

Level of Wellbeing of Tribal Population of Churchu Block, Hazaribagh, Jharkhand

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Abstract: *There are numerous number of programmes, taken by Central and State Government, individually or collaboratively to develop the level of wellbeing of backward population. Besides those programmes several Non Government Organizations are providing their best effort to upgrade those people. Scheduled Tribe populations are most backward. A huge percentage of ST populations are living below poverty line. They are getting developed by such programmes and projects. They are now relatively better than the past but in relation to their standard of living, most of the ST people have low quality of livelihood. Churchu block of Hazaribagh district has taken to understand the wellbeing level of tribal population. The percentage of Tribal population of this block is 24.12%. This article is based on four pillars which are demographic condition, educational standard, work participation and availability of assets to them.*

Keywords: *Literacy Gap, Work Participation Rate, wellbeing*

I. Introduction:

Jharkhand contributes 8.3% of tribal population to the total ST population of India. According to 2011 census of India, 26.2% population of Jharkhand is under scheduled tribe category where the national average is 8.1%. Among 36 States and the Union Territories, Jharkhand holds the 6th rank in terms of Scheduled Tribe (ST) population. The state has around 32 tribal communities. Most of the tribal people are living out from the main stream of modernity. To get them involve with the momentum of modernity, several Government and Non Government programmes are going on simultaneously. Jharkhand has 26 District but the tribals are not uniformly distributed among the all districts. The census provides the data that Pashchimi Singhbhum, Gumla, Simdega and Khunti have more than 60% tribal population but Hazaribagh, Dhanbad, Palamu, Giridih, Kodarma and Chatra have the percentage below 15%.

Here Churchu block of Hazaribagh district has taken to understand the wellbeing level of tribal population. This block has 24.12% of tribal population. The effect of urbanization is very low, only 7.92% ST population are residing in urban area. The level of wellbeing of tribal communities can be understood by discussing their demographic condition, educational standard, work participation and availability of assets to them.

II. Objectives:

The objectives of this chapter are:

1. To show the level of concentration of Village wise ST population in Churchu Block.
2. To provide a sketch on livelihood pattern of ST population.
3. To analysis the demographic characteristics on the socio-temporal context.
4. To demonstrate those constraints of development.
5. To comprehend the level of wellbeing of the ST population.

III. Methodology and source of data:

Information is collected from primary survey on the basis of observation, questionnaire and Random sampling method. The attributes contributing to their daily life have been studied systematically. Secondary data are collected from Hazaribagh statistical office, Jharkhand govt. website, Churchu Block office, Health centers and by consulting literatures. Location Quotient technique is used to understand the degree of concentration of ST population. Besides this several calculation tables and diagrams have used to materialize this topic.

IV. Conceptual framework:

Hazaribagh is one of the most important and functionally developed districts of this state. The Hazaribagh District is situated on the north-eastern path of Chotonagpur Division and the centre of Chotonagpur plateau, at the elevation of 2020 feet (approx) above MSL. It is included in Agro-Climatic region VII (Eastern Plateau and Hills Region) and Sub-Humid Ecological region.

The percentage of ST population of this District (7.02%) is much lower than the state average. Like Jharkhand, Hazaribagh district is also characterized by uneven distribution of tribal population. The degree of concentration of ST population is higher only in Churchu (LQ=3.44) and Dadi (LQ=3.84) block of this district.

Churchu block is situated in the south-eastern part of Hazaribagh district surrounded by Tati Jhariya in north east, Daru in north, Hazaribagh in west, Barkagaon in south west Dari in south, Gomiya block in east. Munda, Oraon, Birhor, Santhal are the major tribal communities in this block.

