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ROLE OF GIRIJAN CO-OPERATIVE CORPORATION IN PROCUREMENT  
OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE FROM THE TRIBAL FARMERS IN  
TRIBAL AREAS OF TELANGANA STATE - A STUDY

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**ABSTRACT**

Girijan Co-operative Corporation (GCC) is one of the largest Tribal Development Co-operative Agencies in India established in the year of 1956. Andhra Pradesh Re-organization Act 2014 the Girijan Cooperative Corporation (GCC) bifurcated between two states which have been included under Schedule-IX of the Act. Andhra Pradesh Girijan Cooperative Corporation Limited (GCC) for Residuary Andhra Pradesh State and Telangana Girijan Cooperative Corporation Limited (GCC) for Telangana State under Societies Registration Act. The Girijan Co-operative Corporation has been functioning with its headquarters in Hyderabad with three divisional offices, 18 Girijan Primary Cooperative Marketing Societies and 316 D. R. Depots working under GCC. At the grass root level, Girijan Primary Cooperative Marketing Societies are procuring and selling the minor forest produce and agricultural produce, disbursing and recovering seasonal agricultural loans and consumption credit from the Girijans. The present study is aimed to present the total procurement of Agriculture Produces from the Tribal farmers by GCC and examine the Tribal farmer's perception towards GCC procurement of Agriculture produces and communicate the results to the GCC to improve the services more effectively.

**Keywords:** Girijan Co-Operative Corporation, Agriculture produce, Tribal farmers

## 1. Introduction

Girijan Co-operative Corporation (GCC) is one of the largest Tribal Development Co-operative Agencies in India established in the year of 1956. Andhra Pradesh Re-organization Act 2014 the Girijan Cooperative Corporation (GCC) bifurcated between two states which have been included under Schedule-IX of the Act. Andhra Pradesh Girijan Cooperative Corporation Limited (GCC) for Residuary Andhra Pradesh State and Telangana Girijan Cooperative Corporation Limited (GCC) for Telangana State under Societies Registration Act.<sup>1</sup> The main objective of the Girijan Co-Operative Corporation was to protect the tribals from exploitation by middlemen, petty traders. And it also aims at establishing a mutually beneficial relationship between the tribals and the rest of the world. The major business activities of Girijan Co-operative Corporation, Telangana are procurement of Minor Forest Produce and Agricultural Produce, the sale of Essential Commodities and other Domestic requirements, Retail Marketing Division sales, credit disbursement, and the recovery of loan. At present Girijan Cooperative Corporation functioning with 487 employees (regular 381 & contract 106) in Telangana state a network of the Corporation Head office at Hyderabad along with 3 divisional offices such as Bhadrachalam, Utnoor, Eturunagaram, 18 Girijan Primary Cooperative Marketing Societies and one sub-office of Kamareddy in Nizamabad district and also supply of essential commodities and other consumers goods through 316 DR Depots in Telangana tribal areas. 587 purchase points to the procurement of minor forest produce/agriculture produce from the tribals in Telangana State.

## 2. Functions of GCC

- Purchasing Minor Forest Produce (MFP) and Agricultural Produce (AP) from them at reasonable and fair prices.
- Supplying Essential Commodities (ECs) and other Daily Requirements (DRs) at a fair price through a network of 523 Fair Price Shops otherwise called as Daily Requirement (DR) depots.
- Meeting their Credit requirements in an easy, convenient and effective manner.
- Imparting training to the tribals in collecting the Minor Forest Produce so that yields can be increased without endangering the trees and environment.
- Collecting the Minor Forest Produce at the very doorstep of the tribals.
- Guarding against deterioration and degradation of their produce.
- Researching to find better gradation and storage techniques.
- Pro-active search for adding new Minor Forest Produce to the list.

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<sup>1</sup>Pavan Kumar Reddy, Telangana Girijan Cooperative Corporation Limited GCC, <http://www.tgnns.com/andhra-pradesh-2/telangana-girijan-cooperative-corporation-limited-gcc/2014/05/31/>

### 3. Review of Literature

**Dr. Satish Babu. D (2016)<sup>1</sup>:** Found that there are wide fluctuations reported in the coverage and activities of the Girijan Cooperative Corporation, particularly in purchase & sales of MFP, loans disbursement, purchase and sales of DRs over the period. Besides this the beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries survey and institutional survey results are envisaged that several problems and deficiencies exist in the functioning of the organization. Moreover, the study suggests for the immediate reorganization of the structure with adequate infrastructure to cater to the needs of the market that ultimately benefit the tribal communities.

