



Socio-Economic Transformation of The Lambada Tribe in Telangana

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Abstract- The socio-economic transformation of tribal communities is an important dimension of inclusive development in India. Changes in education, employment, income, housing, healthcare, financial inclusion, and participation in public institutions influence the living conditions and development opportunities of tribal households. The Lambada community in Telangana has experienced social and economic changes associated with modernisation, educational expansion, occupational mobility, and access to public welfare programmes. However, the extent to which these changes translate into improved household well-being requires systematic investigation. The present study examines socio-economic transformation through six dimensions: livelihood and employment, financial security, education, health and basic services, housing and living conditions, and social and political participation. A quantitative research framework is developed using a structured questionnaire and a dataset containing 210 records across Hyderabad, Secunderabad, and Ranga Reddy. The analysis demonstrates descriptive statistics, an eight-item perceived-transformation scale, and one-way analysis of variance. The composite mean is 3.39, with a standard deviation of 0.54. The comparison across the three area groups does not indicate a statistically significant difference, $F(2,207)=1.99, p=.140$. These results provide an example of the proposed analytical procedure and should be interpreted in accordance with the dataset's status and measurement limitations. The study offers a framework for examining the multidimensional nature of socio-economic transformation and identifying areas for further empirical investigation.

Keywords: Lambada community, socio-economic development, Telangana, livelihood security, education, financial inclusion, tribal development

I. INTRODUCTION

Socio-economic transformation is a multidimensional process involving changes in economic opportunities, social relationships, access to public services, and household living conditions. It is reflected in improvements in education, employment, income security, healthcare, housing, infrastructure, and participation in social and institutional activities. For tribal communities, these changes are closely associated with access to development programmes, educational institutions, employment opportunities, and basic amenities.

The Lambada community, also known as the Banjara community, has a distinct historical and cultural identity in Telangana. The community's contemporary development experiences can be examined through changes in occupational patterns, educational attainment, access to healthcare, household assets, and participation in public institutions. Modernisation may create opportunities for improved living standards, but the benefits of these changes are not necessarily uniform across households or geographical locations.

Research on the Lambada and Banjara communities has addressed identity, modernisation, socio-economic

challenges, and living conditions (Bhukya, 2025; Lal, 2025; Rathod & Sole, 2025). These studies provide a foundation for examining the relationship between changing social conditions and household development. Research involving other Scheduled Tribe communities in India has also considered livelihood vulnerability, educational access, health disparities, and human development (Behera et al., 2024; Deb, 2024; Subramanian & Joe, 2023).

An assessment of socio-economic transformation should extend beyond income growth. Household development may depend on the stability of employment, affordability of education and healthcare, access to formal financial services, availability of drinking water and sanitation, and awareness of welfare entitlements. Similarly, participation in local institutions can influence how communities communicate their needs and access development opportunities.

Against this background, the present study develops an integrated framework for examining socio-economic transformation among the Lambada community in Telangana. It considers six interrelated dimensions and demonstrates a quantitative approach to assessing perceived changes and comparing results across selected area groups.



II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

1. Socio-cultural transformation and community identity

Socio-cultural transformation involves changes in social practices, cultural identity, community organisation, and relationships with wider economic and institutional systems. Bhukya (2025) examines the negotiation of modern identity among Lambadas in Telangana, providing a relevant perspective on the relationship between historical identity and contemporary social change.

Lal (2025) examines the impact of modernisation on the socio-cultural and living conditions of Banjaras in India. This perspective is relevant to the present study because modernisation can influence education, occupation, housing, consumption patterns, and access to services. Rathod and Sole (2025) address socio-economic challenges and policy gaps affecting the Banjara community in Telangana, highlighting the importance of examining development outcomes alongside institutional arrangements. These studies suggest that socio-economic transformation should be considered in relation to both material conditions and the broader social context in which change occurs.

2. Livelihood and economic security

Livelihood security is an important component of household development. Occupational diversification, access to stable employment, productive assets, and regular income can influence a household's ability to meet its needs and respond to unexpected expenditure.

Behera et al. (2024) investigate livelihood vulnerability among forest-dwelling communities and particularly vulnerable tribal groups in eastern India. Das and Sharma (2024) examine livelihood vulnerability among agrarian indigenous communities in the Sundarban region, while Kumar and Mohanasundari (2025) assess livelihood vulnerability among tribal communities in central India. Although these studies concern different geographical contexts, they provide a comparative basis for examining livelihood stability and vulnerability. For Lambada households in Telangana, relevant indicators include occupational change, income regularity, access to skill development, ownership of productive assets, and opportunities for self-employment. These indicators can help distinguish between changes in the type of work undertaken and improvements in the quality and security of livelihoods.

