

Socio-Economic Status of Bamboo Artisans of Karnataka

Abstract:

Aim: To study the demographic profile and socio economic status of the bamboo artisans of Northern Karnataka districts

Study design: Study design: Exploratory design was used.

Place and duration of study: Study was conducted in Northern Karnataka districts of Dharwad, Belgavi and Uttar Kannada in the year 2019-2020.

Methodology: Random sampling method was applied to select a sample size of 120 bamboo artisans' family (Forty respondents from each district). The respondents were interviewed personally to elicit the primary information by using self structured interview schedule and Aggarwal *et al.* (2005) was used to study the socio economic status of the bamboo artisans.

Result: The study resulted that bamboo artisan's belonged lower middle socio economic status.

Higher per cent of the respondents belonged to middle age group followed by young age group.

Women participation was more compare to men counterpart in the bamboo artisans occupation.

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.

KEY WORDS: Bamboo artisans and Socio economic

Introduction

Bamboo is called as “poor man’s timber” as it feeds millions of traditional workers. Bamboo has large potential for economic and environmental development, because bamboo grows faster and requires less management and expertise. The largest producer of bamboo in the World is China and India holds the second place for growing bamboo plant. In India large number of the bamboo plant is grown in Northeast region of Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Mizoram, Tripura, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

Bamboo is one of the most important non-timber forest product (NTFPs) cultivated widely in the world (FAO, 1978). Bamboo plays main role to the artisans in economy helping to sustain their livelihood. Bamboo plays an important role in the day to day life of the bamboo artisans. Bamboo entrepreneur are carried at home primarily by members of the family. They do not require huge machines, large premises or more investment. Making of bamboo products is one of the key instruments for the upliftment of socio-economic status of the artisans.

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.

Bamboo weaving activity holds the number of traditional cottage industries as it is one of the oldest cottage industry in India. Bamboo is one of the most important forest products to poor man's timber. Bamboo is not only used as products but it is also used for religious purpose. In our Hindu religion bamboo is used as our culture, like during the cremation of dead body bamboo is used to carry the body and even during marriages some people worship bamboo after marriage, which is believed as an important traditional custom. Before medar community belonged to the category I and because of their occupation it was difficult to fulfill all the family needs, and they fought for changing their category to Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe so that they can get some financial help. After fighting for many years high court declared them as they belong to the Scheduled Tribe.

Objectives:

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

Review of literature

General information of the bamboo artisans

Age:

Lynser *et al.* (2014) revealed that majority (65.00%) of women belonged to the age group of 25 to 45 years who were involved in mat making followed by 46 to 60 years of age group (18.00%) women involved in mat making and age group between 61 to 70 years were about seven per cent.

Kamrul and Nayeema (2015) resulted that more than 56.00 per cent of the respondents were in 30-50 years of age group followed by 25.00 per cent belonged to age group of 15-30 years and only 19.00 per cent of the respondents ranged the age group 50 and above.

Nwaihu *et al.* (2015) depicted that majority (57.78%) of respondents belonged to the age group of 51 and above years followed by 26.67 per cent were in the age group of 31-40 years, whereas 8.88 per cent belonged to 21-30 years and 6.67 per cent belonged to 41-50 years.

Kalanzi *et al.* (2017) showed that 53.50 per cent of the respondents were in the age ranged between 36-60 years followed by 41.2 per cent between 18-35 years where as only 5.3 per cent belonged to the age group above 60 years.

Taiebur and Dhanonjoykumar (2018) revealed that majority of the respondents (41.00%) belonged to the age group of 30 years followed by 29.50 per cent of the respondents were fall in 31-35 years of age group, and only 13.00 per cent of the respondents belonged to 36-40 years and 10.80 per cent of the respondents were in age group of 41-46 years, whereas only 5.80 per cent were belonged to the age group above 46 years.

Education:

Kamrul and Nayeema (2015) indicated that majority of the respondents (78.00%) had education level was below SSC (secondary school certificate) followed by 16.00 per cent of the respondents were graduated whereas only 4.00 per cent were post graduate.

Nwaihu *et al.* (2015) revealed that maximum of the respondents (37.78 per cent) completed FSLC (first school leaving certificate) qualification followed by 35.56 per cent of respondents did O' level education, whereas 13.33 per cent of respondents were BSc graduate.

Paik (2016) depicted that 70.00 per cent of the respondents (rope producer) were illiterate followed by 16.00 per cent of the respondents attended primary education whereas 6.67 per cent completed upper primary and only 5.33 per cent completed high school or college level of education.

Kalanzi *et al.* (2017) resulted that 58.00 per cent of the respondents' attained primary education followed by 36.00 per cent were illiterate, while 5.00 per cent of the respondents completed secondary education and only 1.00 per cent of the respondents completed tertiary education.

