A STUDY ON INCOME AND EXPENDITURE PATTERN OF SCHEDULED TRIBES IN KANYAKUMARI DIST

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Abstract

The income and expenditure pattern in an important indicator of economic status and living standards of households. The various expenditure option depends on the availability of income, market, time, information, social barriers, awareness and on household decision as well as on the availability of goods and services. This paper analysis the income and expenditure pattern on food, education, health, fuel, lighting, awareness and intoxicants of the tribes living in Kanyakumari district. The study found that consumption expenditure in the tribal area basically depends on the amount of income they can derive by selling their labour in agricultural sector and much household expenditure were more than their income.

Key words: Economic status, Scheduled tribes, income and expenditure pattern, Economic & Educational development etc,

Introduction

The poverty levels of India's tribal population have remained persistent over time. Deprived of formal education and with little access to capital, they fail to find work, either self – employed or within regular jobs, ending up in casual employment or in agriculture. They constitute a large proportion of agricultural labourers, casual labourers, plantation labourers, industrial labourers etc., More than half of the rural tribal population is found to be below poverty line. It has been observed that while poverty among the general population had declined, there had been little change in poverty levels among the tribal people. The poverty gap between scheduled castes and other groups in India has decreased while that between the scheduled tribes and other groups had widened.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This research work covers men, women and children engaged in agriculture and allied activities in the 4 taluks with 47 Kani settlements areas of kanyakumari district in Tamilnadu.

OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF CONCEPTS

Kani

Kani is a community. Kanyakumari and Tirunelveli District Scheduled Tribes are called Kani.

Tribes

A tribe is a social group that developed after bands, such as bonds (groups) of hunter / gathers, but before the development of states or countries.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Though the general objective is to understand the economic, commercial and fiscal aspects, activities and aspiration of the Scheduled tribes, the following are the special objectives of the study.

• To analyse the socio – economic conditions of sample respondents.

• To investigate the income and expenditure pattern of sample respondents.

• To analyse the level of awareness of sample respondents.

• To suggest the policy measures to improve the life style of sample respondents.

METHODOLOGY

Both primary and secondary data are used for this research exercise. The primary data were collected by personal meetings, interviews and discussions using pre-tested and well-structured schedules. Certain data relating to the living and working conditions and income and expenditure details and trend were collected from 364 sample respondents by employing suitable schedules.

Secondary data were collected from official publications of the government. The published and unpublished materials, records and data were collected from District statistical department, Kanyakumari and Block development units of the district. The national information got from the internet is another useful source of information.

Hypothesis of the Study

Hypothesis is usually considered as the principal; instrument in any research study.

Following are the essential hypotheses that are to be tested in the present study.

1. There is no relationship between the socio-economic conditions of the respondents and their level of social awareness.

2. There is no relationship between the socio-economic conditions of the respondents and their level of employment awareness.

3. There is no significant difference between the socio-economic conditions of the respondents and their level of awareness.

4. There is no association between the socio-economic conditions of the respondents and their needed expectations.

SAMPLING DESIGN

Stratified random sampling method was followed for selection of samples. The sample size of 364 kani tribal people was fixed, and the same was stratified into four taluks in kanyakumari district. There are 7282 kani tribal people, which include 3554 males and 3728 females in all the four taluks of kanyakumari districts.

TOOLS OF ANALYSIS

In order to analyse the data collected from the kani tribes, the appropriate statistical tools have been selected on the basis of the objectives of the study and the nature of data. The Chi – Square test, Factor analysis, Friedman rank test and Analysis of variance is applied for final interpretation of data.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

This is a time bound micro study of the social economic and commercial aspect of a section of the society. It tries to explore the socio – economic conditions of these people.

Most of the sample respondents are uneducated and do not practice the habit of maintaining any accounts in black and white. They speak from their memory. So, along with the possible inbuilt technical bias, the analysis may suffer from some degree of recall bias also.

