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Socio-economic profile of the farmers benefited under tribal sub plan (TSP) programme in Odisha: An analytical study

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Abstract

This paper investigates the socio-economic profile of the farmers benefited under Tribal sub plan programme. The study was conducted in two tribal districts covered under Tribal Sub plan programme in a state of Odisha. A total of 240 respondents were selected for the purpose of accomplishing the objective of our study. Interview Schedule has been prepared in context of the purpose of the present study. The respondents of both Mayurbhanj and Gajapati districts were similar socio-economic status. Majority of 65.28% of the respondents in Mayurbhanj district were comparatively of medium followed by low (21.53%) and only 13.19% of high socio-economic status. Similarly majority of 69.79% of the respondents in Gajapati district were comparatively of medium socio-economic status followed by low (19.79%) and high (10.42%). The respondents of both the district were comparatively of medium to low socio-economic status. The Tribal Sub Plan may be a boon to accelerate their status by income and employment generation through effective implementation of need based as well as feasible developmental activities. Further attempt was also made to analyse the extent of consistency in the socio-economic attributes of the respondents. There was variability in the socio economic attributes of the respondents. Greater variability were observed on occupation, annual income, house type, holding size, family size, family type, education and age. Variability were also observed on cosmopolite behaviour, social participation, sources of farm information, scientific orientation as well as social and economic aptitudes. The respondents selected for the study were almost heterogeneous in their socio-economic attributes. Hence the results obtained from the study might have the applicability to the larger number of the tribal farmers involved under Tribal sub plan activities.

Keywords: Tribal sub plan, socio economic, programme

Introduction

Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP), a strategic policy initiative to secure overall development of the STs, was first introduced in the Fifth Five Year Plan. The focus of TSP is on “securing budgetary allocations for tribal development at least proportionate to their population, in order to bring them at par with other sections of society and to protect them from exploitation.” With the fast developing world, tribals required specific attention not only with monetary allocation but along with special interventions for their rapid socio-economic development. It required an integrated approach of all departments in a united manner and not works in isolation. The Tribal Sub-Plan envisages reducing gaps between the tribals and non-tribals in health, education, communication and other areas of basic amenities of life by providing legal and administrative support. The Tribal Sub-Plan also implements income generating schemes to boost the income of the tribals on a sustainable basis by taking into account their aptitude and skill.

Balanced growth and economic development is the ultimate aim of every country and the strategic plans (Fifth five year plans as in case of India) are designed accordingly. After 25 years of independence, and successful completion of four five year and three annual plan, it was realized by policy makers that the Scheduled Tribes are still way behind the mainstream development process. Apart from this, it was also been realized that the general plan schemes and programmes designed for the overall development of the economy hardly improved their socio-economic status. Similarly, the benefit of such general welfare schemes did not percolate down towards the development of STs Population of the country in any significant manner. In order to eradicate these issues, the Tribal Sub-Plan was initiated during Fifth Five Year Plan for socio-economic amelioration of the tribal communities who comprise 22.13 percent in Odisha. The ST development effort was revamped and invigorated in order to fulfil the

constitutional mandates of ensuring better quality of life of the schedule tribes.

The objectives of the TSP are as follows

- Substantial reduction in poverty and un-employment.
- Creation of productive assets in favour of Scheduled Tribes to sustain the growth likely to accrue through development efforts.
- Human resource development of the Scheduled Tribes by providing adequate educational and health services, and Provision of physical and financial security against all types of exploitation and oppression.

The Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) strategy was initially developed by an Expert Committee set up by the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare in 1972 under the Chairmanship of Prof. S.C. Dube for the rapid socio-economic development of tribal people and was adopted for the first time in the Fifth Five Year Plan. The TSP strategy, with some modifications, continues till this day and the salient features with respect to TSP for States, are given below:

- 1) The funds provided under the Tribal Sub Plan of the State have to be at least equal in proportion to the ST population of each State or UT;
- 2) Tribals and tribal areas of a State or UT are given benefits under the TSP, in addition to what percolates from the overall Plan of a State/UT;
- 3) The Sub-Plan should;
 - a. Identify the problems and need of tribal people and critical gaps in their development.
 - b. Identity all available resources for TSP.
 - c. Prepare a broad policy framework for development.
 - d. Prepare a detailed department wise plan.
 - e. Define a suitable administrative strategy for its implementation.
 - f. Specify the mechanism for monitoring and evaluation.

