

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL EFFECT OF POVERTY OF TRIBAL COMMUNITY IN THANE DISTRICT (MAHARASHTRA)

ASSO. PROF. DR. DEEPAK D SHELAR (HOD ECONOMICS)
P.L. SHROFF COLLEGE OF ARTS AND COMMERCE.
CHINCHANI. TAL. DAHANU DIST. THANE (MAH) 401501

: ABSTRACT :

Indian Society is divided in various caste and creed. More than six thousand caste, sub-castes and tribal communities are found in India. The Indian Tribal society has a significant and important role in our country. Still after sixty six years of Independence the tribal community of India is living in the worst economic condition.

The concept of Poverty is related to the people who are below poverty line and unable to fulfill their basic needs i.e. food, shelter and cloths. Poverty is a humiliating problem of Indian economy and one of the barriers for economic development. The benefits of the development in India are opted only by some limited persons particularly from urban areas . Rural as well as tribal sector is yet a neglected sector of the economy.

*People living in rural, tribal sector face lot of problems, such as lack of drinking water facility, lack of proper Healthcare, lack of proper Education, improper Transport facility, lack of Employment opportunities and lack of other Infrastructural facility etc. this shows that the economic and social condition of Tribal's is worst. **Poverty** is a major reason behind all these problems of the Tribal's.*

1. INTRODUCTION:

Poverty is the major economic problem of India. India is on second rank in the world for population. Growth rate of Indian economy is also remarkable, Still one fourth population of our country are below the poverty line. According to the Tendulkar Committee, 29.8% people are living under the poverty line in India during 2009-10. According to the Planning Commission of India, poverty line is drawn with an intake of 2400 calories in rural areas and 2100 calories in urban areas and on this basis the cut – off point turn out to be Rs.754 for rural areas and Rs.961 for urban areas per month. (Planning Commission of India March.2012)

“Those people who always reside in a specific geographical area, who follow a specific language and tradition, who are illiterate and who live a traditional life is called as Tribal people or Adivasi.” (William P Scott. ‘Tribal Social Science’)

2. IMPORTANCE OF THE PROBLEM:

Maharashtra is an advanced and economically growing state in India. The Economy of Maharashtra has been consistently developing and growing but still 50% population of Maharashtra is unable to gain the minimum calorie requirement through their food. It can be seen that Poverty and illiteracy are the severe problems faced by Tribal sector of Maharashtra. Thane District is very near to the dream city ‘Mumbai’, and is also a developed district as compared to other districts in Maharashtra. Thane is attached with the Economic Capital of India - Mumbai and recognized as a developed district, still the economic and social condition of the Tribal’s living in the district is extremely miserable. Jawhar, Mokhada, Talasari, Wada, Vikramgad, Murbad and Dahanu Taluka in Thane district are known as the Tribal belt as 85 to 90 percent population living in these Talukas are from Tribal community.

2.1. Objectives of the research:

- ❖ To study the effect of poverty on economy and tribal community.
- ❖ To find out way for reducing poverty.

2.2. Hypothesis of the research:

- ❖ Poverty is the serious problems of Tribal community.
- ❖ The rate of illiteracy is very high in the Tribal sector of Thane district..

2.3. Research Methodology: The Primary data was collected through a sample survey conducted in tribal sector (200 families each from Dahanu, Talasari and Jawhar taluka) of Thane district. The Secondary Data is collected from various reference books, journals, and various government publications and reports.

2.4. Limitations of the research: Being a vast area, a detailed study of poverty of entire Tribal belt would require much time and work. So Dahanu, Talasari and Jawhar Taluka (Tribal belt) has been selected for the research.

3. PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA: Thane District ranks third amongst the industrially developed district, second on the basis of population and stands sixteenth on the basis of area in Maharashtra state. There are 13 Blocks and 15 Talukas in the District. Thane, Kalyan,

Ulhasnagar, Ambernath, Bhiwandi, Vasai and Palghar taluka are industrially developed related to other talukas, while Shahapur, Murbad, Wada, Jawhar, Mokhada, Dahanu, Vikramgad and Talasari Talukas are mostly hilly in nature and rural population in this Talukas comprises mostly of Scheduled tribes (Adivasi) people. Kathodi, Katkari, Konkana, Konkani, Koli, MahadevKoli, MalharKoli, Warli, Thakar, Dubla, Kolidhor, Thakrekoli are some tribal community found in Thane district.

