

## **The Role of Makkala Mane – (The Home for Destitute Children) in the Development of Koraga Children - A Sociological Study**

**MANJUNATHA ACHARY**

Assistant Professor of Sociology  
Lakshmi Soma Bangera Government First Grade College  
Kota Padukere, Udupi District (Karnataka) India

### **ABSTRACT**

‘Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world’ - Nelson Mandela

The farsightedness of the founders of the nation in providing ample importance to educational growth has paid rich dividends to us as a nation. After independence, the policy makers worked hard to transfer the elitist system of education created by the British into a mass based education built on the principles of equality and social justice. Right to education was made a fundamental right with the formulation of the Right to Education Act in 1986. However there has been lot of challenges and shortcomings in this journey. Access to education is still a dream for many especially the SCs and STs. The present study was under taken to evaluate the role of Makkala Mane – the home for destitute children in the development of Koraga children of Kumbhashi village, Kundapura in Udupi district. Makkala Mane was established in the year 2013 at Kumbhashi with the objectives of providing basic facilities like food, shelter, education, recreation, a space for self development and shaping them self reliant, responsible citizens. The present paper reveals the functioning of Makkala Mane in the development of Koraga children.

**Key Words :** Makkala Mane, Destitute, Koraga, Elitist, Kumbhashi

### **INTRODUCTION**

The greatest challenge the Government of India has been facing since independence is the proper provision of social justice to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribe people by improving their socio-economic conditions. Though they are the citizens of the same country they have been subjected to the worst form of exploitation. They are virtually deprived of many civic facilities and placed apart from modern and civilized way of living since many years. The development of the tribal population in India has been a major concern of the Government, Voluntary agencies, NGOs, Social reformers and Social scientists. The biggest drawback in the tribal development planning in India has been the clubbing together of these tribes. The existence of a scheme does not ensure its utility to all on the other hand those who are already ahead

and less in need of these provisions do take maximum advantage. Their primitive way of life, economic and social backwardness, low level of literacy, hackneyed system of production, absence of value system, sparse physical infrastructure in backward tribal areas coupled together make it necessary for a systematic process of development of tribal areas (Singh, 2010) and Yojana, 2016).

#### **Koragas:**

Koragas, Kudiyas (Malekudiyas) and Maratis are the three tribal communities are found in the undivided Udupi Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka State and Kasargod district of Kerala state of these Koragas are a primitive tribe, the other two are scheduled tribes. In Karnataka Koraga tribal people are identified as particular vulnerable tribal groups. According to 2011 census their

population is around 22,000. Koragas are a primitive tribal community in its most pristine definition but with a difference. They live in villages along with other communities, which belies the belief that theirs' is an isolated life. But they have their own settlement called Koppa in the villages. They speak a distinctive language or dialect, possess a common culture that distinguishes them from other people. According to Buchanan their languages differs considerably from that of any other tribes in the peninsula. Literacy and education were a far cry in the case of Koragas. Poverty, sanitation, ill health, superstitious beliefs and some social problems among the Koragas are weelding dragging effect on the Indian society. Majority of Koraga families are engaged in making baskets by using creeps, canes and bamboos by splitting and weaving them artistically. Now-a-days majority of them working as daily wage labourers (Vasudevan, 1998; Pujar *et al.*, 2017).

#### **Makkala Mane - Home for Destitute Children:**

Makkala mane– Home for destitute children was established in the year 2013 in Kumbhashi, Kundapur Taluk of Udupi District to provide basic facilities like food, shelter, education and recreation. The prime motivation is to provide the children a space for self-development and enabling them to become self-reliant, responsible citizen and to brought the ray of hope to expand – Makkala mane for bringing more smile on the faces of less fortunate children.

Makkala mane Kumbhashi is run by a committee of 13 members headed by a president. Once in two months they sit together to discuss the matters relating to the improvement of the children. Integrated Tribal Development Project of Udupi District has been providing financial assistance for food and salary of the teachers. Local panchayat, leaders of different communities, businessmen are supporting the activities of the Makkala mane in the form kind and cash. Children are provided with morning break-fast, lunch in the afternoon, snacks in the evening and supper in the night. They prepared a time table for the smooth functioning of activities. Two teachers have been appointed for giving tuitions to the inmates. Their role is very significant in the development children in the Makkala mane (Prasad and Sinha, 2012).

