

Empowering the Margins: Institutional Impact of PvTG Policies in Andhra Pradesh under Viksit Bharat 2047¹

***Dr. A. Lakshmi, **Dr. Mallikarjuna Naik Vadithe, #Prof. B. Sudhakar Reddy**

*Associate Professor, University Post Graduate College, Secunderabad.

**Secretary, Institute for Tribal Development Studies (ITDS), Visakhapatnam

#Head, Dept. of Economics, Osmania University, Hyderabad

DOI: 10.37648/ijps.v16i01.007

Received: 29 July 2023; Accepted: 20 September 2023; Published: 03 October 2023

ABSTRACT

The Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PvTGs) in Andhra Pradesh represent the most marginalized segment of the state's Scheduled Tribe (ST) population, marked by distinct socio-economic vulnerabilities, ecological isolation, and cultural uniqueness. This study, titled "*Empowering the Margins: Institutional Impact of PvTG Policies in Andhra Pradesh under Viksit Bharat 2047*," critically evaluates the institutional framework, policy mechanisms, and developmental outcomes associated with government interventions for PvTGs such as the Chenchu, Kondareddy, and Yanadi communities. Employing a mixed-methods approach, the paper integrates secondary data from government reports, census statistics, and Andhra Pradesh Tribal Welfare Department budget analyses with qualitative field insights from ITDA and ITDS research activities. The analysis focuses on the period 2014–2024, corresponding to the post-bifurcation decade of policy restructuring and convergence under national missions like the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) and the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) Act of 2013.

Findings reveal that while Andhra Pradesh has institutionalized strong legal mechanisms for tribal inclusion through the TSP Act and functional Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDAs), implementation remains uneven across sectors. Educational inclusion has improved considerably, reflected in a rise in literacy rates among Chenchu households from 22.8% in 2011 to 39.6% in 2023. Similarly, health outreach through ASHA and ANM workers has reduced malnutrition prevalence among PvTG children by more than 50%. However, livelihood diversification continues to be constrained by low irrigation access (less than 10%), limited market linkages for non-timber forest produce (NTFP), and incomplete implementation of Forest Rights Act (FRA) titles, which remain pending for nearly two-thirds of eligible families. The study further identifies that institutional convergence, such as MGNREGA for soil works, NRLM for SHG promotion, and PMFME for value-chain integration, has improved wage employment and income stability, yet has not fully translated into asset-based empowerment.

In alignment with the Vision of *Viksit Bharat 2047*, the paper proposes a forward-looking framework focusing on digital inclusion, cluster-based NTFP enterprises, women-led producer groups, and AI-enabled monitoring systems for real-time governance. The research concludes that institutional reforms and localized participation through empowered Gram Sabhas are central to transforming the developmental trajectory of Andhra Pradesh's PvTGs from survival to sustainability. The study thereby contributes to the broader discourse on inclusive tribal development and equitable national growth.

^{1 1} How to cite the article:

Lakshmi A., Vadithe M.N., Reddy B.S.; Jul-Dec 2023; Empowering the Margins: Institutional Impact of PvTG Policies in Andhra Pradesh under Viksit Bharat 2047; *International Journal of Professional Studies* ; Vol 16, 70-82; DOI: <http://doi.org/10.37648/ijps.v16i01.007>

Keywords: *Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups; Andhra Pradesh; Institutional Impact; Inclusion; Development Outcomes; Viksit Bharat 2047.*

1. Introduction

The Government of India has accorded the *Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PvTGs)* a distinct constitutional and administrative status due to their unique socio-economic and cultural characteristics, which include pre-agricultural levels of technology, extremely low literacy, stagnant or declining population, and high economic vulnerability (Ministry of Tribal Affairs, 2023). PvTGs are recognized as the most marginalized segment within India's Scheduled Tribes (STs), representing communities that have remained isolated from the mainstream due to geographical, ecological, and historical reasons. These groups embody the intersection of extreme poverty, geographic isolation, and cultural distinctiveness, which together pose complex developmental challenges.

In the context of Andhra Pradesh, the state is home to three major PvTGs, Chenchu, Kondareddy, and Yanadi, who collectively represent less than 1% of the state's total Scheduled Tribe population, yet endure the highest levels of exclusion in access to education, health, and livelihood opportunities. The state's tribal population, constituting around 5.7% of the total population (*Census of India, 2011*), primarily inhabits hilly, forested, and remote terrains spread across the Eastern Ghats and riverine belts of the Godavari and Krishna basins.

1.1 Geographic and Socioeconomic Context of PvTGs in Andhra Pradesh

The distribution of PvTGs in Andhra Pradesh reflects a deep ecological dependence and cultural adaptation to forest and coastal environments. Each group's livelihood system and settlement pattern have evolved around their respective ecological niches, sustaining a unique balance between traditional subsistence and modern economic pressures.

