

## STANDARDS OF LIVING OF TRIBES IN KONDHAMAL DISTRICT OF ODISHA

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### ABSTRACT

The objective of the paper is to analyse the standards of living of the tribes in Kandhamal district of Odisha which is one of the tribal dominated districts of the state. They spend a small share of their Income on non-food items. There is significant positive correlation between income and family size in tribal area. More the family members, more are employed as labourer in informal sector. The tribes spend 62.25 percent on food items and 37.75 percent on non-food items. It is interesting to note that tribes spend 10.58 percent on beverages. It is found that 32.66 percent tribes out of 300 tribe households under study have monthly income within Rs 6000 to Rs 8000/- .Only 7 percent of people have monthly income more than Rs 10000/-. So the income of tribes in Kondhamal is very low due to lack of opportunities of gainful employment. Tribes do not have saving habits. It is found that 70 percent tribal households donot save at all. It is observed that 26 percent have TV, 42 percent have Radio, 52 percent have cycles, 7 percent have motor bikes, 67 percent have mobiles, 54 percent have watch and 6 percent have tube wells for drinking water and 25 percent have toilets.

**KEY WORDS:** Expenditure, Income, Living, Saving, Tribes

### INTRODUCTION

Standard of living refers to the level of wealth, comfort, material goods and necessities available to a certain socioeconomic class in a certain geographic area. The standard of living includes factors such as income, quality and availability of employment, class disparity, poverty rate, quality and affordability of housing, hours of work required to purchase necessities, gross

domestic product, inflation rate, number of holiday days per year, affordable (or free) access to quality healthcare, quality and availability of education, life expectancy, incidence of disease, cost of goods and services, infrastructure, national economic growth, economic and political stability, political and religious freedom, environmental quality, climate and safety. The standard of living is closely related to quality of life.

Tribals are among the most deprived and oppressed sections of India. Gender bias and gender oppression has meant that Adivasi women are worst affected. Half of the adivasi people do not have land. Even when they own some land, in most cases they may be only marginal holdings. Poverty, deprivation and now the reduction of government expenditure on basic medical health facilities is reflected in the absolutely poor health condition of adivasi women and children. India has several laws and constitutional provisions, such as the Fifth Schedule for mainland India and the Sixth Schedule for certain areas of north-east India, which recognize indigenous peoples' rights to land and self-governance. The laws aimed at protecting indigenous peoples have, however, numerous shortcomings and their implementation is far from satisfactory. Consumption and its pattern has been an important branch of macroeconomic research in many less developed countries as it reflects standard of living of people. The objective of this paper is to analyze the standards of living with the help of primary data collected in a field survey from 300 households in Kandhamal district of Orissa using stratified random sampling method and printed questionnaires.

### **TRIBES OF ODISHA**

Tribes of Odisha form the most backward segment of its total rural population. Out of 461 types of tribes in India, Odisha has the distinction of being the homeland of 62 tribal communities. Out of 62 type of tribes, 12 types are identified as primitive tribal groups. These primitive tribes are the Birhor, Bondo, Didayl, Dangaria Kandha, Hill Khaira, Juang, KutiaKandha, LanjiaSaora, Lodha, Mankidia, Pauri Bhuyan and the Saora which are heavily concentrated in Dhenkanal, Ganjam, Kandhamal, Kalahandi, Keonjhar, Koraput Malkangiri, Mayurbhanj, Sambalpur and Sundargarh districts. Odisha has the largest percentage of tribals which account 22.8 percentage of the total population of the state. The name of the district Kandhamal is derived from the name of its major inhabitants Kandhas. Almost 66 percent of the land area of the district is covered with dance forest and towering mountains which provide

shelter to the major inhabitants Kandha. Heavy concentration of tribal population in the district is consider as a drag on its rapid socio-economic transformation.

