

# Lammasingi: A Multitribal Village in Eastern Ghats of Andhra Pradesh

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**KEYWORDS:** Lammasingi. Eastern Ghats. Tribal village. Tribes. Castes. Paderu. Economic deprivation. Inclusive growth. Development. Visakhapatnam district.

**ABSTRACT:** More than 70% of population in India even today are found to live in villages. The tribal population in the district of Visakhapatnam is mainly concentrated in agency tracts of Eastern Ghats. The *adivasis* (tribals) population in the agency areas sparsely distributed in small clusters. In general the tribal habitats are scattered homestead type, and the tribal people are experiencing with physical isolation and segregation due to the geographical and ecological factors. Many tribal villages are lacking proper infrastructural facilities and not developed much. This paper deals with the social, cultural, educational, political, economic and developmental aspects of Lammasingi village, located in the tribal sub-plan area of Paderu of Visakhapatnam district. It clearly depicts about the life of adivasis in the tribal settlement Lammasingi, which has ecological and atmospheric significance in Andhra Pradesh State. In recent times it gained tourist importance also.

## INTRODUCTION

Village studies gained much importance in the disciplines of sociology and anthropology since 1950's. The pioneer anthropologists and sociologists like Mckim Marriot ('55), Oscar Lewis ('58), Kathleen Gough ('52), Mandelbaum ('55), Bailey ('55), Beals ('55), Dube ('55) and Srinivas ('55), had contributed greatly on the study of the life of village people in different parts of India in the form of research articles. Most of these articles published in the *Economic & Political Weekly* between October 1951 and May 1954. M. N. Srinivas, a renowned sociologist who turned into anthropologist, focused his attention on the published works of fifteen authors (including him)

on various aspects pertaining to the rural villages in India, and brought his analytical study into the form of an edited volume '*India's Villages*' in the year 1955. Similarly Mckim Marriot in the same year ('55) also edited a volume titled "Village India" which comprises of several research articles written by different social scientists (including anthropologists) on the villages of India. The year 1955 was considered as a land mark for publication of village studies in India. Based on the empirical study of 'Rampura Village' by M. N. Srinivas the concept 'dominant caste' achieved significance in the literature of social sciences. The concepts "Universalization and Parochialization" were the outcome of the empirical study of Kishan Garhi village by Mckim Marriot. In recent times no such studies appeared in the social sciences literature. This research paper try to explain

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about the life of tribal people in Lammasingi village, located in Eastern Ghats forest environment of the State of Andhra Pradesh. At present this village topography, ecological and climatic conditions received very significant attention and attraction from environmental scientists, administrators, anthropologists and the media, due to extreme cold in winter and very pleasant weather in summer. Currently it has become as one of the important tourist place apart from Aruku Valley in Andhra Pradesh.

In this research paper the authors provided both quantitative and qualitative explanations about social, cultural and economic background of the tribes and castes in Lammasingi village. For all practical purpose this village is considered as a tribal settlement because around 95 per cent of its population are adivasis.

#### LAMMASINGI VILLAGE

Lammasingi is a tribal village which is attached to Chintapalle Mandal for administrative purpose. It is both a revenue and a panchayat village. For revenue administrative purpose about 18 hamlets are attached to this village. Under panchayat administration, a total of 25 hamlets are attached to this village. Under panchayat village status it consists of 727 households with a population of 2658 soul. Out of the total population 1263 (47.52%) are male persons and 1395 (52.48%) are female persons. The female population in this panchayat village is found to be more in number as compared to male population. In general the female sex ratio is slightly higher in tribal population when compared to caste population of the district of Visakhapatnam. The total population of this panchayat village is distributed in 25 settlements including Lammasingi. Lammasingi main village consists of 139 households with the population of 625 which constitute 23.5% to total population of the panchayat administrative village unit of Lammasingi. It is interesting to note that two uninhabited hamlets also found in the list of hamlets of Lammasingi village, provided by the Mandal Revenue Office of Chintapalle Mandal. The Table 1 shows the hamlet-wise population of Lammasingi panchayat village. It may be noted that tribe-wise population distribution is not available in the Mandal Revenue Office of Chintapalle mandal. Hence, hamlet-wise population

only shown in the table 1 for the entire panchayat village of lammasingi.