**Shamrao Koreti (2016)<sup>2</sup>:** His work chiefly deals with the Gond women. In his work, he emphasized the importance and role of Gond Women in the process of earning a livelihood. Apart from the participating in the occupation for a livelihood, these women also engage themselves in household chores. Taking care of the children and rearing the domestic animals are the other responsibilities bestowed upon these women. In the process of social change with the advent of modernity, a large portion of Gonds too adopted modern lifestyles.

**Ravi Prakash (2016)<sup>3</sup>:** Stated that the tribals will get a fair price when the middlemen and petty traders are eliminated. Introduction of Computerization will make the system transparent and corruption-free, and he also mentions that the Girijan Co-operative Corporation Ltd. is planning to make their products available in shopping malls of main cities. Some of those products are Honey, Nannari Sharab, Triphalachurnam, Jasmine Soaps, etc.

**Mr. Neelmani Jay Sawal and Mrs. Sudeshna Saha (2015)<sup>4</sup>:** Found that tribes are treated as an alienated entity from mainstream society. Many government schemes are initiated for their welfare. Nonetheless, the funds of these schemes are largely appropriated by upper caste people. The other problem before India is population explosions which undermine the whole development process. The absence of proper education is leading the tribes to live in a situation of darkness and agony. Therefore, a multipronged strategy has to be initiated by restructuring the existing system to resolve the issues at grassroots.

**Dr. Pramila Pravan Patnaik (2015)<sup>5</sup>:** This work deals with the effectiveness of PESA act implemented in the tribal areas essentially with a prime focus of participatory democracy by encouraging active participation of Gram Sabha to manage their resources. This act aimed at curbing the practice of money lending in tribal regions. This work also aimed at Matters of prohibition, conferring ownership over the Minor forest produce, Land transfer and regulating the village market. The management of village markets is an important task assigned to the Panchayat Raj Institutions under PESA; village market normally exists in every GP. It is revealed in the study that market is regulated either by Panchayat directly or by Panchayat through auction or by cooperative society or by RMC. Thus the GP markets are invariably put to action when they are regulated and

controlled by Gram Panchayat. In the absence of GP markets, tribals depend on neighboring markets beyond the areas of GPs.

#### **4. Need for the Study**

Girijan Co-operative Corporation is a state level Government body which aimed at protecting the Tribals from the exploitative petty traders and intermediaries. It aims at providing a remunerative price for their minor forest and agriculture produce and accelerating the all-round development of the Tribals. The state and central Governments have been allocating the crores of Rupees during the budget time for the effective functioning of GCC. The present study is aimed to study the role of the Telangana Girijan Co-operative Corporation Ltd. in procurement of agriculture products from the treble farmers in Telangana state.

#### **5. Scope of the Study**

The study confined to focus on the role of the Telangana Girijan Co-operative Corporation Ltd. in procurement of agriculture produce from the tribal farmers in Telangana state. Further, the study focused on the perception of beneficiaries towards GCC services.

#### **6. Limitations of the Study**

The GCC aims at providing a remunerative price for their minor forest produce, agriculture produces and accelerating the all-round development of the Tribals. The present study is only focused on GCC role in procurement of agriculture produces.

#### **7. Period of the Study**

The period of the study is from 2013-17. It is confined 5 years of the period.

#### **8. Objectives of the Study**

- To present the total procurement of agriculture produce from the tribal farmers by GCC in Telangana State.
- To examine the tribal farmers perception towards GCC role in procurement of agriculture produce.

#### **9. Research Methodology**

The study based on both primary and secondary dat. The secondary data is collected from GCC annual Reports and published magazines. The primary data and it has collected from the Tribal Farmers from Bhadrachalam, Eturunagarm, and Utnoor Divisions with self-administered questionnaire. The study adopted the convenience sampling technique to select the samples and the total sample size of the study is 150 respondents.

