

Original Research Article

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Employment Generation of Tribal Farmers of Adilabad and their relationship with Profile Characteristics

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ABSTRACT

Keywords

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The present study was conducted in Adilabad district of Telangana to study the profile and employment generation of tribal farmers. Total 120 respondents were randomly selected for the study and interviewed. Most of the (47.50 %) respondents belonged to medium category followed by low (30.80%) and high (21.70%) employment generation. Variables like farm size, training received, credit orientation, achievement motivation, social support, extension contact and mass media exposure were found to be positive and significant relationship with employment generation of sustainable livelihoods of tribal farmers.

Introduction

Economic and social empowerment and educational up-liftment of socially disadvantaged groups and marginalized sections of society is necessary for achieving faster and more inclusive development. There are twenty countries in the world with substantial tribal population.

India has the largest tribal population in the world. The tribal population of the country, as per 2011 census, is 10.43 crore, constituting 8.6 per cent of the total population. Tribal groups are very heterogeneous. India's tribals are a diverse and heterogeneous group. Some are still in the food gathering stage, others practice shifting cultivation, yet others may be pursuing primitive forms of agriculture.

Telangana state is very rich in the variety of cultures that represent all stages of human progress. We have the Chenchus, as primitive as those who lived in Stone Age and at the same time tribes such as Gonds who are in no way inferior to their neighbours. Andhs and Bhils are backward and yet assimilated enough to be hardly distinguished. From the Gond settled cultivators to the Koyas and Konda Reddis who are still found inclined to indulge in shifting cultivation, we see the Chenchus who would not care to produce anything and prefer to live on the roots, tubers and other forest produce. The sustainable livelihood approach enables development departments to improve the design and implementation of poverty alleviation efforts

in tribal areas. It helps to analyze opportunities and constraints of the tribal poor, builds better understanding of multiple perspectives, identifies what options have better potential to reduce poverty and what enabling conditions, policies and incentives are needed for the poor to increase the range of better livelihood options.

Hence, “a study on sustainable livelihoods of tribal farmers of Adilabad district in Telangana state” would enable development agencies to design appropriate and suitable programmes to create and provide sustainable livelihood options to tribal farmers.

Materials and Methods

For this study, *ex-post facto* research design was adopted. According to Kerlinger (1973), *ex-post facto* research is a systematic empirical enquiry, in which the scientists do not have direct control on influencing (independent) variables because their manifestations have already occurred. Telangana was purposively selected for the study as the researcher is from this state. Adilabad district of Telangana was purposively selected for the study as Adilabad district has a population of about 4,95,794 scheduled tribes and this district is ranked 3rd in scheduled tribes areas, after Khammam and Warangal in the state. Out of 53 mandals 35 mandals were having more tribal population. Out of 35 mandals two mandals were selected randomly. Three villages from each of the two mandals were selected by following simple random sampling method, thus making total of six villages. From each of the selected village twenty (20) respondents were selected by following random sampling procedure, thus making a total of 120 respondents.

Employment generation was operationalized as the mandays generated by the respondents due to undertaking of crop and livestock

enterprises, Non Timber Forest Products collection and through other Govt. programmes and schemes.

Scoring and categorization

A schedule was developed for the variable. It consists of list of livelihood measures and enterprises practiced by the respondents. The number of mandays generated in practicing these measures were recorded. The total score of each individual was worked out by summing up mandays generated through these livelihood measures. A score of 1 was assigned to every manday generated. The respondents were categorised into following three groups based on exclusive class interval method. The results were expressed in the form of frequency and percentages. The obtained scores varied from 370 and 810 (Table 3).

Results and Discussion

It was evident from table 1 that 47.50 per cent of respondents belonged to medium category followed by low (30.80%) and high (21.70%) employment generation.

Most of the respondents were under medium employment generation because most of them participated in agricultural related activities and seasonal forest produce collection only. Among all the livelihood sources, agriculture and horticulture dominated, but being mostly rainfed in nature and being season bound, resulted in medium to low level of employment generation. These findings are in contrary with the results of Krishna Prasad (2005) and in accordance with Kiran (2011)

Relationship between selected independent variables and employment generation

In order to study the relationship between the employment generation of sustainable

livelihoods of tribal farmers and the profile characteristics of tribal farmers, the correlation co-efficient (r) values were computed and findings are furnished here under.

