

Situation Analysis of living condition of Tribals in Rajasthan



Social Science

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ABSTRACT

The tribal communities are more vulnerable for various social problems such as low level of education, poor health condition, impact of cultural practices, inadequate/ absence of employment opportunities, deterioration of natural resources etc., has been posed the problem for rare survival. A study conducted in two villages of Rajasthan state concluded that tribal community is a victim of injustice and violation of natural rights. The government policies are also responsible for exploitation. A prominent observation of the study is that though the constitution has made several provisions for their upliftment the results are not as anticipated. The poverty alleviation scheme like NREGA is not being implemented effectively as a result of this the living condition of tribal population remained poor since years.

Introduction

Tribals constitute a considerable proportion of Indian population. The proportion of tribals in general population is about 8.14% (84.51 million). More than 500 different types of tribal communities are staying in India (Article 342 (33) of the Constitution). The largest number of tribals are situated in Orissa (62 types) and the highest concentration is in Central and North-East regions. More than half of the tribal population lives in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Jharkhand and Gujarat. Tribal community is characterized by social and economic backwardness. Inaccessibility to various services that are being provided by government is the predominant reason for their backwardness. According to (Shrivastava, 1986), (Srivastava, L.R.N. (19920, Development of Curriculum for Tribal Students in Chaudhary, Buddhadeb (ed.) Tribal Transformation in India, Vol. 4, Education and Literacy Programmes, Inter-India Publications, New Delhi), every tribal community has its own identity and unique characteristics of culture and traditions. Due to this, the tribal community always remained in isolation. This situation leads to a poor living condition which is the main threat for their survival. The lokur committee (1965) appointed by government of India for the study of tribals has also identified the characteristics such as: presence of primitive traits, distinctive culture, and shyness of contact with the other communities, geographical isolation and backwardness in social and economic condition. The constitution (article 342) has made provisions for their development. Accordingly government is making a several attempts to improve the quality of life. The occupational disparities are compounded by higher dropout rates in formal education, resulting in a disproportionately low representation in higher education (Draft National Tribal Policy, 2006).

The social and physical infrastructure in the tribal areas is inadequate. Health care is one of the major problem of tribal community. Reluctance of doctors and paramedics to serve tribal areas is an unresolved issue that continues to affect the entire health care delivery system in tribal areas. In tribal communities, the literacy indicators show that educational development is very low. The dropout rate among tribal school going children is alarming. Various steps has been taken by the State Government to reduce the school dropout which include free distribution of books and stationery, scholarship etc., (Dube, 1977), (Tribal development in Rajasthan: with special reference to women and children, Rajasthan Vidyapeeth. Udaipur School

of Social Work, Himanshu Publications for Udaipur School of Social Work, Rajasthan Vidyapeeth). Another factor for this is related to the teachers. The teacher's absenteeism is high in schools of tribal areas (NCERT, 2007). Public finance and financing institutions are grossly inadequate. Naturally they have to depend on other sources of finance. Perhaps they don't have any other option of local money lender leading to become victim of moneylenders (Ghurye, 1969).

On this background a pilot study was conducted to assess the living condition of tribal communities in Gordhanpura (Kishanganj) and Annasagar villages of (Shahabad) Rajasthan state. Rajasthan is one of the state situated in the northern part of India having 10.4 percent of the geographical area and 5.67 percent of the total population, consisting of 7 administrative divisions, 33 districts, 244 Tehsils, and 9,177 Gram Panchayats, Though, the State has shown improvement in human development ranking 12th position in 1981 and 9th in 2001. The main reason for selection of these villages is that, this area is an underdeveloped area as compared to other parts of the state. The situations of tribals are not conducive to maintain the minimum level of living conditions. The objectives of study were as follows:-

Objectives of the study

- 1). To study the living conditions in terms of access to health, education, employment, PDS and other public utility services and
- 2). To study the social implications of poor living conditions on overall development of tribal communities.

Tools and method of data collection: The total population of these villages were 400 and 700 respectively with 150 and 200 numbers of households. Of them 40 families from each village were selected by simple random selection method. The group discussions with the villagers were also conducted to get insight of the living conditions. The interview method with the help of interview schedule was adopted to collect the information. Interviews were held at respondents residence.

Data & Analysis: The interview schedule was consisted of five main sections. The first section was about the socio - economic profile, the second was devoted for investigating the facilities that are available. The third section was about M-NREGA and in fourth and fifth section was concerned with the various benefits they got from the government schemes.

