

Impact of Trifed on Livelihood Security of Tribal Households: A Special Reference to Nilgiris District, Tamilnadu

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Abstract

This paper has examined the changes in household income and employment patterns and has assessed the impact of TRIFED (Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India)-an organization with a prime aim of economic upliftment among the scheduled tribes in the country by way of marketing tribal products which are the life source of tribals. The study covers the Nilgiris District of Tamilnadu on Purposive Sampling techniques by covering 180 households. The impact of TRIFED will focus on employment generation, income generation, asset creation, and future perspectives dealt with in the study. It was found that TRIFED covered all poor sections of the tribal society irrespective of caste, gender, or social order. It also observed that this organization enhances income as well as savings of households. Further, it was noticed that TRIFED has created income-generating activities among tribal peoples.

Keywords: TRIFED, Income-generating, Tribals, Sustainability, Asset Creation.

Introduction

Livelihoods are the means people use to support themselves to survive, and to prosper. Livelihoods are an outcome of how and why people organize to transform the environment to meet their needs through technology, labour, power, knowledge, and social relations. Livelihoods are also shaped by the broader economic and political systems within which they operate. India is the abode of a sizeable proportion of indigenous people, who still live away untouched by the shadows of modern society. Tribals are a social group bound together by kin and duly associated with a particular territory; members of the tribe share the social cohesion and associated with the family together with the sense of political autonomy of the nation. Tribals are still longing for primitive agricultural practices with stagnant population, and stunted literacy, and are at the lowest chime of the human index. Most of the tribals are exploited by outsiders and the income level is low due to literacy. So, the planning commission made an initiative on socio-economic development of tribals by the way called TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India) by incorporating the trade of minor forest products. TRIFED helps in providing surplus agricultural products at a fair price. Thus, enhancing the tribals helps in the overall development of the economy.

Review of Literature

Sunil and Anupriya (2015) concluded that the increase in income was not satisfactory even it somehow increases the standard of living of the respondents and very few percentages of households did utilize 100 days of wage employment. The scheme is not fully and uniformly implemented in all the surveyed villages and it was successfully implemented in some villages. The assets created under the scheme were not proved for immense use and in some villages the scheme has increased irrigation facilities. They further concluded that the impact of the scheme on the economy was not equal.

Prabhakara Reddy (2018) examined that the tribal development measures of Andhra Pradesh and problems of tribal such as Land problems, Cultural and present strategies of tribal development. The study discussed that the concept of culture and Indus valley civilization in relation to tribal culture. The author made an interesting observation that the tribal women should be given appropriate skill to prepare leaf plates with 'adda' leaves and deciding of tamarind lead to value addition and increase in their income. Government reservation was increased education and economic status of scheduled tribes. The author provided details of policies and their approaches, in each five-year plan separately. The author also focused on the empowerment of tribal communities.

Sinu E (2019) made an extensive study on Living condition of Irula tribes in Villupuram District, TN. The researcher finding revealed that 66percent irulas were illiterates, negative attitude towards education and girl children education, 84 percent of irulas lives in adequate housing conditions, farming, better job security, indebtness.

P.Chellasamy & K.V.Lige (2021) examined that the factors influencing private entrepreneurs to invest in grinding and blending units on cement manufacturing. This study showed that investors give more importance to economic factors and production factors rather than possessing industrial status, providing huge employment opportunities and environment protection which were given least importance while investing in cement manufacturing units.

Statement of Problem

Economic conditions have a tremendous impact on an individual's life. It appears to be the most crucial component for primitive tribes, as they are unable to satisfy their day-to-day obligations due to low income levels. In the categories of separated ethnic groups, stagnant population, and lack of script knowledge, they are completely different from the style of life of civilized people. According to the 2016 census report, 906 ethnic groups in India are designated as Scheduled Tribes, accounting for 12.56 crore of the population, or 9.5% of the total population. Only 2.04 crore, or 10.09% of the total tribal population, reside in cities, with the remaining 90% relying on the rural economy. The tribal population has grown significantly from 40.22 million in 1972 to 208.7 million in 2016. The remaining 28% are classified as primitive tribes. They live in small groups in inaccessible areas with perilous living conditions. They have, to a large extent, perpetuated their cultural group identity through their typical living conditions. Several other factors have a significant impact on the Primitive tribe's household, income, and food security. Some of the government's initiatives aimed at improving their living