3. 1. Poverty in thane district:

Table No. 1. BPL - APL families in Thane district.

Sr. No	Name of the Block	Population	Tribal Population	No. of APL families	No. of BPL family	Poverty (%)
1	Vasai	795863	81272(10.53)	50783	12340	19.55
2	Kalyan	1276614	34894(2.73)	26223	5982	18.57
3	Bhiwandi	945582	73419(7.37)	43325	14901	25.59
4	Ambernath	366501	26341(7.18)	9822	5611	36.36
5	Palghar	454635	140732(30.95)	51775	30540	37.1
6	Shahapur	273304	89997(32.92)	28363	26684	48.47
7	Murbad	170267	38518(22.62)	17263	18514	51.75
8	Wada	142753	75185(52.66)	14638	17852	54.95
9	Mokhada	67319	60964(90.55)	4928	9684	66.27
10	Talasari	121217	107379(88.58)	7547	16588	68.73
11	Dahanu	331829	215162(64.84)	19182	44121	69.7
12	Jawhar	111039	99932(89.99)	6798	16545	70.88
13	Vikramgad	114254	103223(90.34)	6731	16560	71.1
14	TOTAL		14.5	287378	235922	45.08

(Source : BPL Survey 2002-2007, Annual Employment Report of Thane District 2006 - 07)

Above table shows that talukas like Vasai, Kalyan, Bhiwandi, Ambernath and Palghar have low population of Tribal people and low percentage of poverty these talukas are comparatively developed talukas is thane district .Jawhar, Talasari, wada, Dahanu, Vikramgad these talulasare

known as tribal taluka as they are having 80 to 90% population of tribal's. Poverty in all these tribal taluka is comparatively very high.

Table No. 2. Population of Thane District:

YEAR	RURAL/ URBAN	TOTAL	% CHANGE	MALE	FEMALE	SEX RATIO
2001	TOTAL	8131449		4377743	3754102	857
	RURAL	2229376		1148123	1081253	941
	URBAN	5902473		3229624	2672849	827
2011	TOTAL	11054131	27%	5879387	5174744	880
	RURAL	2551037	13.60%	1305429	1245608	961
	URBAN	8503094	30.50	4573958	3929136	859

(Source : Census Report 2011)

Above table shows that during 2001 to 2011 total population of thane district is increased by 27%. Sex ratio is also increased from 857 to 880. Sex ratio of rural sector is better than the urban sector. Rural population increased by 13.60 %,and Urban population is increased by 30.50 % during 2001 to 2011.

4. FINDINGS OF THE RESEARCH:4.1 Illiteracy:

Table 3 . Literacy in Study area:

Tribal Taluka	Tribal's population (%)	Literacy Rate
Dahanu	64.84	47
Jawhar	89.99	36.02
Talasari	88.58	37.73
Thane District	14.5	69.30

(Ref : Annual Employment Report of Thane District 2006-07)

Above table shows Literacy rate in Tribal area. The literacy in Dahanu,Jawhar andTalasari taluka,is 47%,36% and 37.73% inrespectively in 2006-07. This literacy rate is comparatively very low than the literacy rate of Thane district (69.30%). Non availability of proper schools, basic infrastructural facility, transport, availability of teachers lead to low literacy rate in tribal belt. High illiteracy rate leads the tribal people towards Poverty.

4.2. LESS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

Table 4. Sources of employment:

AREA	FARMER	AGRI. LABOUR	MANREGA	OTHER
Talasari	104 (52%)	96 (48%)	00	08
Dahanu	40 (20%)	88 (44%)	32 (16%)	32 (16%)
Jawhar	75 (37.5%)	110 (55%)	15 (7.5%)	00
Average	36.66%	49%	8	6.30

(Ref: Self Research survey)

Above table shows that Tribal's main source of employment is agriculture. 36% people are farmer, 49 % Tribal's work as agricultural labour, 6% people engaged in Manrega. Land size of the farm is very low and unprofitable. An agricultural labor gets only seasonal employment on very low wage rate. Unemployment and low income is a major reason of Tribal's poverty.

4.3. Large family size:

Table 5.Children Ratio:

Taluka	One child	Two child	Three child	More than three
Talasari	10 (5%)	30 (10%)	72 (36%)	98 (49%)
Dahanu	36 (18%)	100 (50%)	52 (26%)	28 (14%)
Jawhar	12 (6%)	28 (14%)	76 (38%)	84 (42%)
Average	9%	24%	32%	35%

(Ref: Self Research survey)

Above table shows that 32% families in tribal areas have three children, 35% families have more than four children, which affect the health of the mother as well as increase the financial burden on family. Low income, more children leads the tribal towards poverty.

