

**RESEARCH ARTICLE :** **Economic development of Andh tribal**

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**KEY WORDS :**

Economic,  
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**BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES**

The benefits of 70 years of democracy and a decade of economic liberalization have not trickled down to the lower strata of rural society in general and 'Andh' community in particular; still stepped in immemorial poverty. So long as the economic and social conditions of these people do not improve, all the spectacular changes, which have taken place in the rural and urban areas, mean nothing to the submerged half of the people and to the nation as a whole (Kulkarni, 1994). Availing the benefits otherwise available through the provisions of constitution, schemes and programmes introduced from time to time primarily for socio-economic upliftment, how far and to what extent social change has taken place among the small and marginal farmers belonging to these community was a matter of curiosity and concern. In consideration, present investigation was made.

**RESOURCES AND METHODS**

The study is mainly based on the descriptive research design namely Exploratory Research Design. The study was

conducted in Malegaon, Barshitakli and Patur Tahsil of Washim and Akola districts of Vidarbha in Maharashtra State, respectively. The district has 13 tahsils and tribe community particularly 'Andh' mainly inhabits in these tahsils. For adequate representative of different areas in Tahsil and then the villages were arranged and the list of 98 villages was obtained from the Revenue department. The list was meticulously scrutinized and the list of villages having landless and landholder 'Andh' tribal was separately prepared.

About one third villages *i.e.* 30 villages were sampled by equal method of random sampling technique. A list of 'Andh' tribes both landless and landholder (farmers) residing in the selected villages was obtained from Patwari of respective area. Normally twenty to forty five Andh households reside in each village. Thus, from the list so obtained 10 per cent sample of the population *i.e.* Andh tribe respondents were selected proportionately by random sampling.

The dependent variable in present study is Economic development, which includes educational development, change in income and social status. Economic development is

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an important attribute, which influences the every sphere in life of each individual either positively or adversely particularly in Andh tribal to appraise overall development above three factors were combined and a scale was developed to measure the absolute development of this community. Since it was quite difficult to decide the development by studying life span for a particular year. So, it was studied for the period of 12 years.

## OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The results obtained from the present study as well as discussions have been summarized under following heads :

### Economic development :

Poverty, inequality and unemployment are closely related to each other and are among tribal in our country. By itself the existence of poverty, inequality and unemployment is not sufficient to establish a case for action by the Government. Distributive efficiency is just for income distribution. Unless every family receives exactly the same income there will always be same disparate. When the concentration of income is greater than the socially acceptable level we can say that distribution inefficiency exists and that something ought to be done about it.

According to Human Resource development Report (1997), poverty is the denial of opportunities to lead a long, healthy creative life and to enjoy a decent standard of living, freedom, dignity, self-respect and the respect for others. Absolute poverty is when a person can not obtain certain absolute standards of minimum requirements usually measured in terms of income.

Relative poverty is when a person falls behind others and is thus, a measure of inequality of income. Tribal are poverty stricken people. Right from the ancient period the main springs of the tribe economy have been forest, hills, mountains, rivers, lakes and ponds from where they can collect food and water the basic necessities of life.

The per cent development in economic conditions of Andh tribal respondents during study year, over base year has been studied. In spite the fact that economic condition of the respondents is low during base year at this juncture the presumption was that some development might have taken place in twelve years and hence, the respondent profile regarding this has been studied.

During the course of investigation the observations revealed that nearly two third (63.00%) of the Andh tribal respondents were belonged to the low level of economic status category during the base year. While exactly one fourth (25.00%) and meager 12.00 per cent of the respondents were enjoying the medium and high level of economic status, respectively during the study year.

Poverty is often described into three category viz., *structural poverty*, *seasonal poverty* and *chronic poverty*. At present in the study area problem is not structural poverty but it is seasonal and chronic poverty. Seasonal poverty is often the result of poor management or failure by the wage earner to save for the future or for critical economic situations. This phenomenon is particularly true in the agricultural sector. Here again the reason often not willingness to save but inability to save. *Chronic poverty* is worst from the poverty in area. It is often the result of inherent disabilities of the people or the disadvantages of location like arid lands or wastelands (Chakraborty *et.al.* 1989.).

**Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to their economic (employment change + change in income) development**

Sr. No.	Economic development	Respondents				% change	
		Landholder		Landless		Land holder	Landless
		Base year	Study year	Base year	Study year		
1.	Low	87 (58.00)	77 (51.33)	112 (14.66)	101 (67.33)	189 (63.00)	178 (59.33)
2.	Medium	35 (23.33)	31 (20.67)	40 (26.67)	34 (22.67)	75 (25.00)	65 (21.67)
3.	High	17 (11.33)	24 (16.00)	19 (12.67)	33 (22.00)	36 (12.00)	57 (19.00)
	Total	150 (100.00)	150 (100.00)	150 (100.00)	150 (100.00)	300 (100.00)	
	Mean		4.683		8.57		13.44
	$\chi^2$		5.857		10.952		16.81
	SD		16.602		31.047		47.65
	Cv		25.878		48.391		74.27
	'Z' value		0.305		0.571		0.877

Co-efficient of association = 85.67

A further look at Table 1 reveals that there was dwindle in proportion of the respondents (59.33%) and 21.67 per cent in the category of low and medium level of economic development, respectively during the study year, 2002. While nearly one fifth (19.00%) was in the high level of economic development, respectively during study year which was comparatively high to base year.

Eventually it must be admitted that a proper environment for work and a healthy code of ethics on the part of both consumers and producers are as indispensable for economic progress as sound economic reforms.

### Correlates of economic development :

The data regarding correlates and path co-efficient of economic development are presented in Table 2.

From Table 2 it is observed that education ( $r=0.1238$ ) and income ( $r=0.4344$ ) has shown positively and highly significant relationship with the economic development at 0.05 and 0.01 level of probability, respectively.

The labour work most predominately had an important role in providing employment and economic transformation for these community respondents. Most of the land holder respondents preferably worked as laborers in field or government jobs/schemes. Since the educated people stay in touch with day to day happenings of government's various developmental programmes and the sound economic condition helps in bearings the expenses if required for getting emolument. That's why these two variables namely education and annual income were positively significant with employment.

The variables, namely annual income (path co-efficient 0.5935) has maximum direct effect on economic development among Andh tribal respondents while age

(path co-efficient-0.153); occupation (path co-efficient-0.091); land holding (path co-efficient-0.187); social participation (path co-efficient-0.022); SES (path Co-efficient-0.036) and extension contact had negative direct effect on economic development of Andh tribal people.

The present findings corroborates with the findings of Rathod (2001) who noted that change in employment has highly significant relationship with change in income among the tribal of Dharni at Amravati District.

### Direct effect :

The path co-efficients presented in the Table 2 revealed that the variables namely education (0.688); annual income (0.594); SES (0.037) and family size (0.031) have exerted maximum positive direct effect on the economic development of 'Andh' tribal people. The other variables namely, occupation (-0.192); land holding (-0.187), age (-0.154); social participation (-0.022) and extension contact (-0.013) also exerted the recognizable direct effect but it was comparatively minimum and negative. Hence, all these five variables should be given due importance while deciding the economic development of 'Andh' tribal community people.

### Total indirect effect :

Further it was revealed by the path co-efficient reported 2 that the variables namely SES have exerted maximum total indirect effect followed by age, education, family size and extension contact on economic development of 'Andh' tribal respondents in the descending order of magnitde. The indirect effect of annual income (-0.159) was also found to be comparatively moderate but negative. So emphasis should be given on the this particular variable as far the economic development is concerned.

**Table 2 :Correlates and path co-efficients of economic development**

Sr. No.	Correlates	Correlation co-efficient	Direct effect	Total indirect effect	Maximum substantial effect
1.	Age	-0.082	-0.153	0.071	0.107(7)
2.	Education	0.123*	0.068	0.050	0.073(7)
3.	Occupation	0.042	-0.091	0.134	0.178(7)
4.	Family size	0.0697	0.031	0.038	0.121(7)
5.	Land holding	0.0741	-0.187	0.261	0.308(7)
6.	Social Participation	0.112	-0.022	0.135	0.231(7)
7.	Annual Income	0.043**	0.593	-0.159	-0.097(5)
8.	SES	0.085	-0.036	0.045	0.150(7)
9.	Extension contact	0.227	-0.013	0.036	0.154(7)

\* and \*\* indicate significant of values at  $P=0.05$  and  $0.01$ , respectively.

### Maximum substantial indirect effect :

The maximum substantial indirect effect of the independent variables, on the economic development of Andh community respondent through other variables revealed that out of nine variables, eight namely social participation, occupation extension contact, SES, age, education; land holding and family size had largest indirect effect on the economic development of Andh community tribal respondents through annual income. Thus, the annual income not only has produced maximum direct effect but also indirect effect of maximum number of variables. Hence, annual income must be considered important in the economic development of these community respondents. The important point was, the magnitude of this variable which was negative implied that if annual income is increased it is not sufficient but its utilization in proper ways meant for economic

development as mentioned above should be done consequently here may be remarkable economic development of Andh tribal respondents.

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