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RESEARCH ARTICLE

A STUDY ON BASIC AMENITIES ATTAINMENT OF NOMADIC, SEMI-NOMADIC AND DENOTIFIED TRIBES

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ABSTRACT

This paper deals with the nomadic, semi nomadic and denotified tribes' access to basic amenities like housing, infrastructure, drinking water, sanitation, electricity etc. Denotified and nomadic communities have tendency to move from one place to another new place in groups for their livelihood, this nomadic tendency has direct influence on their vulnerability to access basic amenities for their families. The present study is carried out in Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy, Mahbubnagar, Nalgonda and Warangal districts of Telangana state. Using stratified random sampling techniques primary data collected from nomadic, semi nomadic and denotified tribes. Study revealed that more than half of the respondents living in temporary structures, and do not have owned land. 70 percent of sample denotified and nomadic tribes depended on hand pumps and municipal or grampanchayat public taps for drinking water, few of them are fetching drinking water from one kilometer distance. Majority number of denotified tribes does not have toilet facility at their residence. 40 percent of sample respondents are still not able to access electricity facility at their homes. Almost 41 percent of sample denotified and nomadic tribes are not having bank accounts.

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INTRODUCTION

The availability of basic amenities are essential to every human being to survive, it is not possible to ensure inclusive growth, without fulfilling the basic needs of human beings, Government and elected local bodies are providing such basic amenities to needy people through the schemes, development programmes and special provisions at various levels. In spite of special provisions and government budgetary allocations still some of the poor and marginalized sections are unable to access basic amenities like housing, drinking water, electricity and toilets. Perpetually marginalised sections' caste is chief factor for their backwardness and vulnerability in accessing basic amenities. The constitution of India recognised scheduled tribes, scheduled castes as most disadvantaged groups and given special provisions to them. The denotified, semi nomadic and nomadic tribes are the most neglected and marginalized communities in the society. Historically, these communities never had access to land or home ownership and used forests for their livelihood. Many denotified tribes depended on natural resources for their day to day survival and have strong ecological connections. The British government enacted the Criminal Tribes Act 1871, and without considering their individual activities these tribes were notified as "criminals", these notified tribes were forced to attend at the police stations frequently.

In 1952 these tribes were 'denotified' and revoked their criminal label. These denotified and nomadic tribes' population is speared among scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, other backward classes and minority communities. The government of India and state governments is unable to provide basic amenities to people belonging to denotified and nomadic tribes. The Constitution of India has given certain provisions for the welfare of SC, ST and backward classes to ensure socio economic, political and educational development of welfare people. Accordingly, welfare schemes and programmes have been designed for their welfare, there was no such special provisions were made in the constitution for the welfare of nomadic, semi nomadic and denotified tribes. The government of India constituted Bhiku Ramjildate commission in January 2015 to identify and enlist the denotified, nomadic and semi nomadic communities, commission also assigned the task of assessment of denotified tribes present status and recommending appropriate strategies for their social and economic upliftment. In June 2017 Idate commission submitted the interim report to the government of India and recommended to provide access to basic amenities like housing, education, health services and also suggested to provide skill development trainings to improve denotified and nomadic tribes livelihood opportunities. Recently in December 2017 Idate commission submitted the final report to the ministry of social justice, government of India.

