

Original Research Article

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Socio Economic Profile of Tribal Farmers in Nanded District of Maharashtra State, India

V.K. Gogi Reddy*, J.V. Ekale, M.V. Kulkarni and R.G. Nair

*Department of Extension Education,
Vasantnao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani. 431402 (M.S.), India*

**Corresponding author*

ABSTRACT

Keywords

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The present study was conducted in Nanded district of Marathwada region of Maharashtra state during the year 2018-2019. Tribal communities live in various ecological and geo-climatic conditions ranging from plains, forests to hills and inaccessible areas. From the study, it was observed that majority of the tribal farmers belonged to middle age category, mostly illiterates, having small farm size, with medium farming experience, no training received, with medium risk orientation, having medium religious belief, with medium achievement motivation, having medium extension contact, with medium mass media exposure and medium ethnocentrism. The aim of the study is to study the profile of the respondents and find out association between Asset generation and socio economic profile of the tribal farmers with respect to their sustainable livelihoods. From the study, it can be observed that there was a positive and significant relationship between Assets generation of sustainable livelihoods of farmers and the variables farm size, achievement motivation and mass media exposure.

Introduction

Tribal communities live, in various ecological and geo-climatic conditions ranging from plains and forests to hills and inaccessible areas While some tribal communities have adopted a mainstream way of life, at the other end of the spectrum, there are certain Scheduled Tribes, 75 in number known as

Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), who are characterised by

Pre-agriculture level of technology;

Stagnant or declining population;

Extremely low literacy; and

Subsistence level of economy.

In the world 20 countries have substantial tribal population, and India has the largest tribal population. In India the Scheduled Tribes are notified in 30 States/UTs and the number of individual ethnic groups, etc. notified as Scheduled Tribes is 705.

The tribal population of the country, as per 2011 census, is 10.43 crore, constituting 8.6% of the total population. 89.97% of them live in rural areas and 10.03% in urban areas. The decadal population growth of the tribal's from Census 2001 to 2011 has been 23.66% against the 17.69% of the entire population. The sex ratio for the overall population is 940 females per 1000 males and that of Scheduled Tribes 990 females per thousand males.

The present study was conducted in Nanded district which is having, Schedule Tribe Population 2,81,695 (Persons), 1,43,892 (Males), 1,37,803 (Females), Percentage of ST in total population (2.68) major schedule tribe population Andh (31.09%); Koli Mahadev, Dongar Koli (26.84%); Kolam, Mannervaru (20.56%); Gond, Rajgond, Arakh, Arrakh, Agaria, Asur, Badi Maria, Bada Maria, Bhatola, Bhimma, Bhuta, Koilabhuta, Koilabhuti, Bhar, Bisonhorn Maria, ChotaMaria, Dandami Maria, Dhuru, Dhurwa, Dhoba, Dhulia, Dorla, Gaiki, Gatta, Gatti, Gaita, Gond Gowari, Hill Maria, Kandra, Kalanga, Khatola, Koitar, Koya, Khirwar, Khirwara, Kucha Maria, Kuchaki Maria, Madia, Maria, Mana, Manne.

Materials and Methods

For this study, *ex-post facto* research design was adopted. According to Kerlinger (1968), *ex-post facto* research is a systematic empirical enquiry, in which the scientists do not have direct control on influencing variables because their manifestations have

already occurred. Influence about relations among variables are made without direct intervention, Sampling is the method of selecting a fraction of the population in such a way that the selected sample represents the population. For selection sample for the study, four stage sampling method namely selection of district, selection of talukas, selection of villages and selection of respondents was used.

Nanded district of Maharashtra was purposively selected for the study as, Nanded district has a population of about 2,81,695 scheduled tribes and this district is ranked 1st in scheduled tribes population in the Marathwada region, and ranked 15th in Maharashtra state. (Directorate of Census Operations, Maharashtra, 2013).

Nanded district having 16 talukas and all are having considerable tribal population, Kinwat, Hadgaon and Bhokar talukas are having highest tribal population. Kinwat and Bhokar talukas are randomly selected. Six villages from each of the two talukas were selected by following simple random sampling method, thus making total of twelve villages. From each of the selected village ten (10) respondents were selected by following random sampling procedure, thus making a total of 120 respondents.

The variables selected were- age, education, farm size, farming experience, training received, risk orientation, religious belief, achievement motivation, extension contact, mass media exposure and ethnocentrism. The interview schedule was developed and they were given code numbers for identification.

The respondents were requested to response verbally to all the questions. The analysis of data was carried out by using frequency, percentage, means, standard deviation, class interval.

Objective

To study the socio economic profile of the tribal farmers in Nanded district of Maharashtra state.

