



Full Length Review Article

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF UG AND PG SCHEDULED TRIBES STUDENTS IN KHANDESH
REGION OF MAHARASHTRA STATE**

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ARTICLE INFO

Article History:

Received 13th December, 2014
Received in revised form
19th January, 2015
Accepted 24th February, 2015
Published online 17th March, 2015

Key words:

Socio-economic,
Students,
Adivasis,
Khandesh region,
Scheduled Tribes

ABSTRACT

The present paper aims to investigate the socio-economic status of scheduled tribes in Khandesh region of Maharashtra state. The primary data was used with the help of structured questionnaire for 439 Scheduled Tribe UG and PG student respondents during the year 2014; further the results were interpreted with help of tabular analysis. The results reveal that, the majority of the sample respondents are the tribe of bhil community (more than 51%), more than 94 per cent of the sample households are male headed and more than 62% family heads are illiterate. The study also depicts that, among source of the incomes for the sample households, farming was the primary occupation which contributes for more than 90 per cent of the sample households, their monthly income was below ₹3000. In the study area, it was found that, out of 2600 persons 1142 (more than 43%) are illiterates from 439 households and also result revealed that, this is the first generation entering towards higher education.

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INTRODUCTION

After 67 years of independence, India has progressed in the field of economy, cultural as well as socially. But when we look at the scheduled tribes of the India, we find that they are far apart from these developments. So, development of these people is must, for the socioeconomic growth of the country. Scheduled Tribes in India are generally considered to be 'Adivasis,' meaning indigenous people or original inhabitants of the country. The tribes have been confined to low status and are often physically and socially isolated instead of being absorbed in the mainstream Indian population. India is homeland to a number of tribal communities with diverse ecological, socio-economic and geographical backgrounds. According to the 2011 Census, Scheduled Tribes populations are 104,281,034 which constitute 8.614% of the total population of the country. 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.

In the state of Maharashtra, 9.4% of the total population is tribal population, there are three mountain ranges in the State known as Sahyadri, Satpuda and Gondwan ranges. In total, there are 47 scheduled tribal population groups in the State and majority of them are inhabitants of these geographically difficult terrain. Out of these 47 groups, 17 are major tribal groups. In the Sahyadri ranges there are the Mahadeo Koli, Katkari, Warli, Malhar Koli and Kokana group. Among Satpuda ranges, Bhil, Pawara, Korku and Tadvi are the major groups. The Madia, Gond, Pardhan, Halbi Otkar and Andha are found in the Gondwan range. Their livelihoods are also varied: agriculture farming, hunting-gathering, shifting cultivation, contract labour, etc., are some of them. Psychologically, the Scheduled Tribes often experience passive indifference that may take the form of exclusion from educational opportunities, social participation, and access to their own land.

Literature Review

The tribal population is identified as the aboriginal inhabitants of our country. They are most vulnerable section of our society living in natural and unpolluted surrounding far away from civilization with their traditional values, customs and beliefs. There has been a long and enduring debate among the social

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scientists to define a tribe. Notwithstanding the academic exercise, for the purpose of development and administration, the definition given by the Constitution serves our objective. The definition is practically an administrative definition. According to the Constitution “Any tribe or tribal community or part of or group within any tribe or tribal community as deemed under article 342 are Scheduled Tribes for the purpose of the Constitution”. Thus, the groups which are in the Scheduled list of the President of India are defined as Scheduled Tribes. There is a procedure for including tribal groups in the Scheduled list. The President may, after consulting with the governor of a state, by public notification, specify the tribes which would deem to be Scheduled Tribes in relation to that State. Communities are notified as Scheduled Tribe under Article 342 of the Constitution based on the Characteristics such as -Primitive Traits, Geographically Isolated, Distinct Culture, and Shyness of contact with community at large, and Economically Backward. The Imperial Gazetteer of India, 1911, defines a tribe as a “collection of families bearing a common name, speaking a common dialect, occupying or professing to occupy a common territory and is not usually endogamous though originally it might have been so”.

