Research Study
on
CHANGING SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION AND LIVELIHOOD
OF GEOGRAPHICALLY ISOLATED TRIBAL COMMUNITY
IN KANDHAMAL AND KBK DISTRICTS OF ORISSA

FINAL REPORT

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The study, “Changing Socio-Economic condition and livelihood of Geographically Isolated Primitive Tribal Communities in Kandhamal and KBK Districts of Orissa” was sponsored by the Planning Commission, Government of India in February 2009. The report is the outcome of intensive fieldwork (consultation with primary and secondary stakeholder, walking interviews, group discussions) analysis of collected data and data from secondary sources. The study also derives from answers of questionnaires and consultation carried out with the Primitive Tribal Communities (PTGs) in 22 villages of Kutia Kandha (289 households), 17 villages of Dongria Kandha (311 households) and 6 villages of Lanjia Saora (200 households).

The total tribal population of India has been estimated as 84,326,240 that constitutes about 8.2 per cent of the total population of the country (Census 2001). The tribal communities are spread over 15 per cent of the geographical areas in various ecological and geo climatic conditions varying from forest, hills, plateau and plains. They are still living with primitive agricultural practices with stagnant population, lowest literacy rates and are at the lowest rung of human index. 75 groups/sub groups of tribal communities have been identified as Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) on the basis of criteria adopted by the Planning Commission. Out of 62 tribal communities of Orissa, 13 have been identified as PTGs. The State of Orissa has also the distinction of having largest number of both tribe and PTGs in the country. PTGs are small group in pockets confined to far-flung inaccessible areas with precarious living conditions. By and large they have maintained their cultural group identity with their distinctive living pattern. From the Five Year Plan, a number of micro projects have been launched by the Government to ameliorate their living conditions and bring them in the main stream of development. In the State of Orissa alone, 17 micro projects have been set up exclusively for 13 PTGs, both in the demarcated Tribal Sub Plan and Non-Tribal Sub Plan areas with 100% assistance from Government of India. The micro projects have covered 537 villages with about 14,000 beneficiary households and 61,240 population. Both Central and State Government have so far allocated substantial sums to bring about changes in their living conditions for upliftment of their socio-economic life. Their schemes have been targeted to bring improvement at household level, primarily towards improvement of their food security. The notable schemes targeting them are Income Generating Scheme (IGS), Infrastructure Development Schemes and Human Resources Development Schemes. But unfortunately these changes are slow and do not match with the allocations made. The literacy level, income and living condition of the primitive tribes in comparison with other tribes are much discouraging. In
order to get a clear view of this issue, this study attempts to examine the changing socio-economic condition of the Kutia Kandha, Dongria Kandha and Lanjia Saora, Primitive Tribes of Orissa and impacts of various tribal developmental schemes implemented among them.

In the context of the above, the main objectives of the present study were as under:

- To find out the different sources of livelihood of the selected primitive tribal groups and how does it vary amongst the Primitive tribal households in the study area
- To find out the change in socio-economic condition of the primitive tribal groups in last five years
- To find out the impact of developmental intervention on the selected primitive tribal community in the study area.
- To provide suggestions to alleviate poverty and take the Primitive tribal community to the main stream

The present study was confined to three Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) namely; Kutia Kandha, Dongria Kandha, and Lanjia Saora in Kandhamal and undivided KBK districts of Orissa. A sample of 800 respondents was drawn from the universe. The study is based on both quantitative and qualitative data collected from households, Villages eminent persons and published documents of Government etc. Primary data was collected from the selected households of PTGs through Schedule, Interview, Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) and Focus Group Discussion (FGD). The secondary data were collected from published and unpublished documents of government Departments and private agencies such as, Census Report, Statistical Abstract of Orissa, District Statistical Hand Book, District at a Glance, District Census Handbook, District Gazetteer, and information collected from offices like District Collectors, Blocks of district, Panchayat offices etc. These data were based on the socio-economic condition and livelihood condition of selected PTG since the onset of Micro Project. The collected data was edited and processing and analysis of data was carried out with the help of Statistical Package for Social Science Software. Main findings of the study in respect of selected primitive tribal groups can be succinctly summarised as below:

**Dongria Kandha**

- The household and population of the selected revenue villages were increased 108 (17.94%) and 216 (7.96%) respectively from 2001 to 2007.
- The sex ratio is 1086 female per 1000 male in 2009 as compared to the sex Ratio of 1222 female per 1000 male in 2001.

