

Income Generation and Expenditure Pattern of Tribal Farmers of South Eastern Madhya Pradesh

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INTRODUCTION

The produces of agriculture sector of tribal areas are generally not sufficient to the level of annual requirements of their families, this may be the prime reason by which the tribals are also involved in animal husbandry, labour works etc. and are going to the forests for the collection of forest produces like fuel wood, 'Mahua', tendu leave, 'Harraseed', bamboo, honey etc, which provide them some rupees to buy the necessary house hold items. These source of income (other than agriculture) have a great importance in the tribals' economy to sustain their income for the livelihood, because their problem is only being with needs of two meals a day for the family and consequently giving birth to other problems like fever and diseases and ends with provision of roof over their heads, that is why, when they try to find the fulfillment of these bare necessity, every thing else including education received a cold shoulder. Tribals mainly expend their incomes on household items including liquors. Therefore, the present study was designed to study the various income generation sources and their contribution to total income and the expenditure pattern of tribal farmers with the following specific objectives.

(1) To study the involvement of tribal farmers in various occupations.

(2) To study the extent of earning and expenditure pattern of tribal farmers.

(3) To determine average annual earning from various sources and average expenditure on various modes of tribal farmers.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in the maximum tribal populated district of Madhya Pradesh, Bastar, the biggest district of M.P. that is divided into two agricultural districts namely North Bastar and South Bastar. South bastar agriculture district was selected due to high percentage of tribal population than the north bastar agriculture district. This agriculture district has three tehsils. The tehsil Dantewara and block Dantewara was selected due to maximum population among other tehsils and respective blocks respectively.

On the basis of distance from block headquarters, the whole block was divided into four equal strata and from the total villages of each strata 15 per cent villages were selected randomly which is total 10. Ten percent tribal farmers from each selected

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villages were selected randomly from the list of farmers which was prepared in consultation with the concerned village sarpanch, school teachers, patwari, RAEO etc. Thus the total size of sample was 107 tribal farmers.

The data were collected by personal interview method with the help of structured interview schedule which was prepared and edited according to the requirement needed after pretesting.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The distribution of respondents according to their involvement in various occupations shows (Table 1) that all the respondents were involved in agriculture. Animal husbandry, forest product collection and preparation of liquors were also the important subsidiary occupations practiced by the 90.65, 82.24 and 73.83 per cent respondents respectively. It was also found that 40.19 per cent respondents were labourer, 10.28 per cent were in some services and 2.80 per cent respondents were engaged in some other business. The table also reveals that, although agriculture was their main occupation but the majority of the respondents depend on other occupations also for the purpose of earning to meet the families' requirements. Out of the total respondents who prepared liquors, 43.93 per cent did not sale it to market for earning since they consumed it by themselves. It was also found that 40.19 per cent respondents were labourers and it was doing largely for earning purpose.

It is evident from the Table 2 that the majority of the respondents, 67.29 per cent were practising three to four and 26.17 per

cent were involved in 5 to 6 occupations, 5.61 per cent respondents were found to be involved in 1 to 2 occupations, also 0.93 per cent respondents were having involvement in more than 6 occupations.

The data compiled in Table 3 show that among various sources of income, 42.06 per cent respondents earned more than 50 per cent of their total income from agriculture, 37.38 per cent earned upto 50 per cent from agriculture. Minor forest products were found second important sources of income by which 4.67 and 72.90 per cent respondents got above 50 and upto 50 per cent annual income respectively, while, 10.28, 9.34 and 2.80 per cent respondents received more than 50 per cent annual income from labour, services and animal husbandry respectively. Also 48.60, 28.97, 18.97 and 2.80 per cent respondents reported that they got upto 50 per cent annual income from animal husbandry, labour, liquors and businesses respectively. It was also found that 97.20, 89.73, 70.10, 60.75, 48.60, 22.43 and 20.56 per cent respondents did not receive any monetary earning from business, service, liquor, labour, animal husbandry, minor forest products and agriculture respectively. This clearly indicates the sustenance of income by the tribal farmers through various sources.

