



E-ISSN: 2278-4136

P-ISSN: 2349-8234

www.phytojournal.com

JPP 2020; Sp 9(4): 214-218

Received: 08-05-2020

Accepted: 10-06-2020

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Analysis of socio-economic status of hill Khadia tribe covered under 'HKMDA' in Mayurbhanj District of Odisha

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Abstract

Mayurbhanj' is a tribal dominated district of 'Odisha'. Hill-Khadia is a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) mainly found in Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Keonjhar & Sundargarh districts of Odisha, but the majority of population is limited to Mayurbhanj district. This tribe also found in some district of Jharkhand and West Bengal. In Mayurbhanj, the Hill-Khadia are mainly found in Jashipur and Karanjia blocks. They are called "Pahadi (Hill) Khadia" because they live in the midst of forest and depend on forest product. Hill Khadia are hunting and gathering tribe, moves inside the forest in search of food. But, hunting and gathering has been prohibited after declaration of Similipal as National Park & Wildlife Sanctuary in 1958 & Tiger reserve in 1973. Therefore, to analyse the socio-economic conditions of Hill Khadia people a study was conducted on 8 villages of two panchayatsamities of Mayurbhanj district. A sample of 240 respondents were selected randomly. The pre-tested structured interview schedule was used to collect data personally. The collected data were processed, tabulated and analysed by using frequency, percentage, mean score, rank, etc.

Keywords: Socio economic status, particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTG), hill-khadia, HKMDA, tribes in mayurbhanj

Introduction

The tribal population is identified as the aboriginal inhabitants of our country. They are the most vulnerable section living in natural and unpolluted surroundings far away from the civilization with their traditional values, customs and beliefs. Of all the states of India, Odisha has the largest number of tribes as many as 62 types, of whom 13 communities are considered as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), and are being given special treatment. The Khadia are one of the largest indigenous ethnic groups of India. They originally spoke the Khadia language, which belongs to the Munda sub-group of the Austroasiatic languages. They are subdivided into three groups known as the Hill-Khadia, Delki-Khadia and Dudh-khadia. The Hill-Khadia lives in different states of India like Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha. In Odisha, the Hill-Khadia is mainly found in Jashipur and Karanjia Blocks of Mayurbhanj district. Some Khadia inhabited villages are also found in Morada block of the district. They are called "Pahadi (Hill) khadia" because they live in the midst of forests and depend on forest produces. Hill Khadia people largely depends upon hunting and food gathering. They are primitive, geographically isolated, shy and socially, educationally and economically backward. Promotion of all round development of tribal inhabiting the length and breadth of our country has received priority attention of government. There are numerous state and central government policies and schemes to ensure the welfare and wellbeing of tribals, but in reality, they have failed to reach the targeted population in many ways. Keeping this in view the present investigation was carried out with the objective: To study the socio-economic attributes of Hill-Khadia tribe covered under HKMDA.

Materials and Methods

The present study was conducted in Jashipur and Karanjia blocks of Mayurbhanj district of Odisha selected purposively. Eight villages, 4 from each block namely Biunria, Batatainsira, Batpalsa and Kendumundi from Karanjia block and Kiajhari, Kapand, Matiagarh and Gudgudia from Jashipur block were selected randomly. A sample size of 240 respondents from eight villages at random was kept for the study. Different socio-economic variables like age, education, family size, family type, cosmopolitaness, social participation, extension participation, mass media exposure were measured with the help of a three-point interval scale - regular/always, occasional/sometime, never and assigned scores of 3,2, 1 respectively. A structured interview schedule was developed and pre-tested on non-sampled respondents.

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A structured interview schedule was developed and pre-tested on non sampled respondents. Personal interview was made with individual respondents by the investigator to collect information. The data were processed, tabulated and analysed by employing suitable statistical methods such as frequency, percentage etc.

Results and Discussion

Age

Age as a social factor is an important subject of social study used by the researchers on many situations relating to farm and home activities. Age is significant in term of experience, maturity of judgement, decision making and power of understanding. The age distribution of the respondents have been presented in table below after analysis of data.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to their age (n=240)

S. No.	Category	Frequency(F)	Percentage (%)
1	Up to 30 years (young)	73	30.42
2	31 to 50 years (middle)	94	39.16
3	Above 50 years (old)	73	30.42

Mixed responses were observed from the table on the age distribution of the respondents. However, majority of the responses i.e 39.16% respondents were from middle age group of 31 to 50 years. Usually, the middle age group of people were more involved in farm activities. This might be the reason for which the majority of respondents were in the age group of 31 to 50 years.