To find out association between assets generation and socio economic profile of the tribal farmers with respect to their sustainable livelihoods.

Results and Discussion

A number of socio economic characteristics were selected as variables to study the socio economic profile of farmers of the study area. The results obtained are given in Table 1. It can be observed that majority (60.00%) of the tribal farmers belonged to middle age category followed by old age (21.67%) and young (18.33%) categories. It could be observed that, majority of the tribal farmers were illiterates (33.33%), followed by secondary school (24.17%), primary level (23.33%), Higher (11.67%), graduates (5.83%) and post graduates (1.67%) education. It is revealed that most (32.50%) of the respondents belonged to small category followed by Big (25.83%), medium (24.17%) and marginal (17.50%) Farm Size categories. It was evident that (60.83%) of respondents had medium farming experience, followed by low (22.50%) and high (16.67%) farming experience respectively. It was noticed that (45.00%) of respondents belonged to no training category followed by medium category (27.50%), high (11.67%), low (10.83%) and very high (5.00%) trainings respectively. It was noticed that most (67.50%) of respondents had medium risk orientation followed by low (20.83%) and high (11.67%) risk orientation respectively. It was evident that majority (58.33%) respondent had medium religious belief, followed by low (23.33%) and high (18.33%) religious belief. It was evident that (60.00%) of respondents

belonged to medium achievement motivation category followed by low (24.17%) and high (15.83%) achievement motivation. It was evident that (56.67%) of respondents belonged to medium category followed by high (22.50%) and low (20.83%) extension contact respectively. It is revealed that (65.83%) of respondents belonged to medium category followed by high (17.50%) and low (16.67%) mass media exposure respectively. It was evident that (65.83%) of respondents belonged to medium category followed by low (17.50%) and high (16.67%) ethnocentrism respectively

Association between assets generation and socio economic profile of the tribal farmers with respect to their sustainable livelihoods

In order to study the relationship between the assets generation of tribal farmers from sustainable livelihoods and their profile characteristics, the correlation co-efficient (r) values were computed and findings are furnished here under. The relationship between the assets generation of tribal farmers from sustainable livelihoods and their profile characteristics was tested by relevant null and empirical hypotheses.

Association between age and assets generation

From the table 2 and figure 1, it was evident that a negative and significant correlation exists between age and asset 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 wage employment works under MGNREGA and other schemes as compared to working in their fields due to the nature of work, convenience, easy earning, secured income which helps in asset generation. The development agencies should create awareness and interest about diversified income generating activities among

the tribal community to increase their income which ultimately helps in increase their asset generation capacity. These findings are in accordance with the results of Prajapati *et al.*, (2014).

Association between Education and Assets Generation

From the table 2 and figure 1, it was evident that education had no significant effect on the dependent variable assets generation. These findings are in accordance with the results of Prajapati *et al.*, (2014) and Mahesh (2016).

Association between farm size and assets generation

From the table 2 and figure 1, it was apparent that a positive and significant correlation existed between farm size and assets generation. The reason behind this finding may be due to the fact that with more the farm size, farm implements and tools may be required in larger numbers, in addition dwellings, livestock and draft animals will also increase. Thus, more assets generation may become a necessity.

As majority of the respondents fall under small and medium farm size, and the asset generation also trending medium. The research institutes should come up with low cost tools, implements and dwelling options to suit the tribal community needs. These findings are in accordance with the results of Islam *et al.*, (2014) and Mahesh (2016).

Association between farming experience and assets generation

From the table 2 and figure 1, the variable farming experience had negative and significant correlation with asset generation. The reason behind the negative trend may be

due to the fact that the middle aged and young tribal farmers were more involved in relatively new technologies as compared to their older counterparts, who were still engaged in the old and traditional agricultural practices, which generates high income to young & medium age category as compared to old.

The government should take initiatives to identify the innovative ones among the group for diffusion of the new and suitable practices in the study area for better income generation among the tribal farmers, which helps in developing their asset generation capacity.

Association between training received and assets generation

It was evident from the table 2 and figure 1 that training received had no significant effect on the dependent variable assets generation. These findings are in accordance with the results of Mahesh (2016).

Association between Risk Orientation and Assets Generation

From the table 2 and figure 1, findings of the investigation showed a non-significant relation between risk orientation and assets generation, which means assets generation was not affected by the level of risk orientation of the tribal farmers. These findings are in accordance with the results of Mahesh (2016).

Association between religion belief and assets generation

From the table 2 and figure 1, religious belief had negative and not-significant correlation with assets generation. Which means assets generation was not affected by the level of religious belief of the tribal farmers. These findings are in accordance with the results of Mahesh (2016).