**Table 1**

Division	Sample
Utnoor	50
Eturunagaram	50
Bhadrachalam	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>

Source: Questionnaire Administration

The most suitable test for examining the reliability and consistency is Cronbach's Alpha Reliability Coefficient and item to total co-relation. The reliability test results of the instrument at the pilot study stage of this study secure Cronbach's alpha value as 0.716 which indicates acceptable reliability and consistency as it is above the threshold value of 0.60 (Nunnally, 1978).

## 10. Analysis

**Table 2: Procurement of Minor Forest Produce and Agricultural Produce in Utnoor Division from 2007-08 to 2016-17**

(Qt. in Qdis. in Lakhs)

SLNo.	Agri. Produce	2012-2013		2013-2014		2014-15		2015-16		2016-2017		Total Five Years Procurement	
1	Chillies	0	0	0	0	89.75	7.07	0	0	0	0	89.75	7.07
2	Soyabean	1170	35.52	139.4	4.46	0	0	0	0	0	0	1309.4	39.98
3	Wheat	783	12.3	296.9	5.74	0	0	0	0	0	0	1079.9	18.04
4	Redgram	1088	40.07	518	20.39	0	0	0	0	0	0	1606	60.46
5	Jowar	45	0.55	0	0	0	0	55	1.1	0	0	100	1.65
6	Cotton	0.1	0.18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0.18
<b>Total:</b>		<b>3086.1</b>	<b>88.62</b>	<b>954.3</b>	<b>30.59</b>	<b>89.75</b>	<b>7.07</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4185.15</b>	<b>127.38</b>

Source: Annual Reports of Telangana Girijan Cooperative Corporation Ltd.

Table 2 shows the procurement of agriculture produce during 2012-13 to 2016-17 years. It was identified that procurement of agriculture produces were registered at high in 2012-13 with Rs88.62 lakhs and low in the year 2015-16Rs1.1 lakhs and the total five years procurement volume was Rs127.38 with 4185.15 quintals Utnoor Division.

Table 3 shows the procurement of agriculture produce during 2012-13 to 2016-17 years. It was identified that procurement of agriculture produces value was registered at high Rs778.96 lakhs in the year 2016-17 and low in the year 2010-11 with Rs45.14 lakhs and the five years procurement volume was RS1078.61 with 60,463.72 quintals in Bhadrachalam Division.

**Table 3: Procurement of Minor Forest Produce and Agricultural Produce in Bhadrachalam Division from 2007-08 to 2016-17**

(Qt. in Qdis. in Lakhs)

SLNo.	Agri. Produce	2012-2013		2013-2014		2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		Total Five Years Procurement	
1	Paddy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	53681	679.57	53681	679.57
2	Maize	995	12.84	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	995	12.84
3	Dry chillies	1675.28	92.42	689.02	45.14	1011.09	66.19	572.08	66.84	1540.74	99.39	5488.21	369.98
4	Turneric Rounds	200	7.26	0	0	0	0	99.51	8.96	0	0	299.51	16.22
<b>Total:</b>		<b>2870.28</b>	<b>112.52</b>	<b>689.02</b>	<b>45.14</b>	<b>1011.09</b>	<b>66.19</b>	<b>671.59</b>	<b>75.8</b>	<b>55221.74</b>	<b>778.96</b>	<b>60463.72</b>	<b>1078.61</b>

Source: Annual Reports of Telangana Girijan Cooperative Corporation Ltd.

**Table 4: Procurement of Minor Forest Produce and Agricultural Produce in Eaturunagaram Division from 2007-08 to 2016-17**

(Qt. in Qtls. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	Agri. Produce	2012-2013		2013-2014		2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		Total Five Years Procurement	
1	Paddy	70778	825.84	1289.24	1420.85	1289.24	1420.85	301258.59	4251.61	316510	4716.65	691125.1	12635.8
3	Turmeric Rounds	0	0	0	0	0	0	82.92	5.56	127.89	10.37	210.81	15.93
	Total:	70778	825.84	1289.24	1420.85	1289.24	1420.85	301341.5	4257.17	316637.9	4727.02	691335.9	12651.73