Research Methodology

Ex-post facto research design has been selected in the present study. The two Tribal Sub Plan districts in Odisha i.e. Mayurbhanj from North Central Plateau and Gajapati from North Eastern Ghats agro-climatic Zones of Odisha has been selected purposively. Out of these selected districts, two blocks in each district and four gram panchayat in each block has been selected randomly. Thus a total of 240 respondents were selected for the purpose of accomplishing the objective of our study. Only those respondents have been selected who have get the benefit of Tribal Sub Plan Programme. An interview schedule was prepared. In order to collect information, from the respondents under the study, at least a well-constructed pretested interview scheduled will be used as a tool. These findings are presented in this article. The source of data for this includes both primary sources and secondary sources. The secondary sources include the reports of planning commission; Different Tribal Development Reports, Thesis etc. were collected. An Interview Schedule was prepared in order to collect the primary data from the respondents under the study. The collected data was confirmed by holding informal interviews with responsible and knowledge of local informants like Village PRI members, key person of officers and leaders.

Results and Discussion

The human beings are not free agents without being

influenced by personnel, Social, Psychological and economic background. These attributes are very vital for making productive endeavour. The infrastructural climate was made to solve many of the social and economic limitations, but the socio economic condition are very much helpful in changing the behaviour of the people adopt new approaches, Hence these attributes may be the detrimental factors to enrich knowledge and skills for better implementation of the planned programmes. All total 14 attributes have been chosen to analyse the socio economic profile of the tribal farmers.

Socio-Economic profile

Age

Majority of 64.58% of the respondents in Mayurbhanj district were in the age group of 31 to 50 years followed by up to 30 years (24.31%) and rest 11.11% in the age group of above 50 years. Old age tribal farmers are not much interested to involve in new developmental programmes and continue their activities. At the same time, young tribal farmers are interested to search for better vocations than farming. These might be the reasons for which majority of the tribal farmers involved in Tribal Sub Plan programmes. The pooled data revealed that majority of 67.50% of the respondents involved in Tribal Sub Plan Programmes were in the age group of 31 to 50 years followed by up to 30 years (21.67%) and above 50 years (10.83%).

Education

The respondents were having education starting from illiterate to as high as college and above. However maximum of 30.56% of the respondents in Mayurbhanj district had education up to middle school followed by up to high school (30.56%), up to primary (17.36%), illiterate (11.80%) and only 6.25% educated up to college and above. Similarly maximum of 50.00% of the respondents in Gajapati district were educated up to primary, followed by up to high school (17.71%), middle school (11.45%) and both college and above as well as illiterate (10.42%). The pooled data revealed that maximum of 30.42% respondents were educated up to primary level followed by high school (25.42%), middle school (25.00%), illiterate (11.25%) and only 7.91% having education up to college and above. The findings lead to conclude that all educational level of the respondents starting from illiterate to college and above were involved in the Tribal Sub Plan activities. However majority of 80.84% of the respondents had education from primary to high school level.

Family type

The type of family had been categorized as nuclear, Joint and extended family. Extended family has been operationalized as the family members of their grandfathers/fore fathers are still continuing in a common kitchen. The data reflected in the table revealed that majority of 63.89% in Mayurbhanj district and 82.29% in Gajapati district with total of 71.25% had joint family system. Similarly, 26.39% of the respondents in Mayurbhanj and 12.50 % Gajapati district with total average of 20.83% had nuclear family system. Only 9.72% of the respondents in Mayurbhanj and 5.21% in Gajapati district with total average of 7.92% had extended family system. It is the culture of the tribals that the sons with marriage are staying in their father's house. It might be the reasons for which majority of the respondents had joint family system. The findings therefore conclude that majority of the respondents involved in tribal sub plan programmes and

activities had joint family system.

