

Association between socio-economic profile characteristics of Tibetan rehabilitants and their problems

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted during 2009-10 in Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka state. Mundgod Taluk of the district where the Tibetans resided were purposively selected with 135 rehabilitants as the sample. Data were collected to analyze the association of the profile characteristics on livelihood activities of Tibetan rehabilitants. The results revealed that education, family size, annual income, risk orientation, economic motivation and social participation were found to be significantly associated with livelihood activities. Major problems expressed by the Tibetan rehabilitants in livelihood activities were lack of labour force (63.70%), uncertainty of rainfall and lack of irrigation facilities (62.96%), lack of veterinary facilities in the settlement (29.63%) and lack of remunerative price for farm produce and high price fluctuation (11.12%). Majority of the Tibetan rehabilitants (59.25%) suggested to create water facilities. A considerable per cent (44.45) suggested for training on skill development in the enterprises, followed by 29.62 and 25.92 per cent suggested for better milk price and veterinary hospital facilities, respectively.

KEY WORDS : Livelihood activities, Rehabilitants, Training, Remunerative price

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INTRODUCTION

Socio-economic profile is of paramount importance as it regulates the decision making and adoption behaviour of an individual. Poor participation of the people in the social organization and simultaneously average exposure to different communication sources and education level contribute a lot to the welfare of the living standard of the people. A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (stores, resources, claims and access) and recovers from stress and shocks maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for the next generation and which contributes net benefits to other livelihoods at the local and global levels and in the long and short run. The Tibetans had been migrated to India in the wake of the takeover of Tibet in 1959 by the China. They brought their culture and implanted here and became integral part of India. The Tibetans had been adjusted to host society for over the years- adaptation to the local environment and social conditions facing problems

in one way or the other. Keeping this in view, the present investigation was designed with the following specific objectives : to find out the association between socio-economic characteristics and livelihood activities undertaken by the Tibetan rehabilitants and to identify the problems and suggestions for improvement in their livelihood activities.

METHODOLOGY

The investigation was carried out in Tibetan refugee colony, Mundgod Taluk of Karnataka state during the 2009-10. A list of nine villages were selected from Tibetan refugee colony by adopting simple random sampling method with 135 respondents as the total sample. Thus, 15 respondents was taken from each village. The socio-economic profile was probed with the help of an interview schedule developed for the study. For quantitative analysis, percentages, mean, standard deviation were used for the study. Chi-square test was calculated to find out the

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association between the socio-economic characteristics and livelihood activities undertaken by the Tibetan rehabilitants.

OBSERVATIONS AND DISCUSSION

The findings of the present study as well as relevant discussion have been summarized under following heads:

Association between socio-economic characteristics and livelihood activities undertaken by the Tibetan rehabilitants:

Education:

It can be seen from the data presented in Table 1 that the chi-square value (51.26) between education and livelihood activities was found to be highly significant associated. In terms of education, 17.78 per cent of the Tibetan rehabilitants with agriculture + dairy had education up to Primary School, whereas 0.74 per cent of them with non-farm had education up to Middle School. The findings were in line with the research results of Sarma (2004). Education is not merely a process of imparting or acquiring knowledge and habits through instruction or study but its main aim is to prepare an individual for life and all-round development of human in his/her society.

Family size:

A perusal of Table 2 expressed that family size was

significantly associated with the livelihood activities. Less percentage of 18.52 with agriculture + non-farm and agriculture + dairy (17.78%) had medium family size and 2.97 per cent each with non-farm and agriculture had large size family. As majority (51.85%) of the Tibetan rehabilitants belonged to big family, more number of the family members participated in the livelihood activities. The findings were in line with the research results of Dolli (2006).

Annual family income:

Chi-square value (65.23) between annual family income and livelihood activities was found to be significantly associated. Considerable per cent (19.26) with agriculture had low income level, followed by agriculture + dairy (17.78%) who had semi-medium income level. More the income generating activities more will be the opportunities for generating more annual income. The findings are in line with the research results of Tranthi and Mahabub Hussain (2001).