Makkala mane is not only provided with basic infrastructure facilities but also it organizes various extra-curricular activities for the overall development of the children such as spoken English, improving hand writing,

essay writing, prepare the students in the art of elocution, folksongs, craft, leadership, personality development, removal of superstitious beliefs, social responsibility, etc.

Educational level	Total children	Boys	Girls	Percentage
Primary	13	09	04	81.25
Secondary	01	01	--	6.25
PUC	02	02	--	12.5
Degree	--	--	--	--
PG	--	--	--	--
Eng/Med/Tech	--	--	--	--
Total	16	12	04	--

#### **Objectives of the study:**

Basically the present study aims to know about the role of makkala mane in the development of Koraga children of Kumbhashi village, Kundapura Taluk, Udupi District. The study was conducted with the following objectives:

- 1) To know about the functioning of Makkala mane.
- 2) To understand the conditions of the children in the Makkala mane.
- 3) To examine the educational (academic) improvement among the children.
- 4) To observe the health conditions of the children.
- 5) To evaluate the role of Makkala mane in the development of Koraga children.

#### **Scope of the study:**

The present study aims to understand the role of Makkala mane – home for destitute children in the development of Koraga children of Kumbhashi village of Udupi District. The study has focused on the impact of socio-economic conditions of the Koraga families in the educational achievement of their children. It also throws light on the contribution of Makkalamane in bringing changes in the Koraga community of Kambashi village of Udupi District.

#### **Methodology:**

The present study was understand to understand the role of Makkala mane – home for destitute children in the development of Koraga children of Kumbhashi village, Udupi District. Since it is a small community and number of inmates in the Makkala mane is very limited, interview schedule has been used as a suitable research tool to collect the primary data. As the present study

aims to understand the role of Makkala mane in the development of Koraga children, the inmates of the Makkala mane are considered as sample units for the study.

**Findings:**

The following are the summaries of the findings from the primary data collected from the respondents.

Age group of the respondents revealed that 87% of the respondents are between the age group of 6 to 16 years followed by 13% are between the age of 16 to 18 years. It is observed that majority of the respondents are below the age of 18.

The family background of the respondents is taken into consideration keeping in mind that it is an important information to the study. It was found that all the respondents are belonging to the poor families.

The nature of occupational structure determines the individual personality and standard of living.

The study shows that 60% are engaged as daily wage labourers, 14% are in basket making, 16% are working as scavengers at hospitals, panchayat, hotels etc., and remaining 10% are of the parents are engaged in masonic work.

Literacy level of the parents of the respondents are concerned it was found that majority of them are illiterate.

It was also observed that majority of the families of the respondents are not having the infrastructure facilities.

It was found that few parents of the respondents are engaging in gambling prostitution and alcoholism.

The study also reveals that majority of the parents are ignorant toward the education of their children.

Educational aspects of the respondents revealed that 81.25% are primary schools, 6.25% are in high schools and 12.5% of the respondents are in the high schools.

It is emphasized that due to the efforts of the Makkala mane Koraga children are becoming educated.

Regarding the sociability of the Koraga children is concerned it was found that they showed much

confidence in their attitude.

It was worth to note that due to their association with Makkala mane majority of the respondents have improved their academic performance.

It was observed that some of the respondents have been participated in various cultural and sports competition at different levels and own the prizes.

It was also observed that due to their association with Makkala mane the health conditions of the respondents have been improved.

Regarding the social atmosphere of Makkala mane is concerned it was found that the respondents are very much satisfied.

**Conclusion:**

The development of the Tribal community is essential for the development of the nation. Bringing these tribals into the main stream of development is a major concern for the government and non-governmental organization. In this regard Makkala mane – a home for the destitute children is playing a significant role in the development of Koraga children by providing the children a space for self-development – and enabling them to become self-reliant and responsible citizen.

**REFERENCES**

Prasad, Ravishankar and Sinha, Pramod Kumar (2012). Tribal Development in India, Anmol Publications Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.

Pujar, A., Hoogar, P. and Basavanagowda, T.T. (2017). An Anthropometric Profile among the Korga Tribe of Udupi District, Karnataka State. *Internat. J. Adv. Res.*, 5(2) : 685-689.

Singh, Sheobahal (2010). Sociology of Development ,Rawat Publications, Jaipur.

Vasudevan, C. (1998). Koragas – The Forgotten Lot, The Primitive Tribe of Tulu Nadu. The Ethos, Trichur, Kerala. Yojana (January 2016).

\*\*\*\*\*