Family size

Majority of 62.50% of the respondents in Mayurbhanj and 82.29% in Gajapati district had family size of 5 to 8 members. Similarly, 27.78% of the respondents in Mayurbhanj district and 14.58% in Gajapati district with total average of 22.50% had family size within four members. Only 9.72% of respondents in Mayurbhanj and 3.13% in Gajapati district with total average of 7.08% had family size of more than eight members. These family size of above eight members might be restricted with extended family type. Since, majority of the respondents had joint family system, their family members were of five to eight members. The findings therefore conclude that majority of the respondents involved in tribal sub plan activities had family size of five to eight members.

Holding size

Government has been classified the farmers depending up on their holding size. The families having no cultivated land are classified as land less. Similarly, the families having cultivated land up to 1.0 ha are marginal and 1.10 to 2.0 ha called as small farmers. The data in the table revealed that only 7.08% of the respondents i.e. 4.86% in Mayurbhanj district and 10.42% in Gajapati district were landless. Similarly, 18.33% of the respondents comprising 24.31% in Mayurbhanj and 9.38% in Gajapati district were small farmers. Rest of the respondents were of marginal farmers. It is therefore conclude that majority of 74.59% of the respondents involved in Tribal Sub Plan activities had holding size up to 1.0 ha and called marginal farmers.

House type

Majority of 59.72% of the respondents in Mayurbhanj district had semi pucca houses followed by thatched house (31.25%) and only 9.03% reside in pucca houses, but mixed responses were obtained from the responses were obtained from the respondents in Gajapati districts. Maximum of 45.83% of the respondents had thatched house followed by semipucca (34.38%) and rest 19.79% reside in pucca houses followed by thatched (37.08%) and pucca (13.33%) houses. Majority of the respondents were marginal farmers. At the same time, around 50% of the respondents had semi pucca houses. It is therefore apprehended that the tribal sub plan activities had made definite impact on income generation for which maximum respondents had made semi pucca houses. However, the findings conclude that majority of the respondents had semi pucca to thatched houses.

Social participation

The respondents of both Mayurbhanj and Gajapati district were almost of similar opinions about their participation in various developmental organisations functioning in their locality. In Mayurbhanj districts, the respondents had comparatively more participation in the activities of Gram panchayat, followed by cultural organisations, religious organisations, Social organisations, Cooperative society and educational organisations. The respondents of Gajapati districts had comparatively more participation in the activities of Gram panchayat followed by religious and cultural organisations, Social organisations, Cooperative society and educational organisations. Considering the mean score value in a three point continuum, the findings conclude that the

respondents of both Mayurbhanj and Gajapati district had better participation in the activities of various organisations covered under study.

Cosmopolitaness

The cosmopolite behaviour of the respondents of Mayurbhanj and Gajapati districts were almost of similar opinions. The respondents of Mayurbhanj district had better visits to Panchayat headquarters and post office. They had also visit frequently to primary health Centre, credit institutions, nearest city on town and block head quarter. Similarly the respondents of Gajapati district had better visit to Panchayat head quarter, post office and primary health centre visit to other institutions were also satisfactory. Considering the pooled data in a three point scale, the findings conclude that the visit made to all the institutions mentioned in the table were satisfactory and better visit to Panchayat headquarter, post office and primary health centre.

Sources of farm information

Both respondents Mayurbhanj and Gajapati district had not much used farm publications, technical bulletins and newspaper. Similarly they had not get much scope for the exposure visit and attending exhibitions and farmers fair. The major sources of information of the respondents were personal contact, attending training and meeting as well as farm broad cast and telecast. Farm publications and technical bulletins contained latest information on farm activities that can be presented and use as reference materials. Similarly, exposure visits, farmers fair and exhibitions facilitate is not only getting farm information but develop their confidence in use. The findings therefore suggested that the officials of the Tribal Sub Plan programme have to take initiatives to reorient the respondents on the information sources along with further strengthening other sources in order to increase their knowledge and skills for use in their farm activities.