PvTGs in AP	Key Districts/Regions	Livelihood Base
Chenchu	Nallamala forest (Guntur, Prakasam, Kurnool, Nandyal, Nagarkurnool*)	NTFP collection, subsistence cultivation
Kondareddy	East & West Godavari (now Alluri Sitarama Raju District), Mahanadi riverbanks	Bamboo crafts, fishing, and daily wage labour
Yanadi	Nellore, Tirupati, Sri Potti Sriramulu Nellore	Fishing, salt-pan labour, informal service work

**Note: Nagarkurnool now belongs to Telangana, but certain Chenchu settlements maintain cultural and kinship continuity across both states.*

The Chenchus, one of the oldest aboriginal forest-dwelling tribes of South India, inhabit the Nallamala forests across both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Their settlements are typically small hamlets (locally known as *pentas*) situated in dense forest zones, with livelihood activities revolving around non-timber forest produce (NTFP) collection, subsistence agriculture, and seasonal labour. Despite targeted interventions by the Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA), Chenchus continue to face nutritional deficiencies, land insecurity, and low literacy. The Kondareddy, predominantly inhabiting the hilly regions of East and West Godavari (now the Alluri Sitarama Raju district), rely on bamboo-based crafts, forest produce gathering, and fishing. Historically semi-nomadic, they now face pressures from forest restrictions, displacement due to development projects, and market marginalization. The Yanadi, traditionally a coastal and riverine tribe, are concentrated in Nellore and Tirupati districts. Their livelihoods are primarily dependent on fishing, salt-pan labour, and informal services in peri-urban areas. Despite higher exposure to mainstream society, the Yanadi remain socially and economically marginalized, facing acute landlessness and precarious employment conditions.

1.2 Historical Evolution of Tribal Development in Andhra Pradesh

Tribal development in Andhra Pradesh has a long institutional trajectory shaped by state-led interventions and centrally sponsored programmes. The establishment of Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDAs) in 1975

marked the first systematic attempt at administrative decentralization for tribal welfare. The ITDA model, introduced as part of India's Fifth Five-Year Plan, was designed to implement area-based development projects in tribal regions with significant autonomy for local officers.

Over time, the tribal development framework in Andhra Pradesh has evolved through a series of **policy milestones**:

1. **Formation of ITDAs (1975–1985):** The ITDA structure facilitated region-specific development planning through dedicated Project Officers who coordinated schemes related to education, health, and infrastructure in Scheduled Areas such as Paderu, Parvathipuram, Rampachodavaram, and Srisailam.
2. **Introduction of the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) (1980s–1990s):** The TSP aimed to ensure proportional budgetary allocations for tribal welfare corresponding to their share in the state population. Andhra Pradesh became a pioneer by legally mandating this through the **TSP Act (2013)**, a landmark legislation ensuring non-diversion of funds meant for tribal development.
3. **Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA), 1996:** PESA recognized the role of Gram Sabhas in local governance and resource management in Scheduled Areas. However, its operationalization in Andhra Pradesh has been slow, especially in forest-dominated PVTG regions where state control over forest and revenue land remains dominant.
4. **Post-Bifurcation Phase (2014 onwards):** The bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana created administrative challenges and opportunities. The residual state prioritized **convergence models** linking flagship schemes such as the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME), Jal Jeevan Mission, and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) with tribal development objectives.
5. **Launch of PM-JANMAN (2023):** The **Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN)** marked a paradigm shift by introducing a national-level framework exclusively targeting the development of **75 PVTGs across 18 states and Union Territories**. Andhra Pradesh identified 298 PVTG habitations for saturation-level interventions, including housing, digital literacy, healthcare, and education.

1.3 Demographic Profile and Social Indicators

According to the **Census of India (2011)**, Andhra Pradesh's total tribal population stood at approximately 2.6 million, constituting around 5.7% of the total state population. The PVTG population, however, remains significantly smaller, estimated at 1.2 lakh individuals spread across remote and forested areas.

- **Literacy rate among PVTGs:** 39.6% (2023), compared to 68% for the overall state population.
- **Female literacy among Chenchus:** only 28%, reflecting gendered disparities.
- **Infant Mortality Rate (IMR):** 43 per 1,000 live births among PVTGs versus the state average of 29.
- **Land ownership:** less than 25% of PVTG households hold any legal title under the Forest Rights Act (FRA).

These figures underscore the persistent developmental lag despite decades of targeted interventions.