The data compiled in Table 4 show the annual family income of respondents. It was found that, 21.49 per cent respondents were below the poverty line having less than Rs. 6500 per annum family income, while majority of respondents, 58.87 per cent had low and low-medium annual income, 7.48 per cent respondents had medium and only 4.68

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Table : 1 Distribution of respondents according to their occupations and earning sources. (N=107)

Sr. No.	Occupation	Respondents			
		Involved		Source of income	
		No.	%	No.	%
1.	Agriculture	107	100.00	85	79.44
2.	Animal Husbandry	97	90.65	55	51.40
3.	Forest Product Collection	88	82.24	83	77.52
4.	Labour	43	40.19	42	39.25
5.	Services	11	10.27	11	10.27
6.	Business	03	2.80	03	2.80
7.	Liquors preparation, extraction of 'tadi' etc.	79	73.83	34	29.90

Table : 2 Distribution of respondents according to their involvement in number of occupations (N=107)

Sr. No.	Category	No.	Percentage
1.	1 to 2 Occupations	06	5.61
2.	3 to 4 Occupations	72	67.29
3.	5 to 6 Occupations	28	26.17
4.	above 6 Occupations	01	0.93

Table : 3 Percentage distribution of respondents according to their extent of income from various sources. (N=107)

Sr. No.	Source	Extent of earning (% respondents)		
		Nil	Up to 50%	Above 50%
1.	Agriculture	20.56	37.38	42.06
2.	Animal Husbandry	48.60	48.60	2.80
3.	Minor Forest Products	22.43	72.90	4.67
4.	Labour	60.75	28.97	10.28
5.	Services	89.73	0.93	9.34
6.	Business	97.20	2.80	0.00
7.	Liquors	70.10	28.97	0.93

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Table : 4 Distribution of respondents according to their annual family income (in Rs.)
(N=107)

Sr. No.	Category	No.	Percentage
1.	Very low income (Below 6500)	23	21.49
2.	Low income (6501 - 13000)	36	33.64
3.	Low-medium income (13001 - 20000)	27	25.23
4.	Medium income (20001 - 30000)	08	7.48
5.	High-medium income (30001 - 45000)	08	7.48
6.	High income (Above 45000)	05	4.68

Table : 5 Percentage distribution of respondents according to their extent of expenditure on various modes.
(N=107)

Sr. No.	Modes	Extent of expenditure (% respondents)					
		Nil	Up to 5%	5.01 to 10%	10.01 to 25%	25.01 to 50%	Above 50%
1.	Buying of land, cattle, Implements etc.	86.92	0.93	2.80	4.67	3.74	0.93
2.	House making and its maintainance	60.75	24.30	11.21	2.80	0.93	0.00
3.	Agricultural purpose (inputs, payments etc.)	51.40	23.36	14.02	11.21	0.00	0.00
4.	Domestic consumption (food, clothing etc.)	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.87	28.97	69.16
5.	Buying and maintainance of Radio, news papers, magazines etc.	83.18	16.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Education	57.01	21.50	15.89	4.67	0.93	0.00
7.	Celebrations	6.54	19.63	38.32	33.64	1.87	0.00
8.	Smoking tobacco including Gudakhu	4.67	58.88	28.04	8.41	0.00	0.00
9.	Liquours	15.89	19.63	27.10	28.97	8.41	0.00
10.	Other (Miscellaneous)	85.98	12.15	1.87	0.00	0.00	0.00

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percent respondents were found in high income category with more than Rs. 45000 annual income of the family.

The data compiled in Table 5 show the percentage distribution of respondents according to their extent of expenditure on various modes. It reveals that all the respondents expend their income on domestic purposes like food, clothing etc. Out of which majority, 69.16 per cent of the respondents expend their more than 50 per cent income on this mode. It was also found that most of the respondents expend their income on smoking including tobacco, 'gudakhu' etc. (95.33 per cent), ceremonies (93.46 per cent) and liquors (84.11 per cent) but the amount of expenditure on above modes was mostly up to 10 per cent of the total expenditure per annum. The 86.92, 83.18 and 85.98 per cent respondents reported that they did not make any expenditure on buying of land, cattle, implements etc, buying and maintenance of radio/TV, news paper etc. mass/printed media and miscellaneous modes respectively. From the agriculture point of view, it was reported by more than 50 per cent of the respondents that they did not make any expenditure on the agricultural inputs like fertilizers, seed, pesticides, fungicides etc.

