SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL EXCLUSION OF WAYANAD'S ADIYA TRIBE IN KERALA

Corresponding Author: C.K. Raseena, Research Scholar (Part Time), Department of Sociology and Social Work, Annamalai University, Tamil Nadu.

Or

Co-Authors: Dr. K. Somasundaran, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology and Social Work, Annamalai University, Tamil Nadu

KEYWORDS	ABSTRACT
Adiya Tribe, Socio-Economic Exclusion, Political Integration	The study explores the socio-economic and political conditions contributing to the exclusion of the Adiya Tribe in Wayanad, Kerala. The primary objectives include analyzing socio-economic factors and examining political barriers hindering the integration of tes community into mainstream society. The Adiya Tribe, representing approximately 7.31% of Wayanad's tribal population, has faced persistent socio-economic challenges despite the abolition of bonded labor and various rehabilitation efforts. Data was collected in 2022 using a descriptive research design with qualitative methods. A multistage random sampling technique was employed during the pilot study, selecting 50 respondents, predominantly female (71.5%), from the Gram Panchayats of Thirunelli and Pulpalli. In-depth interviews and focus group discussions were used to gather primary data, complemented by secondary data from government records, census data, and scholarly research. The thematic analysis approach was used for analyzing socio-economic barriers, educational challenges, healthcare access, land issues, and political participation, with a particular focus on the tribe's cultural practices and traditional governance systems.

INTRODUCTION

The Adiya tribe, a marginalized community in Wayanad, Kerala, exemplifies the socio-economic and political exclusion faced by tribal groups in India. Historically, the Adiyas were labeled as a "slave" sect, a term derived from the Malayalam word *adiyan*, meaning slave. The categorization originated from their historical role as bonded laborers for landlords during

Kerala's feudal era (Aswathy et al., 2018). Although legislative measures such as the Bonded Labour (Abolition) Act aimed to eradicate bonded labor and rehabilitate affected communities, the Adiya tribe continues to grapple with profound challenges. Characterized by widespread poverty, limited access to education, and inadequate healthcare, the Adiyas remain among the most vulnerable tribal populations. The 2011 Census reveals that tribal groups constitute only 1.4% of Kerala's population, with Wayanad hosting the highest concentration of these communities, including the Adiyas (Chandrakumar, 2018; Nayar, 2007).

The extent of socio-economic exclusion experienced by the Adiyas is reflected in alarming statistical indicators. A study on tribal agricultural laborers in Wayanad reports that the Adiya community faces an overall exclusion rate of 66.38%, with economic deprivation being the most severe at 74.54%. Political and legal exclusion further compounds their marginalization, with nearly 69.89% of respondents expressing a lack of political representation and disenfranchisement (Chandrakumar, 2018; Paul, 2014). Also, their geographical isolation limits access to essential services and economic opportunities, creating a cycle of poverty and exclusion that persists across generations.

Addressing the socio-economic and political exclusion of the Adiya tribe requires a multifaceted and inclusive approach. Targeted interventions should enhance access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities while ensuring the preservation of their cultural identity. Legal reforms must safeguard their political rights and guarantee representation in local governance structures. Empowering women within the Adiya community is equally vital, as they face compounded layers of marginalization within their families and the broader societal framework (Nayar, 2007; Nalinam, 2016). By fostering social inclusion and economic empowerment, it is possible to rectify historical injustices and pave the way for a more equitable future for the Adiya tribe.

Review of Literature

The review of literature plays a crucial role in research by providing a comprehensive understanding of the existing knowledge on a topic, identifying research gaps, and shaping the framework for further inquiry. It aids in contextualizing findings, validating methodologies, and ensuring a critical examination of prior studies to build a strong foundation for the research.