### **PROFILE OF STUDY AREA**

The scheduled tribe population in Kandhamal district is 53.6 percent of the total population of the district according to 2011 census. The percentage of scheduled tribe population to the total population of the district in 2001 was 51.96 percent indicating a increase of 1.64 percent in 2011. The percentage of scheduled tribe male and female in 2011 constituted 48.5 and 50.63 respectively. The sex ratio of scheduled tribe population in the district is found to be 1062 as against 1029 for all Odisha in 2011. The density of population in the Kandhamal district is 91 persons as against 270 for the state per square kilometer as per 2011 census which is lowest of all thirty districts of the state of odisha. The percentage of the rural tribal population in Kandhamal district in 2011 is 96.89 and in 2001 it was 98.14 percent as against the rural general population of 90.10 and 93.20 percent respectively. Only 52.24 percent of tribals are literate against the state percentage of 72.9. The literacy rate for ST male is 43.93 and ST female is 11.56 percent. Forest occupy about 74.19 percent of the total geographical area of the district and cover about 5,710 square kilometers in the year 2010-11. The district presents mostly a picture of single crop agricultural economy where paddy is the principal crop. The major non paddy crops cultivated in the district as Kharif crops are HYV paddy, maize, miger, ragi, arhar, mung, biri, ground nut. The major rabi crops are cereals, pulses, oil seeds, vegetables, spices, turmeric. Maize is cultivated next to paddy and turmeric is the main commercial crop. The cultivation of turmeric is hereditary with the Kondhs, which is traditionally practiced by them.

Kandhamal is one of the most backward districts of Odisha with high concentration of Kandha. The Kandhas are divided into three sub-groups namely Kutia Kandha, Dangaria Kandha and Desia Kandha. Kutia Kandha and Desia Kandha are inhabiting in Kandhamal District. Kutia Kandhas form a small group having a population of about

ten thousand who concentrate in Tumudhibandha Block area. Desia Kandha are more developed than their counter parts and leave in foot hills and plain areas of all over the district. The dress worn by the Kandha is not keeping with their environment. The tribals of Kondhamal district rear animals like cow, bullock, goat, sheep, pig and other domestic birds in the shed. The cow shed is at a little distance from each house of their habitation. But the goats and chickens are kept in the verandah. Elements of food gathering economy are prevailing in sereval parts of the tribal belts of Kandhamal area. Collection of fire wood and forest products in an old practice. Tribals of Kandhamal learn the technique of collection of fire wood and forest products by their ancestors. Both male and female go to the forest for gathering purpose. In the hamlet one can see more number of female going to the forest for collecting fire wood. Hunting practice has also been followed by the tribals of Kandhamal area. Kandhas are mainly shifting cultivators. They produce paddy from the up-lands, wherever available at the foot of the hills but mainly depend upon minor millets and cereals. They also produce cash crops like turmeric, ginger, mustard, niger, black-gram, arrow-root, etc.

### INCOME OF TRIBES

The significance of income is the most important determinant of consumption. The tribal households derive their income from various sources like agriculture, livestock and poultry, wages and other self-employed activities. Under the head consumption expenditures all items under food and non-food including expenditures on consumption durables are included. Data on expenditures on each item of food were collected on a monthly basis. Data for expenditures on non-food items like clothing and footwear, medical care and health services, transport expenses, education, and pan and intoxicants were collected for each members of the family on a monthly basis., whereas for expenditure on heads such as electricity, communication and entertainment and sanitary goods and cosmetics, data were collected for the household as a whole as a monthly basis. Data on expenditure, which do not occur frequently, namely, clothing and footwear, consumer durables and

other household goods and religious and cultural activities were collected on a yearly basis for the household as a whole. The study of consumption pattern of tribal envisages that almost all the tribal household consume rise. Most of them consume course rise. Few percentage of household consume wheat. Pulses do not form major consumption items. All the tribal household consume edible oil. They used to buy open drum oil. The tribals cultivate vegetables for their consumption besides this they collect various fruits, roots and leaves from the jungle for their own consumption as the financial position of the tribals is very bad and there is paucity of income, they fail to afford more expenditure for the purchase of rice, dal, wheat and edible oil. As a consequence, they are forced to consume less of this commodities.