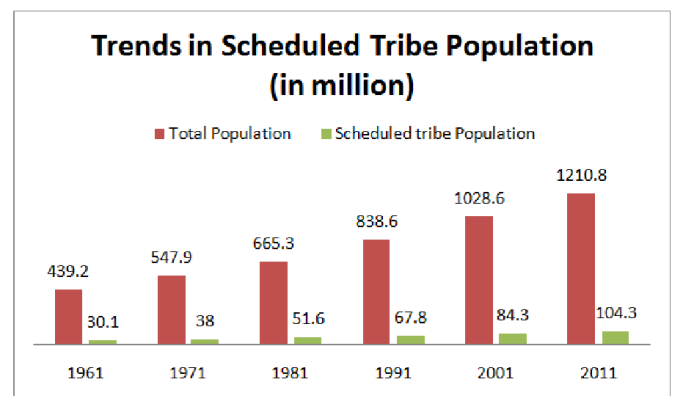
Another definition of a tribe by D.N. Majumdar is that “a tribe is a collection of families or group of families bearing a common name, members of which occupy the same territory, speak the same language and observe certain taboos regarding marriage, profession or occupation and have developed a well-assessed system of reciprocity and mutuality of obligations”. According to L.P. Vidyarthi; the tribe is a social group with definite territory, common name, common district, common culture, behavior of an endogamous group, common taboos, and existence of distinctive social & political system, full faith in leaders and self-sufficiency in their distinct economy. P.G. Krishnan defines “tribe is a social group of simple and kind, the members of which speak a common dialect, have a single government act together for common purposes and have a common name, a contiguous territory, a relatively uniform culture or way of life and a tradition of common descent.” A.B. Bardhan defines the tribe as “course of socio-cultural entity at a definite historical stage of development. It is a single, endogamous community with a cultural and psychological make-up.” Kamala Devi Chatopadhyaya defines “a tribe ordinarily has an ancestor or patron deity.

The families or groups composing the larger units are linked through religions and socio-economic functions.” Thus in Indian context, they are commonly designated as *Adivasi* (original settlers), *Girijan* (hill dwellers), *Vanyajati* (forest caste men), *Adimjati* (Primitive castes), and *Anusuchit Janjati* (Scheduled tribes). Behera, *et al.* (1999) made a study entitled “contemporary societies, tribal societies” studies on various social concepts about the tribes and concluded that tribal’s are socially and educationally backward. Sahu Chaturbhuj, (2006) made a study on some aspects of tribals in the book entitled aspects of tribal studies. Broadly the STs inhabit two distinct geographical areas – the Central India and the North- Eastern Area. More than half of the Scheduled Tribe population is concentrated in Central India, i.e., Madhya Pradesh (14.69%), Maharashtra (10.08%), Orissa (9.2%), Rajasthan (8.86%), Gujarat (8.55%), Chhattisgarh (7.5%), Jharkhand (8.29%), and

Andhra Pradesh (5.7%). The other distinct area is the North East (Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh). Tribal communities live in about 15% of the country’s areas, in various ecological and geo-climatic conditions ranging from plains and forests to hills and inaccessible areas.

Social Status

In India, most of the tribal habitations are located in isolated villages and hamlets in undulating plateau lands coinciding with forest areas; they have limited access to critical infrastructure facilities such as roads, communication, health, education, electricity, drinking water and so on. The Scheduled Tribes, who have been historically out of the mainstream development initiatives partly due to the continuing socio-economic barriers. It is also partly due to the inadequacy of the Government programmes in reaching these disadvantaged groups, still find themselves in difficult to compete with other sections of the society. Tribes are very important in constituting the population of the country as they are 8.6 percent of the total population of India. They constitute 9.4 percent of the total population of Maharashtra. Tribal education has many problems to face as hindrance for development. Nandurbar and Dhule Districts has 70% and 31.6% Scheduled tribe population respectively (Demographic Status of Scheduled Tribe population of India).



Source: Statistical Profile of Scheduled Tribes in India 2013, Ministry of Tribal Affairs

MATERIALS AND METHODS

To achieve the set objectives laid down, both primary and secondary data was used. The primary data has collected through well designed questionnaire. Beside questionnaire, personnel interview method has also used for collecting the desired information. The secondary data collected from the published reports, magazines etc, and from various official sources. The primary data comprises of assembling data from the chosen sample tribal UG and PG student within the tribal resident hostels of Khandesh region of Maharashtra state by the method of filling a structured questionnaire among them. Additionally, the secondary data was also taken from the various sources. A sample 439 of UG and PG student was selected for this study. This study analyses the socioeconomic status of the sample households taking into consideration like, heads of the households, educational qualifications, type of

drinking water, specific classification of caste, type of occupation, and extent of land cultivated etc.

Data Analysis and interpretation

The present study focuses on the socio-economic status of scheduled tribe graduate and post-graduate students in Khandesh region of Maharashtra.

