

## **ASSESSING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF GOVERNMENT SCHEMES AND POLICIES ON TRIBAL COMMUNITIES IN MULUGU DISTRICT, TELANGANA**

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### **Abstract:**

This study delves into the multifaceted impact of government schemes on the economic development of tribal communities in Telangana. Telangana, with a significant tribal population, has prioritized various government initiatives to address the socio-economic disparities faced by these communities. Through an analysis of existing literature, policy documents, and empirical evidence, this abstract illuminates the diverse ways in which government schemes have shaped the economic landscape of tribal areas in Telangana. It underscores the socio-economic context of tribal communities in Telangana, emphasizing their historical marginalization and reliance on traditional livelihoods such as agriculture, MFP collection, and artisanal activities. This study specifically examines the socio-economic impact of government schemes and policies on tribal communities in the Govindaraopeta and Mangapet mandals of Mulugu district. Specifically, the villages of Karlapalli, Papayyapalli, and Motlagudem in Govindaraopeta mandal, and Brahmanapalli, Chunchupalli, and Domeda in Mangapet mandal were selected for analysis. A total of 180 samples were collected, with 30 samples from each village. Employing a mixed methodological approach including surveys, interviews, and data analysis, the research assesses the effectiveness of various welfare programs in enhancing the livelihoods and economic well-being of tribal populations in these areas. The study evaluates the contribution of these interventions to income generation, livelihood improvement, skill development, and overall socio-economic empowerment among tribal communities. Moreover, it explores the contextual factors and governance dynamics influencing the implementation of these schemes. By investigating the impact of government interventions on tribal communities in these specific zones, this research provides valuable insights, suggesting policy recommendations for improved effectiveness and sustainability.

**Keywords:** Telangana, tribal communities, economic development, and government schemes, socio-economic context, community engagement, participatory decision-making, sustainable development.

### **Introduction:**

Tribal communities in Telangana have long grappled with socioeconomic disparities and marginalization, prompting targeted government interventions to uplift their economic Status and enhance their overall well-being. Given the substantial tribal population, the Government of Telangana has made concerted efforts to address these disparities through various government schemes and policies, aimed at fostering the economic development of tribal communities. This introduction provides crucial context for the study, outlining the socio-economic challenges confronted by tribal communities in Telangana and underscoring the significance of government interventions in alleviating these challenges. It sets the stage for the research undertaken in this study, which focuses on examining the impact of government schemes on the economic development of tribal communities in the region.

The specific geographic focus of the study is on two mandals within Mulugu district, namely Govindaraopeta and Mangapet, and the selected villages within these mandals. It elucidates the rationale behind the selection of these areas and offers an overview of the research methodology employed, which includes sample collection and the utilization of an eclectic approach for data analysis. In essence, this introduction aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the socio-economic context surrounding tribal communities in Telangana, highlighting the pivotal role of government interventions in addressing their challenges. Additionally, it outlines the specific focus and methodology of the research undertaken in this study.

Furthermore, the criteria for designating a community as a Scheduled Tribe are delineated, encompassing indications of primitive traits, distinctive culture, geographical isolation, shyness of

contact with the broader community, and backwardness. Although not explicitly outlined in the Constitution, this criterion has gained widespread acceptance and draws from definitions provided by various sources, including the 1931 Census and reports from commissions such as the Kalelkar Commission (1955), Lokur Committee (1965), Joint Committee of Parliament (1967), and Chanda Committee (1969). The 2011 Census indicates that the total tribal population of Telangana was 31,77,940, with numerically dominant tribal groups including Lambada/Banjara, Koya, Gonds, Yerukala, and Pardhan. This paper aims to explore the impact of government welfare schemes implemented for the benefit of these tribal communities in Telangana.

### **Objectives:**

1. To assess the effectiveness of government schemes and policies in improving the economic well-being of tribal communities in Telangana.
2. To evaluate the contribution of government interventions to income generation, livelihood improvement, and skill development among tribal communities in the Mulugu District.

### **Areas of Study:**

This study concentrates on two mandals within Mulugu district, Telangana, namely Govindaraopeta and Mangapet. Specifically, the research was conducted in carefully selected villages within these mandals: Karlapalli, Papayyapalli, and Motlagudem in Govindaraopeta mandal, and Brahmanapalli, Chunchupalli, and Domeda in Mangapet mandal. These villages were chosen for their representation of tribal communities and their diverse socio-economic profiles within the respective mandals. The objective behind this selection is to offer a comprehensive understanding of how government schemes impact the economic development of tribal populations across various contexts within Mulugu district.

