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SOCIO ECONOMIC STATUS OF SCHEDULED TRIBES IN MYSURU DISTRICT – KARNATAKA

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ABSTRACT

The paper was aimed to assess the socio economic status of tribes of the Mysuru district of the Karnataka state. Three taluks of the Mysuru district were selected for the study based on their highly Schedule tribe populous status; H D Kote, Periyapatna and Hunsur. Primary survey of 500 households was carried out and the different socio economic statuses assessed were; caste, income, educational level, occupational structure, size of landholding, types of crop cultivation. The study revealed that there are six different scheduled tribes (Nayaka, JenuKuruba, DongriGaracia, Yarava, Soliga, Hakkipikki) residing in the selected study area with maximum percentage of 68 % of the 500 households belonging to Nayaka tribe followed by Jenukuruba (18.6 %) out of the total 50 different tribes found across the Karnataka. Further, 94% of the 500 households were found to have Below Poverty Line (BPL) income, only 4.35% was found to have received the higher education. Occupational structure of the study area discovered that only 5.70% of the sample number is involved in business and mere 2.64% of the total number work as Government contract daily wages. Among the population, major proportion is engaged in agricultural labour with only 44.4% of the population having the cultivation land while as 55 % are landless.

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INTRODUCTION

Tribes are indigenous people of India, and living in various ecological and geo-climatic conditions ranging from plains, forest to hills and remote areas (Ministry of Tribal Affairs, 2013). Tribes are one of the vulnerable sections in the country, both the Central and the state governments have executed policies directed at the socio-economic empowerment of tribes (Karnataka Human Development Report 2005) but they have not received the full benefits of developmental processes undertaken over the past six decades (Ministry of Tribal Affairs, India, 2014). They are isolated from main stream population and forest occupies a central position in the tribal economy and society (Tribal Health Bulletin, 2014). Scheduled tribes are economically weakest and historically subjected to discrimination and deprivation. Disparities of living condition between tribes and non-tribes are still existing, the policies and rural development programs developed by government has not raised the living standards of tribes (Kijima Y, 2006). Their socio economic status is deprived and living with lack of education, poor sanitation and health

condition, poor life style and poverty (Mandal, J and Sengupta, P, 2016). Tribes are much behind the mainstream population with respect to literacy rate and educational attainment (Suresh P R and Cheeran M T, 2015). Food insecurity is another big issue among tribal community (Xaxa J, 2014). Due to lack of income, tribes are unable to get sufficient nutritious food that causes malnutrition and other health problems (Chaudhary, 2012). Undernutrition is high among the tribes than non-tribes which is caused by the low economic status of tribe population (Tagade N, 2012). The assessment of socio economic status of scheduled tribes through the field survey brings out the real condition of tribe's status of an area. Hence the present study was taken up to assess the socio economic condition of tribes of Mysuru district in Karnataka.

Study Area

Mysuru district is located in the southern part of Karnataka, which comprises of around 11.1 % of scheduled tribes with respect to total Mysuru district population (Census, 2011). For the present study, among the seven taluks of Mysuru district, three taluks with higher concentration of primitive tribes were selected for field survey and analyzed (Department of Tribal Welfare, Mysore, 2014). The selected taluks were; H D Kote, Periyapatna and Hunsur. As per the census of India, the

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scheduled tribe population in the district has been growing continuously, as the total population of tribes during the year 1961 was 16,805 and it has been increased to 3,34,547 in 2011.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was based on the primary survey which was conducted among the 500 households (1,998 individuals) of selected three taluks. To identify the socio economic status of tribes, the following criteria were assessed; a) Social Composition of Tribes b) income of household, c) educational level, d) occupational structure, e) size of landholding, f) types of crop cultivation, were collected. The data collected was statistically analysed by using SPSS.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Social Composition of Tribes

According to Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, there are 50 different scheduled tribes living in Karnataka state and six scheduled tribes were found in the study area; DongriGaracia, JenuKuruba, Yarava, Nayaka, Soliga, Hakkipikki. The assessment of selected 500 households revealed that, 9 (1.8 %) households belong to Soliga tribe; 18 (3.6 %) belong to Yarava tribe; 19 (3.8 %) belong to DongriGaracia tribe; 21 (4.2 %) belong to Hakkipikki tribe; 93 (18.6 %) belong to JenuKuruba tribe and 340 (68 %) belong to Nayakatribe.

