



**A SOCIOLOGICAL PROBLEM OF WANDERING TRIBES IN KARNATAKA: A
STUDY ON HYDERABAD KARNATAKA REGION**

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Abstract

The study was conducted to assess the Socio-economic status of wandering tribes in H K Region in Karnataka state. Primary data was collected through structured interview schedule using sample size of 400 tribes based on proportionate sampling techniques. More than half the respondents belonged to middle age group and were illiterates. Their main occupation was small business. Majority of them lived in semi pucca type of houses (67%). More than half of the respondents belonged to low income group and maintained nuclear family (73%). The social participation and interaction with non-tribal (public) was poor. They live in poor sanitation conditions and unhygienic routine practices (lack of toilets and sanitary conditions for women in the community) with semi-nomadic lifestyle and unhealthy feeding habits. They had a frequent visit to forest areas for fetching some forestry products and part of their traditional practices. The nutrition level of community was poor. The livestock rearing practices was nil with no animals but some respondents had backyard poultry, sheep and goat along with companion animals.

Keywords: wandering tribes, social problems, H K Region, Karnataka

I. INTRODUCTION:

India is a culturally diverse country in which people with diverse socio-cultural and economic background having equal opportunities in different fields with dignity and honor lives. There are over 826 languages and thousands of dialects spoken and 70 per cent of the populations live in rural areas. In reality of such diversified society, most of all communities get registered during the census, but a few go unnoticed. On the other hand, some important but

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rarest of rare population do not gain proper recognition for development even though they are registered under census. Nomadic tribes are such communities who are kept away from social recognition and major developmental programmes of the state. Since they are unorganized, minority populate and being historically disadvantaged, were put under different social categories. In this categorization, the communities that were earlier part of denotified, nomadic and Semi-nomadic tribes were also included in the list of SC, ST and OBC Categories.

According to the Anthropological survey of India, this prosperous region has provided a vast scope for the development of a variety of tribal cult where different types of tribal people have been living. This paper intends to examine the special features and significance of the Tribal cult of H K Region. There are good number of Tribal communities in Karnataka in general and H K Region in particular. They are generally perceived as unprivileged and socially educationally and economically backward people. They lived in the relatively isolated pockets or remote areas, away from the fertile river valleys, and outside the framework of the peasant formations. The Geographical or the location constraints have served as hurdles for their response to the process of rapid social change.

The Government has reportedly given its approval for a comprehensive survey of 21 nomadic communities that have not been properly identified by any of the State backward class commissions. Dombi Dasa, Helava, Budaga Jangama, Durga Murgi, Ghesad, Kalandar, Darvesh and Karkarmandi are some of the nomadic tribes of Karnataka. The nomadic communities, with a total population of around six lakh, are spread out in different regions and come under Scheduled Castes, Schedule Tribes and Other Backward Classes (OBC) categories.

Table:1

Nomadic Tribes in Karnataka

1. Aghori, Karkarmunda	34. Koraga
2. Bahurupi	35. Korama
3. Balasanthoshi joshi	36. Korava
4. Banjara	37. Kudia
5. Barda	38. Kudubi
6. Budga Jangam	39. Kuravan
7. Bhamta, Takari, Uchillian	40. Kuruba
8. Bhovi	41. Kurumans
9. Budbudki, Budbudkala, Devari, Joshi	42. Madari

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10. Chenchu	43. Maha Malasar
11. Chitodia/ Chitodia Vaidu/ Chitodia Lohar	44. Maila
12. (i) Dang-Dasar	45. Mala Dasari
(ii) Chenna-Dasar, Holaya Dasar	46. Malaikudi
13. (i) Dakkal, Dokkalwar	47. Malayekandi
(ii) Dakkaliga	48. Malasar
14. Gamit	49. Maleru
15. Ganti Ghores	50. Mang Garudi
16. Garoda, Garo	51. Maratha
17. Ghadi	52. Modikara
18. Giddidki	53. Mukri
19. Gondali, Ghondali, Gondaliga, Gondhali, Gondhalli	54. Myasa Beda
20. Handi Jogis	55. Nalkadaya
21. Hakkipikki	56. Nandiwala
22. Haranshikari, Chigaribetegar, Vaghri, Wagiri	57. Nat
23. Helava, Holeva	58. Paniyan
24. Holey Dasari	59. Panniandi
25. Irani	60. Palliyan
26. Irular	61. Pardhi
27. Jatigar	62. Shikkaligar, Shikalgar, Sikkaligar
28. Jenu Kuruba	63. Sholaga
29. Jogi	64. Siddi
30. Kattunayakan	65. Silleyathas
31. Kepmaris	66. Sindhollu, Chindollu
32. Khivat/Khiwari	67. Sudugadu Siddha
33. Koracha	68. Tirgar, Tirbanda
	69. Toda
	70. Vitolia, Kotwalia, Barodia

