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## RESEARCH ARTICLE

### AN ANALYSIS OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF THE TRIBAL PEOPLE IN BANDIPURA NATIONAL PARK

**\*Dr. Satheesh Kumar, N. S., Dr. Jayashree, P. and Dr. Kiran, S.P.**

Department of Geography, JSS College for women, Chamarajanagar, and Department of Studies in Geography, University of Mysore, Mysore, India

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#### ABSTRACT

The present paper examines a study on socio-economic conditions of the tribal people in Bandipur national park. The present study has been analyzed the socio-economic characteristics of the tribal people of the Bandipur National Park and their sustainable livelihoods. The economics conditions of the tribals in the study region, while most of the farming tribal households (57 per cent) earn less than Rs. 15,000 from the farming enterprises, about 14 per cent earn variously from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 25,000, with only 2.2 per cent of them earning more than Rs. 25,000 from farming. The assessment has found their socio-economic not very conducive, given the household socio-economics, their agriculture with several crops in different seasons but with rather poor, inadequate income and unfavorable costs of cultivation because variable and direct costs are far higher than the net returns at the end of the seasons and difficulty in collecting NTFPs from the forest reserve because of the regulations. The present study two types of data could be collected, primary and secondary data.

#### INTRODUCTION

The discussion in this section is on the socio-demographics and the socio-economics of the sample households interviewed. This discussion however follows the questionnaire survey, in the order of aspects covered in the survey and as such socio-demographics, socio-economics, land use systems (agricultural), forest activities, forest resources utilization including household consumption patterns and forest products (minor forest products, non-timber forest products) collection, processing and marketing, income from agriculture, non-timber forest products (NTFPs), animal husbandry and wage labour, local people's perceptions of forest resources management and local institutions and their role in forest reserve management. The human habitation is seen all along the boundary of the bandipura. All these 210 villages are thickly populated with agrarian civilization. The landless people mainly live on labour works in the agricultural fields and forests. The population of the tribal people called "Kadu Kurubas", "Jenu Kurubas" and "Betta Kurubas" is concentrated in the fringe very close to the park as they have been rehabilitated and forced to settle at the rehabilitated colonies after shifting from the Protected Area and other forest areas submerged due to Kabini reservoir project. These tribal's are also found in the West (Kerala) surroundings. Most of the population all along the northern boundary are agriculturists, comprising of different castes and communities, whose profession is agriculture combined with labor and cattle rearing. Some of the landless people indulge in illicit cutting of fire wood and selling by head loads in nearby towns like

Gundlupet, Saragur, Hediya, and Hangala. Day by Day the population is increasing in disproportional. Literacy is also fast spreading, except in tribals. However, N.G.O's are active in educating the tribal's. All the population lives in villages, in cluster of houses connected with rural roads. The population of the surrounding villages, as per latest estimation is around 3.5 lakh. Forest villages namely Gundre and Bannur which were right inside the Reserve have been successfully relocated. As many as 41 families with their 120 heads of cattle were trans located to Hosalli and Gandathur villages near N.Begur during 1978-79 at a cost of Rs. 60,000/-. Nearly 410 acres of land was cleared in the district jungle outside the reserve and each family was allocated 4 acres of land in addition to the payment of adequate compensation. This action was necessary to eliminate the disturbance to the flora and fauna of the locality. Now, the vacated paddy fields and garden lands serve as open meadows and became good grazing grounds for wild animals. The surrounding forests are also tremendously recovered.

**Study area:** The Bandipur National Park and Tiger Reserve is situated in the contiguous landscape spreads in two revenue districts of southern Karnataka namely the Mysore and Chamarajanagar. Geographically, it is an "ecological confluence" as the western and Eastern Ghats meets and constitute this area as distinctive and extraordinary from the point of its fauna and flora. The notified forests included in the park and the adjoining notified and non-notified forests including the community land areas of all the border villages have become an integral part of the tiger reserve. The areas of the reserve are from the part of Nanjungud and H.D. Kote taluks of Mysore and Gundlupet taluk of Chamarajanagar revenue districts. The geographical location of this tiger reserve, lies between the North Latitudes 11° 35' 34" and 11° 55' 02" and between the East Longitudes 76° 12' 17" and 76° 51' 32" of Karnataka state in south India.

