

MIRCRO LEVEL ANALYSIS ON INCOME GENERATION CAPACITY OF TRIBES

Dr. A. Sugirtha Rani*

Mr. V. Vaithianathan*

**Assistant Professors, Department of Economics, Periyar University, Salem, India.*

Abstract

Majority of the tribes live below poverty line. The tribes follow many simple occupations. Most of the occupation falls into the primary occupations as hunting, gathering and agriculture. The technology, they use, for the purposes belong to the most primitive kind. Hence income generating capacity of the tribes is very poor in nature. The strategic approach must be based on the principle of making the tribal mass aware and eager for their own development. The participatory role of the tribals in improving their living condition by fully exploring the natural endowments and its alternative uses must find appropriate place in the strategic approach.

Keywords: *Income Generating Capacity, Livestock Rearing and Strategic Approach.*

The Problem Setting

There are 36 tribal communities in Tamil Nadu and more than 90 percent of the tribals live in rural areas. While only 9.69 percent live in urban areas. The tribals are illiterates, ill-informed diffident and even malnutrition. The tribals are considered to be the “poorest of the poor”. Generally all over the world the tribals live in thick and accessible forest areas. Normally, they are in below the poverty line because their average daily income has been low. The tribal are in the habit of spending large sums on social function. They are very much interested in drinking and dancing. Agricultural and minor forest produces like grains and pulses at rates much lower than the market rates during the season. Due to poor source of income all these tribal always approach the money lenders, traders who continue to enjoy a pivotal role among the tribes. Educationally the tribes population is at different levels of development but overall the formal education has made very little impact on tribal group. There are many reasons for low level of education among tribal people superstitions and myths play an important role in rejecting education. It is not easy for them to send their children to schools as they are considered extra helping hands.

The tribal economy is not only unorganised but also non-monetised. The economy has given rise to all kinds of exploitation. They are not only getting a poor price for their agricultural and minor forest produce but also they are cheated in weights and measures. The other exploiters in the life of the tribal are the landless agriculture labourers. The forest contractor exploits the tribal for all the operations paying them very poor wages. Keeping these difficulties in employment and income generating issues it is necessary to have knowledge about the same in a micro level analysis.

Objectives

With this research problem, the following objectives were framed:

1. To examine various sources of income and income generating capacity of the tribes in the study area.
2. To analyse the role of institutional and non-institutional agencies in the development of scheduled tribes.

Methods and Materials

The required data for this study was utilized primary only. Typically 110 samples were collected randomly from Periyagoundapuram village of Salem District. The interview schedule method was used for the primary data collection. The structured interview schedules were framed in respect to socio-economic characters, income generating activities and the benefits received from the institutional and non-institutional agencies for the development of tribal economy.

To analyse the above said objectives the simple statistical tools like percent and mean were also employed. Moreover, this study was conducted only Periyagoundapuram village of Salem District. It was because study of all areas is not possible due to constraints of money, time, energy and efforts. The primary data have been

collected from the respondents. Hence the findings of the study are applicable only to Periyagoundapuram village in Salem District.

Results and Discussions

It is necessary to have knowledge to examine the various sources of income and income generating capacity of the tribes. The researchers captured the relevant required information viz., number of working day the tribes had per year, monthly income and expenditure availability of alternative occupation, income through livestock rearing and land holding pattern of the respondents.

Number of Working Days (per annum)

The following table shows that, the number of working days per year for the respondents, which is a proxy variable to the income of the respondents.

Table – 1, Number of Working Days (per annum)

Categories	No. of persons	Percent
Agriculture		
Less than 180 days	29	26.37
Above 180 days	50	45.45
Others		
Less than 100 days	19	17.27
Above 100 days	12	10.91
Total	110	100

Source: Primary Survey

According to Census of India, the total workers are classified into two heads viz., main and marginal workers. Similarly the present study also followed the same classification. The income of the rural households mainly depends upon number of days engaged in any activities annually. More than two fifth (45.45 percent) of the respondents were employed more than 180 days per annum. Followed by this, more than one fourth (26.37 percent) of the respondents employed less than 180 days annually from the farm sector. Due to lack of irrigation facilities as well as non-land holdings, they were engaged in hunting, and selling of firewood activities which accounted for 17.27 percent. A very few respondents were involved in other than non-farm activities (10.91 percent).

Monthly Income of the Respondents

People are able to receive sufficient income; they usually invest it productively towards the improvement of the quality of their lives. It is true that income has a favourable effect on consumption expenditure in general and on education and health in particular. The following table shows that the monthly income of the respondents.

