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## Socio-economic study of tribal residing in Kota block of Bilaspur district, Chhattisgarh, India

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### Abstract

The present study was conducted at Kota block of Bilaspur district of Chhattisgarh state in India. Total 415 respondents, 127 respondents from Pudu gram panchayat, 82 respondents from Rigwar gram panchayat, 104 from Tendubhata gram panchayat and 102 respondents from Umariya gram panchayat had been selected randomly for finale data collection. This study demonstrates the socioeconomic status of people living in Kota block, Bilaspur district, Chhattisgarh in India. On the basis of age, diversity, tribe population, family number, size of family, education, occupation distinct socioeconomic status was studied among population through surveying process. In the gender study, it is young that majority of the respondents were male (86.26%) and only 13.74 per cent were female, while age group data demonstrates variation. In age group, 62.65% were belonged to middle age group (34 to 60 years), followed by 20.96 per cent were belonged to young age group (up to 33 years). Similarly tribe caste based study reveals that, majority of the persons young were belonged to scheduled tribes and second highest is scheduled castes like, family study shows that majority of family in Kota area, relies on nuclear family and remaining 24.34 per cent were lived in joint family. Education data in this area also shoves variable results out of the total studied respondents, 34.70 per cent were educated up to primary school level, followed by middle school 19.03 per cent, high school 8.43 per cent like-wise, source of income in these respondents shows multiple responses out of total respondents, majority of persons were found attributed to agriculture. Family income of the respondents shows distinct variation in the population. Out of total 415 respondents, majority of them 73.25 per cent had annual income up to rs. 20000, followed by 22.89 percent had rs. 20001 to 40000, 2.65 per cent had rs. 40001 to 60000. Among this study, size of land holding, house type, toilet availability, drinking water availability, material possession shows distinct variation in socio-economic status of people living in Kota block, district of Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh.

**Keywords:** Socio-economic, family number, size of family, education, occupation, tribe population

### Introduction

India is a country where most of the population lives in villages. It is a well-known fact that rural sector of India is one of the biggest rural sectors in the world after China. Interestingly, In India more than 90% of labour force is employed in unorganized sector where it doesn't provide social security and other benefits of employment as in the organized sector. Research studies has summarized that 53 million tribal people in India belong to 550 communities of 227 ethnic groups and about 60% of the rural communities directly rely on forest for their day-to-day requirement. It is relevant that dependence of communities on forest can be judged from the fact that an average tribal family draws half of its annual income from forest, 18% from agriculture, 13% from cattle and 18% from other employment.

Tribal people have good knowledge of the floristic wealth of their surroundings and having close association with biodiversity rich areas. Apart from timber and firewood that are conceived as major forest produces, non-timber forest products (NTFP) include all products obtainable from forest. Relatively, NTFPs indeed play a very significant role in the rural economy in terms of providing employment, income potential and life support sustenance. For hundreds and thousands of years, indigenous communities have been utilizing NTFPs for various purposes i.e. edible, medicinal, food and other purposes and have been considered as the secondary production. However, it has acquired some importance in the recent years in policy strategies of the government owing to its significance in life support substance to numerically large number of forest dwelling communities. Moreover, unlike timber that brings profits to government treasure, economic benefits provided by NTFP are accrued

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largely by the local people and forest dwellers. In forest system, thousands of wild plant species offer various significant economic, social and ecological values which are of fundamental importance for human well-being, livelihood development and ecosystem resilience to environmental change.

Ethnobotanical and economic values that have the potential to support the resilience and security of local community. Scientific research reveals that socioeconomic status is the social standing or class of an individual or group. It is often measured as a combination of education, income and occupation. In most societies and more especially in developing countries wild plants generate tremendous direct economic benefits being important source for significant marketed goods as well as indirect high value for non-marketed services. Mediterranean forests have for a very long time played a fundamental role in people's lives during the various civilizations that have flourished in the Mediterranean region. They are well appreciated for the extraordinary variety of goods and services they offer, and communities they sustain. Soil and water protection, carbon sequestration, erosion and desertification control, biodiversity conservation, wild-life hosting, grazing and hunting, and recreational activities are some of the wealthy services provided.