The village Lammasingi is located at a distance of 18 km from the Mandal headquarters of Chintapalle, towards eastern side. The distance between the village and the district headquarters is around 120 kilometres. It is well connected with the road transportation facility from Chintapalle and Visakhapatnam. This village has infrastructural facilities like, road, protected drinking water of bore wells, electricity, primary school, secondary school, girls ashram school, boys hostel, anganawadi centre, adult education centre, primary health centre, sub-centre, market of condiment shops, panchayat office, revenue office, and post office. This village has good educational facilities from primary to secondary. This village was selected for empirical study primarily because of its topography and the location of different educational institutions of co-education and exclusively a separate school for girls' education. The tribal children of this village and neighbouring villages are getting schooling facility here. The children belonging to different tribes are attending the schools and get benefiting with the formal education, free of cost.

Lammasingi village is surrounded by the forests, mountains and agricultural fields. Actually this village is located in a high altitude zone of Eastern Ghats; usually very lowest temperatures get recorded especially in the winter season and also receive highest rainfall during the Monsoon period. Coffee gardens are also found in the nearby forest, a considerable number of farmers of this village grow coffee and papper. The flora and fauna of forest is a source of income to the residents of this village, apart from agriculture. The economy of the tribal people of this village is agro-forest based and largely considered as subsistence economy. The tribes and castes are found in the village are Bagata, Valmiki, Konda Dora, Khond, Konda Kammara, Telukula, Koppula Velama and Kummari. It is a multi tribal village. Around 95% of population belongs to the tribes like Bagata, Valmiki, Konda Dora, and Konda Kammara; Around 5% of its population belong to the Hindu castes like Telukula, Koppula Velama and Kummari, these caste groups were migrated to this village from the plain areas of Narrisipatnam mandal of Visakhapatnam district.

TABLE 1  
Hamlet-wise households and population of Lammasingi panchayat

Sl. no.	Name of the revenue village/hamlet	Number of households	Population		Total	
			Males	Females	Abs.	%
1	Lammasingi	139	289	336	625	23.51
2	Cheruvavenam	20	20	35	55	2.07
3	Ringudu metta	28	58	65	123	4.63
4	Jalluru metta	40	78	69	147	5.53
5	Ramannapakalu	51	110	121	231	8.69
6	Chekkarai banda	25	48	50	98	3.69
7	Noothibanda	59	109	115	224	8.43
8	Gokulabanda	5	8	10	18	0.68
9	Jalagalagedda	2	6	9	15	0.56
10	Tekubanda	3	4	4	8	0.30
11	Banthe Bailu	30	36	44	80	3.01
12	Buradaveedhi	36	47	60	107	4.03
13	Rajubanda	42	67	71	138	5.19
14	Chittamgaruvu	12	23	22	45	1.69
15	Addalaveedhi	0	0	0	U.1*	—
16	Cheekatimandi	0	0	0	U.1*	—
17	Thotarai banda	2	4	3	7	0.26
18	Cheedimavidi Dibba	8	20	16	36	1.35
19	Asarada	23	32	41	73	2.75
20	Bheemanapalli	40	85	69	154	5.79
21	Labbangi	74	96	115	211	7.94
22	Chitralagoppa	37	54	59	113	4.25
23	Jangampakalu	13	16	24	40	1.50
24	Labbangi Kothaveedhi	18	25	27	52	1.96
25	Chinaraupakalu	20	28	30	58	2.18
	Total	727	1263	1395	2658	100.00

\*U.1= uninhabited

Source: MRO Office, Chintapalle, Visakhapatnam district

Majority of the village people are professing both Hinduism and animatisms (tribal religion). In recent times the impact of Christianity is also found in this village. About 15% of tribal families are following Christianity in the village.