1.4 Institutional Framework and Convergence

The institutional structure for tribal development in Andhra Pradesh is anchored around five ITDAs, Paderu, Parvathipuram, Srisailam, Rampachodavaram, and Chintapalli, supported by the Directorate of Tribal Welfare, Girijan Cooperative Corporation (GCC), and Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Tribes Cooperative Finance Corporation (TRICOR). The GCC plays a pivotal role in procuring, processing, and marketing NTFPs, which remain the economic lifeline for forest-dependent PVTGs. However, declining forest yield and private trader interference have eroded income security. To address these issues, recent reforms have emphasized value-chain integration, SHG-based enterprise development, and digital market platforms. Simultaneously, convergence with MGNREGA ensures wage employment during

agricultural lean seasons, while NRLM promotes women's participation in self-help groups (SHGs). The PMFME and Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan further support micro-enterprises for honey, tamarind, and forest-based products.

1.5 Institutional Impact and the Challenge of Inclusion

Despite policy innovations, institutional mechanisms face systemic constraints in ensuring genuine inclusion. The Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) Act, 2013, though pathbreaking, often encounters fund diversion and delays in release. Moreover, the administrative machinery at the ITDA level is frequently understaffed, with vacancies in technical and extension posts affecting ground-level implementation. Inclusion also demands a shift from welfare-based to rights-based approaches. While welfare measures such as housing, health camps, and scholarship schemes have improved basic living standards, they have not sufficiently addressed structural issues like land alienation, forest rights, and representation in local governance. As a result, participation of PvTGs in Gram Sabhas remains nominal, and their agency in decision-making is limited.

1.6 Towards Viksit Bharat 2047: A Vision for Inclusive Tribal Development

The national vision of *Viksit Bharat 2047* calls for a holistic and inclusive development framework that leaves no community behind. In this context, the empowerment of PvTGs becomes a moral and developmental imperative. For Andhra Pradesh, the realization of this vision requires a multi-dimensional strategy that bridges policy design with local realities.

Key elements of the proposed vision include:

1. **Saturation of Basic Entitlements:** Ensuring 100% access to housing, potable water, healthcare, and education for all PvTG habitations by 2030.
2. **Livelihood Diversification:** Promoting cluster-based NTFP value chains, organic farming, and eco-tourism initiatives through SHG and FPO (Farmer Producer Organisation) models.
3. **Digital and Financial Inclusion:** Integrating PvTG households into the formal economy through digital payment systems, Aadhaar-linked DBTs, and micro-credit.
4. **Strengthening Institutional Governance:** Enhancing the capacity of ITDAs, introducing real-time Monitoring and Information Systems (MIS), and enabling data-driven decision-making.
5. **Empowered Gram Sabhas and PESA Compliance:** Facilitating genuine community ownership of natural resources and participatory planning in tribal habitations.

The evolution of PvTG development in Andhra Pradesh reflects both progress and paradox. While the institutional architecture, embodied in ITDAs, the TSP Act, and PM-JANMAN, demonstrates strong policy intent, the outcomes remain uneven due to structural limitations and socio-ecological complexities. Bridging this gap demands a sustained and participatory approach that integrates traditional wisdom with modern governance tools. As India approaches the centenary of independence, **empowering Andhra Pradesh's PvTGs under the framework of Viksit Bharat 2047** represents not only a developmental necessity but also a reaffirmation of constitutional ideals of equality, justice, and dignity. The challenge lies not in designing new programmes but in making existing institutions more accountable, inclusive, and responsive to the lived realities of those who continue to dwell at the margins of the state's development narrative.

2. Institutional Ecosystem

The institutional ecosystem for tribal development in Andhra Pradesh represents one of the most structured and diversified frameworks in India. It integrates multiple layers of governance, from the state's Tribal Welfare Department and Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDAs) to local-level Gram Sabhas, and is guided by legislative provisions such as the *Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Tribes Sub-Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan (Planning, Allocation, and Utilization of Financial Resources) Act, 2013*. Together, these institutions form the administrative and financial backbone for implementing welfare, livelihood, and empowerment programmes for Scheduled Tribes (STs),

especially the *Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PvTGs)* such as the Chenchu, Kondareddy, and Yanadi. While the structure appears robust on paper, its performance varies across districts, depending on institutional capacity, inter-departmental coordination, and the degree of community participation. The following subsections examine the key pillars of this institutional ecosystem, ITDAs, the TSP framework, and the newly launched PM-JANMAN programme, highlighting their strengths, gaps, and transformative potential within the framework of *Viksit Bharat 2047*.

2.1 Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDAs)

The *Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDAs)* form the operational foundation of the tribal development architecture in Andhra Pradesh. Established in 1975 under the Fifth Five-Year Plan, these agencies were conceived to decentralize planning and administration in tribal areas, ensuring that development priorities reflect local realities rather than top-down policy prescriptions. Andhra Pradesh currently has five ITDAs: Paderu, Parvathipuram, Srisailem, Rampachodavaram, and Chintapalli, each responsible for implementing government programmes across their respective jurisdictions in the Scheduled Areas. These agencies are managed by *Project Officers (POs)*, typically senior IAS officers or state service officers with delegated powers for planning, fund allocation, and coordination across departments such as health, education, agriculture, rural development, and welfare.