Traditional knowledge contains immense insight and a great potential as a useful basis for introducing modern innovative approaches to sustainable development of natural resources. This knowledge is also necessary to assist managers, decision makers and stakeholders to incorporate actual and potential valuable species into economic future planning, policy and investment. The present study was, therefore, performed to study socio-economic status of tribal residing in kota block of Bilaspur, district, Chhattisgarh, India.

### Review of literature

Bhattacharya and Hayat (2004) <sup>[1]</sup> studied on sustainable NTFP management for rural development: a case from Madhya Pradesh, India. Bidak *et al.* (2015) <sup>[2]</sup> recorded on goods and services provided by native plants in desert ecosystems. Croitoru (2007) <sup>[3]</sup> focused on valuing the non-

timber forest products in the Mediterranean region. Dobhal *et al.* (2007) <sup>[4]</sup> studied on medicinal plants of two villages of Chakrata forest division, Uttarakhand, India. Lele (1994) <sup>[5]</sup> studied on sustainable use of biomass resources.

Maikhuri *et al.* (1998) <sup>[6]</sup> focused on role of medicinal plants in the traditional health care system. Negi *et al.* (2011) <sup>[7]</sup> studied on non-timber forest products: a viable option for biodiversity conservation and livelihood enhancement in central Himalaya. Rout and Panda (2010) <sup>[8]</sup> focused on ethnomedicinal plant resources of Mayurbhanj district, Orissa. Tewari (2000) <sup>[9]</sup> focused on managing non-timber forest products as an economic resource. Tinde (2015) <sup>[10]</sup> studied on farm energy balance and management.

### Study area

The study area situated in Kota tehsil belongs to Bilaspur district, Chhattisgarh state in India. It is located about 45 km towards Ratanpur to Pendraroad, north from district headquarter Bilaspur (C.G). In current research ten tribal villages under four gram panchayats of this tehsil are adopted under "Unnat Bharat Abhiyan Programme" by Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (A central university) Bilaspur (C.G.) with the aim of developing these villages as a model village, are marked as study area of the present study.

### Materials and methods

Purposive as well as simple random sampling techniques were adopted for the study. Where the state, district sub-division, block and gram panchayat are selected using non-probability sampling technique called purposive sampling and the respondents are selected using simple random sampling. The district Bilaspur, were considered purposively. One block Kota in Bilaspur district was selected purposively for the study. Seventeen villages in Kota block were selected purposively for the study. 415 respondents, 127 respondents from Pudhu Gram Panchayat, 82 respondents from Rigwar Gram Panchayat, 104 from Tendubhata Gram Panchayat and 102 respondents from Umariya Gram Panchayat had been selected randomly for finale data collection.

### Randomly for finale data collection

S. No.	Independent Variables	References	Scale of measurement
1.	Gender (X <sub>1</sub> )	Tinde, 2019	In the present study a scale was developed on 1-8 point scale. Ranking 0 if Illiterate (cannot read and write), 1= Literate, 2= Can sign, 3= Can read and write, 4= Primary level, 5=Middle level, 6=High school, 7=Intermediate and 8=Graduate and post graduate.
2.	Age (X <sub>2</sub> )	Chronological age in completed years and age class developed by Investigator.	In all societies, age is one of the most important determinates of social status and social role of the individual. In the present study, the number of year rounded in the nearest whole number of the respondents lived since birth at the time of interview, was taken as a measure of age of the farmer. (Ratio Years)
3.	Tribe (X <sub>3</sub> )	Our study	Do you belong to which category? Used (1-4) point scale. Ranking: ST-1, SC-2, OBC-3, General-4.
4.	Type of family (X <sub>4</sub> )	Sai, 2015	Respondents were classified into following two group on the basis of family type possessed by them. The scale developed by G. Trivedi (1963) was used and the scoring was done as per the scale. Respondents were grouped into two categories as per their family type. Ranking Nuclear family-1, and Joint family-2.
5.	Size of family (X <sub>5</sub> )	Sai, 2015	Total number of adult and minor family member present in a family. (Ratio Number)
6.	Education (X <sub>6</sub> )	Scale developed by Trivedi and Pareek (1963) with suitable modification.	Education may be operationalized in the amount of formal schooling attained/literacy acquired by the respondents at the time of interview. Education is instrumental in building personality structure and helps in charging ones behavior in social life. In the present study a scale was developed on 1-8 point scale. Ranking 0 if = Illiterate (cannot read and write), 1=Literate 2=Can sign, 3=Can read and write, 4= Primary Level, 5= Middle level, 6= High school, 7= Intermediate and 8= Graduate Post graduate.
7.	Occupation (X <sub>7</sub> )	Tinde, 2019	Occupation of a person refers to regular activity performed for payment that occupies ones time. In the present study a scale was developed on 1-6 point scale. Ranking 1 if = Agriculture labour, 2= Caste based occupation, 3= Service, 4= Agriculture, 5= Business and 6= Agro-based enterprises.