Preetika and Amita (2018) showed that 50.00 per cent of the artisans completed their education in masters followed by 37.69 per cent of the artisans were graduates whereas 9.05 per cent completed their qualification in doctorate, least (2.01%) were undergraduate and only 1.26 per cent had other education qualifications.

Tanusree (2019) revealed that out of 100 respondents 52 respondents attended class between 5th -8th standard followed by 37 respondents attended their education till class 4th standard whereas 11 respondents had above 8th standard and higher education.

Marital status:

Nwaihu *et al.* (2015) depicted that majority of the respondents were married (76.00%) followed by 24.00 per cent of respondents were single.

Paik (2016) resulted that major per cent of women were widow (78.00%) followed by 22.00 per cent were married.

Kalanzi *et al.* (2017) revealed that majority of the respondents were married (90.40) followed by 9.60 per cent of the respondents were single.

Preetika and Amita (2018) showed that majority of the artisans were single (49.75) followed by of the artisans were married (35.18 %), whereas 12.31 per cent of the artisans were divorced/widowed and whereas 2.76 per cent of the respondents did not answer.

Income:

Hogarth and Belcher (2013) depicted that bamboo was the second most important source of income (13.33%) after off-farm income (22%).

Kithan (2014) resulted that 6000 mats were sold for Rs 50/- per mat producing monthly revenue of Rs.3 lakh.

Rabinjyotikhataniar (2017) revealed that artisans can get profit if they produce sofa, up to Rs 22,900/- of income they can generate. Similarly the income Rs 18,750/- can be produced if they produce lamp and Rs 13,500/- income can be generated if artisans produce flower stand respectively.

Anitakumari *et al.* (2019) resulted that artisans got Rs 165 to 230 per day including their profit and wages. It showed that it has low income and it was time consuming also.

Richa and Rathna (2019) revealed that majority of the respondents income was below Rs. 5000/- (44.00%) followed by income ranged between Rs. 6000-9000/- (27.00%), whereas 15.00 per cent of the respondents income ranged between Rs. 4000-5000. The income was not satisfied by the artisans to meet their daily needs. The main reason for the low income was there was lack of order and lack of local market.

Tanusree (2019) showed that out of 100 respondents 35 person were having an income less than Rs 3000 per month, income group of 3000-6000 belong to moderate and only 6000 per month was earned by 12 persons.

Socio Economic status of the bamboo artisans

Mohammed *et al.* (2007) observed that men played a major role in the collection of raw material and products marketing followed by women. Women had a key role in the manufacturing of bamboo products.

Shakya *et al.* (2012) resulted that the entrepreneurs suffered from the marketing channels and lack of information. And due to the lack of modern techniques and tools, the entrepreneurs hindered the growth of business in both quantitatively and qualitatively.

Akilandeswari and Pitchai (2014) showed that the census method was used to check the production and majority of the artisans lived in a rented house (99.00%) followed by only 1.00 of the artisan lived in own house.

Seth (2015) showed that the finding of social benefits revealed that the entrepreneurs had fulfilled their basic needs like having a mobile (82.60%) followed by giving education to their children (65.20%) whereas 56.50 per cent of them had a television. In economic benefits majority of them had an electric connection (65.20%) followed by water supply with sanitation (60.90%).

Sythud *et al.* (2015) revealed that the bamboo was used everywhere and has a global presence. It was used for many purposes from toothpick to dresses and construction of houses. So it was helpful for the rural people with proper skills to adopt the business to come out of poverty trap.

Pranab and Dillip (2016) stated that cottage and village industries were important as it improves the economic status of the rural people.

Selvam (2016) resulted that more than half of the respondents had a moderate level (61.60%) of social status and little more one fifth (22.10%) of the respondents had high level of social status. And an economic status majority of the respondents had moderate level of economic status (74.40%) followed by low economic status (16.30%). There is a significant and strong positive correlation between social and economic status for bamboo handicraft workers.

Muhammed *et al.*(2017) revealed that bamboo was one of the important segments to improve the socio-economic status as it is divided broadly as household, weapons, industrial uses, medicines, construction, and agriculture tools. Things have to be done to improve the economy among artisans.

Preetika and Amita (2018) showed that the majority of the artisans belonged to the high socio-economic status (43.97%) followed by 29.90 per cent of the respondents belonged to upper middle socio economic status whereas 16.08 per cent of the belonged to upper high and only 10.05 per cent belonged to lower middle socio economic status.

Rahim and Roszehan (2018) resulted that majority of the respondents used bamboo for their own use (67.60%) followed by 34.40 per cent were used bamboo as source of income for socioeconomic status.