Both the political bodies of traditional and statutory panchayats are functioning in the village. The village is inhabited by the tribes like Bagata, Valmiki, Konda Dora and Khond Kammara; and also by the caste groups, namely Telekala, Koppula Velama and Kummari. The numbers of Hindu caste families are less as compared to the tribal families. Both the castes and tribal communities are following patriarchal system, and nuclear families are found more in number. However a few joint or extended families are also found in this village.

Social divisions of family, lineage, clan, sub-tribe and tribe are found among the adivasis, of this

village. Similarly the social division like family, lineage, gotra, sub-caste and caste have been noted among the caste communities of the village. Tribal hierarchy and caste hierarchy are also noted among the ethnic groups of this village. Endogamy rule is strictly followed at the tribe and the caste level. Monogamy is the accepted form of marriage, however, a few polygamous marriages have also been found. Marriage by elopement, and capture are in practice among the tribal communities. Both levirate and sororate marriages have also been observed.

Widow remarriages are permitted in almost all the tribes of this village. For village administrative purpose, this village is attached with the small hamlets like Jalagalagedda, Vadagedda and Bantibayalu. The tribal children belonging to these hamlets also attend the schools, located in the Lammasingi village.

The Table 1 shows hamlet-wise households and population of Lammasingi village. From the table it is evident that 23.51% of population is found in the main village of Lammasingi. The rest of 76.49% of population is distributed in 22 hamlet villages of the statutory panchayat of Lammasingi. It is interesting

to note that currently two hamlets are uninhabited. The following Table 2 gives the demographic, social, economic, political and development aspects of the village Lammasingi based on the primary source of data collected during the period 2013-2014.

TABLE 2  
*Age and sex distribution of the population in Lammasingi village*

Age-groups (in years)	Sex distribution				Total	%
	Male	%	Female	%		
< 1	3	0.41	3	0.41	6	0.82
1-5	20	2.77	34	4.71	54	7.48
6-10	27	3.74	29	4.02	56	7.76
11-14	38	5.26	35	4.85	73	10.11
15-25	70	9.70	81	11.22	151	20.92
26-35	77	10.67	90	12.47	167	23.13
36-45	48	6.65	63	8.72	111	15.37
46-55	39	5.40	35	4.85	74	10.25
56-60	7	0.97	8	1.11	15	2.08
61+ above	4	0.55	11	1.52	15	2.08
Total	333	46.12	389	53.88	722	100.00

The Table 2 shows the age and sex distribution of the people in Lammasingi village. From the table it is evident that out of the total population of the village, 46.12% of them are male and 53.88% of them are females. The female population in the village is high as compared to male population. With regard to age-group distribution of the population, it is interesting to note that the aged tribal women are more in number as compared to aged tribal men in Lammasingi. It is also interesting to note that in general the aged population number among the neighbouring caste communities of the region. It is clear that the life expectation in caste population is

high when compared to tribal population. The reasons for it are poverty, economic backwardness, scanty of resources, high incidence of malnutrition, morbidity and mortality, as well as inaccessibility to health facilities.

The Table 3 shows the educational background of the people in the village Lammasingi. Out of the total population of the village, 35.87% of them are illiterates, and 8.03% of them are children who are not eligible to get enrolled in the school, 13.02% of them have primary level of education, 12.46% of them have upper primary level of education, 10.94% of them have secondary level of education, 6.79% of

