



Investigation of Socio-Economic Traits of Tibetan Rehabilitants and its relationship to their Problems

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted during 2009-10 in Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka state. Mundgod taluk of the district where the Tibetans resided were purposively selected with 135 rehabilitants as the sample size. Data were collected to analyze the association of the profile characteristics on livelihood activities of Tibetan rehabilitants. The results revealed that education, family size, annual income, risk orientation, economic motivation and social participation were found to be significantly associated with livelihood activities. Major problems expressed by the Tibetan rehabilitants in livelihood activities were lack of labour force (63.70%), uncertainty of rainfall and lack of irrigation facilities (62.96%), lack of veterinary facilities in the settlement (29.63%) and lack of remunerative price for farm produce and high price fluctuation. Majority of the Tibetan rehabilitants (59.25%) suggested for creating water facilities by sinking open wells, tube wells or by constructing small tanks. A considerable percent of 44.45 suggested training on skill development in the enterprises, followed by 29.62 and 25.92 percent suggested better milk price for the producer and veterinary hospital facilities.

Key Words: Livelihood activities, Rehabilitants, Training, Remunerative price.

INTRODUCTION

Socio-economic profile is of paramount importance as it regulates the decision making and adoption behavior of an individual. Poor participation of the people in the social organization and simultaneously average exposure to different communication sources and education level contributes a lot to the welfare of the living standard of the people. A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (stores, resources, claims and access) and recovers from stress and shocks maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for the next generation and which contributes net benefits to other livelihoods at the local and global levels and in the long and short run (Chambers and Conway, 1992).

The Tibetans had been migrated to India in the

wake of the takeover of Tibet in 1959 by the China. They brought their culture and implanted here and became integral part of India. The Tibetans had been adjusted to host society for over the years-adaptation to the local environment and social conditions facing problems in one way or the other. At first, the incoming Tibetans were accommodated in transit camps set up on the border. Later they were moved into other areas. Dalai Lama sent appeals for help to all the countries of the world. The response was very encouraging. Initially, the planning and implementation of the various measures to provide relief and rehabilitation to the Tibetans refugees were in the hands of three agencies firstly, the Government of India/State Government, secondly, the Tibetan (Dalai Lama's) Administration-Home and Rehabilitation office and thirdly, Central Relief Committee as the authorized channel for the flow

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of voluntary as well as international assistance, including help from foreign Governments.

The steps taken for the rehabilitation of Tibetan refugees were required to be in rhythm with their background and customary modes of life. This was kept in view in shaping the plans for the rehabilitation. Occupationally since nearly 85 per cent of refugees were either farmers or pastoral peasants, it was both logical and desirable that the bulk of the refugees would have to be settled in agricultural operations, farming or dairying. Keeping this in view, the present study was undertaken to find out the association between socio-economic characteristics and livelihood activities undertaken by the Tibetan rehabilitants.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The Tibetan settlement of Mundgod taluk, Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka was purposively selected for the study. Simple random sampling procedure was adopted for the selection of respondents. Nine villages and 15 respondents from each village were selected. Thus, the total sample for the study constituted 135 respondents. The socio-economic profile was probed with the help of an interview pre designed schedule developed for the study. Interview schedule was prepared for collecting information on livelihood and their involvement in these practices.

The teacher made knowledge test was developed to measure the livelihood activities of the Tibetan rehabilitants. The livelihood activities were classified into agriculture, dairy activities and non-farm activities. Agriculture means the cultivation of crops practiced by the respondents on their farm. Dairy activities mean the rearing of milking breed for milk production. Non-farm activities includes the activities like carpet-weaving, sweater selling, incense-manufacturing, services like staffs in Tibetan society office, consumer shops, bank and tractor section, other business activities like tailoring, driving, commission agent etc. For quantitative analysis, percentages, mean, standard

deviation was used for the study. Chi-square test was calculated to find out the association between the socio-economic characteristics and livelihood activities undertaken by the Tibetan rehabilitants.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Association between socio-economic characteristics and livelihood activities undertaken by the Tibetan rehabilitants

Education

It is evident from the Table that out of seven independent variables the chi square value of the variables, only extension contact was found to be non-significant while the others were statistically found to be positively significant. It can be seen from the data presented in Table that the chi-square value (51.26) between education and livelihood activities was found to be highly significant associated. In terms of education, 17.78 percent of the Tibetan rehabilitants with agriculture and dairy farming had education up to primary school, whereas 0.74 percent of them with non-farm had education up to middle school. The findings were in line with the research results of Sarma (2004). Education is not merely a process of imparting or acquiring knowledge and habits through instruction or study but its main aim is to prepare an individual for life and all-round development of human in his/her society.

Family size

The data (Table 1) further revealed that that family size was significantly (chi-square value 16.03) associated with the livelihood activities. Less percentage of 18.52 with agriculture + non-farm and agriculture + dairy (17.78%) had medium family size and 2.97 percent each with non-farm and agriculture had large size family. As majority (51.85%) of the Tibetan rehabilitants belonged to big family, more number of the family members participated in the livelihood activities. The findings were in line with the research results of Dolli (2006).

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Table 1. Chi-square value of independent variables with their livelihood activities (n=135)

Independent variable	Chi-square value (χ^2)
Education level	51.26**
Family size	16.03*
Annual family income	65.23**
Extension contact	10.56 NS
Economic motivation	41.91**
Risk orientation	34.37**
Social participation	15.28*

Note: F = Frequency; % = Percentage, *- Significant at 5%, ** -Significant at 1%

Annual family income

Chi-square value (65.23) between annual family income and livelihood activities was found to be highly significant associated. Considerable percent of 19.26 with agriculture had low medium income level, followed by agriculture + dairy (17.78%) who had semi-medium income level. More the income generating activities more will be the opportunities for generating more annual income. The findings were in line with the research results of Tranthi *et al* (2001).

