

Tibetan rehabilitants and their livelihood activities

E.K. MARBANIANG, L. MANJUNATH, J.G. ANGADI AND B. BANAKAR

ABSTRACT

A study on demographic characteristics of Tibetan rehabilitants and their livelihood activities was undertaken in Mundgod Taluk of Uttara Kannada district during 2009-10. One hundred and thirty five were selected by adopting simple random sampling. Results revealed that 47.40 per cent of the respondents studied up to Primary School and majority (92.60%) of them were married. Majority (56.30%) of the respondents belonged to medium level of family size, 39.25 per cent of them had semi-medium level of annual income (Rs.34,001-51,000). Majority (66.67%) of the respondents had medium extension contact, (51.12%) had medium economic motivation and 54.07 per cent of them had medium risk orientation. Majority of the respondents (62.96%) had no livestock possession, (55.56%) had no training and 64.45 per cent of them had high level of social participation. Majority of the respondents (75.56%) regularly participated in marriages, took part in festivals (80.00%) and majority of them (71.85%) had never seen dramas, (71.85%) did not participate in fairs. A considerable per cent of the respondents (31.12%) had preferred agriculture + dairy as their livelihood practice and majority of them (52.38%) had been in the agriculture + dairy for more than 20 years and respondents with agriculture + dairy (69.04%) had been involved in the activities throughout the year.

KEY WORDS : Livelihood activities, Rehabilitants, Training, Dramas, Fairs

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INTRODUCTION

Migration of the people from one country to India had been practiced since 2000 B.C. starting from the Aryans invasion. There are several reasons for migrations. These reasons range from voluntary migration for economic reasons to that of more involuntary types of migrations due to political reasons. The Tibetians had been migrated to India in the wake of the takeover of Tibet in 1959 by the China, who had it is believed, the sole purpose of political, economic and cultural integration of that land to Greater China. They brought their culture and implanted here and became integral part of India. The Tibetians had been adjusted to host society for over the years, on one hand; it refers to adaptation to the local environment and on the other to the social conditions. Keeping this in view, the present investigation was designed with the following specific objectives to assess the demographic characteristics of Tibetan rehabilitants and to ascertain the livelihood activities undertaken by them.

METHODOLOGY

The Tibetan settlement of Mundgod taluk, Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka was purposively selected for the study and was conducted during the year 2009-10. Simple random sampling procedure was adopted for the selection of respondents. Nine villages were selected for investigation and 15 respondents from each village were selected. Thus, the total sample for the study constituted 135 respondents. The socio-economic profile was probed with the help of an interview schedule developed for the study. Interview schedule was prepared for collecting information on livelihood practices and their involvement in these livelihood practices. For quantitative analysis, percentages, mean, standard deviation was used for the study. The teacher made knowledge test was developed to measure the livelihood activities of the Tibetan rehabilitants. The livelihood activities were classified into agriculture, dairy activities and non-farm activities. Agriculture means the cultivation of crops practiced by the respondents on their farm. Dairy activities means the

Correspondence to:

E.K. MARBANIANG, Department of Agricultural Extension, Education, University of Agricultural Science, DHARWAD (KARNATAKA)INDIA
Email : ereneusmarbianiang@gmail.com

Authors' affiliations:

L. MANJUNATH, J.G. ANNGADI AND B. BANAKAR, Department of Agricultural Extension, Education, University of Agricultural Science, DHARWAD (KARNATAKA)INDIA

rearing of milking breed for milk production. Non-farm activities includes the activities like carpet-weaving, sweater-selling, incense-manufacturing, services like staffs in Tibetan society office, consumer shops, bank, tractor section and other business activities like tailoring, driving, commission agent etc.

OBSERVATIONS AND DISCUSSION

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

Demographic characteristics of Tibetan rehabilitants:

Education level:

A perusal of Table 1 indicates that the largest percentage of Tibetan rehabilitants had education upto Primary School (47.40%). This situation might have arised due to low financial position of the respondents and non-realization of importance of education. The findings were in line with the research results of Bharathi (2005) and Biradar (2008).

