

Preferential Analysis on Occupation of the Tribals in Mayurbhanj District of Odisha

Jagannath Patra

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Mayurbhanj-1

Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology At/P.O. Shamakhunta, Dist- Mayurbhanj (Odisha)

ABSTRACT

Agriculture being the primary occupation of the tribal of Mayurbhanj district in Odisha state still belongs to main livelihood option. But they prefer for other profitable vocations due to the reason that most of them have unproductive and uneconomic holdings, lack of irrigation facilities, traditional skills and primitive implements along with land alienation indebtedness. Majority of cultivators use land only in *kharif* season. The present study has been carried out with the objectives to study the present status of the occupation of the tribal people and preferences on vocations along with the extension support required for checking the occupational mobility from the agriculture to non-agricultural activities. On the basis of the finding it was suggested the development of infrastructure in agriculture and allied fields must be emphasized for checking mobility to non-agriculture sector. The extension officials must be pro-active to suitable extension strategies and implementation of the different development programme in the field of agriculture and allied sectors to make it more profitable and attractive through intermediary monitoring and evaluation.

Key Words: Agriculture, Choice, Hereditary, Occupation, Primary, Secondary, Tribal, Vocation.

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is the main vocation among the large section of population in Odisha state. Although the primary occupation of the tribal of Mayurbhanj district is cultivation, but now they are deviating from this occupation to other profitable vocations due to lack of sufficient scope for livelihood. The most of tribal have unproductive and uneconomic holdings, lack of irrigation facilities, traditional skills and primitive implements along with land alienation indebtedness. Majority of cultivators use land only in *kharif* season. In spite of various agencies in the field of tribal development, the food security problem is not solved. The tribals therefore go for other vocations particularly to work in non agricultural sectors and work as unskilled labourers. Even they do not hesitate to leave their house including all other resources and migrated to

other districts and continue to work as labourer.

Karade (2009) describes occupation is one of the best indicators of class, because people tend to agree on the relative prestige they attach to similar jobs. Shniper (2005) found that when economic conditions were favorable, individuals might have more opportunities to change jobs to earn more money, did the kind of work they prefer, or reduced their commuting time. Conversely, when economic conditions were less favorable, fewer opportunities with such desirable characteristics might be available. Giuseppe and Vella (2008) provided evidence that high unemployment somewhat offsets the role of individual worker considerations in the choice of changing career. Occupational mobility declines with age, family commitments and education, but when unemployment was high these negative effects were weaker and reversed for college education. Reddy (2012) observed that majority

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Table 1. Distribution of the respondents according to their category/caste of tribal. (n=180)

Sr. No.	Parameter	Number	Percentage
A.	Caste		
1	Santal	61	33.89
2	Bhumij	36	20.00
3	Kolha	22	12.22
4	Bathudi	18	10.00
5	Bhuyan	16	08.89
6	Ho	09	05.00
7	Munda	09	05.00
8	Sabar	09	05.00
B.	Qualification		
9.	Illiterate	36	20.00
10.	Primary Level	40	22.22
11.	Middle school Level	33	18.33
12.	Matriculation	40	22.22
13.	Higher secondary	18	10.00
14.	Graduation	06	03.33
15.	Post-Graduation and above	04	02.22
16.	Any technical degree	03	01.66
C.	Land holding		
17.	Less than 0.4 ha	67	37.22
18.	Within 0.4-0.8 ha	56	31.12
19.	Within 0.8-2 ha	42	23.33
20.	More than 2 ha	15	08.33
D.	Farming experience		
21.	Less than 5 years	74	41.11
22.	5-10 years	47	26.11
23.	11-15 years	09	05.00
24.	16-20 years	19	10.55
25.	More than 20 years	31	17.22

families (66.67 %) of Alayabad Tanda depend on the cattle-rearing as their main source of living, while most of the families (62.35 %) at the other Tanda primarily depended on cultivation for their livelihood. Rai *et al* (2023) emphasizes that in India extension activities are important tools for dissemination of agricultural based technologies for increase the production productivity of a piece of land. He conducted the study in Lucknow district of Uttar Pradesh in which he stated as the maximum visits of farmers was 93.5 per cent at KVK which denotes it first among different agricultural agencies, those were working for knowledge up-gradation. Majority of farmers participated in farmers fair (80.5%) albeit relative

credibility index was found highest for demonstration activity (1.14). It means demonstrations were most effective method of transfer of technologies. Purnima *et al* (2022) explored on the study of tribal of Andhra Pradesh that majority of the participants (58%) preferred to engage in locally suitable and traditional enterprises while 42 per cent want to take up new enterprises. Major motivating factor was expressed as Govt support (44%) followed by family support (27%), availability of inputs (19%) and training (10%). The findings of this study also highlighted the potential constraints for tribal youth to take up entrepreneurship as financial followed by technological, social and personal constraints.

