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RESEARCH NOTE

# Migration Habit and Overall Technological Gap of the Tribal Farmers

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## INTRODUCTION

There are altogether 427 tribal communities all over India. Among these, ninty four percent Indian tribes are living in rural India and 87.00 per cent of them are agriculturist and agricultural labourers having very low literacy level (16.35 per cent). In Gujarat 92.68 per cent tribes are living in rural areas and 86.00 per cent are agriculturist and agricultural labourers having 21.14 per cent of literacy. Tribal areas being hilly, rocky and the land being undulating, shallow having inferior type and very less awareness of agriculture resulting in backwardness. The tribal agriculture is mostly of subsistence in nature and characterised by the production of food grains just sufficient to meet their requirements generally at low level of living. The use of local seeds, growing rainfed crops, use of family labours, use of crude tools and implements production of self consumption constitute the main elements of such agriculture. Agricultur is the only source of livelihood for them. Their land is comparatively poor in quality and particularly without irrigation facilities. The agricultural production is far from assured and stable. Tribal farmers followed single cropping pattern. It is clear that not only capital or finance is the barrier of the tribal farmers but their ignorance towards new agricultural technology and conservativeness are also the obstacles in their progress. The ignorance of tribal farmers never persuades them to adopt the modem technology. The physical and mental separation of the tribal is responsible for their economic and social backwardness. They remain aloof from the rest of the society for generations. The isolation of the tribal areas from the out side world has prevented the tribal from being exposed to new ideas and they are therefore, extremely tradition bound and prime in their approach.

## METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in tribal area of Vadodara district of Gujarat state. Out of twelve talukas of Vadodara district, three talukas namely (1) Chhotaudepur (2) Naswadi and (3) Pavijetpur were purposively selected. These talukas possess more than fifty per cent of the tribal population and ITDP Chhotaudepur is also operating in these talukas.

The villages in each selected talukas were classified into there groups viz. (i) high (ii) medium and (iii) Low communication facilities score developed by Murthy and Singh and two villages from each group were selected randomly. Thus six villages from each taluka were selected. In all 18 villages were selected from the above three talukas for the

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present study. From each village 15 tribal farmers were selected randomly. Thus the total sample constituted 270 tribal farmers. Technological gap was measured with the help of technological gap index developed by All India co-ordincted Research Programme in extension education I.A.R.I. New Delhi (1979). For the purpose of technology four crops viz. paddy (drill), maize, tur and black-gram were selected for the present study. These four crops are major crops of the area. Overall technological gap was calculated by considering technological gap in each of the practice selected for major crops in this study for studying relationship with migration habit of the tribal farmers.

Migration habit refers to the migration of number of family member of the tribal farmers for getting extra income for their livelyhood. This was measured by asking question to the respondents that "Have anybody from your family migrated ? where and why ?" It was categorised as under :

(i) No migration
(ii) One member migrated
(iii) Two members migrated
(iv) More than two members migrated.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

It is fact that tribals from Vadodara district have been migrating in search of any type of labour work. Migration habit of tribals has relation with the total annual income of the tribal family. Here an attempt has been made to study the migration habit of the tribal families. Here the term "Migration" was defined as movement of the members of the tribal family to a place other than the place of their residence for searching any type of labour work and staying there for a time being. The information in this regard was collected and presented in Table 1.

The data presented in Table 1 clearly indicate that out of total 270 respondents, migration took place in the families of 162

**Table 1 : Information about migration habit of the tribal farmers.** **(N=270)**

| Sr. No. | Particulars | Number | Per cent |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Total number of sample haouse hold | 270 | - |
| 2. | Number of house holds from which migration took place | 162 | 60.00 |
| 3. | No migration | 108 | 40.00 |
| 4. | Total number of migrating persons | 368 | - |
| 5. | Average migrating persons per house holds | 2.27 | - |
| 6. | Migrated persons engaged in agricultural labour work | 260 | 70.65 |
| 7. | Migrated persons engaged in non-agricultural labour work | 108 | 29.35 |

respondents (60.00 per cent). The total number of migrating persons was 368 and the average number of migrating persons per house holds was 2.27. Out of total migrating persons, 70.65 per cent were engged in agricultural labour work, while 29.35 per cent of them were found to be engaged in non-agricultural labour work.

This finding was in confirmity with those of Nigra (1982) and Trivedi (1984).

To ascertain the relationship between migration habit of the respondents and their overall technological gap, the correlation co-efficient was applied. The zero order correlation is given in Table 2. The observed relationship is dicussed under subtitle as follows.

**Table 2 : Zero order correlation coefficient between migration habit of the tribal farmers and their overall technological gap. (n=270)**

| Sr. No. | Name of variable | r value |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Migration habit | - 0.21383* |

* Significant at 0.05 per cent level

The calculated correlation coefficient value of r = -0.21383 was significant at 0.05 level. It implies that as the migration habit increases, the overall technological gap decreases.

The probable reasons might be that the economic conditions of the tribal farmers was poor. They followed the single cropping pattern because there was limited irrigation facility. They have to be migrated in search of seasonal agricultural labour work in the forward areas where assured irrigation facilities are available. At the time of migration, the tribal farmers might have come in contact with the progressive farmers and they might have heard and seen the different high yielding varieties and their bumper yields. They might have seen the different no cost as well as low cost technologies of the various crops and it could have increased their knowledge level regarding the recommended technologies of various crops. When they come back from the migrated place, they might have adopted these new technologies on their own farms. So the migration habit increases, the overall technological gap decreases.