The primary study collected data on expenditure on , income, saving, household assets, different food and non-food items used by tribes. The types of items are selected as used in National Sample Survey Organisation(NSSO).Income of the households is an important indicator of standard of living of people. During the field survey, it was observed that tribes of Kondhamal are poor and have low standards of living. The income range of tribes are given below in table-1.

**Table-1 Income Profile of Tribes**

Range of Monthly Income(Rs)	Number of Household	Percentage
<b>0-2000</b>	12	4.00
<b>2000-4000</b>	25	8.33
<b>4000-6000</b>	61	20.33
<b>6000-8000</b>	98	32.66
<b>8000-10000</b>	82	27.33
<b>10000-12000</b>	19	6.33
<b>12000 and above</b>	03	01.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100</b>

Source-Field Data

It is found that 32.66 percent tribes out of 300 tribe households under study have monthly income within Rs 6000 to Rs 8000/-Only 7 percent of people have monthly income more than Rs 10000/-. So the income of tribes in Kondhamal is very low due to lack of opportunities of gainful employment. Tribes do not have saving habits. 70 percent tribal households donot save at all. The saving profile is given in Table-2.

**Table-2 Saving Profile of Tribes**

Range of Saving (Rs)	Number of Household	Percentage
Nil	212	70.66
0-500	43	14.33
500-1000	39	13.00
1000-1500	06	02.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100</b>

Source-Field Data

It is found that 27 per cent households save within Rs 1000/. so the saving of the tribes is low. Regarding land holding it is seen that only 9.33 percent tribes possess 5 acre of land. More than 43 percent households have less than three acre of land. So the tribes of the study area are not rich in landed property. The land holdings of tribes under study are given in table-3.

**Table-3 Land Holding of Tribes**

Land Size(Acre)	Number of Household	Percentage
0-1	25	8.33
1-2	37	12.33
2-3	71	23.66
3-4	83	27.66
4-5	46	15.33
5 and above	28	9.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100</b>

Tribal people generally do not like to take loan. Seventy percent people have No loan. Nine percent tribes have loan within Rs 5000/-. The loan of tribes are shown in table-4.

**Table-4 Loan of Tribes**

Range(In Rs)	Number of Household	Percentage
No Loan	212	70.66
1-5000	27	09.00
5000-10000	52	17.33
10000-20000	09	03.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100</b>

Source-Field Data

Educational status of tribes is also low in the study area. 54 percent of tribes have education above 5 th class. Only 2 percent tribes are graduates. 18 percent are illiterates. The educational standard of tribes is shown in table-5.

**Table-5 Education of Tribes**

Class	Number of Household	Percentage
Illiterate	54	18.00
1-5	75	25.00
6-10	163	54.33
+2	12	04.00
Graduation & Above	06	02.00
<b>total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100</b>

Source-Field Data

Total expenditure is divided into food and nonfood expenditure. The tribes spend 62.25 percent on food items and 37.75 percent on non-food items. It is interesting to note that tribes spend 10.58 percent on beverages. The tribes spend 10.02 percent on beverages. Only 16 percent tribes have monthly food expenditure Rs 5000 to Rs 5500/- The detail on food expenditure are given in table-6.

**Table-6 Food expenditure of Tribes**

Range(Rs)	Number of Household	Percentage
1000-1500	27	09.00
1500-2000	31	10.33
2000-2500	30	10.00
2500-3000	14	04.66
3000-3500	21	07.00
3500-4000	11	03.66
4000-4500	30	10.00
4500-5000	21	07.00
5000-5500	27	09.00
5500-6000	18	06.00
6000-6500	48	16.00
6500-7000	13	04.33
Above7000	09	03.00

Source-Field Data

Nonfood items include mainly clothing, footwear, medicine, transport etc and tribes spend less on nonfood items as shown in table-7.