TABLE 3  
*Educational status of the people in Lammasingi village*

Educational status	Sex distribution				Total	%
	Male	%	Female	%		
Illiterate	92	12.74	167	23.13	259	35.87
Primary	43	5.95	51	7.06	94	13.02
Upper primary	47	6.51	43	5.95	90	12.46
Secondary (SSC)	43	5.95	36	4.99	79	10.94
Intermediate	34	4.71	19	2.63	53	7.34
Degree	27	3.74	22	3.05	49	6.79
PG/professional courses	16	2.22	9	1.25	25	3.47
Technical education	10	1.39	5	0.69	15	2.08
Children below school age-group	21	2.91	37	5.13	58	8.03
Total	333	46.12	389	53.88	722	100.00

them have degree level of education qualifications, 3.47% of them have professional /postgraduate level of education, 2.08% of them have technical educational qualifications. It is evident that a good number of literates are found in the village because of availability of formal education facilities up to secondary level. A considerable number of government salaried employees are also found especially among Bagata and Valmiki tribes majority of employed youth found in the village and they are spending their valuable time for their economic prosperity. It is also observed through this educational statistical data, that the number of female literates are very less, as compared to the male literates in the village. This is mainly due to the preference of male child education and neglect of girl child education by the tribal parents of the village.

TABLE 4

*Occupational background of the people in Lammasingi*

Occupationalstatus	Persons	%
Agriculture	311	43.07
Agricultural labour	13	1.80
Government employment (job)	17	2.35
Private employment(job)	26	3.60
Business	8	1.11
Students	209	28.95
Political leaders	3	0.42
Home makers(domestic work)	54	7.48
Motor vehicle driving	12	1.66
Carpentry	2	0.28
Postman	1	0.14
Children	58	8.03
No work/ economic activity	8	1.11
Total	722	100.00

The Table 4 shows the occupational background of the people in Lammasingi village. Out of the total population of the village 43.07% of them are following agriculture, 1.80% of them are agricultural labourers, 2.35% of them are government employees, 3.60% of them are working as employees in non-government organizations, 1.11% of them are in business profession, 0.42% of them are engaged in political activities, 7.48% of women are exclusively confined to household chores, 1.66% of them are motor vehicle drivers, 0.28% of them are children and 1.11% of them are not doing any work as listed above. It is noted that, out of the total population, 28.95% of them are students who are attending the

schools, located in the village. It is evident, that the tribal children in Lammasingi village have very much access to the formal schooling and availing the concessions and provisions as given under the Right to Education Act 2009 in a better manner, as compared to the educational scenario in the interior tribal settlements of Viskha agency area.

TABLE 5

*Traditional skills of the people in Lammasingi village*

Traditional skills	People	%
No knowledge	693	95.98
Make agricultural tools	22	3.05
Herbal medicine	5	0.70
Basket making	1	0.14
Pujari (Disari Guruvu/priest)	1	0.14
Total	722	100.00

The Table 5 shows the traditional skills and knowledge of the tribal people in Lammasingi village. Out of the total people in the village, 95.98% of them do not possess any kind of traditional knowledge and skills. Only 4.02% of them have traditional knowledge and skills in making agricultural tools, basket making, herbal medicine and priestly profession. In general a considerable number of tribal farmers have knowledge in repairing of the agricultural implements and equipments.

TABLE 6

*Age of the head of households in Lammasingi village*

Age-groups(in years)	People	%
20-30	12	6.85
31-40	53	30.29
41-50	48	27.43
51-60	39	22.29
61+ above	23	13.14
Total	175	100.00

The Table 6 shows the age-group of the head of the households (respondents) in Lammasingi village. It is observed that about 57.72% of the head of households fall in the age-group of 31-50 years. The head of the households take the responsibility to look after the welfare of the other members of the family in all respects including the education of the children. Out of the total head of households, 70.86% of them are male persons, and 29.14% of them are female persons. In general the eldest male child inherits the

headship position when he grows up. In absence of a male member in the family the eldest female in the family holds the headship position. Almost all the tribal communities in Lammasingi village follow patriarchal system of rule of residence and descent. Hence only the males have the right over their parental and ancestral property.