Key Functions of ITDAs:

1. **Planning and Implementation:** Preparation of Annual Tribal Sub-Plan proposals and their integration into district and state budgets.
2. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Supervision of departmental works and beneficiary-targeted schemes in tribal areas.
3. **Convergence Coordination:** Facilitating joint implementation between central and state schemes such as *MGNREGA*, *NRLM*, *PMFME*, and *Jal Jeevan Mission*.
4. **Capacity Building:** Organizing training for community resource persons, SHG leaders, and local governance institutions.

Strengths:

- a) **Direct Delivery Mechanism:** The ITDA model ensures that funds and benefits reach the grassroots without multiple bureaucratic layers, enabling faster decision-making.
- b) **Convergence Approach:** Integration of programmes like *MGNREGA* (*employment generation*), *NRLM* (*livelihood promotion*), and *PMFME* (*micro-enterprise support*) fosters holistic rural development and resource optimization.
- c) **Local Adaptability:** ITDAs possess contextual knowledge about terrain, culture, and livelihood systems, allowing for more tailored interventions.

Major Issues:

Despite institutional longevity, ITDAs face several operational and systemic challenges:

- **Human Resource Deficits:** Chronic shortage of technical, financial, and field staff limits the effectiveness of programme delivery. Many posts for engineers, agriculture officers, and social development experts remain vacant.
- **Gender and Disability Inclusion Gaps:** Women-led Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and persons with disabilities (PwDs) are insufficiently represented in livelihood and enterprise schemes.
- **Limited Monitoring Capacity:** Absence of real-time data analytics systems weakens the ability to track project outcomes and prevent duplication.

- **Weak Decentralization:** Although PESA mandates Gram Sabha participation, ITDA-led programmes often remain top-down, reducing community ownership.

Emerging Reforms:

The Government of Andhra Pradesh is piloting *Digital MIS dashboards* for ITDAs and introducing *community monitoring frameworks* to improve accountability. Additionally, partnerships with research organizations like the Institute for Tribal Development Studies (ITDS) are enhancing data-based decision-making through village-level mapping of infrastructure and service delivery.

2.2 Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP Act, 2013 – Andhra Pradesh Model)

The *Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Tribes Sub-Plan (TSP) Act, 2013*, remains a landmark legislative measure that institutionalized tribal budgeting in the state. The Act mandates that a proportion of the total state plan budget, equivalent to the percentage share of the ST population, be earmarked exclusively for their development. It also ensures transparency, accountability, and non-diversion of funds.

Key Features of the TSP Act, 2013:

- 1) Statutory obligation for *earmarking and tracking* of budgetary allocations for STs.
- 2) Creation of *nodal agencies* to coordinate departmental plans and expenditure monitoring.
- 3) Mandatory *social audit* of tribal development schemes.
- 4) Requirement that at least *one-third of funds* be utilized for direct beneficiary-oriented programmes.

Impact:

- a) The Act has resulted in **6–9% of the state's total budget** being ring-fenced for tribal development.
- b) A notable improvement in **school enrolment and retention rates** has been observed among PVTG children. For instance, TSP-funded interventions reduced the dropout rate among *Chenchu children* by nearly 12% during 2022–23 (Department of Tribal Welfare, 2023).
- c) Expansion of tribal hostels, ashram schools, and *Ekalavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)* has improved educational accessibility in remote forest regions.

Gaps and Challenges:

While the TSP Act provides a strong legal and fiscal foundation, its implementation reveals several shortcomings:

1. **Infrastructure-Centric Spending:** A disproportionate share of TSP funds is directed towards physical infrastructure (roads, buildings) rather than livelihood generation or human development outcomes.
2. **Limited Gram Sabha Oversight:** Despite legal provisions, the role of Gram Sabhas in approving and monitoring TSP works remains minimal, particularly in *Chenchu habitations* within the Nallamala forest region.
3. **Delayed Fund Releases:** Inter-departmental approvals often delay fund disbursement, resulting in low utilization rates.
4. **Weak Evaluation Mechanisms:** There is insufficient emphasis on impact assessments and evidence-based monitoring of scheme outcomes.

Policy Lessons: To make the TSP more transformative, the focus must shift from “**expenditure tracking**” to “**outcome measurement**.” Future reforms should embed **performance-based budgeting**, strengthen local institutions, and link fund allocation to human development indicators like literacy, nutrition, and livelihood sustainability.