Idate Commission's Important Recommendations

1. A permanent Commission should be made for denotified nomadic and semi-nomadic communities
2. Set-up a separate Department/Directorate in each state where they have sizable denotified tribes population
3. Removal of anomalies and rationalization of Classifications(SC/ST/OBC)
4. Reveal 2011 census data in respect of the DNT and NT communities and caste based census should be done especially in respect of DNT and NT
5. Nominate at least one member from DNT communities to Rajyasabha, similarly nominate at least one member of DNT communities to the legislative assemblies/councils, and districtpanchayats and local panchayats where they have a significant presence.
6. Provide legal protection and extension of atrocities act to DNT, NT and SNT communities by creating a separate third schedule as "Schedule Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic tribes".
7. Create Special sub-quotas for DNTs, NTs and SNTs in the quotas of SCs, STs and OBCs.(if creation of a separate third schedule is not feasible)
8. Single caste certificate to be issued i.e., SC-DNT,ST-DNT and OBC-DNT
9. Special steps need to be taken to destigmatize and protection from harassments.
10. Raise awareness of various stakeholders (general public, elected representatives, administrators, police and media) in the society about problems faced by DNTs, NTs and SNTs
11. Establish DNT and NT cells at National Human Rights Commission and State Human Rights Commission.
12. Special focus would be taken in main stream policy measures
13. Special grant-in-aid to be released to the states
14. Specific measures should be taken to improve the education status of DNTs, NTs and SNTs
15. Public health officials and doctors to be sensitized to special needs of DNT and NT communities. Special provisions to be made for DNTs, NTs to access health services
16. Housing projects for DNT and NT communities should be taken up state governments.
17. Schedule Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006 may be extended to nomadic tribes
18. Appropriate special policy initiatives can be taken up to promote skill development and employment
19. A specific cell should be constituted at the "National Commission of Women" to deal with the problems of women from denotified and nomadic communities
20. A separate academy may be established to protect and preserve DNTs' art, culture, sports and indigenous knowledge.

Idate commission recommendations are to be approved by the government of India and collective initiation is needed from both state and central governments to enable DNT and NT communities to access the basic needs.

Significance of the study

The present study is important for assessing the status of nomadic, semi-nomadic and denotified tribes' access to basic amenities like housing, drinking water, electricity, health

services and the state of their castes' art. Such efforts will help to understand the difficulties faced by DNTs, NTs and SNT communities' access to basic amenities and will help in designing welfare programmes. Such programmes might improve the present condition of denotified tribes and eventually provide opportunities to avail basic amenities.

Review of Literature

Lokur Committee (1965) observed that state government welfare schemes designed for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes have not benefitted the nomadic and denotified tribes because of their relatively small number and nomadic communities tendency to be constantly on the move.

Rudolf C. Heredia (2007) stated that DNTs are most suppressed communities and the modern development models failed to include them in to main stream of development, as a result these communities remain poor and marginalized. DNTs, NTs and SNTs have not been sufficiently attended by democratic polity and civil society.

Renke Commission (2008) has indicated that 97 percent of DNTs and 86 percent of NTs come under Scheduled Caste, Schedule Tribe or Other Backward Classes. The commission report suggested to prepare state wise list of denotified communities for implementation of welfare schemes.

Kumar, Arjun (2014) finds that social background factor acting as constraint and leading to denial on access to basic amenities in rural and urban areas. Various government policies on provision of basic amenities needs to be supplemented with pro poor and group specific social policies for improving the standard of life and well-being.

Kumar, Arjun. (2017) has said that weaker sections of society, such as, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been most deprived and excluded. There is a need to initiate immediate action to provide adequate basic amenities the most neglected communities in rural areas to achieve the sustainable development goals.

Idate Commission (2017) has observed that many of denotified and nomadic communities did not have basic facilities and infrastructure like sanitation, clean drinking water, drainage, electricity, etc. And this committee report revealed that large number of denotified communities do not have permanent shelters and lacking access to common amenities such as clean drinking water, electricity and sanitation.

Objectives of the study

To know the status of basic amenities attainment of denotified, nomadic and semi nomadic tribes. To analyse the perceptions of denotified and nomadic tribes towards their access to basic amenities like housing, infrastructure, health services, drinking water, electricity etc.