From the above analysis, it may be concluded that middle aged Hill-Khadia tribes were more concerned about their socio- economic changes.

Family Size

Family size also indicates the vocational activities. The family having more members has different vocational activities. Further they are interested to acquire more knowledge and skill to strengthen the vocation for improving their living standard. The family size of the respondents was studied and presented in the table below:

Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to their family size (n=240)

S. No.	Category	Frequency(F)	Percentage (%)
1	Small	132	55.00
2	Medium	102	42.50
3	Big	6	2.50
	Total	240	

Result obtained from the table reveals that out of total 240 respondents, 55 per cent (132 numbers) belongs to small family category followed by 42.50 per cent (102 numbers) from medium family category and 2.50 per cent (6 numbers) from big family category.

The critical analysis of data in the table may conclude that majority of respondents have small and medium family size.

Family Type

Each type of family have their respective advantages and disadvantages. However, type of family determines the progressiveness of a family in the society. It is the common understanding that joint families are more progressive and

resource rich. Distribution of the type of family of the respondents are reflected in table below-

Table 3: Distribution of type of family of the respondents (n=240)

S. No.	Family type	Frequency(F)	Percentage (%)
1	Nuclear	197	82.08
2	Joint	43	17.92

As observed from the table, majority of 82.08% of respondents had nuclear family system and 17.92% of respondents had joint family system.

Type of House

Table 4: Distribution of respondents based on their house type (n=240)

S. No.	House type	Frequency(F)	Percentage (%)
1	Kuccha	63	26.25
2	Semi pukka	177	73.75
3	Pukka	-	-

The data in the table revealed that out of total 240 respondents not a single respondent have pukka house, maximum number of respondents i.e. 73.75% have semi pukka houses and 26.25% have kuccha houses.

Educational Status

Education is linked with the mental and physical ability of an individual to understand and adopt new ideas and practices. It is a process of bringing desirable changes in the behaviour of human beings particularly knowledge, skill & attitude. Educational background of an individual also indicates the extent of involvement in various activities. Educational background has been categorized in the study starting from "illiterate" to "college education" and distribution of the respondents reflected in the table below after analysis.

Table 5: Distribution of respondents according to educational status (n=240)

S. No.	Category	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
1	Illiterate	130	54.16
2	Can read and write only	17	7.08
3	Primary school	33	13.75
4	Middle school	28	11.67
5	Matriculation	25	10.42
6	College and above	7	2.92

The data in the table revealed that majority of 54.16% of respondents were illiterate, only 2.92% had education to the college level and above, 7.08% of respondents were found who could be able to read and write only, 13.75% of respondents have primary school education, 11.67% of respondents have middle school level education and 10.42% of respondents have attended matriculation level.

Cosmopolitaness

Cosmopolitaness is the degree to which an individual is oriented to outside of the immediate social system. It otherwise indicate the frequency of visit made by the individuals to the nearby town or urban areas to accelerate their exposure and develop competency in managing all farm based activities. Cosmopolitaness of the respondents was studied and the data as obtained are presented below-

Table 6: Distribution of HillKhadia according to frequency of their visit to nearest town under cosmopolitaness (n=240)

S. No.	Category	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
1	Twice or more in a week	20	8.33
2	Once in a week	119	49.58
3	Once in a fortnight	79	32.92
4	Once in a month	22	9.17
5	Seldom	-	-

Result in the table reflects the frequency of visit of tribals to nearest town which revealed that out of 240 respondents, 8.33% of respondents visited twice or more in a week, 49.58% of respondents visited once in a week, 32.92% of respondents visited once in a fortnight, 9.17% of respondents visited once in a month.

Social Participation-

The extent of involvement of respondents in activities of different organizations determines the progressiveness and social position of a person in the society. A person having

more social contact is supposed to be exposed to up to date information, due to his involvement in different organizations, which in turn aid to motivation for use of changed practice. Attempt was also made to assess the involvement of the respondents in different social activities in their situation.

The extent of social participation tells about the progressiveness of a person. A man with greater social contact is supposed to be informed about many things. But a person with little or no social contact usually remains ignorant about the happenings around him/ her.