The study by Aswathy et al. (2018) explored social exclusion among 90 Adiya respondents through a structured questionnaire, revealing an exclusion rate of 66.38%. Economic

exclusion, the most pronounced, stood at 74.54%, highlighting the pressing need for developmental interventions for the marginalized community. Similarly, Saseendran, Prasanth, et al.(2020) examined barriers in the educational attainment of tribal children in Wayanad, including the Adiyas. Using participatory observation and questionnaires, it identified cultural factors as significant contributors to low enrollment and high dropout rates, perpetuating socio-economic exclusion. Chandrakumar (2021) provided a gendered perspective, focusing on Adiya women agricultural laborers. The study revealed their vital economic contributions but emphasized their marginalization due to societal discrimination. Using qualitative methods, it highlighted the dual burden faced by women within and outside their communities. Paul (2014) analyzed the historical roots of the Adiya tribe's socio-economic challenges through interviews and surveys. It linked historical enslavement to their persistent exclusion and highlighted the role of historical injustices in shaping current socio-economic disparities. In the domain of health, Nalinam (2016) identified high morbidity rates within the Adiya community. Using a quantitative approach with 150 respondents, it found socio-economic conditions to be important determinants of poor health outcomes, underscoring the interplay between health and exclusion. Bhasin (2007) explored the socio-economic and political status of tribal women across India, including the Adiyas. The findings emphasized the compounded effects of caste and gender-based discrimination, exacerbating their exclusion from multiple domains. Chandrakumar (2021) further analyzed socio-political barriers faced by Adiya laborers, advocating for increased political representation to address their needs and reduce exclusion levels. Haseena et al. (2015) assessed various exclusion dimensions among the Adiya tribe, using a structured questionnaire with 90 respondents. The study revealed economic exclusion as the most significant barrier, with a rate of 74.54%. Educational attainment was found to inversely correlate with exclusion, emphasizing the need for targeted educational interventions. Dubey (1977) analyzed factors influencing development among Adiya laborers in Wayanad. Using random sampling and qualitative interviews, the study highlighted the historical oppression and political exclusion of the tribe, advocating for policy reforms to integrate tribal perspectives into development initiatives. Nayar et al. (2007) investigated tribal health disparities in Wayanad through mixed-methods research involving over a hundred households. It found that limited access to healthcare services stemmed from both economic constraints and systemic discrimination. Suresh et al. (2014) focused on educational barriers faced by the Adiya tribe, identifying financial constraints

and cultural attitudes as significant obstacles. The study recommended enhancing educational infrastructure to reduce exclusion and improve community well-being.

The existing body of research underscores the multidimensional challenges faced by the Adiya Tribe, including social, economic, educational, and health-related exclusions. It emphasizes the urgent need for targeted interventions and inclusive policies to address systemic disparities and uplift the marginalized community. But, while studies have explored the socio-economic challenges of the Adiya Tribe, there is limited research examining the intersection of political barriers and socio-economic factors contributing to their exclusion. It highlights the need for a comprehensive analysis to facilitate their integration into mainstream society.

OBJECTIVES

1. To analyze the socio-economic factors contributing to the exclusion of Wayanad's Adiya Tribe in Kerala.
2. To examine the political conditions and barriers affecting the integration of Wayanad's Adiya Tribe into mainstream society.

UNIVERSE OF THE STUDY

The Adiya tribe in Wayanad, Kerala, constitutes a prominent Scheduled Tribe community, representing approximately 7.31% of the region's tribal population of 153,181 individuals (Kerala Tourism, 2023). Traditionally known as Ravulayar, the Adiya were historically bonded laborers under landlords, a status abolished through the Bonded Labour (Abolition) Act. Though, socio-economic challenges persist despite rehabilitation efforts (Tribal Research Institute, 2020). Adiya households predominantly follow a nuclear family structure, typically led by male heads, with their livelihoods centered on agriculture. The community is renowned for their expertise as laborers in cultivating cash crops such as coffee and ginger (IOSR Journals, 2017). Politically, the tribe retains a traditional governance system led by a chief, reflecting its hierarchical social structure (Kerala Tourism, 2023). Despite the influence of modernization, Adiya women remain integral to sustaining household economies while navigating socio-cultural barriers.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study employed a descriptive research design to analyze the social exclusion of the Adiyad tribal community in Wayanad, Kerala. Data collection was conducted in 2022, utilizing qualitative methods. Primary data was gathered through in-depth interviews, alongside focus group discussions, to ensure comprehensive and relevant information. Secondary data was

obtained from government records, census data, and scholarly research to enhance the analysis. A multistage random sampling method was employed during the pilot study selecting 50 respondents both male and female to ensure scientific rigor and representativeness. Thematic analysis has used to analysis the data.