3. Education and employment

Education can contribute to occupational mobility, economic independence, and participation in formal institutions. However, access to education does not automatically guarantee improved employment outcomes. The quality of education, completion rates, affordability, access to higher education, and availability of employment opportunities also require consideration.

Kamalakar and Kamala (2023) examine educational access among tribal groups in Telangana. Gugulothu and Korra (2025) address inequalities in education and employment among tribal communities in the state. Behera et al. (2025) discuss policies and initiatives relating to higher education among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India.

Bhoi and Lakra (2022) examine educational opportunities and access to higher education among marginalised communities. Collectively, these studies support the inclusion of educational attainment, school participation, educational barriers, and employment transitions in research on socio-economic transformation.

4. Health and living conditions

Health, nutrition, housing, drinking water, and sanitation are essential dimensions of household well-being. Inadequate access to these services may increase household expenditure and restrict opportunities for education and employment.

Gugulothu (2024) examines health disparities among tribal communities in Telangana. Subramanian and Joe (2023) discuss the population, health, and nutrition profile of Scheduled Tribes in India. Jaleel et al. (2023) investigate malnutrition among indigenous tribal children in the Western Ghats, while Jena et al. (2024) examine socio-economic correlates of knowledge about the ovulatory cycle among tribal women.

Chaturvedi (2025) considers barriers to healthcare access among tribal populations in Uttar Pradesh. Although the geographical context differs, this research provides a comparative perspective on service accessibility. For the present study, health-related transformation can be examined through healthcare utilisation, affordability, travel barriers, and access to essential household services.

5. Human development and social inclusion

Human development encompasses the opportunities people have to improve their well-being and participate in social and economic life. Deb (2024) examines socio-economic attainment among Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes in India. Das and Bhuyan (2024) assess human development among the Rabha community of Assam, illustrating the value of examining development at the community level. Axelby and Thakur (2024) investigate relational marginalisation among two Scheduled Tribe communities in India. Prasanth and Balasubramaniam (2024) examine a scale for measuring the perceived role performance of economic institutions in tribal society. These studies offer relevant conceptual perspectives for investigating inequality, institutional access, and the role of economic structures.

The literature supports an integrated approach that considers material resources alongside educational, health-related, and institutional dimensions. However, evidence from other tribal communities cannot be treated as a direct estimate of the experiences of Lambada households in Telangana.



III. RESEARCH GAP

Existing research provides useful insights into Lambada identity, modernisation, education, health, and socio-economic challenges. Other studies of tribal communities provide comparative evidence on livelihoods, human development, and social inclusion. Nevertheless, there remains scope for a community-focused framework that considers these dimensions together and examines perceived changes across selected locations in Telangana.

The present study addresses this methodological need by bringing the major dimensions into a single analytical structure. It proposes measurable indicators and demonstrates how a composite perception score can be compared across area groups. Establishing the actual extent of socio-economic transformation, however, requires a properly sampled field survey using genuine household responses.

1. Objectives of the Study

The study is guided by the following objectives:

- To examine the major dimensions of socio-economic transformation relevant to the Lambada community in Telangana.
- To identify indicators relating to livelihood, financial security, education, health, housing, and social participation.
- To develop a structured framework for measuring perceived socio-economic transformation.
- To demonstrate a quantitative comparison of perceived transformation across selected area groups.
- To identify implications for future research and community-focused development planning.

2. Research Questions

- What dimensions are relevant for assessing socio-economic transformation among Lambada households in Telangana?
- How can changes in livelihood, education, health, housing, and financial security be measured systematically?
- Does the mean perceived-transformation score differ across the selected area groups in the supplied dataset?
- What methodological and policy considerations should guide future research on the community?

3. Conceptual Framework

The study conceptualises socio-economic transformation as an outcome associated with household characteristics, economic opportunities, access to public services, and participation in social institutions.

The framework includes six dimensions:

- **Livelihood and employment:** occupational diversity, employment stability, skill development, and income opportunities.
- **Financial security:** income regularity, savings, banking access, assets, and capacity to meet household expenditure.
- **Education:** school participation, educational attainment, higher education, and barriers to educational access.
- **Health and basic services:** access to healthcare, drinking water, sanitation, and essential services.
- **Housing and living conditions:** housing quality, household amenities, and access to basic infrastructure.
- **Social and political participation:** awareness of entitlements, participation in local institutions, and involvement in community decision-making.

These dimensions contribute to an overall assessment of perceived socio-economic transformation. Their relative importance may differ among households, making it necessary to examine individual indicators as well as composite measures.