2.3 Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) (2023–2026): A Game Changer

The launch of the *Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN)* in November 2023 represents a historic policy milestone for the country's tribal development framework. It is the first national-level mission exclusively dedicated to the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PvTGs), aligning directly with the government's commitment to achieving inclusive development under *Viksit Bharat 2047*. The PM-JANMAN initiative focuses on holistic saturation-based development of all 75 identified PvTG communities across 18 states and Union Territories. Andhra Pradesh and Telangana together account for 298 Chenchu settlements, representing one of the largest single-community coverage areas under the scheme.

Objectives of PM-JANMAN:

1. To ensure **universal access** to basic services such as housing, education, healthcare, and clean drinking water.
2. To promote **sustainable livelihoods** through convergence of central and state programmes.
3. To strengthen **community institutions and self-governance mechanisms** for long-term empowerment.
4. To preserve **indigenous knowledge systems and cultural heritage** of PvTGs.

Key Benefits and Components:

- a) **Housing:** Construction of durable housing units for all eligible PvTG families under convergence with *PM Awas Yojana (Gramin)*.
- b) **Education:** Expansion of *pre-metric and post-matric scholarships*, bridge courses, and mobile education units for children in forest-dwelling areas.
- c) **Health and Nutrition:** Deployment of mobile health clinics, nutrition surveillance, and TB/anaemia screening campaigns for women and children.
- d) **Livelihoods:** Establishment of *Women's Livelihood Support Units (WLSUs)* within ITDAs to provide entrepreneurship training, credit linkage, and market access.
- e) **Connectivity and Digital Inclusion:** Installation of solar-based telecom towers, digital kiosks, and biometric enrolment facilities in unconnected hamlets.

Implementation Mechanism: PM-JANMAN operates through convergence-based implementation, integrating existing schemes like *MGNREGA, NRLM, PMGSY, Jal Jeevan Mission, Digital India, and Ayushman Bharat*. The Tribal Welfare Department acts as the nodal authority at the state level, while ITDAs coordinate district-level execution.

Early Outcomes: Preliminary reports from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (2024) indicate that PM-JANMAN has already improved access to housing and education among PvTG families. Nearly 52% of Chenchu households in Andhra Pradesh have been identified for housing coverage, and *village-level saturation mapping* has begun for water, sanitation, and electricity services.

Strategic Significance for Andhra Pradesh: The PM-JANMAN initiative complements existing state-led programmes, bridging critical service delivery gaps in isolated forest settlements. It introduces a "mission-mode" approach that focuses on convergence, community participation, and saturation, a model that Andhra Pradesh can integrate into its broader *Tribal Sub-Plan 2.0* framework for sustainable transformation by 2047.

2.4 Synthesis: Institutional Synergy and the Path Ahead

The institutional ecosystem of Andhra Pradesh demonstrates a multi-layered governance structure that is both ambitious and complex. The ITDAs provide administrative machinery; the TSP Act ensures fiscal commitment; and

PM-JANMAN offers a renewed developmental thrust focusing on the most vulnerable. However, the effectiveness of this ecosystem depends on three interlinked dimensions: *coordination, capacity, and community participation*.

To realize the goals of *Viksit Bharat 2047*, Andhra Pradesh must strengthen these institutions through:

- A. Enhanced data-driven planning and real-time monitoring systems.
- B. Greater devolution of powers to Gram Sabhas for participatory decision-making.
- C. Focused capacity-building programmes for ITDA officials and community leaders.
- D. Integration of women and youth networks into local governance and entrepreneurship.

Only through such systemic strengthening can the institutional architecture translate policy intent into tangible improvements in human development outcomes among the state's Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups.

3. Development Outcomes – Empirical Evaluation (ASP Method)

The evaluation of development outcomes among Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PvTGs) in Andhra Pradesh follows the **ASP (Analytical–Statistical–Policy)** method — a structured framework for integrating empirical data with interpretive analysis and policy implications. This approach allows an objective measurement of progress while embedding the analysis within the socio-economic and institutional context of tribal development. Using a combination of government records, secondary data, and field-level observations from ITDA and ITDS studies (2017–2024), this section presents an evidence-based appraisal of outcomes in **livelihoods and income, education, and health**, followed by an assessment of key challenges and a roadmap toward *Viksit Bharat 2047*.

3.1 Livelihoods and Income

Analytical Dimension (A)

Livelihood transformation among Andhra Pradesh's PvTGs remains a slow but visible process, shaped by a combination of state interventions, ecological constraints, and market linkages. Traditionally dependent on non-timber forest produce (NTFP) such as honey, tamarind, and hill brooms, the Chenchu, Kondareddy, and Yanadi communities are increasingly participating in wage employment and micro-enterprise activities under government-led livelihood missions.

The Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDAs) and Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) funds have sought to diversify livelihood bases through convergence of schemes like MGNREGA (employment generation), NRLM (self-help group formation), and PMFME (micro-enterprise support). However, a sustainable shift from subsistence to commercial livelihoods is still constrained by poor irrigation access, limited credit flow, and market asymmetry.

Statistical Dimension (S)

Data from ITDA–Paderu (2024) indicate a steady rise in average annual household income among PvTG families, from ₹58,000 in 2017 to ₹83,000 in 2023 — an increase of approximately 43% over six years. The primary contributors to this rise are enhanced MGNREGA employment, improved access to forest produce markets, and participation in SHG-based enterprises.

- a) MGNREGA performance: Chenchu habitations recorded 68–92 days of employment annually per household, a significant improvement compared to pre-2015 averages (35–40 days).
- b) NTFP income contribution: NTFP activities account for 23–28% of total household income, while wage labour (MGNREGA + agriculture) contributes around 40–45%.
- c) Agricultural productivity: Only 9% of Chenchu households reported secure irrigation access, resulting in low agricultural productivity (average yield <1.4 t/ha) and high crop vulnerability.
- d) Market participation: Nearly 64% of households still sell NTFP through informal traders rather than the Girijan Cooperative Corporation (GCC), leading to lower price realization.

Policy Dimension (P)

The state's focus on livelihood convergence has yielded incremental gains, yet the absence of value-chain integration limits the scalability of impact. To enhance sustainability, the following measures are recommended:

1. **Cluster-based NTFP cooperatives** to ensure collective bargaining and minimize trader dependency.
2. **Agri-tech integration** in tribal areas through smart irrigation systems and soil-health monitoring pilots.
3. **Micro-credit expansion** via TRICOR and cooperative banks, prioritizing women-led enterprises.
4. **Capacity-building of SHGs** to transition from informal savings groups to registered producer organizations. A structured livelihood development roadmap aligned with *Viksit Bharat 2047* would require connecting tribal produce to regional agro-industries, ensuring that forest-based economies evolve into sustainable green enterprises.

3.2 Education Outcomes**Analytical Dimension (A)**

Education remains one of the most significant determinants of long-term inclusion for PvTGs. For historically marginalized groups like the Chenchu, education is not merely a pathway to employment but a medium of social transformation. The Government of Andhra Pradesh, through the Ekalavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS), Ashram Schools, and Tribal Welfare Residential Hostels, has substantially expanded access to formal education in remote regions. The introduction of special schools for Chenchu children and bridge courses for first-generation learners has also helped reduce dropout rates.

Statistical Dimension (S)

Empirical data over the last decade reveal substantial improvement in educational indicators:

Indicator	2015	2023	Change (2015–23)
Literacy (PvTGs overall)	22.8%	39.6%	+16.8%
Girl enrolment in hostel-based secondary education	18%	42%	+24%
Teacher–student ratio (EMRS)	1:45	1:32	Improved quality
Average attendance (Ashram Schools)	68%	84%	+16%

Source: Compiled by the author from secondary data – Government of Andhra Pradesh, Department of Tribal Welfare (2023); Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) Annual Reports (2015–2023); Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, EMRS Dashboard (2023); and field data from ITDS Research Studies (2022–2024).

The gender gap in literacy has narrowed significantly, as female enrolment in secondary and higher secondary levels has doubled in less than a decade. However, challenges persist in tertiary education and transition to vocational streams. Only 9% of Chenchu youth aged 18–25 are enrolled in colleges or technical institutes, highlighting barriers related to mobility, financial constraints, and cultural adaptation.

Policy Dimension (P)

The education reforms for PvTGs must now transcend access and focus on *learning outcomes, retention, and employability*. The following interventions are proposed:

1. **Localized curriculum development** integrating tribal language and culture to prevent alienation from mainstream education.
2. **Digital education units** (e-learning hubs) in all ITDA schools to bridge the digital divide.
3. **Scholarship portability system** allowing students to transfer benefits across states (critical for border districts like Nagarkurnool).

4. **Community-based mentorship programmes**, leveraging educated tribal alumni to motivate new learners.
5. **Vocational and skill training integration** into EMRS curricula to align education with sustainable livelihood pathways.

As Andhra Pradesh moves toward the *Viksit Bharat 2047* vision, the education policy for PvTGs must align with NEP 2020 principles, multilingualism, vocational orientation, and community involvement, to ensure equity in learning and empowerment through education.

3.3 Health Outcomes

Analytical Dimension (A)

Health is a central dimension of well-being among PvTGs, yet it has historically been the most neglected. Remote locations, lack of transport, and inadequate healthcare infrastructure have contributed to persistent morbidity and malnutrition. The integration of ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activists) and ANMs (Auxiliary Nurse Midwives) under ITDA-level health missions has, however, significantly improved outreach to previously unserved hamlets. Mobile health units, nutrition rehabilitation centers, and maternal health schemes have begun to bridge historical disparities.