**\*Corresponding author: Dr. Satheesh Kumar, N. S.**

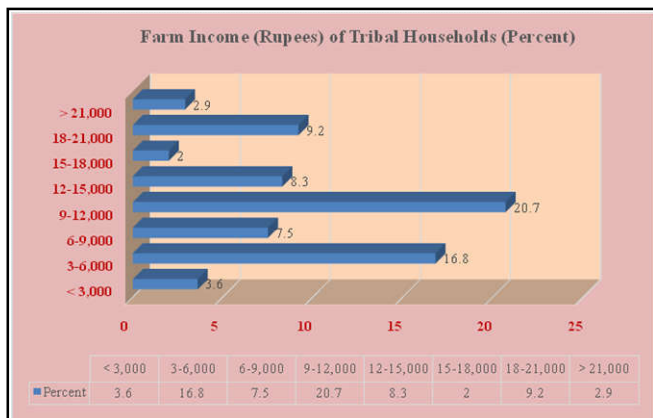
Department of Geography, JSS College for women, Chamarajanagar, and Department of Studies in Geography, University of Mysore, Mysore, India.

**Objectives and Methodology**

The present study is to analyze the socio-economic conditions of the tribal people in Bandipur National Park. The study carried with both primary and secondary data. Primary data has been recognized as a data that are gathered for a specific research in response to a particular problem through interviews, questionnaires. Whereas the secondary data can be obtained from various kinds of documents such as research reports, annual reports, books, and articles. The secondary data has been also gathered from the Newspapers, and social media activities etc. The researcher has being conducted the primary survey with the help of Interviews, Questionnaires and micro level of observations of the tribals people in Bandipur National Park. The survey carried with the totally 304 sample size out of the total population in Bandipur National Park.

**Economic Activities and Earnings of Households**

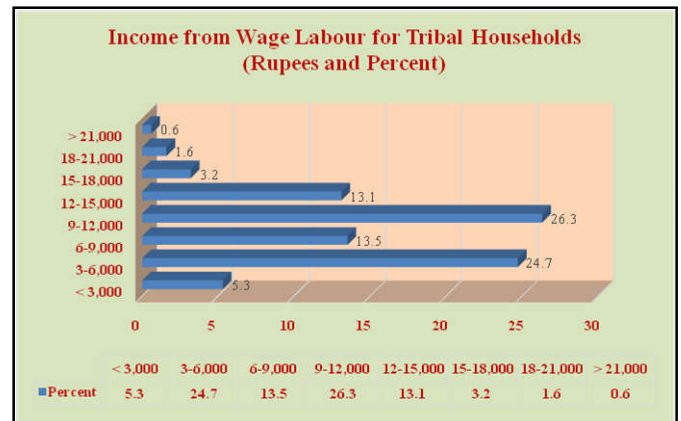
**Agriculture:** Of the 304 households interviewed for the study, 71.7 per cent (218) are in farming, with 6.3 per cent of them having one member each involved in it, 49 per cent of the households having 2 members of the households each in it, 4.9 per cent having 3 members each, 8.6 per cent having 4 members each, 2 per cent having 6 members each and just 0.3 per cent of them having 7 members each in agriculture. Thus nearly 72 per cent of the households are engaged in and are dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods. There are four different seasons in which people are engaged in farming, namely, January to December (35.9 per cent of the households), June to December (33.6 per cent), June to January/February (1.3 per cent), and March to September (0.3 per cent). Thus, 70 per cent of the households are engaged in agriculture either for the entire year (35.9 per cent) or half the year (35.2 per cent). Figure 6.5 shows the farm income earned by the tribal households engaged in farming in the Bandipur region. The average farm income of the households engaged in agriculture is Rs. 11,329, with minimum reported is Rs. 2,000 and the maximum is Rs. 50,000. Nearly 49 per cent of the households make anywhere between Rs. 2,000 and Rs. 12,000 from farming and 22.4 per cent of the households make between Rs. 12,000 and Rs. 50,000. The bottom fifth of them earn as little as Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 6,000, 28.2 per cent of them between Rs. 6,000 and Rs. 12,000, a little more than tenth of them between Rs. 12,000 and Rs. 18,000 and a little more than a fifth of them between Rs. 18,000 and Rs. 50,000 (Figure 6.6).