IV. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

1. Research design

The study adopts a quantitative, descriptive, and comparative design. A structured questionnaire provides the proposed measurement framework, while descriptive statistics and group comparisons proposes the analytical approach.

2. Study area

The supplied dataset contains three area labels: Hyderabad, Secunderabad, and Ranga Reddy. These are used for the comparison. A field-based investigation should identify the specific settlements and households included in each location and document the sampling procedure.

3. Data source and sample structure

The supplied CSV contains 210 records and 71 variables, with 70 records allocated to each of the three area groups. The records are synthetic and are used to demonstrate the statistical procedure.

Characteristic	Description
Total records	210
Area groups	Hyderabad, Secunderabad, Ranga Reddy
Records per group	70
Data collection instrument represented	Structured household questionnaire
Perception items	G1–G8
Data status	Synthetic demonstration records

The dataset should not be interpreted as a probability sample or as a representative survey of Lambada households. A



genuine study would require a defined sampling frame, appropriate household selection, fieldwork documentation, and consideration of non-response.

4. Research instrument

The questionnaire covers respondent and household characteristics, livelihood and occupation, income and assets, education, healthcare and basic services, social participation, perceived changes, and open-ended questions.

The eight G1–G8 items use a five-point response scale. A composite score is calculated as the mean of these items, subject to appropriate coding and verification of item direction. Higher values should represent more positive perceptions only if the wording and coding of all items support that interpretation.

5. Statistical techniques

The analysis uses:

- Descriptive statistics for respondent age and household size.
- Means and standard deviations for the G1–G8 composite.
- Group-wise descriptive comparisons.
- Cronbach's alpha for preliminary internal-consistency assessment.
- One-way analysis of variance to compare mean scores across the three groups.

For a field study, additional checks should address missing data, outliers, scale dimensionality, and the assumptions of the selected statistical tests. Regression analysis may be considered when examining associations between transformation scores and household characteristics.

6. Ethical considerations

Actual fieldwork should follow informed-consent procedures, voluntary participation, confidentiality, and appropriate data-protection practices. Questions should be culturally appropriate and should avoid unnecessary identifying information. Ethical approval should be obtained where required by the institution or intended publication.

V. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

1. Respondent and household characteristics

The supplied dataset contains 210 records. The mean respondent age is 38.45 years ($SD = 10.64$), and the mean household size is 4.69 members ($SD = 1.60$).

Table 1. Descriptive statistics for selected variables in the supplied dataset.

Variable	N	Mean	Standard deviation
Respondent age (years)	210	38.45	10.64
Household size (members)	210	4.69	1.6

These statistics proposes how respondent and household characteristics can be summarised in a quantitative study. Because the data are synthetic, the values do not represent verified demographic characteristics of Lambada households.

2. Overall perceived-transformation score

The composite score calculated from the eight perception items has a mean of 3.39 and a standard deviation of 0.54.

Table 2. Summary of the eight-item composite score

Measure	Result
Number of records	210
Number of items	8
Mean composite score	3.39
Standard deviation	0.54
Theoretical scale range	1–5

The mean is above the midpoint of the five-point response scale. This descriptive result demonstrates the calculation and presentation of a composite score. It should not be interpreted as evidence that the community generally perceives socio-economic improvement, because the records do not originate from actual respondents.

3. Area-wise comparison

The composite means for the three area groups are presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Comparison of composite scores across area groups.

Area group	N	Mean	Standard deviation
Hyderabad	70	3.43	0.54
Secunderabad	70	3.46	0.5
Ranga Reddy	70	3.29	0.57
Overall	210	3.39	0.54

The mean is highest for Secunderabad, followed by Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy. These are descriptive differences in the synthetic dataset. They do not establish differences in actual household conditions or indicate which area has experienced greater socio-economic transformation.

4. One-way analysis of variance

A one-way ANOVA was conducted to demonstrate how the mean composite score can be compared across the three groups.



Table 4. One-way ANOVA results for the dataset.

$$F(2,207)=1.99, p=.140$$

Statistic	Value
Between-group degrees of freedom	2
Within-group degrees of freedom	207
F-statistic	1.99
p-value	0.14
Significance level	0.05

5. Reliability assessment

Cronbach's alpha for the eight perception items is approximately .658.

Table 5. Preliminary internal-consistency assessment

Measure	Result
Number of items	8
Cronbach's alpha	0.658

This coefficient suggests that further examination of the scale is warranted. Item wording, inter-item correlations, corrected item-total correlations, and dimensionality should be examined before the composite is used for substantive interpretation. Reliability assessment using synthetic responses does not establish the validity or reliability of the instrument among actual respondents.

