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Profile characteristics of tribals under the tribal sub plan: A study in Kumuram Bheem Asifabad district

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Abstract

The study aimed to analyze the profile characteristics of individuals in relation to their participation in income-generating activities. A total of 120 respondents were selected. The study revealed that most respondents belonged to the middle age group (46.47%), while 59.1% were illiterate. Most (58.33%) had medium-sized families (5-10 members). In terms of income, 44.16% of respondents fell under the medium annual income category and 72.5% were involved in medium-level occupations. A significant portion of respondents (55.83%) had medium access to information sources and 53.33% had medium extension contact. Additionally, 86.66% had received a medium level of training, while 74.16% benefited from medium institutional support. Employment levels were predominantly medium (47.5%) and mass media exposure was low for most respondents (67.5%). Risk-bearing ability was moderate (59.16%) and 51.66% of respondents exhibited a high degree of religious belief. Achievement motivation was medium for 47.5% of respondents, highlighting the general tendency towards moderate ambition in the pursuit of success.

Keywords: Profile, Income-generating activities, illiteracy, family size, institutional support and achievement motivation

1. Introduction

Tribal communities in India form a significant part of the country's population and occupy a distinct role in its socio-economic landscape. Predominantly rural, these communities rely extensively on agriculture and related activities for their sustenance. Despite their rich cultural legacy and contributions to the agricultural sector, many tribal populations encounter various socio-economic challenges. In Telangana, particularly in Kumuram Bheem Asifabad, considerable portion of the population depends on traditional farming practices, with limited access to information and institutional support.

These communities are primarily rural and heavily reliant on agriculture and related activities for their livelihood. Despite their significant contributions to the agricultural sector, tribal populations often face substantial socio-economic challenges that hinder their economic advancement. The transition from traditional methods to modern agricultural and entrepreneurial approaches offers both opportunities and obstacles. Key factors such as age, education, family size, annual income, occupation, religious belief, risk bearing ability, achievement motivation, training received, extension contact and access to institutional support significantly impact the economic advancement and employment prospects of these communities.

This study aims to provide an in-depth analysis of the profile characteristics of tribal farmers in Kumuram Bheem Asifabad District under the TSP framework. By examining these characteristics and their correlation with participation in income-generating activities, the study seeks to offer valuable insights into the socio-economic dynamics of tribal farming communities. The findings are expected to contribute to a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by these farmers and to inform strategies for enhancing the effectiveness of the TSP in promoting sustainable development and improving livelihoods.

2. Methodology

The research was conducted in the Kumuram Bheem Asifabad district of Telangana. This district is consists into 15 mandals, of which three were randomly selected. Within each of these three mandals, five villages were chosen using a simple random sampling method, totaling 15 villages. In each of the selected villages, eight respondents were picked

using random sampling, resulting in a total of 120 respondents. A thorough list of tribal farmers from each of these villages was created.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Age

From table 1, it was evident that 46.47% of respondents were middle-aged (35-55 years), likely due to their stability and experience, making them more active in income-generating activities. The young age group (43.33%) reflected their energy and motivation, while only 10.2% were older adults (over 55 years), possibly due to reduced physical ability and reliance on established income. These findings highlight the significant participation of both middle-aged and younger groups, with a need for strategies to support older individuals. The results align with Pattamajhi and Patra (2023) [1].

3.2 Education

From table 1, it was depicted that the majority of respondents 59.1% participating in income- generating activities under the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) were illiterate, followed by 30.83% with primary school education and only 8.33% having reached high school education. A mere 1.66% had attained intermediate education, while there were no participants with undergraduate or postgraduate qualifications. These findings suggest that individuals with lower levels of formal education are more engaged in TSP activities, a trend consistent with the observations made by Singh *et al.* (2023) [2]

3.3 Family size

From table 1, it was observed that 58.33% of respondents were from medium-sized households with 5-10 members, indicating a common family structure that supports communal living and extended family networks. Additionally, 33.33% came from small families with fewer than five members, while 8.33% belonged to large households with more than 10 members. This distribution highlights the prevalence of larger or medium-sized families within tribal communities, reflecting their communal nature and reliance on extended family support. Understanding these family dynamics is important for developing effective strategies for income-generating activities. These findings align with the conclusions of Malik and Rathi (2020) [3].