TABLE 7  
*Number of households (respondents) under different castes and tribes in Lammasingi village*

Tribe/Caste	Number	%
Bagata	49	28.00
Valmiki	62	35.43
Konda Dora	2	1.10
Khond	34	19.43
Konda Kammara	18	10.29
Telakala	8	4.57
Koppula Velama	1	0.57
Kummari	1	0.57
Total	175	100.00

Table 7 shows the number of respondents with their respective households in Lammasingi under different castes and tribes of the village. Out of the total 175 households, 35.43% of households belong to Valmiki tribe, 28% of household belong to Bagata tribe, and 19.43% of households belong to Khond tribe. 10.29% of households belong to Konda Kammara tribe and 1.14% of households belong to Konda Dora tribe. The rest 10 households (5.61%) belong to different castes like Telakala, Koppula Velama and Kummari. Lammasingi is a multiracial village, the caste population in the village are immigrants from the nearby plain areas (non-scheduled areas) of the region, and the caste families have settled in this village for business purpose. Children belonging to both tribes and castes attend the local schools of primary and secondary levels.

TABLE 8  
*Village/hamlet-wise households in Lammasingi*

Village/Hamlet	Number of households	%
Jelagalagedda	9	5.14
Vadagedda	15	8.57
Banthe Bailu	12	6.86
Lammasingi (main village)	139	79.43
Total	175	100.00

Lammasingi village is attached with another three hamlets namely Jalagalgedda, Vadagedda, Banthibailu for village administrative purpose (see Table 8). The main village Lammasingi consists of 139 (79.43%) households, Vadagedda consists of 15 (8.57%) households, Banthibailu consists of 12(6.86%) households and Jelagalagedda consists of 9 (5.14%) households. The children belonging to all these four settlements attend the primary, upper primary and secondary schools in Lammasingi village.

TABLE 9  
*Types of houses in Lammasingi village and in hamlets*

Type of houses	Number	%
R.C.C. buildings	17	9.71
Tiled roofed houses	17	9.71
Asbestos roofed houses	127	72.57
Thatched houses	14	8.00
Total	175	100.00

The Table 9 shows the types of houses in the Lammasingi village including hamlets. Out of the total 175 households, 72.57% of houses are of asbestos roofed type, 9.71% of the houses are R.C.C buildings, another 9.71% of houses are having tiled roofed type, and 8% of the houses are of thatched type. The thatched types of traditional houses are much less in number (8%). In the village 92% of the families have been benefited by the housing scheme of the government in different periods of time.

TABLE 10  
*Households of Lammasingi village having number of rooms in the house*

Number of rooms	Number of households	%
Single room	95	54.28
Two rooms	73	41.71
Three rooms	2	1.14
Four rooms	2	1.14
Five rooms	3	1.72
Total	175	100.00

The Table 10 shows the number of rooms in the house of Lammasingi village households. Out of the total houses, about 54.28% of houses have verandah, 41.7% of the houses have two rooms; only 4.01% of the houses have three to five rooms in the house

structure, where joint or extended type of families reside.

TABLE 11  
*Source of drinking water to the resident of Lammasingi village*

Source of drinking water	Number of families	%
Stream/spring	45	25.71
Open well	3	1.71
Bore well	63	36.00
Tap/piped water	12	6.86
Bore well/tap	40	22.86
Stream and tap	9	5.14
Stream and bore well	3	1.72
Total	175	100.00

Table 11 shows the source of drinking water to the residents of Lammasingi. The major sources of drinking water to the people of this village are, spring, stream, open well, bore well and piped water. Out of the total households, 36% of households are exclusively using well for drinking purpose, 25.7% of households are using stream and spring water for drinking purpose, 22.86% of households are using bore well and piped water for drinking purpose, 6.86% of the households are using bore well and piped (tap) water for drinking purpose; 1.72% of households are using stream and bore well water for drinking purpose. It is noted that majority of the families in Jelagalagedds, Vadagedda, Banthibailu are mainly using the stream and spring water for drinking purpose and moreover these settlements are located near by the stream.

