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Title of the Project: The Socio-Economic Study of Scheduled Tribes in Marathwada with Special reference of Hingoli District

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Summary

Tribal groups in India are considered to be the earliest inhabitants of a country. As per census of 2011 the tribal population of the country is 10.43 crore, constituting 8.6% of the total population. The scheduled tribes of India still are backward, even today their economic life depends upon natural forces. The scheduled tribe is surrounded by forests and hill rocks. Their economic life is like a continuous hurdle race. Forest and forest produce have been their major source of livelihood in the past. The poverty is woven in their culture. They do not know what is better life? The condition of the tribes from Maharashtra and Marathwada is not different.

Since independence the central government and the Maharashtra state government have launched various programmes for alleviation of poverty for tribal community in the country. But due to lack of proper implementation of the tribal development scheme the benefits have not reached to the needed people. Many studies reveal that there is no positive impact of the tribal development schemes for the upliftment of the tribal's in the country.

Many efforts have been made by the scholars and researchers to identify the problems of the tribal development. These studies have analyzed the socio-economic conditions of tribal community. But earlier studies have not studied the issues like poverty, indebtedness, socio-economic conditions of tribes and their sub groups in particular in Marathwada region. Through this study the researcher presented the socio-economic characteristics of the tribal sub groups i.e. Andh, Bhil, Gond and Kolam of Hingoli district.

Objectives of the study-

- 1) To study the socio-economic condition of the tribes in Marathwada region.
- 2) To identify the incidence and causes of poverty and to examine the level of indebtedness among the tribal households in the study area.
- 3) To make comparative study of the subgroups among scheduled tribes in Marathwada region.
- 4) To examine the various schemes related for the benefits of the tribes in the Marathwada region.
- 5) To suggest appropriate policy measures for effective implementation of the various tribal development schemes.

Hypothesis of the Study:

- 1) There would be wide difference in the incidence of poverty and standard of living among the sub groups of the tribal community.
- 2) There would be poor implementation of various schemes of the Government related for the welfare of tribal community.
- 3) There would be more illiteracy among the tribes in the Marathwada region.

Research Methodology:-

The study is mainly based on the descriptive research design namely Explorative Research Design. The primary and secondary data is collected systemically for this study. Primary data is collected through survey. Interview schedule is the main tool for collecting the primary data. And secondary data is collected from the commissioner of Tribal Development, Tribal Development Department, Government of Maharashtra, District Census Handbook, reference books, thesis, reports of the research projects, report from the government officials, journals, newspapers and online material etc.

Hingoli district of Maharashtra was selected for this study. Hingoli and Kalamnuri these two talukas and 05 villages from each talukas were purposively selected on the basis of higher concentration of the subgroups of tribal. From each selected village, 05 respondents of each tribe were interviewed randomly thus constituting a sample of 100 respondents for this study. A brief summary of the study is presented in this section.

Major Findings of the Study:-

Socio-Educational profile of the Respondents:-

1. The researcher interviewed head of the family for the study overwhelming majority (82 per cent) of them were males whereas about 18 per cent were found to be female. In all tribal sub-groups most of the households headed by male in some exceptional circumstance few women carrying out the responsibility of head of the family.
2. The researcher collected information from head of the family that's the reason all respondents are from the age of 40 years old and majority (52%) of the respondents from the age group of 51 to 60 years.
3. The researcher purposely filled the interview schedule from the head of the family in case of unavailability of head of the family the researcher took the information from the other family member. That's the reason 7 per cent respondents are unmarried.
4. Majority 45 (45%) of the respondents have 7-9 members in their family.
5. The average size of the family is 7.19 persons per family. This indicates that the family of tribal subgroups in Marathwada region is remained joint or extended in which people from two or more generations live together.
6. The majority of tribal sub-groups of Marathwada region were residing in zopari and kucha houses. It means that the living condition or status of the family is very poor of the tribal community in Marathwada region.
7. Majority of respondents (82%) had their own houses and few (11%) of them were having rental houses. 7% respondents have been taken house on lease. The respondents that living in rented house were migrated for the job purpose.
8. Most of tribal people still residing in rural and hilly region in Marathwada. In such remote areas still most of the tribal families not get basic household amenities.