**Table-7 Non Food Expenditure of Tribes**

Range(Rs)	Number of Household	Percentage
500-1000	32	10.66
1000-1500	51	17.00
1500-2000	30	10.00
2000-2500	18	06.00
2500-3000	51	17.00
3000-3500	39	13.00
3500-4000	64	21.33
4000 and above	15	05.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100</b>

Source-Field Data

There are only 16 percent tribes spend more than Rs 10000/- in a month as given in table-8. Due to low income, total expenditure of tribes is also low in study area.

**Table-8 Total Expenditure of Tribes**

Range	Number of Household	Percentage
1000-2000	12	4.00
2000-3000	36	12.00
3000-4000	34	11.33
4000-5000	27	9.00
5000-6000	19	6.33
6000-7000	30	10.00
7000-8000	31	10.33
8000-9000	39	13.00
9000-10000	24	8.00
10000 and above	48	16.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source-Field Data

It is observed that 26 percent have TV, 42 percent have Radio, 52 percent have cycles, 7 percent have motor bikes, 67 percent have mobiles, 54 percent have watch and 6 percent have tube wells for drinking water and 25 percent have toilets as shown in table-9.

**Table-9 Asset Holding of Tribes**

Name of asset	Number of Household	Percentage
TV	78	26
Radio	127	42.33
Cycle	156	52
Bike	21	7.00
Mobile	203	67.33
Watch	163	54.33
Tube well	19	6.33
Toilet	76	25.33

Source-Field Data

**CORRELATION ANALYSES**

Income and education of tribes are positively correlated and value of  $r$  is low(.077) and it is not significant.(Table-10)

**Table-10 Correlation between Income and education**

		Income	Education
<b>Income</b>	Pearson Correlation	1	.077
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.279
	N	300	300
<b>Education</b>	Pearson Correlation	.077	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.279	
	N	300	300

Source- Computed using SPSS

There is strong positive correlation between landholding and food expenditure. The correlation coefficient is 0.868 which is significant at 1 percent level.( Table-11)

**Table-11 Correlation between land holding and food expenditure**

		Land Holding	Food Expenditure
<b>Land Holding</b>	Pearson Correlation	1	.868**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	200	200
<b>Food Expenditure</b>	Pearson Correlation	.868*	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	200	200
<b>Source- Computed using SPSS</b>			
<b>** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).</b>			

There is significant positive correlation between income and family size in tribal area. More the family members, more are employed as labourer in informal sector.( Table12)

Table-12 Correlation between family size and income

		Family Size	Income
<b>Fami ly Size</b>	Pearson Correlation	1	.395**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	200	200
<b>Inco me</b>	Pearson Correlation	.395**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	200	200
<b>** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).</b>			

## CONCLUSION

The income and standards of living of tribes is low. The average monthly consumption expenditure of scheduled tribes is low. They should shift their consumption behavior from lower indicators to standard indicators. Effective implementation of the schemes for their improvement is needed for improving their consumption standards. For economic improvement a change in occupational pattern is necessary. The minimum wage act in the case of working poor or labourers should be enforced. Schemes for improving their health standards are necessary to improve their consumption standards. Their addiction to alcoholic not only adversely affects their health but also hinders their economic progress. This also adversely affects the consumption standards of other members of the family. The main thrust of the development strategies during the recent past has been on the removal of poverty in tribal areas. The main causes of poverty are identified as illiteracy, unemployment, under employment and low productivity in agriculture. It is believed that income generated from these productive assets would not only be sufficient to repay the bank loans but will help the assisted families to cross the 'poverty line'. The travails of tribal development need to be understood properly. The programmes should be related to the specific needs of the tribal community. Also, tribal development programmes should be integrated with the ongoing rural development programmes meant for poverty alleviation. A pragmatic and holistic approach to tribal development alone can produce good results.

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