



A STUDY ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF THE TRIBAL PEOPLES IN DHARMAPURI DISTRICT-TAMIL NADU

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Introduction

The Tribal peoples of the nation, India living the second largest tribal population in according to the 2001 Census, is 8.43 crore, constituting 8.2% of the complete population. The number of inhabitants in clans had developed at the pace of 24.45% during the period 1991-2001. This is somewhat more than the decadal development pace of 22.66% for the country all in all. The greater part the Scheduled Tribe peoples are packed in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Jharkhand and Gujarat. The primary convergence of innate populace other than Central India is in the North- Eastern States. Be that as it may, Tribal shaves nearness in every one of the States and Union Territories with the exception of Haryana, Punjab, Delhi, Pondicherry and Chandigarh. The way of life of the ancestral individuals is adapted by the environment and is on top of nature and characteristic assets. Ancestral individuals, being basically environment individuals, differ generally over the nation coordinating the nation's wide-going assorted variety in nature and characteristic assets. In general, most tribal people occupy immature territories of the nation which are remote, have low thickness of people and need satisfactory access to fundamental enhancements, instruction, work openings and moderate social insurance administrations.

Tribal people group establish not exactly one percent of the all out people in the State (population around 6.25 lakh). These people group are spread all through the State; however there is a higher fixation in 12 areas which are alluded to as the Tribal locale. Generally, tribal people networks in Tamil Nadu have not appreciated satisfactory social insurance administrations. Unavailability and social factors is a portion of the purposes behind this. Tribal people group are spread both in the fields also, bumpy landscape, and networks situated in remote regions represent a test with regards to giving human services administrations. Studies demonstrate that just one to two percent of the ancestral networks get to the medical clinic offices a large portion of the

patients being non-ancestral from the territory, despite the fact that Tribal communities constitute 20 to 30 per cent of the population in that area.

Socio – Economic Status of Sitheri Hill Tribe

Sitheri is a hill station in Dharmapur district located in Tamil Nadu, India. Sitheri hills is one of the segments of Eastern Ghats of Tamil Nadu, which comes under the Pappireddipatti taluk. It is situated at an altitude of 1097.3 metres (3600ft). The minimum and maximum temperature is 19°C in winter and 40°C in summer respectively. The average annual rainfall is 900 mm attained from both northeast and southwest monsoons. Topographically, the area is undulating with an altitude varying from 240 to 1266 m. 37 km towards south from District head quarters Dharmapuri & 281km from state capital Chennai. Sitheri is surrounded by Harur Taluk towards North, Yercaud Taluk towards west, Morappur Taluk is towards North, Valapady Taluk towards South. The total area of Sitheri village is found to be 400 km² with a total population of 9045 (Male 4656 & female 4389) as of 2011. Sitheri is an important tourist spot known for the herbs and other valuable natural resources. It is lush green and a pleasant tourist destination. It is 15 km from Harur. Vaaniyar Dam is an Dam is an important tourist attraction for locals.

Sitheri hills are identified as forest area that people also make and per level of agriculture labour and settled they are identified by their duties. In earlier time they work that people and migrate to other state and cities for generating employments, this is also another reason to identify them as sitheri hills tribes. In earlier days, they are also called as an important community whose identity forest dwellers. Now days their number is decreasing. Forest is not just dwelling place but is too scared to them. Even with all the government policy and programmes, they have allotted but properly not utilized any land for cultivation. They are not idea about the cultivation of land. Now also they some people have their own land, they are work as laborers in other's lands. In Tamil Nadu, the economic status of Sitheri hills tribes is very low, their population is very low and they are not able to get the facilities given by the Government.

Objectives

To study the socio economic condition of tribal people at sitheri hills.

To study the educational facility offered for tribal people at sitheri hills.

To identify the resources available in sitheri hills.

Research Methodology

Both primary and secondary sources of data are used for the present study. The primary data were collected from the household in sitheri hills with the help of a pre – tested semi structured interview schedule. Secondary data were collected from; articles published in journals, websites, census of India volumes, economic survey, District statistical hand books.

Table -1: Age Wise Classification of the Respondents

Age	Frequency	Percent
Below 20 years	07	11.6
21 – 30 years	33	55.0
41 – 50 years	12	20.0
Above 51 years	08	13.4
Total	60	100

Source: Primary Data

The above table shows that 55% of respondents are in the age group of 21 – 30 years, 20 % of the respondents are come 41 to 50 years age category 13.4 % of the respondents are come under above 51 years age category, 11.0 % of the respondents are come under the age group Below 20 years.

Table - 2: Marital Status Wise Classification of the Respondents

Marital status	Frequency	Percent
Married	54	90
Unmarried	06	10
Total	60	100

Source: Primary Data

The above table clearly shows the marital status of the respondents.90 % of the respondents are married and only 10 % of the respondents are unmarried. To conclude majority of the respondents are married.

Table -3: Educational Qualification wise Classification

Educational Qualification	Frequency	Percent
Uneducated	14	23.4
Primary	30	50.0
SSLC	10	16.6
HSC	6	10.0
Total	60	100

Source: Primary Data

The respondents are classified in to four categories according to the qualification as uneducated, primary, SSLC, HSC, portrays 23.4% of the respondents are at uneducated level, 50.0% of the responds have primary level, 20% of the responds have their school level (SSLC), 8 % of the respondes have complete their (HSC) level.