Marital status and family size:

Majority were married (92.60%) and had medium family size (56.30%) as early marriage was still prevalent in the settlement. The findings were in line with the research results of Joshi (1992) and Ningareddy (2005).

Annual family income:

Considerable percentage of 39.25% belonged to medium income (Rs.34,001-51,000). This was due to their better socio-economic conditions after taking income generating activities. The present finding is in conformity with the findings of Deepak (2003) and Biradar (2008).

Extension contact:

Majority (66.67%) of the Tibetan rehabilitants had medium extension contact .The trend may be due to the availability of the village leader, the extension staff in the Tibetan cooperative service bank limited office and even the staff from Mundgod Officials of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary office whenever the people were in needs. These findings have been well supported by Geetha (2002) and Purnima (2004).

Risk orientation and economic motivation:

A glance at the data given in the Table 1 reveal that majority of the Tibetan rehabilitants (54.07%) had medium risk orientation and 51.12 per cent of them had medium

economic motivation as high returns was earned from their livelihood practices. The findings were in line with the research results of Biradar (2008) and Subramanyam (2002).

Livestock possession:

Data also expressed that majority of the Tibetan rehabilitants (62.96%) had no livestock possession. The reason for not possessing livestock namely, cows and buffaloes might be due to the high cost involved in purchasing of these animals. Another reason might be that the livestock required extra care for their maintenance. These findings have been well supported by Gour (2002).

Training:

Majority of them (55.56%) had no training as more than 47.40% had education upto Primary School and 29.62 per cent of them were illiterate. The findings were in line with the research results of Rao (1996).

Social participation:

Social participation was found to be of high level with 64.45 per cent of them participated in social organizations. In general, the above trend was due to the fact that, the Tibetan service co-operative bank ltd. had provided the inputs like fertilizers, pesticides, credit facilities as well as training and all the needs and requirements to its members and office bearers in their different livelihood activities. The findings were in line with the research results of Saikrishna (1998).

Cultural activities of the Tibetan rehabilitants:

A glance of the data in Table 2 reveals that in ceremonial activities, majority of the respondents (75.56%) regularly participated in marriages, took part in festivals (80.00%), had performed regular puja (90.37%) and religious debates (60.00%). With respect to recreational activities, majority of them (71.85%) had never seen dramas, (71.85%) did not participate in fairs and 50.37 per cent used to access to films through cable connection. Marriage rituals in Tibetan society had core importance when a marriage was solemnized *i.e.* the ritualistic side of the nuptial was always given due importance. They invited old age people to get their blessings for newly married couple. Hence, the results obtained seem to be appropriate. High participation in festivals might be because of their strong belief in tradition and culture. Most of the Tibetians were trying to re-establish their society so that if and when they go back to Tibet they could carry their culture back intact (Palakshappa, 1978). Hence, to organize their own people, they might have participated in

Table 1 : Demographic characteristics of the Tibetan rehabilitants (n=135)

