

RESEARCH ARTICLE :

Occupational aspiration of korku tribal farmers

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SUMMARY : The present study was conducted in Chikhaldara tahsil of Amravati district of Maharashtra state. This tahsil occupied more hilly area and large population of korku tribal farmers. They faced lot of problems viz., occupational, malnutrition, poverty, unemployment, exploitation, illiteracy and health problems. For minimizing their problems, their socio-economic status must be known. In study area 90 per cent people were korku tribal farmers. The objective of the study was to know the occupational aspiration of korku tribal farmers. A structured interview schedule was used to collect data from 80 respondents. The statistical methods and tests such as frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation, co-efficient of correlation were used for the analysis of data. The result of the study showed that three-fourth 57.50 per cent of the respondents belonged to 'middle' age category, while majority of tribal farmers 38.75 per cent had illiterate category and 36.25 per cent having low level of family income upto Rs.-30,818/-. However, the observation also shows that, majority of the respondents 56.25 per cent had low social participation and 47.50 per cent had small size of land holding 1.01 to 2.0 ha. Majority of respondents 76.25 per cent had farming as a major occupation and the finding observed that, majority 82.50 per cent of the respondents was married while majority of the respondents 85.00 per cent had medium family size and 88.75 per cent had nuclear family type.

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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

In India, tribal population is remarkable. It is fascinating of that about a half of the tribal people of the world *i.e.* 8,43,26,240 is living in India as per 2011 census which constituted 8.2 per cent of the total population of India.

India has second largest population of tribals after Africa in the world. The total population of Maharashtra, as per the 2011 Census is 11,23,74,33 of this, 1,05,10,213 (9.36 %) are scheduled tribes (STs). The scheduled

tribes population of the state constitutes 5.1 per cent of the country's scheduled tribes population. The scheduled castes and scheduled tribes order (Amendment) Act, 1976, have notified 47 scheduled tribes in Maharashtra.

Melghat region is located in West direction of Amravati district in Maharashtra. Amravati district is in North 20.32 latitude to 21.46 and in East 76.57 to 8.27 latitude. The area of Amravati district is 122.12 square meters which consists Amravati, Anjangaon Surji, Achalpur, Chikhaldara, Dharani,

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Chandurbajar, Dhamangaon, Tiwasa, Morshi, Warud, Daryapur, Bhatkuli, Nandgaon Khandeshwar, Chandur Railway tahsils. Tribal are found in all these tahsils of Amravati district. But in the Tahsil like Dharani and Chikhaldara the population of the tribal is higher. Korku is the predominant tribe in the region amongst the other tribes that are Gonds, Nihals, Vanjaris, Gaolies, etc. Melghat area is consists of two tahsils *i.e.* Dharni and Chikhaldara. Korku is one of the Tribes in India which resides particularly in the Maharashtra state in Amravati district in Dharani and Chikhaldara Tahsils. 'Korku' is the mother tongue of Korku tribe. It has not its written script. Korku in the Melghat area speak pure and understand Hindi and little in Marathi Languages.

Specific objectives of the study:

- To study the profile of the farmers.
- To study occupational aspiration of korku tribal farmers.
- To study the relationship between selected characteristics with occupational aspiration.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

Present study was carried out in Amravati district of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra state. Chikhaldara tahsil from Amravati district selected because tribal farmers are large in numbers in this tahsil. From selected tahsil 10 villages *viz.*, Amzhari, Tetu, Bori, Kamapur, Jamun-nala, Jamli, Bela, Salona, Bhulori, Bhilkheda were randomly selected. From each selected village, 08 respondents were selected randomly. Thus, total 80 respondents were randomly selected for this study. The exploratory research design was used for the present study.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

It is observed from Table 1 that, about 57.50 per cent of the respondents were middle age group, about 38.75 per cent of the respondents were illiterate, about 56.25 per cent of the respondents were belonged to low level category of social participation, about 36.25 per cent respondents had their annual income upto Rs. 30,818. About 47.50 per cent of the respondents belonged to small land holding category (1.01 to 2 ha), about 76.25 per cent of the respondents were belonged to farming is an major occupation, about 82.50 per cent of the

Table 1 : Distribution of respondents according to their profile (n=80)