Table - 4: Contribution to Household Income

Yearly Income	Frequency	Percent
Below Rs.5,000	20	33.4
Rs.5,001 – Rs.10,000	23	38.3
Rs.10,001 – Rs.15,000	07	11.7
Above Rs.15,001	10	16.6
Total	60	100

Source: Primary Data

The above table clearly show that 33.4% of the respondents monthly income range from below 5,000, 38.3 % of the respondents monthly income is between Rs.5001 – 10000, 11.7% of the respondents monthly income is 10001 – 15000, and only 16.6% of the respondents earn a monthly income range above Rs. 15001 yearly income.

Table - 5: Type of Family Wise Classification

	Frequency	Percent
Joint Family	42	70.0
Nuclear family	18	30.0
Total	60	100

Source: Primary Data

It is evident from that above table 70.0 percent of the respondents are Joint family , 30.0 percent of the respondents are nuclear family.

Table - 6: Occupational Status

Occupation	Frequency	Percent
Daily Wage	16	26.7
Agriculture	21	35.0
Private employee	13	21.7
Others	10	16.6
Total	60	100

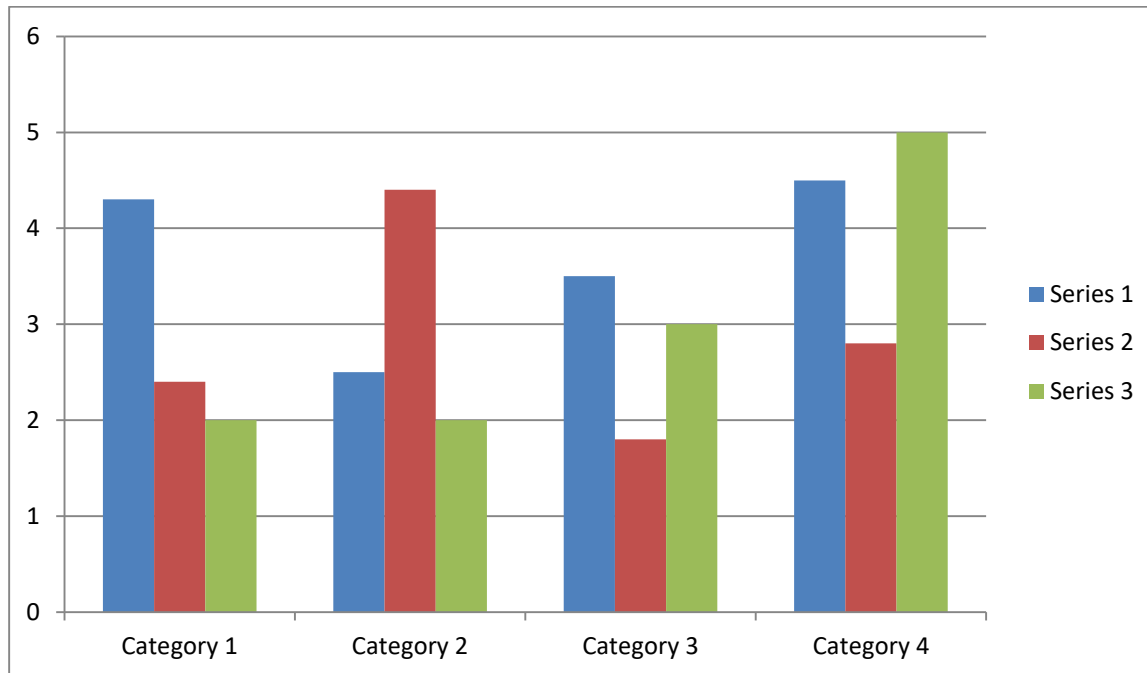
Source: Primary Data

From the above table state that 35% of the responds are come the Agriculture level, 26.7 % of the responds are come under the daily wager level, 21.7% of the responds are come under the private employee category, 16.6 % of the respondents are other category.

Table - 7: Opinion on Road facility

Occupation	Frequency	Percent
Very Good	5	8.4
Good	7	11.6
Fair	14	23.4
Poor	34	56.6
Total	60	100

Source: Primary Data



From the above table state that 11.6 % of the respondents are opinion that road facility was good, 8.4% of the respondents are opinion that road facility in very good level, 23.4% of the respondents are road facility is fair level, and 56.6% of the respondents are road facility is poor level.

Suggestions

In order to improve the standard of living of living of tribal in sitheri hills Dharmapuri district, the researcher suggests the following policy measures.

1. Since the land alienation is the main cause of the backwardness of the tribals legislations should be enacted for the restriction on transfer of land belonging to the tribal and restoration of alienated lands.
2. Education attainment index is low among tribals. The government should give priority to the importance of educational facilities of the tribals.

Conclusions

This study investigated 10 villages in the study area sitheri hills and 50 household were interviewed who were well known to the tribal people of the study area. In sitheri hills the socio – economic status of the tribals people are substantially lower than the general people. People could take the significant steps to improve the above mentioned status of the concerned people socio economic status. The minimum level cultivation and scuttled is the main occupation, the respondents of all sitheri hills tribes in below poverty line other then the most of the people in daily

age labour. Thus need of money, attention and motivation along with, there is an urgent need to launch income generating, educational and health awareness programmes to make them aware and help them to take the opportunities given by the government and non government organizations.