Extension contact:

Table 4 signifies that extension contact had no significant difference with the livelihood activities. Data revealed that 20.74 per cent of the Tibetan rehabilitants with agriculture + non-farm and agriculture + dairy (19.26%) had medium level of extension contact, whereas

Table 1: Chi-square value of levels of education and livelihood activities (n=135)

Education level	Livelihood activities										Chi-square value
	Agriculture		Agri + Dairy		Agri+Non-farm		Non -farm		Total		
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	
Illiterate	14	10.37	14	10.37	6	4.45	6	4.45	40	29.63	
Primary School	15	11.11	24	17.78	16	11.85	9	6.67	64	47.41	
Middle School	-	-	3	2.23	6	4.45	1	0.74	10	7.41	
High School	-	-	1	0.74	8	5.92	6	4.45	15	11.11	51.26**
College	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2.22	3	2.22	
Graduate	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2.22	3	2.22	
Total	29	21.48	42	31.12	36	26.67	28	20.76	135	100	

Note: F = Frequency; % = Percentage,

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

Table 2 : Chi-square value of family size and the livelihood activities (n=135)

Family size	Livelihood activities										Chi-square value
	Agriculture		Agri+Dairy		Agri+Non-farm		Non -farm		Total		
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	
Low	14	10.38	6	4.45	5	3.70	8	5.93	33	24.45	16.03*
Medium	11	8.14	24	17.78	25	18.52	16	11.86	76	56.30	
High	4	2.97	12	8.89	6	4.45	4	2.97	26	19.25	
Total	29	21.48	42	31.12	36	26.67	28	20.76	135	100	

Note: F = Frequency; % = Percentage,

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

Table 3: Chi-square value of annual family income and the livelihood activities (n=135)

Annual family income	Livelihood activities										Chi-square value
	Agriculture		Agri+Dairy		Agri+Non-farm		Non -farm		Total		
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	
Low income	26	19.26	10	7.40	5	3.71	2	1.48	43	31.86	65.23**
Semi-medium income	2	1.48	24	17.78	16	11.85	13	9.63	55	40.73	
Medium income	1	0.74	5	3.70	10	7.40	9	6.67	25	18.51	
High income	-	-	3	2.23	5	3.71	4	2.97	12	8.90	
Total	29	21.48	42	31.12	36	26.67	28	20.76	135	100	

Note: F = Frequency; % = Percentage,

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

Table 4 : Chi-square value of extension contact and the livelihood activities (n=135)

Extension contact	Livelihood activities										Chi-square value
	Agriculture		Agri+Dairy		Agri+Non-farm		Non -farm		Total		
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	
High	10	7.40	14	10.38	7	5.19	5	3.71	36	26.67	10.56 NS
Medium	18	13.34	26	19.26	28	20.74	18	13.34	90	66.67	
Low	1	0.74	2	1.48	1	0.74	5	3.71	9	6.67	
Total	29	21.48	42	31.12	36	26.67	28	20.76	135	100	

Note: F = Frequency; % = Percentage,

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

0.74 per cent of them with agriculture had low level of extension contact. Majority of the respondents had extension contact with the Tibetan Cooperative Service Bank Ltd. whenever problem arises. Extension contact will not be of immense help to the respondents unless an individual really becomes aware enough of the farm technology around, as well as participate in any farm technology.

Economic motivation:

A glance at the data given in the Table 5 reveals that economic motivation was highly significant associated with the livelihood activities. About 18.52 per cent of the Tibetan rehabilitants with agriculture + dairy had high level of economic motivation, followed by agriculture + non-farm (17.04%) who had medium level of economic motivation. This shows that there was a significant difference between

the selection of livelihood activities and economic motivation among the Tibetan rehabilitants. The findings are in line with the research results of Biradar (2008).

Risk orientation:

Risk orientation was highly significant associated with the livelihood activities (Table 6). About 19.26 per cent of the respondents with agriculture + dairy had high level of risk orientation, followed by agriculture + non-farm (17.78%) who had medium risk orientation. As nearly half of the respondents (47.40%) were educated up to primary school, the respondents really had capacity to take decision under uncertainty and can also withstand the uncertainties in their activity. Thus, an individual can progress in his/her day-to-day livelihood activities. The findings are in line with the research results of Sushma (2007).

Table 5 : Chi-square value of economic motivation and the livelihood activities (n=135)

Economic motivation	Livelihood activities										Chi-square value
	Agriculture		Agri+Dairy		Agri+Non-farm		Non -farm		Total		
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	
High	4	2.96	25	18.52	10	7.40	2	1.49	41	30.37	41.91**
Medium	18	13.34	15	11.12	23	17.04	13	9.63	69	51.11	
Low	7	5.18	2	1.48	3	2.23	13	9.63	25	18.52	
Total	29	21.48	42	31.12	36	26.67	28	20.75	135	100	

Note: F = Frequency; % = Percentage,

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

Table 6: Chi-square value of risk orientation and the livelihood activities (n=135)

