



IMPACT OF FARM TECHNOLOGY ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC LEVELS OF TRIBALS

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ABSTRACT

India is home to a large number of tribes with population of about 70 million. Due to welfare programmes tribal communities made themselves conscious about their own existence. They have become more vibrant with new experience and are moving out of their isolation on to paths of development in terms of adoption of new farm technology. The study was conducted in Gondia district. 600 Sample was selected by convenience sampling techniques. Data was gathered by the tool interview scheduled through survey method and analysed by percentages. Respondents who have adopted farm technology had higher socioeconomic level.

Keywords: Socio-economic status, Tribal people, farm technology, Adoption of innovations.

INTRODUCTION

The term 'status' means position of a person in a society. The term 'role' is closely linked to the notion of status. It refers to the behaviour expected of people in a status. The status of a person or a group in a society is determined mainly by the educational status. Economic status, employment status are closely related to one another.

"One has to love tribal culture in India to understand the uniqueness of their culture. Warm hospitality, simple ways of living

and sincere judgement of the opinions are some of the traits that mark the tribal culture of India. Their custom depicts their belief in simplicity. Except for the few most of the tribes in India is sociable, hospitable and fun loving along with strong community bonds. Some of the tribes share patriarch culture ties & some of the tribal societies are women oriented. They have their own festivals and celebrations. The tribal people are clinging to their identity despite external influences.



The term socioeconomic aspects is often discussed in broad term as satisfaction of needs, feeling of well being, good or bad working conditions and other indicators. Such a conceptualization of it encompasses all the material aspects of human life, and may extend beyond to cover the physical and psychological dimensions. It covers diverse and innumerable human needs. Human need at the elementary level may include essentials of survival like drinking water, perpetuation needs, shelter and warmth. A tribe is an independent political division of a population with a common culture. Tribal people are primitive residents of our country."

They have become more vibrant with expectations and are moving out of their isolation on to paths of development in terms of adoption of new farm technology.

It is important to know that the role of adoption is important to analyse the socioeconomic level of

the tribals on adopting farm technology.

Adoption

"Adoption is an individual matter or phenomenon or behavioural socioeconomical phenomenon or mental process." (Rogers & Shoemaker 1971)

Adoption of new farm technology is not instant act but a mental process through which an individual passes from hearing about it to its ultimate adoption.

Adoption of innovation

Adoption of an innovation is an act which involves thought, decisions and action. In the process of adoption of an innovation an individual passes mainly through five stages viz, awareness, interest, evaluation, trial and adoption.

Adoptional Behaviour

The importance of farmer's adoption of new agricultural technology has long been of interest to agricultural extension and economists. Several parameters have identified as influencing the adoption behaviour of farmers from qualitative and



quantitative models for the exploration of the subject. Social scientists investigating farmer's adoption behaviour have accumulated considerable evidence showing that demographic variables technology, technology characteristics, information sources, knowledge, awareness, attitude and group influence affect adoption behaviour.

Adoption Technology

Technology adoption has a very important role in human life where new ideas & techniques can be learned and used in our life. People participate in this process & adopt new ideas or techniques and can improve their economic & social status.

Technology adoption can be said as a process that begins with awareness of the techniques & progresses through a series of steps that end in appropriate & effective usage of the technology.

Farm Technology

Technology has played a big role in developing the agricultural industry. Farm technology is the collection of techniques, skill,

method and processes used in the production of goods and services or in the accomplishment of objectives, such as scientific investigation.

Agricultural technology refers to technology for use of Machines on farms to help with farming. Agriculture is the art and science of crop and livestock production.

Human beings are addicted to technology. It plays an important role in every person's life. Whether in the field of education, health, agriculture & communication, technology changes the reality of life, saves time and saves labor.

Tribals in India have been introduced to farm technology. The present study investigated the socio-economic level of tribals who have adopted farm technology.

The study had the following objectives :

Objectives of the study

- 1) To find out the economic status of the respondents.
- 2) To find out the social status of the respondents.



3) To study the impact of technologies in improving the socioeconomic status of the respondents.

Need and Importance of the study

The basic need of the study was to find out the socio-economic status of tribal people who have adopted farm technology. The study primarily focused on adoptional factors that will help the policy makers to consider them while introducing farm technology to the tribals. The conclusions drawn from the study can be of importance to policy makers in the government, NGO & university departments engaged in the field of tribal development.