6. Summary of results

The analysis demonstrates how descriptive statistics, a composite measure, a group comparison, and an internal-consistency assessment can be reported. The results also show the importance of distinguishing numerical output from evidence about a population. The synthetic dataset cannot establish the actual levels of household income, education, employment, healthcare access, welfare receipt, or social participation among Lambada households. Such findings require genuine survey data and an appropriate research design.

VI. DISCUSSION

Socio-economic transformation is best understood as a combination of economic, social, and institutional changes. The literature reviewed in this study highlights the relevance of livelihood vulnerability, educational opportunity, health access, and human development in understanding the experiences of tribal communities (Behera et al., 2024; Deb, 2024; Subramanian & Joe, 2023).

Livelihood stability is an important component of household well-being. Changes in occupation may create opportunities for higher income, but they may also expose households to irregular employment or changing market conditions. Future research on Lambada households should therefore examine income stability, occupational diversification, productive assets, and access to skill development.

Education can support social mobility, but its benefits depend on continued access, educational quality, completion, and employment opportunities. Research on tribal education in Telangana makes it relevant to investigate whether educational attainment is associated with better occupational outcomes and financial security (Gugulothu & Korra, 2025; Kamalakar & Kamala, 2023).

Health and essential services also contribute to household development. Access to healthcare, drinking water, sanitation, and adequate housing can influence living standards and the capacity to pursue education and employment. These dimensions should be measured through both household perceptions and indicators of actual access.

The comparison across Hyderabad, Secunderabad, and Ranga Reddy demonstrates how differences in composite scores may be evaluated statistically. However, the non-significant ANOVA result is only a feature of the synthetic dataset. It cannot be used to conclude that geographical differences in socio-economic transformation are absent in the real population.

The internal-consistency result further indicates the importance of refining the measurement instrument. A multidimensional concept such as socio-economic transformation may not be adequately captured by a single composite unless the items demonstrate appropriate measurement properties. Future field research should examine the dimensions separately before deciding whether an overall index is justified.

VII. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The framework suggests several areas for investigation by researchers and development agencies.

First, livelihood programmes should be assessed in terms of employment stability, income security, skill development, and access to enterprise opportunities. Second, educational interventions should consider school completion, higher education, affordability, and transitions into employment. Third, assessments of health and living conditions should examine not only infrastructure availability but also affordability, reliability, and actual use.

Financial-inclusion programmes should be evaluated through active use of banking services, savings capacity, access to suitable credit, and awareness of eligible welfare schemes. Community participation should also be considered when assessing whether development programmes reflect local needs.

Finally, periodic household-level monitoring could help document changes over time. A transparent baseline and repeat surveys would provide a stronger basis for determining whether development indicators have changed and whether those changes are associated with specific programmes.



These implications represent directions for policy assessment rather than conclusions established by the dataset.

VIII. LIMITATIONS AND FUTURE RESEARCH

The equal allocation of records across three area groups does not establish population representativeness. The composite scale also requires further assessment, and the present analysis does not test the proposed relationships between livelihood, education, financial inclusion, and perceived transformation.

Future research should collect primary data from a clearly defined sample of Lambada households. The study should document the sampling frame, locations, fieldwork period, questionnaire administration, consent procedures, and treatment of missing responses. A pilot study should assess the clarity and cultural suitability of the questionnaire.

The proposed hypotheses could then be examined using appropriate inferential methods. Genuine interviews could supplement the survey to provide contextual explanations of household experiences and institutional barriers. Longitudinal or repeated-survey designs would be useful for examining change over time.

IX. CONCLUSION

The socio-economic transformation of the Lambada community in Telangana can be investigated through an integrated framework covering livelihood and employment, financial security, education, health, housing, basic services, and social participation. These dimensions provide a broader basis for understanding household development than income alone.

The present study develops this framework and demonstrates a quantitative analytical procedure using an eight-item perceived-transformation scale and comparisons across three area groups. The mean composite score is 3.39, and the group comparison does not indicate a statistically significant difference at the .05 level. The preliminary reliability coefficient also points to the need for further measurement assessment.

These results serve as a demonstration of the analytical approach, rather than evidence of the actual socio-economic conditions of Lambada households. A field study using genuine data, a transparent sampling design, and a validated instrument is necessary to establish the extent and distribution of socio-economic transformation in the community. Such research can contribute to a more detailed understanding of development opportunities and inform locally appropriate initiatives in education, livelihoods, healthcare, financial inclusion, and community participation.

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