conditions by integrating them into the mainstream of development. However, all of these changes are suddenly reduced and do not correspond to the allocations made. Primitive tribes' literacy, income, and living conditions are deteriorating in comparison to others. Hence, the TRIFED has attempted to assist tribals with retail marketing development. As a result, the researcher should clarify the issue, and this study was designed to investigate the impact of TRIFED on livelihood security of selected particularly vulnerable tribal people in the Nilgiris District of Tamil Nadu.

Objectives

- To assess the impact of TRIFED on sustainable livelihood security of Tribal households.

Methodology of the Study

Primary data were collected through a structured interview schedule. The respondents selected for this study were PVTGs of Nilgiris Districts. The survey was conducted among six PVTGs Toda, Kota, Irulas, Kurumbas, Paniyan, and Kattunayaken in Nilgiris District. The interview Schedule method is adopted to assess the significance of fourteen variables. All the select variables have been identified by conducting a study among 180 respondents and thus the Cronbach's alpha value is more than 0.7 the interview schedule is accepted for the data collection. Factor analysis was applied to determine the principal factor and the number of dimensions that exist in the set of impact of TRIFED on livelihood security of tribal households. To determine whether the 15 variables are considered relevant for factor analysis, the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) measure of sampling adequacy and Bartlett's test of sphericity were calculated and Multiple Regression analysis was attempts to find out impact of TRIFED livelihood security.

Result and Discussions

Table: 1 Socio-Demographic Profile of the respondents

S.No	Parameters	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Age Group		
	18-25	35	19.4 %
	26-35	64	35.5%
	36-45	59	32.7%
	46 & Above	22	12.22%
2.	Education status		
	Illiterates	112	62.23
	Literates	68	37.77
3.	Type of families		
	Joint Families	84	46.66%
	Nuclear	96	53.34%
4.	Marital Status		
	Un Married	39	21.66%
	Married	141	78.33%
	Single	-	

	Widow/Divorced	-	
5.	Type of House		
	Hut	52	28.88%
	Tiled House	94	52.22%
	RCC Slabs	34	18.88%
6.	Level of Income (Rs)		
	< 2000	43	23.88%
	2000-5000	113	62.79%
	>5000	24	13.33%
7.	Employment		
	Cultivation	26	14.44%
	Labour	49	27.22%
	Daily Wage Labour	42	23.34%
	Collecting Forest produces	63	35%

Source: Primary Data

Table 1, reveals the socio demographic profile of the respondents among that, Majority of the sample respondents in the age group 26-35 year are at young and more productive age in group in workforce 64 out of 180 are in the same groups. The data of Education Status exhibits that 62.23 percentage illiterates and they are innocent, lack of knowledge about non tribals society as a result they are present exposing exploitation by non -tribals. The data on type of family reveals that Nuclear family accounts for 53.34 percentage. It shows that even tribal families peoples are derived to have privacy and further it is for the development which provides information on housing pattern and tribals in the study area. Majority of the families having tiled houses provided by the government under the schemes. Additionally, the types of MFP collects from forests like leaves, Seed and Flowers in the study area. Nearly, 35% respondents are collecting forest MFP. Further it dealt with level of income in the study area presents 23.88% are below the income of Rs.2000 followed by 62.79 percentage are lies under the income level of Rs. 2000 - Rs. 5000 and 13.33 percentage are deployed under the income of more than Rs.5000 respectively.

KMO and Bartlett's test

To determine whether the 14 variables are considered relevant for factor analysis, the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) measure of sampling adequacy and Bartlett's test of sphericity were calculated.

Table: 3 - KMO and Bartlett's Test

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy.		.721
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Approx. Chi-Square	1351.476
	df	134
	Sig.	.000

Table 2 measures Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) is an index which defines Sampling Adequacy. The KMO test value is 0.721 which is more than 0.5, can be considered acceptable and valid to conduct data reduction techniques.