In a few government offices adequate and updated data have not been made available on specific aspects of the problem. A few persons could not understand the spirit, of the interview or discussion, because they are little hesitant and they delayed in giving the information.

The researcher could finish out the essential information to the optimum level, by reaped requests and attempts. It became obvious that some persons delayed deliberately but many did encourage willingly.

By persistent efforts of patient listening, similar constraints or limitations were overcome to a great extent and necessary data and information could be collected and used.

Association between Income & Expenditure pattern of the Respondents and Their Level of Awareness;

The study of association between the Income & Expenditure of the Scheduled tribes and their level of awareness is essential to promote their life style. In order to, analyse, the significant relationship between profile of the respondents and their level of awareness, multiple regression was used. The resulted "F" statistics were shown in Table 1.

Ho   There is no significant association between the Income & Expenditure pattern of the respondents and their level of awareness.

Table; 1
Association between Income & Expenditure pattern of the Respondents and their Level of Awareness

Variables	R^{2} Value	F	Sig.
Election	.129	7.219	.000*
EDP	.282	19.165	.000*
Polio awareness	.249	16.170	.009*
Importance of Education	.463	13.340	.015*
Sending children to school	.065	3.389	.022*
Subsidy	.455	12.786	.029*
Aadhar card	.049	2.524	.018*
100 days employment scheme	.193	11.692	.087
Medical check up during pregnancy	.027	1.374	.047*
Child Marriage	.036	1.801	.086
Family planning	.054	2.809	.072
Vaccination	.075	3.985	.023*
State & Central scheme	.069	3.646	.096
Protection of green areas	.002	.088	.999
Legal awareness	.104	5.656	.082

Source: Primary data   *Significant at 5% level.

It is observed from Table 1 that the profile of the respondents, the significant associated in the level of awareness were, Election, EDP, Polio awareness, Importance of Education, sending children to school, subsidy, Aadhar card, Medical check-up during pregnancy and vaccination. Since the respective "F" Statistics were significant at 5 percent level, the Hypotheses were rejected on this awareness. But the other attitude like 100 days employment scheme, child marriage, family planning, State & central scheme, Protection of green areas and legal awareness were not significant at 5 percent level.

Income & Expenditure pattern and their Level of Social Awareness

The Study reveals that the association between the socio-economic conditions of the respondents and their level of social awareness. It has been examined with the help of Multiple regression. The included profile variables Gender, Age, Marital Status, Religion, education, Employment, income, and expenditure. The resulted regression co-efficient –co-efficient is shown in Table 2.

Ho: There is no relationship between socio-economic conditions of the respondents and their level of social awareness.

Table: 2

Association between Income & Expenditure pattern of the respondents and their Level of

Social Awareness

Variables	Regression co-efficient	Standard Error	-t-value	Sign
Gender	.322	.164	1.965	.051
Age	.073	.131	.558	.578
Marital Status	1.322	.208	6.347	.00*
Religion	-.022	.104	-.215	.830
Education	.455	.094	4.821	.000*
Employment	-.332	.073	-4.528	.000*
Income	-.448	.134	-.356	.722
Expenditure	.663	.095	.664	.508

Source: primary data, * significant 5% Level.

The regression co-efficient presented in Table 2 indicates the association between Income & Expenditure pattern of the respondents and their level of social awareness. The significant personal profile variables were marital status, education and Employment since the respective "t" statistics were significant at five percent level.   The remaining insignificant variables were Gender, Age, Religion, Income and expenditure.

