

A STUDY ON OCCUPATIONAL DIVERSIFICATION AND ITS ECONOMIC IMPACT ON TRIBAL PEOPLE IN DINDIGUL DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU

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Abstract

Tribal people constitute 8.6 percent of India's total population, Majority of the tribal population in Tamil Nadu live in hilly ranges viz., Eastern Ghats, Western Ghats and the discontinuous hill tracts adjoining the plains and the hills. These tribes live in forests. Paliyan in Kodaikkanal and Dindigul districts form an exception to this general trend and are found to live in the plains. The current study analysed occupational diversification and economic impact on tribal people in Dindigul district, Tamil Nadu. Along with the other backward castes tribals economy is affected by poor physical environment, ignorance of efficient technique of exploiting natural resource and lack of capital for investment. The results of the study shows there is direct relationship between occupational diversification and economic development in the tribal economy. The study showed that income, expenditure and savings of tribal people increased due to the occupational diversification. The author suggests that the government should encourage the tribal people for their occupational diversification and help them financially for their social and economic betterment.

Keywords: Occupation, Diversification, Tribes.

Introduction

Tribal people constitute 8.6 percent of India's total population, about 104 million people according to the 2011 census (68 million people according to the 1991 census). This is the largest population of the tribal people in the world. Lives in a belt along the Himalayas stretching through Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh in the west, to Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur, and Nagaland in the northeast Another concentration lives in the hilly areas of central India (Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, and, to a lesser extent, Andhra Pradesh); in this belt, which is bounded by the Narmada River to the north and the Godavari River to the southeast, tribal peoples occupy the slopes of the region's mountains. Other tribes, the Santals, live in Bihar and West Bengal. There are smaller numbers of tribal people in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala, in western India in Gujarat and

Rajasthan, and in the union territories of Lakshadweep and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The major tribes in Tamil Nadu are Malayali, Toda, Kurumba, Paniya, Irular, Kattunayakkan, Palliyan, Malaivedan, Kani, Sholagar, Kadar and Veddhar. Most of the tribal communities are small in size and the exceptions are Malaiali and Irular tribes. Majority of the tribal population in Tamil Nadu live in hilly ranges viz., Eastern Ghats, Western Ghats and the discontinuous hill tracts adjoining the plains and the hills. These tribes live in forests. paliyan in Kodaikkanal and Dindigul districts form an exception to this general trend and are found to live in the plains.

Tribal Life-style

Tribal people in different parts of India were involved in a variety of activities.

Shifting Cultivation, Hunting & Gathering Forest Produce, Herding Animals, Agricultural Labour, Astrology and Petty Shop and Extras

Occupational and Livelihood Diversification

The livelihood patterns of tribal households are determined mostly by their social, demographic, economic and culture characteristics. Tribal economy is affected by poverty of the physical environment, ignorance of efficient technique of exploiting natural resource and lack of capital for investment, therefore, lack of food security is a major problem for them. As the socio-economic improvement of the tribes still remains in question in spite of implementation of many development and projects, the sustainable rural livelihood approach is being adopted to mitigate the problems related to development in Tamil Nadu (**Abha Singh and Sadangi 2012**).

Review of Literature

Singh (1970) defined the agricultural development in tribal areas and stated that tribal economic system changed into predominantly agricultural. Sifting cultivation, which turned into a significant characteristic sofa tribal agriculture in huge tribal areas, turned into an immediate outcome of tribal habitation. The tribal relieved land of it's over growth, burnt fallen timber. Lands even under settled farming had been comparatively poor in excellent and using fertilizer advanced seeds, insecticides and modern agricultural implementation and so forth. Turned into consequently seldom obvious many of the tribals.

Aram (1972) performed a study on Nagaland tribal and stated that Naga society emerged from the traditional form and moved in to the modern agro-industrial section. Over a period of time disparities were evolved between section of the population in both rural and urban sectors. Some of the Naga tribes had become to be very wealthy in which as the bulk of population was still on the old standard of living and as a result of it; gap became increasing between the educated and uneducated sections.

Naidu (1976) made a try to observe the impact of industrialization on economic and social conditions of the tribal community. The principle career was agriculture on

co-partner basis. The people were in general un- skilled and illiterate not able to find out any kind of job. Some tribes who succeeded in taking the jobs either absconded or absenting themselves from work for days together.

Lire Ersado (1996) examined the role of income diversification as a livelihood strategy and its role in the adverse effects of the economic and weather shocks that hit Zimbabwe in the early 1990s. It introduces a measure of income diversification that lends itself to urban-rural comparison. It also found changes in income diversification before and after economic shocks and tests the effectiveness of income diversification as a risk mitigation strategy.

