



ISSN (E): 2277-7695
ISSN (P): 2349-8242
NAAS Rating: 5.23
TPI 2022; SP-11(9): 2596-2597
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www.thepharmajournal.com
Received: 16-06-2022
Accepted: 26-08-2022

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Constraints in day to day livelihood of tribal farmers

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Abstract

The present study was conducted in Palghar district of Konkan region of Maharashtra state, with the objectives to identify constraints in day to day livelihood of tribal farmers. In all, 240 farmers were selected from Palghar district. Personal interview technique was used for data collection. The tribal farmers were experiencing many constraints such as unemployment, low wages, poor health facilities, poor basic amenities, unawareness about development schemes etc.

Keywords: Constraints, tribal farmers, objectives, low wages, poor health facilities

Introduction

The majority of tribal people have small land holding and hence their cropping pattern is very limited. The tribals involved in shifting cultivation do not seem to have any emotional attachment to the land as an asset or property needing care and attention as in non-tribal areas. In shifting cultivation lands, no attention is paid to the replenishment of soil fertility. Tribals merely believe in harvesting crops without putting in efforts or investments. The low education status is the serious problem among Tribal community. Majority of the old people in this community are completely illiterate, while adults and youths have completed their education hardly up to 10th standard. This lower percentage of education of Tribal community has created many problems like unemployment, less standard of living, unawareness of health care, etc. Several development programmes have been undertaken for development of the tribal's to reduce the critical gaps in the field of health, education, agriculture, horticulture, skill up gradation and rural connectivity at par with the developed areas of the State. Government has focused on empowering the tribal's and enabling them to enhance their food security, increase their incomes and improve their livelihood security through more efficient natural resource management, more productive environmentally sound agricultural practices, and through off-farm/non-farm enterprise development. Keeping this in view, it was considered the present study was planned with the following objective
To identify the constraints in day to day livelihood of tribal farmers.

Methodology

The present study was conducted in Palghar district of Konkan region of Maharashtra state, with the objectives to identify constraints in day to day livelihood of tribal farmers. In all, 240 farmers were selected from Palghar district. Personal interview technique was used for data collection. Suitable statistical tools were used to analyze the data.

Result and Discussion

Constraints in day to day livelihood of tribal farmers

An important aspect of the study to identify the constraints operating against the livelihood security of tribal farmers. An enquiry was made with the respondents as well their family members about inhibiting factors in their day to day life. The constraints reported by the tribal farmers are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Distribution of the respondents according to their constraints in day to day livelihood

Sl. No.	Constraints	Respondents (N=240)	
		Number	Percentage
1.	Less employment opportunities for livelihood.	223	92.92
2.	Planning of Tribal Welfare Schemes is not based on local needs of the community.	211	87.92
3.	Poor access to health centers and limited mobility of ASHA workers.	210	87.50
4.	Low wages, and sex-wise difference in wages lead to poor income.	209	87.08
5.	Basic aspects such as drinking water, health, child-welfare and transport etc. are not taken care off.	201	83.75
6.	Livelihood security forces one to migrate.	187	77.92
7.	Very few avenues for creation of livelihood security in remote areas.	184	76.67
8.	No trainings for income generating activities, skill development and subsidiary occupations.	178	74.16
9.	Lack of awareness about tribal welfare schemes.	172	71.67
10.	Political interference in the selection of beneficiaries.	168	70.00
11.	Rare visits of field inspector and extension agents for technical guidance and support.	158	65.83
12.	Lack of agricultural development schemes.	156	65.00
13.	No land holdings for cultivation.	142	59.17
14.	Complicated procedure in applying for the scheme forces one to approach through mediatory.	130	54.17
15.	BPL tribals are always given preference for selection as beneficiary.	128	53.33

It is revealed from the Table 1 that, majority (92.92 %) of the tribal farmers have experienced the constraints of 'less employment opportunities for livelihood' followed by 'planning of tribal welfare schemes is not based on local needs of the community' (87.92 %), 'poor access to health centers and limited mobility of ASHA workers' (87.50 %), 'low wages, and sex-wise difference in wages lead to poor income' (87.08 %), and 'basic aspects such as drinking water, health, child-welfare and transport etc. are not taken care off' (83.75 %).

Further it is noticed that, more than three-fifth (77.92 %) of the tribal farmers have pointed out the constraint such as 'livelihood security forces one to migrate' followed by 'very few avenues for creation of livelihood security in remote areas' (76.67 %), 'no trainings for income generating activities, skill development and subsidiary occupation' (74.16 %), 'lack of awareness about tribal welfare schemes' (71.67 %), and 'political interference in the selection of beneficiaries' (70.00 %).

'Rare visits of field inspector and extension agents for technical guidance and support' (65.83 %), followed by 'lack of agricultural development schemes' (65.00 %), 'no land holdings for cultivation' (59.17 %), 'complicated procedure in applying for the scheme forces one to approach through mediatory' (54.17 %), and 'BPL tribals are always given preference for selection as beneficiary' (53.33 %) were other important constraints opined by the respondents in their day to day livelihood.

Conclusions

It was observed that, by and large, the tribal farmers are not happy about the functioning of various tribal development schemes. All efforts of government and NGOs working at grass root level go waste if adequate manpower for field visits and for monitoring the progress work are not made available in time. The concerned agencies should plan need based programmes keeping in view the demand of local communities.

Constraints in day to day work are dis-incentives for the tribal farmers and ultimately reduce the livelihoods. Some of the severe constraints in livelihood security have been brought forward in the present investigation. By establishing a close linkage between Tribal Development Department's and tribal communities, these constraints could be overcome for guaranteed livelihood. Hence efforts are needed in this direction.

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