



An Analytical Study on Livelihood Pattern among Tribal Women of Southern Rajasthan

*Asha Dagar¹ and Rajshree Upadhyay²

1. Research student, 2. Professor, Department of Extension Education and Communication Management, College of Community and Applied Sciences, MPUAT, Udaipur, Rajasthan, India

ABSTRACT

The objective of the present study is to study the livelihood pattern among tribal women of Southern Rajasthan. The study was conducted in three district viz. Dungarpur, Udaipur and Banswara due to highest concentration of tribal population. There were 120 tribal women from each district constituting a sample of 360 tribal women from the three districts. Findings of the study reveal that, crop based livelihood was accounted as the primary source of income for half of the respondents (50%). It was followed by wage based (14.16%), forest based (11.94%) and animal husbandry based livelihood (8.61%). Some of the respondents had poultry based (6.38%), business based (6.38%) and horticulture based livelihood activities (2.50%). Some of the respondents (19.61%) had animal husbandry as a secondary source of income whereas, horticulture based livelihood (18.88%), wage earning (16.38%), forest based (9.99 %), poultry and business were also followed by 2.49 per cent and 0.54 per cent respondents respectively as secondary means of livelihood.

Keywords: Livelihood pattern, tribal women, primary source, secondary source, income

Introduction

Rajasthan has one of the largest concentrations of SC (17.15%) and ST (12.56%) population in the country. Based on the Census of India, 2011 and Directorate of Census Operations, Rajasthan, the District wise distribution of tribal population shows that they have their highest concentration in Banswara district (81.3 per cent), followed by 74.4 per cent and 60.3 per cent in Dungarpur and Udaipur districts respectively. Nagaur (0.2 per cent) has the lowest share of tribal population in the total population than Bikaner (0.4 per cent).

The life style of each tribal community is unique and related to the utilization of particular natural resource and particular type of work. Since tribal communities live in the close proximity with biodiversity rich landscapes, they have evolved local specific and novel livelihood strategies based on their indigenous knowledge. This knowledge was passed on through generations and it played an important role in conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. By and large, they were depending on

nature for their survival. Thus, there always existed an organic unity between human and their surrounding environments in the traditional societies. As a result, there existed an intricate relationship between their culture and nature. A livelihood can be defined as the assets, activities, ways and means of a family to earn income from different source to lead a normal life of an individual of family. Mainly tribal depend on various sources for their income. Based on the percentage of total income, they are divided into primary, secondary and tertiary sources of income and livelihood. Livelihood of a family which accounts for 50 per cent or more of their total income is known as their primary livelihood. Livelihood of tribal household which contribute 30-49 per cent to their income is known as secondary livelihood. Source of income from which a family gets less than 30 per cent of their total income is known as tertiary livelihood (Singh and Sadangi 2012). Present paper attempts to study the livelihood pattern among tribal women of Southern Rajasthan.

Materials and Methods

The study was conducted in tribal area of Southern Rajasthan. Three districts i.e. Dungarpur, Udaipur and Banswara were selected on the basis of highest concentration of tribal population. Two panchayat samities were randomly selected from each district. Thus, there were total six panchayat samities and two villages from each panchayat samiti were selected randomly. Thus, there were total 12 villages selected. For selection of the sample, 30 families from each village were selected randomly. From each family, one active woman was included in the sample. Thus, there were 120 tribal women from each district constituting a sample of 360 tribal women from the three districts. The interview schedule was developed by the researcher after extensive review of literature and in consultation with the subject matter specialists and experts from the concerned department. The personal interview method was used for the purpose of data collection. For statistical analysis frequency, percentage, mean percent scores (MPS) were used.

Results and Discussion

As the livelihood strategies are composed of activities that generate the means of family survival, different categories of income generating activities are examined by considering the activity status of the respondents. Most of the tribal families are engaged in agriculture. This has been their primary source of livelihood. The livelihood patterns of families were classified into seven categories, namely: Based on crop, horticulture, animal husbandry, wage, forest, poultry and business.

This section contains information related to the primary and secondary livelihood activities followed by the respondents. None of the respondents had any tertiary means of the livelihood. Data in Table 1 shows the distribution of respondents by their primary livelihood pattern. It can be seen from the table that crop based livelihood was accounted as the primary source of income for half of the respondents (50%). Rajasthan has three season of agriculture, kharif (rainy season), rabi (winter season) and jayad (summer season). Bajra, maize, jawar, groundnut, rice etc. are kharif crops. Wheat, jou, gram, mustured etc. rabi crops and fruits, vegetables fodder, barseem, etc. are jayad crops. Wheat, jau, jwar, bajra, maize and pulses are the food crops of Rajasthan. It was followed by wage based (14.16%), forest

based (11.94%) and animal husbandry based livelihood (8.61%). Some of the respondents had poultry based (6.38%), business based (6.38%) and horticulture based livelihood activities (2.50%). (Fig. 1)

Table.1 Distribution of the respondents on the basis of primary livelihood pattern

n=360

S. No.	Type of primary livelihood	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Crop based	180	50
2.	Horticulture based	9	2.5
3.	Animal husbandry	31	8.61
4.	Wages based	51	14.16
5.	Forest based	43	11.94
6.	Poultry based	23	6.38
7.	Business based	23	6.38