Table 1. Social Composition of Tribes

Tribal Communities	No. of Respondents	Percent
Soliga	9	1.8
Yarava	18	3.6
DongriGaracia	19	3.8
Hakkipikki	21	4.2
JenuKuruba	93	18.6
Nayaka	340	68
Total	500	100

Income of the household

Income of the household is a major factor which determines all aspects of a household. The Government of India has classified the households as Above Poverty Line or Below Poverty Line based on their annual income. The benchmark to determine which family belongs to BPL and APL keeps on changing depending upon the experts of planning commission and the Central Government policies (Reddy G K, 2015). According to The Hindu, 13 November 2011, families which earn below or equal to Rs 27,000 per year are considered as Below Poverty Line. In the present study, the total income of each household was collected as presented in Table 2. The study revealed that among the 500 households 497 (99.4 %) are living in below poverty line while only 3 (0.6 %) households are living in above poverty line. From the study it is clear that the annual income of the major proportion of households lie below than Rs 5,000 per annum which indicates the poor income status of selected tribes of the study area.

Educational Level

Education is an important factor that determines the earning capacity of a person, it is generally known that, well educated

can get better job, higher income and better social status (Houthakker, 1959). Hence the educational level of individuals in the households was collected and classified into 6 groups as; a) Illiterate; those who do not know to write and read in any language, b) Primary; It represents the population which obtained the education between 1st std. and 5th std., c) Upper primary; It represents the population which obtained the education up to 8th std., d) High school; It represents the population which received the education up to 10th std., e) Pre-university; It indicates the population which obtained the education up to 12 std., and f) Higher education; It indicates the population which studied above 12th std. (Table 3). The survey revealed that among the total population around 35.6 % are illiterate, which is higher than state's (24.64 %) and country's illiteracy rate (25.96 %), 52.86% have studied up to high school level and 11.56 % have received higher than high school.

Table 2. Distribution of sample households on the basis of income

Level of Income	No. of Respondent	Percent to Total Respondent
< 5000	317	63.4
5000-10000	134	26.8
10000-15000	29	5.8
15000-20000	11	2.2
20000-25000	4	0.8
25000-27000	2	0.4
27000 - 30000	2	0.4
35000-40000	0	0
> 40000	1	0.2
Total	500	100

Table 3. Educational Level

Level of Education	Tribal population	Percent
Illiterate	711	35.59
Primary	383	19.17
Upper Primary	300	15.02
High School	373	18.67
Pre- University	144	7.21
Higher Education	87	4.35
Total	1998	100

Occupational Structure

Occupational structure of a region determines the socio economic characteristics of that particular population (Deshmukh M U and Khadke P A, 2015). There is a high relationship between occupational structure on one hand and economic development on the other (Banu N S, 2015). Hence, it is important to understand the occupational structure to determine the socio economic status of any household. The data representing the occupational structure of the selected tribes of the study area is presented in the Table 4.

Table 4. Occupational Structure

Occupation	Tribal population	Percent
Cultivator	164	17.98
Agricultural Labour	508	55.70
Non Agricultural Labour	120	13.16
Business	52	5.70
Government Contract Daily Wage	24	2.64
Private Employee / NGO	44	4.82
Total Working population	912	100.00

The survey revealed that 45.65% (912 individual) are working population and 54.35 % (1,086 individual) are dependent

which includes children, elderly people and housewives. Among the working population major proportion are engaged as agriculture labours (55.70 %), followed by cultivators (17.98 %) and Non-agricultural labours (13.16). The overall revelation of the study is that the selected tribes are engaged in the low profile jobs.