**Results and discussion**

**Table 1: Gender ratio**

S. No.	Gender	A		B		C		D		Total	
		f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
1	Male	106	83.46	73	89.02	91	87.50	88	86.27	358	86.26
2	Female	21	16.54	09	10.98	13	12.50	14	13.73	57	13.74
	Total	127	100.0	82	100.0	104	100.0	102	100.0	415	100.0

\*Frequencies are based on multiple responses. A-PUDU, B – RIGWAR, C - TENDUBHATHA, D – UMARIYA.

The data demonstrated in the figure 1., regarding gender of the respondents, revealed that out of total 415 respondents, majority of them 86.26 percent were male and remaining 13.74 percent were female. On separate analysis of the data, it was observed that 83.46 percent respondents from the PUDU gram panchayat were male and 16.54 percent were

female. Similarly, 89.02 percent respondents of RINGWAR gram panchayat were male and 10.98 were female, while 87.50 percent respondents of TENDUBHATHA gram panchayat were male and 12.50 percent were female. However, 86.27 percent respondents of UMARIYA gram panchayat were male and 13.73 were female.

**Table 2: Age**

S. No.	Age	A		B		C		D		Total	
		f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
1	Young (Upto 33 years)	36	28.35	22	26.83	16	15.38	13	12.75	87	20.96
2	Middle Age (34 to 60 Years)	74	58.27	55	67.08	65	62.50	66	64.71	260	62.65
3	Old Age (Above 60 Years)	17	13.38	05	6.09	23	22.12	23	22.54	68	16.39
	Total	127	100.0	82	100.0	104	100.0	102	100.0	415	100.0

\*Frequencies are based on multiple responses. A-PUDU, B – RIGWAR, C - TENDUBHATHA, D – UMARIYA.

The data given in the Figure 2., showing that out of total 415 respondents, majority of them (62.65%) belonging to middle age group (34 to 60 years), followed by 20.96 percent belonging to young age group (upto 33 years) and 16.39 percent were old age group (above 60 years). The data further revealed that majority of the respondents from PUDU gram panchayat (58.27%) belonging to middle age group, followed by 28.35 and 13.38 percent belonging to young and old age group, respectively. Similarly, majority of the respondents from RINGWAR gram panchayat

(67.08%) belonging to middle age group, followed by 26.3 and 6.09 percent belonging to young and old age group respectively, It was also noted that 62.50 percent respondents of TENDUBHATHA gram panchayat belonging to middle age group, followed by 22.12 and 15.38 percent belonging to old and young age group, respectively, while, 64.71 percent of the respondents of UMARIYA gram panchayat belonging to middle age group, followed by 22.54 and 12.75 percent from old and young age group, respectively.

**Table 3: Community/Tribe/Caste**

S. No.	Community/Tribe	A		B		C		D		Total	
		f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
1	ST	72	56.70	51	62.19	58	55.77	37	36.28	218	52.53
2	SC	22	17.32	11	13.41	10	9.61	21	20.59	64	15.42
3	OBC	30	23.62	20	24.40	35	33.65	44	43.13	129	31.08
4	GEN	03	02.36	00	00.00	01	0.97	00	00.00	04.0	0.97
	Total	127	100.0	82	100.0	104	100.0	102	100.0	415	100.0

\*Frequencies are based on multiple responses. A-PUDU, B – RIGWAR, C - TENDUBHATHA, D – UMARIYA.