The study area was selected from the Gram Panchayats of Thirunelli and Pulpalli in Wayanad district, situated in Mananthavady and Sulthan Bathery Thaluks, respectively. These Panchayats were chosen due to their high concentration of Adiyad tribal households, making the sample representative of the target population.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

I. Socio-Economic Factors Contributing To The Exclusion Of Wayanad's Adiya Tribe

Table 1: Thematic Analysis of Challenges in Securing Stable and Sustainable Livelihoods

Theme	Code	Percentage	Pattern/Trends	Relevance
Limited employment opportunities	Lack of job availability	40%	A significant proportion cited unemployment as a major challenge.	Indicates a need for job creation initiatives.
Seasonal income fluctuations	Unstable seasonal work	25%	Many respondents linked livelihood insecurity to agriculture and seasonal work.	Highlights the importance of income diversification strategies.
Lack of financial resources	Inaccessibility to loans/credit	20%	Financial barriers to sustaining livelihoods were highlighted.	Suggests the need for financial inclusion policies.
Exploitation in labor markets	Unfair wages and work conditions	15%	A smaller group mentioned exploitation in unregulated jobs.	Reflects the need for labor market reforms and better oversight.

Table 1 presents the thematic analysis of challenges in securing stable and sustainable livelihoods for Wayanad's Adiya Tribe in Kerala. Limited employment opportunities were highlighted by 40% of respondents, revealing the pressing need for job creation initiatives. Seasonal income fluctuations, reported by 25%, emphasized the vulnerability of livelihoods tied to agriculture and seasonal work, stressing the importance of income diversification strategies. Lack of financial resources, affecting 20%, highlighted significant barriers to sustaining livelihoods due to inaccessibility to loans and credit, suggesting the need for financial inclusion policies. Exploitation in labor markets, experienced by 15%, pointed to unfair wages and work

conditions, underlining the necessity for labor market reforms and better oversight. These findings collectively showcase the socio-economic barriers that hinder sustainable livelihoods for the Adiya Tribe.

Table 2: Thematic Analysis of Limited Access to Education and Skill Development

Theme	Code	Percentage	Pattern/Trends	Relevance
Inadequate educational infrastructure	Lack of schools/teachers	36%	Most respondents pointed to a lack of access to educational facilities.	Emphasizes the need for improving infrastructure and staffing in schools.
Economic barriers	High costs of education	28%	Many families struggled to afford education.	Indicates the need for financial support through scholarships or subsidies.
Cultural disconnect	Education not aligned with culture	22%	Respondents mentioned irrelevance of curricula to their cultural context.	Suggests revising education systems to incorporate tribal knowledge and culture.
High dropout rates	Children leaving education early	14%	A small percentage reported dropout rates due to economic responsibilities at home.	Reflects the need for school retention policies and economic support for families.

Table 2 presents the thematic analysis of limited access to education and skill development among Wayanad's Adiya Tribe. Inadequate educational infrastructure, reported by 36%, was identified as the most critical issue, emphasizing the need to improve schools and staffing. Economic barriers, such as the high cost of education, affected 28% of respondents, indicating the necessity for financial support mechanisms like scholarships and subsidies. Cultural disconnect, noted by 22%, reflected the irrelevance of current curricula to tribal values, suggesting that education systems should incorporate tribal knowledge and cultural practices. High dropout rates, reported by 14%, were linked to children leaving school early due to economic responsibilities, highlighting the need for school retention policies and economic assistance for families. These challenges significantly hinder the educational advancement of the Adiya Tribe.