The Bartlett's Test of Sphericity helps to decide, whether the result of factor analysis are worth for considering and whether we should continue analyzing the research work. Bartlett's Test of Sphericity significant to a level of significance is <0.001 which shows that there is a high level of correlation between variables.

Factor Loading

Factor loading is basically the correlation coefficient for the variable and factor. Factor loading shows the variance explained by the variable on that particular factor.

Table 4 Factor Loading

S.No.	STATEMENT	Factor Loading
1.	New Asset Purchased	0.572
2.	Level of Income	0.541
3.	Level of Saving	0.690
4.	Creation of Employment	0.610
5.	Awareness of Technology	0.622
6.	Financial Inclusion	0.738
7.	Education Level of Children	0.518
8.	Brand Identity	0.564
9.	Entrepreneurial Status	0.599
10.	Standard of Living	0.631
11.	Self-Employment	0.741
12.	Enhanced Knowledge of Natural Resource Management	0.544
13.	Work Force	0.606
14.	Reduction of Poverty	0.534

Multiple Regression Analysis

Table: 3 Multiple Regression Analysis

COMPANIES	R	R Square	Standardized Coefficient (beta)	Std.error	Durbin Watson	F	Sig
New Asset Purchased	.882	0.777	0.811	0.777	1.93	30.048	.008
Level of savings	.726	0.527	0.982	0.568	1.27	28.081	.000
Awareness of technology	.908	0.794	0.739	2.465	1.00	48.928	.000

Financial Inclusion	.911	0.792	0.611	2.190	2.73	27.382	.000
Education Level of children	.679	0.461	0.379	0.896	1.09	52.937	.000
Brand Identity	.543	0.285	0.849	1.528	2.25	93.038	.094
Entrepreneurial status	.726	0.622	0.666	0.444	1.11	113.49	.001
Enhanced knowledge of Natural resource Management	.412	0.169	0.709	0.836	1.74	44.048	.203
Work Force	.383	0.246	0.811	1.038	2.03	494.09	.009
Reduction of Poverty	.847	0.823	0.927	2.007	1.93	84.938	.000

5% Level of Significance

Predictors (Constant): *New Asset Purchased, Level of Savings, awareness of Technology, Financial Inclusion, Education Level of Children, Brand Identity, Entrepreneurial Status, enhanced Knowledge of Natural Resource Management, gWork Force and Reduction of Poverty*

Dependent Variable: *Level of Income, Standard of Living and Creation of Employment*

Table 2 deployed the results of multiple regression analysis. It is inferred that the highest R² value lies on Reduction of Poverty and Lowest R² value lies on Enhanced Knowledge of Natural Resource Management. The calculated P value is less than the significant value 0.05 on level of savings, Awareness of technology, financial inclusion, Education level of children, Entrepreneurial status and reduction of poverty and hence, it is described that null hypothesis is rejected and concluded that there is a significant impact exhibits between TRIFED on sustainable livelihood security (the Level of income, standard of living and creation of employment) of Tribal households. Other factors are not significant impact on TRIFED on sustainable livelihood security.

Conclusion

Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) are one of the underprivileged occupants of the current world. They are at a dead stop in the antique stage and distinct from the touch and contact of contemporary development intent society at large. After the interventions made by the Government of India through planning commission, GOI exercise and disburse millions of amount on tribal welfare programs, the main result of development has not reached the weaker section of primitive tribal communities. Hence, the study focused on wither-away impact on primitive tribal’s livelihood and financial impact on Nilgiris District. The result of factor analysis imposes that Self Employment, Level of Saving and Entrepreneurial Status has a significant impact on livelihood of the tribal’s. Thus, TRIFED helps in improving the tribals by giving assistance on VAN DHAN YOJANA scheme and Cooperative development. But the tribal peoples from extremely remote areas still remain unaware about such development schemes.

Thus proper management of developmental programme and implementation might uplift the tribals to that stage, where they become free from categorization as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups, though it is genuinely a time-taking process and they have to keep patience for those days.

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