Table No 1. Socio- economic profile of the respondents

Aspects	Category	Govardhanpura		Annasagar			
		Nos.	%	Nos.	%	Nos.	%
Age (yrs)	18-25	4	10.0%	8	20.0%	12	15.0%
	26-35	6	15.0%	11	27.5%	17	21.3%
	36-45	12	30.0%	10	25.0%	22	27.5%
	46-55	6	15.0%	4	10.0%	10	12.5%
	55 and above	12	30.0%	7	17.5%	19	23.8%

Sex	Male	21	52.5%	20	50.0%	41	51.3%
	Female	19	47.5%	20	50.0%	39	48.8%
Occupation	Labour	27	67.5%	18	45.0%	45	56.3%
	Farming	3	7.5%	20	50.0%	23	28.8%
	Others	10	25.0%	2	5.0%	12	15.0%
Income (Rs.)	0-1000	9	22.5%	11	27.5%	20	25.0%
	1000-2000	18	45.0%	21	52.5%	39	48.8%
	2000-3000	12	30.0%	8	20.0%	20	25.0%
	4000-above	1	2.5%	0	0.0%	1	1.3%
Educational Level	Primary school	11	27.5%	5	12.5%	16	20.0%
	Secondary/High school	4	10.0%	1	2.5%	5	6.3%
	College / University level	25	62.5%	34	85.0%	59	73.8%
Total		40	100.0%	40	100.0%	80	100.0%

The above table shows the details of socio-economic level of study population. It is seen from the above table that 25 % respondents were below 35 yr of age group in Govardhapura whereas in Annasagar the proportion is 47.5%. About 30% of respondents were of 36 to 45 yrs age group in village Govardhapura and 25% in Annasagar. Marginal differences have observed in Govardhapura and in Annasagar age composition of the respondents. As far as the gender of respondents is concerned it remained more or less same in both villages.

The occupational category shows that casual worker / laborer bonded labour, farming or agriculture and some other wage earning activities are the main categories. The data is classified under these categories however, the proportion of bonded labor was very less hence it is merged into labour category. It was found that among the tribal communities of both villages labour / casual worker is the main occupational category of 68% in Govardhapura and 45% in Annasagar followed by 7.5% respondents in

Govardhapura and 50% respondents in Annasagar are following the farming as a main occupation. Rest of the respondents are engaged in either own farming or working as a casual worker or are following petty business which will serve the purpose of their survival. Income is one the most important indicator of living condition. It was found in our data that the level of income is extremely low in both villages that is the main challenge for their survival. There are more than 25% of the families in the village whose income is less than 1000 per month. Approximately 50% of the families had income ranging from 1000 to 2000 and 25% of respondent had income of 2000-3000. The overall situation shows that economically they are very poor. Naturally the living conditions are bound to be of low quality.

The educational level is also low in both villages however; secondary is the higher level of education in both villages. The details about availability of basic facilities and difficulties faced are given in Table no.2.

Table No .2 Availability of facilities, difficulties faced by respondents and satisfaction about health status

Availability / difficulties	Aspects	Govardhanpura		Annasagar			
Availability of facilities	Employment	13	32.5%	6	15.0%	19	23.8%
	Transportation	0	0.0%	4	10.0%	4	5.0%
	Sanitation	1	2.5%	0	0.0%	1	1.3%
	Potable water	3	7.5%	1	2.5%	4	5.0%
	Pension cards	23	57.5%	29	72.5%	52	65.0%
Difficulties faced	About NREGA	8	20.0%	10	25.0%	18	22.5%
	Irregular payment	25	62.5%	24	60.0%	49	61.3%
	Works as bonded labour	2	5.0%	0	0.0%	2	2.5%
	Own land to others on lease	5	12.5%	6	15.0%	11	13.8%
Health status	Yes	20	50.0%	18	45.0%	38	47.5%
	No	20	50.0%	22	55.0%	42	52.5%
Total		40	100.0%	40	100.0%	80	100.0%

The above table shows that pension cards, this facility is available in both villages along with the employment facilities under M- NREGA however; irregular payment or inadequate payment is the main difficulty faced by more than 60% of the respondents and to get the employment opportunity under NREGA program this difficulty is faced by about 25% of the respondents. As regard to the supplementary food to young children, in both villages aganbadi is working and all children are receiving supplementary food and in schools mid day meal program is also available. As regard to the health status 50% respondents from both villages are satisfied this indicates poor health condition in both villages.

Inadequate facility for education after high school, non availability of medical personnel, inadequate facilities related to drink-

ing water, sanitation and drainage, non accessibility of modern technology, cultural practices in health, blind faith and beliefs. These aspects are making their life more miserable. On one hand poverty due to lack of employment opportunities which in turn reflects on economic status (which is extremely low are creating more problems in their day to day life). High morbidity, high prevalence of diarrheal disease where children are the worst sufferers of malnutrition is the symptom of extremely poor living conditions. Due to economic poor conditions most of the tribal are not being able to meet the expenses of health services becomes easy victims of poor living condition.

To summarize the results of this study it is to say that the tribal community in Rajasthan is facing several problems leading to poor living conditions.

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