- The average size of household is 5.4 in 2009 as compared to 4.48 in 2001.

- Work Participation Rate of Dongria Kandha is 54.50 per cent.

- 63.34 per cent households were having fire proof houses in 2009 as compared to 33.76 per cent in 2001. Only 0.64 per cent of the total households had Pacca house in 2001 which has increased to 1.29 per cent in 2009.

- Overall literacy percentage has increased by 7.08% from 2001 to 2009.

- The female literacy rate is 12.21 per cent in 2009 as compared to 3.25 per cent in 2001.

- Percentage of landless household has marginally decreased by 4.09 per cent i.e. from 90.86 per cent to 87.14 per cent during the period 2001 to 2009.

- In 2009, 83.30 per cent of total households are dependent on shifting cultivation as their primary occupation where as it was 97.51 per cent in 2001. The second primary occupation is forest produce collection which is 8.40 per cent (26 households). The third primary occupation is wage earning which is 6.40 per cent (20 household).

- Average annual income per household is Rs.23,157 in 2009 as compared to Rs.12,255 in 2001.

- Per capita income was Rs.2,691 in 2001 which has increased to Rs.4,320 in 2009.

- Average annual expenditure per household is Rs.20,454 in 2009 as against Rs.12,055 during 2001.

- Annual expenditure on food items per household is Rs.7,615 in 2009 as compared to Rs.4,154 (37.23%) in 2001 i.e. increased by Rs.3,461.

- The percentage of indebted household has decreased from 54.01 per cent to 36.33 per cent from 2004 to 2009.

- Percentage of household’s loan from SHGs has increased by 48 per cent, Sources of loan from money lenders and relatives have decreased by 38.11 per cent and 4.88 per cent respectively.

- The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) among Dongria Kandha in 2003-04 was 129 per 1000 live birth as against 117 during 2008-09.

- The Institutional Delivery has increased from 13 to 27 from 2003-04 to 2008-09.
Life Expectancy at birth has increased from 50 years 8 months in 2003-2004 to 53 years 7 months during 2008-09

Intensity of Malaria is high among Dongria Kandha

Average livestock per household has been reduced from 8.6 to 7.1 since last 15 years.

**Lanjia Saora**

The household and population of the selected revenue villages has been increased 19.88 per cent (67) and 24.71 per cent (495) respectively during the period 2001 to 2007.

The surveyed sample households constitute 4 per cent Hindu and remaining 96 per cent are Christian.

The average size of household for all selected settlement together was 5.94 in 2001, which increased to 6.17 in 2009.

The sex Ratio was 1009 per 1000 male in 2001 as compared 1052 female per 1000 male in 2009.

The Work Participation Rate of Lanjia Saora is 58.39 in 2009 as against the 50.87 per cent during 2000-2001.

Earner Dependency Ratio has increased from 1: 0.77 to 1: 0.99 from 2001 to 2009.

Only 1 per cent of the total household had Pacca house in 2001 which has increased to 2.5 per cent in 2009. 7.50 per cent households were having fire proof houses, which increased to 64 per cent by the end of June 2009.

Access to tube well water was only 11 per cent during 2001, which has increased to 39 per cent in 2009. Consumption of water from pond and stream has reduced by 1 per cent and 24 per cent respectively from 2001 to 2009.

12.50 per cent of households are facing drinking water scarcity for 2 to 3 month (between April to June) in 2009, which was 11 per cent in 2001.

The Overall literacy of Lanjia Saora is 35.85 per cent.