9. Most of tribal houses found without toilet facility and 75% have not drainage connectivity.
10. Only 15% of the tribal households in the study area were having radio and 12% having tape-recorder, 29% tribals possess TV, 29% tribal households were possessing fan, 14% of tribal households were having two wheelers and only 3% of the tribal households were having four wheelers. This proves that the tribals in the Marathwada region were very poor.
11. Majority (64%) respondents used traditional wood and Chulla for cooking purpose. Only 07 per cent respondents used LPG (Liquid Petroleum Gas) for cooking.
12. Living condition of the Andh and Bhil tribes is better than other tribe as they used modern mean like LPG, Shegadi and stove for cooking purpose.
13. Majority of tribal population in Marathwada have not accessibility to safe drinking water even today.

Educational Status of Tribals in Marathwada:-

14. Majority of the respondents (57%) found to be illiterate. Only 02% having Post-graduation followed by 01 % having graduation and 04% respondents having higher secondary school level education.
15. There were 57% respondents not received formal education because of lack of awareness about education and poor financial condition of the family.
16. In concern of level of education Andh tribe is better than Bhil, Gond and Kolam. There were five respondents from Andh tribe whose family member studied up to graduation level.
17. Bhil tribal educational level is better than Gond and Kolam. One family member from the Bhil tribe educated up to post graduate and one was graduate level. It means Andh and Bhil tribes are educationally forward as compare to Gond and Kolam.
18. School dropout rate is higher in all tribal subgroups of Marathwada region. 44% from the Andh, 52% of the Bhil, 60% of the Gond and 64% of the Kolam

respondents said that due to various reasons the members of their family were dropout from the school education.

19. Poverty and economic activities are the main reason for the dropout of the tribal from school in Marathwada.
20. A number of family members in this study dropped out of school for contribute in family earnings and to take care of their younger siblings.

Economic Conditions of Tribal Subgroups in Marathwada

Region:-

21. Agriculture is the main occupation of 66% respondents. 48% Andh, followed by 38% Bhil and Kolam replied that the agriculture is the main occupation. The proportion of daily wagers and agriculture labors is higher in Bhil, Gond and Kolam. Only 4% of respondents from Andh and Bhil were in service.
22. Higher proportion in daily wagers and agriculture labors shows economic instability of tribals in Marathwada region.
23. Majority of the tribal people in Marathwada region comes below poverty line. These families are unable to fulfill their basic needs in such minimal income. In comparative perspective 64% of Andh, 72% of Bhil, 76% of Gond and 72% of Kolam listed under Below Poverty Line. It shows that the economic condition is very poor of tribals from Marathwada region.
24. The majority (65%) of the respondent's earning is just sufficient to sustain their livelihoods and they do not have surplus money to save in bank.
25. Most of the tribal people from the Marathwada region were marginal landholder who owed less than one hectare land.
26. The majority of the respondent's earning is very nominal to sustain their livelihoods and for meet other needs they had to take loan. Majority of the tribals' households in Marathwada region have taken loan to fulfill their basic needs.
27. Many respondents borrowed loan from non-formal sources and yet they depends on the money lenders to meet the financial needs.

28. There were 26% taken loan for social cause in which 12% taken for marriage, 07% taken for repayment of old loans, 6% respondents taken for treatment on health related issues.

Government Scheme and Tribal Subgroups in Marathwada

29. Most of the tribal people from Marathwada region did not have particular knowledge about the government schemes. There is a huge lack of awareness about Tribal Development Schemes provided by government.

30. There were 26% of the respondents get information from friends and relatives. 43% of the respondents come to know about the schemes from Gramsevak and tribal department. While very less (3%) respondents get information from news paper because most of the respondents are illiterate.