Occupation

All the respondents in both Mayurbhanj and Gajapati district had farming as the major occupation, among subsidiary occupation, 26.25% of the respondents had livestock production, 17.92% horticultural crops, 6.67% small business and 36.25% wage earner. The majority of the respondents in the study districts were landless to marginal farmer having average annual income within Rs 1.0 lakh. Unless, the respondents have diversified occupation with proper management, adequate income and employment generation will not be possible. The study therefore suggested that the officials of the Tribal Sub plan working in the study district have to analyse the resources of the tribal farmers properly and formulae feasible diversified occupational activities for fully utilization of their available resources with proper management for significant generation both income and employment

Annual income

Maximum of 47.92% of the respondents in Mayurbhanj district had annual income within to Rs 1.0 lakh followed by 43.06% having annual income of Rs 1.10 to 2.0 lakh only 9.02% of the respondents had annual income of Rs 2.10 to Rs 4.0 lakh. At the same time, majority of 65.63% of the respondents in Gajapati district had annual income within Rs 1.0 lakh followed by 32.29% within Rs 1.10 to 2.0 lakhs. Only 2.08% of the respondents had annual income of Rs 2.10

to 3.0 lakhs. The pooled data revealed the majority of 55.00% of the respondents had annual income of within Rs 1.0 lakh followed by 38.75% within Rs 1.10 lakh to Rs 2.0 lakhs. Only 6.25% of the respondents had annual income within Rs 2.10 to 4.0 lakh. Since majority of the respondents had holding size within 1.0 ha, it might be the reasons for this low income. The findings therefore suggested that the officials of the Tribal Sub Plan have to further strengthen their activities to raise the income level of the respondents for their better living.

Social aptitude

The respondents of Mayurbhanj district had better social aptitude on consciousness for better technology, close contact with officials, establishing social relationships, membership in developmental organisations, leadership role, change proneness and to some extent cosmopolite behaviour. Though the respondents of Gajapati district had positively opined for their social aptitudes on all aspects mentioned in the table, better social aptitude were observed on membership in developmental organisations, establishing social relationships and to some extent on consciousness for better technology, change proneness as well as cosmopolite behaviour. However the respondents of Mayurbhanj district had better social aptitude in comparison to the respondents of Gajapati district. The pooled data revealed that the respondents had better social aptitude on establishing social relationships, consciousness for better technology, membership in developmental organisations, close contact with officials and change proneness but the respondents of both the district were not much agreed for not adhering to their social norms indicating they are still continuing to their social norms. On the whole, the findings conclude that the respondents had perceived favourable social aptitude which can accelerate for the adoption of various activities programmed under Tribal Sub Plan.

Economic aptitude

Perception of the respondents of both Mayurbhanj and

Gajapati district towards their economic aptitude. The respondents were not favourably opined for the adequate farm investment, investment in children education and commercial farming. Satisfactory responses were also not received on availing credit and purchasing household articles. However, better responses were observed on livelihood improvement, better housing and optimum use of resources. Critical analysis of the data revealed that the respondents of both the districts were much concerned for their livelihood improvement, better housing and optimum use of resources but due to their low risk bearing abilities and lack of confidences, they had not perceived for availing credit, adequate farm investment and commercial farming. These might be the reasons for which they could not perceived much for investment in children education and purchasing household articles. The findings therefore suggested that the officials of the Tribal Sub Plan implementing the programmes have to sufficiently exposed the respondents about the benefits and develop confidence for effective implementation of the activities so that they can venture for risk taking abilities in availing all the economic aptitudes for effective implementation of the suggested technologies for more income generation.

Scientific Orientation

The respondents of both Mayurbhanj and Gajapati district had poor perceptions towards various scientific orientation. The respondents of both the districts had poor perception towards contract farming, cooperative farming, testing of new technologies, blending of modern and traditional technologies, mechanical farming as well as integrated farming approach. Perception towards adoption of new technology and scientific cultivation were also not satisfactory. As the respondents had poor economic attitude, they could not perhaps perceived for their scientific orientation due to poor economic status. Sufficient exposure by the officials of the Tribal Sub Plan programme are essentially required to change their mindset could motivate them for scientific orientation.