The percentage of overall literacy has increased by 3.15 per cent from 2001 to 2009.

The female literacy has increased from 24.16 per cent in 2001 to 26.74 per cent in 2009.

Dependency rate on Shifting Cultivation and forest produces collection has reduced from 13.06 per cent to 7 per cent during the period 2001 to 2009.
Average annual income per household is Rs.24,491 in 2009 as compared to Rs.16,667 in 2001.

Per capita income was Rs.2804 in 2001 which is reported as Rs.3973 in 2009.

In the year 2001 the total annual expenditure per household was Rs.14,978, which has increased by Rs.2,045 and reached to Rs.17,023 in 2009. But the expenditure on food items has decreased by 15.76 per cent (i.e. from 51.04% to 35.28%) between 2001 and 2009.

The value of household assets on an average is Rs.48,781 in 2009 against Rs.44,667 in 2001.

Out of total household, only 7.50 per cent (15) household had a saving amounting Rs.76,087 in 2001, which has increased to Rs.2,47,634 covering 118 (59%) household in 2009.

During the year 2001 average saving volume per saving household was higher i.e. Rs.5,072 to Rs.2,099 in 2009.

The average saving of the total household has increased from Rs.380 to Rs.1,238 from 2001 to 2009.

IMR under 5 years was 97 in 2001 which has decreased to 71 in 2009.

Kutia Kandha

The households and corresponding population of the selected revenue villages have increased 16.70 per cent (97) and 6.39 per cent (169) respectively from 2001 to 2009.

The sex Ratio of Kutia Kandha was 1080 per 1000 male in 2001 as compared to 981 female per 1000 male in 2009.

The average size of household for all selected settlement together was 4.6 in 2001, which increased to 5.6 in 2009.

Workforce Participation Rate is 58 per cent as per the present study.

The EDR has been decreased from 1:1.05 to 1:0.95 between 2001 and 2009.

There was no Pacca house in 2001 which has increased to 7 (2.24 %) in 2009.

Dependency on stream water for drinking purpose has decreased to 29.29 per cent from the year 2001 to 2009. Access to tube well water increased to 28.70 per cent during 2001-2009.

Out of the 289 household, 261 (90.3 %) of the household are covered under SHGs fold.
The overall literacy rate of the sample population is 29.89 percent. Male literacy is 39.34 percent of total population and female literacy is 20.25 percent. The percentage of overall literacy has increased by 13.45 per cent from 2001 to 2009.

Percentage of landless household has marginally increased by 6.99 per cent i.e. from 13.08 per cent to 20.07 per cent during the period of 2001 to 2009.

64.22 percent of total households depend on agriculture as their primary occupation where as 21.52 percent as casual labour.

The share of agriculture (including shifting cultivation) to the total income of Kutia Kandha is reported 43.58 per cent.

Average Annual income per household increased by 113.69 per cent from 2001 to 2009 i.e. from Rs.8531 to Rs.18230.

Per capital income was Rs.1873 in 2001 which is reported Rs.3240 in 2009.

The average annual expenditure per household was Rs.8417 in 2001 as compared to Rs.18,206 in 2009.

The average annual expenditure on food items per household was 6328 in 2001 which has increased to Rs.7061 in 2009.

Per capita annual expenditure on both food and non-food items has increased by Rs.1388 from 2001 to 2009. The value of household assets on an average is Rs.21709 in 2009 against Rs.18586 in 2001.

Out of the total sample only 27.34 per cent (79 out of 289) had access to loan in 2001 which has decreased to 10.72 per cent (31 out of 289) in 2009.

Average loan volume per household has increased from Rs.230 to Rs.356 during the period 2003-2009. The per capita loan has increased by Rs.14 i.e. from Rs.25 to 39.

The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) among Kutia Kandha in 2003-2004 was 113 per 1000 live birth.

The Institutional Delivery has increased from 9 to 14 from 2003-04 to 2008-09. Life Expectancy at birth has increased from 49 years 9 month in 2003-2004 to 51 years 2 month during 2008-09.

