

CHANGING SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF TRIBAL COMMUNITIES: A CASE STUDY ON KANDHA TRIBALS OF RAYAGADA DISTRICT IN ODISHA

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ABSTRACT

In this article, an attempt has been made to analyse the socio-economic status of the Kandha tribes using the data over the last ten years. The findings from the study reveal little change in the socio-economic status of the tribe. Agriculture is the main source of income for the tribal households in all villages. Only 7% of households earn an annual income between 25,000 and 30,000. Sex ratio of the study area is too high, with 1210 female per 1000 male, while the literacy rate of the study area is only 39.5%. Housing conditions have improved for 38% of the sampled households after the government allocated funds in 2017 to build pucca houses. 11% of sampled households have moved from a situation of no house to having a house in the last 10 years. 62% of sampled households have a separate kitchen and 38% of households currently have an attached kitchen in the study area. Only 17% of households use government provided toilets, which was nil prior to the last ten years. 69% of indigenous households still do not use a mobile phone in the study area. Sanitation is also an important issue in the study area, where only 41% had access to water from tube well in the last 10 years. The overall socioeconomic status of tribal communities has not changed to date.

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The tribal population of India is identified as the original inhabitants of our country. They are among the most backward communities of our nation. They live amongst nature deep in the jungle far away from the clutches of civilization. They are imbued with the values of traditional values, customs, and beliefs. The definition of a tribe has always been under debate. According to the Constitution of India "Any tribe or tribal community or part of or group within any tribe or tribal community as deemed under article 342 are Scheduled Tribes for the purpose of the Constitution." India is one of the few nations in the world, with a flourishing tribal population in different parts of the country. There is a total of 573 different tribal communities scattered all over India. Out of these, only 258 tribal communities speaking about 106 different languages have been identified and classified as Scheduled Tribes. They occupy about 18.7 percent of the country's total geographic area. According to the 2011 census, the population of tribal's is a total of 10.45 crores which accounts for 8.6% of the total population. Orissa occupies a special position in the demographic map of India. Out of the 635 tribal communities in India, Orissa alone has 62 groups of tribes and, as such, it provides one of the largest homes for Indian tribes. According to 2011 census, Orissa accommodates about 95,90,756 scheduled tribes which are 22.85 percent of the state population and 9.20% of the total tribal population of the country. The tribal communities are found in almost all 30 districts of Orissa. Half of their total population is concentrated in Koraput, Rayagada, Nawarangpur, Malkangiri, Sundargarh, Mayurbhanj, Gajapati, Kalahandi, Keonjhor, Nuapara, Kandhamal and Ganjam etc. These districts are located both in the Scheduled Areas and Tribal- Sub Plan Areas. The objective of this paper is to find out the change in socio-economic conditions of Kandha tribal in the study area.

1.2 RATIONALE OF THE STUDY

Odisha is the most underdeveloped state in India 29 states. The total population of this state according to the census of 2011 is 4, 19, 74,218 in which 22.85 percent are scheduled tribe population of the state and 8.6% of the total tribal population. The development of the tribal population of our country is a constitutional obligation of the state. But how do you develop these tribes? This was the area of the problem to prevent policy makers, urban planners, administrators and anyone interested in the well-being and development of tribal peoples in the country. In rural areas, due to the lack of information on the development scheme and their level of education,

people are not able to benefit from the development plan through blocking, but economic data evenly benefits or not. Research has been the greatest source for solving the problems of the society- by innovation or finding out the major problems. The condition of primitive tribes is relatively worse. Although the Indian government pays particular attention to the development of primitive tribal groups, however, the literacy, income and living conditions of primitive tribes compared to other tribes are very daunting. This may be due to many reasons. In order to obtain a clear view of these questions, this study attempts to examine the socio-economic conditions and living conditions of the primitive Dongria Kandha tribes and the Orissa box. The result of the study will help to understand the socio-economic and environmental dynamics of livelihoods in rural and tribal areas of India.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