The relationship between the level of employment generation of sustainable livelihoods of tribal and their profile characteristics was tested by relevant null and empirical hypotheses.

Null hypothesis

There will be no significant relationship between employment generation and sustainable livelihoods with their profile characteristics and both of these are independent.

Empirical hypothesis

There will be significant relationship between and their profile characteristics and both of these are dependent.

It is revealed from the table 2 that, calculated ' r ' values between training received, religious belief and the employment generation of sustainable livelihoods were greater than table ' r ' value at 0.05 level of probability, whereas, the calculated ' r ' value of the variables age, farm size, farming experience, credit orientation, achievement motivation, social support, extension contact, mass media exposure and ethnocentrism were greater than table ' r ' value at 0.01 level of probability. Hence, null hypothesis was rejected and empirical hypothesis was accepted. Therefore, it can be concluded that there was a positive and significant relationship between employment generation of sustainable livelihoods of farmers and the variables farm size, training received, credit orientation, achievement motivation, social support, extension contact and mass media exposure. On the other hand calculated ' r ' values between age, farming experience, religious

belief, ethnocentrism and the employment generation of sustainable livelihoods of farmers were less than table ' r ' value. Hence, null hypothesis was accepted.

Therefore, it can be concluded that there was no significant relationship between the employment generation of sustainable livelihoods of tribal farmers and education and risk orientation.

Age vs. employment generation

From the table 2 it is evident that age is showing negative significant relationship with employment generation. This may be due to the fact that most of the respondents were of middle to young age and were more interested in government employment like MGNREGA and other schemes compared to working in their fields due to the nature of work, convenience, easy earning and utilizing the facility provided by the government for them. They get engaged in working only for 100 days under upadhi hami.

Education vs. employment generation

It was evident from the table that education had no significant effect on the dependent variable employment generation. These findings are in accordance with the results of Prajapati *et al.*, (2014).

Farm size vs. employment generation

From the table 2 it is revealed that the variable farm size was showing positive and significant relationship with the dependent variable employment generation, which may be attributed to the fact that more the farm size, more will be the area under cultivation and other enterprises. The farmer and his family may get engaged more in production of crops and livestock, which directly

enhances the employment generation capacity of the respondents.

Farming experience vs. employment generation

The variable farming experience had negative and significant correlation with employment generation. The reason behind the negative trend may be due to the fact that most of the respondents were of middle to young age and had less experience in farming and were more inclined towards government schemes of employment generation where they get income as per the working hours.

Hence the trends shows, lesser the farming experience, more the employment generated.

Training received vs. employment generation

From the table 2 it was revealed that the variable training received showed positive and significant correlation with employment generation due to the fact that if the respondents received more number of trainings they were able to generate high employment with their improved knowledge and skill.

Table.1 Distribution of the farmers according to their employment generation (N=120)

Sl. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Low (370-517)	37	30.80
2	Medium (517-664)	59	47.50
3	High (664-810)	26	21.70
Total		120	100.00

Table.2 Relationship between independent variables and Employment generation of sustainable livelihoods of tribal farmers

Sl. No.	Characteristics	Correlation coefficient (r)
1	Age	-0.482**
2	Education	0.072
3	Farm size	0.481**
4	Farming experience	-0.441**
5	Training received	0.211*
6	Risk orientation	0.088
7	Religious belief	-0.211*
8	Credit orientation	0.254**
9	Achievement motivation	0.648**
10	Social support	0.352**
11	Extension contact	0.324**
12	Mass media exposure	0.452**
13.	Ethnocentrism	-0.321**

* Significant at 0.05 level of probability; ** Significant at 0.01 level of probability NS –Non Significant

Table.3 Scoring and categorization

Sl. No.	Category	Class interval
1.	Low employment generation	370 – 517
2.	Medium employment generation	517– 664
3.	High employment generation	664 – 810

So, the agencies or organizations involved in development of tribal farmers should initiate location specific and need based training programmes for the tribal farmers, preferably after due assessment of training needs of the tribal farmers for better participation by them, which would enable them to take up better income and income generating activities.