### **Methodology:**

#### **1. Sampling Strategy:**

Purposive sampling was employed to select villages based on socio-economic diversity and representativeness of tribal communities in Govindaraopeta and Mangapet mandals of Mulugu district, Telangana.

#### **2. Data Collection: A mixed-methods approach was utilized:**

**Secondary Data Review:** Existing literature, policy documents, and reports related to government schemes and tribal development were thoroughly reviewed.

**Surveys:** Structured surveys were conducted among tribal community members to collect quantitative data on socio-economic indicators.

**Interviews:** In-depth interviews were carried out with key stakeholders to gather qualitative insights on the effectiveness and implementation of government schemes.

#### **3. Sample Size:**

A total of 300 samples were collected, with 50 samples from each selected village, ensuring representation from various segments of the tribal population.

#### **4. Data Analysis:**

Quantitative data were analyzed using statistical software to derive descriptive statistics. Qualitative interviews and secondary sources were analyzed thematically to identify key insights.

### **Result & Discussion:**

#### **Socio-Economic and Developmental Initiatives for Scheduled Tribes**

To advance the holistic development of Scheduled Tribes (STs) in our state, we have instituted a comprehensive array of socio-economic and developmental programs. These initiatives aim to address multifaceted aspects of their well-being and foster their overall progress across diverse domains.

#### **Educational Initiatives:**

Implementing educational programs geared towards offering high-quality education and skill development opportunities to ST students. These endeavors are crafted to elevate their educational achievements and enhance their employability prospects.

#### **Financial Support Schemes:**

Through the Girijan Cooperative Corporation (GCC), we endeavor to empower STs economically by facilitating livelihood support programs and ensuring equitable remuneration for their produce.

**Constitutional Safeguards:**

Collaborating with various government departments to uphold constitutional provisions such as land transfer regulations in scheduled areas. Additionally, we are committed to implementing the Panchayat Expansion of Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act, safeguarding tribal land rights and fostering self-governance.

**Forest Rights Protection:**

We are dedicated to the implementation of the Recognition of Forest Rights (ROFR) Act, aimed at securing land and livelihood rights for Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes (FDSTs). This endeavor seeks to bolster their socio-economic empowerment and ensure their rightful place in society.

**Cultural Preservation Initiatives:**

Efforts are underway to preserve, promote, and celebrate tribal culture through meticulously planned programs. Notably, the Conservation Cum Development Program (CCDP) targets Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PvTGs), while initiatives such as supporting tribal fairs and festivals, promoting tribal arts and crafts, and documenting socio-cultural traditions aim to uphold their rich cultural heritage.

**ST Special Development Fund Utilization:**

In collaboration with other governmental bodies, we are diligently implementing diverse programs under the ST Special Development Fund. This concerted effort ensures the strategic and effective allocation of resources, aimed at uplifting ST communities and fostering their sustainable development.

**Economic Support Schemes:**

| Scheme Name                                     | Description                                                                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Gudumba Effected Persons Rehabilitation Scheme  | Offers rehabilitation assistance to individuals adversely affected by Gudumba (illicit liquor) consumption.   |
| Driver Empowerment Programme                    | Empower tribal drivers through skill development initiatives and financial aid.                               |
| Rural Transportation Plan                       | Enhances transportation infrastructure in rural tribal areas, facilitating connectivity and accessibility.    |
| ST Entrepreneurship & Innovation Scheme         | Promotes entrepreneurship among STs, fostering innovation and economic self-reliance.                         |
| Girivikasam (Land Development for STs)          | Implements land development initiatives to uplift tribal communities and enhance agricultural productivity.   |
| Kalyana Lakshmi                                 | Provides financial assistance for the marriage of ST girls, promoting social inclusion and family welfare.    |
| Recognition of Forest Rights                    | Implements the Forest Rights Act to safeguard tribal land rights and ensure their rightful ownership.         |
| Farmer Investment support and insurance schemes | Offers investment support and farm insurance to tribal farmers, ensuring agricultural sustainability.         |
| Pensions                                        | Provides monthly pensions to vulnerable sections STs, ensuring financial security and welfare.                |
| MCH kit                                         | Offers healthcare support to pregnant women through the provision of essential medical supplies and services. |