The residents of Lammasingi main village have protected drinking water facilities of bore well and piped water; the hamlets of this village are lacking such facility. In general, still large majority of the tribal families mostly depend on spring and stream water sources for domestic and drinking purposes. The local schools are having bore well water facility, but the tribal students are preferring the spring and treated piped water for drinking purpose, because the bore well water contains fluorine content, hence the students are accustomed to drinking spring and stream water since their childhood at their respective houses. So thus even in the school, they prefer to drink these sources of water, rather than using protected drinking

water facility available to them there. In summer months, the tribal people in the agency area are facing very acute drinking water problem and the tribal women in many villages walk miles together to fetch the potable water for drinking and other domestic purposes.

It is observed in the village that 76.57% of the households have electricity facility, only 14.29% of households having toilet facility, still 70.86% of the households are using fire wood as cooking fuel. About 1.71% of households are using H.P. gas for cooking purpose, and 27.43% of households are using both H.P. gas and fire wood for cooking purposes. It was found that about 92% of households are not having proper drainage system. About 8% of the houses are attached with cattle shed, 8.57% of the houses have separate cattle shed nearby their residence. It is observed in the village that 22.86% of the families have kitchen garden in the backyard of their respective of houses; about 27.43% of houses having separate cattle shed nearby their residence. About 27.43% of houses are having separate bathroom facility. With regard to the ventilation of houses, 24% of houses are having good ventilation, 58.86% of houses have moderate ventilation and 17.14% of houses are having very poor ventilation in their houses.

Regarding the possession of modern amenities about 57.7% of households contain the modern amenities like, television, mixi, fan, mobile phone, DVD player, pressure cooker, etc and 42.29% of the families do not own modern amenities in the village. Almost all the families in the village are availing the free ration through public distribution system of Girijan Cooperation Domestic Requirements Depot, about 94.86% families possess white ration cards, and 5.14% of families having pink ration card. In the village, about 13.14% of the head of households are

TABLE 12  
*Family size of the households in Lammasingi*

Family size	Households	%
Single member	4	2.28
Two members	18	10.29
Three members	33	18.86
Four members	56	32.00
Five members	31	17.71
Six and above members	33	18.86
Total	175	100.00

holding the political positions like ward member, panchayat president, member in traditional Panchayat, and member in statutory Panchayat and cooperative society.

The Table 12 shows the family size of the households in Lammasingi village. It is evident from the table that 32% of households are having the family size of four members, 18.86% of families having the family size of three members and same percentage of households are observed in the family size of six and above members. 10.29 % of households are having the family size of two members, and 2.28% of households are having the family size of single member. It is to be noted that the single member families are the broken families in the village.

The average family size in the village is around 4.13 members. In the village three types of families were noted, namely nuclear, joint and extended. More than 95% of the families are nuclear type; only 5% of the families are joint and extended type of families. Majority of the married couple in the reproductive age-group are following the family planning norms. A considerable number of permanent sterilization cases have also been noted. Among the permanent sterilization cases majority are tubectomy. A few vasectomy cases are also noted in the village as stated by the informants. It is observed in the village that at present, the married couples are following the small family norm. It is also noted that in majority of the households, one or two school going children are found.

#### *Household Economy of the Village*

The economy of the tribes in the village is agro-forest based and largely considered as subsistence economy. The major sources of income for the households in this village are non-timber forest produce (NTFP) collection, agricultural produce, and from the live stock. In addition to these almost all the families get income through Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act scheme (MGNREGA) in every year. A few families in the village get income through government employment, and business.

The Table 13 shows the annual income levels of the households in Lammasingi. From the table it is

TABLE 13  
*Annual income of the households in Lammasingi during 2013-2014*

Annual income	Households	%
₹ 10,000 and below	18	10.29
₹ 10001-30,000	69	39.43
₹ 30,001-50,000	40	22.86
₹ 50,001-70,000	17	9.71
₹ 70,001-90,000	10	5.71
₹ 90,001 and above	21	12.00
Total	175	100.00

noted that 39.43% of households stand at the income level of ₹ 10,001-30,000, 22.86% of families falls in the income level of ₹ 30,001- 50,000, 12 % of families falls in the income level of ₹ 90,001 and above, 10.29% of families fall in the income level of ₹ 10,000 and below, 9.1% of families falls in the income level of ₹ 50,001-70,000 and 5.71% of families falls in the income level of ₹ 70,001-90,000. It is noted that in the village the highest annual income group is found mainly in salaried employees and families pursuing business, majority of such families are found among Bagata tribe and Valmiki tribe. Large majority of the tribal peasant families get very low income from agriculture. Crop failure is the main cause due to untimely rains and low rainfall.