While most of the farming tribal households (57 per cent) earn less than Rs. 15,000 from the farming enterprises, about 14 per

cent earn variously from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 25,000, with only 2.2 per cent of them earning more than Rs. 25,000 from farming.

**Wage Labour:** As much as 88 per cent of the tribal households are engaged in wage labour, with 27 per cent of the households having only one person each, 53 per cent of them having 2 persons each and 8.2 per cent of the households having 3-6 persons each engaged in as wage labour. Nearly 86 per cent of the households are engaged in wage labour throughout the year and about 3 per cent for half or less than half the year. The wage labour households earn an average of Rs. 9,303 with a minimum of Rs. 2,000 and a maximum of Rs. 25,000 a year. Figure 6.7 shows the distribution of income earned from wage labour by the tribal households and it shows that 88.3 per cent of them have earned variously from wage labour: while only 5.3 per cent of them have earned less than Rs. 3,000, 24.7 per cent of them have earned between Rs. 3,000 and Rs. 6,000. Thus, as much as 30 per cent of the tribal households make very small incomes from wage labour, between Rs. 2,000 and Rs. 6,000. As much as 40 per cent of them make between Rs. 6,000 and Rs. 12,000, with 13.5 per cent Rs. 6,000 - Rs. 9,000 and 26.3 per cent Rs. 9,000 - Rs. 12,000. On the other hand, nearly 18 per cent of them have earned between Rs. 12,000 and Rs. 21,000, with 13.1 per cent Rs. 12,000 - Rs. 15,000, 3.2 per cent Rs. 15,000 - Rs. 18,000 and 1.6 per cent only Rs. 18,000 - Rs. 21,000. A mere 0.6 per cent of them make more than Rs. 21,000 and the maximum earned from wage labour does not exceed Rs. 25,000.



Wage labour of the households number from one person (27 per cent) to as many as 6 persons (0.7 per cent), although those households with 2 persons account for 53 per cent of the total households, 3 persons for 3.6 per cent and 4 persons for 3.9 per cent.

**Other Incomes:** Less than 1.0 per cent of the tribal households make Rs. 4,000 from self-employment (fishing, small business), which is in any case inconsequential. In fact, only 2 households of the sample households are engaged in self-employment, not certainly for the entire year, for the income from it cannot sustain their families. As for incomes from other vocations in which 41.4 per cent of the tribal households are engaged in, through the year, the income ranges from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 25,000 with an average income of Rs. 4,274. The bottom 20 per cent of the households with other incomes make less than Rs. 3,000; a little more than a third of the households (35.4 per cent) make between Rs. 3,000 and Rs. 6,000; and about 4 per cent make anywhere between Rs. 6,000 and Rs. 25,000. Incomes reported by the tribal individuals interviewed,

for household details, are *recall data* and at the very best could only be *approximate* and 'what they thought was their approximate income' at that *moment*. They have to be therefore taken with a pinch of salt: in other words, they are not 100 per cent reliable.

### Conclusion

This paper has assessed the socio-economic characteristics of the tribal people of the Bandipur National Park and Tiger Reserve area and their sustainable livelihoods from the questionnaire survey data. The assessment has found their socio-economic not very conducive, given the household socio-economics, their agriculture with several crops in different seasons but with rather poor, inadequate income and unfavorable costs of cultivation (the cost-gross returns ratio is less than 1: 2 in all cases) because variable and direct costs are far higher than the net returns at the end of the seasons; difficulty in collecting NTFPs from the forest reserve because of the regulations / limitations laid down by the forest resources (flora and fauna) conservation and management policies of the government and their enforcement and therefore trading little that either support or supplement their income from agriculture and wage labour, which is relatively better but on the whole more difficult in access to it and making a living.

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