Objectives

The present article aims to analyse the following objective

- To study the socio-economic characteristics of the tribes in the study area.
- To examine the changes in income among the tribes due to occupational diversification.

Methodology

This study is based on primary data and data were collected from the tribes of Dindigul district. A multistage random sampling technique were used to select the 338 respondents by selecting the district in the first stage, blocks in the second stage, village in the third stage and households in the fourth stage. All these viz, district, block, village the chosen on the basis of high concentration of the Paliyan, Malaivedan, Kattunayakkantribes and 10 percent of the households were selected and 10 per cent of the households were selected and surveyed.

Table1 reveals the sex wise classification of the respondents. In total, more than (59%) of the respondents were male and the remaining 41 percent were female. Community wise classification shows that the male headed families were high 62(%) in Kattunayakan and second high level (60%) in Paliyan. However, male headed families were high (53%) among Malaivedan tribes.

Table 1 Sex wise Classification of the Respondents

Sl. No	Sex	Tribes			Total
		Paliyan	Malai Vedan	Kattunayakan	
1	Male	90 (60)	34 (54)	77 (62)	201 (59)
2	Female	60 (40)	29 (46)	48 (38)	137 (41)
	Total	150 (100)	63 (100)	125 (100)	338 (100)

Table 2 Type of House wise Classification of the Respondents

Sl. No	Type of house	Tribes			Total
		Paliyan	Malai vedan	Kattunayakan	
1	Hut	0 -	9 (14.3)	0 -	9 (2.7)
2	Thatched	11 (7.3)	19 (30.2)	13 (10.4)	43 (12.7)
3	Tiled	139 (92.7)	21 (33.3)	41 (32.8)	201 (59.5)
4	concrete	0 -	14 (22.2)	71 (56.8)	85 (25.1)
	Total	150 (100.0)	63 (100.0)	125 (100.0)	338 (100.0)

Table 2 reveals type of house of the respondents. In total 59.5 percent of the respondents were having Tiled houses, which was followed by concrete (25.7%), Thatched (12.7%)

and hut (2.7%) respectively. Community wise analysis shows that tiled house were high (92.7%) among Paliyan Tribes, Concrete made house were highest (56.8 %) among Kattunayakkan tribes and thatched houses were common (30.2 %) among Malaivedan and about 15 per cent of the Malaivedan still living in huts.

Occupation wise classification of the respondents is explained in table 3. It could be found that 37 percent of the tribes were engaged in agricultural and allied activities. And rest of them were engaged in traditional works, business activities, and service sector and so on for their source of income. Tribes wise analysis shows that traditional occupation were dominant (52%) among Kattunayakkan tribes, agri and traditional and agri labour were highest occupation for Paliyan tribes, and for Malaivedan tribes agri labour and other service were the major occupations.

Table 3 Occupational wise Classifications of the Respondents

Sl. No	Occupational	Tribes			Total
		Paliyan	Malai vedan	Kattunayakkan	
1	Traditional	1 (0.7)	0 -	65 (52.0)	66 (19.5)
2	Agri.labour	55 (36.7)	39 (61.9)	20 (16.0)	114 (33.7)
3	Business	1 (0.7)	6 (9.5)	1 (0.8)	8 (2.4)
4	Service/Others	0 -	18 (28.6)	8 (6.4)	26 (7.7)
5	Agri & Traditional	93 (62.0)	0 -	31 (24.8)	124 (36.7)
	Total	150 (100.0)	63 (100.0)	125 (100.0)	338 (100.0)

An education wise classification of the respondents is explained in table 4. The tribes in general, are ignorant and illiterates Even after more than six decades of our independence, there level of education is poor. In this context, the present study tries to find out the

educational status among the tribes of surveyed tribes. The educational level has been categorized in six major head viz, illiterate, primary, secondary, higher secondary UG/PG and Technical education. In total 68.6 percent of the tribes were illiterates 18.3 per cent of tribes studied upto primary level, 8.9 per cent of tribes studied upto secondary level, 2.1 per cent tribes studied upto Higher secondary, 1.5 per cent of tribes studied upto UG and PG level and 0.6 per cent of tribes studied Technical education. The scenario of education was more or less same for all tribes.