Level of Concentration of ST population among the villages of Churchu Block:

The nature of clustering of ST population among the villages of Churchu Block can be revealed from Location Quotient technique by the following formula:

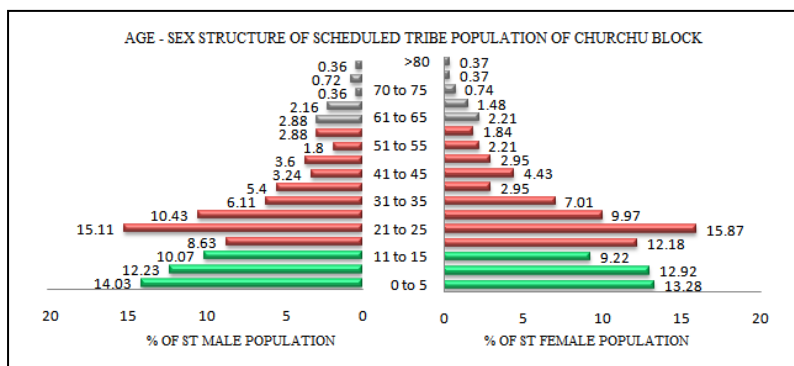
$$LQ = \frac{P_{ij}/P_i}{P_j/P}$$

Where, L.Q. : Location Quotient
 P_{ij} : j type Population of ith centre
 P_i : Total population of ith centre
 P_j : Total j type population
 P : Total population

Churchu Block constitutes of 8 Gram panchayats (local administration) having 41 villages. It has 12952 ST Population which is approximately 24% of total block population. But the level of concentration is not uniform among the villages of this block. 9 villages have higher degree of concentration (L.Q. >2.94), named Dhamansaria, Gondwar, Lothe, Potmo, Dumar, Tasnalo, Phusri, Chichi Kurd and Belgara out of which Lothe, Potmo and Phusri have L.Q. value more than 3.84. On the other hand 11 villages have very low concentration of ST population (L.Q. <0.3). Those are Sandi, Churchu, Kargi, Pipra, Hendeagra, Banda, Harhad, Karukhap, Bansadih, Jarwa and Mukru.

Family structure and condition:

In this block, we can found, among ST communities, 63% is nuclear family and 37% is joint family. The average ST family size is 5.54 for Churchu block (5.52 for district ST family). The graphical representation of Age-Sex structure of tribal population of this block reveals that 36.33% male and 35.42% female populations are in juvenile age cohort (0-15). A lump sum percentage can found in 15-60



age group of ST communities which is different for ST male (57.2%) and ST female (59.41%). The old aged population (>60 year) of ST communities are much lower, i.e. 6.48% and 5.17% for ST male and ST female respectively. According to census data 2011, 17.14% ST male and 16.64% ST female are under 0-6 age cohort. It can be understood that the Child Dependency Ratio in this block is considerably higher but the Old Dependency Ratio is much low.

Sex-Ratio of ST population of Churchu Block is 997 which is lower than the district average (1003) but higher than the state (948) and nation (990)¹. The ratio for the age group 0-6 years is 968, which also lower than district's ratio of 970.

Education level: Education is a fundamental right and one of the important parameter for development. The education level of this block as a whole (gross literacy) and among the tribes is not up to the mark. In general only 57.54% populations are succeeded from illiteracy with 66.79% and 47.87% for male and female respectively. The literacy rate of ST population of this block is 50.55%. The literacy rate among ST male is 59.50% and it is 41.56% for ST female. It is interesting to know that the male, female and gross literacy rate in general of Churchu block is lower than the district level but the male-female-gross ST literacy rate of this block is higher than the Hazaribagh district's average. The disparity between male and female literacy is a big problem. The literacy gap between ST male and ST female in Churchu block level (17.94%) is higher than district level (16.07%). The ST literacy gap is low in urban area of this block to the district level because only 7.92% tribal populations are living in urban areas of churchu block. It is obviously a matter of worry that the level of success in literacy among tribal communities in this block is considerably lower than state (57.1%) and

¹ Source: Jharkhand Economic Survey 2013-14, chapter 10, page 123

nation (63.1%) average. The lower percentage of literacy and huge literacy disparity are the serious causes of their under-development.