3.4 Annual income

From table 1, it was revealed that that 44.16% of respondents were in the medium-income category, indicating a moderate level of economic stability that supports their involvement in agriculture and small-scale enterprises. Meanwhile, 35.83% reported low annual incomes, reflecting economic challenges and highlighting the need for targeted interventions to improve their financial situation. A smaller proportion, 20%, were in the high-income group, demonstrating the potential for higher economic stability and opportunities within this segment. This distribution points to an economically diverse tribal population, with varying levels of income influencing their participation in economic activities. Understanding this distribution is crucial for developing strategies to enhance economic opportunities and improve livelihoods. These findings align with the conclusions of Mahesh *et al.* (2018) [4].

3.5 Occupation

From table 1, it was illustrated that the majority of respondents (61.66%) were primarily engaged in agricultural labor, reflecting a heavy reliance on traditional agricultural livelihoods. Additionally, 27.5% were involved in agriculture-related activities, further underscoring the sector's dominance. In contrast, non-agricultural labor was less common, comprising only 9.16% of participants and 1.66% reported having no specific occupation. These results highlight the need for sustainable development strategies to diversify employment opportunities and address the economic aspirations of tribal populations. The findings align with the conclusions of Arook and Rahman (2016) [6].

3.6 Source of information

From table 1, it was showed that the majority of respondents (55.83%) had moderate access to sources of information, indicating a balanced level of access that supports their involvement in income-generating activities. Meanwhile, 25.83% had high access, reflecting the benefits of extensive information resources for enhanced participation and success. However, 18.33% of respondents had low access to information, highlighting the need for more effective dissemination strategies to improve their participation and engagement. These varying levels of access to information among participants are crucial for the economic progress of TSP initiatives, as they impact the ability to leverage information for development. The findings align with the conclusions of Gedam *et al.* (2019) [7].

3.7 Extension contact

From table 1, it was indicated that most participants within the Tribal Sub Plan had moderate extension contact, with 53.33% in this category. This suggests that moderate levels of extension support are generally effective in facilitating their activities. The 20% of participants with high extension contact highlight the benefits of strong support and extensive outreach, which can significantly enhance their efforts. Conversely, 26.67% had low extension contact, pointing to the need for improved outreach and engagement strategies to better support these individuals. These percentages reflect the varying levels of access to extension services within tribal communities, influenced by geographic, economic and infrastructural factors. Overall, the findings suggest a diverse distribution of extension contact among participants, consistent with the conclusions of Wadekar *et al.* (2016) [8].

3.8 Training received

From table 1, it was showed that most participants in the Tribal Sub Plan received moderate training, with 86.66% in this category. This highlights the importance of such training efforts in enhancing income generation. A small proportion, 5.83%, received low training, indicating a need for increased training opportunities to better support their activities. Conversely, 7.5% received high levels of training, demonstrating the benefits of comprehensive training programs for those with more extensive support. These percentages reflect varying levels of access to training

resources and opportunities within tribal communities, influenced by factors such as the availability of programs and resources. Overall, the findings suggest a diverse distribution of training levels among participants, contributing to the economic development efforts of the Tribal Sub Plan, consistent with the conclusions of Mareeswaran (2014) [9].

3.9 Institutional support

From table 1, it was indicated that most participants in the Tribal Sub Plan received moderate institutional support, with 74.16% in this category. This suggests that medium levels of support are generally effective in facilitating their activities. However, 12.5% received low institutional support, likely due to limited access to resources or inadequate support mechanisms. In contrast, 13.33% benefited from high institutional support, reflecting the advantages of substantial assistance and better access to resources. These percentages highlight the varied access to institutional support within tribal communities, influenced by factors such as resource availability and administrative reach, aligning with the conclusions of Asokhan and Srikar (2021) [10].