Table 3: Thematic Analysis of Healthcare Access Challenges

Theme	Code	Percentage	Pattern/Trends	Relevance
Geographical barriers	Long travel distances	40%	The majority noted the lack of nearby healthcare facilities.	Highlights the need for decentralized healthcare services.
Financial constraints	High cost of treatment	30%	Financial barriers were a significant issue for accessing healthcare.	Indicates a need for affordable or free healthcare services.
Lack of healthcare personnel	Shortage of doctors/nurses	20%	Respondents reported inadequate medical staffing in facilities.	Suggests prioritization of workforce development in healthcare.
Cultural stigma	Preference for traditional practices	10%	A minority preferred traditional medicine over modern healthcare.	Reflects the need for blending traditional practices with modern healthcare systems.

Table 3 presents the thematic analysis of healthcare access challenges faced by Wayanad's Adiya Tribe. Geographical barriers, such as long travel distances to healthcare facilities, were reported by 40%, emphasizing the importance of decentralized healthcare services. Financial constraints, noted by 30%, revealed the high cost of treatment as a major obstacle, highlighting the necessity for affordable or free healthcare services. Lack of healthcare personnel, affecting 20%, reflected the shortage of doctors and nurses in local facilities, suggesting the need for workforce development in the healthcare sector. Cultural stigma, with 10% preferring traditional practices over modern healthcare, pointed to the importance of integrating traditional medicine with modern healthcare systems. These factors collectively underscore the significant challenges to healthcare access for the Adiya Tribe.

Table 4: Thematic Analysis of Land Ownership, Tenancy, and Displacement

Theme	Code	Percentage	Pattern/Trends	Relevance
Land alienation	Loss of ancestral land	38%	Many respondents experienced loss of land due to external factors.	Highlights the need for policies protecting tribal land rights.
Displacement	Relocation without compensation	30%	Displacement due to development projects was a recurring issue.	Reflects gaps in resettlement and compensation policies.
Tenancy insecurity	Exploitation by landlords	20%	Respondents expressed vulnerability to unfair tenancy practices.	Points to the need for tenancy reforms and monitoring mechanisms.

Social marginalization	Loss of social status	12%	A smaller group noted economic and social exclusion linked to landlessness.	Reflects the cultural and economic significance of land ownership to tribal communities.

Table 4 presents the thematic analysis of land ownership, tenancy, and displacement challenges faced by Wayanad's Adiya Tribe. Land alienation, experienced by 38%, highlighted the loss of ancestral land due to external factors, emphasizing the need for policies to protect tribal land rights. Displacement, reported by 30%, revealed recurring issues of relocation without compensation, reflecting gaps in resettlement and compensation policies. Tenancy insecurity, affecting 20%, pointed to exploitation by landlords, underlining the necessity for tenancy reforms and monitoring mechanisms. Social marginalization, reported by 12%, linked landlessness to economic and social exclusion, emphasizing the cultural and economic significance of land ownership to the tribal community. These findings reveal critical issues affecting the land rights and livelihoods of the Adiya Tribe.

Table 5: Thematic Analysis of Cultural and Social Practices

Theme	Code	Percentage	Pattern/Trends	Relevance
Preservation of traditions	Preference for cultural practices	34%	Respondents emphasized maintaining cultural practices despite external influences.	Highlights the importance of culturally sensitive developmental initiatives.
Exploitation by external agents	Unfair trade practices	28%	Respondents cited exploitation in markets for tribal crafts and produce.	Suggests the need for fair trade practices and market access.
Isolation from mainstream economy	Limited integration with market	22%	Respondents reported difficulties accessing mainstream economic systems.	Indicates a need for targeted interventions to integrate tribal communities into formal economies.
Dependency on traditional occupations	Reliance on low-paying skills	16%	A small group highlighted dependence on traditional but low-yield economic activities.	Reflects the importance of vocational training and modern skill development.

Table 5 presents the thematic analysis of cultural and social practices among Wayanad's Adiya Tribe. Preservation of traditions, emphasized by 34%, highlighted the community's

commitment to maintaining cultural practices despite external influences, underscoring the need for culturally sensitive developmental initiatives. Exploitation by external agents, reported by 28%, pointed to unfair trade practices in tribal crafts and produce, suggesting the necessity for fair trade policies and better market access. Isolation from mainstream economy, affecting 22%, revealed difficulties in accessing formal economic systems, indicating the importance of targeted interventions for economic integration. Dependency on traditional occupations, noted by 16%, reflected reliance on low-paying skills, stressing the need for vocational training and modern skill development. These findings illustrate the socio-cultural dynamics shaping the livelihoods and identity of the Adiya Tribe.