All these review indicating to vicious circle of poverty and other painful witness of the rural people made me think on this aspect which is most related to poverty, hunger, malnourishment, poor standard of living and much more. Kalinga (2016) aims to assessed that the Impact on tribal lives and livelihoods by changing globalization and climate. She found that change of climate that is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere, and that is in addition to natural climate variability over comparable time periods. Deka (2016) has studied the rates and living standards of tribal literacy communities are very low compared to other communities. Malangmeih and Sagolsem (2015) found that the study area was well endowed with human capital and land capital. Mohanty (2011) suggested that effects of displacement, especially on the tribals it is necessary not only to identify, avoid and mitigate risks in each development project that entails displacement, but also to focus on benefits over and above compensation and rehabilitation for damages as well as benefit sharing arrangement. Oraon (2012) reported that livelihoods based on small and marginal land farmers are increasingly unsustainable. Because their lands have not supported the needs of their families, they are forced to look for other related services to distribute their means of subsistence. Kulkarni (1980) has presented the problems of tribals in Maharashtra vary from tribe to tribe and from region to region. The rate of economic development of all the weaker sections of the community including the tribal has been extremely low in spite of special programmes for them. Most of the tribal workers are farmers and the tenant workers. Sarker (2014) reported that Tribal populations are very friendly with nature for cattle and food. Nature is revealed to have enough resources for tribal. Lingenfelter (1977) has expressed that the crucial factors affecting personal and social change emerging from these studies are the immediacy and individual wants and expectations are satisfied. Hemam & Reddy (1998) studied that there is significant improvement in the income level from shifting cultivators to town. More than 50% of the total households have an annual income of less than 20,000 rupees, and only 9% have an annual income exceeding 50,000 rupees. Awais (2011) has presented his study that agriculture is a primary occupation so still now they are they are the backwardness. But the tribal also depend on forest and livestock as a source of livelihood. Toppo (2010) has drawn the attention of the Government to their welfare and development of tribal's. The analysis of the economic condition of beneficiaries exposes that as high as 80% of the total beneficiaries are agriculturists (owner cultivators) and the others belong to either agricultural labourers or village occupations. Rjimon (2010) has reported that local communities, mainly the tribal who lived inside or in the periphery of the forests depending on it for their existence were always the most immediate and adversely affected by such ruthless exploitation. Rajan (2011) described the impact of the colonial government's isolation and segregation of tribes that invariably led to the exploitation of the tribal population by selected contractors as lenders and not tribal. King (2005) argued that although apartheid colonial empowerment and tribal authorities continue to have symbolic and material significance for rural communities, recent democratic structures are challenging traditional government systems in the post- apartheid. Sabar (2010) has discussed the factors leading to the depletion of resources, it also tries to find out any changes that might have occurred consequent to depletion and any attachment further that challenges the policy framework. Debnath and Dasgupta (2006) remarked that the livelihood generation and poverty reduction strategies have been prioritized to provide benefits and reduce the pressure on the forest. Parimala and Naidu (2015) observed that the tribal farmers are slowly coming far ward to take up seed production of improved varieties. Farmers are getting good prices for their produce. Behera (2014) has suggested that they require community organizations, team work, and leader to lead them and enable them to take decision with risk learning capacity. Kapoor (2014) remarked that the tribal people of Rourkela believes that SAIL and the state Government are both responsible for the condition that they into at present. Fisher (2002) has studied that the sustainable livelihoods approach can be a useful tool to those working in development in aboriginal communities. Carpenter and Halbritter (2001) found that tribes that do not exhibit a certain level of economic success are lamented as backward, undeveloped. Elahee (2013) found that the Santal community is a ethnic group living in the southern part of Bangladesh, especially in Juktipara at Rajshahi, not meeting their basic needs, which is totally unexpected.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Study Area

This study was conducted in Rayagada district. The total population of the district is 9,67,911, of which 4,71,960 are male and 4,95,951 are female; with an area of 7,073 km². The district lies between 19° 9' 57.6" N and 83° 24' 57.6" E. The temperature of the area ranges between 20°C and 29°C (Mishra et al., 2014).

3.2 Sampling procedures and sample size

In this study, the research design has been selected exploratory-cum-descriptive in nature that provides an understanding of the concepts related socio-economic status of tribal people. In this study, simple random sampling has been used for select the samples. A total of 100 samples have been collected from the respondents through direct interview method to serve the purpose of the study. The study has used both primary and secondary data. The secondary data has been collected from Odisha government reports and from census. In this study Microsoft excels has used to analysis the data.

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Demographic Profile of the Sample Households

Out of the total sample population (504), male population is 228 (45.2%) and female population is 276 (54.8%), which is shows that the female outnumber the male (Table 1). It also indicates this table that the sex ratio of the study area is 1210 female per 1000 male. There are only two villages where the sex ratio is below 1000 as compare to other villages. The overall literacy level of the study area is only 39.5% where 25.0% is lowest rate of literacy and 50.0% is the highest rate of literacy in the study area.