Extension contact

The results (Table 1) further revealed that extension contact had no significant difference with the livelihood activities. Data revealed that 20.74 percent of the Tibetan rehabilitants with agriculture + non-farm and agriculture + dairy (19.26%) had medium level of extension contact, whereas 0.74 percent of them with agriculture had low level of extension contact. Majority of the respondents had extension contact with the Tibetan cooperative service bank limited officials, only whenever problem arises. Extension contact will not be of immense help to the respondents unless an individual really aware enough of the farm technology around, as well as participate in any farm technology.

Economic motivation

The data (Table 1) reveals that economic motivation was highly significant associated with the livelihood activities. About 18.52 percent of the

Tibetan rehabilitants with agriculture + dairy had high level of economic motivation, followed by agriculture + non-farm (17.04%) who had medium level of economic motivation. This shows that there was a significant difference between the selection of livelihood activities and economic motivation among the Tibetan rehabilitants. With 39.25 per cent of the respondents had semi-medium level of annual income, and 18.51 per cent of the respondents had undergone medium training level, the respondents were encouraged to take new and challenging employment opportunities. The findings were in line with the research results of Biradar (2008).

Risk orientation

Risk orientation was highly significant associated with the livelihood activities. About 19.26 percent of the respondents with agriculture + dairy had high level of risk orientation, followed by agriculture + non-farm (17.78%) who had medium risk orientation. As nearly half of the respondents (47.40%) were educated up to primary school, the respondents really had capacity to take decision under uncertainty and can also withstand the uncertainties in their activity. Thus, an individual can progress in his/her day-to-day livelihood activities. The findings were in line with the research results of Sushma (2007).

Social participation

It was evident that social participation was significant (chi-square value 15.28) associated

Table 2. Problems associated with the Tibetan rehabilitants.

(n=135)

Sr. No.	Problem	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Lack of labour force	86	63.70
2.	Uncertainty of rainfall and lack of irrigation facilities	85	62.96
3.	Lack of veterinary facilities in the settlement	40	29.63
4.	Lack of remunerative price for farm produce and high price fluctuation	15	11.12

with the livelihood activities. Here, 17.78 percent of the respondents with agriculture + dairy and agriculture + non-farm (15.56%) had high level of social participation, whereas only 1.48 of them with non-farm had medium level of social participation. Majority of the respondents used to participate in any activities conducted by the Tibetan cooperative service bank limited viz., training, fairs and festivals. Through their participation they used to share the problems and suggestions faced in their livelihood activities among them which brought more support and strength to face any uncertainty in their activities. The findings were in line with the research results of Kumawat and Sharma (1997).

B. Problems and suggestions of the Tibetan rehabilitants

It is inferred (Table 2) that majority (63.70%) had lack of labour force problem because the labourers were mainly the Indian daily wage earners from the nearest villages (Koppa, Gangarathi, Sindoor, Hunugund and Bommigatta) of Uttar Kannada district. They were few in numbers and were more technically experienced than the Tibetans. Also, the family labours among the Tibetans were very few. Lack of irrigation facilities and uncertainty of rainfall (62.96%) because the farmers were mainly depend their crops only on monsoon. About 29.63 percent expressed lack of veterinary facilities in the settlement because more susceptibility of cows and buffaloes to disease and pests it may cause to lose their animals frequently. Again 11.12 percent of the rehabilitants revealed that lack of remunerative

price for farm produce and high price fluctuation. It may due to the fact that, majority of the Tibetan rehabilitants were facing the constraints like failure and erratic rain, high cost of inputs, labour problem. The findings were in line with the research results of Manjunath (2007).

C. Suggestions

An analysis (Table 3) revealed that majority of the Tibetan rehabilitants (59.25%) suggested creating water facilities by sinking open wells, tube wells or by constructing small tanks for crop cultivation as well as for their animals sufficiently as most of the farmers were depending on monsoon for agriculture. A considerable percent of 44.45 suggested training on skill development in the enterprises, followed by 29.62 and 25.92 percent suggested better milk price for the producer and veterinary hospital facilities because majority of the respondents had undertaken cow and buffalo dairy activities in which the livestock were more susceptible to pest and diseases so, they need regular vaccination and other treatments. The present findings were in line with the investigations done by Deepak (2003). Other suggestions offered by Tibetan rehabilitants were educating them on improvement of dairy management practices especially on feeding of milch animals, pregnant animals, care of pregnant animals (31.12%) and 7.40 percent of them suggested to increase the salary among the service personnel to improve their daily livelihood. The findings were in line with the research results of Singh *et al* (2004).

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Table 3. Suggestions of the respondents for their livelihood improvement.

(n=135)

Sr. No.	Suggestion	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Better milk price	40	29.62
2.	Create water facilities	80	59.25
3.	Training on skill development	60	44.45
4.	Veterinary hospital facilities	35	25.92
5.	Increase of salary among the service personnel	10	7.40
6.	Education on improvement of dairy management	42	31.12

CONCLUSION

In the present study, all of the variables shown significant association with the livelihood activities except extension contact. Attention should be given to these attributes during the course of their training for improvement of various dimensions of capitals such as annual income with improvement of human capital, risk orientation with social capital and economic motivation with improvement of financial capital. So, the extension agencies should aim at manipulating these variables to their advantage for promoting income as well as employment generating activities in the settlement. As the non-farm occupation contributed highest average annual income than agriculture, more emphasis must be given in these activities so as to improve the socio-economic life of the respondents.

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