II. Political Conditions and Barriers Affecting The Integration Of Wayanad's Adiya Tribe Into Mainstream Society

Table 6: Thematic Analysis of Factors Discouraging Political Participation

Theme	Code	Percentage	Pattern/Trends	Relevance
Lack of awareness	Insufficient political knowledge	40%	A large proportion cited lack of understanding of political processes.	Reflects the need for awareness campaigns about political rights and participation.
Distrust in political systems	Perception of corruption	30%	Many respondents expressed skepticism towards political leaders and systems.	Indicates the need for trust-building measures and transparent governance.
Socio-economic constraints	Poverty and livelihood focus	20%	Respondents prioritize earning livelihoods over political engagement.	Highlights the impact of socio-economic barriers on political participation.
Cultural inhibitions	Traditional practices or taboos	10%	A smaller group pointed to cultural norms discouraging political engagement.	Suggests the need to align political engagement strategies with cultural values.

Table 6 shows that the primary factor discouraging political participation among Wayanad's Adiya Tribe is lack of awareness (40%), as a large proportion of respondents cited insufficient knowledge about political processes. It indicates the pressing need for awareness campaigns to educate the community about their political rights and the importance of participation. Another significant factor is distrust in political systems (30%), where many respondents expressed skepticism due to the perception of corruption, highlighting the necessity for trust-building measures and transparent governance. Socio-economic constraints (20%) were

also reported, with respondents prioritizing livelihood needs over political engagement, demonstrating the impact of poverty on participation. Lastly, cultural inhibitions (10%) show that traditional practices or taboos discourage some individuals, suggesting that political strategies must align with cultural values to foster inclusion.

Table 7: Thematic Analysis of Perception of Political Representation

Theme	Code	Percentage	Pattern/Trends	Relevance
Ineffective leadership	Poor advocacy for tribal issues	50%	Half of the respondents felt leadership does not address their problems adequately.	Indicates the need for stronger representation and advocacy in leadership roles.
Limited engagement	Minimal interaction with leaders	30%	Many respondents cited a lack of direct communication with political representatives.	Highlights the importance of participatory governance and better outreach.
Partial progress	Some issues addressed, others ignored	15%	A small group acknowledged partial success in addressing community issues.	Reflects the need for more comprehensive efforts by political representatives.
No representation	Lack of tribal leaders in politics	5%	A few respondents pointed to the absence of tribal members in political positions.	Suggests a focus on empowering tribal members to assume leadership roles.

Table 7 shows that ineffective leadership (50%) is a main concern, as half of the respondents believe tribal issues are inadequately addressed by their leaders. It highlights the need for stronger advocacy and representation in leadership roles. Limited engagement (30%) was another major factor, with many respondents citing minimal interaction with political representatives, pointing to the importance of participatory governance and outreach. While partial progress (15%) was acknowledged by a smaller group, it reflects the inadequacy of efforts in addressing the community's problems comprehensively. Finally, no representation (5%)—a lack of tribal leaders in politics—emphasizes the need for empowering tribal individuals to take on leadership positions and advocate for their community.

Table 8: Thematic Analysis of Barriers to Accessing Government Schemes

Theme	Code	Percentage	Pattern/Trends	Relevance
Lack of awareness	Insufficient information on schemes	45%	Nearly half the respondents were unaware of welfare schemes.	Highlights the importance of spreading awareness about available government programs.
Bureaucratic hurdles	Complex application processes	30%	Many respondents found the application processes too complicated.	Suggests simplifying bureaucratic processes for better accessibility.
Discrimination	Bias in scheme distribution	15%	A small group mentioned discrimination in receiving benefits.	Reflects the need for equitable implementation of welfare programs.
Geographic isolation	Difficulty in reaching offices	10%	A few respondents cited physical barriers to accessing government services.	Indicates the need for mobile or local welfare service centers.