Sr. No.	Category	Respondents	
		Number	Percentage
Age			
1.	Young (Upto 29)	17	21.25
2.	Middle (30 to 54 years)	46	57.50
3.	Old (above 54)	17	21.25
	Total	80	100
Education			
1.	Illiterate (no schooling)	31	38.75
2.	Primary school (1 to 4 th)	16	20.00
3.	Middle school (5 th to 7 th)	16	20.00
4.	High school (8 th to 10 th)	07	08.75
5.	Junior college (11 th to 12 th)	06	07.50
6.	Senior college (above 12 th)	04	05.00
	Total	80	100
Social participation			
1.	Low (Upto 0)	45	56.25
2.	Medium (1 to 3)	26	32.50
3.	High (above 3)	09	11.25
	Total	80	100
Annual income			
1.	Low (Upto Rs. 30,818)	29	36.25
2.	Medium (Rs. 30,819 to 55,432)	27	33.75
3.	High (Rs. above 55,432)	24	30.00
	Total	80	100
Land holding			
1.	Marginal	10	12.50
2.	Small	38	47.50
3.	Semi-medium	25	31.25
4.	Medium	07	08.75
5.	Large	00	00
	Total	80	100
Major occupation			
1.	Labour	16	20.00
2.	traditional occupation	01	01.25
3.	Business	02	02.50
4.	Independent profession	00	00
5.	Farming	61	76.25
6.	Service	00	00
	Total	80	100

Table 1: Contd.....

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Marital status			
1.	Unmarried	05	06.25
2.	Married	66	82.50
3.	Divorce	00	00
4.	Widower	00	00
5.	Widow	09	11.25
	Total	80	100
Size of family			
1.	Small (Upto 2)	01	01.25
2.	Medium (3 to 9)	68	85.00
3.	Big (above 9)	11	13.75
	Total	80	100
Family type			
1.	Joint family	09	11.25
2.	Nuclear family	71	88.75
	Total	80	100

respondents were belonged to married marital status, about majority of 85 per cent of the respondents was in medium family size, majority of the respondents, 88.75 per cent had nuclear family type. This finding is similar with Gour *et al.* (2015); Hajong and Sharma (2010); Panday *et al.* (2017) and Patel *et al.* (2015).

It is observed from Table 2 that, majority of respondents 38.75 per cent had service as an occupational aspiration. Followed by 28.75 per cent were farming as an occupational aspiration. Followed by 17.50 per cent had labour as an occupational aspiration. while 8.75 per cent respondents had business as an occupational aspiration. 3.75 per cent and 2.5 per cent respondents had forest resource collection and fishing as an occupational aspiration, respectively. This finding is similar with Shandilya *et al.* (2017).

Relational analysis:

It is revealed from Table 3 that, the significant variable includes marital status found the positive and significant level of probability 0.01 with occupational

Table 2 : Distribution of respondents according to occupational aspiration

Sr. No.	Category	Respondents	
		Number	Percentage
1.	Cattle rearing	00	0.00
2.	Fishing	02	2.50
3.	Forest resource collection	03	3.75
4.	Wages	14	17.50
5.	Farming	23	28.75
6.	Business	07	8.75
7.	Service	31	38.75
	Total	80	100

Table 3 : Relationship between selected characteristics with occupational aspiration

Sr. No.	Independent variables	'r' values
1.	Age	0.0803 ^{NS}
2.	Education	0.2439 *
3.	Social participation	0.0328 ^{NS}
4.	Annual income	0.2394 *
5.	Land holding	0.2720 *
6.	Major Occupation	0.2248 *
7.	Marital status	0.2919 **
8.	Family size	0.2695*
9.	Family type	0.1482 ^{NS}

* and ** indicate significance of values at P=0.05 and 0.01, respectively

NS=Non significant

aspiration and the variables viz., education, annual income, land holding, major occupation, family size found positive and significant at 0.05 level of probability with occupational aspiration. The variables age, social participation and family type had shown non-significant relationship with occupational aspiration. This finding is similar with Potdar (2015).

Conclusion:

It is observed that majority of respondents 38.75 per cent had service as an occupational aspiration and 28.75 per cent had farming as an occupational aspiration. 17.50 per cent had labour as an occupational aspiration, while 8.75 per cent respondents had business as an occupational aspiration.

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