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Table 2. Distribution of respondents according to their traditional hereditary occupation (n=180)

Sr. No.	Occupation	Primary occupation		Secondary occupation	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
1	Farming	130	72.22	36	20.00
2	Animal Husbandry	13	07.22	40	22.22
3	Minor Forest Produce Collection	12	06.66	48	26.66
4	House hold value added products	0	00.00	10	05.55
5	Priest work	04	02.22	0	00.00
6	Wage earning	21	11.66	46	25.55

Table 3. Distribution of respondents according to their present occupation. (n=180)

Sr. No.	Sector	Primary		Secondary	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
1	Govt. service	13	07.22	0	0
2	Private/NGO service	09	05.00	0	0
3	Business	07	03.88	03	01.66
4	Farming	63	35.00	43	23.88
5	Animal husbandry	12	06.66	63	35.00
6	Fishery	0	0	15	08.33
7	Collection of minor forest produce	0	0	0	0
8	House hold products	09	05.00	0	0
9	Industrial sector	09	05.00	0	0
10	Wage earner	37	20.55	30	16.66
11	Political work	03	01.66	0	0
12	Contract job	09	05.00	0	0
13	Skilled work	09	05.00	26	14.44
14	Ritual works	0	0	0	0

The present study has been carried out with the objectives of to study the present status of the occupation of the tribal people and preferences on vocations along with the extension support required for checking the occupational mobility from the agriculture to non-agricultural activities.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted in Mayurbhanj district of Odisha purposefully as the district enriched with the tribal people those occupy 58.72 % of the total population. The sub divisions, blocks, villages and respondents were selected through random sampling technique,. Four blocks were selected randomly one each from four sub divisions like Shamakhunta from Baripada Sadar, Kaptipada from Kaptipada, Bijatala from Rairangpur and Jasipur from Karanjia. Three

villages were selected randomly from each block comprising twelve villages in total. Fifteen tribal people were selected from each village thus makes a sample size of 180. The data was collected through a pre tested structured interview schedule and the results were analysed by using frequency, percentage and t-test. The extent of satisfaction was studied by assigning scores as 1, 2 and 3 for not satisfactory, satisfactory and highly satisfactory, respectively and then mean value was calculated.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data (Table 1) revealed that majority of the respondents belonged to Santal caste (33.89 %) followed by Bhumij (20 %), Kolha (12.22 %), Bathudi (10 %), Bhuyan (8.89 %) and 5 % each to Ho, Munda and Sabar. It was in confirmation to the

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Table.4 Source of income and extent of satisfaction from the income of the respondents during the last years. (n=180)

Sr. No.	Source	Extent of Satisfaction		
		Highly satisfactory	Satisfactory	Not satisfactory
		Mean score	Mean score	Mean score
1	Crop production	19.25	56.48	37.08
2	Animal Husbandry	16.31	26.00	44.98
3	Fishery	5.49	25.66	28.03
4	Minor Forest produce Collection	0	4.66	14.0
5	House hold value added products	0	36.43	27.06
6	Wage Earning	8.69	67.5	23.97

Table 5. Comparative analysis of facilities available as perceived by the respondents. (n=180)