Table No 1: Demographic Profile and Literacy Level of Sample Households

Village Name	No of Households	Total Population	Male	Female	Sex Ratio	Literacy
Punjapai	9	43	15	28	1866	32.6%
Rupkona	22	104	46	58	1260	41.3%
Sankarada	14	58	30	28	933	44.8%
Bariguma	5	24	11	13	1181	25.0%
Panchali	20	107	45	62	1377	43.0%
Kumbikoata	11	73	32	41	1281	37.0%
Halua	9	46	23	23	1000	50.0%
Kapadangu	10	49	26	23	884	28.6%
Total	100	504	228	276	1210	39.5%

Sources: Field Study, 2017

The following (table no. 2) is showing the educational level of the population in the study area. This table shows that 21.6 percent of total sample read up to primary level, 8.93 per cent are up to the middle level, 6.55 percent secondary school level, 1.98 percents are higher secondary and only 0.40 percents are graduates. The sharp fall in educational attainment beyond primary level shows the poor economic conditions of the households that compel them to be engaged in different activities to compliment income. There are 60.5% population are illiterate person in the study area.

Table No. 2: Distribution of Population by Education Level

Level of Education	Number of Person	Percentage
Illiterate	305	60.5%
Primary (Class 1 To 5th)	109	21.6%
Upper Primary (Class 6th To 7th)	45	8.93%
Secondary (Class 8th To 10th)	33	6.55%
Higher Secondary (Class 11th To 12th)	10	1.98%
Graduation	2	0.40%
P G	0	0%
Total	504	100

Sources: Field Study, 2017

4.2 Housing Conditions of Sample Households

Table No. 3: Changes in Housing Condition of Kandha Tribal's

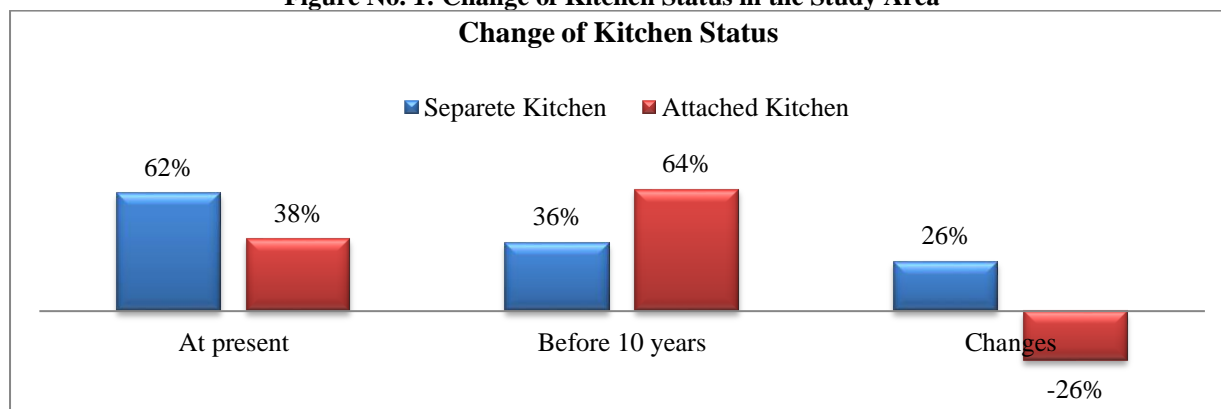
Type of House	At Present	Percentages	Before 10 Years	Percentages	Change Percentages
Kacha	58	58%	83	83%	-25%
Semi Pacca	38	38%	6	6%	32%
Pacca	4	4%	0	0%	4%
Homeless	0	0%	11	11%	-11%
Total	100	100	100	100	

Sources: Field Study, 2017

There are only 6% per cent of the total households had semi Pacca house in before 10 years which has increased to 38% per cent at present. It is a significant change is found in fire proof and semi pacca house in the study area. Earlier there was 83% per cent households were having kacha houses in before 10 years, which decreased to 58% per cent to at present. On the other hand there were 11% homeless households in before 10 years and now they have available houses at present. There is only 4% households are pacca houses, which has provided by government (Table no 3).

The Figure No. 1 showing that there are 62% households have separate kitchen and 38% households are attached kitchen during at present in the study area. But before 10 years 36% households had separate kitchen and 64% households had attached kitchen. This data is showing that 26% separate kitchen households has increased as compare to before 10 years and vice versa.

Figure No. 1: Change of Kitchen Status in the Study Area



Sources: Field Study, 2017

4.3 Drinking Water Facilities in Selected Villages

Table No. 4 Changes in Access to Source of Drinking Water in Study Villages

Drinking Water	At Present	Before 10 Years	Changes
Tube Well	82	41	41%
Open Well	16	11	5%
Stream/Spring	1	22	-21%
River	1	21	-20%
Ponds	0	5	-5%
Total Households	100	100	

Sources: Field Study, 2017

As the report of the study access to tube well water was only 41 per cent during before 10 years, which increased to 82 per cent in at present. But still 16 per cent households are consuming water of open well which 11 per cent in before 10 years was. Only 2 per cent are consuming water of rivers and streams. But before 10 years 22 per cent households were consuming from stream and 21 per cent from river. The theme highlighted the increasing

significant of water scarcity worldwide to ensure sustainable, efficient, and equitable management of scare water resource at both national and local level (Table no. 4).

