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### Livelihood situations of Tribal women

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#### Abstract

In Karnataka Banjara are well known as Lambani/Lambadi. They are originally from Afghanistan before settling in Rajasthan and other parts of India. They normally live in tandas (Tanda is an area where Lambani caste people reside exclusively). The occupation and their livelihood is dependent on the geographical locations of the settlements and the weather conditions. The occupation of Lambani people have been changing time to time. The present study was conducted during 2017-18 to understand the livelihood status of Lambanis in Kalghatgi taluk of Dharwad district and Davangere taluk of Davangere district. Totally 120 Lambani women were selected based on the equal random sampling method. The data was collected by using pre-tested interview schedule. The results revealed that 35.84 per cent of the respondents work as agricultural labourers followed by diary (selling of milk 5.83 %). Whereas equal percentage (4.17 %) of them had agriculture & poultry birds selling while 1.70 per cent of the respondents were selling the eggs as their livelihood source. As a agricultural labourers majority of the Lambani women (74.17 %) were working during harvesting period followed by sowing of seeds (37.50 %) and weeding (30.00 %). Only 19.17 per cent participated in application of fertilizer and least (5.83 %) was in case of water management.

**Keywords:** Livelihood situations, tribal women, income generating activities

#### Introduction

The word Lambani has originated from Sanskrit word Lavana meaning salt, as their main occupation was salt trading. They are well known tribe as carriers of salt food grains on the packed bullock caravans. The Lambani men and women are addressed as Gor Mati and Gor Dasi. The names 'Gor' was given because they were tending and rearing oxen/ cows and were known as "Gor Banjara". In Karnataka Banjara are well known as Lambani/Lambadi. They are originally from Afghanistan before settling in Rajasthan and other parts of India. Livelihood refers to their "means of securing the basic necessities - food, water, shelter and clothing - of life". Livelihood is defined as a set of activities, involving securing water, food, fodder, medicine, shelter, clothing and the capacity to acquire above necessities working either individually or as a group by using endowments (both human and material) for meeting the requirements of the self and his/her household on a sustainable basis with dignity.

Since Independence Government has introduced many rural development programmes to improve the rural areas and uplift the people below poverty line (BPL). As Government of India included Lambanis under Scheduled Caste, they are getting better benefits today. They are allowed to stay with other caste people in the villages. Those who are still working as wage labour, nonagricultural labour and collect forest products are the poorest of the poor. All these

activities are taken up for their livelihood.

#### Materials and Methods

The study was conducted during the year 2017-18 in Dharwad and Davangere districts of Karnataka were purposively selected based on availability of a greater number of respondents in the study areas. Each district, one taluk was selected purposively selected based on maximum availability of Lambani people.

Ex-post-facto research design was used for the study. Totally 120 respondents of Lambani women were interviewed for the study. The number of respondents from each tanda was fixed based on the Proportionate Random Sampling (PRS) method. The data were collected with well-structured pretested interview schedule. The collected data were analyzed and interpreted with frequency and percentage analysis.

#### Results and Discussion

##### Livelihood sources of Lambani families

##### Agriculture and allied

Table 1 shows that, 35.84 per cent of the respondents work as agricultural labourers followed by diary (selling of milk 5.83 %). Whereas equal percentage (4.17 %) of them had agriculture & poultry birds selling while 1.70 per cent of the respondents were selling the eggs as their livelihood source.

**Nonagricultural labour/wage earning**

It could be noticed that, 44.17 per cent of the respondents were going for construction works followed by rearing of poultry birds (23.33 %) and 5.00 per cent of them going for stone crushing.

**Selling of non-timber forest products**

Results indicate that, 47.50 per cent of the respondents were

selling the fruits (Tamarind, Karonda, Jamoon and Mango) followed by selling of flowers and firewood (43.33 %) and soap nut (37.50 %).

**Income generating activities**

The results revealed that, 15.83 per cent of the respondents had taken up tailoring and 5.00 per cent of them were having petty business, as their income generating activity.

**Table 1:** Livelihood sources of Lambani families n=120

Sl. No.	Livelihood sources	Frequency	Percentage
<b>I Agriculture and allied</b>			
1.	Agriculture	05	04.17
2.	Agriculture labor	43	35.84
3.	Dairy a. Selling of milk	07	5.83
4.	Poultry a. Selling of egg b. Poultry birds selling	02 05	1.70 4.17
<b>II Non agricultural labour / wage earning</b>			
1.	Stone crushing	06	05.00
2.	Construction work /Cooli	53	44.17
3.	Rearing of poultry birds	28	23.33
<b>III Selling of Non-timber forest products</b>			
1.	Fruits (Tamarind, Karonda, Jamun & Mango)	57	47.50
2.	Selling of flowers and fire wood	52	43.33
3.	Soap nut	45	37.50
<b>IV Income Generating activities</b>			
1.	Tailoring	19	15.83
2.	Petty business	6	5.00

**Note:** Multiple responses are possible

**Activities performed by Lambani women as agricultural labourers**

The results presented in Table 2 and fig. 1 indicates that, majority of the Lambani women (74.17 %) were working during harvesting period followed by sowing of seeds (37.50 %) and weeding (30.00 %). Only 19.17 per cent participated in application of fertilizer and least (5.83 %) was in case of water management.

**Table 2:** Activities performed by Lambani women as agricultural labour n=120

Sl. No.	Seasonal Activities	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Sowing of seeds	45	37.50
2.	Application of fertilizer	23	19.17
3.	Weeding	36	30.00
4.	Water management	07	05.83
5.	Harvesting	89	74.17

**Note:** Multiple responses are possible

**Conclusion**

The Government programmes are introduced for promoting social, economic and cultural development of the programmes. They do not have land mainly dependent on wage earning and agriculture labour. These factors are exhibited unsustainability in rural livelihoods. Hence the Lambani women should get trainings about pro-poor technologies in groups.

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