A Conceptual Study on the Socio Economic Conditions of Sauras tribes of Gajapati District in Odisha

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Abstract

India after Africa has the second largest concentration of tribal population in the world. There are 609 tribal communities in India, which constitute the weaker section of the Indian society. They are generally inhabited in unhealthy forest covered regions mostly inaccessible to other people. Each tribal in an ethnic group and is also distinct from one another in ethnic affinity and social practices. They are having some special salient features which make them unique we treat the Community as Tribes. Though the globe is playing with IT reform and economic fairness but these are far away from the tribes residing under the area under study. According to 2011 Census data the population growth increased 2.73 % from 2001 Conesus data but the literacy rate declines 12.23 % from 2001 data which reflects lack of awareness and policy implementation under the study area. The major tribal groups residing at Gajapati district of Odisha are Sauras, Lanjia Sours, Sabar and Kondhas. The district is lagging far behind in terms of socio-economic parameters compare with other parts of the state. This Conceptual paper is based on primary as well as secondary sources of data. This paper explains the facts relating to the growth of tribes, action plan taken by the policy makers for tribal development, Socio economical culture of Sauras tribes residing under the area under study. Paper also gives emphasis on the suggestive measures for these socio economically excluded category to include in the development flow of the rest of the world.

Keywords: Tribal, Growth, Employment and Economic Development
INTRODUCTION
Tribal communities are the first inhabitants of this country. In the later age Dravidians from the sea route in the south and the Aryans from the Himalayan route from the north came to India in search of fertile land and water and settled here; pushed the original people to the hills and the deep forests. In the forests they remained aloof from the modern civilization with limited needs to maintain their life; they had only spoken language without any script for writing and reading. Some communities adopted the language of the state where they live and others, as in North Eastern states, adopted English as their language for reading and writing. During British rule in India these tribal communities were identified and termed as Scheduled Tribes (ST) and after independence they are recognized as backward community and provided certain special benefits by the government.

Tribal population is found in all the districts of Odisha but very scanty in the coastal district and more than fifty percent in some interior districts. In eight districts the tribal population is less than five percent of district’s population while in another eight districts namely, Mayubhanj, Sundargharr, Koraput, Nawarngpur Rayagada, Kandhamal Malkangiri and Gajapati the tribal population is 50 or more than 50 percent. Tribal population of these districts comes to about 46 lakhs which is around 58 per cent of the total tribal population. In population the district of Mayurbhanj tops with 12.58 lakhs which is around 16 percent of total tribal population of the state. This district is mostly inhabited by Santali community.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE
There is large number of studies on the tribal community of Odisha, but very few studies have been conducted on the Saora tribe. Some of the important studies on tribal economy of Odisha in post-reform period are reviewed.

Panda B.K., (1996) stated that the analysis of consumption pattern in Odisha including the schedule tribes. This is mainly based on 38th round of NSS data. It is observed that the Engel Ratio for all food items is the highest for schedule tribes which have the lowest average per
capita income. It is also found that the schedule tribes are at lower level of standard of living compared to general households.

**Das (1997)** evaluated the tribal development scenario of Orissa in the context of poverty a melioration programmers of the government it has been felt that for integrating the various antipoverty programmes with the sectoral programmers in a specified area is needed so as to ensure a suitable increase in employment and income of the rural poor and tribals. It has been suggested that in the implementation of wage employment programmes priority should be given to activities which improve the land resources base and eco-system in rural areas such as water harvesting desalting of irrigation tanks, construction of fields canals drainage and measures for soil conservation including forestation.

**Pandit R. C., (1999)** found from his study that the main problem of the tribals is poverty associated with general backwardness, under utilization of resources due to lower level of technology, illiteracy, ignorance and superstition etc. The solution to their problem lies with the removal of poverty and not with the provision of more subsistence.

**Patri D. & Jyoti (2000)** analyzed the socio economic problems of Bonda tribe. He specifically studied the communication strategy for tribal development and socio-economic condition. He called for a massive effort, not simply to boost production but to create and spread unemployment and to root out the fundamental causes of poverty disease ignorance an injustice. He believed that socio-economic development does not start with goods; it starts with people and their education organization and discipline. Without these elements all resources remain latent and infective.

**IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY**

Tribal population which forms around one-fourth of state’s population requires special attention of the planners and the government for the general economic growth of the state. Even though with the introduction of Five Year Plans in the country the tribal development is being gaining importance and from the Fourth Five Year Plan they have given special
emphasis is given for development to bring them into main-stream, but much has to be done in this regard. Tribal’s general studies are less importance, since the different categories of tribals have their own system of socio-economic forms, which are different from other communities. Hence specific studies have to be conducted for specific tribals. The Saoras which forms a considerable population among tribals in Odisha requires specific studies to improve their lot.

