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CHALLENGES FACED BY THE AGRO-BASED KORKU TRIBAL COMMUNITY



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ABSTRACT:

The agri-based korku tribal communities face absence of alternative livelihood opportunities, seasonal migration, increased population complete dependency on agriculture with limited land holding. The farmers of such villages are totally dependent on agriculture as their main occupation; they do not have any other alternative livelihood options. The area also susceptible to high variation rainfall pattern. Due to the undulating topography there is high rate of runoff of the rain water. Dharni block which comes in Melghat Region the condition of Agri-based korku tribal communities have poor social and economical status. The tribal farmer practicing the organic farming but as the period passed they also adopted chemical farming that react negatively on them, indebtedness with high rate of interest for

cultivation and other process of farming unable to paid on time and as a result most of them suffer from heavy debts and which further leads them to mental stress. There should be need of empowerment process of the tribal farmer is indeed a worthwhile investment capable of producing much positive fruits.

KEYWORDS

Agri-based, livelihood, tribal, communities, empower, farmer, korku.

INTRODUCTION

In the changing scenario of globalization of the world the main effect come on tribal regions, where small and marginalized farmers used to produce little food for their families. Due to this changing environment traditional life style of the tribal got affected. Majority of the household are indigenous people who have been living in the forest depending on them for their livelihood. In the course of the time due to excessive deforestation and consequent climate changes affected the depletion of the forest wealth. This has made the people to depend upon agriculture on the foothills on the limited available land. The farmer of this area first of all has very less land holding and cultivate productivity is very less. They are totally dependent on Agriculture and grow single crop in a year and that depend on the monsoon. Today 60-65 % of the families are reported migrating during the non agriculture season. Due to this various kinds of exploitation .e. social, Physical and economical problems are faced by the migrants.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:-

To assess the Agri-based livelihood of the korku communities of the four villages of Dharni Block of Melghat region of Amravati District

- 1)To assess the socio-economical status of the Agri-based livelihood of the Korku tribal community
- 2)To assess the number of tribal farmers practicing chemical farming
- 3)To assess the alternative means of livelihood of the Korku tribal community
- 4)To assesss the number of korku tribal people going for seasonal migration during the off season.

Hypothesis :-

- Insufficient agricultural product hampers the socio-economic status of korku tribal community in Melghat region.
- Absence of alternative livelihood sources leads to migration of korku tribal community
- Absence of watershed activities and lack of irrigation facility causes low agricultural production of the korku tribal farmers.

Geographical area covered under this study:-

- 1)Karva village of Dharni block
- 2)Nanduri village of Dharni block
- 3)Sosokheda villae of Dharni block
- 4)Kot village of Dharni block

Sampling Technique:-

The sample of the study contained agricultural and economical development of the korku tribal community. In this study the researcher used the convenience sampling under non probability sampling method and the sample size was 60 chosen farmers. i.e 15 farmers from each selected village.

Method of Data collection:-

The present study requires considerable amount of data. Keeping in mind, the purpose of the study, the researcher found that the appropriate way of collecting data was by personal interview which is primary method of data collection. In addition to these the research used interview schedule for collecting the data. In the secondary method of data collection the researcher used books, journals and websites etc.

Table-1
Acres of land Owned

Sr.No	Acres of land owned	Frequency	percentage
01	1-2 acres	09	15.00
02	3-4	19	31.66
03	5-6	26	43.34
04	7-Above	06	10.00
	Total	60	100.00%

Table-2
Major crops cultivation

Sr.No	Major crops	Frequency	percentage
01	Soyabean	28	46.66
02	Jawar	16	26.66
03	Toor	05	08.34
04	Paddy	06	10.00
05	Groundnut	05	08.34
	Total	60	100.00

Table-3
Utilization of Chemical Fertilizer

Sr.No	Content	Frequency	percentage
01	Yes	52	86.66
02	No	08	13.34
	Total	60	100.00

Table-4
Sources of Livelihood

Sr.No	Sources of Livelihood	Frequency	percentage
01	Agriculture	34	56.66
02	Domestic animals	18	30.00
03	Labour work	08	13.34
	Total	60	100.00

Table-5
Duration of seasonal Migration

Sr.No	Duration of seasonal Migration	Frequency	percentage
01	Two Months	06	10.00
02	Three Months	36	60.00
03	Four and Above months	18	30.00
	Total	60	100.00

FINDINGS:-

- Most of the Korku tribal communities have their own land but their annual income is comparatively less. Even the marginal and poor farmers are doing chemical farming which has increased the investment and reduced the outcome from the field. Most of the Korku farmers are depending on money lenders to borrow money for the land cultivation and after the harvesting period they refund it with high interest rate.
- The alternative livelihood sources for the Korku tribal communities are labour work, domestic animals and few farmers promote kitchen garden for their own consumption and selling by which they get some income to maintain their house.
- During the off season many Korku tribal communities go for seasonal migration due to lack of availability of work and irregularity in MREGS work and payment. There is also no regular saving made by these people. A very few people have got IGP as a means of alternative

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