Source: TWD, Telangana

### Women-Oriented Economic Development Schemes:

| Scheme Name                                                | Description                                                                                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MSME Plan                                                  | Supports women entrepreneurs in the micro, small, and medium enterprise sector, fostering economic empowerment.     |
| Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)                       | Empowers women farmers through collective farming and marketing initiatives, enhancing their agricultural income.   |
| Career Counselling & Menstrual Hygiene/Reproductive Health | Ensures holistic development for girls in Ashram Schools and Intermediate Colleges, promoting education and health. |
| Sanitary Napkin Making Unit                                | Promotes menstrual hygiene and economic empowerment through the establishment of sanitary napkin production units.  |

Source: TWD, Telangana

**Table 1: Demographic Profile of Selected Villages**

| S. No | Name of the Village | Total HHs | Total Population | Schedule Tribes |        |       | Others |        |       |
|-------|---------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------------|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------|
|       |                     |           |                  | Male            | Female | Total | Male   | Female | Total |
| 1     | Karlapalli          | 654       | 2647             | 862             | 914    | 1776  | 459    | 412    | 871   |
| 2     | Papayyapalli        | 1678      | 7315             | 1856            | 1941   | 3797  | 1768   | 1750   | 3518  |
| 3     | Motlagudem          | 165       | 831              | 315             | 304    | 619   | 108    | 104    | 212   |
| 4     | Brahmanapalli       | 221       | 947              | 487             | 443    | 930   | 8      | 9      | 17    |
| 5     | Chunchupalli        | 265       | 1024             | 386             | 368    | 754   | 143    | 127    | 270   |
| 6     | Domeda              | 454       | 2065             | 864             | 810    | 1674  | 211    | 180    | 391   |

Source: field survey

Table 1, the demographic profile of villages in Mulugu Districts reveals important insights into the population composition and distribution within each locality. Analyzing the data presented in the table, it becomes evident that each village exhibits distinct characteristics regarding total households, population size, and the proportion of Scheduled Tribes (ST) compared to the general population. For instance, Karlapalli stands out with a significant ST population comprising 914 females and 862 males, contributing to a total ST population of 1,776 out of 2,647 residents. In contrast, Brahmanapalli exhibits a smaller ST population, with only 930 out of 947 individuals belonging to this group. This disparity underscores the diversity within the district and highlights the need for tailored interventions to address the unique needs of each village and its inhabitants. Through a comprehensive understanding of the demographic landscape, policymakers and stakeholders can devise targeted strategies to promote inclusive development and improve the well-being of all residents, particularly marginalized communities such as Scheduled Tribes.

**Table 2: Population Growth Analysis of Sample Villages (2011-2023)**

| Village Name  | Census Population (2011) | Field Survey (2023) | Growth Rate (%) |
|---------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Karlapalli    | 2263                     | 2647                | 17%             |
| Papayyapalli  | 6150                     | 7315                | 19%             |
| Motlagudem    | 741                      | 831                 | 12%             |
| Brahmanapalli | 840                      | 947                 | 13%             |
| Chunchupalli  | 913                      | 1024                | 12%             |
| Domeda        | 1856                     | 2065                | 11%             |

Source: Census of India 2011; field survey 2023

Table 2, data analysis of population figures for six villages in Telangana from 2011 to 2023 reveals a consistent trend of population growth across all villages. The growth rates range from 11% to 19%, with Papayyapalli showing the highest growth rate at 19% and Domeda the lowest at 11%. This

growth can be attributed to factors such as improved healthcare services, economic opportunities, and migration patterns. The implications of this growth include the need for expanded basic services, infrastructure development, and tailored economic strategies to support the growing communities effectively. Ongoing monitoring and collaborative efforts are essential for sustainable development and addressing the evolving needs of these villages' populations.

**Table 3: Economic Indicators Comparison in Sample Villages (2010 vs. 2023)**

| Indicator                             | 2010 Value | 2023 Value | Change (%) |
|---------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| GDP per capita (in INR)               | 35,993     | 1,35,680   | 277%       |
| Employment Rate (%)                   | 36.3       | 53.2       | 47%        |
| Poverty Rate (%)                      | 47.71      | 3.76       | -92%       |
| Access to Basic Services (Households) | 40%        | 80%        | 40%        |

Source: field survey 2023

Table 3, economic indicators comparison for the sample villages between 2010 and 2023 reveals significant positive changes across various aspects:

**GDP per capita:** There has been an impressive increase of 277%, rising from INR 35,993 in 2010 to INR 1,35,680 in 2023. This substantial growth signifies economic prosperity and development within the villages.