Forest environment deterioration is the causes for it. Majority families among vulnerable tribes stand at below poverty line. Economic situation of the tribes is very much associated with the literacy and schooling of tribal children. However, currently majority of the tribal people in the village are availing the facility of free and compulsory education as per the recent Right to Education Act. Still certain number of out-of school children are found especially among the vulnerable tribal households of Khond tribe in the village. Poverty and economic backwardness are the major causes for low literacy among adivasis, similar situation is found in the Visakha agency especially among the vulnerable tribes like Khond, Porja, and Gadaba. The education situation of Khond tribe in Lammasingi village is akin to the educational background of the V.T.G.S. (Vulnerable Tribal Group Students) in the sub-plan area of Visakhapatnam district.



TABLE 14  
Annual expenditure of the households in Lammasingi during 2013-2014

Annual expenditure	Households	%
₹ 1,000 and below	40	22.86
₹ 10,001-30,000	92	52.57
₹ 30,001-50,000	22	12.57
₹ 50,001-70,000	12	6.86
₹ 70,001-90,000	1	0.57
₹ 90,001 and above	5	2.86
Not responded	3	1.71
Total	175	100.00

The Table 14 shows the annual expenditure levels of the households in Lammasingi village during 2013-2014. From the table it is noted that 52.57% families annual expenditure ranges in between ₹ 10001 and ₹ 30,000, 22.86% of families annual expenditure ranges in between ₹ 10,000 and below, 12.57% of households annual expenditure ranges in between ₹ 30,001 and ₹ 50,000, 6.86% of families annual expenditure ranges in between ₹ 50,001 and ₹ 70,000 (0.57%) A single family annual income ranges in between ₹ 70001 and 90,000, and 2.86% families annual income in between ₹ 90001 and above rupees. It is evident that large majority of the families annual expenditure is not exceeding ₹ 50,000. In most of the families the annual income and expenditure are very much balanced. In general tribals lead a very simple life. However, they borrow loan for meeting the expenditure of socio-ceremonial and religious purposes from the banks and non-tribal money lenders and traders.

TABLE 15  
Incidence of indebtedness among the households of Lammasingi village

Levels of indebtedness	Households	%
₹ 10,000 and below	55	31.43
₹ 10001-30,000	41	23.43
₹ 30001-50,000	11	6.28
₹ 50001-70,000	3	1.71
₹ 90,000 and above	5	2.86
No indebtedness	60	34.29
Total	175	100.00

The Table 15 shows the incidence of indebtedness among the households of Lammasingi. It is evident

from the table that 65.71% of the households are experiencing the problem of indebtedness and around 34.29% of families are free from the debts. Majority of the families in no-debt category belongs to Bagata tribe and Valmiki tribe. The literacy rate is also relatively high among these two tribes as compared to the literacy levels of the other tribes like Khond, Konda Kammara and Konda Dora.

It is also noted from the table that 31.43% of the families fall in the debt amount range of ₹ 10001 and below, 23.43% of families fall in the debt amount range of ₹ 30,001 and 50,000, 1.71% of families fall in the debt amount range of ₹ 90,000 and above. In general the problem of indebtedness is very common in the tribal society. The earlier research studies on the tribal problems also clearly reveals about it. A large majority of the *adivasis* in different tribal pockets are being exploited by the non-tribal moneylenders in the area of marketing and extending credit facility to them with high rate of interest. With regard to tribal indebtedness there is a saying that 'a tribal is born in debt, lives in debt and finally dies in debt'. That means the problem of indebtedness in tribal societies perpetuates through generations after generations.

