

Primary Sector Engagement of Katkari Tribes: Special Reference to Satara District

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Abstract:

Occupational structure refers to the aggregate distribution of working population in occupations, classified according to skill level, economic function, or social status. The social and economic development is depending on the percentage of community economically active and the quality and regularity of work. The Katkari community is categorized as a ST (Scheduled Tribe). Traditionally the Katkari tribes are known for production and sale of catechu/ charcoal. This paper focusing on occupational structure of the Katkari community of Satara district and detailed analysis is made on primary sub sector engagement of katkari tribes in study area.

Keywords: Occupational Pattern, Primary Sub Sector, Tribes

Introduction:

The social and economic development of any region as well as any community is depending on the number of persons who are economically active and the quality and regularity of their work. The Katkari are mostly belonging to the Maharashtra state. They have been categorized as a ST (Scheduled Tribe). The Katkari population engaged in a wide range of livelihoods including the production and sale of catechu, charcoal, firewood and other forest products, freshwater fishing, hunting of small mammals and birds, upland agriculture and agricultural labour on the farms of both tribal and nontribal farmers. In this proposed research work the researcher will try to investigate on present occupational structure of the Katkari community of Satara district its reason and impact on their standard of living

Today the scheduled tribes stand at the cross-roads. On one hand, they are constantly losing their ethnic identity, but on the other hand, they have not been able to incorporate themselves with the mainstream society. The main thing behind social backwardness and social exclusion is the lack of education and their traditional occupation. This paper helps to know the various earning activities done by the katkari society, their economic condition.

Objectives of Study:

1. To study occupational structure of Katkari Tribes in Satara District
2. To understand and analyse primary sector engagement of Katkari tribes in study region

Hypothesis:

H1- Katkari tribes are engaged with their traditional primary sector occupation.

Ho- Katkari tribes are not engaged with their traditional primary sector occupation.

Research Methodology:

For collecting the information of occupational structure of the Katkari community of considered study area Survey Method is used.

Sampling:

Katkari community is comes in Scheduled Tribes (ST) category. As per the District Census Handbook report of the Satara 2011, percentage of ST in total district population is 0.99 % with actual population of 29635 people from 5629 households. Out of this total households first five rankers Thalís are Satara (15%), Wai (14%), Mahableshwar (11.26%), Karad (11.12 %) and Patan (9.63 %) who contains approximate 62 percent (3456) households of this society. The statistical data of specific katkari tribes is not available but the major portion of this community is located in the above said five tehsils. For the analysis of occupational structure of Katkari community 105 samples by using simple random sample technique selected from these five selected tehsils of Satara district.

Data Collection:

The primary data is collected through a questionnaire to the respondents, survey and observation method and secondary data is collected from documents, records published by Government, various Books, Journals and web sources for the period of 2011 to 2022

Sector wise Occupation:

Occupational structure is referring as percentage of workforce engaged in different sectors of the economy. Typically, the economy is divided between three sectors and the occupation is classified as on the basis of that i.e., primary activities, secondary activities and tertiary activities or service.

Table No. 1 Sector wise Occupation (In %)

Sector	Thalis					Total
	Satara	Wai	M. shwar	Karad	Patan	
Primary	16.00	52.00	35.00	60.00	60.00	42.86
Secondary	68.00	36.00	10.00	35.00	13.33	35.24
Service	16.00	12.00	55.00	5.00	26.66	21.90
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Primary data

Table no. 1 expresses the sector wise engagement of workforce of Katkari Tribes of Satara district. More than fifty percent respondent's workforce of Wai, Karad and Patan Tahsil were engaged with the primary sector activities. In case of Satara tahsil

sixty eight percent respondents were engaged with secondary sector activity and 16 percent each of primary and service sector activities. Inverse situation was found in Mahableshwar Tahsil in which 55 percent respondents reported that they are engaged in service sector related activities only ten percent were earning from secondary sector. Mahableshwar is famous as tourist place so it provides opportunities to the Katkari tribes to work in the activities related to service sector.