RESEARCH AND UNIVERSE METHODOLOGY
The study is based mainly on primary data supported by secondary data collected from government offices and published books and reports. The primary data is collected in the five sample blocks of Gajapati district by the investigator personally. The primary data is collected from the head of the family, and in few cases the data collected from other senior member of the family. The secondary data required for the study are collected from the following sources at the state and district level offices includes Director, Elementary Education, Department of Health Education, Director Health Services, Director, Family Welfare, Directorate of Employment, Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

PROFILE OF GAJAPATI DISTRICT OF ODISHA
Gajapati district lies between 83° 48’ to 84° 27’ E Longitude and 18° 46’ to 19° 38’ N latitude. It is bound by the Kandhamal district in the north, Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh in the south, Ganjam district in the East and Rayagada district in the West. The climatic condition of the district is general hot and high humidity during April and May and cold during December and January. The district has an area of 4325 sq. kms. In area the district is at the 15th position, the first position comes to the district of Mayurbhanj with a geographical coverage of 10,418 sq. kms. Gajapati is at middle of the districts as far as area is concerned. The district has population of 5.76 lakhs as per 2011 census. The decadal growth rate of population remained at 14.10 and 10.98 percent respectively during the last two decades of 1991-01 and 2001-11 respectively.
SOCIAL CONDITION OF THE AREA UNDER STUDY

In the district under study the tribal population exceeds 50 percent. In the rural sector their percentage is 56.19 percent but in the combined rural and urban tribals their percentage is 50.76 percent. Only 2.94 percent of tribals live in the two urban areas of Kasinagar, NAC and Parlakhemundi Municipality. The highest concentration of tribals is found in Rayagodo block where the percentage of tribal population in the block constitutes 78.87 percent. The lowest percentage of tribals live in Parlakhemundi block, where only 12.18 percent of tribals live. In the five of the blocks, namely, Rayagodo, Nuagada, Gumma, R.Udayagiri and Mohana where more than 50 percent of the people are tribals; there on an average 71 percent are tribal people. Kasinagar and Parlakhemundi blocks which are in the southern part of the districts less number of tribal live which not suitable for them as the area is covered by dense forests which is lowed by the tribals.

Along with tribals the scheduled caste community is also come under backward community. Like tribals the SCs are also found in all the districts of the state. But the SCs are comparatively more developed socially and economically than the tribals. The SC community lives mostly in urban areas, unlike the tribals. The total population of SCs in the district is 38.87 thousand which forms 7.89 percent of the total district population. They are 16.20 per cent in the two urban areas, but in the rural sector their population is 30.30 thousand which forms 6.50 percent of total rural population. Around the two urban areas the SC population is concentrated accordingly in the blocks of Kasinagar and Parlakhemundi 16 percent each SC population are found. In other five of the blocks the SCs constitute below five percent. Like tribals the sex ratio of SC also remains above 1000 indicating the female population higher than males.

ECONOMIC CONDITION OF THE AREA UNDER STUDY

According to the Economic Survey 2011-12, Odisha, Bhubaneswar the GDDP of Gajapati district increased from Rs. 934.08 crores in 2004-05 to Rs. 1646.87 crores in 2008-09, a net growth of Rs.712.79 crores,
percentage growth of 76.31 in four years, that is, an average annual growth rate of 19.08 percent. The NDDP of the district increased at the average growth rate of 19.22 percent during the same year. The per capita NDDP which was Rs.16.13 thousand in 2004-05 increased to Rs.27.38 thousand, an increase of 69.75 percent that is an annual growth rate of 17.44 percent; this ratio is less than annual growth rate of GDDP, but slightly higher to the annual growth rate of NDDP. There is no large scale industry in the district. There are 87 small scale industries and 576 cottage industries. Total capital investment in these industries is 1.54 crores, of which about 30 percent invested in cottage industries and the rest in small industries. The average employment in small scale industry is 8 persons and in cottage industries it is two persons. Establishment of cottage industries made good progress in recent years. There were 38 cottage industry units in the year 2001-02, which sharply increased to 576 units in the year 2003-04. There are 17 branches of public sector banks and 10 branches of Regional Rural Banks in the district. The co-operative institutions are serving the people mainly of the weaker section of the people with providing small agricultural credit and mobilising rural savings. There are 50 Agricultural Credit Co-operative Societies in the district of which 42 societies operate in two of the blocks of Kasinagar and Parlakhemundi, constituting around 84 percent of total ACC Societies. Rest of the Credit Societies are spread in other blocks. Mohana block which is the largest block, in area and population has only two societies. Membership of these societies exceeds 57 thousand.

CONCLUSION
The district of Gajapati being a tribal district with a population of more 57 percent of Saora tribals is an averagely developed district in comparison to other districts of the state. The district has no large scale or medium scale industries or any major water works for irrigation facilities for agriculture. But the tribal people are hard working and mainly depend on hill shifting cultivation products and collection of forest products for their living. But in recent years social and economic status is gradually uplifting and they are gradually coming to the main stream economy of the state with shift development of education
opportunity and health facilities expanding in the district. Though the Saora community benefited from the tribal welfare programmes implemented in the district, if not fully but satisfactorily we understand from the study. While implementing the policies by the administration “More Care towards More Share” should be observed.

REFERENCES