

RESEARCH ARTICLE :

Personal profile of bhil (tribal) farmers for their livelihood status of Nandurbar district in Maharashtra state

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SUMMARY : The present study was conducted in Khandesh region of Maharashtra state on studies on livelihood status of bhil farmers of Nandurbar district in Maharashtra. Total 20 villages from four selected talukas were identified for the present study. Ex post facto research design was used and 200 sample size were selected for the study by using random sampling method. The data were collected by personal interview method. Twelve independent and one dependent variables were taken for the study. The collected data were analyzed by using appropriate method of analysis viz., multiple regression analysis and step down regression analysis. Percentage, mean, rank, standard deviation and correlation co-efficient.

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KEY WORDS :

Livelihood status, Ex post facto research

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Today, when the whole of India has resolved to throw open opportunities of advancement to every citizen without reservation, when the plan is build up the prosperity by application of science in all spheres of life, the whole complexion of the relationship between the tribal and non-tribal citizens has become revolutionized. Some of the problems which have emerged on account of a quite transition are no doubt difficult and not likely to yield readymade solutions. Yet they are there and while dealing with the life of people in question, it will also be our purpose to refer some of the problems which face us all today. The tribal canvas of our country has been varied in its colours and counters, spread almost throughout the country mostly sporadic but with sizable tribal concentration in certain major areas, the tribal world presents a wide linguistic, ethnic and cultural variety. Our country is more known as

the second most populous country in the world next to China but a matter of fact it is also the second most populous country in tribal population is concerned; as Africa is first. As per the 2001 censuses India's tribal population is 8.08 per cent of the country's total population and Maharashtra's (9.27%). There are 461 tribes of which 174 are major scheduled tribes subdivided into groups, spread over the length and breadth of the country, concentrated mostly in hilly and forest regions. They speak about 105 languages and 225 subsidiary languages. Since several of the tribal have become extinct or merged with the other communities as the tendency for fusion among tribal population is a continuous process. The tribes differ considerably from one another in races, languages, culture and beliefs in their myths and customs that present a spectacle of striking diversity. It is this diversity worked by varied social characteristics and diverse cultural traditions and linguistic trait that lends cluster

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to the cultural mosaic of our country. Each of the tribal group, no matter their quantity (there are groups as large as few lakhs and as small as a few hundred) is proud community participating in the national life yet retaining its own identity. There is enough historical evidences to show that the Negroes were brought to India, mainly by Arabs, Portuguese and Ditches. The Arabs are considered pioneers in this forced migration of Negroes to India. It is agreed that the tribes were brought to the western coast of India from Abussinai, Mozambique, Morocco and other countries of East Africa as slaves and domestic servants at the 14th century.

The caste system, a system of hierarchical social organization that was evolved and practiced by our ancestors almost from the beginning of the early civilization forms the basic foundation of India's social structure. The institution caste, determines the occupation from one's father and in turn possessed by descendants. Our society today is divided into numerous caste and sub castes each having its distinctive place in social hierarchy but at the same time castes of a region form part of a single social framework.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

The study was conducted in Nandurbar district of Maharashtra which is declared as Adivasi district by state government. It was conducted in purposively selected four talukas namely Navapur, Shahada, Akkalkuwa and Dhadgaon of district. Ex-post facto research design was used for the study. The sample size of 200 bhil farmers as respondents were selected by 'nth' method of proportionate sampling. In line with objectives of the study interview schedule was developed and data was collected. Suitable scales of earlier researcher were used. Statistical methods like mean, standard deviation, correlation, multiple linear regression and step down regression were used for interpretation of the data.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The results obtained from the present investigation as well as relevant discussion have been summarised under following heads:

Personal profile of bhil (tribal) farmers :

Age :

The data in Table 1 indicate that majority of (59.5%) bhil farmers were from middle age group category, followed by young (20.5 %) and old (20 %) age category.

Education :

It is revealed from Table 1 that one third of the bhil farmers (32.5%) were found to be illiterate, followed by 28.5 per cent having education upto secondary level and 27.5 per cent up to primary level. Only 11.5 per cent of the bhil farmers were having education upto college level.

Occupation :

From Table 1 it was revealed that more than three fourth of bhil farmers (72 %) were engaged in agriculture, followed by 21 per cent engaged in agriculture with wage labour work for income. While few of them 4.50 per cent were having agriculture with dairy as occupation and only 2.50 per cent were adopting agriculture with poultry or goat rearing as sources of income.

Land holding :

It is evident from Table 1 that more than half bhil farmer i.e. 54 per cent belonged to small category of land holding ranging from 1.01 to 2.00 hectare, followed by 37 per cent of bhil farmer to marginal category by possessing land upto 1.00 hectare. The percentage of medium land holding ranged from 2.01 to 4.00 hectare was only 9 per cent among total sample bhil farmers.