Socio-Economic Conditions and Level of Employment Awareness

This study analyses that the level of employment awareness influenced among the respondents. This study has been examined with the help of multiple regression. It analyses the eight variables like, Gender, age, marital status, Religion, Education, Employment, income and expenditure. The statistical inferences are presented in Table 3

Ho: There is no relationship between socio-Economic conditions of the respondents and level of employment awareness

Table: 3

Association between Socio-Economic Conditions of the Respondents and Their Level of Employment Awareness

Variables	Regression co-efficient	Standard Error	-t-value	Sign
Gender	1.329	.131	10.136	.000*
Age	.368	.105	3.503	.001*
Marital Status	.123	.167	.737	.462
Religion	.108	.083	1.303	.195
Education	.161	.075	2.136	.034*
Employment	-.431	.059	-7.349	.000*
Income	.022	.107	.207	.837
Expenditure	.056	.076	.739	.461

Source: primary data, * significant 5% Level.

Table 3 shows the association between socio–economic conditions of the respondents and their level of employment awareness. The Significant influencing profile variables were Gender Age, Education and Employment since the respective' statistics were significant at five per cent level.

But the other variables like mental status, religion, income and expenditure were not significant at 5% level.

Chi – Square Test for Level of Awareness of Kani Tribes

To estimate the association between the profile of the respondents and their level of awareness has been revealed with the help of chi - square test. The included profile variables were Age, Gender, Education, Religion, Monthly income, Employment and Monthly expenditure. The resulted chi – square value is presented in Table 4.

Table: 4

Chi – square test for level of Awareness of Kani Tribes.

AWARENESS	AGE		GENDER		EDUCATION		RELIGION		MONTHLYINCOME		EMPLOYMENT		MONTHLY EX-PENDITURE	
	X^2	Sig.	X^2	Sig.	X^2	Sig.	X^2	Sig.	X^2	Sig.	X^2	Sig.	X^2	Sig.
Election	8.521	.043*	8.146	.086	11.441	.178	1.297	.042*	28.056	.600	8.283	.006*	23.644	.060
EDP	14.226	.286	4.228	.046*	11.516	.174	1.017	.007*	10.632	.223	39.097	.000*	79.579	.070
Polio awareness	11.787	.025*	1.804	.875	14.029	.002*	2.662	.752	36.366	.000*	14.728	.065	69.480	.006*
Importance of education	10.920	.036*	3.519	.475	8.531	.383	1.980	.739	40.741	.000*	6.494	.592	36.292	.010*
Sending children to school	5.110	.044*	.776	.942	15.733	.046*	1.907	.753	30.923	.000*	9.165	.029*	36.090	.000*
Subsidy	20.388	.061	5.638	.228	19.863	.011*	2.951	.016*	41.377	.000*	13.265	.003*	51.647	.000*
Aaadhar card	9.321	.675	3.252	.517	7.012	.535	1.032	.905	13.547	.069	7.083	.028*	19.489	.001*
100days employment scheme	15.053	.239	7.017	.035*	6.988	.538	1.255	.869	50.303	.000*	10.761	.016*	27.621	.009*
Medical checkup during pregnancy	9.169	.688	4.107	.012*	6.979	.539	1.149	.886	19.482	.001*	6.342	.609	28.537	.000*
Child marriage	6.048	.014*	6.341	.045*	11.564	.172	4.568	.335	10.920	.027*	29.561	.000*	16.809	.002*
Family planning	8.696	.729	1.865	.011*	3.796	.015*	.672	.955	13.192	.010*	4.594	.800	21.727	.046*
Vaccination	15.806	.000*	.832	.934	4.745	.784	.836	.934	22.738	.000*	5.937	.654	25.207	.030*
Legal awareness	14.330	.280	2.920	.571	9.918	.021*	.742	.046*	26.652	.000*	6.068	.640	37.720	.000*
State & Central scheme	9.951	.620	3.041	.031*	8.955	.046*	.472	.036*	14.982	.005*	5.434	.010*	43.302	.020*
Protection of Green areas	14.965	.243	4.185	.382	6.185	.626	1.371	.349	1.445	.836	5.915	.017*	8.113	.018*

Source**:** Primary data.   *Significant at 5 percent level.