Table 8 shows that lack of awareness (45%) is the most significant barrier, as nearly half the respondents were unaware of welfare schemes, stressing the importance of spreading information about government programs. Bureaucratic hurdles (30%) were also highlighted, with many finding the application processes overly complex, suggesting a need to simplify these processes for better accessibility. Discrimination (15%) was reported by some respondents, reflecting biases in scheme distribution and the necessity of equitable implementation. In addition, geographic isolation (10%) posed challenges for a few respondents, who cited difficulty in reaching government offices, indicating the need for mobile or local welfare service centers to improve access.

Table 9: Thematic Analysis of Effects of Discrimination or Marginalization

Theme	Code	Percentage	Pattern/Trends	Relevance
Social exclusion	Lack of acceptance by non-tribals	40%	A significant proportion experienced social isolation from non-tribal groups.	Highlights the need for social integration and inclusion initiatives.
Economic exclusion	Limited market access	25%	Many respondents felt excluded from mainstream economic opportunities.	Reflects the need for market inclusion and support for tribal businesses.
Cultural bias	Stereotyping	20%	Respondents reported	Suggests cultural

	by non-tribals		stereotypes hinder collaboration.	sensitization and awareness programs.
Communication barriers	Language and literacy differences	15%	A small group cited language and literacy as barriers to interaction.	Indicates the importance of language and literacy training to foster collaboration.

Table 9 shows that social exclusion (40%) is a prominent issue, as a significant proportion of respondents experienced isolation from non-tribal groups, emphasizing the need for social integration initiatives. Economic exclusion (25%) was another major factor, with respondents reporting limited access to mainstream markets, highlighting the importance of market inclusion and support for tribal businesses. Cultural bias (20%) was noted, with stereotypes hindering collaboration between tribal and non-tribal groups, suggesting the need for cultural sensitization programs. Lastly, communication barriers (15%) were cited, where language and literacy differences impeded interaction, indicating the value of language and literacy training to foster collaboration and inclusivity.

Table 10: Thematic Analysis of Suggestions for Political Inclusion

Theme	Code	Percentage	Pattern/Trends	Relevance
Awareness programs	Education on political rights	35%	Most respondents emphasized the need for awareness campaigns.	Reflects the importance of educating the community about political participation.
Inclusive policies	Representation in local governance	30%	Many respondents supported increased tribal representation in decision-making.	Suggests the need for policies ensuring tribal voices in governance.
Community engagement	Regular dialogue with leaders	20%	Respondents wanted more engagement with political representatives.	Highlights the need for participatory governance mechanisms.
Economic empowerment	Financial incentives for participation	15%	A smaller group suggested economic support to encourage political participation.	Indicates the potential of financial empowerment in fostering political inclusion.

Table 10 shows that awareness programs (35%) are the most frequently suggested measure, as most respondents emphasized the importance of educating the community about political rights and participation. Inclusive policies (30%) were also a major suggestion,

advocating for greater tribal representation in local governance, which highlights the need for policies ensuring their voices in decision-making. Community engagement (20%) was another focus, with respondents seeking regular dialogue with political leaders, stressing the importance of participatory governance. Finally, economic empowerment (15%) was suggested by some as financial incentives could encourage greater political participation, underscoring the role of economic support in fostering inclusion.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

1. Limited employment opportunities (40%) indicate the critical need for job creation initiatives to mitigate livelihood insecurity among Wayanad's Adiya Tribe.

2. Inadequate educational infrastructure (36%) highlights the necessity for improving school facilities and teacher availability to enhance educational outcomes for the Adiya Tribe.

3. Geographical barriers (40%) emphasize the urgent need for decentralized healthcare services to improve access for Wayanad's Adiya Tribe.

4. Land alienation (38%) underlines the need for robust policies protecting tribal land rights to prevent loss of ancestral land among the Adiya Tribe.

5. Preservation of traditions (34%) demonstrates the importance of culturally sensitive developmental initiatives to sustain the identity and practices of Wayanad's Adiya Tribe.

6. Lack of awareness (40%) is the leading factor discouraging political participation among the Adiya Tribe, emphasizing the urgent need for awareness campaigns.

7. Ineffective leadership (50%) is a major concern in political representation, necessitating stronger advocacy for tribal issues and improved leadership roles.