Table 1. Genderwise distribution of UG and PG scheduled tribe students

District	Jalgaon			Dhule			Nandurbar		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
PG Student	54	10	64	19	00	19	26	19	45
UG Student	71	54	125	43	26	69	88	29	117
Total	125	64	189	62	26	88	114	48	162

The results of gender wise distribution of sample respondents are presented in the Table 1. The results reveal that, among the 439 sample respondents, 301(68%) are male and 138 (32%) are female respondents. Out of 128 PG student respondents, 99 (77%) are male and 29 (23%) are female respondents and out of 311 UG student respondents, 202 (64%) are male and 109 (36%) are female respondents.

Table 2. Agewise distribution of UG and PG scheduled tribe students

Age	Less than 18	18-20	20-22	Above 22
No. of student	27	149	161	102
%	6.15	33.94	36.67	23.23

Sample included 439 respondents having different age groups between the ages of less than 18 to above 22 years. However the majority of such respondents i.e. 70% were between the ages of 18 to 22 years. However the 24% household respondents were mostly above 22 years of age.

Distribution of sample population according to their Educational Qualifications

Table 3. Distribution of Education and Educational faculty of UG and PG scheduled tribe students

Faculty	Arts	Science	Commerce	Engineering	Social work	Law	Total	%
PG	108	11	03	01	05	00	128	29.16
UG	188	59	15	31	11	07	311	70.84
Total	296	70	18	32	16	07	439	100
%	67.43	15.95	4.10	7.29	3.64	1.59	100	--

Above table revealed that, most of respondents are from Arts faculty (more than 67%) and more than 15% of respondents are from Science faculty and only 17% of respondents are from Commerce, Engineering, Social Work and Law faculty. Also more than 70% are UG respondents and only 30% are PG respondents.

Table 4. Distribution of Family member educations

Education	PG	UG	HSC	SSC	Primary	Illiterate
Persons	171	415	284	242	346	1142
%	6.58	15.96	10.92	09.31	13.31	43.92

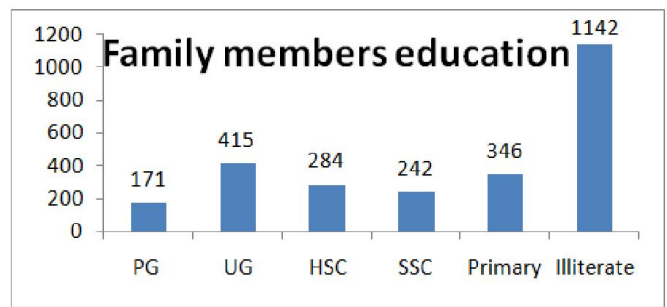


Table 4 brings out the educational qualifications of the total sample population. The levels of education are divided into five categories. Primary level indicates the standard for first to ninth class, SSC, HSC, UG and PG educational level, this classification stands for this operational purpose. In the study area, we found 2600 persons from 439 households. Out of 1142 are illiterates, as such more than 43 percent people do not know how to read and write. Although there are persons who have educational qualifications, only 56% are literate that number is far below. In the case of literacy, the government is doing a lot but the actual picture expects more than that is being implemented until.

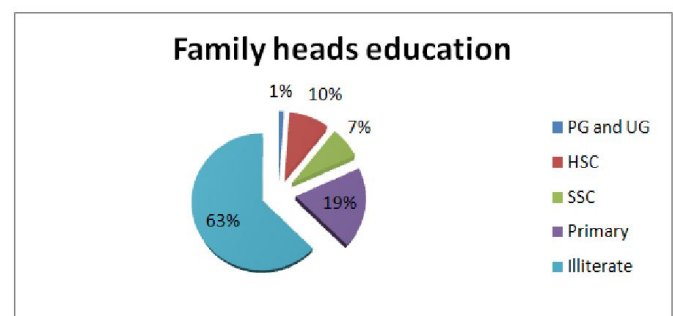
Table 5. Distribution of Family heads of UG and PG scheduled tribe students in Khandesh

Family Head	Father	Mother	Brother
No. of Times	402	30	7
%	91.57	6.83	1.59

Above table revealed that, more than 93 percent of the total sample households are male headed and more than 7 percent of the total sample households are female headed.

Table 6. Distribution of Family Heads Education

Education	PG & UG	HSC	SSC	Primary	Illiterate
Persons	5	42	33	84	275
%	1.14	9.57	7.52	19.13	62.64



Above table revealed that, more than 62% family heads are illiterate and only 37% are literate.