Table 7: Participation in different social activities (n=240)

S. No.	Social activities	Regular		Occasional		Never	
		F	%	F	%	F	%
1	Participation in village dicission making	64	26.67	120	50.00	56	23.33
2	Participation in collective work for the village	72	30.00	120	50.00	48	12.00
3	Participation in developmental activities	52	21.66	142	59.17	46	19.17
4	Participation in social function	113	47.08	99	41.25	8	3.33

From the above table it was found that, maximum number of respondents i.e. 50.00%, 50.00%, 59.17% were occasionally participating in village decision making, collective work for

village and in developmental activities respectively. But most of the respondents i.e. about 47.08% were participating regularly in social functions.

Table 8: Extent of social participation (n=240)

S. No.	Name of organization or institution	Always		Sometimes		Never	
		F	%	F	%	F	%
1	Panchayati raj institution	22	9.17	108	45.00	110	45.83
2	Farmers advisory committee	-	-	-	-	240	100
3	Self Help Group	84	35.00	74	30.83	82	34.17
4	User's Group	-	-	-	-	240	100
5	Commodity Interest Group	-	-	-	-	240	100
6	Youth Club	-	-	-	-	240	100

Result from the table revealed that respondents were quite active in Self Help Group i.e. 35.00% of total respondents were always participating in SHGs activity, 30.83% of total respondents were occasionally participating in SHGs activity and 34.19% of respondents never participated in SHGs activities. Respondent's participation was very poor towards panchayatiraj institution i.e. only 9.17% of respondents were actively participating in PRI.

Extension Participation

Extension participation has direct and positive impact on values, skill, knowledge and attitude change of the farmers. Farmers participating in training, demonstration, exhibition, exposure visits, awareness campaign and farmers' fairs do gather practical reliable knowledge. Higher extension participation leads to higher progressiveness.

Table 9: Distribution of tribal according to Extension Participation (n=240)

S. No.	Extension Activities	Regular		Occasional		Never	
		F	%	F	%	F	%
1	Training	18	7.50	125	52.08	97	40.42
2	Demonstration	-	-	33	13.75	207	86.25
3	Exhibition	22	9.17	98	40.83	120	50.00
4	Exposure visit	8	3.33	126	52.50	106	44.17
5	Awareness campaign	-	-	51	21.25	189	78.75
6	Farmers fair	-	-	65	27.08	175	72.92

The data in the table revealed that respondents had very poor extension participation i.e. only 7.50%, 9.17%, 3.33% of total respondents had regular participation in training, exhibition

and exposure visit respectively, where as 52.08%, 13.75%, 40.83%, 52.50%, 21.25% and 27.08% had occasionally

participated in training, demonstration, exhibition, exposure visit, awareness campaign, farmers fair respectively.

Extension Contact

Contact with extension functionaries very often motivate the individuals to adopt the recommended practices. The respondents were therefore asked to mention the extent of contact made with the extension functionaries. The data collected on scale point of always, sometimes and never were analysed with score value of 3,2,1 respectively. The result so obtained have been reflected in table-

Table 10: Distribution of respondents according to extension contact (n=240)

S. No.	Extension professional	Always		Some times		Never	
		F	%	F	%	F	%
1	V.A.W/ L.V.A.W/A.O	6	2.5	124	51.67	110	45.83
2	A.A.O	-	-	5	2.08	235	97.92
3	SMS from KVK	-	-	-	-	240	100
4	District level officials	-	-	13	5.42	227	94.58
5	HKMDA Officials	197	82.08	43	17.92	-	-

Result from the table revealed that respondents had better contact with HKMDA officials than other officials like V.A.W, A.A.O, SMS from KVK and District level officials, i.e. 82.08% of total respondents had regular contact with HKMDA officials.

Mass Media Exposure

Communication plays an important role in message dissemination and ultimate adoption. Mass media has been found to be the main source of communication among semi-literates. Mass media exposure of the respondents had been studied and the data collected were presented below for analysis:

Table 11: Distribution of tribals according to Mass Media Exposure (n=240)

S. No.	Mass Media	Regular		Occasional		Never	
		F	%	F	%	F	%
1	News paper	-	-	13	5.42	227	94.54
2	Journal	-	-	-	-	240	100
3	Radio	-	-	-	-	240	100
4	Television	38	15.83	20	8.33	182	75.85

Result from the table: 10 revealed that mass media exposure is very poor among the respondents. Only 15.83% of total respondents had regular exposure to TV, 5.42% of respondents were occasionally reading newspaper.