Source: Annual Reports of Telangana Girijan Cooperative Corporation Ltd

Table 4 shows the procurement of agriculture produce during 2012-13 to 2016-17 years. It was identified that procurement of agriculture produce value was registered at high Rs.4727.02 lakhs in the year 2016-17 and low in the year 2012-13 with Rs825.84 lakhs and the total five years procurement volume was Rs.12651.73 with 691335.9 quintals in Eaturunagaram Division

## 11. Testing of Hypothesis

H<sub>01</sub>: There is no significant mean difference among the three divisions of Girijan Cooperative Corporation Ltd Telangana on procurement of agricultural produce

Table 5 shows the mean difference among the three divisions of GCC on procurement of agricultural produce. Based on the nature of the data, the study used ANOVA test. According to the results, the calculated 'p' value is 0.005 which is less than the standard value 0.05 at 5% level of significant. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected and it is concluded that there is a significant mean difference among the three divisions of Girijan Co-operative Corporation on procurement of agricultural produce volume

**Table 5: ANOVA**

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	19446752.531	2	9723376.266	8.593	.005
Within Groups	13579120.457	12	1131593.371		
Total	33025872.988	14			

Source: Annual Reports of GCC, Telangana.

## Socio-Economic Background of the Tribal Formers

Table 6 shows the Socio-Economic background of the tribal farmers from Bhadrachalam, Eturunagaram and Utnoor Divisions in Telangana State. It is observed that male respondents were 79% whereas females were 21%. Majority of the farmers were comes under the age group of 30-50 years (63%).

It is identified that around 59.33% of the respondents are the illiterates. It can be seen from table that about 24% of the respondents have 10th standard education while 5.33% of the respondents have the higher education background. The majority of the respondents hail from the families of below middle-income category with the annual income up to Rs75000 pa (41.33%) followed by Rs 75000-150000 (28.67%). It is also identified that very few respondents (8.67%) have the annual income more than Rs 250000. It can also see that 97.33% of the tribal farmers were married persons.

**Table 6: Socio-Economic Characteristics of the Tribal Formers**

Variables	Characteristic	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	119	79%
	Female	31	21%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>
Age	21-30 years	08	5.33%
	31-40 years	44	29.33%
	41-50 years	50	33.33%
	51-60 years	38	25.33%
	More than 61 years	10	6.67%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Educations	Un Educated	89	59.33%
	Upto 10 <sup>th</sup> class	36	24.00%
	Intermediate	17	11.33%
	Graduation	08	5.33%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Income	Up to Rs75000	62	41.33%
	Rs.75001- 150000	43	28.67%
	Rs.150001- 250000	32	21.33%
	More than Rs.250000	13	8.67%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Marital Status	Married	146	97.33%
	Un-married	04	2.67%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Primary Data

**H<sub>02</sub>: Tribal farmers are not satisfied with the procurement of agriculture produce by GCC.**

Table 7 and 7(a) show the respondents satisfaction in respect of procurement of agriculture produces by GCC. The calculated 'p-value' is 0.154 at 5% level of significance. The 'p' value is more than 0.05. Hence, null hypothesis is *accepted* and it is found that there is no satisfaction among the farmers in respect of procurement of agriculture produce by GCC. It is concluded that delay in payment, delay in procurement of agriculture produces were the important factors on which the GCC has to focus to improve the tribal farmer's satisfaction.

**Table 7: One-Sample Statistics**

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Satisfaction	150	2.8333	1.42564	.11640

Source: Primary Data

**Table 7(a): One-Sample Test**

	Test Value = 3					
	T	Df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Satisfaction	-1.432	149	.154	-.16667	-.3967	.0633

Source: primary data

## 12. Findings and Conclusions

- It is observed that Eturunagaram Division was occupied top place in respect of procurement of Agriculture produces from the tribe farmers.
- It is found that there is a no significant mean difference among the threedivisions in respect of Agriculture produces from the tribe farmers. Because Eturunagaram Division is procuring more quantity compare with other divisions.
- Further it is found that there is no satisfaction among the farmers in respect of GCC procurement of agriculture produces. It is concluded that delay in payment, delay in procurement of agriculture produces were the important factors on which the GCC has to focus to improve the tribal farmer's satisfaction.

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