Table 4 Education wise Classification of the Respondents

Sl. No	Education	Tribes			Total
		Paliyan	Malai vedan	Kattunayakkan	
1	Illiterate	120 (80.00)	26 (41.30)	86 (68.8)	232 (68.6)
2	Primary	26 (17.3)	20 (31.70)	16 (12.8)	62 (18.3)
3	Secondary	4 (2.7)	10 (15.90)	16 (12.8)	30 (8.9)
4	Hr.sec	0 -	5 (7.90)	2 (1.6)	7 (2.1)
5	UG/PG	0 -	1 (1.60)	4 (3.2)	5 (1.5)
6	Technical Education	0 -	1 (1.60)	1 (0.8)	2 (0.6)
	Total	150 (100.0)	63 (100.0)	125 (100.0)	338 (100.0)

Table 5 explains income wise Classifications of the Respondents. The income of the respondents have been classified into seven categories i.e, below Rs 10000, 10000-20000, 20000-30000, 30000-40000, 40000-5000 and above 50000. In total more than 30 percent of the respondents were have

their income ranged between Rs 20000- 30000. Which was followed by 23.37 percent of the respondents having the income between Rs 10000-20000, 20.41 were having the income Rs 30000-40000, 4.3 per cent were having no income, 3.25 per cent were having income less than Rs 10000 and only 1.18 per cent of the respondents were having the income above 50000. Tribes wise classification showed that maximum member of respondents of Paliyan were having income Rs 10000-20000, followed by Rs 20000-30000, in Malaivedan highest member of respondents were having the income Rs 10000-20000 followed by Rs 20000-30000, Rs 30000-40000 and no respondents having the income above 50000 in Kattunayakan. Maximum member of respondents were having the income Rs 20000 -30000 followed by Rs 30000-40000 respectively and 10 per cent of the respondents were having no income Kattunayakan tribes.

Table 5 Annual Income Wage Wise Classifications of the Respondents

Sl. No	Value (Rs.)	Tribes			Total
		Paliyan	Malai vedan	Kattunayakan	
1	No Income	-	3.00 (4.76)	13.00 (10.40)	16.00 (4.73)
2	Below 10000	7.00 (4.67)	3.00 (4.76)	1.00 (0.80)	11.00 (3.25)
3	10000-20000	40.00 (26.67)	18.00 (28.57)	21.00 (16.80)	79.00 (23.37)
4	20000-30000	39.00 (26.00)	15.00 (23.81)	49.00 (39.20)	103.00 (30.47)
5	30000-40000	33.00 (22.00)	14.00 (22.22)	23.00 (18.40)	70.00 (20.71)
6	40000-50000	29.00 (19.33)	10.00 (15.87)	16.00 (12.80)	55.00 (16.27)
7	Above 50000	2.00 (1.33)	-	2.00 (1.60)	4.00 (1.18)
	Total	150.00 (100.00)	63.00 (100.00)	125.00 (100.00)	338.00 (100.00)

Changes in income among the tribes due to occupational diversification were analyzed in table 6 with the help of paired 't' test. To test this question, researcher chosen Income before - Income after, Savings before - Savings After, Debt before - Debt after, Expenditure before - Expenditure After. The important variables

chosen were Income before - Income after, Savings before - Savings After, Debt before - Debt after, Expenditure before - Expenditure After. For this alternative and null hypothesis were formed.

The first pair of Income before - Income after among the tribes due to occupational diversification. In this analysis the t value is significant at one percent level. Therefore, there is significant difference on Income before - Income after among the tribes due to occupational diversification. Second pair of Savings before - Savings After among the tribes due to occupational diversification. Here also the t value is significant at 1 percent level. So, there is significant difference between Savings before - Savings After among the tribes due to occupational diversification. Expenditure before - Expenditure After among the tribes due to occupational diversification also significant at one percent level. So, there was significant difference between Expenditure before - Expenditure After among the tribes due to occupational diversification. Rest of the one variable namely, Debt before - Debt after were insignificant. Hence, there is no significant differences between the debts before - Debt after among the tribes due to occupational diversification.

Table 6 Changes in income among the tribes due to occupational diversification

Paired Samples Test									
		Paired Differences					t	Df	Sig. (2-tailed)
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
					Lower	Upper			
Pair 1	Income before - Income after	-6090.237	33653.739	1830.522	-9690.925	-2489.548	-3.327	337	.001
Pair 2	Savings before - Savings After	-266.272	1544.624	84.016	-431.535	-101.009	-3.169	337	.002
Pair 3	Debt before - Debt after	14.793	608.852	33.117	-50.350	79.935	.447	337	.655
Pair 4	Expenditure before - Expenditure After	-807.988	2339.931	127.275	-1058.343	-557.634	-6.348	337	.000

Conclusion

The paper concludes that tribal economy is affected by poor physical environment, ignorance of efficient technique of exploiting natural resource and lack of capital for investment. The results of the study shows there is direct relationship between occupational diversification and economic development in the tribal economy. The study showed that income, expenditure and savings of tribal people increased due to the occupational diversification. The author suggests that the government should encourage the tribal people for their occupational diversification and help them financially for their social and economic betterment.

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