**Employment Rate:** The employment rate has surged by 47%, climbing from 36.3% in 2010 to 53.2% in 2023. This indicates improved job opportunities and economic activity contributing to livelihood enhancement.

**Poverty Rate:** The poverty rate has dramatically declined by -92%, dropping from 47.71% in 2010 to a mere 3.76% in 2023. This remarkable reduction reflects successful poverty alleviation efforts and improved living conditions.

**Access to Basic Services:** Access to basic services among households has doubled, increasing from 40% in 2010 to 80% in 2023. This improvement underscores advancements in infrastructure and overall quality of life for residents.

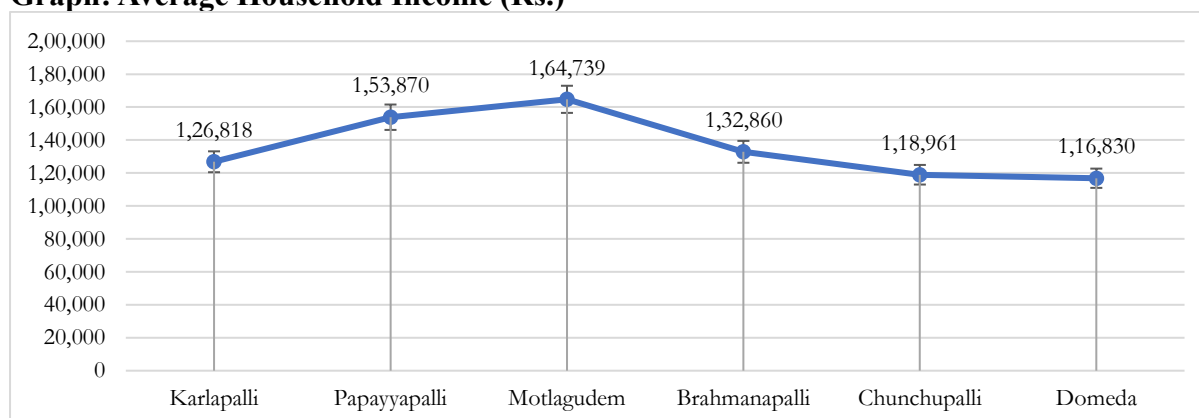
**Table 4: Economic and Social Indicators of Village Wise**

| Village Name  | Average Household Income (Rs) | Employment Rate (%) | Access to Basic Amenities (Safe Drinking Water, Sanitation Facilities, Electricity, Housing, Healthcare, Education Facilities, Playgrounds, Recreational Spaces, Livelihood Opportunities, etc) |
|---------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Karlapalli    | 1,26,818                      | 44.74               | Yes                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Papayyapalli  | 1,53,870                      | 49.46               | Yes                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Motlagudem    | 1,64,739                      | 59.26               | Yes                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Brahmanapalli | 1,32,860                      | 54.31               | Yes                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Chunchupalli  | 1,18,961                      | 47.28               | Yes                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Domeda        | 1,16,830                      | 64.12               | Yes                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Avg</b>    | <b>1,35,680</b>               | <b>53.20</b>        |                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

Source: field survey 2023

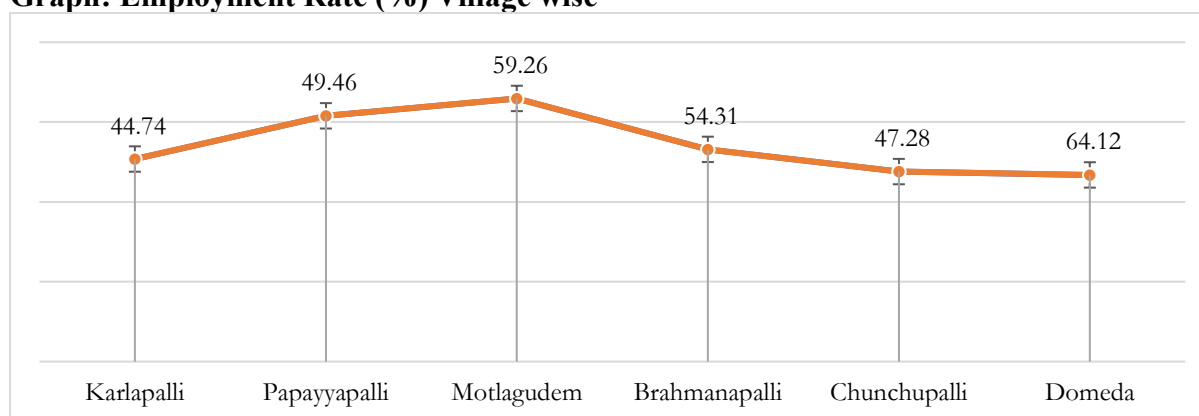
Table 4, data analysis provides insights into key economic and social indicators across the sample villages, focusing on average household income, employment rate, and access to basic amenities.