Sr. No.	Variable	Category	Respondents	
			Frequency	Percentage
1.	Education	Illiterate	40	29.62
		Primary School	64	47.40
		Middle School	10	7.40
		High School	15	11.12
		PUC	3	2.23
		Degree	3	2.23
2.	Marital status	Unmarried	10	7.40
		Married	125	92.60
3.	Family size	Low (< 4.09)	33	24.45
		Medium (4.09- 6.17)	76	56.30
		High (> 6.17)	26	19.25
		Mean = 5.13, SD = 2.46		
4.	Annual income *	Low income (up to Rs.17,000)	44	32.60
		Semi-medium income (Rs.17,001-34,000)	53	39.25
		Medium income (Rs.34,001-51,000)	25	18.52
		High income (above Rs.51,000)	13	9.63
5.	Extension contact	Low (< 1.092)	9	6.67
		Medium (1.092- 1.508)	90	66.67
		High (> 1.508)	36	26.66
		Mean = 1.30, SD = 0.49		
6.	Economic motivation	Low (<17.56)	25	18.51
		Medium (17.56-20.32)	69	51.12
		High (>20.32)	41	30.37
		Mean: 18.94, SD: 3.27		
7.	Risk orientation	Low (<14.58)	16	11.85
		Medium (14.58-16.82)	73	54.07
		High (>16.82)	46	34.08
		Mean: 15.70, SD: 2.64		
8.	Livestock possession	No livestock	85	62.96
		Low (<2.62)	18	13.34
		Medium (2.62-4.70)	16	11.85
		High(>4.70)	16	11.85
		Mean: 3.66, SD: 2.47		
9.	Training	No training	75	55.56
		Low (<1.18)	07	5.18
		Medium (1.18-1.58)	18	20.74
		High (>1.58)	35	25.92
		Mean: 1.38, SD: 0.48		
10.	Social participation	Low (<4)	35	25.92
		Medium (4-4.96)	13	9.63
		High (>4.96)	87	64.45
		Mean = 4.48, SD = 1.13		

*(MoRD, 2003)

Table 2: Frequency and percentage of cultural activities* (n =135)

Sr. No.	Cultural activities	Regularly		Occasionally		Never	
		F	%	F	%	F	%
A. Ceremonial activities							
1.	Participation in marriages	102	75.56	27	20.00	6	4.45
2.	Participation in festivals	108	80.00	27	20.00	-	-
3.	Regular puja	122	90.37	13	9.62	-	-
4.	Religious debates	81	60.00	34	25.18	20	14.81
B. Recreational activities							
1.	Fairs	4	2.96	34	25.18	97	71.85
2.	Films	68	50.37	54	40.00	13	9.62
3.	Dramas	5	3.70	33	24.45	97	71.85

*Multiple responses expressed

festivals in a big way. Religious puja forms another ceremonial activity of Tibetians and many of them opined that by conducting regular puja they will get re-birth (Punarjanma). Religious debates, in the opinion of Tibetians helped in developing report with other monasteries and settlements. Hence, they might have participated with all spirit and enthusiasm.

Thus, less percentage of the Tibetan rehabilitants participated in recreational activities compared to ceremonial activities. This may happen because majority of the respondents belonged to middle and old aged category. These findings were in line with the research results of Joshi (1992).

Income generation:

A perusal of Table 3 reveals that among the different livelihood activities, highest average annual income was generated in case of non-farm (Rs.42635), followed by agriculture + non-farm (Rs.32994). Again, highest maximum annual income was generated in agriculture +

dairy and non-farm (Rs.132000) and the lowest was in agriculture (35000). The lowest minimum annual income was generated in agriculture (Rs.7000). The present finding is in conformity with the findings of Premkumar and Rahulkumar (1992).

From Table 4, it was found out that among the different livelihood activities, average annual income was very high for non-farm (Rs. 42635.71), followed by agriculture + non-farm (Rs.32994.44). Whereas, average annual income for agriculture + dairy was Rs.30347 and very less for agriculture (Rs. 14000). In other words, non-farm was fetching significantly higher income compared to the other livelihood activities and there was much difference between agriculture and non-farm with respect to their annual income generated. Whereas, there was not much difference between agriculture + dairy and agriculture + non-farm with respect to their annual income generated. The input costs as well as the problems faced by the non-farm activities were less as compared to agriculture and dairy activities. These reasons might have

Table 3: Annual income of the respondents from the livelihood activities

Sr. No.	Livelihood activities	Annual income (Rs.)		
		Average	Maximum	Minimum
1.	Agriculture	14000	35000	7000
2.	Agriculture + Dairy	30347	132000	11500
3.	Agriculture + Non-farm	32994	82000	13000
4.	Non-farm	42635	132000	9600

Table 4: ANOVA for income based on livelihood activities

Sr. No.	Livelihood activities	Average annual income (Rs.)	F	CD
1.	Agriculture	14000		
2.	Agriculture + Dairy	30347		
3.	Agriculture + Non-farm	32994.44	10.29**	9454.75
4.	Non-farm	42635.71		

contributed to the highest income generation among the non-farm activities.