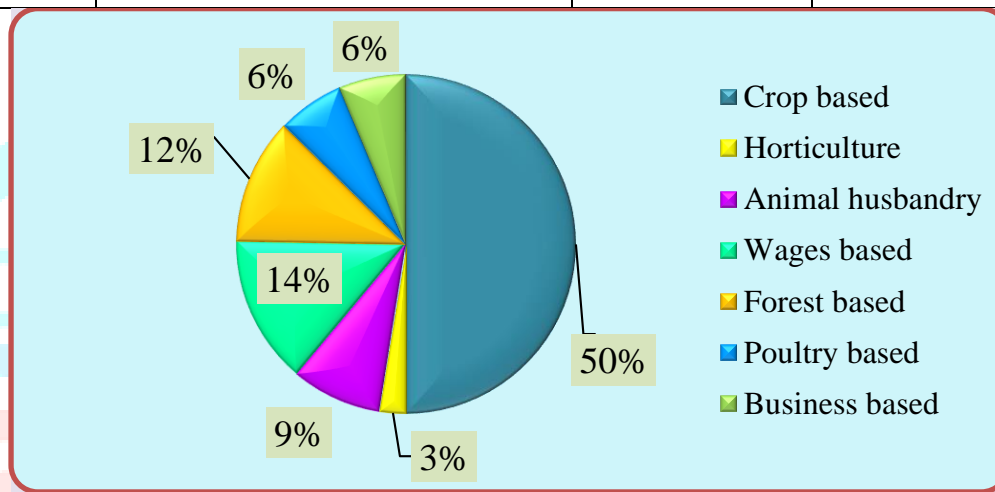


Fig.1 Primary livelihood pattern of the respondents

The result are conformity with Barman, (2013) reported that agriculture was the main occupation for more than half of the tribal respondents (58.33%), followed by other occupations such as agriculture labourer (37.50%), service (2.50%) and business (1.67%), respectively.

Table 2. Distribution of the respondents on the basis of secondary livelihood pattern

S. No	Primary livelihood	Crop Based	Horticulture Based	Animal husbandry	Forest Based	Business Based	Poultry Based	Wages Based
1.	Crop production (n=180)	-	68 (37.77)	65 (36.11)	16 (8.88)	0	0	15 (8.33)
2.	Horticulture (n=9)	0	-	4 (44.44)		0	0	
3.	Animal husbandry (n=31)	0	0	-	20 (64.51)	1 (3.22)		4 (12.90)
4.	Forest Based (n=43)	0	0	0	-	1 (4.34)	8 (18.60)	23 (53.48)
5.	Business Based (n=23)	0	0	0	0	-	1 (4.34)	12 (52.17)
6.	Poultry Based (n=23)	0	0	0	0	0	-	5 (21.73)
7.	Wages (n=51)	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
	Total (n=360)	0	68 (18.88)	69 (19.61)	36 (9.99)	2 (0.54)	9 (2.49)	59 (16.38)

Information related to the engagement of tribal women in secondary livelihood activities has been presented in Table.2. From the table it can be inferred that 16.38 per cent respondents had wage earning as a secondary source of income, where wage based livelihood was combined with primary livelihood like crop production (8.33%), animal husbandry (12.90%), forest based (53.48%), business based (52.17%) and poultry based livelihoods (21.73%). A close look at the table further reveals that 19.61 per cent respondents had animal husbandry as secondary source of income, where it was combined with crop production (36.11%) and horticulture (44.44%). It was closely followed by horticulture based livelihood (18.88%) where it was combined only with crop production (37.77%).

Further data in Table.2 reveal that 9.99 per cent had forest based livelihood pattern and it was combined with animal husbandry (64.51%) and crop production (8.88%). Poultry and business were also followed by 2.49 per cent and 0.54 per cent respondents respectively as secondary means of livelihood. None of the respondents opted crop production as a secondary source of livelihood. The reasons for such findings may be that due to very small land holdings and very low productivity of the land, most of the tribal families earn a living by maintaining a diversified pattern of occupation, as single activity does not provide sufficient resources to ensure livelihood. In the past, the livelihood of tribal people was dependent solely upon cultivation, animal husbandry, horticulture activities and sale of forest produce. But today, the situation seems to have changed. The data shows diverse occupational activities of the tribal families. For tribals, agriculture and collection of forest produce is a common practice to living and make some money. Besides, they also work nearby villages as a wage laborer.

According to Mareeswaran (2017) majority of the tribals (69.86%) were wage earners followed by those with Wage + Agriculture (27.94%) and Wage + Services (2.20%) like forest guard. Similar findings were also reported by Anand (2007) that majority of the respondents (73.00%) belonged to farming + wage earning category followed by the rest belonging to farming + livestock (9.00%), farming alone (7.00%), skilled wage earners (4.00%), farming + business (3.00%), farming + services (2.00%) and wage earners (2.00%) categories.

Conclusion

It can be concluded that crop based livelihood activities was the main occupation for more than half of the tribal respondents. The horticulture and forest has a great role to play for livelihood. Their secondary livelihood scenario revealed that they had six different secondary sources of income i.e. animal husbandry, horticulture, wage earning, forest based, poultry and business. None of the respondents opted crop production as a secondary source of livelihood. It was found out during investigation that very few of the respondents had business based as livelihood activity due to the reason they don't have financial support from their family and they were unable to access the facilities provided by the government. In order to make the all the livelihood patterns more productive and income generating, special efforts should be undertaken to develop the capacity of respondent in their respective fields. The development agencies including state government, extension agencies, agriculture department non-government organizations should see that the defects be covered in their capacity building programmes and implementation of schemes.

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