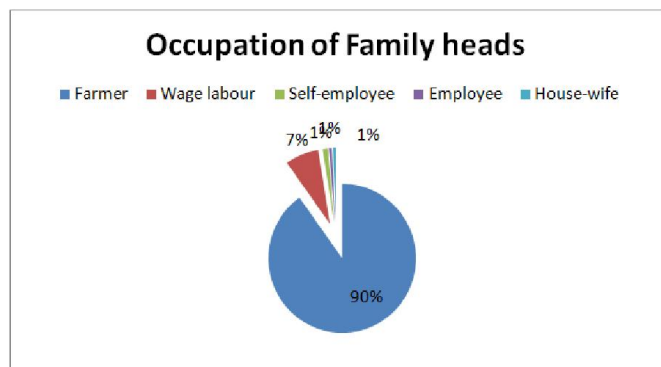
Distribution of the sample heads of the households on their Primary Occupation

Table 7 shows the occupation wise classification of the sample heads of the households. In the Khandesh region out of the sample of 439 households, 396 (90%) are farmers and the remaining are wage labour, self-employee and employees.

Here the majority of the households depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Here the agricultural cultivation, the mainstay of the country, is playing the key role, by allowing this tribal people to practice settled cultivation.

Table 7. Distribution of Occupation of family head

Occupation	Farmer	Wage labour	Self-employee	Employee	House-wife
No. of families	396	32	05	03	03
%	90.21	7.29	1.14	0.68	0.68



Farming is the primary occupation for most of the family heads followed by wage labour.

Table 8. Distribution of working person in the family

Working person	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
No. of families	86	182	91	49	14	10	3	4

On an average 2.5 persons are working in the family

Distribution of the sample households on their Monthly Income

Table 9 indicate the classification of the sample households based on the level of their monthly income. In the sample area, more than 94% of household has the level of monthly income below ₹ 3,000.00.

Table 9. Distribution of Monthly Income of family

Income	Below 3000	3001-5000	5001-10000	10001-20000
No. of families	415	16	4	3
%	94.53	3.64	0.91	0.68

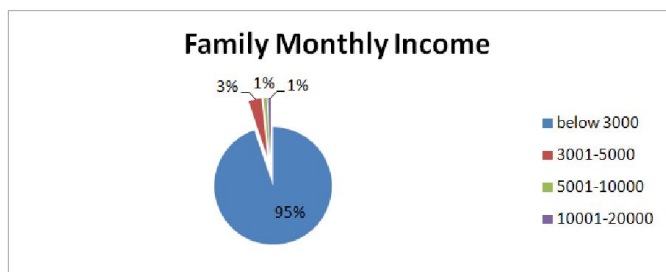


Table 10. Distribution of Region

Region	Rural	Urban
No. of families	432	7
%	98.41	1.59

Above table show that, most (more than 98%) of scheduled tribe respondents are live in rural region and only 1.59% are live in urban region.

The distribution of the sample UG and PG student households based on Religion

Table 11 shows the religion wise classification of the sample UG and PG student households. In the sampling process, as it is not a predetermined one, we have come across only two religions, Hindu and Muslim. In the region, out of 439 sample households, 423 (96%) belong to Hindu, and 16 (4%) sample households belong to Muslim religion.

Table 11. Distribution of Religion of UG and PG scheduled tribe students in Khandesh

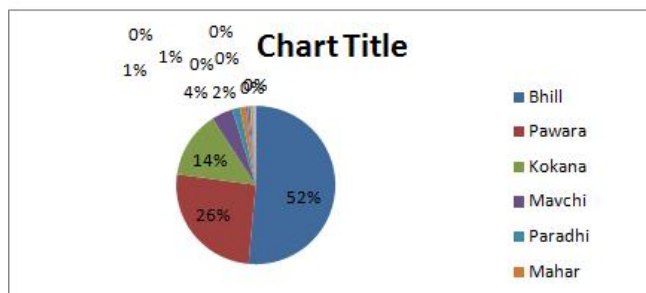
Religion	Hindu	Muslim
No. of families	423	16
%	96.36	3.64

Distribution of sample UG and PG student based on their Specific Sub Caste

Table 12 shows the classification of the total sample UG and PG student with regard to their specific sub caste. Although this is not a predetermined one, only these types of tribes have been coming across in the selected sample. In the present analysis, we come across different tribes such as Bhill, Pawara, Kokana, Tadvi bhil, Mavchi, Paradhi, Barela, Valvi, Thakar, Koli Mahadev etc. In the sample of the students, the majority of the students' households belong to the tribe of Bhill with 51.48 percent and the next majority tribe is Pawara who are of 25.74 percent.