Table 1: Profile of tribal farmer

S. No.	Independent variable	Categories	Respondents	
			F	%
1.	Age	Young (<35 years)	52	43.33
		Middle (35 – 55 years)	55	46.47
		Old (>55 years)	13	10.2
2.	Education	Illiterate	71	59.1
		Primary school	37	30.83
		High school	10	8.33
		Intermediate	2	1.66
		Under Graduation	0	0
		Post Graduation	0	0
3.	Family size	Small (up to 5 members)	40	33.33
		Medium (5-10 members)	70	58.33
		Large (above 10 members)	10	8.33
4.	Annual income	Low annual income	43	35.83
		Medium annual income	53	44.16
		High annual income	24	20
5.	Occupation	Low occupation	24	20
		Medium occupation	87	72.5
		High occupation	9	7.5
6.	Source of information	Low source of information	22	18.33
		Medium source of information	67	55.83
		High source of information	31	25.833
7.	Extension contact	Low extension contact	32	26.67
		Medium extension contact	64	53.33
		High extension contact	24	20
8.	Trainings received	Low trainings received	7	5.83
		Medium trainings received	104	86.66
		High trainings received	9	7.5
9.	Institutional support	Low institutional support	15	12.5
		Medium institutional support	89	74.16
		High institutional support	16	13.33
10.	Employment	Low employment	39	32.5
		Medium employment	57	47.5
		High employment	24	20
11.	Mass media exposure	Low mass media exposure	81	67.5
		Medium mass media exposure	15	12.5
		High mass media exposure	24	20.0
12.	Risk bearing ability	Low risk-bearing ability	25	20.83
		Medium risk-bearing ability	71	59.16
		High risk-bearing ability	24	20
13.	Religious belief	Low religious belief	18	15
		Medium religious belief	40	33.33
		High religious belief	62	51.66
14.	Achievement motivation	Low achievement motivation	43	35.83
		Medium achievement motivation	57	47.5
		High achievement motivation	20	16.66

3.10 Employment
From table 1, it was showed that the majority of participants in the Tribal Sub Plan had moderate employment, with 47.5% in this category. This suggests a significant role in sustaining employment within tribal communities. However, 32.5% of participants had low employment, highlighting a need for strategies to increase job opportunities and address employment gaps. In contrast, 20% had high employment, demonstrating the positive outcomes of sustained employment efforts and potentially better access to job opportunities. These percentages reflect the varied availability of employment opportunities and economic conditions within tribal areas. Overall, the findings illustrate a diverse distribution of employment levels among participants, each contributing to the economic development goals of the Tribal Sub Plan, in line with the conclusions of Mahesh *et al.* (2017) [5].

3.11 Mass media exposure
From table 1, it was results indicated that a substantial majority of participants in the Tribal Sub Plan had low mass media exposure, with 67.5% falling into this category. This low exposure is likely due to limited access to or use of mass media resources within tribal communities, which can impede effective information dissemination and limit opportunities. A smaller segment, 12.5%, experienced medium mass media exposure, indicating a moderate level of media engagement. Only 20% had high media exposure, reflecting relatively rare but more extensive use of media among some participants. These variations in media exposure underscore the diverse levels of media access within tribal communities and align with the findings of Dhanasree *et al.* (2014) [11].

3.12 Risk bearing ability
From table 1, it was indicated that that among participants in the Tribal Sub Plan, the majority (59.16%) had moderate risk tolerance, indicating a balanced approach to managing economic opportunities and challenges. A significant portion (20.83%) had low risk-bearing ability, likely due to limited exposure to risk management training and resources. Meanwhile, 20% exhibited high risk tolerance, benefiting from greater acceptance of risk and possibly better access to support resources. These variations reflect differing levels of risk management skills and acceptance influenced by economic conditions and resource availability, aligning with the findings of Kolay and Dhritlahare (2017) [12].

3.13 Religious belief
From table 1, it was indicated that that among participants in the Tribal Sub Plan, the majority (51.66%) had high religious belief, balancing their spiritual and economic pursuits. A significant portion (33.33%) had medium religious belief, while 15% had low religious belief, reflecting a varied spectrum of religious commitment. This diversity in religious belief likely influences both cultural and economic aspects within tribal communities. Overall, the findings suggest a varied distribution of religious beliefs among participants, consistent with the conclusions of Das and Pattamajhi (2022) [13].

3.14 Achievement motivation
From table 1, it was indicated that among participants in the Tribal Sub Plan, a significant portion (47.5%) exhibited medium achievement motivation, which played a crucial role in their efforts for success and improvement. However, 35.83% had low achievement motivation, highlighting the need for strategies to boost motivation levels, while 16.66% demonstrated high motivation, showcasing the benefits of a strong achievement drive. These percentages reflect varying levels of personal ambition and access to motivational resources within tribal communities. Overall, the findings suggest a diverse distribution of achievement motivation among participants, consistent with the conclusions of Reshma *et al.* (2014) [14].

4. Conclusion
The study revealed that the majority of respondents are in the middle age group, with a significant portion being illiterate. Most participants have medium-sized families and fall into the medium- income category. A large number are employed in the Agricultural and Allied sectors. The sources of information and extension contact are generally at a medium level. Most respondents have received a medium amount of training and report moderate levels of institutional support. Employment levels are also moderate for a substantial number of respondents. Mass media exposure is relatively low, while risk-bearing ability is medium. Additionally, a significant portion of respondents have high religious beliefs and achievement motivation is moderate for many.

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