The data in Table 6 show the general profile of annual income and expenditure pattern of tribal farmers, particularly in Danteware block of Bastar. It was found that agriculture contributes to 40.90 per cent to their total average earning. Tribal farmers generally collect products and sell them, it was found that this activity contributes 18.13

per cent to their total average earning, it was also found that 17.08 per cent earning of the respondents was from labour works, 11.03 per cent from animal husbandry, 7.80 percent from services, 3.91 per cent from the selling of the liquors and 1.15 per cent income was found to be received from other businesses.

Regarding the expenditure pattern of the respondents, domestic consumption was found as the most important mode of expenditure, on which they expend 58.46 per cent of their total earnings. Liquor was found second most important mode of expenditure on which farmers expend 12.71 per cent of their earnings. Also they expend 10.03 per cent on ceremonies and festivals and 4.73 per cent on smoking tobacco including 'Gudakhu'. Some part of tribals earning were also found to be expended on agricultural inputs (3.71 per cent), buying of implements, cattles, land etc. (2.97 per cent), house making and its maintenance (2.02 per cent), only 1.79 and 0.18 per cent earning were found to be expended on education and mass/printed media respectively. Also 3.40 per cent of the average expenditure was found on other modes, which are kept under the category of miscellaneous modes.

CONCLUSION

The results of the study thus indicate that the tribal farmers are generally involved in agriculture and allied activities, forest product collection is also an important element of earning in their simple life. It results in increase in the involvement on various occupations but decrease in their dependency was also found on one

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Table : 6 Average annual income and expenditure pattern of the respondents

Income				Expenditure			
Sr. No.	Source	% to total earning	Rank	Sr. No.	Mode	% to total expenditure	Rank
1.	Agriculture	40.90	I	1.	Buying of land, implements, cattles etc.	2.97	VII
2.	Animal Husbandry	11.03	IV	2.	House making & its maintainance	2.02	VIII
3.	Minor Forest Produces	18.13	II	3.	Agriicultural purpose	3.71	V
4.	Labour	17.08	III	4.	Domestic consumption	58.46	I
5.	Services	7.80	V	5.	Radio, Magazines, News paper etc.	0.18	X
6.	Businesses	1.15	VII	6.	Education	1.79	IX
7.	Liquors	3.91	VI	7.	Celebrations	10.03	III
				8.	Tobacco & smoking	4.73	IV
				9.	Liquours	12.71	II
				10.	Miscellaneous	3.40	VI

occupation. The annual family income was found mostly low or medium-low. Regarding expenditure pattern, most of the tribal farmers were involved in smoking and drinking which is the major cause of exhaustion of a sizable part of their income which is generated through hard working. Increase in productivity of crops and increase in educational status is a prerequisite for their development but the findings of present investigation indicate that more than half of the respondents did not make any expenditure on education as well as agriculture, among those who expend on the above two modes, the percentage of expenditure is found too low, this results poor social status and due to low productivity of

crops, scarcity of food and malnutrition is still existing in tribal dominated area of south-eastern Madhya Pradesh. Therefore in the light of present investigation it can be concluded that the health workers, development workers and agricultural extension workers should have to work hard in these and similar areas, they have to analyze existing situation of tribal families and to plan and execute the developmental activities accordingly so that the expenditure of tribals especially tribal farmers can be decreased in the modes like liquors, tobacco, smoking, ceremonies etc. and they have to help/guide the tribal farmers for increasing the investment on agriculture and education

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and Govt. have to provide necessary items, things for increasing the pace of educational and agricultural development without which

the socioeconomic status of tribal farmers will not be possible to rapidly change forward.

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❖ There are some occasions in which a man must tell half his secret, in order to conceal the rest; but there is seldom one in which a man should tell it all

- LORD CHESTERFIELD

❖ I can promise to be frank, but I can't promise to be impartial

- GOETHE

❖ Everything works for the best, even the worst intentions.

- LORD MELBOURNE