Size of Landholding

Land is an asset of human being and is the one of the main sources of income in India. In the present study, information about size of land owned by each household was collected and assessed. Among the 500 households only 222(44.4 %) households own the cultivation land while 278(55.6 %) are landless. According to agricultural profile of Karnataka, 2013, the farmer with agricultural land below 1 ha. are considered as marginal farmers, between 1 and 2 ha. are considered small farmers, between 2 and 4 ha. are semi medium farmers, between 4 and 10 are medium farmers and more than 10 ha. are considered large farmers. Thus, the collected information has been grouped based on the classification given by state government as shown in the Table 5. The survey revealed that among 221 land holders 184 (82.88 %) are marginal farmers, who own less or equal to an acre of land; 37 (16.67 %) are small farmers, who have between 1 and 2 acres; and only one (0.45 %) is semi medium farmer who has between 2 and 4 acres of land. From the information collected about the landholding, it is inferred that more than half of the total study population is landless and major proportion of landholders are marginal farmers. The Table 5 also illustrates that the size of land holding by sample households are 148.3 hectare in which 94.9 ha. are hold by 0-1 ha. farmers; 51 ha. are hold by 1-2 ha. farmers and 2.4 ha. hold by 2-4 ha. farmers.

Table 5. Size of Land Holding

Size (Ha.)	No. of HH	Total Size (Ha.)	No. HH (%)
0 - 1	184	94.9	82.88
1 - 2	37	51	16.67
2 - 4	1	2.4	0.45
Total	222	148.3	100.00

Source of Irrigation

Irrigation is an important factor for the process of cultivation, if the land is sufficiently irrigated throughout year then profit is higher compared to the land which depends on seasonal rainfall. Hence, the information of irrigation facility of land owners was collected and assessed.

Table 6. Water Source for Irrigation

Water Source	No. of HH	Size of Land (ha.)	No. of HH (%)
Rain fed	180	114.62	81.08
Canal	27	14.66	12.16
Bore Well	15	19.02	6.76
Total	222	148.3	100.00

From the Table 6, it is clear that, among the 222 land owners 180 (81.1 %) are depending on rainfall, 27 (12.2) are using canal water and 15 (6.8) are using bore-well for irrigation purpose. The data also describes that among the total land holding, 114.62 ha. are rain fed, 14.66 ha. are irrigated using canals and 19.02 ha. are irrigated using bore well.

Types of crop cultivation

To know the money value of the crops cultivated in their land, the information about it was collected and it was found that

77.03% of farmers cultivate Ragi which is financially less valued followed by paddy 8.56%, cotton 5.41% and Maize 3.15%.

Table 7. Major Crops

Major Crops	No. HH	Percent
Ragi	171	77.03
Paddy	19	8.56
Cotton	12	5.41
Maize	7	3.15
Flowers	5	2.25
Tobacco	3	1.35
Sugarcane	2	0.90
Banana	1	0.45
Coconut	1	0.45
Vegetables	1	0.45
Total	222	100.00

Household Amenities

To understand the available household's amenities in sample houses, the number of general amenities was listed in a questionnaire and data was collected (Table 8).

Table 8. Household Amenities

HH Amenities	Yes	No	Yes (%)	No (%)
Electricity	420	80	84	16
Television	275	225	55	45
Fridge	3	497	0.6	99.4
Bike	69	431	13.8	86.2
Bicycle	66	434	13.2	86.8
Car	3	497	0.6	99.4
Mobile	364	136	72.8	27.2
Tailoring Machine	3	497	0.6	99.4

The survey confirmed that among the 500 households only 84 % avail electricity, 55 percent use television, 0.6 percent use fridge, 13.2 % have motor cycles, 0.6 % have cars, 72.8 % population has mobile phones, 0.6 % have tailoring machine. The data indicates that less than a percent of household are having expensive amenities like fridge and car, while almost half of sample households do not have television and bike which is considered as one of the basic amenities of present time. The worst situation is that around 16 percent households of the study population do not have electricity facility.

Conclusion

The study presents a socio economic status of tribals of selected taluks of the Mysuru district. The survey revealed the pathetic conditions of the study area, with 99% of the population living under below poverty line, high illiteracy rate, lack of basic and essential amenities like electricity. The main occupational structure is agricultural labour and 56% of the population is landless. The present survey brings forth the conditions and facilities available to the selected scheduled tribes and it can be concluded that the socio economic conditions of tribe population living in the Mysuru district are quite poor and needs to be addressed on both State level and central level.

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