Table – 2, Monthly Income of the Respondents (Rs.)

Monthly income	No. of respondents
Less than 1500	28 (25.45)
1501 – 3000	54 (49.09)
3001 – 4500	19 (17.28)
Above 4501	9 (8.18)
Total	110 (100)

Source: Primary Survey, Note : Figures in parentheses are percent.

The above table shows that the monthly income of the respondents. In the study area nearly half (49.09 percent) of the respondents were received the monthly of Rs.1501-3000. Less than one fifth (17.28 percent) of the

respondents received their monthly income of Rs.3001 – 4500. Only 8.18 percent of the respondents had more than Rs.4500 per month. From the table, we may conclude that majority of the respondent's monthly income was Rs.1501 – 3000, due to the fact that, most of the respondents belongs to agricultural labourers. The average income of the respondents was Rs. 2652 per month.

Alternative Occupation for the Respondents

The availability of additional occupation is an alternative source of income of the respondents. The below table examined additional occupational status of the selected sample scheduled tribes in the study area.

Table – 3, Sources of Alternative Occupation

Alternative occupation	No. of respondents
Honey collection	24 (21.82)
Wood cutting	12 (10.91)
Herbal collection	56 (50.91)
Others	18 (16.36)
Total	110 (100)

Source: Primary Survey, Note :Figures in parentheses are percent.

The above table explains the availability of additional occupational sources for the respondents. There were three types of alternative occupational sources available for the respondents. They are honey collection (21.82 percent), wood cutting (10.91 percent), and herbal collection (50.91 percent). The remaining 16.35 percent of the respondents were doing other types of occupations such as non-farm activities. During the data collection the researchers observed that, herbal collection was the major as well as traditional supplementary occupation for the tribal communities even though number of private employment opportunities existing in the nearby village.

Monthly Expenditure of the Respondents

The following table depicts that the monthly expenditure of the respondents.

Table – 4, Monthly Expenditure of the Respondents (Rs.)

Expenditure (Rs.)	No. of respondents
Less than 2000	37 (33.64)
2001 – 3000	19 (44.54)
3001 – 4000	16 (14.54)
Above 4001	8 (7.28)
Total	110 (100)

Source : Primary Survey, Note : Figures in parentheses are percent.

The above table explains the monthly expenditure of the sample respondents in the study area. In this regard, most of the respondents (44.54 percent) were under the consumption expenditure of Rs.2001 to 3000. Followed by 14.54 percent of the respondent's income the expenditure level between Rs.3001 – 4000. Only less than 7.28 percent of the respondents had incurred more than Rs.4001. The remaining 33.64 percent incurred monthly expenditure of less than Rs.2000. From the table, it may be concluded that, it is obvious and there is positive relationship between family size and monthly expenditure.

Live stock Rearing by the Respondents

Live stock rearing is an alternative source of income to the scheduled tribes. The following table shows that livestock rearing by the respondents.

Table – 5, Live stock Rearing

Live stock	No. of respondents
Cow	25 (22.73)
Goat	32 (29.09)
Hen	37 (33.64)
Buffalo	16 (14.54)
Total	110 (100)

Source : Primary Survey , Note : Figures in parentheses are percent.

The tribal people were also involved in livestock rearing because it is also a source of income. In the study area, respondents had rearing the different types of livestock such as cow (22.73 percent), goat (29.09 percent), hen (33.64 percent) and buffalo (14.54 percent). Livestock rearing was an alternative source of income to the women and elder person in the households and they are primarily responsible for the livestock rearing.

Income Earnings from Livestock Rearing

The following table shows that the income earned through livestock rearing by the respondents.

Table – 6, Income Earned through Livestock

Income per month from livestock rearing (Rs.)	No. of respondents
Less than 1000	69 (62.73)
1001-2000	29 (26.37)
2001 – 3000	12 (10.90)
Total	110 (100)

Source : Primary Survey, Note : Figures in parentheses are percent.

The income generated through livestock rearing by the selected respondents was analysed in this table. More than one fourth (26.37 percent) of the respondents obtained income from livestock rearing between Rs.1000 – 2000 per month. More than two third (62.73 percent) of the respondents were got income of below Rs.1000 per month. Nearly one tenth (10.90 percent) of the respondents were in the category of Rs.2000 – 3000 per month. So livestock rearing was a supplement factor for income generation among the tribal people. If the respondents did their livestock rearing in a more scientific manner it would create employment and income among the tribal people.