Risk orientation vs. employment generation

Findings of the investigation showed a non-significant relation between risk orientation and employment generation, which means employment generation was not affected by the level of risk orientation of the tribal farmers.

Religious belief vs. employment generation

Religious belief had negative and significant correlation with employment generation due to fact that in tribal communities superstitions were part and parcel of their cultural and religious beliefs. Such superstitions may be a source for reduced output in terms of employment generation as the farmers won't be willing to work on certain days, timings *etc.* Whereas, the tribal people with low religious belief may be willing to work, any time. Awareness programmes should be conducted in order to eliminate superstitions among the tribal communities like their belief that milk should not be sold, as it may bring bad omen or ill effect on their cattles. Further, during some of their festivals, which may go upto month long periods, they won't do any work and also won't allow any outsiders into their village.

It was also observed by the investigator that before starting the Ippa puvvu collection they give offerings to their Kuladevatha and pray for better employment for the season.

Credit orientation vs. employment generation

Credit orientation showed positive and significant correlation with employment generation means higher the credit orientation, higher will be the employment generated. The reason for such a positive relation may be due to the fact that with higher credit facilities, the tribal farmers can include more components and enterprises as their livelihood, which will automatically improve their employment generation capacity. Hence, the authorities concerned should look forward for making the credit mechanism more transparent and simple by bridging the existing gap in the banking system and formulate steps for uncomplicated repayment system.

Achievement motivation vs. employment generation

Achievement motivation had a positive and significant correlation with employment generation, means if the person is motivated to achieve will have better employment generation. It was observed that the respondents were lacking exposure to successful enterprises and better livelihood, which resulted in low goal setting, hence reduced motivation. So, the NGOs and development organizations in the area should design activities like exposure visits,

interaction sessions with progressive and successful farmers from similar conditions, so that the tribal farmers to get motivated to achieve. These findings are in accordance with the results of Dhanasree *et al.*, (2014)

Social support vs. employment generation

Social support had positive and significant correlation with employment generation. It was obvious that with better support from different government agencies, NGO's and friends, the respondents could improve their chances of employment generation. The agencies involved should try to improve the trust and faith of the tribal community towards them, in order to neutralize the xenophobia among the tribal communities and more efficient awareness programmes should be initiated in the study area.

Extension contact vs. employment generation

Extension contact had positive and significant correlation with employment generation. It may be attributed to the fact that with the increase in contact with extension activities and personals, there may be increased awareness and knowledge about the new livelihoods options, leading to more employment generation opportunities. To increase extension contact the government should provide facilities to extension officials who are working in such remote places and they may be given special rewards and incentives for extraordinary works. These findings are in accordance with the results of Dhanasree *et al.*, (2014)

Mass media exposure vs. employment generation

Mass media exposure had positive and significant correlation with employment generation. This trend may be due to the fact

that with sufficient exposure to mass media tools like, T.V, radio, kisan melas, ICT's, newspaper and agricultural magazines, tribal people can become aware about new employment generation activities.

For higher mass media exposure government should create access for the tribal community. Target based television shows and strengthening of ICT tools can also provide good platform for improved mass media exposure among the tribal farmers. Community radio can also be a good initiative for the study area, which can cater the information needs in local language.

Ethnocentrism vs. employment generation

There was a negative and significant correlation between ethnocentrism and the dependent variable, employment generation. This trend may be owing to the fact that the tribal have more respect for their culture and values and may feel reluctance to allow others to enter into their community and system. Due to their high ethnocentrism, they may get alienated from the development outside their community. This finding can be used by the agencies in the field to understand the lacuna and to reach these tribal farmers.

The tribal farmers should be made aware about the brighter side of things outside their community. More exposure to these tribal farmers can help the extension agencies to open new avenues in their livelihood, and may lead to better employment generation. The leaders locally called Patels among the groups should be identified and motivated to encourage others to take up new employment generation activities. These findings are in accordance with the results of Prajapati *et al.*, (2014).

From the above all it could be stated that the tribal farmers with high profile characteristics

like farm size, training received, credit orientation, achievement motivation, social support, extension contact and mass media exposure were shown high employment generation of sustainable livelihoods.

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