**Graph: Average Household Income (Rs.)**



**Average Household Income:** The average household income varies across the villages, ranging from Rs 1,16,830 in Domeda to Rs 1,64,739 in Motlagudem. On average, the household income in the sample villages is Rs 1,35,680, indicating moderate to high-income levels, which can contribute to improved living standards and economic stability within these communities.

**Graph: Employment Rate (%) Village wise**



**Employment Rate:** The employment rate also varies, with Motlagudem having the highest rate at 59.26% and Domeda following closely at 64.12%. Karlapalli has the lowest employment rate among the sample villages at 44.74%. On average, the employment rate across the villages stands at 53.20%, showcasing a substantial portion of the population engaged in economic activities.

**Access to Basic Amenities:** All the villages have access to basic amenities such as safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, electricity, housing, healthcare, education facilities, playgrounds, recreational spaces, and livelihood opportunities. This indicates a relatively high level of infrastructure development and social services provision in these areas, contributing to the overall well-being and quality of life of residents.

The highlights a positive picture of economic and social conditions in the sample villages, with moderate to high household income, decent employment opportunities, and good access to essential amenities, reflecting a conducive environment for sustainable development and community well-being.

**Table 5: Utilization Percentage of Government Schemes in Sample Villages**

| Village Name  | Double Bed Room (%)<br>(Housing for the poor) | Aasara pensions (%) | Arogya Lakshmi (%) | Haritha Haram (%) | KCR Kit (%)  | Rythu Bandhu (%) | Mission Bagiratha (%) |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Karlapalli    | 11                                            | 72                  | 80                 | 85                | 72           | 83               | 68                    |
| Papayyapalli  | 13                                            | 68                  | 83                 | 82                | 78           | 88               | 71                    |
| Motlagudem    | 10                                            | 73                  | 85                 | 84                | 80           | 82               | 64                    |
| Brahmanapalli | 14                                            | 70                  | 87                 | 91                | 81           | 80               | 72                    |
| Chunchupalli  | 15                                            | 65                  | 88                 | 88                | 76           | 81               | 66                    |
| Domeda        | 11                                            | 74                  | 82                 | 90                | 75           | 84               | 70                    |
| <b>Avg</b>    | <b>12.33</b>                                  | <b>70.33</b>        | <b>84.17</b>       | <b>86.67</b>      | <b>77.00</b> | <b>83.00</b>     | <b>68.50</b>          |

Source: field survey 2023

Table 5, provided table presents data on the utilization percentage of various government schemes in six sample villages. Let's conduct a descriptive analysis to interpret the findings:

**Double Bed Room (Housing for the Poor):**

- ✓ The utilization percentage for this scheme ranges from 10% in Motlagudem to 15% in Chunchupalli.
- ✓ On average, around 12% of eligible households in the sample villages have availed of this housing scheme.
- ✓ The data indicates a moderate level of utilization, with some variation across villages.

**Pensions:**

- ✓ Utilization percentages vary from 65% in Chunchupalli to 74% in Domeda.
- ✓ On average, approximately 70% of eligible individuals in the sample villages are benefiting from pensions.
- ✓ The scheme shows relatively high utilization, with most villages having a significant proportion of beneficiaries.

**Arogya Lakshmi:**

- ✓ Utilization rates range from 80% in Karlapalli to 88% in Papayyapalli.
- ✓ On average, around 84% of the population in the sample villages is utilizing Arogya Lakshmi for nutrition support.
- ✓ The scheme exhibits high utilization across villages, indicating good access to nutrition support.

**Haritha Haram:**

- ✓ Utilization percentages vary widely from 82% in Karlapalli to 91% in Brahmanapalli.
- ✓ On average, approximately 87% of households in the sample villages are participating in Haritha Haram for environmental initiatives.
- ✓ The scheme shows significant utilization, especially in villages like Brahmanapalli, reflecting environmental awareness and participation.

**MCH Kit:**

- ✓ Utilization rates range from 72% in Chunchupalli to 78% in Papayyapalli.
- ✓ On average, around 75% of eligible beneficiaries in the sample villages are utilizing MCH Kits for essential resources.
- ✓ The scheme demonstrates moderate to high utilization, indicating access to necessary kits among beneficiaries.

