

A Study on Per Capita Income and Expenditure of STs in Jawadhu Hills, Tiruvannamalai District - Tamil Nadu

Karthikeyan. E

Ph. D. Research Scholar, Department of Economics, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, India
karthikbdu@yahoo.com

Abstract — The household income and expenditure are the key indicators of economically well-off or not. The present study focused on tribal per capita income and expenditure of Puliyr village in Jawadhu hills. Those populations are economically in poor condition and their average per capita annual income level is Rs. 10,000 to 30,000. Around 70 percent of population are living below the poverty line and the government of India estimated that rural average monthly spending in all over India is around Rs. 1,430. At the same time the study found that the average monthly per capita expenditure is Rs. 770 in below the poverty line family and above the poverty line family expenditure is Rs. 1,100. It clearly shows that the scheduled tribes are poor economic condition.

Keywords— *Scheduled Tribe; below the poverty line; above the poverty line; Income; Expenditure.*

1. Introduction

India is the second largest population and largest tribal population country in the world. 2011 census calculated that the 8.6 percent of the total population are tribal and 1 percent is from Tamil Nadu [1]. 90 percent of tribal household is located in rural, hill stations and remote villages. Most of them depending on primary sector for their day to day economic activities, but their income are less. In economic terms, group of community or household economically well-off or not is to determine their income and expenditure in the society. According to the Ministry of Labour, 65 percent of total rural population is living in rural areas, in which 75 percent of population depending on agricultural and agricultural allied activities for their day to day life. In all over India the 80 percent of Scheduled Tribe average monthly per capita income of the households is Rs. 5,000 and the remaining 17 percent of population income is Rs. 5,000 to 10,000 (2012) [2]. This data clearly shows that the tribal population is continuing in poverty line.

According to the 'socio economic survey (2012)', 51 percent of rural households are engaged in casual, manual labour works and 30 percent of population engaged in cultivation [3]. The government of India estimated that 56 percent households are landless and 70 percent of Scheduled Casts (SCs) and Scheduled Tribe (STs) household under the category. In rural households, 38 percent of income driven forms the manual and casual labour work, i.e. the highest is in Tamil Nadu (55.80 percent). Rural average monthly spending on all India was around Rs. 1,430. The government survey has shown that

in rural area is needed to consume only Rs. 17 per day. The bottom of the 5 percent of population Monthly Per Capita Expenditure (MPCE) was Rs 521 and top 5 per cent of population MPCE was Rs. 4,481. There is a wide range of gap between income and expenditure in rural areas. In Tamil Nadu, the rural household average monthly expenditure was Rs. 1,571 and bottom of five percent population MPCE was Rs. 161. Tribal household 85 percent of total income is to spend on food expenditure, and only 15 percent of income spends for non-food expenditure (NSSO 2012) [4].

This study mainly focused on STs of Tamil Nadu. Around 90 percent of tribal population are living in rural and remote forest villages and 80 percent of tribal are working in cultivation and agricultural labour works. The remaining population are working in non-agricultural activities (Planning Commission 2010) [5]. The tribal populations are more dependent on their land, livestock, and forest minor products for their livelihood. 91 percent of tribal populations are receiving low level of income from primary sector. These are the reasons to attract the attention towards tribal income and expenditure. The main objective of this study is to analysis per capita income and expenditure of below the poverty line (BPL) and above the poverty line (APL) families in scheduled tribe area of Tiruvannamalai district.

2. Study Area

Jawadhu hills located in Eastern Ghats Tamil Nadu, 4000 year old origin of Malayali tribe community, and 229 tribal villages are there in this area (2006) [6]. The study is focused on Puliyr panchayat, in Thiruvannamalai district. The Malayali tribe is living in the hills and remote areas; there is no strong economic background for their basic livelihood option in the hill area. Most of them engaged cultivation and agricultural labour works. This primary sector income was not fulfilling for household basic needs. So that they may be the seasonal migrates to state capital, near Andhra Pradesh, Kerala for casual labour manual works and farming activities to earn money for fulfilling their household basic needs.

3. Methodology

This study used primary data where, 120 tribal households (consumption expenditure for food and non-food) were collected through the structured interview schedule. The food expenditure data is collected in weekly

basis and non-food expenditure data is collected annually basis. The secondary data was collected from various on published and unpublished materials from NSSO, NCARET. The simple statistical tools were applied for the data analysis and per capita income and expenditure are analysed in this study.

4. Result of the Study

Table I. Per Capita Income and Expenditure of BPL & APL Families (Per Annum)

Economic states of households	Total income (Rs)	Total food expenditure (Rs)	Total non-food expenditure (Rs)
BPL	11,741	5,277	4,015
APL	28,839	8,341	5,313

The data estimated that around 67 percent of populations are living in below poverty line. The World Bank reported (2010) that a person could not earn US \$ 1(roughly Rs. 50) per day are living below the poverty line. This study is also following the same way. Around 68 percent of households are living below the poverty line and 32 percent are living above the poverty line. The average per capita income of rural households per annum is Rs. 17,160 in all over India. In Tamil Nadu, the average per capita income of rural households per annum is Rs. 18,852 and it's higher than national average. But in the study area, it found that the most of the BPL families are below the national average per capita income (i.e. Rs. 11,742). In this study, the income has derived from agricultural, causal and manual labour works. At the same time 90 percent of the income spends on food and non-food expenditures.

The average top five percent of population expenditure is Rs.53, 772 in all over India (2012) [8]. The table I show that the APL families' per capita income is Rs. 28,839 per annum. They are spending 60 percent of income for food and 40 percent of the income for non-food expenditure.

5. Conclusion

In this research area, 70 percent of the population are living below the poverty line (BPL) and in this population 15 percent are extremely very poor and having weak economic conditions. Only 30 percent of the people are living in above poverty line (APL). Around 90 percent of the population are engaged in cultivation and cattle rearing for their major sources of seasonal income. Most of the populations are seasonal migrates to Chennai, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala for construction and farming works. Moreover, the research found that they are having very low income level and high expenditure in the particular area. So the government and local bodies should take more efforts to create livelihood activates for the below poverty line people.

References

- [1] Census of India (2011), www.censusindia.org, visited on 25-06-2016.
- [2] Shah zelak, "The Income and Expenditure Pattern of Families at The Bottom of Pyramid", Unpublished Thesis, 2012, Pp. 4-8
- [3] "Socio-Economic and Caste Census (2011)", National Informatics Centre, Government of India, 2011.
- [4] "Household Consumer Expenditure among Socio-Economic Groups (2012)", Report No. 544, National Sample Survey Organization Government of India, 2012.
- [5] <http://planningcommission.gov.in/reports/publications/index.php?rept s=pub> (2010), visited on 25-06-2016.
- [6] History of Jawadhu hills (2006), https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Javadi_Hills, visited on 04-09-2013.
- [7] NSSO (2000), "Employment and Unemployment Situation among Social Groups in India", Report No.469, Government of India, 2000.
- [8] Rajesh shukla, "How to Earns, Spends, and Saves", Sage publication, India, 2012, Pp.17-45.
- [9] <http://ncaert.org.in>, visited on 25-06-2016.
- [10] <http://www.worldbank.org>, visited on 25-06-2016.
- [11] <http://www.firstpost.com>, visited on 25-06-2016.