Table.1 Distribution of respondents according to their socio-economic profile

(N=120)

Sr. No	Variables	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
1	Age		
	Young Age(Up to 31)	22	18.33
	Middle Age(32-54)	72	60.00
	Old Age(55&Above)	26	21.67
2	Education		
	Illiterate	40	33.33
	Primary	28	23.33
	Secondary	29	24.17
	Higher	14	11.67
	Graduation	7	5.83
	P.G	2	1.67
3	Farm size		
	Marginal(Up to 1 Ha)	21	17.50
	Small(1.01-2.00ha)	39	32.50
	Medium(2.01-4.00ha)	29	24.17
	Big(4.01ha&Above)	31	25.83
4	Farming Experience		
	Low(Up to 10)	27	22.50
	Medium(11-35)	73	60.83
	High(36&Above)	20	16.67
5	Training Received		
	No Training	54	45.00
	Low	13	10.83
	Medium	33	27.50
	High	14	11.67
	Very High	6	5.00
6	Risk Orientation		
	Low(Up to 10)	25	20.83
	Medium(11-16)	81	67.50
	High(17&Above)	14	11.67
7	Religion Belief		
	Low(Upto13)	28	23.33
	Medium(14-25)	70	58.33
	High(26&Above)	22	18.33

8	Achievement Motivation		
	Low(Upto14)	29	24.17
	Medium(15-20)	72	60.00
	High(21&Above)	19	15.83
9	Extension Contact		
	Low(Upto11)	25	20.83
	Medium(12-20)	68	56.67
	High(21&Above)	27	22.50
10	Mass Media Exposure		
	Low(Upto12)	20	16.67
	Medium(13-24)	79	65.83
	High(25&Above)	21	17.50
11	Ethnocentrism		
	Low(Upto42)	21	17.50
	Medium(43-58)	79	65.83
	High(59&Above)	20	16.67

Table.2 Association between assets generation and socio economic profile of the tribal farmers with respect to their sustainable livelihoods

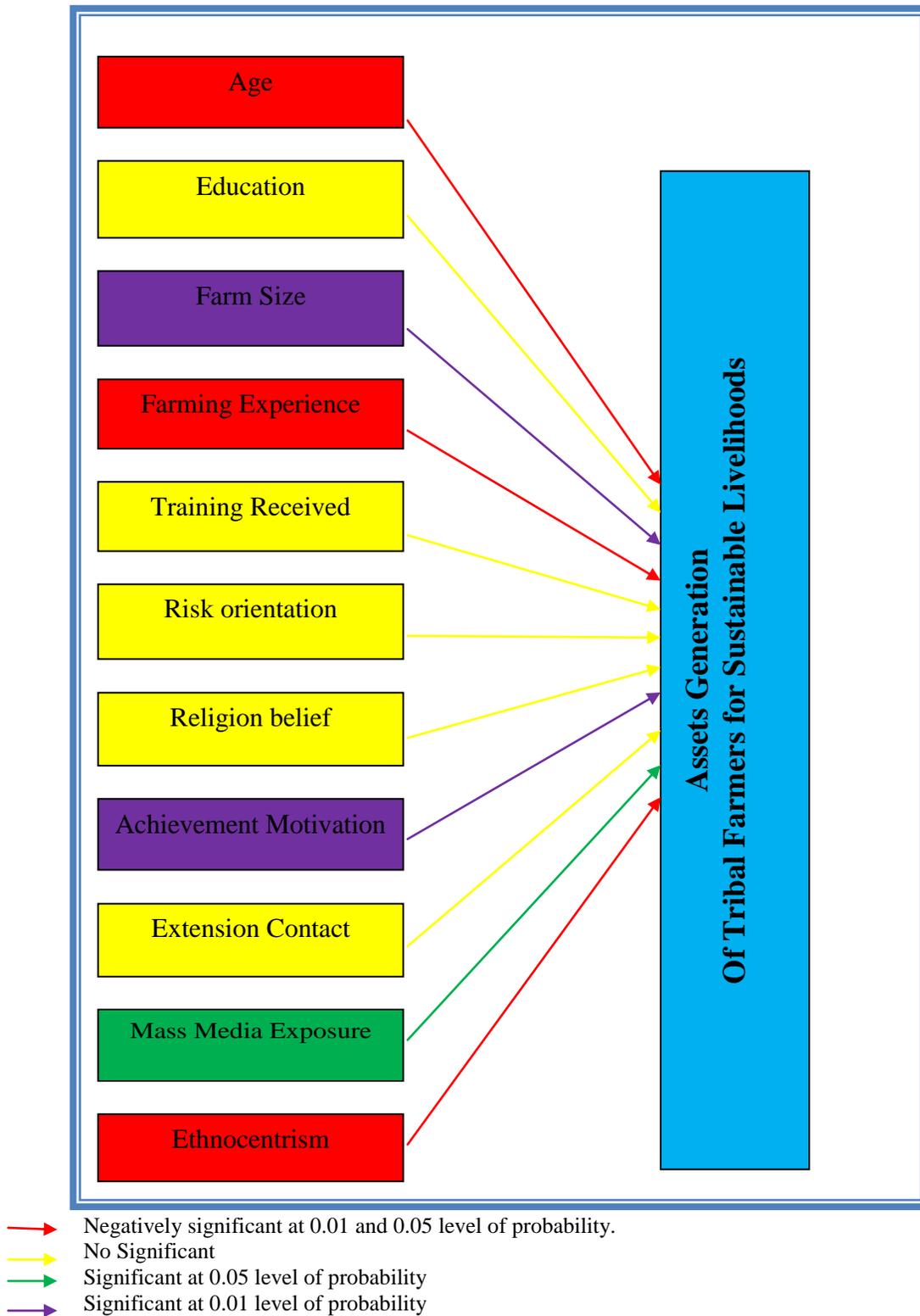
Sr. No.	Characteristics	Correlation coefficient (r)
1	Age	-0.318**
2	Education	-0.010 ^{NS}
3	Farm size	0.325**
4	Farming Experience	-0.367**
5	Training received	0.093 ^{NS}
6	Risk orientation	0.190 ^{NS}
7	Religion belief	-0.156 ^{NS}
8	Achievement motivation	0.307**
9	Extension contact	0.128 ^{NS}
10	Mass media exposure	0.201*
11	Ethnocentrism	-0.206*