The wandering are known for their cultural richness, special cultural identity and diversity but have lot of problems which influence them socially, culturally as well as economically. Their lifestyles have progressively come under strain (Dutt, 2004). The major difficulties of nomadic found through the investigation of major research projects are never seen their problems as they were been the part of their culture. According to National Convention, 2005 and Krätli & Dyer, 2009, extreme poverty, ignorance from outside world, early marriage,

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homeless and migratory life, illiteracy, superstitions, unemployment, lack of unity and political leadership, scattered groups, alcoholism, drug abuse, lack of civic amenities, social services in the nomadic settlements, harassment by police, loss of traditional occupations, inconvenient present occupation such as working on daily wages in construction group, hotels, robbery and thieves, difficulty in perusing formal schooling due to nomadic life style of the parents, non availing of the welfare measures schemes, physical and mental disabilities among the old aged, malnutrition, lack of basic facilities such as safe drinking water, electricity, afraid of government officials, unavailability of birth certificate resulting in difficulties with schooling, identification with citizenship, pressure of private loans, health issues due to life style, malnutrition and hygiene etc.

Due to the changing socio-economic face of the current society, many of them have been forced to give up their peripatetic lifestyle and settle down to earn their livelihood. Wandering tribes have found it increasingly difficult to meet their basic requirements of shelter, security, livelihood etc.

Further they have found extremely difficult to gain the acceptance of the societies they have chosen to settle down with. This may due to cultural difference and the way of upbringing. Out of these problems highly complicated is they are facing is that identity crisis. The wandering tribes are still suffering from the identity crisis because of their wandering life style. This has kept them away from accessibility for ration cards, voter identity cards and are cut off from most State services. But it is not the case of H K Region. The tribes are out of such crucial identity crisis by possessing their ration cards and voters identity cards. But with practice of caste system, are still treated as untouchable by the society.

II. METHODOLOGY:

The present study was undertaken to understand the social problems of wandering tribes of H K Region it includes 6 districts Kalabuaragi, Bidar, Raichur, Yadagir, Raichur and Ballari. The specific objectives of the study were to understand their lifestyle with special focus on women and children, to study the social problems faced by the tribal community in this region. The study adopts Explorative research design along with interview schedules and interview guide as tool for data collection. Simple random sampling method is adopted for the study. 400 respondents from different segment of the communities such as male representatives, female representatives, the community leaders and the fellow members have been considered for the

study. The primary data collected has been analysed by adopting the simple descriptive statistical measure.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

The study provided the following information regarding the socio-economic profiles of tribes.

A. Age:-

More than half of the respondents belonged to middle age at the time of enquiry, followed by more than one fourth in young age and 7 per cent in old categories (Table.).

B. Gender:-

The female respondents were 58 per cent and 42 per cent were males. The reason for this might be due to the reason that males were involved more in agriculture than the females (Table.2).

C. Literacy:-

The majority (58%) of the tribes were illiterates followed by 27 per cent can read and write, 15 per cent can only read (Table. 2). The literacy rate among the tribes, was 36.0 per cent in 1991 and been increased to 48.3 percent in 2001 and latest to 53.9 per cent in 2011 (Roy et al., 2015). Hence the overall status of literacy in wandering tribe is to improved.

D. Family size:-

Family size of more than half (58%) of the respondents were in medium size (3-5) category, while 29 per cent and 13 per cent belonged to large and small family size categories respectively (Table. 2). Dakshayani and Gangadhar, 2016 reported that nuclear family concept in Wandering tribes is more preferred.

E. Family type:-

The nuclear family is common and accounts for nearly 73 per cent of the respondents, while 27 per cent in the joint family categories respectively (Table. 2).

F. Type of house owned:-

Housing pattern of Wandering tribes is regularized with about 67 per cent of respondents were residing in semi-pucca type of house. About 10 per cent owned pucca type of house, whereas 23 per cent owned kutcha house for living (Table. 2).

