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malnutrition

ANTHROPOLOGY SNIPPET-147



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Issue

Children belonging to Chenchu tribe in Andhra Pradesh suffer from malnutrition owing to lack of proper diet. They are deprived of clothing and medical facilities too.

Background

Chenchus live in deplorable conditions and their children suffer from undergrowth and various skin diseases. In a recent study, a team of Labour Department officials identified that Chenchu tribal families are neglected a lot and

their children are suffering from various problems including malnutrition.

Details

The Chenchus

- The Chenchus are Adivasi, a designated Scheduled Tribe in the Indian states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka and Odisha.
- They are an aboriginal tribe whose traditional way of life has been based on hunting and gathering. The Chenchus speak the Chenchu language, a member of the Dravidian language family.
- The Chenchus are abundantly found in Nallamala hills of Andhra Pradesh near Srisailem National park.
- The Chenchus are referred to as one of the Primitive Tribal Groups that are still dependent

on forests and do not cultivate land but hunt for a living.

Racial features

Chenchus have short stature with long head, good eyebrows with flat nose. They have jet curly hair and their complexion vary from wheat grey to brown with broad face.

Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG)

- Tribal communities are often identified by some specific signs such as primitive traits, distinctive culture, geographical isolation, shyness to contact with the community at large and backwardness.
- Along with these, some tribal groups have some specific features such as dependency on hunting, gathering for food, having pre-agriculture level of technology, zero or negative growth of population and extremely low level of literacy. These groups are called Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups.

- PVTGs are more vulnerable among the tribal groups. Due to this factor, more developed and assertive tribal groups take a major chunk of the tribal development funds, because of which PVTGs need more funds directed for their development.
- 75 tribal groups have been categorized by Ministry of Home Affairs as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG)s. PVTGs reside in 18 States and UT of A&N Islands.