Statistical Dimension (S)

Between 2018 and 2023, notable improvements in health indicators have been recorded among Chenchu habitations:

- 1) Severe malnutrition prevalence among Chenchu children declined from 23.4% (2018) to 11.2% (2023), a reduction of more than 50%.
- 2) Institutional deliveries increased from 48% (2016) to 76% (2023) in Nandyal and Guntur tribal zones.
- 3) Maternal mortality ratio (MMR) decreased from 198 to 142 per 100,000 live births.
- 4) Immunization coverage reached 92% of children aged 0–5 years.

These improvements align with the Poshan Abhiyan and state-level convergence between the Health and Tribal Welfare Departments.

Policy Dimension (P)

Despite progress, three major health challenges persist:

1. **High anaemia prevalence** (58%) among tribal women, indicating nutritional deficits.
2. **Limited access to secondary care** due to poor transport connectivity from forest hamlets to district hospitals.
3. **Inadequate mental health services**, particularly for women and adolescents exposed to stress and social marginalization.

The health roadmap should emphasize:

- A. Establishment of “Tribal Health & Nutrition Hubs” at ITDA headquarters.
- B. Telemedicine services integrated with PHCs for remote consultations.
- C. Deployment of nutrition gardens and bio-fortified crop promotion in village schools and Anganwadis.
- D. Recruitment of PvTG youth as community health volunteers, ensuring culturally sensitive service delivery.

4. Key Challenges

Analytical Dimension (A)

The sustainability of development outcomes depends on addressing systemic and structural challenges. While Andhra Pradesh has demonstrated institutional commitment, gaps persist in land rights, digital inclusion, and participatory governance.

Statistical Dimension (S)

Key empirical findings include:

Domain	Challenges Identified
Land & Tenure Security	FRA titles are pending for 64% of eligible families. Only 14% possess community forest rights.
Digital Inclusion	72% of PVTG hamlets lack mobile network or internet connectivity.
Institutional Gaps	Gram Sabhas are not fully empowered; limited PESA compliance in ITDA areas.
Financial Access	<20% of PVTG households have active bank accounts with functional credit usage.

Policy Dimension (P)

Policy responses must shift from short-term interventions to **structural reforms** ensuring self-governance and asset security:

1. Expedited FRA implementation with joint land titles to promote gender equity.
2. Digital infrastructure development under BharatNet Phase-II to connect all PVTG habitations by 2030.
3. Devolution of funds and functions to Gram Sabhas in line with the PESA mandate.
4. Tribal entrepreneurship incubation centers at ITDA level to promote youth innovation.

5. Roadmap to Viksit Bharat 2047 – Andhra Pradesh Strategy

Analytical Dimension (A)

The Vision of *Viksit Bharat 2047* calls for a paradigm shift from welfare-oriented tribal development to empowerment-driven inclusive growth. For Andhra Pradesh, this entails the transformation of PVTG habitations into resilient, self-reliant communities integrated with the broader state economy while preserving their ecological and cultural identity.

Statistical Dimension (S)

Projected targets for the year 2047 include:

- A. 100% Individual and Community Forest Rights (FRA) recognition by 2028.
- B. Zero illiteracy among PVTGs by 2040 through universal secondary education coverage.
- C. 100% digital connectivity to all 298 PVTG habitations by 2035.
- D. Doubling of per capita income among PVTG households by 2030 and tripling by 2047.

Policy Dimension (P)

To achieve these outcomes, Andhra Pradesh must institutionalize a four-pillar strategy:

1. Forest Rights and Governance:

- Achieve universal FRA coverage and establish forest-user cooperatives to manage minor forest produce sustainably.

2. Cluster-Based NTFP Value Chains:

- Develop *eco-enterprise clusters* owned by SHGs and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), integrating value addition, packaging, and e-marketing.

3. Technological Innovation (Chenchu Agri-Tech Pilot):

- Implement smart irrigation systems, remote soil monitoring, and millet intensification pilots across Nallamala.

4. Digital Governance (AI-driven MIS Dashboard):

- Establish a unified monitoring system linking ITDA, TSP, and PM-JANMAN databases for real-time beneficiary tracking, fund utilization, and impact evaluation.

This roadmap should be anchored in participatory governance, ensuring that tribal voices shape policy decisions. By strengthening institutional capacity and embedding transparency, Andhra Pradesh can evolve into a model state for inclusive tribal development within the national aspiration of *Viksit Bharat 2047*.

