

*= Significant

From the above table no.4 we can understand the correlation of independent variables with dependent variables. Independent variables are age, education, family size, annual income, occupation, land holding, farming experience and access to mass media. And dependent variables are utilization of ITDA services. The study revealed that education has negative and significant correlation with utilization of ITDA services and rest of all independent variables have positive and significant correlation with ITDA services. Therefore null hypothesis is rejected.

CONCLUSION

It was concluded that the age of the most of respondents are old aged and their education status is high in illiteracy. Most of respondents possess occupation as agriculture & labour. Most of respondents have medium level of mass media exposure. The overall utilization of ITDA services by the tribal farmers of Salur mandal was found under higher level. Government should take some measures through ITDA to improve their literacy level which results in improve their standard of living. Independent variables are age, education, family size, annual income, occupation, land holding, farming experience and access to mass media. And dependent variables are utilization of ITDA services. The study revealed that education has negative and significant correlation with utilization of ITDA services and rest of all independent variables have positive and significant correlation with ITDA services at 0.01% of probability. Therefore, the null hypothesis was rejected.

REFERENCES

1. *Censes (2011) Scheduled Tribe (ST) Data - Census 2011 India*

2. *ITDA Profile ITDA Tribes | Vizianagaram District Website | India (ap.gov.in)*

3. *Kanitoli Chishi, S. and Amod Sharma. (2018) Socio-Economic and Constraints Status of Impact of Integrated Watershed Development Programme in Nagaland, India. Int. J. Curr. Microbiol. App. Sci. 7(11): 1538-1546.*

4. *Meena, G.L and Punjabi, N.K. (2012) Farmer's perception towards agriculture technology in Tribal Region of Rajasthan. Rajasthan Journal of Extension Education. 20: 92-96.*

5. *Mohammad Imran Khan, Sharad Bisen and Gaurav Mahajan. (2020) Socio-Economic Profile of Vegetable Growers under Horticulture based Module of Farmer FIRST Project in Balaghat (M.P.), India. Int. J. Curr. Microbiol. App. Sci. 9(03): 3252-3257.*

6. *Puri, S. G., S. D. Wangikar and Kapse, P. S. (2019) Adoption of Recommended Practices Disseminated through Agricultural Polyclinics. Int. J. Curr. Microbiol. App. Sci. 8(10): 1394- 1399.*

7. *Tudu, B., Biswas, S and Goswami, A. (2013) Study on various socio-personal indicators of tribal dairy cooperative member's in relation to adoption behavior in Purulia district of W.B. Indian Journal of Science Research and Technology. 1 (1): 22-26.*