Methodology

The present study was conducted in four tribal blocks of Gondia district covering East, West, North & South regions. Convenience sampling was used in which only those people who have adopted farm technology were selected. Survey method was used to collect data from 600 samples in Gondia district. Interview schedule was the tool used to

collect data; which was further analyzed with the help of percentage method.

RESULT

The following table 1 reveals the economic levels of the respondents.

It is revealed from Table - 1 that the maximum (300) respondents had farming as their occupation. 31.67% of respondents obtained monthly income of Rs. 6000/- & above Maximum (53.33%) respondents saved money. 53.33% respondents had sufficient income to meet expenses. Maximum (66%) respondents found work on own land.

Table 2 reveals the social conditions of the respondents.

As revealed in Table 2 the social condition of the respondents was analysed. Multiple respondents participated in various activities. But most popular was Haldi-Kumkum. Maximum (96.67%) respondents had favourable relationship with society members & 96.67% respondents had interaction with



society members. Maximum (81.67%) respondents were consulted for social affairs.

Table 3 reveals the technology adoption and status improvement.

It is revealed from table 3 that for 83.33% of respondents the technology is still being sustained. Maximum (80%) respondents recommended the technology to others and are willing for technology adoption. Maximum (33.33%) of respondents took 2 to 3 months time for adopting technology. Maximum (270) respondents received guidance or information from Extension workers.

CONCLUSION

To assess the Socio-economic status of the respondents in the study area, occupation and Income levels have been considered. Most of the

respondents were farmers by occupation, earned a monthly income of more than Rs. 6000/- per month. Maximum respondents saved money and had sufficient income to meet expenses. Maximum respondents were working on land. Most of the respondents have various social activities like Haldi-Kumkum, Mahila-Bachat Ghat, Mahila-Medava, Mahila Bhajan-Mandal. Maximum respondents had favourable relationship and interaction with society members. Maximum respondents consulted other society members. Maximum respondents are still using technology and they have recommended technology to others.

It can be inferred that higher Socio economic conditions is observed among respondents who have adopted farm technology.

**Table 1: Economic Status of Respondent (n = 600)**

Economic Condition			
1	Occupation	Number	
	Tailoring & Knitting	150	
	Fisheries	100	
	Gruhudhyog (Making Papad)	60	
	Farming	300	
	Poultry Keeping	100	
	Beedi Making	100	
* Multiple Respondents			
2	Monthly Income (In Rupees)	Number	Percent
	Less than 2000/-	100	16.67%
	2001 - 4000	160	26.67%
	4001 - 6000	150	25%
	6001 & above	190	31.67%
3	Saving of Money	Number	Percent
	Save Money	320	53.33%
	Not saving	280	46.67%
4	Sufficient Income to Meet Expenses	Number	Percent
	Sufficient	320	53.33%
	Not sufficient	280	46.67%
5	Ownership of Land by Respondents	Number	Percent
	Work on own Land	360	60%
	Work as labourer	190	31.67%
	Non-agricultural work	50	8.33%

Table 2: Social Condition of Respondents (n = 600)

1	Various social Activities	Number	
	HaldiKumkum	300	
	MahilaBachat Gut	200	
	MahilaMelava	150	
	MahilaBhajanMandal	200	
* Multiple Respondents			
2	Relationship with Society Members	Number	Percent
	Favourable	580	96.67%
	Not Favourable	20	3.33%
3	Interaction with Society Member	Number	Percent
	Interacts	580	96.67%
	Do not Interact	20	3.33%
4	Consultation for Social Affair	Number	Percent
	Consults	490	81.67%
	Do not consult	111	18.33%

**Table 3: Technology Adoption and Status Improvement (n = 600)**

1	Sustainability of technology	Number	Percent
	Still using	500	83.33%
	Not using	100	16.67%
2	Technology Recommended to Others	Number	Percent
	Recommended	480	80%
	Not Recommended	120	20%
3	Reason for Technology Adoption		Number
	Cost		200
	Relative Advantage		200
	Technique Appropriates		200
	Simplicity of Application		200
	Divisibility		200
*Multiple Respondents			
4	Willingness for Technology Adoption	Number	Percent
	Wiling	480	80%
	Unwilling	120	20%
5	Time Taken for Adopting Technology	Number	Percent
	1 - 2 Months	180	30%
	2 - 3 Months	200	33.33%
	3 - 4 Months	100	16.67%
	4 - 5 Months	120	20%
6	Sources of Information	Number	
	Media	200	
	Extension Worker	270	
	Neighbour& Friends	200	
	Experts	50	
* Multiple Respondents			

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