4.4. Unprofitable land size:

Table 6.land size (acre)

AREA	1 TO 5 ACRE	5 TO 10 ACRE	LANDLESS

Talasary	80 (40‰)	24 (12‰)	96 (48%)
Dahanu	48 (24‰)	00	152 (76%)
Jawhar	58 (29‰)	17 (9‰)	125 (62%)
Avarage	31	7	62

(Ref: Self Research survey)

Above table shows that 48% in Talasari 76% in Dahanu and 62% people in Jawhar have no land..Overall 62% Tribal's in the study area are landless and unemployed.

4.5. Tribal population is decreasing:

Table 7. Tribal Population in Thane district:

YEAR	TOTAL POPULATION	TRIBAL POPULATION	% OF TRIBAL POPULATIO
2001	8131449	1199290	14.75
2011	11054131	857700	7.63

(Source : Census Report 2011)

Above table shows that from 2001 to 2011 the tribal population is decreased from 14.75% to 7.63 % .Due to high infant mortality, malnutrition, lack of water, other facility, poverty and unemployment tribal peoplemigrates towards Mumbai and other urban area for better jobs and other opportunity for surviving. As a result slums and other social problems are increasing in Mumbai and suburban area.

4.6. Lack of Infrastructural facility in Tribal sector:

Table 8. Water, Electricity and cooking gas facility:

Taluka	Pure water	Well water	Electricity	Gas connection
Talasari	30 (15%)	160 (80%)	126 (43‰)	30(15‰)
Dahanu	20 (10%)	128 (64%)	136 (68‰)	40(20‰)
Jawhar	20 (10%)	166 (83%)	90 (45‰)	10(5‰)
Average	12%	75.66%	52%	13%

(Ref : Self Research survey)

Because of poverty Tribal's could not afford electricity and pure drinking water. Out of total population of tribal, 75% population relies on wells for water. Illiterate and poor Tribal's are unaware about the polluted well water and hence they fall prey to the diseases like jaundice, typhoid, malaria etc. as a result their income gets utilized in the treatment which increases their poverty. Only 13% have cooking gas connection and 52% having electricity facility.

4.7. Negligence of Health and hygiene:

Table 9. Maternity Cases in study area:

YEAR	2001.02	2006.07	2008.09	2011.12
Total Maternity	18944	30015	28949	18265
Maternity at Home	16618(87.72%)	27943(90.09%)	7023(24.25%)	4964(27%)
Maternity at PHC	2326 (12.27%)	11325(09.81%)	21926(75.74%)	13301(73%)

(Ref : Thane District Administrative Annual Reports 2009.10, 2011.12)

Above table states about maternity cases in study area. In 2001.02 out of total maternity cases 88% were done at home and only 12% done in PHC. Even in 2011.12 total 27% maternity are done at home which is still a serious matter. This is harmful for the health of mother as well as the child. Due to poverty tribal people neglected the health and hygiene.

4.8. Malnutrition :

Table 10. Malnutrition in study area:

AREA	Normal	MAM	SAM	Total Children
Talasari	34%	50%	16%	276
Dahanu	38%	38%	26%	306
Jawhar	36%	34%	30%	366
Avarage	36%	40.66%	24%	948

(Ref : Self Research survey)

Above table shows that due to poverty, Tribal's were facing the problem of malnutrition. Only 36% children are normal and remaining 64% children are malnourished in Tribal area.

7. Suggestions for Rural Development and overcome the problems of Tribal's:

1. More employment should be generated in tribal area.
2. Government Ration Shops should be allotted to Tribal's self-help groups.

3. Government should provide more infrastructural facilities in Tribal belt.
4. Better schools and other school related facilities should be provide .
5. Government should encourage Tribal's Warli paintings by providing markets.
6. For more employment Government should setup Agricultural SEZ in tribal area.
7. More tribal Self-help groups should be formed and supported by local authorities.

5. CONCLUSION:

Poverty is a major obstacle of the development of India. Poverty can be alleviated only by providing the basic facilities such as education, health care, employment, shelter and basic infrastructural facility to the deprived class as well as by re-examining the approach of government programmes to reduce poverty.

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