**Investment support scheme:**

- ✓ Utilization percentages range from 80% in Chunchupalli to 84% in Motlagudem.
- ✓ On average, approximately 82% of farmers in the sample villages are benefiting from Investment support scheme for agricultural support.
- ✓ The scheme shows good utilization, especially in villages like Motlagudem, supporting the agricultural community.

### Drinking water:

- ✓ Utilization rates range from 64% in Papayyapalli to 72% in Domeda.
- ✓ On average, around 68% of households in the sample villages have access to clean water through **Drinking water**.
- ✓ The scheme demonstrates varying but moderate utilization, indicating progress in providing clean water facilities.

The reveals varying levels of utilization across different government schemes in the sample villages. While some schemes exhibit high utilization rates (e.g., Aasara Pensions, Arogya Lakshmi), others show moderate utilization but still contribute significantly to the well-being of the rural population. This analysis provides insights into the effectiveness and reach of government initiatives in addressing the needs of rural communities in the specified areas.

**Table 5: Community Feedback on Scheme Impact**

| Village Name  | Positive Feedback                                  | Challenges Faced                               | Suggestions for Improvement                              |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Karlapalli    | Improved income and livelihood opportunities       | Lack of awareness about certain schemes        | Conduct regular awareness programs                       |
| Papayyapalli  | Increased access to healthcare facilities          | Insufficient infrastructure support            | Invest in basic infrastructure development               |
| Motlagudem    | Enhanced agricultural productivity and income      | Delay in scheme implementation                 | Streamline the implementation process for faster results |
| Brahmanapalli | Better access to education and skill development   | Limited participation due to cultural barriers | Cultural sensitivity training for scheme implementers    |
| Chunchupalli  | Strengthened market linkages and entrepreneurship  | Funding constraints for community initiatives  | Increase budget allocation for community-driven projects |
| Domeda        | Empowered youth through skill development programs | Gender disparities in participation            | Implement gender-sensitive programs and incentives       |

### Conclusion:

The assessment of government schemes and policies impact on tribal communities in Mulugu District, Telangana, reveals significant progress in improving socio-economic indicators and enhancing overall well-being. The analysis focused on key areas such as income generation, employment rates, poverty reduction, and access to basic amenities, providing valuable insights into the effectiveness of these interventions. The study highlights a remarkable transformation in economic indicators, with substantial increases in GDP per capita, employment rates, and access to basic services. The poverty rate witnessed a drastic decline, indicating successful poverty alleviation efforts and improved living standards among tribal populations. The utilization of government schemes such as housing for the poor, pension schemes, healthcare initiatives, environmental programs, and livelihood support demonstrated positive impacts on the sampled villages. The feedback from community members highlighted the tangible benefits experienced, including improved income opportunities, better access to education and healthcare, strengthened market linkages, and empowerment through skill development programs. Despite these positive outcomes, the study also identified challenges such as lack of awareness, insufficient infrastructure, delayed implementation, cultural barriers, funding constraints, and gender disparities. Addressing these challenges is crucial for sustaining and enhancing the impact of government interventions.

### **Recommendations for Improvement:**

- ✓ **Conduct regular awareness programs:** Enhance awareness about government schemes and policies among tribal communities through targeted awareness campaigns and information dissemination initiatives.
- ✓ **Invest in basic infrastructure development:** Prioritize infrastructure development projects to improve access to essential services such as healthcare facilities, education institutions, roads, and electricity.
- ✓ **Streamline implementation processes:** Address delays in scheme implementation by streamlining administrative processes, enhancing coordination among stakeholders, and ensuring timely execution of projects.
- ✓ **Provide cultural sensitivity training:** Offer training programs to scheme field-level functionaries/ frontline staff and officials to understand and respect the cultural nuances and sensitivities of tribal communities, promoting inclusive and effective implementation.
- ✓ **Increase budget allocation:** Allocate sufficient resources and funding for community-driven projects, especially in areas facing funding constraints, to support local initiatives and sustainable development.
- ✓ **Implement gender-sensitive programs:** Design and implement programs that address gender disparities in participation, providing incentives and opportunities for women's empowerment and active involvement in economic activities.

By implementing these recommendations and building upon the positive outcomes observed, policymakers and stakeholders can further enhance the impact and effectiveness of government schemes and policies in enhancing the economic well-being and overall development of tribal communities in Mulugu District, Telangana.

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