G. Social Participation:-

The wandering tribe people found to be shy and conservative with majority (95%) of respondents did not have any social participation. It is evident that only 5 per cent of respondents had social participation (Table. 2).

H. Occupation:-

The visit to forest areas is been monitored by forestry department, so much of tribes (55%) were involved in business. About 23 per cent were involved in labor work, 16 per cent were involved in agriculture, where rest 5 per cent were private employees and only one is working in government sector (Table. 3).

I. Land holding:-

The Wandering tribes migrated long back to this place and were allotted with some land by government but most of them have lost or sold due to improper guidance and literacy. It is evident that more than half (55%) of the respondents had 1 acre of land, whereas 33 per cent of respondents had 1-2 acres of land, only 12 per cent of respondents had more than 2 acres of land (Table. 3).

J. Annual Income:-

The income varies round the year where more than half (65%) of the respondents had low level of annual income followed by medium level (32%) and 3 per cent with high income (Table. 3). This is mainly because the fluctuation in business proportionate and availability of raw materials or buyers. Similar results were found in bedara tribe as reported by Ranganatha and Vijaya, 2014.

K. Livestock Possession:-

The poor livestock hoarding been noticed by Wandering tribes. They revealed that 34 per cent of respondents were rearing backyard poultry followed by 5 per cent of respondents with sheep and goat. But none had cattle/buffalo which is indirectly affecting the nutritional status among the community (Table. 3).

K. Material possession:-

The modern technological equipment's made the human life much easier with ease of performing the work. The possession by Wandering tribes is not less than any other general populations. Most of the respondents had the motorcycle, television and mobile in their houses (Table. 3).

L. Consumption of Livestock products:-

All the respondents had the habit of consuming chicken, mutton and pork, but consumption of egg and milk was low (Table. 3). Dakshayani and Gangadhar, 2008 has reported that various breast feeding strategy in wandering tribe population which has direct role in nutritional status of the tribes.

IV. CONCLUSION:

The social participation of Wandering tribes is very low, may be the low literacy rate or social domination by other higher hierarchy dominance. More than half of the respondents belonged to middle age at the time of enquiry. Majority of them were illiterates. More than half of the respondents belonged to low family income group and maintained nuclear family (73%). More than half (58%) of the respondents were in medium size (3-5) category. Majority of tribes (55%) were involved in business. The respondents maintained backyard poultry (34%), sheep and goat (5%). All the respondents were meat consumers, still the nutritional status is low because of unbalanced food ration.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) Provide the livestock to interested people on loan repayment basis.
- 2) Improve the nutritional status of female and children by supplements.
- 3) Improve the educational setup and promote the schooling days in children and possibility of adult education.
- 4) Health education of sanitation and hygienic practices.
- 5) Providing places in local statutory body for social participation and representation.

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Table 2:
Social parameters and profile regarding wandering tribes with living status of study population (n: 400)

Variables	Categories	Number	Percentage
Age	Young (<20years)	140	35
	Mid (20-40 years)	232	58
	Old (>40 years)	28	7%
Sex	Male	168	42
	Female	232	58
Literacy	Read only	60	15
	Read and write	108	27
	Illiterate	232	58
Family size	Small (<2)	52	13
	Medium (3-5)	232	58
	Large (>5)	116	29
Family type	Nuclear	292	73
	Joint	108	27
Type of houses owned	Kutch house	92	42
	Semi-pucca house	268	67
	Pucca house	40	10
Social Participation	Yes	20	5
	No	380	95

Source: Filed Study

Table 3:
Economic parameters and profile regarding wandering tribes with living status of study population (n: 400)

Variables	Categories	Respondents	%
Primary Occupation	Labour	92	23%
	Agriculture	64	16%
	Private employees	20	05%
	Govt. employee	4	1
	Business	220	55
Land holding	Low <1 acres	220	55
	Mid 1-2 acres	132	33
	High >2 acres	48	12
Annual Income	Low<50k	260	65
	Mid 50000- 1lac	128	32
	High >1 lac	12	03
Livestock population	Cattle	Nil	00
	Sheep and goat	20	5
	Backyard poultry	134	34
Material possession	Motorcycle	100	25
	TV	328	82
	Mobile	376	94
	Fridge	128	32
Consumption of livestock products	Chicken	400	100
	Mutton	400	100
	Pork	400	100
	Milk	160	40

Source: Filed Study