TABLE 16  
Amount of savings by households in Lammasingi during 2013-2014

Amount of savings	Households	%
₹ 1000 and below	103	58.86
₹ 10001- 30,000	29	16.57
₹ 30001-50,000	1	0.57
₹ 90001 and above	1	0.57
No savings	41	23.43
Total	175	100.00

The Table 16 shows the saving amount of the households in the village Lammasingi. It is noted that in the village at present the tribal women are saving some amounts and depositing that in the bank under DWACRA scheme of SHG compulsorily in every month. Because of this reason a considerable number of families have accumulated saving amounts. However, certain number of families also saving some amount under L.I.C Policy scheme, post office, and in banks. From the table it is noted that 58.86% of families having the saving amount range

of ₹ 1000 and below, 16.57% of the families are having the saving amount range of ₹ 1,000-30,000, and a single family (0.57%) is having saving amount of ₹ 50,000, and another single family having the saving amount of ₹ 90,000. About 23.43% families do not have any savings. More number of families which having saving amount are found among the Bagata tribe and Valmiki tribe of the village.

TABLE 17  
*Benefits received by the households through government during the last five years*

Types of benefit received	Households	%
Housing	5	2.86
Agricultural land	2	1.14
Coffee plants and pepper seedlings	88	50.29
Milch cattle	1	0.57
Housing and coffee plants	1	0.57
Subsidy loan for agriculture purpose	68	38.86
Not received	10	5.71
Total	175	100.00

The Table 17 presents the benefits received by the households from Integrated Tribal Development Agency (I.T.D.A.) during the last five years from the date of the field work carried out. From the table it is noted that 50.29% of the families received materials for the coffee plants and pepper seeding, 38.86% of households received subsidy loan for agriculture purpose, 2.86% of families benefited under the housing scheme, 1.14% of families received *patta* agricultural lands; a single family got the benefited of having milch cattle, and another single family received the benefit of housing and coffee plants. It is observed that the climatic conditions of the forest environment here is suitable for growing coffee and pepper crops. The organic coffee of Visakha agency is very popular in international market. It is clear that almost all the tribal families in the village, except the families belonging to castes, are benefited with the economic programmes of I.T.D.A., and the welfare programmes of public distribution system, apart from the educational and health programmes. It is observed that large majority of the households in Lammasingi main village benefited very much with the formal

education, due to the availability of such facility within the jurisdiction of the village. The neighbouring tribal villages are also availing the free education facility from primary and secondary schools which are located in Lammasingi village.

## CONCLUSION

The main village Lammasingi has proper infrastructural facilities as compared to the hamlets of this panchyat. Valmiki tribe is numerically and politically the dominant community whereas the Bagata tribe is the economically dominant group in the village. Bagata is the dominant tribe in Visakha agency area of Andhra Pradesh. Konda Kammara is an artisan tribe and is still mainly depending on their profession as blacksmith and on carpentry works. The Khond tribe is a vulnerable tribal group and the people belonging to this tribe are still living in a backward economic condition. They are not been able to availing the health, education and other civic amenities fully, as they are experiencing the problems of illiteracy, malnutrition, morbidity, economic deprivation and social exclusion. The village Lammasingi, the main village, is having proper education facility up to secondary school level along with residential hostels for both the boys and the girls. The economy of the people in this village is agro-forestry based and is still largely considered as a subsistence economy. With the intervention of Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA), Paderu, this village is showing some progress, however, the development of the Khond tribe is very slow. It is observed in the village that majority of the tribal people of the village at present are participating in the ongoing development process of the village, being mandal and sub plan area of Paderu. It is felt that more focus is needed on the development of the Khond tribe by the government, and specifically by the I.T.D.A. of Paderu, to bring this tribe on par with Bagata, Valmiki, and Konda Dora tribes. Awareness creation, motivation and capacity building among the tribal population are much more needed through participatory action research programmes by the NGOs and anthropologists and the intervention programmes of the government and non-government agencies for their inclusive growth and development.

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