Table 1: Categorisation in to different socio-economic status

Sl. No.	Category	Mayurbhanj district (n=144)		Gajapati district (n=96)		Total (n=240)	
		f	%	f	%	f	%
i	High	19	13.19	19	19.79	38	15.83
ii	Medium	94	65.28	67	69.79	161	67.09
iii	Low	31	21.53	10	10.42	41	17.08

The data in the table-1 revealed that the respondents of both Mayurbhanj and Gajapati districts were similar socio-economic status. Majority of 65.28% of the respondents in Mayurbhanj district were comparatively of medium followed by low (21.53%) and only 13.19% of high socio-economic status. Similarly majority of 69.79% of the respondents in Gajapati district were comparatively of medium socio-economic status followed by low (19.79%) and high (10.42%). The findings therefore conclude that the

respondents of both the district were comparatively of medium to low socio-economic status. The Tribal Sub Plan may be a boon to accelerate their status by income and employment generation through effective implementation of need based as well as feasible developmental activities. Further attempt was also made to analyse the extent of consistency in the socio-economic attributes of the respondents. The results obtained from the co efficient of variation analysis have been reflected in table-2

Table 2: Extent of consistency in the socio economic attributes

(n=240)

Sl. No.	Attribute	Mean score			Standard error	Standard deviation	Coefficient of variation (CV %)
		Minimum	Maximum	Average			
i.	Age	1.00	3.00	2.108	0.036	0.561	26.603
ii.	Education	1.00	5.00	2.883	0.074	1.148	39.80
iii.	Family type	1.00	3.00	1.871	0.034	0.521	27.875
iv.	Family size	1.00	3.00	1.846	0.0337	0.523	28.318
v.	Holding size	1.00	3.00	2.113	0.0318	0.492	23.312
vi.	House type	2.00	4.00	2.767	0.0440	0.681	24.625
vii.	Social participation	6.00	18.00	12.554	0.116	1.792	14.272
viii.	Cosmopoliteness	7.00	21.00	16.60	0.139	2.154	12.980
ix.	Sources of farm information	9.00	27.00	19.908	0.218	3.385	17.001
x.	Occupation	1.00	3.00	1.600	0.0593	0.918	57.402
xi.	Annual family income	1.00	4.00	1.533	0.044	0.678	44.192
xii.	Social aptitude	8.00	24.00	19.292	0.202	3.134	16.246
xiii.	Economic aptitude	8.00	24.00	16.475	0.120	3.095	18.788
xiv.	Scientific orientation	8.00	24.00	14.458	0.144	2.231	15.431

Coefficient of variation analysis as mentioned in the table-2 revealed that there was variability in the socio economic attributes of the respondents. Greater variability were observed on occupation, annual income, house type, holding size, family size, family type, education and age. Variability were also observed on cosmopolite behaviour, social participation, sources of farm information, scientific orientation as well as social and economic aptitudes. The table as a whole indicate that the respondents had significant variation in all of their socio-economic attributes. The findings therefore conclude that the respondents selected for the study were almost heterogeneous in their socio-economic attributes. Hence the results obtained from the study might have the applicability to the larger number of the tribal farmers involved under Tribal sub plan activities.

Conclusions

Community Participation is potentially an effective resource mobilization strategy. The novelty of a community based participation approach lies in the creative interaction between tribal farmers and TSP Project personnel to enrich knowledge and skill competing in effective implementation of the planned activities to achieve the desired results. The findings therefore conclude that the respondents of both the district were comparatively of medium to low socio-economic status. The Tribal Sub Plan may be a boon to accelerate their status by income and employment generation through effective implementation of need based as well as feasible developmental activities. The respondents selected for the study were almost heterogeneous in their socio-economic attributes. Hence the results obtained from the study might have the applicability to the larger number of the tribal farmers involved under Tribal Sub Plan activities.

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