8. Lack of awareness (45%) about government schemes is the main barrier to access, indicating a need for targeted information dissemination programs.

9. Social exclusion (40%) due to lack of acceptance by non-tribals underscores the need for initiatives promoting social integration and inclusivity.

10. Awareness programs (35%) are the most suggested strategy for political inclusion, reflecting the need to educate communities about political rights and participation.

SUGGESTIONS

To address the challenges faced by Wayanad's Adiya Tribe, a comprehensive approach is needed. It includes creating job opportunities to alleviate livelihood insecurity, improving educational infrastructure, and decentralizing healthcare services to overcome geographical

barriers. In addition, safeguarding tribal land rights and implementing culturally sensitive development initiatives are crucial. Raising awareness on government schemes and political participation, along with promoting social integration, will enhance political inclusion and foster better leadership to advocate for the community's rights.

CONCLUSION

The literature review highlights the Adiya Tribe's ongoing challenges in social, economic, educational, and healthcare domains, despite historical rehabilitation efforts. Studies emphasize significant barriers such as economic exclusion, limited educational access, inadequate healthcare, and political underrepresentation. The intersection of these issues has hindered the tribe's integration into mainstream society, necessitating targeted interventions. While considerable research has addressed socio-economic exclusion, a gap exists in exploring political barriers. Findings point to the urgency of policy reforms focusing on land rights, job creation, improved educational infrastructure, and decentralized healthcare. Strengthening political awareness and leadership is also critical for enhancing political participation and social integration. Thus, addressing these multi-faceted issues is crucial for the tribe's sustainable development and inclusion.

References

1. Aswathy, C., Darsana, S., & Vijayan, B. (2018). Social exclusion of tribal agricultural labourers: The case of Adiya tribal community of Wayanad district. *Asian Journal of Agricultural Extension, Economics & Sociology, 23*(4), 1–8. https://doi.org/10.9734/AJAEES/2018/39221
2. Bhasin, V. (2007). Status of tribal women in India. *Studies on Home and Community Science, 1*(1), 1–16.
3. Chandrakumar, A. (2018). A study on social exclusion of Adiya tribal community of Wayanad district, Kerala (M.Sc. thesis). University of Agricultural Sciences.
4. Dubey, S. C. (1977). *Tribal heritage of India*. Vikas Publications.
5. Haseena, V. A., & Others. (2015). Poverty and livelihood problems among the scheduled tribes in Kerala: A study on Attappady. *Journal of Poverty, Investment and Development, 14*, 94–101.
6. Balakrishnan, D., & Paul, P. K. (2017). Influencing Factors of Development As Perceived By The 'Adiya'Tribal Agricultural Labourers of Wayanad District. Retrieved from https://www.iosrjournals.org/iosr-jhss/papers/Vol.%2023%20Issue9/Version-1/L2309016567.pdf
7. Kerala Tourism. (2023). Tribal population, Wayanad, Kerala, India. Retrieved from https://www.keralatourism.org/wayanad/tribal-population.php
8. Nalinam, M. (2016). Morbidity pattern of tribes in Kerala. *Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences, 21*(4), 30–39.

9. Nayar, K. R. (2007). Social exclusion, caste, and health: A review based on the social determinants framework. *Indian Journal of Medical Research, 126*(4), 355–363.
10. Paul, S. (2014). Gender analysis of 'ADIYA' tribal agricultural labourers of Wayanad district: A study on livelihood constraints and scale of social exclusion. *IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science, 23*(9), 65–67.
11. Saseendran, Prasanth, et al. (2020). Scholastic performances of tribal students: Observations from Wayanad district, Kerala, India. *Communication & Journalism Research, 31*.
12. Suresh, P. R., & Rajasenan, D. (2014). Education as choices and capabilities: An analysis of the level of exclusion of the tribes in Kerala. *International Journal of Economic Issues, 7*(1).
13. Tribal Research Institute. (2020). Educational backwardness of Paniyan community of Wayanad. Retrieved from https://repository.tribal.gov.in/bitstream/123456789/74690/1/KIRT_2020_003.pdf