Table 12. Distribution of Sub-caste of UG and PG scheduled tribe students in Khandesh

Sub Caste	Frequency	Percentage
Bhill	226	51.48
Pawara	113	25.74
Kokana	60	13.67
Mavchi	19	4.33
Paradhi	07	1.60
Mahar	05	1.14
Mahadev Koli	02	0.46
Valvi	02	0.46
Barela	01	0.23
Banjara	01	0.23
Dhangar	01	0.23
Padvi	01	0.23
Thakar	01	0.23
Total	439	100.00



There are as many as 47 sub caste of scheduled tribes in Khandesh region of Maharashtra. After the analysis, it was interesting to note that, the majority of the sample belong to Bhill community (more than 51%) followed by Pawara community (more than 25%) and Kokana community (more than 13%).

Distribution of sample households according to the Type of Dwelling

Table 13 describes the classification of the sample households based on the type of their house. Houses have been classified into three types. Pucca house is a type of house built with concrete and having some facilities like own toilet facility, separate rooms for persons and so on. The semi - Pucca house is a typical house in the tribal areas. The walls of the semi-Pucca houses are built by brick; have large tiles on the top, provided through the food for work programs. The thatched houses have mud walls and palm leaves as their roofs. In the sample, out of 439 households, more than 38 percent have a typical semi-Pucca tribal house. In addition, nearly 47 per cent of them have thatched houses. Nearly 85 percent of the households do not have proper housing facilities in the sample area of the Khandesh region.

Table 13. Distribution of Type of Dwelling

House Type	Pucca	Semi-pucca	Thatched
No. of families	63	169	207
%	14.35	38.50	47.15

Distribution of the sample households on the Electrification of their house

Table 14 brings out the classification of the sample households based on whether the houses are electrified or not. This electrification is a development indicator, because this plays a favourable role in improving their standard of living. With regard to this, out of the 439 sample households, 323 houses are with the facility of electricity. More than 26 percent of the houses are not electrified. In this regard, this area is backward; the government should take more steps to provide the facility of electricity in these areas. As the areas are far-flung, in thick forests the electrification is necessary for their safe existence.

Table 14. Distribution of electrification of their houses

Electricity available	Yes	No
No. of families	323	116
%	73.58	26.42

Distribution of sample households according to Ownership of Land

Table depicts the land owned by the sample households and the same whether they are with ownership rights or not. As the terrain is inaccessible, although the tribal people own land, the land is less in size. It is taken in acres. For practical purposes after the compilation of the data, the extent of land owned is divided into three categories 1) less than One acre 2) 1-3 acre 3) more than 3 acre. In the sample of 439, only 331 households have land. The vast majority (more than 50%) of them are small and marginal farmers. More than 24% of them are not having the necessary ownership rights of land.

Table 15. Distribution of Ownership of land

Own land	Less than 1 acre	1-3 acre	More than 3 acre	No land
No. of families	74	173	84	108
%	16.86	39.40	19.14	24.60

Conclusions

In the study, more than 93 percent of the total sample households are male headed and less than 7 percent of the total sample households are female headed. Out of these more than 60% of the household heads are illiterate. This indicates that more attention is required from the part of the government. The majority (more than 75%) of the total sample households in the study area belong to Bhill and Pawara communities. More than 96 percent of the total sample households are of Hindu religion, and around 4 percent of the sample households are Muslim. It is very disappointing see that more than 44 percent of the total sample population is illiterate. As the majority of the heads of the households is illiterate, their progeny are also illiterate. More than 10 percent of the total sample population is having primary education. It is gruesome picture that only 46 percent of the total sample is educated. The cultivation is the primary occupation practiced by the most heads of the sample households and the wage labour flows. The farming is the primary occupation for most of the sample population (more than 90%) followed by wage labourer (more than 7%). Only 73 percent of the total sample households are electrified. With regard to monthly income, More than 93 percent of the sample households are having monthly income below ₹ 3,000.00. More facilities are linked with electricity; a lot has to be done in providing this facility for the sample population in particular and the scheduled tribe community in general. There is a need to put more attention on the educational aspect of scheduled tribes, where this only can motivate them for future life. There is a need to increase the employment generation activities in this area, as lack of sufficient income is the root cause for all the problems in any society.

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