Calculation table showing Literacy Gap, Gross literacy rate and ST literacy rate of Hazaribagh district and Churchu block

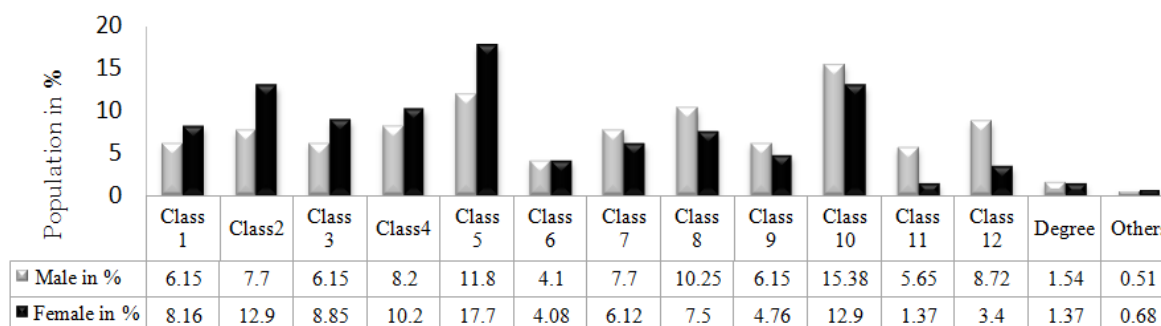
District/Block	Types	Gross Literates in %			Literacy Gap (Male-Female)	ST Literates in %			Literacy Gap(ST Male - ST Female)
		Persons	Males	Females		Persons	Males	Females	
Hazaribagh District	Total	58.41	66.91	49.45	17.46	48.72	56.77	40.7	16.07
	Rural	55.37	64.57	45.72	18.85	45.69	54.14	37.24	16.9
	Urban	74.55	79.04	69.63	9.41	71.64	76.96	66.49	10.47
Churchu	Total	57.54	66.79	47.87	18.92	50.55	59.5	41.56	17.94
	Rural	55.34	65.01	45.32	19.69	48.03	57.29	38.78	18.51
	Urban	72.65	78.56	66.05	12.51	79.82	84.6	74.8	9.8

Source: calculation on the basis of data from District Census Handbook Hazaribagh 2011

The education level among the tribal communities has been increasing with a considerable pace over the decades but the ST literacy rate is still below the gross literacy rate. We cannot consider those persons as literate who have only ability to signature. UNESCO has defined a literate person as “one who can with understanding both read and writes a short simple statement on his everyday life”. The 66 round report of NSSO 2009-’10 reveals that in India “the total tribal population of 15 years and above, 47 percent in rural areas and 21.8 percent in urban areas were illiterate. Further, in rural areas, while 24.2 percent were educated up to the primary level.....there were only 1.6 percent tribals with graduate and above qualification in rural areas, this percentage is comparatively much higher, i.e.,12.6 percent, in urban areas.”² Such condition can be explained on the basis of Churchu block level tribal literacy.

The education level tribal population can be summarized from the following diagrammatic representation that up to class 5 the class wise percentage of ST female population is higher than ST male population (total percentage From class 1 to 5:- ST male is 40.00% and ST female is 57.81%) but the enrollment rate of ST female to ST male is decreasing as the standard of education increases. One thing is quite clear that the percentage of ST students in this block is considerably low in respect of higher education. In secondary(class 9&10), higher secondary (11&12) and degree level(UG & PG) the enrollment of ST male & ST female is 21.45% & 17.66%, 14.37% & 4.77% and 1.54% & 1.37% respectively. A scanty of ST population (0.51 for male and 0.68 for female) have taken other educational stream. As per knowledge, Nursing and ITI have preferred by ST female and male respectively. This database and diagram reveals that most of the ST male and female population leaved their education at their child hood and the dropout percentage is higher among ST female than ST male. Only the new generation learners are continuing their studies in government or private aided institutions.

