

Research Proposal - Study on the Socio-Economic status of migratory Pichiguntala @ Helava Genealogical Community in Kolar District of Karnataka State

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Abstract – Pichiguntala is an ancient traditional genealogy practicing tribes with an origin dating back to 200 BC; and are the illegitimate heirs of Reddy Community in the present-day Andhra Pradesh. The legends on Pichiguntala community makes in depth avenues to the heirs of the legendary Kula Guru of Reddy community – Kunti Malla Reddy of Srisailam. Similarly, the Pichiguntalas are referred to Helava in Kannada speaking areas with originations to the times of legendary Basavanna and that of legendary Mukthinatha (both from present day Kalyan Karnataka – Northwest Karnataka). The divisions from the Reddy Community and migrations to the other parts, make them with different titles such as Helavas in Kannada speaking areas, Helwis in Marathi speaking areas, Pinchgundar @ Madavandis in Tamil speaking areas; and to that of the present day Vamsharajus of Telangana and Kunti Malla Reddis in Andhra Pradesh. It is observed that these people have the primary traditions of providing genealogical services to the farming communities for alms. There people lived as brotherhood with Reddys till the end of 13th Century; then they divided and diverted to scattered non-Telugu speaking areas adopting the local traditions and languages. It is found that few sets of these Pichiguntala community are scattered as pockets in Kolar district in Karnataka State in India; and are devoid of their traditional genealogical practices; and are engaged in agricultural activities and some of them as non-agricultural migratory workers. The Research Scholar also belonging to the Pichiguntala community in Kolar district, is keen make a detailed study on the socio-economic aspects on the community; there exists gaps and issues which are being untouched till this day. The proposed study will bring out the facts on the living status of these Pichiguntala community Kolar district; and make a reference for the further and future studies.

Key words:- Pichiguntala, Helava, Vamsharaju, Genealogy, Socio-economics, Kunti Malla Reddy, etc.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Pichiguntla @ Helava community is one of the ancient genealogical nomadic communities found mainly in southern India, particularly in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu. These people traditionally practiced genealogy narration, preservation of family histories, caste lineages, folk traditions, and oral histories for various agrarian and pastoral communities. In Karnataka, they are popularly known as “Helava” or “Helavaru,” whereas in Telugu-speaking areas they are referred to as “Pichiguntla.” The community has historically followed migratory and semi-nomadic lifestyles. Due to modernization, urbanization, decline of traditional patronage systems, lack of educational access, landlessness, and social exclusion, the community presently faces severe socio-economic hardships. Many families continue to live in temporary settlements, roadside hutments, or hamlets on the outskirts of villages and towns. Kolar District in Karnataka has a considerable presence of Telugu-speaking migratory Pichiguntla families. Despite their historical importance in preserving genealogical traditions and oral cultural heritage, systematic academic studies on their socio-economic status, migration patterns, livelihood conditions, educational attainment, access to welfare schemes, and cultural transformations remain very limited. Hence, the present study attempts to scientifically examine the socio-economic conditions of the migratory Pichiguntla @ Helava genealogical community in Kolar District.

II. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The migratory Pichiguntla @ Helava community remains one of the socially, economically, and educationally marginalized communities in Karnataka. Their traditional occupation of genealogy narration is gradually declining due to changing

- b. To analyse demographic characteristics such as age, gender, education, and family structure.
- c. To examine occupational patterns and sources of income.
- d. To assess housing, sanitation, and health conditions.
- e. To evaluate educational attainment and school dropout issues among children.
- f. To study access to welfare schemes, identity documents, and social security benefits.
- g. To examine cultural practices, genealogical traditions, and social identity.
- h. To suggest suitable welfare and developmental measures.

VI. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- i. What are the present socio-economic conditions of the migratory Pichiguntla @ Helava community?
- ii. What are the major livelihood sources and occupational changes within the community?
- iii. How does migration affect education and healthcare access?
- iv. What are the major challenges faced by women and children in the community?
- v. To what extent are government welfare schemes reaching the community?

VII. HYPOTHESES

- The migratory lifestyle negatively affects educational attainment among the community.
- Most households of the community are economically dependent on informal labour occupations.
- Access to government welfare schemes among migratory families is inadequate.
- Housing and sanitation conditions among migratory families are poor.

VIII. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study is confined to selected migratory Pichiguntla @ Helava settlements located in Kolar District of Karnataka State. The research focuses mainly on socio-economic, educational, occupational, cultural, and migratory aspects of the community.

IX. METHODOLOGY

a. Research Design

The study will adopt a descriptive and exploratory research design.

b. Study Area

The research will be conducted in selected taluks and settlements of Kolar District where migratory Pichiguntla @ Helava families are concentrated.

c. Universe of the Study

All migratory Pichiguntla @ Helava households residing in Kolar District.

d. Sampling Method

A combination of (i) Purposive Sampling & (ii) Snowball Sampling, will be used to identify respondents due to the migratory nature of the community.

e. Sample Size

Approximately 150–200 households will be selected for the study.

f. Sources of Data

Primary Data: -

- Interview schedules
- Household surveys
- Observation
- Focus Group Discussions
- Case Studies

Secondary Data: -

- Books
- Journals
- Government reports
- Census reports
- Research articles
- Community records and genealogical registers

X. TOOLS FOR DATA COLLECTION

- Structured Interview Schedule
- Observation Checklist
- Focus Group Discussion Guide
- Case Study Method

XI. DATA ANALYSIS

- The collected data will be analysed using:
- Percentage analysis
- Tabulation
- Graphs and charts
- Comparative analysis
- Qualitative interpretation
- Statistical tools such as MS Excel/SPSS may be used for analysis.

XII. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Informed consent will be obtained from respondents.
- Privacy and confidentiality will be maintained.
- Cultural sensitivity and respect for community traditions will be ensured.

XIII. CHAPTERIZATION

Chapter I – Introduction and Research Design
 Chapter II – Historical Background of Pichiguntla @ Helava Community
 Chapter III – Demographic and Migration Profile
 Chapter IV – Socio-Economic and Educational Conditions
 Chapter V – Occupational Changes and Livelihood Patterns
 Chapter VI – Welfare Schemes, Challenges, and Policy Suggestions
 Chapter VII – Findings, Conclusion, and Recommendations

XIV. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The study is expected to:

- Provide empirical data on the socio-economic conditions of the community.
- Identify major developmental challenges.
- Highlight the impact of migration on education and livelihood.
- Recommend policy interventions for welfare and social inclusion.

XV. CONCLUSION

The migratory Pichiguntla @ Helava genealogical community represents a culturally significant yet socio-economically vulnerable section of society. Their traditional identity and livelihood systems are under severe transformation due to modernization and social marginalization. The proposed study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of their socio-economic realities in Kolar District and contribute towards inclusive development policies and academic literature.

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