Risk orientation	Livelihood activities										Chi-square value
	Agriculture		Agri+Dairy		Agri+Non-farm		Non -farm		Total		
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	
High	6	4.45	26	19.26	8	5.92	6	4.45	46	34.08	34.37**
Medium	22	16.29	14	10.38	24	17.78	13	9.63	73	54.06	
Low	1	0.74	2	1.48	4	2.97	9	6.67	16	11.86	
Total	29	21.48	42	31.12	36	26.67	28	20.75	135	100	

Note: F = Frequency; % = Percentage,

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

Social participation:

From Table 7, it was very clear that social participation was significant associated with the livelihood activities. Here, 17.78 per cent of the respondents with agriculture + dairy and agriculture + non-farm (15.56%) had high level of social participation, whereas only 1.48 of them with non-farm had medium level of social participation. Majority of the respondents used to participate in any activities conducted by the Tibetan Cooperative Service Bank Ltd. viz., training, fairs and festivals. Through their participation they used to share the problems and suggestions faced in their livelihood activities among them which brought more support and strength to face any uncertainty in their activities. The findings are in line with the research results of Kumawat and Sharma (1997).

Bommigatta. They were few in numbers and were more technically experienced than the Tibetans. Also, the family labours among the Tibetans were very few. Due to lack of irrigation facilities and uncertainty of rainfall, 62.96% of farmers were mainly dependent for their crops only on monsoon. About 29.63 per cent expressed lack of veterinary facilities because of more susceptibility of cows and buffaloes to disease and pests, it may cause to lose their animals frequently. Again 11.12 per cent of the rehabilitants revealed the lack of remunerative price for farm produce and high price fluctuation. It may due to the fact that, majority of the Tibetan rehabilitants were facing the constraints like failure and erratic rain, high cost of inputs and labour problem. The findings are in line with the research results of Manjunath (2007).

Problems and suggestions of the Tibetan rehabilitants:

Problems:

It is clear from Table 8 that majority (63.70%) had lack of labour force problem because the labourers were mainly the Indian daily wage earners from the nearest villages of Koppa, Gangarathi, Sindoor, Hunugund and

Suggestions:

An analysis from Table 9 revealed that majority of the Tibetan rehabilitants (59.25%) suggested for creating water facilities because of sinking open wells, tube wells or by constructing small tanks for crop cultivation as well as for their animals sufficiently as most of the farmers were depending on monsoon for agriculture. A

Table 7: Chi-square value of social participation and the livelihood activities (n=135)

Social participation	Livelihood activities										Chi-square value
	Agriculture		Agri+Dairy		Agri+Non-farm		Non -farm activities		Total		
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	
High	20	14.81	24	17.78	21	15.56	22	16.30	87	64.44	15.28*
Medium	3	2.22	5	3.71	3	2.22	2	1.48	13	9.62	
Low	6	4.45	13	9.63	12	8.89	4	2.97	35	25.94	
Total	29	21.48	42	31.12	36	26.67	28	20.75	135	100	

Note: F = Frequency; % = Percentage,

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

Table 8: Problems associated with the Tibetan rehabilitants (n=135)

Sr. No.	Problems	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Lack of labour force	86	63.70
2.	Uncertainty of rainfall and lack of irrigation facilities	85	62.96
3.	Lack of veterinary facilities in the settlement	40	29.63
4.	Lack of remunerative price for farm produce and high price fluctuation	15	11.12

Table 9 : Suggestions of the respondents for their livelihood improvement (n=135)

Sr. No.	Suggestions	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Better milk price	40	29.62
2.	Creation of water facilities	80	59.25
3.	Training on skill development	60	44.45
4.	Veterinary hospital facilities	35	25.92
5.	Increase in salary of the service personnel	10	7.40
6.	Education on improvement of dairy management	42	31.12

considerable per cent of (44.45) suggested training on skill development in the enterprises, followed by 29.62 and 25.92 per cent suggested for better milk price for the producer and veterinary hospital facilities, respectively because majority of the respondents had undertaken cow and buffalo dairy activities in which the livestock were more susceptible to pest and diseases, so, they need regular vaccination and other treatments. The findings are in line with the research results of Deepak (2003).

Other suggestions offered by Tibetan rehabilitants were educating them on improvement of dairy management practices, especially on feeding of milch animals, pregnant animals, care of pregnant animals (31.12%) and 7.40 per cent of them suggested to increase the salary among the service personnel to improve their daily livelihood. The findings are in line with the research results of Singh *et al.* (2004).

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