EDUCATION LEVEL OF MALE AND FEMALE ST POPULATION OF CHURCHU BLOCK, HAZARIBAGH



² Source: Social Problems in India, Third Edition, Page No. 182: Ram Ahuja

The roll strength of Govt. schools (57.90%) is more than

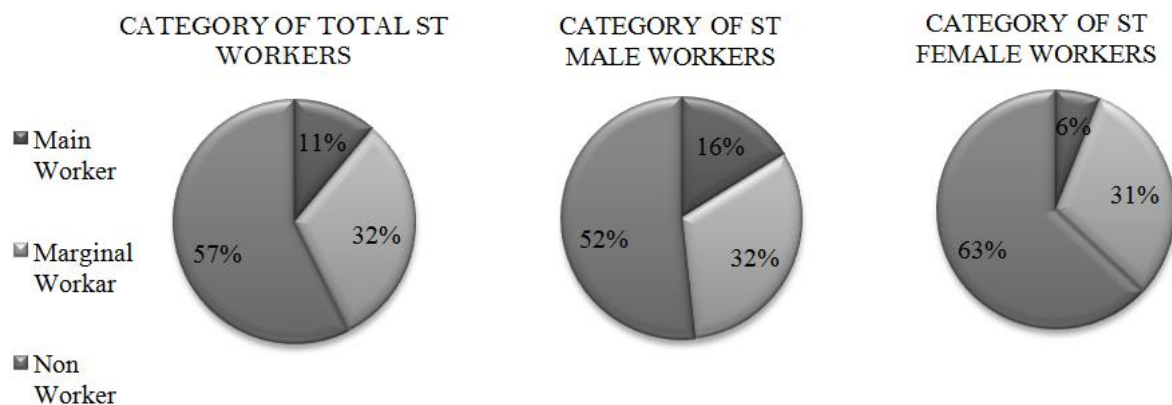
private (42.10%) schools in this block. There are 47 primary schools, 22 upper primary schools and 6 Government including local body high schools³.

Observation related to the occupation: Data table provides the information related to main, marginal and non-working population with rural-urban distribution and the pie diagrams shows the percentage wise distribution of workers and non-workers according to male, female and total tribal population.

In this block in respect of total population (12952), main worker (1441) is 11.12%, marginal worker (4081) is 31.51% and non-working ST population is 57.36%. This occupational status could be subdivided into ST male and ST female category. Here we can see that, main, marginal & non-workers to total ST male population (6487) is 1049 (16.17%), 2084 (32.13%) & 3354 (51.70%) respectively and to total ST female population (6465) is 392 (6.06%), 1997 (30.89%) & 4076 (63.05%) respectively.

Scheduled Tribes population				
Block Name	Types	Persons	Males	Females
Churchu	Total	12,952	6,487	6,465
	Rural	11,926	5,961	5,965
	Urban	1,026	526	500
Working Population				
Types of Worker		Persons	Males	Females
Total Worker	Total	5,522	3,133	2,389
	Rural	5,330	2,995	2,335
	Urban	192	138	54
Main Worker	Total	1,441	1,049	392
	Rural	1,353	991	362
	Urban	88	58	30
Marginal Worker	Total	4,081	2,084	1,997
	Rural	3,977	2,004	1,973
	Urban	104	80	24
Non Worker				
Types of Worker		Persons	Males	Females
Total		7,430	3,354	4,076
Rural		6,596	2,966	3,630
Urban		834	388	446

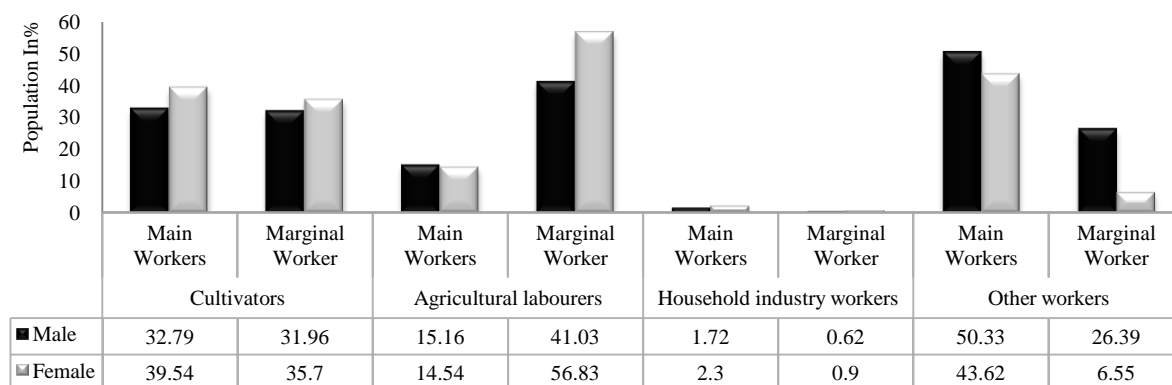
Further it can be explained by subdividing the category of



workers into Cultivators, Agricultural Labour, Household industry workers and other workers where we can found that in main workers category, most of the ST males and female have been engaged in 'other working categories' followed by 'cultivation', 'agricultural labour' & 'household industry' but in case of marginal workers category most of the ST male and female have been engage as 'agricultural labour' followed by 'cultivators', 'other workers' and 'household industry'.