Employment generation:

Table 5 further reveals that, the number of persons employed per year among the livelihood activities was 42 in agriculture + dairy, followed by 28 in case of agriculture + non-farm. Whereas, it was 24 in case of agriculture and 10 in non-farm. The findings are in line with the research results of Gangaiah *et al.* (2006).

Many day labourers were employed from nearby Indian villages-Koppa, Gangarathi, Sindoor, Hunugund and Bommigatta in agriculture + dairy activities and few people among the Tibetan rehabilitants were involved in such activities. Whereas, other activities like non-farm activities were occupied only by the Tibetan rehabilitants.

Livelihood activities undertaken by the Tibetan rehabilitants:

Data from Table 6 reveal that 31.12 per cent of the respondents had preferred agriculture + dairy activities as their livelihood practice, followed by agriculture + non-farm activities (26.67%) as their livelihood activities in

Table 5 : Employment generation from different livelihood activities

Sr. No.	Livelihood activities	No. of persons employed per year
1.	Agriculture	24
2.	Agriculture + Dairy	42
3.	Agriculture + Non-farm	28
4.	Non-farm	10

the settlement. It may due to the fact that, majority of the Tibetan rehabilitants were economically weak and faced the constraints like failure and erratic rain, high cost of inputs, labour problem which led them to take only non-farm as their livelihood. The findings are in line with the research results of Biradar (2008).

Period of involvement in the livelihood activities:

From Table 6, it is clear that majority of the Tibetan rehabilitants (52.38%) had been in the agriculture + dairy for more than 20 years, followed by agriculture + non-farm (50.00%) for more than 10 years. Agriculture and dairy activities had been the livelihood activities followed by the Tibetan rehabilitants for several years and these were traditionally practiced by the people in the settlement. Whereas, very few members who followed non-farm activities had been involved only for few years. This was because their parents were not acquainted with the activities and these were new to them. The findings are also in accordance with the findings of Zwoitwa and Themabela (2006).

Seasonal involvement in the livelihood activities :

It is evident from Table 7 that, majority of the rehabilitants were with agriculture + dairy (69.04%), and agriculture + non-farm (80.56%) and non-farm (53.57%) had been involved in the activities throughout the year. It may due to the fact that these subsidiary activities had increased the income as well as supplemented the needs of the family. These results corroborate with the Zwoitwa and Themabela (2006).

Table 6: Distribution of Tibetan rehabilitants according to their period of involvement in livelihood activities (n=135)

Sr. No.	Livelihood activities	Frequency	Period of involvement (years)			
			1-5	6-10	11-20	Above 20
			F	F	F	F
1.	Agriculture	29 (21.48)	1 (3.45)	7 (24.13)	14 (48.27)	7 (24.13)
2.	Agriculture + Dairy	42 (31.12)	3 (7.14)	5 (11.90)	12 (28.57)	22 (52.38)
3.	Agriculture + Non-farm	36 (26.67)	5 (13.89)	5 (13.89)	18 (50.00)	8 (22.23)
4.	Non-farm	28 (20.74)	6 (21.42)	8 (28.57)	9 (32.14)	5 (17.85)

Note: F=frequency, Figures in parentheses are percentage

Table 7: Distribution of Tibetan rehabilitants according to their seasonal involvement in livelihood activities (n = 135)

Livelihood activities	Kharif		Rabi		Throughout the year		Total	
	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P
Agriculture	5	17.24	-	-	24	82.75	29	100.00
Agriculture + Dairy	8	19.04	5	11.90	29	69.04	42	100.00
Agriculture + Non-farm	5	13.89	2	5.56	29	80.56	36	100.00
Non-farm	6	21.42	7	25.00	15	53.57	28	100.00

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