

Environmental Impact on the Economic Life of Yerukala Tribe (A Case Study of Rayalaseema Region of Andhra Pradesh)

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ABSTRACT The Tribal-ecosystem provides a best example of man-environment relationships. But in recent past these relations have come stress and conflict because of many reasons that will be examined in this paper. Yerukala is one of the principle tribes of the Andhra Pradesh, mostly inhabiting in and around the forest areas of Nallmala forest region and range. They are in general semi-nomadic and gradually settling down. Yerukala tribe is a wandering tribe connected with such occupations such as basket-making, stealing, begging and fortune-twillling. The Yerukala are good at basketry and most of them are employed in that art. Bamboo is the raw material available in Nallmala forest region and other areas of Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh (comprising Chittoor, Cuddapah, Anantapur and Kurnool District). It seems that basketry among these Yerukala folk would have started along their efforts of constructing their dwellings.