³ Source : DISE 2010-11 & Supplementary AWP&B 2010-11

BAR DIAGRAM SHOWING OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE OF ST MALE AND FEMALE



Types of occupation are explained below:

Household industries: The contribution of household industries in their economy is too small. Basket making, rope making, wine preparation from mahua etc are most important household industries. Rope making is very famous among Birhor community.

Wage labour: Wage labours are persons employed in unorganized sector for remuneration. Most of the male and female tribes have adopted their primary occupation as wage labour. The reasons are firstly, Central and State Government and several NGOs are trying to develop the rural infrastructure. These projects provide stable and continuous flow of income to those people working as wage labour. MGNREGA is the greatest example among Government projects. 88.10% ST households have labour card under this employment guarantee scheme. Due to job security ST people are very much interested as wage workers and secondly, the undulating topography where most of the lands are not facilitated by irrigation system and the less productive makes them vulnerable.

Forest product collection: Average income from NTFP is approximately 10%. Some tribes engage themselves in cutting and selling fire woods as their occupation. Lac is encrusted secretion of an insect 'Laccifer lacca', an important non-timber forest product (NTFP) having great potentiality of income generation. Some of the tribal peoples have been engage with the cultivation of this. The production of it is much low but NGOs are providing their best efforts to skilled the people for the Lac cultivation. The other two important forest products are Karanj (botanical name: Pongamia pinnata, oil extracted from it) and Mahua (botanical name: Madhuca indica, wine is prepared from mahua flower). Maximum income is generated from Mahua. Besides these the minor forest products like Bamboo, Sabai grass and Kendu leaves are collected from the forest. ST Females are played an active role in collection and selling of Kendu leaves. Women are also participating in Karanj collection, Mahua collection and wine preparation. Forest product collection in sustainable way could be an important source of cash flow to the tribal communities in lean season.

Agriculture and livestock: Owing to agro-climatic region VII, this area has large volume of water resource, very low productive agricultural land, predominance of subsistence type of agriculture and high degree of soil related problems. This area receives annual rainfall of 1250mm (average) and more than 80% rainfall occur in monsoon season which is sufficient for 'kharif crop' but due to uneven-sloppy topography with subsurface granitic and gneissic rock, more than 80% of rain water drains as surface runoff. Due to lack of sufficient rainwater harvesting and irrigation the production of 'rabi crop' is very low.

The average landholding among ST population is 1.6 acre. The total land of tribals can divided into fertile land/low land (15%), marginally fertile land (10%), mid upland (20%), less fertile upland (35%) and home stayed land (20%). In Churchu block 23.16% land is agricultural land/ net sown area (Hazaribagh: 26.61%) and if we consider it as 100%, only 17.15% agricultural land has irrigation facility (district average, 14.5%). During the field survey only 4% ST population said that the irrigation facility is good and 7% said satisfactory where 68% expressed their negative satisfaction. No one give excellent rating for it. Open wells, ponds and lift irrigation are the main source of irrigation.

Two types of agriculture are existing there, firstly subsistence type and secondly mixed type. Subsistence type is because they plow for their own livelihood. Rice is the main crop but maize, oilseeds, gram, potato, tomato etc. are also cultivated there. Now KPS and SRI method have introduced in agriculture by which the food security level increases.

They are practicing animal husbandry along with agriculture. The livestock like cow, buffalo, bullock, pig, goat, poultry and duck provide alternative source of income to the marginalized ST Farmers. To some extent it helps them to tackle the threats of unemployment/under employment. Under the NABARD supported

project, livestock rearing become popular among the tribals. The vermin compost is used as fertilizer and the sale of it generates income.