Malaria, Skin diseases; Diarrhea and Malnutrition are major diseases.

Average livestock per household has reduced to 7.47 (including 3.24 poultry birds per households). At present 84.77 per cent households have owned livestock.
Recommendations

- The staff required to run the Micro Project is inadequate particularly for technical hands. So much so that Kutia Kandha Development Agency, Belghar, does not have Special Officer. The Special Officer of Baliguda ITDA is in charge of the Micro Project and he rarely visits the project area. One field assistant and one peon are managing the Micro Project as the study team observed during the field study. The ratio between villages and staff is 1:0.029 in Kutia Kandha Development Agency. The study strongly recommends that no post should lie vacant and the Micro Project personnel must be made accountable for the failure of the programme they are implementing.

- Despite State Government’s continued efforts for the development of PTGs right from Fifth Five Year Plan, there are villages among the Kutia Kandha, Lanjia Saora and Dongria Kandha that have not been covered under micro project. The conditions of such villages are worse even as on date. It is suggested that these left out villages may be taken under micro project.

- During the study it was found that some villages under the Micro Projects are developed and their livelihood condition is much better than before and some villages are not developed because of lack of communication facilities, lack of health consciousness and inadequate educational facilities. Due to the above development intervention is very slow in these villages since the inception of the Micro Projects. Therefore, the study suggests that special attention and proper planning is required for these lagging villages.

- Since the literacy and educational status is very low among the selected PTGs in general and Dongria Kandha and Kutia Kandha in particular, the chronic problem of teacher absenteeism needs priority attention. This aspect has to be addressed to with all the sincerity of efforts so that the teaching-learning situation is improved among the Kandha. Thus emphasis should be given on priority basis for promotion of education. Necessary infrastructure and the appointment of teacher belonging to the community should be encouraged. If no such teacher is available, others with a positive attitude and understanding about tribal community should be employed in the area. Adult literacy programmes should be promoted to bring the illiterate persons who have dropped out or never enrolled for schooling.

- The textbooks should have local specific contents, contexts and narration by which the children can relate learning to their real life situation.
• The children should be provided text books in their own language in initial stages of their schooling and gradually they should be exposed to standard textbooks in state language at a later stage.

• To save the selected PTGs from the clutches of the money lenders and traders, the establishment of grain banks, arrangement for micro credit should be explored.

• Due to poor marketing knowledge and bargaining power of Kutia Kandha, they are not able to get a remunerative price of the Siali leaves. On the other hand Dongria Kandha are frequently cheated in selling of fruits and NTFPs when they come down to the plain area. It is difficult for Dongria Kandha to take these items back as a result they sell same at a lower price. The micro project should address these issues of creating proper marketing arrangement, market information systems, storage space and minimum processing facilities at the local level. Simple processing activities such as broom making, leaf plate-making, tamarind processing, mat and rope making should be encouraged in the household/cottage sector.

• Land is the major physical resource available to PTG households. Most of the available land is poor in quality, and there is not very much of it. Agricultural intervention in the form of promoting locally relevant crops, drought resistant crop mix along with the agro forestry should be encouraged. Similarly, horticulture and Small irrigation schemes should be encouraged.

• The modern medical treatment is accepted if they are efficacious and are available and accessible to PTGs. Actually their resources do not permit them to avail the expensive treatment at distant places. As such the study suggests the strengthening of the local Sub-centre and ANMs centres to provide for immediate preventive measures at the household level.

• People’s participation in the execution of development programmes have not been taken into consideration in most cases, though the project development works have been approved in the Gram Sabha. The inadequate participation of PTGs in the activities/programmes is low due to factors like; rigidity of social and cultural values prevailing among them, low level of literacy etc. As a result variation is found between planning and implementation of the project. The most important problem lies at the implementation stage at the Micro-Project level. It is suggested that more emphasis should be given at implementation stage to reduce the gap between planning and implementation.
• Awareness among the PTGs about the various developmental programmes being implemented for them should be encouraged.
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