Table 4 shows the level of awareness of kani tribes regarding age and the significant associating variables were election, polio awareness, importance of education, sending children school, child marriage and vaccination, since the respective variables were significant at five per cent level. Remaining other variables like EDP, subsidy, Aadhar card, 100 days employment scheme, medical check-up during pregnancy, family planning, legal awareness, state and central scheme, protection of green areas were not significant at five per cent level.

Needed Basic Amenities

Employment in agriculture is mostly seasonal. They are the weakest sections because they work in the unorganized sectors. The working hours are generally more than 10 hours. They perform various tasks such as ploughing, reaping, threshing, lifting the water and harvesting.

Their landlords do not provide extra money for their illness, festivals, death etc. Their wages are very low in comparison with other occupations and also the kani tribal people have rights about their own land but they have no patta for the land. They are far away from the basic amenities like water, toilet, sanitations, schools road, health care, electricity and constructed house. The lack of these facilities affects their health. These are the facilities are immediately needed. In order to attract the attention of the government and NGOs on the most felt basic needs, the respondents have been asked to assign ranking for various reasons. To find out the overall rankings in the order of preferences, Friedman's test was conducted, the result of which is shown in Table 5

Table 5

Needed Basic Amenities

SI.No	Preferences of Medicine	Mean Score	Rank
1	Patta for land	5.74	I
2	Constructed house	4.96	II
3	Electricity	4.95	III
4	Health care facility	4.80	IV
5	Drinking water	4.27	V
6	Sanitation	4.12	VI
7	Schools	3.91	VII
8	Road facility	3.26	VIII

Source: Primary data

The above table states that the kani tribal people are expecting basic amenities. Getting patta for land is ranked first with a mean score value of 5.74. Constructed house is the second needed amenity with the mean score value of 4.96. Electricity secures third rank with the mean score value of 4.95. Health care facility is ranked Fourth (4.80). Drinking water is ranked fifth (4.27). Sanitation is ranked sixth (4.12). Schools secured seventh rank 3.91 and road facility is ranked eighth with the mean score value of 3.26.

FINDINGS

The findings of the present study were classified under three heads namely finding regarding Income and Expenditure pattern of Scheduled Tribes in Kanyakumari District, findings regarding level of awareness and improvement of tribe's lifestyle in Kanyakumari district.

The awareness about social, medical, Employment was narrated by the Factor analysis. The important awareness in the above said three factors were Election, Education, and Family planning respectively.

Multiple regression analysis was used to find out the association between socio-economic conditions of the respondents and their level of awareness. The significantly associating profile variables were Gender, Religion, Monthly income, Education, Employment and Expenditure. They were associated with election, EDP, polio awareness, importance of education, sending children to school, subsidy, Aadhar card, medical check-up during pregnancy and vaccination.

Multiple regression analysis was used to find out the association between socio-economic conditions of the respondents and their various levels of awareness. Under the social awareness, the significantly associating profile variables were Marital status, education and employment. Regarding the medical awareness, the significantly associating profile variables were Gender, marital status and education. Regarding the employment awareness, the significantly associating profile variables were gender, age, education and employment.

The results of chi-square test revealed the association between profile of the respondents and their level of awareness. The important profile variables were age, gender, education, religion, monthly income, employment and monthly expenditure respectively.

Regarding age, the significant associating profile variables were election, polio awareness, importance of education, sending children to school, child marriage and vaccination.

The chi-square test revealed the association between level of awareness and regarding gender of the respondents. The significant associating profile variables were EDP, 100 days employment scheme, medical checkup during pregnancy, child marriage, family planning and state and central government schemes.

The resulted chi-square indicates the association between the level of awareness and education. The significant associating profile variables were polio awareness, sending children to school, subsidy, family planning legal awareness and state and central scheme.

The significant differences among the level of awareness and regarding religion are identified variables namely EDP, election, subsidies, legal awareness and state and central government scheme.