The data demonstrated in the Figure 3, revealed that out of total 415 surveyed respondents, majority of them (52.53%) belong to scheduled caste, followed by 31.08, 15.42 and 0.97 percent belonging to other backward class, scheduled casts and general caste, respectively. The data further revealed that, majority of the respondents from PUDU gram panchayat (56.70%) were belonged to ST, followed by 23.62, 17.32 and 2.36 percent were belonged to OBC, SC and general community, respectively. Similarly, majority of respondents from RINGWAR gram panchayat (62.19%)

were belonged to ST, followed by 24.40 and 13.41 percent were belonged to OBC and SC community, respectively. It was noted that 55.77 percent respondents of Tendubhatha gram panchayat were belonged to ST community, followed by 33.65, 9.61 and 0.97 percent were belonged to OBC, SC and general community, respectively. While, 43.13 percent of the respondents of UMARIYA gram panchayat were belonged to OBC community, followed by 36.28 and 20.59 percent were belonged from ST and SC community, respectively.

**Table 4: Type of Family**

S. No.	Type of family	A		B		C		D		Total	
		f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
1	Nuclear	92	72.44	67	81.70	76	73.08	79	77.45	314	75.66
2	Joint	35	27.56	15	18.30	28	26.92	23	22.55	101	24.34
	Total	127	100.0	82	100.0	104	100.0	102	100.0	415	100.0

\*Frequencies are based on multiple responses. A-PUDU, B – RIGWAR, C - TENDUBHATHA, D – UMARIYA.

The data depicted in the Figure 4. Regarding type of family, revealed that out of total 415 respondents, majority of them (75.66%) lived in nuclear family and remaining 24.34 percent lived in Joint family.

On the basis of separate analysis of data, it was observed that 72.44 percent respondents from the PUDU gram panchayat belonging to nuclear family and 27.56 percent belonging to joint family. Similarly, 81.70 percent

respondents of RINGWAR gram panchayat belonging to nuclear and 18.30 percent were joint family, while 73.08 percent respondents of TENDUBHATHA gram panchayat belonging to nuclear and 26.92 percent were joint family. However, 77.45 percent respondents of UMARIYA gram panchayat belonging to nuclear and 22.55 percent were joint family.

**Table 5:** Size of family

S. No.	Size of family	A		B		C		D		Total	
		f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
1	Small family (Upto 5 Members)	72	56.70	50	60.98	55	52.88	63	61.76	240	57.83
2	Big family (> 5 members)	55	43.30	32	39.02	49	47.12	39	38.24	175	42.17
	Total	127	100.0	82	100.0	104	100.0	102	100.0	415	100.0

\*Frequencies are based on multiple responses. A-PUDU, B – RIGWAR, C - TENDUBHATHA, D – UMARIYA.

The data illustrated in the Figure 5., regarding size of family of the respondents, it was noted, that out of total 415 respondents, majority of them (57.83%) had small family (upto 5 members) and remaining 42.17 percent had big family (>5 members).

In another analysis of data, it was observed that 56.70 percent respondents from PUDU gram panchayat had small

family and 43.30 percent had big family. Similarly, 60.98 percent respondents of RINGWAR gram panchayat had small family and 39.02 percent had big family, while 52.88 percent respondents of TENDUBHATHA gram panchayat had small family and 47.12 percent had big family. However, 61.76 percent respondents of UMARIYA gram panchayat had small family and 38.24 had big family.

**Table 6:** Size of family, Education level

S. No.	Education	A		B		C		D		Total	
		f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
1	Illiterate	21	16.54	23	28.05	29	27.88	38	37.25	111	26.75
2	Only can read and write	02	1.58	02	2.43	12	11.54	03	2.94	19	4.58
3	Primary school	53	41.73	27	32.93	32	30.77	32	31.37	144	34.70
4	Middle school	31	24.41	14	17.07	16	15.38	18	17.64	79	19.03
5	High school	11	8.66	09	10.98	10	9.62	05	4.90	35	8.43
6	Higher secondary school	06	4.72	04	4.88	02	1.92	02	1.97	14	3.38
7	College and Above	03	2.36	03	3.66	03	2.89	04	3.93	13	3.13
	Total	127	100.0	82	100.0	104	100.0	102	100.0	415	100.0

\*Frequencies are based on multiple responses. A-PUDU, B – RIGWAR, C - TENDUBHATHA, D – UMARIYA.