4.4 Changes in Income and Expenditure of Sample Households in the Study Area

Table No.5 Change in Annual Income of Sample Households in the Study Area

Income Group	No of Households At Present	No of Households Before 10 Years	Change (%)
5000-10000	9	28	-19%
10000-15000	31	45	-14%
15000-20000	37	23	14% ^f
20000-25000	16	4	12%
25000-30000	7	0	7%
Total No Of Households	100	100	

Sources: Field Study, 2022

Household income is one of the most important indicators of livelihood. The households have multiple sources of incomes. It is because no single source of income is sufficient to provide means of survival. We identified six major sources of income in the selected villages. These are agriculture, wage labour, Livestock, collection of forest products, art and craft, and incomes from other sources. Agriculture is the single most important source of household income in all the villages. The following table no 5.9 is showing that the households of income group (5000-1000) and (10000-15000) has decreased to 19% and 14% as at present and before 10 years. There are two income group are having the maximum households such as 10000-15000 and 15000-20000. There are only 7% households are having the income group 25000-30000 but before 10 years there were no one any households that whose income is 25000-30000 (Table No. 5)

The following table no. 6 is showing the monthly expenditure group of households in the study area. There are five expenditure groups in the study area. The expenditure groups of 1000-2000 had the maximum number of households in before 10 years which has decreased 23% to at present. The highest increased expenditure group is 2000-3000, which has increased 31% from before 10 years to at present. There were only 7% households were having the expenditure above 3000 in before 10 years now this expenditure group has increased to 11% at present.

Table No.6: Changes in Expenditure Pattern of the Sample Households

Expenditure Group	No of Households At Present	No of Households Before 10 Years	Change (%)
Below 1000	2	14	-12
1000-2000	48	71	-23
2000-3000	39	8	31
3000 And Above	11	7	4
No of Households	100	100	

Sources: Field Study, 2022

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Conclusion

Tribal people identify themselves as aborigines in our country. It is a vulnerable section of our society lives in a natural and unspoilt environment, far from civilization, with its values, customs and beliefs. Tribal groups with pre-agricultural stage and development, rates of decline of the stagnant and very low literacy population are defined as primitive tribal groups. However, there is now a poor condition in the socio-economic condition of the Kandha tribes. The income and expenditure are very low which are not able to sustain their daily life. There are only 7% of households with an income between 25,000 and 30,000, but 10 years ago there were no households with an income between 25,000 and 30,000. Sex ratio of the study area is too high, namely 1210 female to 1000 male, while the literacy rate of the study area is only 39.5%. Housing conditions were also very poor, but the pacca home increased to 38% in 2017 as the government allocated funds to build pacca homes. There are also 11% of households that have not had a home for 10 years, a decrease from 0% or homes available now. 62% of households have a separate kitchen and 38% of households currently have an attached kitchen in the study area. But 10 years ago 64% of households had a separate kitchen and 64% of households had an adjoining kitchen. 100% of households that have not had a toilet for 10 years, but currently 17% of households use government provided toilets. As a result of this study, there are still 69% of indigenous households that cannot use a mobile phone in the study area however only 31% are using at present. Sanitation is also an important issue in the study

area, where only 41% of tube well water was used in the last 10 years, which has increased to 82% currently. The study concludes with the above result that the socioeconomic status of tribal communities has not changed to date.

5.2 Recommendation

Broad recommendations based on the finding from the field survey of the Kandha tribal which is one of the Primitive tribal groups are presented below for consideration:

- Training should be provided in different income generating activities through setting up more training centers at the micro project level, keeping in view the availability of local raw materials as well as the marketability of the expected produce.
- The literacy and educational status are very low among the tribal's. This aspect has to be addressed to with all sincerity of efforts so that the teaching – learning situation is improved.
- The land is the major physical resource available to households. Most of the available land is poor in quality, and there is not very much of it. Agricultural intervention in the form of promoting locally relevant crops, drought resistant crop mix along with the agroforestry should be encouraged. Similarly, Horticulture and Small irrigation schemes should be encouraged.
- Awareness about the various developmental programs being implemented for them should be encouraged. Therefore, the study suggests that special attention and proper planning is required for these lagging villages

6. LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

This study focuses of the changing socioeconomic status and income of Kandha tribal of Rayagada district in Odisha. This study included only Kandha Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) who are staying a major community in Rayagada district. People were very concise and suspected to give information for any enquiries and try to give observation data in the beginning. People were knowingly gave observation data because their perception that these information was less idea. The study is location specific characterized by local economic and livelihood condition thus it may not have same application in other location. Data is perfect to the extent to being honest response of the sample. The recall method of data collection for some variables may not be very much perfect.

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