Sr. No.	Facility	Facilities available during last three year		Present facility		Comparison “t” value
		Mean score	SD	Mean score	SD	
1	Soil condition	2.37	0.61	2.3	0.50	1.84 NS
2	Water Availability	2.25	0.57	2.3	0.50	
3	Manures	2.72	0.49	1.92	0.40	
4	Fertilizers	2.24	0.68	2.78	0.61	
5	Seeds	2.22	0.65	2.93	0.68	
6	Labour Availability	2.75	0.48	2.02	0.52	
7	Market	1.96	0.33	2.45	0.54	
8	Technical Support	1.96	0.55	2.73	0.63	
9	Finance	1.67	0.66	2.48	0.58	
10	Cold Storage/Storage facility	0.53	0.50	1.13	0.46	
11	Access to farm implements	1.58	0.66	2.63	0.58	
12	Transport Facility	1.88	0.60	2.26	0.48	

demographic figure about the distribution of the tribal in the district where Santal and Bhumij caste are predominant. Majority of the respondents studied up to primary and matriculation level (22.22 % each) followed by illiterates (20 %), middle school level (18.33 %), higher secondary level (10 %), graduation level (3.33 %) and post graduate level (2.22 %). From the observation it was evident that most of the respondents had very poor educational background. Further, farmers' holding were in the marginal category (37.22 %) followed by 31.12 % having land holding in between 0.4 to 0.8 ha and 23.33 % in between 0.8 to 2.0 ha. This clearly justifies as most of the tribal people were marginal and small farmers. Majority of farming were having farming experience of less than 5 years which indicated that either most of the

respondents were young farmers or engaged in other vocations.

It was observed (Table 2) that majority (72.22 %) of the respondents had crop production as their primary traditional hereditary occupation whereas collection of minor forest produce as the secondary traditional hereditary occupation which constituted around 26.66 percent.

The data (Table 3) indicated that majority of the respondents had farming (35.0 %) as their primary occupation followed by wage earner (20.55 %). Only 7.22 % respondents had government service. It was also noted that majority of the respondents had animal husbandry as secondary occupation which constituted 35.0 % followed by farming (23.88 %). The finding

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Table 6. Preference regarding vocations of the tribal people. (n=180)

Sr. No.	Vocation	Mean score	Rank
1	Crop production	4.94	I
2	Poultry farming	5.61	II
3	Goat rearing	6.11	III
4	Dairy management	6.16	IV
5	Fishery	6.27	V
6	Business	6.63	VI
7	Mushroom cultivation	6.77	VII
8	Horticultural crops	6.88	VIII
9	Job work	8.72	IX
10	Industrial work	9.05	X
11	Skilled job	9.66	XI
12	Sabai grass rope making	10.16	XII
13	Rural handicrafts	10.38	XIII
14	Bee keeping	10.83	XIV
15	Collection of non-timber forest produce	11.55	XV

*Scores ranges from 1-15

Table.7 Extent of need for management support as perceived by the respondents. (n=180)

Sr. No.	Facility	Extent of management support			Mean score	Rank order
		Very much essential	Essential	Not essential		
		Number	Number	Number		
1	Water supply and electricity	79	45	47	1.19	I
2	Infrastructure support	64	37	79	0.97	II
3	Community approach	73	12	95	0.88	III
4	Team work	73	09	98	0.86	IV
5	Communication	60	35	85	0.86	IV
6	Asset creation	33	65	82	0.73	V

pointed out that though the tribal people are diverting towards multifarious activities, still most of respondents have farming as their occupation either primary or secondary.

It was observed that extent of satisfaction from different sources, which gave impression that the respondents had received most satisfaction from crop production followed by wage earning whereas least number of respondents had satisfaction from minor forest product (Table 4).

The data revealed no significant difference

between the facilities available today and three years back.

It was inferred that crop production was the most preferred vocation followed by poultry farming, goat rearing, dairy farming, and fishery. It signified as most of the respondents had choice for the traditional occupation which requires being improved and more remunerative.

Management support is very much essential for successful implementation of a programme. The extent of management support for the tribal people under study was analysed

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which shows that water supply and electricity was the most needed by the respondents followed by infrastructural development.

CONCLUSION

It was imperative that as most of the tribal people of Mayurbhanj district of Odisha have cultivation and livestock rearing is the primary occupation and largely depend on those sectors for livelihood, still due to changing scenario they are shifting to other profitable vocations for more earning. On the basis of the finding it was suggested the development of infrastructure in agriculture and allied fields must be emphasized for checking mobility to non-agriculture sector. The extension officials must be pro-active to suitable extension strategies and implementation of the different development programme in the field of agriculture and allied sectors to make it more profitable and attractive through intermediary monitoring and evaluation.

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