The data given in the Figure 6 is related to education level of the respondents. It was noted that out of total 415 respondents, most of them (34.70%) were educated upto primary school level, followed by middle school (19.03%), high school (8.43%), only can read and write (4.58%), higher secondary school (3.38%) and college of about (3.13%), however, 26.75 percent of the respondents were illiterate. The data further revealed that 41.73 percent respondents from the PUDU gram panchayat were educated upto primary school level, followed by middle school (24.4%), high school (8.66%), higher secondary (4.72%), college and above (2.36%) and only can read and write (1.58%). However, 16.54 percent of the respondents were illiterate. As regards to RIGWAR gram panchayat respondents, most of them (32.93%) were educated upto primary school level, followed by middle school (17.07%),

high school (10.98%), higher secondary (4.88%), college and above (3.66%) and only can read and write (2.43%). However, 28.05 percent of the respondents were illiterate.

It was also noted that 30.77 percent respondents of TENDUBHATHA gram panchayat were educated upto primary school level, followed by middle school (15.38%), high school (9.62%), College and above (2.89%), higher secondary (1.92%) and only can read and write (11.54%). However, 27.88 percent of the respondents were illiterate. While, 31.37 percent of the respondents of UMARIYA gram panchayat were educated upto primary school level, followed by middle school (17.64%), high school (4.90%), college and above (3.93%), only can read and write (2.94%) and higher secondary (1.97%). However, 37.25 percent of the respondents were illiterate.

**Table 7:** Occupation/Source of Income

S. No.	Occupation/Source of Income	A		B		C		D		Total	
		f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
1	Agriculture	68	53.54	41	50.0	70	67.31	62	60.78	241	58.07
2	Animal Husbandry	22	17.32	14	17.07	05	4.81	09	8.82	50	12.05
3	Labour	24	18.90	20	24.39	21	20.19	22	21.57	87	20.96
4	Service	04	3.15	01	1.23	02	1.93	01	0.99	8	1.93
5	Business	05	3.94	04	4.88	03	2.88	03	2.94	15	3.62
6	Other	04	3.15	02	2.43	03	2.88	05	4.90	14	3.37
	Total	127	100	82	100	104	100	102	100	415	100

The data presented in the Figure 7., is related to occupation of the respondents on the basis of multiple responses. The data revealed that out of total 415 respondents, majority of them (58.07%) were doing agriculture, followed by labour work (20.96%), animal husbandry (12.05%), business (3.62%) other work (3.37%), and services (1.93%).

The data further revealed that 53.54% respondents from the PUDU gram panchayat were doing agriculture, followed by labour work (18.90%), animal husbandry (17.32%), business (3.94%) and 3.15% for service and other. As regards to RINGWAR gram panchayat respondents, most of them (50.00%) were doing agriculture, followed by labour work (24.39%), animal husbandry (17.07%), business (4.88%), other work (2.43%), and services (1.23%). It was also noted that 67.31 percent respondents of TENDUBHATHA gram panchayat were doing agriculture, followed by labour work (20.19%), animal husbandry (4.81%), other work and business 2.88 % each and services (1.93%). While, 60.78 percent of the respondents of UMARIYA gram panchayat were doing agriculture, followed by labour work (21.57%), animal husbandry (8.82%), other work (4.90%), business (2.94%), and services (0.99%).

### Conclusion

This study demonstrates the socioeconomic status of people living in Kota block, Bilaspur district, Chhattisgarh. On the basis of gender ratio, age, Community/Tribe/Caste, Type of Family, Size of family and Education level was studied among population through surveying process. Current study reveals diversity and functional changes in socio-economic status of the tribes in the study area.

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