Under TDF WADI program, the unfertile uplands where agricultural practices are less developed are mostly used for horticulture.

Work Participation Rate: Work Participation Rate can be define as percentage of working population to total population. In the regard of ST population, the WPR of churchu block is 42.63% (for ST males is 48.30% and ST females is 36.95%), higher than district (41.05%) and state average (40.1%)⁴. The Work Participation Rate for the ST population in both rural and urban area shows a distinctive picture. WPR in rural area is 44.69% with 50.24% for ST male and 39.15% for ST female but in urban area the WPR is 18.71% and the percentages for the ST male and ST female are 26.24% and 10.8% respectively.

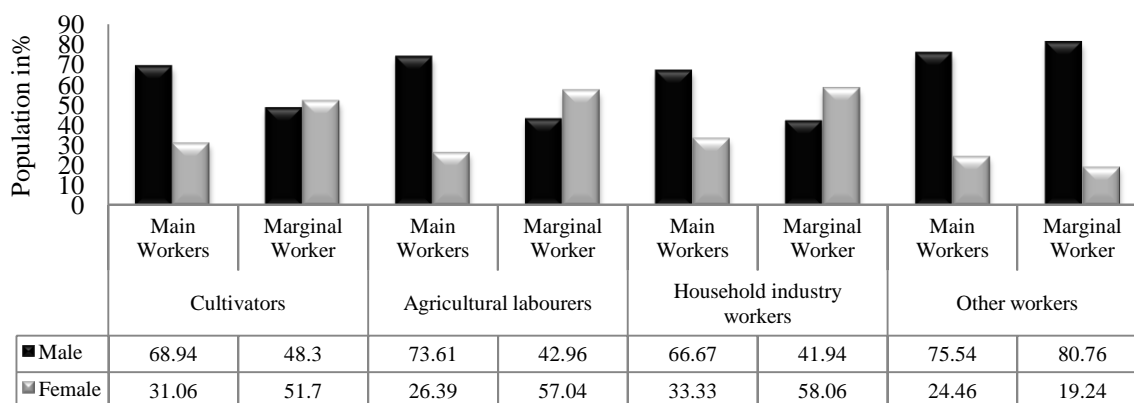
ST female Work Participation to 100 ST male can be computed through the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{No. of Female}}{\text{No. of Male}} \times 100 \%$$

The percentage of ST female to ST male in total ST worker, main ST worker and marginal ST worker category for the Churchu Block is 76.25%, 37.37 and 95.83% respectively. In rural areas, the percentage of ST female to ST male for category of main worker is 36.53% and marginal worker is 98.45% but in urban areas, the percentages become 51.72% and 30.00% respectively. It is because a majority of ST women like to focus on domestic work in urban area. But Lower accessibility and scatter settlement in rural area makes the livelihood of ST population more vulnerable. To carve this challenge, the females' participation in house hold earning is usually supportive. So, ST male and female both are participating in work as low wage worker, agricultural labour, livestock rancher, cultivator etc. But due to lack of technical skills, household responsibilities and prevailing social value the ST females are largely participated as marginal worker over main worker.

The micro level analysis shows this fact. Here we can see that in each and every main working category, the participation rate of ST male is higher than ST female but in case of marginal working category, except 'other workers', the participation rate of ST female is higher than ST male. The hard labour intensive jobs are basically done by ST male population and due to this in other working category, ST males are dominating.