* Significant at 0.05 level of probability

** Significant at 0.01 level of probability

NS –Non Significant

Figure.1 Association between assets generation and socio economic profile of the tribal farmers with respect to their sustainable livelihoods



Association between achievement motivation and assets generation

From the table 2 and figure 1, achievement motivation had a positive and significant correlation with assets generation, means if the person is motivated to achieve will have better assets generation. As mentioned earlier, it was observed that the tribal farmers were not much exposed to successful enterprises and better livelihood sources outside their own situations, thus they tend to be low in setting their goals. The development agencies involved, should conduct activities like exposure visits, interaction sessions with progressive and successful farmers from similar conditions, so that the tribal farmers gets motivated to achieve. These findings are in accordance with the results of Dhanasree *et al.*, (2014) and Mahesh (2016).

Association between extension contact and assets generation

From the table 2 and figure 1, findings of the investigation showed a non-significant relation between Extension contact and assets generation, which means assets generation was not affected by the level of extension contact of the tribal farmers. These findings are in accordance with the results of Mahesh (2016).

Association between mass media exposure and assets generation

From the table 2 and figure 1, from the findings it was revealed that the independent variable mass media exposure was positively and significantly correlated with the dependent variable assets 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, news paper and agricultural magazines, tribal people can learn about new tools and implements, better

livestock and draft animal maintenance for which they will require more assets. As both of these independent and dependent variable were showing medium trend, measures should be initiated to improve the mass media exposure of tribal farmers *viz.*, kisan melas, target based television shows, community radio and strengthening of ICT tools which can provide good platform for improved mass media exposure among the tribal farmers. These findings are in accordance with the results of Islam *et al.*, (2014) and Mahesh (2016).

Association between ethnocentrism and assets generation

From the table 2 and figure 1, there was a negative and significant correlation between ethnocentrism and the dependent variable, assets generation. Due to their ethnocentric character, they lack cosmopolitanism, which lead to lack of knowledge about different assets they actually need. These findings are in accordance with the results of Prajapati *et al.*, (2014) and Mahesh (2016).

The findings from this study revealed that Most of the respondents were middle age category, who were illiterates dominantly and majority of them are small category land holders, dominant sector didn't received any training sessions regarding livelihood development, and had medium risk orientation, religious belief, achievement motivation, extension contact, mass media exposure and ethnocentrism. This was because due to the upliftment programmes are in initial stage and people are becoming urbanised slowly. It was revealed from study that, calculated 'r' values between mass media exposure, ethnocentrism and the asset 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 and achievement motivation were greater than table 'r' value at 0.01 level of probability.

Therefore, it was concluded that there was a positive and significant relationship between asset generation of sustainable livelihoods of farmers and the variables farm size, achievement motivation and mass media exposure.

Calculated 'r' values between age, farming experience, ethnocentrism and the asset generation of sustainable livelihoods of farmers have negative and significant relationship.

On the other hand, education, training received, risk orientation, religious belief and extension contact has no significant relationship with the asset generation of sustainable livelihoods of tribal farmers.

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