31. Majority (78%) of the respondents have taken benefit of at least one of the tribal welfare scheme. 22% of the tribal respondents have given negative response they did not avail any government scheme.

32. The tribal sub-groups in Marathwada region are benefited with various schemes. 37% of the respondents have been taken benefit with the schemes related to economic upliftment and the rest of 41% of respondents taken benefit of schemes related educational development.

33. Most of the respondents (33%) didn't take any special efforts to avail the scheme but surprisingly there are some respondents who adopt the illegal way for getting sanction the scheme.

34. There were 36% of Andh, 20% Bhil, 20% of Gond and 20% of Kolam respondents said that government schemes helped them to alleviate their poverty but on an average 52% respondents gave negative response.

35. Only 07% of Andh, 16% Bhil, Gond and Kolam respondents said that their living of standard is improved because of government schemes but 56% of Andh, Bhil and Kolam and 64% of Gond did not notify any improvement in living of standard.

36. There were 40% of Andh, 32% of Bhil, 28% of Gond and 24% of Kolam respondents said that the educational schemes benefited them in enrolling their

Children for higher education/desired educational courses. But 44% of Andh, 44% of Bhil, 52% Gond and 48% Kolam didn't meet any educational benefits from the educational schemes.

37. Most of the respondents did not avail much benefit from the government schemes as their socio-economic status is not improve so much and 22% didn't avail any benefit of the schemes as they have not any information about these schemes.
38. Majority (63%) of tribal respondents have faced some problems in availment of benefit under tribal development schemes. Only 15% respondents said that they have not face any difficulties.
39. There were 41% of the respondents have not proper guidance about the government schemes. They faced lot of problems in availment of benefit of the scheme.
40. It is necessary to have caste certificate to avail any schemes for the tribal community, due to unavailability of this certificate these respondents were not eligible for the scheme 8% respondents have not caste certificate.
41. Many of the tribals were unaware about the government schemes that's why majority of the respondents expressed that awareness programs about government schemes should be take in to account.

Suggestions-

- 1) Indian government made number of constitutional safeguards and incentives to improve the educational level of the tribal groups but willingness of the tribal is important to improve the educational status of tribals. The willingness about the education can be improved by organizing counseling sessions in the tribal areas.
- 2) To overcome the issue of dropout from school there is a need to implement skill based and strong constructivist pedagogy, class oriented learning approach rather than traditional teaching in tribal areas.
- 3) Higher proportion in daily wagers and agriculture labors shows economic instability of tribals in Marathwada region. There is a strong need to implement schemes for economic upliftment in the tribal areas to secure their economic life.

- 4) Many respondents borrowed loan from non-formal sources and yet they depends on the money lenders to meet the financial needs. They should be get loan on large scale from co-operative and nationalized banks with subsidized rate.
- 5) Very less respondents get information from news paper because most of the respondents are illiterate. There is a need to arrange proper informative workshops or sessions in the tribal areas to give proper information of government schemes to the tribal people.
- 6) Most of the respondents have not proper knowledge/guidance about the government schemes. Knowledge about the government's schemes can be spread through publication of books, establishment of knowledge centre in each blocks of the state through which awareness can be given. Wall paining, Banner, poster, Electronic Print Media, Toll free number are also other medium to spread the knowledge.
- 7) The researcher noticed corruption in the implementation of the tribal development schemes. There is a need of severe punishment for the corrupt person and eradicate all type of corruption for better results of the schemes.
- 8) Many of the respondents faced difficulties while gathering the necessary documents to avail benefit of the government schemes that's why the tribals should be got immediate necessary documents to avail the benefit of the tribal schemes.

In concluding the socio-economic condition of the tribals in Marathwada is very poor. The government implements various schemes but due to various implementation issues the basic objectives of the plan have not fulfilled. There is a need of proper implementation of the government schemes.