Occupational structure among katkaries of each Tahasil is depends on what development level and regional resources of that particular area. In Satara Tahsil most of the Ktkaries were engaged in industrial sector related activities and in Mahableshwar majority portion occupied in service sector related activities.

Overall, it seems that 42.86 percent Katkaries occupied in primary sector activities, 35.24 percent engaged in secondary sector activities and 21.90 percent earns through tertiary sector activities. There is no any Tahsil wise consistency about the occupation and occupational pattern among the Katkari tribes found in the Satara district.

Primary sector sub engagement:

Primary sector comprises activities related to the extraction and production of natural resources. Primary sector is a compass of agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, fishing, poultry farming, mining and quarrying activities. Table no. 4.6 indicates occupation structure of Katkaries in the primary activities.

Production and sale of catechu and charcoal is the traditional occupation of the Katkari tribes and they are known for it specifically. In the study region it is found that, no one is engaged with the production and sale of catechu and charcoal. This is because of, there is negligible production of catechu in the study region and there is no huge demand for this product. On another side it indicates that this is the main reason behind the changes in the structure of occupation of the Katkari Tribes in Satara.

Table No. 2 Primary sector sub engagement (In %)

Sub Sector	Tahasil					Total
	Satara	Wai	M. shwar	Karad	Patan	
Sale of forest products	0	15.38	42.86	0	22.22	15.56 [6.66]
Fishing	25	69.24	14.28	58.33	55.56	48.89 [20.95]
Agricultural labour	75	15.38	42.86	41.67	22.22	35.55 [15.24]
Prod./sale of Catechu/Charcoal	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Source: Primary Data

(Note- figure in the box [] indicates percentage in the total)

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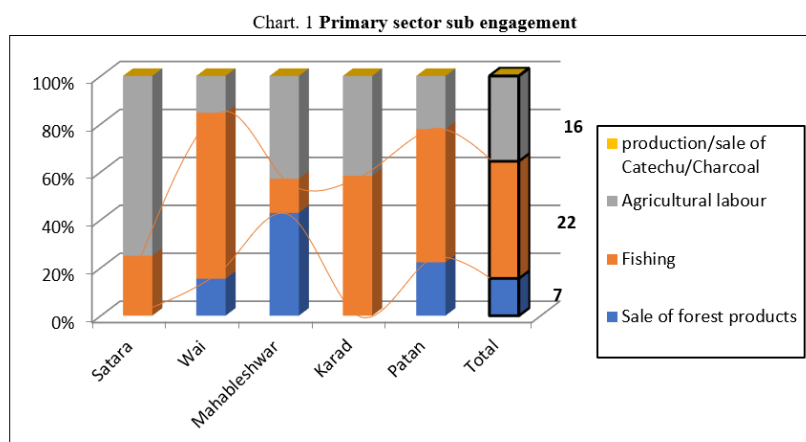


Chart. 1 Primary sector sub engagement

Fishing is the second one traditional important occupation of the Katkaries. In the study area it is found that nearby 48.89 percent of workforce engaged in the primary sector are occupied with this traditional business. Katkaries are located in the riverside and dam area of the Satara district i.e., on side of Dhom, kanher, Koyna, Murud- Tarale, Morna, Uttarmand, Morna etc. on an average nearby 21 % katkaries are engaged with this fishing activities. From the whole only 6.66 % occupied with the third one traditional business that is to sale forest products like honey, fruits, medicinal herbs and some other natural products. 35.55 percent respondents from this sector were agricultural labour.

All these sub activities are not providing continuous and consistent earning to the occupied person.

Conclusion:

Katkari tribe is marginal community of the Satara district having very negligible population size and density. The mean of the workforce is engaged in primary sector activity and mostly there is no consistency in their earning. Under the primary sector activity, the maximum is occupied with fishing and the method of

business is traditional, hence this community is economically backward. The main reason behind socially and economically exclusiveness of this community is their poor living style and that can be possible to improve by providing education and training.

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