The chi-square test revealed the association between the level of awareness and employment. The significant associated variables were 100 days employment scheme, election, sending children to school, Aadhar card, subsidies, state and central schemes and protection of Green areas.

It is revealed that there is an association between the level of awareness and regarding monthly income. The significant associated variables were polio awareness, importance of education, sending children to school, subsidies, Aadhar card, 100 days employment scheme, medical checkup during pregnancy, child marriage, family planning, vaccination, legal awareness and state and central schemes.

There is a significant difference among the expenditure and their level of awareness. The significant associated variables were polio awareness, importance of education, sending children to school, subsidy, Aadhar card, 100 days employment scheme, medical checkup during pregnancy, child marriage, family planning, vaccination and protection of green areas.

SUGGESTIONS

On the basis of above-mentioned findings, the following suggestions are given for the development of Scheduled tribes in Kanyakumari District.

It was found that the majority of the respondents who live in hilly and remote areas which are lacking in provision of houses, supply of drinking water, electricity, sanitation and provision of road facilities.

Therefore, it is suggested that the State Government should take steps to convert all thatched houses in Kani tribal areas into concrete-roofed and permanent houses. In order to tackle the secured major problem of safe drinking water, it is suggested that pipelines and street pumps may be installed and the water distribution system in

the interior areas can be extended to tribal settlements. So, the state government and panchayats should take necessary steps to provide the above amenities.

It is observed from the study that most of the respondents have own lands. But they were not given `Pattas` (ownership title) for lands in their possession. So, the State Government should take more steps to grant the ownership title.

It is suggested that the PESA (panchayat Extension in Scheduled Areas) should be implemented in letter and spirit in the kani tribal areas. All the developmental activities in the kaani tribal areas should be executed in decentralized manner with the approval of gram sabha as per PESA`s provisions. The people's participation should be ensured in designing and executing the development works in the kani tribal areas.

The panchayat level administration requires the presence of village secretary very often. Therefore, the panchayat secretary should stay in the village itself and should be provided with residential quarters facilities.

The State Government must allocate financial grants for understanding the provision of PESA act in the kani tribal areas. The State Government should conduct workshops with experts for capacity building of people for the implementation of provision of PESA act.

The State Government should promote and motivate tribal people to take up the entrepreneurism and provide assistance. The educated youth should be capacitated in agro based industrial and forest-based resource for entrepreneurism among the kani tribal people.

Suggestions regarding Eco development are that, the tribal people should be assisted by raising the forest resources like nursery, and the State Government should purchase seeds from them to raise their economic status. The State Government should develop eco-tourism in the forest areas and the local educated youth should be trained and engaged in eco-tourism activities and this will boost up the economic opportunities of the local educated youth.

Suggestions regarding Empowerment and development of kani tribal women are that, the State Government should focus empowerment of kani tribal women and allocate separate funds. Health, education and nourishment should be selected as key focus areas besides women should be provided ample opportunities for economic development. Based upon the traditional skills, women should also be provided additional skills for value additions to the produces. The State should ensure hundred percentage literacy among the tribal women. The kani tribal girls, who are desirous of higher education should be provided subsidy for education and the state should provide the hostel facilities for motivation.

It is suggested that the Kani tribal people should be given professional advice through group meetings. So that they can start getting income from alternative sources other than traditional activities.

CONCLUSION

This study has been undertaken mainly to help the Government, Non-Government organizations and the Panchayat to take up policy decisions and formulate suitable schemes and programmes to ameliorate the socio-economic conditions of kani tribal people. This study gives a comprehensive idea of socio-economic conditions of the households of kani tribes in Kanyakumari district and brings to light certain causes for the long-standing socio-economic backwardness of the kani tribal community. This suggestion made in the study, it is hoped that it will

serve as a decision support in solving many problems of kaani tribes who for centuries, have been economically poor and down trodden, socially marginalized, culturally backward and politically nonexistent.

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