Land holding Pattern of the Respondents

The below table examine the details of land holding pattern of the respondents.

Table – 7, Land Details of the Respondents

Land details	No. of respondents
Own land	
Yes	43 (39.09)
No	67 (60.91)
Size of land holding (acres)	
Less than 2	18 (22.73)
2.1 – 4	19 (17.27)
4.1 – 6	6 (5.45)
Cropping pattern	
Flowers	25 (22.73)
Vegetables	11 (10.00)
Paddy	4 (3.63)

Others	3 (2.73)
Land income (Rs.)	
Less than 5000	16 (14.54)
5001 – 6000	12 (10.90)
6001 – 7000	9 (8.19)
Above 7001	6 (5.46)
Total	110 (100)

Source : Primary Survey, Note : Figures in parentheses are percent.

Details of the land, size of land, cropping pattern and income from land were represented by the table – 7. There are four classification of the respondents such as having own land, size of land, cropping pattern and income from land. More than one third (39.09 percent) of the respondents were having own land and 60.91 percent of the respondents were not having own land because the majority of the respondents were agricultural labourers. Followed by this, less than one fifth (17.27 percent) of the respondents were having less than 2 acres of land and 16.36 percent of the respondents. The remaining 5.45 percent of the respondents were having 4 – 6 acres of land.

Moreover the income of the farmers as well as agricultural labourers mainly depends on the nature of the crop cultivated by the farmers. The cropping pattern of the respondents are presented in the table, which notified that more than one fifth (22.73 percent) of the respondents cultivated the major crop as flower. Followed by about one tenth (10 percent) of the respondents cultivated vegetables as main crop. Only a very few (3.63 percent) of the farmers cultivated the paddy as main crop. During the data collection the researcher observed that the flowers and vegetables consume less water than paddy and this may be the reason for cultivating the crops such as flower and vegetables.

Followed by 14.54 percent of the respondents, the income received form land had less than Rs.6000 and 18.19 percent of the respondents had the income level between Rs.7000 – 8000 and less than 5.46 percent respondents had more than Rs.8000. The majority of the land income was less than Rs.5000 (14.54 percent), due to the fact that most of the farmers were under the category of under marginal land holding.

Benefits Received from the Government

The following table shows that the benefits received from the government by the respondents which is helpful for the analysis of examining the role of institutional and non-institutional agencies in the development of tribes.

Table – 8, Benefits Received from the Government

Opinion	No. of respondents
Yes	74 (32.73)
No	36 (67.27)
Type of benefits	
Availed loan	51 (46.6)
Infrastructure facility	19 (17.27)
Subsidies	4 (3.64)
Total	74 (100)

Source : Primary Survey, Note : Figures in parentheses are percent.

The table shows that the type of benefits received by the respondents from the government. More than two third (67.27 percent) of the respondents were not received any benefits from the government. The remaining one third (32.73 percent) explored that they have received benefits from the government in the form of availing loan facilities, availability of infrastructure facilities and subsidies etc. Out 74 respondents, more than one fifth (46.6 percent) of them availed some loans from the government side. The remaining respondents enjoyed the benefits like availability of infrastructure (17.27 percent) facilities and subsidies (3.64 percent).

Support from Non-Governmental Organizations

The following table shows that the data on non-governmental organizations support to the respondents.

Table – 9, Support from Civil Society Organisations

Opinion	No. of respondents
Yes	9 (8.19)
No	101 (91.81)
Total	110 (100)

Source: Primary Survey, Note: Figures in parentheses are percent.

The above table shows that the non-governmental organisations support to the respondents. The majority of the respondents (91.81 percent) were not received any support from the same. On the other hand, few of the respondents (8.19 percent) reported that partially they depend on the same model to avoid the deforestation, because the NGOs provide loan (through SHGs) facility to the respondents those who are mainly engaged in wood cutting for their livelihood.

Conclusion

From the analysis, the main four of tribes development should be socio-economic status. For this, self employment in the areas of habitation is vital for diversification of the rural economy. Government intervention should encompass training of interested candidates or groups providing there nominal assistance and networking animal husbandry traditional acts and cottage industry. Moreover, efforts should be made to assess the immobility of tribes as far as possible the flow of educated young men of the tribes from villages to the urban centers to that there knowledge, skill and expertise could be utilized for the betterment of their own community.

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