BAR DIAGRAM SHOWING OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE OF ST MALE AND FEMALE



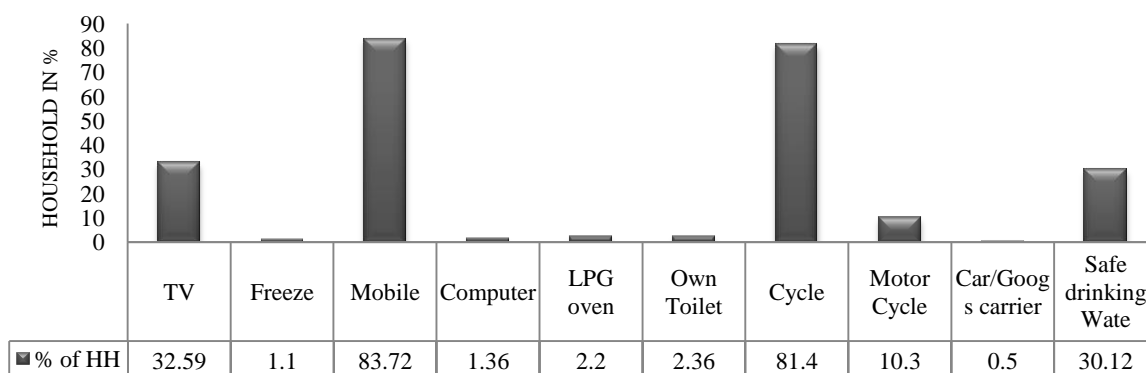
Migration among tribal people: Tribal dominated villages are characterized by higher percentage of out migration instead of non tribal dominating villages. The land less and marginal farmers of tribal community are migrating (10% to 15%) for their earnings. Now a days, the intensity of migration has reduced. Life becomes relatively stable with the introduction of several employment guarantee schemes. Permanent migration is very few, seasonal migration is continuing.

Observation related to their wellbeing: On the basis of available information related to their household amenities and expected income, their social level of development can be assumed.

Gadget: Most of them are using mobile phones (83.72%) and cycles (81.4%) but other necessary gadgets related to wellbeing like L.P.G oven (2.20%), own toilet

⁴ Source: Jharkhand Economic Survey 2013-14 (National Sample Survey, 2011-12), page:94

AVAILABILITY OF ASSETS TO ST POPULATION



(2.36%) and the luxury gadgets like refrigerator (1.1), car/goods carrier (0.5), computer (1.36%), motor cycle (10.30%) are less accessible to them. Only 30.12% ST households are consuming of safe drinking water (covered well, hand pump, tap water). Most of the tribal households collect their drinking water from uncovered well. Approx 55% tribal households have electricity facility and interrupted electricity becomes a big problem. It is observed that most of rural tribe women are using firewood and timbers as their fuel for cooking which may causes problem for their health.

Health: Malaria and diarrhea are common diseases in this block. Health centers are few in numbers. The villagers are also served by mobile doctors. The minor operations are done in the block's health centers but the critical cases are transferred to the sadar hospital.

Transport: Transport is a biggest problem of this region. Except state and national highway the condition of inter village and intra Village roads are not satisfactory. Walking and cycling are the main mode of transportation. The students spent a major portion of time to cover the distance to the schools. The foot tracks along the forest are dangerous after sun set and the level of risk touches the peak during the rainy season.

PDS system: Public distribution system is available and Kerosene, rice, salt etc are distributed according to their category of ration cards. Through field survey it had been identified that 15.28% households have no ration card and 23.26%, 42.86% & 18.6% households have APL, BPL & AAY category ration card. Though the type of ration card cannot reveals the exact truth of poverty but as a gross substance it could be assume that there is a huge number of household who are very poor according to their social requirement.

Banking facility: On the basis of field survey it is observed that 91.30% ST household has bank account where only 8.20% has insurance policies (According to 2011 census in this block, 70.10% of total household is connected with banking sector). Around 35 % ST agriculturalist has Kisan Credit Card facility.

V. Conclusion:

India is focusing towards inclusive growth where different types of programs are launched to develop the tribal communities. NABARD have been sponsoring so many livelihood developments, watershed development, Lead Crop, WADI, livestock management programmes. This Block is also experiencing with these.

The literacy level among the tribal population is not up to the mark. Higher percentage of school dropout, huge gap in ST male and ST female literacy rate, lower access of essential assets and higher level of marginal workers reveal the fact that wellbeing level of tribal population is considerably low. The Work Participation Rate also high which reflects more vulnerability than well being among tribal communities. NGOs are also providing their best effort to uplift those downtrodden people along with the Central and State Government. Self Help Group, cooperative marketing, empowering women, skill development, improve institutional condition of agriculture, education and social awareness are showing the light of hope to them.

Acknowledgement:

I convey my gratitude to the all friends, teacher and guide. I would like to express my heartiest thanks to the organization named 'SUPPORT' and the Local Resource Persons who have helped me enough.

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