

IMPACT OF FOREST LAND ALLOTMENT ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT OF TRIBALS IN SOUTH GUJARAT

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ABSTRACT

As a part of forest related right i.e. Forest Right Act-2006, the state government has allotted forest land in all the 7 districts of South Gujarat to the tribal community. The state government has assigned the work of surveying about socio-economic change among tribals due to forest land allotment to the Navsari Agricultural University. The survey work was conducted during May-2013 in all the 7 districts of NAU jurisdiction. Proportionate random sampling technique was used and total 606 tribal beneficiaries were selected from the list received from the Tribal Sub Plan of concerned district. Majority (82.02 percent) of beneficiaries have received up to 2 acres land. Before receiving forest land right, tribal beneficiaries were utilizing this land, but due to forest protection work of forest employees, these tribal community was viewing it as hindrance work, so, they were receiving low production and income from the land. But, After receiving the right of forest land to tribals, majority (87.12 percent) of them has increased average annual income. In terms of average income in percent, 25.42 percent income was increased. After allotment of forest land, the migration in other area is also decreased i.e. negligible and standard of living is elevated. Due to more income received from these land, improvement is observed in purchasing power, housing, food, clothing, extension contact, bank liaison etc. Still, these tribal beneficiaries are in need of micro irrigation, land leveling facility etc. for future development.

Keywords : forest land allotment, economic empowerment, triable

INTRODUCTION

As a part of forest related right i.e. Forest Right Act-2006, the state government has allotted forest land in all the 7 districts of South Gujarat to the tribal community for economic and social empowerment

OBJECTIVES

- (a) To know the profile of tribals
- (b) To know the impact of forest land allotment on economic and social empowerment of tribals in south Gujarat

METHODOLOGY

The state government has assigned the work of surveying about socio-economic change among tribals due to forest land allotment to the Navsari Agricultural University. The survey work was conducted during May-2013 in all the 7 districts of NAU jurisdiction. Proportionate

random sampling technique was used and total 606 tribal beneficiaries were selected from the list received from the Tribal Sub Plan of concerned district. Data were collected with the help of structured schedule by personal interview from the beneficiaries. PG students and scientists of KVKs were involved in this work. The aims and objectives of the study were explained to the respondents, so as to get free response from them.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Profile of tribals

Table 1 : Distribution of beneficiaries according to their age n = 606

Sr. No.	Age	Number	Percent
1	Upto 35 years	11	70.21
2	35 to 50 years	354	72.34
3	Above 50 years	241	70.21

The data presented in Table 1 reveals that more than half of the beneficiaries were in the age group of 35 to 50 years.

Table 2 : Distribution of beneficiaries according to their family size
n = 606

Sr. No.	Family size	Number	Percent
1	Upto 4 members	41	6.77
2	5 to 8 members	412	67.99
3	More than 8 members	153	25.24

The data presented in Table 2 indicate that majority 67.99 per cent of beneficiaries have family size upto 5 to 8 members.

Table 3 : Distribution of beneficiaries according to their type of house
n = 606

Sr. No.	Type of house	Number	Percent
1	Kachha	142	23.43
2	Mix	346	57.10
3	Pakka	118	19.47

The data shown in Table 3 reveal that more than half of the beneficiaries were possessed mix material type house.

Table 4 : Distribution of beneficiaries according to land allotment
n = 606

Sr. No.	Alloted land (acre)	Number	Percent
1	Upto 1	338	55.78
2	More than 1 to 2	159	26.24
3	More than 2 to 3	93	15.35
4	More than 3 to 4	16	2.63
	Total	606	100.00

Table 7: Distribution of beneficiaries according to their increase in average annual income after receiving forest land
n = 606

Sr. No.	District	Average annual income before land received (₹)	Average annual income after land received (₹)	Average income increased (₹)	Average income increased (%)
1	Navsari	24450	30400	5950	24.33
2	Surat	23750	30187	6437	27.10
3	Tapi	22460	28404	5944	26.46
4	Dangs	18137	21915	3778	20.83
5	Valsad	22164	26267	5103	24.11
6	Bharuch	22278	28520	6242	28.00
7	Narmada	24918	31406	6488	26.04
	Average Income (₹)	22451	28157	5706	25.42

The data shown in Table 4 indicate that more than half of the beneficiaries have received land upto 1 acre under Forest Right Act

Table 5: Distribution of beneficiaries according to irrigation facility
n = 606

S.N.	Irrigation facility	Number	Per cent
1	Well	182	30.03
2	Pond	33	5.45
3	Check dam	29	4.79
4	Canal	84	13.86
5	No	278	45.87

The data presented in Table 5 indicate that more than half of beneficiaries possessed irrigation facility by use of different means while 45.87 per cent beneficiaries were not possessed any type of irrigation facility i.e. dependent on rain only.

Table 6 : Distribution of beneficiaries according to their mobile phone facility
n = 606

Sr. No.	Mobile phone facility	Number	Percent
1	Possessed	423	69.80
2	Not possessed	183	30.20

Majority of beneficiaries were possessed mobile phone facility as mentioned in above Table 6.

Overall, in all the 7 districts of south Gujarat, there is 25.42 percent increase in average annual income was observed after allotment of forest land to the beneficiaries.

General observations

Before receiving forest right, tribals were cultivating some forest land, but at that time tribals were observing the protection work of forest officers in the form of hindrance, so they were receiving less production and income.

After receiving forest land, tribals have felt ownership, hence more production is received, also migration is negligible nowadays.

Due to more income from agriculture and allied fields, purchasing power is increased which resulted in change in housing pattern, food, clothing etc. Positive change is observed in extension contact and bank liaison.

CONCLUSION

Before receiving forest land right, tribal beneficiaries were utilizing this land, but due to forest protection work of forest employees, these tribal community was viewing it as hindrance work, so, they were receiving low production and income from the land. But, After receiving the right of forest land to tribals, average income was increased by 25.42 percent. After allotment of forest land, the migration in other

area is also decreased i.e. negligible and standard of living is elevated. Due to more income received from these land, improvement is observed in purchasing power, housing, food, clothing, extension contact, bank liaison etc. Still, these tribal beneficiaries are in need of micro irrigation, land leveling facility etc. for future development. The finding is in line with the findings of Kavad et al. (2014)

SUGGESTIONS

- ♦ Major forest land given to tribals comes in catchment area of watershed. So, if micro irrigation is promoted then there is chance of introduction of new crops.
- ♦ Many tribals are cultivating fodder crops in allotted forest land hence there is good opportunity for animal husbandry.
- ♦ Major allotted land to tribals is not leveled hence if land leveling is promoted then production can be increased.

REFERENCE

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