

Socio-Economic Status of Bamboo Artisans of Karnataka

Abstract:

The present study was conducted in North Karnataka of three major bamboo growing districts viz., Dharwad, Belagavi and Uttar Kannada districts. Exploratory research design was used. The respondents were interviewed personally to elicit the primary information by using self structured interview schedule. Majority of the respondents attended primary school and majority of the respondents belonged to nuclear family. Seventy per cent of the artisans belonged to lower middle socio economic status.

KEY WORDS: Bamboo artisans and Socio economic

Introduction

In India about 85.00 per cent (400 million) of the workers are working in unorganized sector and in which 120 million are female. The ministry of Labor and Employment, Government of India has classified the unorganized labor force into four groups based on the occupation, nature of job, especially distressed categories and service categories. The presence of a vast multitude of women as workers and producers in the unorganized sector, where earnings are low, seasonal employment and insecure employment, supportive services miserably inadequate or even non-existent, fewer growth opportunities and weak collective organization has brought into sharp focus the failure of mainstream to alleviate their difficulties (Manju,2017).

According to 2011 census by and large there were 37371 medhar tribes in Karnataka. Bamboo artisans belong to poor socio economic status, workers are unorganized, incoherent, socio economically backward and semi-skilled. The workers are not paid for a specified quantity of work, and workers are not getting regular occupation, and still people face some social discrimination. As they are working under unorganized sector they experiences the problems

like- Based on caste and community the unorganized workforces in rural areas are divided, do not have stable employment as the sectors suffer from seasonal employment opportunities, easily broken and scattered workplace, their relationship does not exist formally, artisans are subjected to destitution and slavery due to their own income which is insufficient to meet their need, are exploited and encounter poor working conditions, workers are not encouraged to implement advanced technologies for better output. The illiteracy is the reason for such condition, trade unions do not provide sufficient to the workers, they do not have adequate and effective labour laws.

Objectives:

1. To study the general information of bamboo artisans
2. To examine the social economic status of bamboo artisans

Methodology

The present study was conducted in North Karnataka of three major bamboo growing districts viz., Dharwad, Belagavi and Uttar Kannada districts. Exploratory research design was used. The respondents were interviewed personally to elicit the primary information by using self structured interview schedule.

Result and Discussion:

The general information of selected bamboo artisans is presented in the table 1.

Age: Higher per cent of the respondents belonged to middle age group followed by young age group. Similar observation was made by Kamrul and Nayeema (2015) in their study, which shows that 56.00 per cent of the respondents belonged to middle age group (30-50 years) followed by 25.00 per cent of the respondents belonged to young age group (15-30 years).

Gender: More than sixty six per cent of the respondents were female followed by male. The results are in line with study conducted by Preetika and Amita (2018) indicating higher involvement of women in bamboo activities.

Education: More than half of the samples attended primary school followed by illiterate. The results coated by Kalanzi *et al.* (2017) are similar that indicates majority of the respondents obtained primary education (58.00%) followed by illiterate.

Marital status: Maximum per cent of the respondents were married followed by widow. These results are in par with the results of Nwaihu et al (2015) which shows that 76.00 per cent of the women were married and 24.00 per cent of the respondents were single.

Annual family income: Majority of the respondents belonged to medium level of income (13,900 to 16,300) followed by low income group (16,300/-) and high level of income group (13,900/-). Reasons may be that artisans work only during summer and they cannot work and sell their bamboo products during rainy season.

Time spent in bamboo activities: More than half of the respondents spent 5-6 hours a day in bamboo enterprise followed by 6 hours. The results are contradictory with the results of Richa and Rathna (2019) where fifty per cent of the artisans worked for 6-8 hours followed by 27.00 per cent of the artisans worked for 4-6 hours.

Frequency of performance in bamboo activities: Maximum per cent of the respondents involved daily in bamboo enterprise work (80.00%) and only 16.70 per cent were involved alternate days in activities of bamboo enterprise. This is due to bamboo enterprises being the main occupation for their livelihood.

Bamboo storage space: Nearly fifty per cent of the respondents had habit of storing the bamboo raw materials inside the home (47.50%) and 39.17 per cent of the respondents stored bamboo outside the home. Least per cent (13.33%) had separate storage space. Reasons maybe lack of separate storage place for bamboo work because artisans belonged to lower middle socio economic status.

Socio economic status of selected bamboo artisans (Table 2)

Majority (70.83%) of the bamboo artisans belonged to the lower middle socio economic status followed by poor socio economic status (29.17 %). None of the respondents belonged to upper high, high and very poor socio economic status. Comparable study was made by Selvam

(2016) in which he found that majority of the respondents belonged to the moderate level of socio-economic status whereas 12.80 per cent of them belonged to the low level of socio-economic status.

Conclusion

Majority of the respondents belonged to middle age group, and majority of them were female followed by male. More than fifty per cent of the respondents had primary school level of education. Majority of the respondents were married followed by widow. Nearly fifty per cent of the respondents belonged to small family. Higher per cent of the respondents had less than 13 years of experience in the bamboo enterprise products making. More than half of the respondents spent 5-6 hours a day in bamboo enterprise. Majority of the respondents involved daily in bamboo enterprise work. Nearly fifty per cent of the respondents had habit of storing the bamboo raw materials inside the home. Majority of the selected bamboo artisans belonged to the lower middle socio economic status and were having less than 13 years of experience.

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Table 1: General information of the selected bamboo artisans

N=120			
Sl. No.	Demographic variable	Frequency	Percentage
1	Age		
	Young (Up to 35 years)	48	40.00
	Middle (36-50 years)	52	43.34
	Old (Above 50 years)	20	16.66
2	Gender		
	Male	40	33.34
	Female	80	66.66
4	Education		
	Illiterate	53	44.17
	Primary school	63	52.50
	High school	4	3.33
	PUC	-	-
	Degree	-	-
	PG	-	-
5	Marital status		
	Married	85	70.83
	Unmarried	12	10.00
	Widow	23	19.17
6	Family size		
	Small(below 5)	58	48.34
	Medium(5-7)	46	38.33
	Large (more than 7)	16	13.33
7	Family type		
	Nuclear	73	60.83
	Joint	28	23.33

	Extended	19	15.84
8	Annual income in rupees		
	Low (<13900)	28	23.30
	Medium (13900/- to 16300)	56	46.70
	High >(16300)	36	30.00
9	Year of experience		
	Less than five years	-	-
	<13 years	73	60.83
	13-19 years	26	21.66
	>19 years	21	17.51
10	Time spent in hours		
	<5	-	-
	5-6	64	53.40
	>6	56	46.60
11	Frequency of involvement in activities		
	Daily	96	80.00
	Alternate days	20	16.70
	Fortnight	4	3.30
12	Bamboo storage space		
	Inside home	57	47.50
	Outside home	47	39.17
	Have separate storage space	16	13.33

Note- Multiple responses

Table 2: Socio economic status of selected bamboo artisans

N=120

Sl. No.	SES Level	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Upper high (>76)	-	-
2	High (61-75)	-	-
3	Upper middle (46-60)	-	-
4	Lower middle (31-45)	85	70.83
5	Poor (16-30)	35	29.17
6	Very poor or below poverty line (<16)	-	-