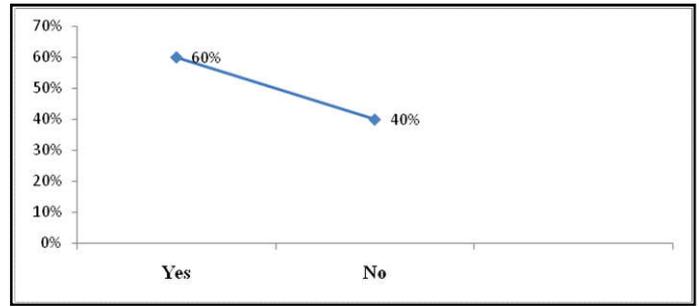
Methodology and Sampling

Towards the end of objectives mentioned above, 300 denotified, nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes were randomly selected on the basis of stratified random sampling principle. By using this method sample respondents selected from the five districts of Telangana state namely Hyderabad,

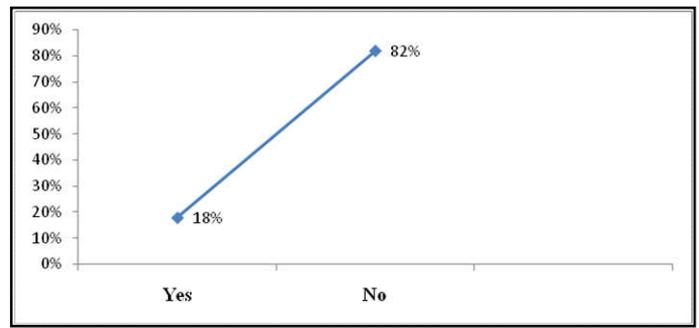
Rangareddy, Nalgonda, Mahabubnagar and Warangal. The data requirements for this study are met with by using interview method.

Major Findings and Analysis

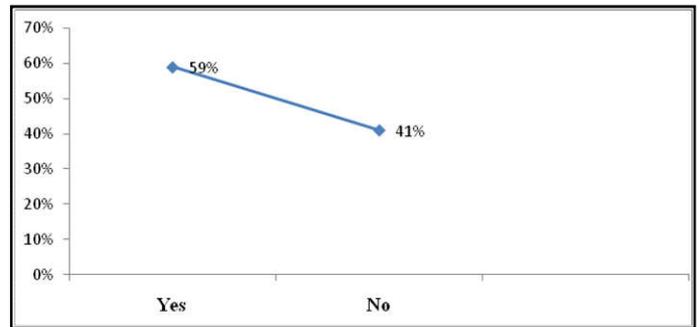
53 percent of sample respondents living in temporary structures (huts) followed by 32 percent are staying in rented houses and only 15 percent of the denotified and nomadic tribes have their own houses. 79 percent of sample denotified tribes do not have owned open land to construct home and 82 percent of respondents do not have any agriculture land. 70 percent of sample denotified and nomadic tribe depending on hand pumps and municipality or grampanchayth public taps for drinking water. 22 percent of sample respondents fetching drinking water from one kilometres distance from their residence. Majority (66 percent) of sample denotified tribes do not have toilet facility at their residence. Only 60 percent of DNTs and NTs are able to access electricity at their homes and 40 percent of them are still not able to access electricity facility. It is found that 41 percent of sample denotified and nomadic tribes do not have bank accounts and 41 percent of sample respondents opined that their castes' art is remain just art and they are not able to earn minimum income to meet their day to day expenses.