6. Conclusion

The analysis of the institutional framework, policy implementation, and developmental outcomes for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PvTGs) in Andhra Pradesh reveals a dynamic but uneven trajectory of progress. Over the past decade, concerted state and central government interventions, through Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDAs), the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) Act, and the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN), have significantly improved the socio-economic conditions of Chenchu, Kondareddy, and Yanadi communities. These interventions reflect a deliberate shift from isolated welfare schemes to integrated development planning rooted in the principles of convergence, inclusion, and sustainability. Yet, persistent structural challenges such as land insecurity, institutional undercapacity, and digital exclusion continue to impede the pace of transformation envisioned under *Viksit Bharat 2047*.

Empirical evidence demonstrates tangible gains in livelihoods, education, and health. Average household income in PvTG regions has risen by over 40%, supported by employment generation through MGNREGA, improved NTFP market access, and SHG-based microenterprises. Educational indicators show equally encouraging progress; literacy among PvTGs increased from 22.8% in 2015 to nearly 40% in 2023, with significant advances in girls' enrolment and retention in residential schools. Health outcomes have also registered improvement, with malnutrition among Chenchu children declining by half and institutional deliveries showing a notable upward trend. These quantitative outcomes confirm that the institutional architecture, though imperfect, is gradually translating policy intent into measurable welfare gains.

However, the sustainability of these improvements remains uncertain without deeper structural reforms. A majority of PvTG households still lack formal land ownership under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), weakening both livelihood security and social dignity. Similarly, nearly three-fourths of tribal habitations remain digitally disconnected, limiting access to e-governance, education, and financial inclusion. The underrepresentation of women and persons with disabilities in self-help groups and governance institutions underscores a continuing gap in intersectional inclusion. Institutional inertia, staff shortages within ITDAs, and delays in fund disbursement further dilute the transformative potential of flagship policies such as the TSP Act and PM-JANMAN.

For Andhra Pradesh to realize the vision of *Viksit Bharat 2047*, tribal development must evolve from a welfare-centric to an empowerment-centric model. This requires not only the saturation of basic amenities but also the creation of robust ecosystems for self-reliance, entrepreneurship, and cultural preservation. Ensuring 100% individual and

community forest rights, building cluster-based NTFP value chains, and implementing Agri-Tech pilots in Chenchu regions can strengthen the rural economy while maintaining ecological balance. Likewise, AI-driven MIS systems can enhance transparency and accountability in programme delivery, ensuring that every rupee spent is linked to tangible outcomes on the ground.

Ultimately, the empowerment of PvTGs must rest on three interdependent pillars, institutional efficiency, community participation, and technological inclusion. Andhra Pradesh's experience demonstrates that meaningful progress is achievable when policies are backed by legal commitment, administrative innovation, and people-centered governance. Yet, to sustain and accelerate these gains, policy frameworks must integrate local wisdom with modern development paradigms, treating tribal communities not as beneficiaries but as partners in transformation. The journey toward *Viksit Bharat 2047* thus depends on converting administrative efficiency into social justice, ensuring that every tribal household moves from vulnerability to dignity, and from marginalization to meaningful participation in India's developmental future.

References

- Andhra Pradesh Tribal Welfare Department. (2023). *Annual report of the Department of Tribal Welfare 2022–23*. Government of Andhra Pradesh.
- Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS). (2022). *Socio-economic status of Scheduled Tribes in Andhra Pradesh: Trends and challenges*. CESS Research Series.
- Government of India, Ministry of Tribal Affairs. (2023). *Annual report 2022–23*. <https://tribal.nic.in/>
- Government of India, Ministry of Tribal Affairs. (2023). *Ekalavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) dashboard report*.
- Institute for Tribal Development Studies (ITDS). (2024). *Education and livelihood outcomes among PvTGs in Andhra Pradesh: A field-based review* [Unpublished report].
- Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA), Paderu. (2015–2023). *Annual progress reports of ITDA projects in Paderu, Rampachodavaram, Parvathipuram, Srisailam, and Chintapalli*. Andhra Pradesh Tribal Welfare Department.
- NITI Aayog. (2021). *Evaluation study on the development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in India*. Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), Government of India.
- Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India. (2011). *Census of India 2011: Primary census abstract for Scheduled Tribes, Andhra Pradesh*. Government of India.
- Planning Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh. (2020). *State human development report 2020: Inclusive growth and social justice*. Government of Andhra Pradesh.
- Press Information Bureau (PIB). (2023). *PM-JANMAN: Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan – A national initiative for the holistic development of PVTGs*. Government of India.
- Reddy, K. V., & Naik, V. M. (2022). *Tribal livelihoods and institutional frameworks in South India: A study of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana*. Centre for Tribal Studies.
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). (2023). *Human development indicators and tribal well-being in India: Policy insights for inclusive futures*. UNDP India.
- World Bank. (2022). *Tribal inclusion and sustainable livelihoods in India: State-level evidence from Andhra Pradesh and Odisha*. World Bank Group.