

A Review of Katkari Tribes Development of Maharashtra**Dr. Shanta Arakeri Vittappa**

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Abstract

The Katkaris are PVTGs in Maharashtra amongst 75 PVTGs. They are socially economically and politically deprived. In this paper light is thrown on their profile by describing their socio-economic condition through indicators like condition of house, occupation, energy resources, water resources, literacy status, health status, migration issues, governmental schemes etc. The present study is purely based on secondary data i.e various research studies conducted by many researchers on socio-economic profile of Katkaris. The papers concluded with systematic, planned and timely interventions from side of government to empower katkari tribes socially, economically as well as politically.

Introduction:

In developing countries the process of development is not only economical but it comprises strategies for social outlook, social values, health, security, politics, government and law. If there is systematic and planned progress of any group or society from social, political and economic aspect then this is called as development. In real terms, development of any economy is attained by involving mainstream as well as underprivileged section of society. Government interventions are crucial in developing countries for inclusive development.

Many tribes are kept away from development race due to lack of availability of information about their culture. (Yoko 2006). Tribes in India are found to be underprivileged and lagged behind several basic facilities. India constitute 705 Schedule Tribes (STs) which is 8.6% of total population (Census 2011). The highest population of STs are found in Madhya Pradesh, followed by Odisha and Maharashtra. Tribes in India are categorized into different groups and 4th five year plan identified some tribes as most vulnerable groups. 75 out of 705 tribes are recognized as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). Debar Commission decided criterion for identifying PVTGs based on following

parameters: pre agriculture level of technology, low level of literacy, economic backwardness, declining or stagnant population.

Katkari tribes are one of the PVTGs in Maharashtra. Among the three groups of PVTGs in Maharashtra namely Katkari, Kolam, Maria Gond. The katkari was given the status of Primitive on the basis of its socio-cultural and economic backwardness by the ministry of welfare (Mahto. K.R. lakra.N). These tribal groups are mainly concentrated in Nashik, Pune, and Thane and predominant population are found in Raigad (Kulaba) district of Maharashtra. As per the 2011 Census, they have the lowest literacy rate (41.7%) and the lowest proportion of cultivators (around 5%) among all the tribal groups in the state (TISS 2015).

Although human development index of Maharashtra is relatively high 0.752, PVTGs are prone to educational opportunities, economic advancement and low health index. Also they are marginalized in terms of basic infrastructure like electricity, road connectivity in current computerized and mechanized era. There are various state supported schemes initiated by government for upliftment of these PVTGs but results are not outstanding. Katkari tribes have nomadic tendency due to their poor economic condition. (TDD, 2001). They are not treated with respect in society because they live on the edges of urban centres. They are not able to find work and hence incidence of robbery and

poverty have been observed among them. Their poverty levels and educational problems are main obstacles in their development. Katkari tribes have been deprived from fruits of educational, social and economic development. This paper have thrown light on the social, economic, educational and health related conditions of Katkari tribes in Maharashtra and various schemes designed for their living. This paper also discussed the reality behind the implementation of schemes.

Objectives:

- 1) To assess social, economic, political, educational, health deprivation among Katkaris.
- 2) To study the obstacles in development of Katkari tribes.
- 3) To suggest remedies for betterment of all round development of Katkaris.

Research Methodology:**Sources of Data:**

Secondary sources of data have been used for proposed study. The secondary sources of data includes census, NFHS, population size have been taken from census report. Report of ministry of tribal affairs have been used to assess the social, economic and health status. Human Development Index of Maharashtra have been used to compare development of Katkari tribes with rest of the Maharashtra population. Research conducted by many researchers have been used to review the social, economic, political, and educational and health development among the Katkari tribes. Research articles, research thesis have been used for analysis.

Study Area:

Katkari Tribes of the Maharashtra are studies in this paper. As per the census of 2011 and Studies from many researchers, greater numbers of Katkari are residing the area Palghar, Pune (Mulshi), Raigad, Ratnagiri and Nashik. Hence research studies of many researchers conducted in Raiagad, mulshi is used for description.