Size of Land Holding

Size of holding is an indicator of growing different crops and richness of the respondents. The data collected from the respondents regarding size of land holding were presented in the table for analysis:

Table 12: Distribution of respondents according to land holding (n=240)

S. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Landless	128	53.33%
2	Marginal Farmer	96	40.00%
3	Small Farmer	16	6.67%
4	Medium Farmer	-	-
5	Big Farmer	-	-

From the above table it was found that most of the respondents i.e 53.33% of total respondents were landless, 40.00% of total respondents were marginal farmer and 6.67% of total respondents were small farmer.

Occupation

The occupational status of the respondents was studied and data as obtained are presented below:

Table 13: Distribution of tribals according to Occupation (n=240)

S. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Service	6	2.50%
2	Business	12	5.00%
3	Cultivation	84	35.00%
4	Wage earning	64	26.67%
5	Minor forest product Collection	74	30.83%
6	Hunting	-	-

Result from the above table revealed that maximum number of respondents i.e. 35% of respondents had farming as the major occupation followed by NTFP collection (30.83%) and wage earning (26.67%). Only 5% of respondents are doing business and 2.5% of respondents are engaged in different services.

Critical analysis of data revealed that majority of population are gradually adopting the farming activity for improving their socio-economic status. Since it is strictly prohibited the hunting and gathering activities from Similipal reserve forest area, they have stopped the hunting activity but around 31% of population still depends on the minor forest products like honey, lac, resins, sal leaves, amla, sal seeds etc. which they are collecting from local forests.

Annual Income

Income of a family influence the decision making habit of the individual and also family. The goal and aspiration are more or less regulated by the income. It is very difficult to assess the average annual income as the respondents neither keeping any record nor recall from their memory. The researcher therefore made sufficient probing to assess the approximate income from different activities undertaken by the respondents. The data so gathered have been presented in table-

Table 14: Distribution of annual family income of the respondents (n=240)

S. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	<25,000	108	45.00
2	25-50,000	104	43.33
3	>50,000	28	11.67

As observed from the table, majority of respondents i.e. 45.00% had average annual income within Rs.25,000/- only. 43.33% of respondents had average family annual income above Rs.25,000 limiting under Rs. 50,000/-. Only 11.67% of respondents had average annual income >Rs. 50,000/-.

Conclusion

It is found that most of the Hill-Khadiapeople (39.16%) are of middle age group, it may be because of middle aged Hill-Khadia tribes were more concerned about their socio-economic changes. 82.08% of total respondents belongs to nuclear family and 55.00% had small family size upto 3 family member, It may be because the children separated from their parents after got married and settled as separate

family. Most of them (73.75%) had semipukka houses. Regarding their educational status majority of respondents (54.16%) were illiterate. Only 2.92% of total respondents had education up to the college level and above. Majority of respondents (49.58%) visited once in a week to their nearest town for different purposes. The extent of involvement of respondents in activities of different organizations determines the progressiveness and social position of a person in the society. A person having more social contact is supposed to be exposed to up to date information, due to his involvement in different organizations, which in turn aid to motivation for use of changed practice. Out of total 240 respondents 47.08% of respondents participate regularly in social functions but when it comes to village decision making, collective work for the village, developmental activities, majority of respondents i.e. 50.00%, 50.00%, 59.17% respectively were participated occasionally. From the table 8 it was found that respondents were quite active in SHGs. Extension participation among Hill Khadia people was very poor, only 7.50% of total respondents were regularly participated in training, 9.17% and 3.33% of total respondent had regularly participated in exhibition and exposure visit respectively. Mass media exposure among the respondents also very poor and majority of the respondents were land lees (53.33%) followed by marginal farmer (40.00%). Maximum number of respondents i.e. 35.00% of respondents had farming as the major occupation which is a great achievement of Hill Khadia Mankirdia Development Agency (HKMDA) followed by NTFP or minor forest product collection (30.83%) and wage earning (26.67%). 45.00% of total respondents had average annual income within Rs.25,000/- only.

Although the government has introduced a large number of schemes and plans under “conservation-cum-development” for development of Hill-Khadia, very little is being done to promote and integrate the traditional lifestyle of Hill-Khadia. HKMDA (Hill Khadia Mankirdia Development Agency) has implemented various programmes for all round development of Hill Khadia people since its inception, but still a lot has to be achieved for improving their socio economic status. It is a high time need to bridge the gap between the Khadia people and main stream. Development programmes should be planned and implemented in such a manner that maximum benefit should be given to the community need. Hence, they can easily accept the programme and accommodate themselves within it.

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