Table 1 : Personal profile of bhil farmers

Sr. No.	Independent variable	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Age		
	Young (upto 36)	41	20.5
	Middle (37 to 58)	119	59.5
	Old (Above 58)	40	20
	Total	200	100
2.	Education		
	Illiterate (No formal schooling)	65	32.5
	Primary school (1to4 standard)	55	27.5
	Secondary school (5to10 standard)	57	28.5
	College (11 and above standard)	23	11.5
	Total	200	100

Table 1 : contd..

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Sr. No.	Independent variable	Frequency	Percentage
3.	Occupation		
	Agriculture	144	72.00
	Agriculture+ wage labour	42	21.00
	Agriculture + poultry/goat rearing	05	02.50
	Agriculture + dairy	09	04.50
	Total	200	100.00
4.	Land holding		
	Marginal (upto 1)	74	37
	Small (1.01 to 2)	108	54
	Medium (2.01 to 4)	18	09
	Total	200	100.00
5.	Family size		
	Small (upto 3)	42	21.00
	Medium (4 to 7)	147	73.50
	Big (above 7)	11	5.50
	Total	200	100.00
6.	Family type		
	Joint	67	33.50
	Nuclear	133	66.50
	Total	200	100.00
7.	Annual income		
	Low (upto Rs. 18500)	25	12.50
	Medium (Rs. 1850 to 28200)	144	72.00
	High (above Rs. 28200)	31	15.50
	Total	200	100.00
8.	Numbers of earning members		
	Less (upto 1 member)	36	18
	Medium (2 to 3 members)	138	69
	More (above 3 members)	26	13
	Total	200	100.00
9.	Economic motivation		
	Low (upto 7)	11	5.50
	Medium (8 to 13)	158	79.00
	High (above 13)	31	15.50
	Total	200	100.00
10.	Sources of information		
	Low (upto 3)	53	26.50
	Medium (4 to 7)	95	47.50
	High (above 7)	52	26.00
	Total	200	100.00
11.	Social participation		
	No participation (0)	116	58.00
	Low (upto 1)	39	19.50
	High (above 1)	45	22.50
	Total	200	100.00

Family size :

It is evident from Table 1 that nearly three fourth of bhil farmers (73.50%) had medium size of family members *i.e.* from four to seven members. The proportion of bhil farmers below three members having small family was 21.00 per cent, meagre 5.50 per cent had big families having above seven members.

Family education :

From Table 1 it was revealed that more than one half *i.e.* 52.50 per cent of bhil farmer family member were educated upto secondary school level, followed by 34 per cent were educated upto primary school level, while 7 per cent and 6.5 per cent family of bhil farmer were illiterate and educated upto college level, respectively.

Family type :

It is observed from Table 1 that 66.50 per cent of the bhil farmer had nuclear family. Rest 33.50 per cent of the bhil farmers had joint type of family.

Annual income :

It is revealed from Table 1 that majority of the bhil farmer (72 %) belonged to income group of Rs. 18500 to 28200, followed by 15.50 per cent and 12.50 per cent in above Rs. 28200 and upto Rs. 18500 income group, respectively.

Numbers of earning members :

The distribution in Table 1 shows that higher percentage of earning members in bhil farmer family (69 %) ranged from 2 to 3 members, followed by 18 per cent and 13 per cent of earning members belong upto one and above three members, respectively.

Economic motivation :

It is revealed from of the Table 1 that majority of the bhil farmers (79%) were in medium level of economic motivation. This was followed by 15.50 per cent of the bhil farmers who were in high level of economic motivation. Whereas, meagre per cent of the bhil farmers (5.50%) were in low level of economic motivation.

Sources of information :

It is observed from Table 1 that at most fifty per cent (47.50 %) of the bhil framers had medium sources of information. The remaining 26.50 per cent of them had low sources of information and 26.00 per cent had high sources of information.

Social participation :

The data presented in Table 1 revealed that the above fifty per cent of the bhil farmers (58 %) had no social participation. While 22.5 per cent of bhil farmers had high

level of social participation, followed by 19.50 per cent in low social participation level. The findings are in line with the findings of Deshmukh (2000), Sonkamble (2000), Mahi (2006), Sunita *et al.* (2007) and Suryawanshi (2008).

Conclusion :

On the basis of the result obtained in present study it can be concluded that majority of bhil farmers were from middle age group category, one third of the bhil farmers (32.5%) were found to be illiterate, more than three fourth of bhil farmers (72 %) were engaged in agriculture, more than half bhil farmer *i.e.* 54 per cent belonged to small category of land holding ranging from 1.01 to 2.00 hectare, nearly three fourth of bhil farmers (73.50%) had medium size of family member, more than one half *i.e.* 52.50 per cent of bhil farmer family member were educated upto secondary school level, nearly 66.50 per cent of the bhil farmer had nuclear family, majority of the bhil farmer (72 %) belonged to income group of Rs. 18500 to 28200, higher percentage of earning members in bhil farmer family (69 %) are ranging from 2 to 3 members, majority of the bhil farmers (79%) were in medium level of economic motivation, majority (47.50%) of the bhil framers had medium sources of information.

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