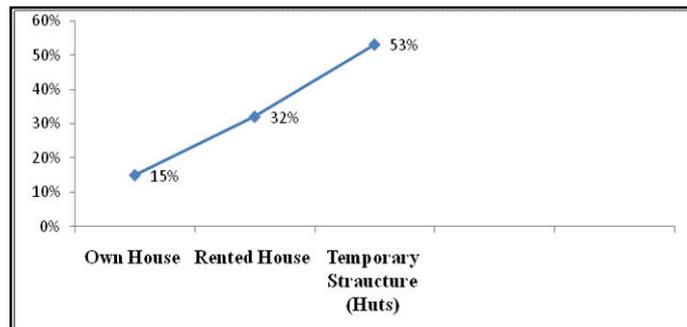
Electricity Facility



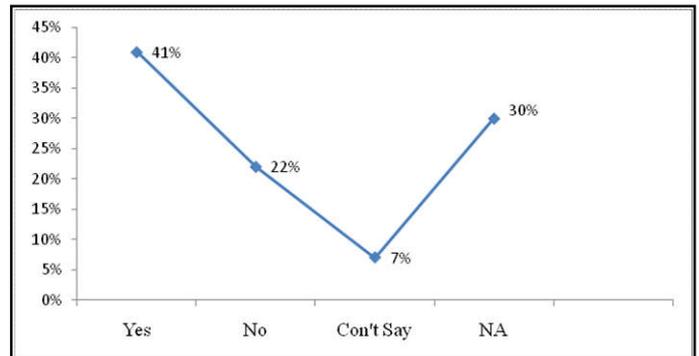
Having Agriculture land



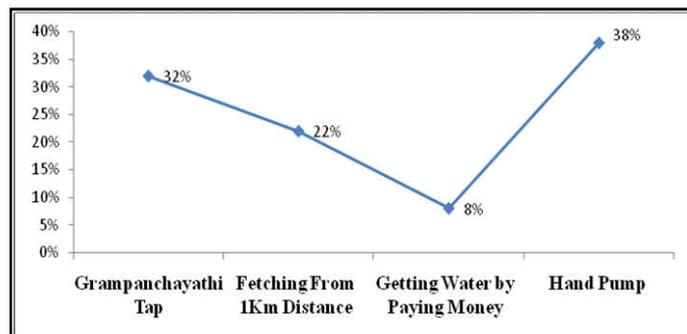
Having Bank Account



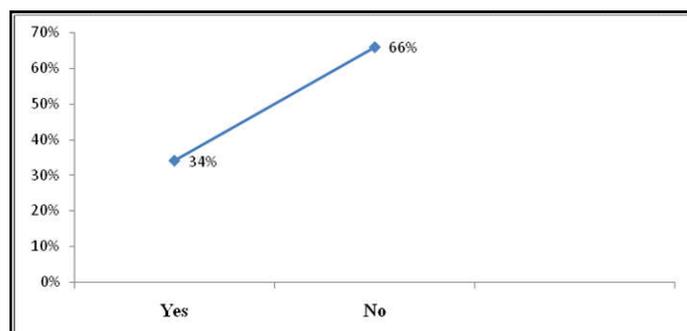
Status of Residence



Caste Art Just Remain Art



Source of Drinking Water



Toilet Facility

Conclusion and Discussion

The study observed present condition of denotified and nomadic tribes' access to basic amenities. Most of sample denotified and nomadic tribes are shelter less and staying in road side temporary structures, almost all the sample denotified tribes not holding any agriculture land, some important reasons for this could be as follows: The government welfare departments, including local bodies has to play a crucial role in provision of these basic amenities for all but DNT and NT communities are largely not identified by the government and elected local bodies to address their housing issue, at the same time denotified population is not aware

about the available government welfare schemes for them and do not even know how to approach and whom to approach to represent their problems. Nomadic tribes are generally not have fixed habitation and frequently moves from one place to other place for their livelihoods, this nomadic tendency is not allowing them to settle at one permanent place, due to this reason majority of them are not able to access to basic amenities like drinking water, electricity and toilets at their residential areas. Professional social workers and nongovernmental organisations can play their role to improve the present condition of the denotified tribes. Organising awareness programmes for DNTs and NTs on their rights can be the first step to move forward because; most of the population belongs to these communities are not aware about their rights. There is urgent need to identify the present livelihood opportunities available to denotified and nomadic tribes; such efforts will help in providing alternate livelihoods to denotified tribes. The present study is made an effort to trace the sample denotified and nomadic tribes' caste based livelihood opportunities and income generated through the caste art. Most sample respondents opined that, still they have interest to learn and perform their caste art, but caste art is remaining just art, they could not generate minimum income by performing their art. It clearly shows that DNTs who are performing their castes' and practicing traditional occupations seeking alternate livelihood opportunities to sustain their families. Surely government should provide employment and livelihood promotion opportunities for denotified tribes, at the

same time the civil society, NGO sector and even corporate sectors' interventions are needed to protect their castes' arts and unique culture.

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