Research design and data analysis:**Research Design:**

Descriptive Research Method will be used for describing Socio-Economic condition, Health Status,

Educational Status, Political Status and Human Development among the Katkaris.

Discussions:

According to various Studies conducted by many researchers on Katkari Tribes we can understand their livelihood, socio-economic status, health status, literacy level etc.

Livelihood and Socio-economic Status of katkari Tribes in Maharashtra:

Condition of House: they lives in Kuccha or Pakka house provided through government schemes. There were no houses constructed by self.

Occupation: Their traditional occupation is hunting with primitive tools and gathering forest resources which are threatened due to policies of government of forest conservation and reduction of depletion of natural resources. Most of the Katkari Tribes from Maharashtra works as daily wage labours because there are quick returns. They do not have their own agricultural land but they works on the land of other ST ethnic groups as agriculture labourer. Since Agriculture is seasonal and basically dependent on rainfall, there are no irrigational facilities they have to migrate at the end of season from the month of December to May in search of earnings. During this period of time Katkari people have to work for private contractors, stone breaking units and brick kilns. Migration affects adversely on their life. They have to work for long hours at very low wage rate with no healthcare and sanitation facilities. Children of those Katkari tribes who migrate along with them have to sacrifice formal education (schools) for the whole migration period.

Energy Resources:

Most of the Katkari tribes from studied area uses wood as a fuel and some of them uses Kerosene lamp for the light at night. There is no use of biogas and electricity amongst Katkaris.

Water Sources:

Water availability is through wells. Most of them uses rivers, streams, springs as water sources due to their traditional beliefs.

Literacy Status:

Literacy is one of the important indices for development of any community in any region but for tribal it is stepping stone for their development. (

Dr. Pawar. S. K). But for Katkari tribe's educational aspect is not primary issue, it is still considered as secondary issue. The maximum educational level is below middle education in most the katkari people. Dropout ratio is still greater. This is greater in case of girls because girl's education has not given priority. Children's education is affected due migration of parents and their unsustainable livelihood. In 1997 literacy rate amongst the Katkari was 16 %.(TRTI 1997). Later it became 21%. (Kurane 2009). As per the 2011 Census, they have the lowest literacy rate (41.7%) (TISS 2015).

Health Status:

It is found that Katkari people is having good health and immunity power. The general seasonal diseases found are malaria, cholera, diarrheal. Seasonal fever also found. Cases of snake, scorpion and dog bit are common, especially in winter and summer season.

Government Schemes

There are many state supported schemes drafted for the developments of Katkaris but their actual implementation is not done. They have access to the state Employment Guarantee Scheme (EGS) but it is only in stone breaking activity and not in agriculture. Number of workdays available under this schemes are very little and there is delay in payments.

The Katkaris were categorised as antyodaya (poorest among the poor) under the government's poverty classification (Mutatkar Rohit). Earlier the PDS provided pulses, edible oil and sugar, which was no longer the case. There was no representation of Katkari people in the local grampanchayats because they are socially stratified from mainstream community. And if any government scheme is available that is diverted to other ST ethnic groups.

Conclusion:

After studying the research conducted by many researchers, it is found that Socio-Economic profile of Katkari is trapped in poverty and deprivation. The katkaris are excluded from mainstream development activities. Katkaris are generally migrated in search of jobs and this created many adverse impacts on their and children's lives. Migration have taken away their employment. There

are many policies for their empowerment but they are still on paper they are far away from outreach. Hence it is important to draft systematic, timely governmental schemes for their sustainable livelihood. The policies should be based on ground reality and then their implementation.

Government should provide them land for cultivation purpose along with technical guidance and other resources like jobs, transportations facilities that can help them to come in the mainstream society. The life of tribal community is bases on forest resources but their rights to use resources taken away in the false conception of preservation of forest, later Forest Right act is passed in year 2006. But there are misunderstanding regarding this act and this is used by many stakeholder to exploit the Katkari people. Therefore it is the need of time that social scientist , social movements Human Rights Activities to see the act is properly implemented for the betterment of Katkari Community. If the development activities viewed from this perspective for those PVTGs like Katkaris who are trapped vicious cycle of social, educational and economic backwardness. Then it will be milestone towards the inclusive development of the country.

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