Rahman and Kumar (2018) revealed that majority of the respondents said that it was not able to maintain their family expenditure (52.70%) followed by 47.30 per cent of the respondents thought that they were capable to maintain expenditure by struggling to get high income.

Methodology

The present investigation entitled '**Socio Economic status of Bamboo artisans and their problems**' was carried out in the department of Family Resource Management, College of Community Science, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, during the year 2019-2020. The materials and methods adopted for the present investigation are given under the following headings:

- Research Design
 - Type of Research
 - Variables of the study
 - Definitions and Operational Definitions
- Data Collection
 - Locale of the study
 - Selection of taluks and villages
 - Selection of respondents
 - Sampling procedure
 - Research tools and method of data collection
- Data Analysis
 - Coding
 - Categorization and Quantification of Variables
 - Statistical Analysis

Research Design

Type of Research

The research design adopted for the present investigation was exploratory type.

‘A research design is the arrangement of conditions for collection and analysis of data in a manner that aims to combine relevance to research purpose with economy in procedure’ (Joshi *et al.* 2013). Research design facilitates the smooth sailing of the various research operations in systematic manner.

Exploratory Research: It is the research design for exploring, recording, analyzing and interpreting situations that exist in a selected environment. An exploratory study aims at gaining familiarity with phenomenon in order to understand it or achieve new insight into it.

Data Collection

Locale of the study

The study was conducted in three districts of Northern Karnataka viz., Dharwad, Uttar Kannada and Belagavi districts.

Selection of taluks and villages

Selection of taluk: One taluk from each district was selected.

Selection of villages: Two villages were randomly selected from each selected taluk in the study area.

Selection of respondents

Representative sample of 20 bamboo artisans were randomly selected from six selected villages of the study area. Thus the total sample comprises of 120 bamboo artisans including both women and men.

Sampling Procedure

Keeping in view of the objectives of the study, random sampling technique was adopted. Totally 120 bamboo artisans families were selected for the study.

Categorization and quantification of variables

The data on selected independent and dependent variables were quantified and categorized as follows:

Age

Age was mentioned as the number of calendar years reported to have completed by the respondents at the time of survey. Based on the age the respondents were categorized as per the classification given by Usha Rani (1999).

Category	Age	Score
Young	Up to 35 years	1
Middle	36-50 years	2
Old	Above 55 years	3

Marital status

Marital status was classified into three groups viz., married, unmarried and widow as per the classification given by Hiremath (2012)

Category	Score
Married	1
Unmarried	2
Widow	3

Type of family

Family type refers to three way classification of family as nuclear, joint and extended as per the classification given by Aggarwal *et al.* (2005).

Category	Score
Nuclear family	1
Joint family	2

Extended	3
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Family size

Family size refers to number of people living in the family and classified as small, medium and large by using Aggarwal *et al.* (2005) scale as follows.

Family size	No. of members	Score
Small family	3-4	1
Medium family	5-7	2
Large family	8 and above	3

Education

Education refers to the number of years of formal education completed by the respondents. Based on the education bamboo artisans were classified by using Aggarwal *et al.* (2005) and the scores were given as follows.

Category	Score
Doctor, Eng. CA, MBA, etc	7
Post graduation	6
Graduation	5
10 th class pass but < graduation	4
Primary pass but <10 th	3
< Primary but attended school for at least one year	2
Just literate but no schooling	1
Illiterate	0

Income

The respondents were classified into three categories based on the mean and standard deviation of the annual income of the total sample by using the formula,

$\bar{x} \pm 0.425*SD$ as follows.

Categories	Amount (Annum)
Low	<13900/-
Medium	Rs 13900/- to 16300/-
High	> 16300/-

Years of experience

The bamboo artisans years of experience were classified into three categories based on the mean and standard deviation of total sample by using the formula, $\bar{x} \pm 0.425*SD$ as follows

Category	Score
<13 years	1
13-19 years	2
>19 years	3

Working hours

The bamboo artisans working hours were classified into three categories based on the mean and standard deviation of total sample by using the formula, $\bar{x} \pm 0.425*SD$ as follows.

Categories	Score
<5 hour	1
5-6 hour	2
>6 hour	3

Socio Economic Status

The socio economic scale of Agarwal, 2005 was referred to assign the scores for 22 components related to occupation, landholdings, caste, education, socio-political participation, and possession and housing conditions of selected families. The classification of the total socio-economic status scores of the sample according to Agarwal (2005) is mentioned below.

Social status	Score
Upper high	≥ 76
High	61-75
Upper middle	46-60
Lower middle	31-45
Poor	16-30
Very poor or below poverty line	≤ 15

Storage space

The storage space of the bamboo artisans were categorized and scores given as follows

Storage space	Score
Inside home	1
Outside home	2
Separate workstation	3

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)	-	-