



CONSTRAINTS FACED BY THE TRIBAL YOUTH IN PARTICIPATION OF DIFFERENT ON-FARM AND OFF-FARM ACTIVITIES

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Abstract

The study was conducted during the year 2014-15 in the Korea district of the Chhattisgarh State, India. The main constraints faced by the majority of tribal youth in the participation of different on-farm activities were lack of irrigation facility, unavailability of agricultural labour and high labour charges and lack of training facility for fish farming. While, with regard to off-farm activities major constraints faced by the respondents were lack of proper knowledge about different off-farm activities, lack of training facility in tribal area for skill development related to different off-farm activities, poor economic status of tribes and lack of transportation facility in tribal area. Some of the major suggestions expressed by the respondents to overcome the constraints related to on-farm activities were recommended seed and fertilizer should be timely available. Irrigation facility should be available, agricultural implement and equipment should be available in low price, agricultural credit should be available at proper time. While for off-farm activities suggestions obtained from the respondents were training facility should be provided by the govt. for different off-farm activities like business, small industry and enterprises establishment, credit should be available at proper time, government should be started new policy for employment of tribal youths and transportation facility should be available.

Key words : On-farm, off-farm, tribal youth, participation, constraints, suggestions.

Introduction

The total population of India according to recent estimates in 2015 is 1.28 billion (Anonymous, 2011). The population in the age-group of 15-34 years in India increased from 353 million in 2001 to 430 million in 2011. More than 50 per cent of India's current population is below the age of 25 years old and over 65 per cent below the age of 35 years old.

The total population of Chhattisgarh State is 25,545,198 of which male and female are 12,832,895 and 12,712,303. Sex ratio is 991 *i.e.* for each 1000 male, which is above national average of 940. Literacy rate in Chhattisgarh has seen upward trend and is 71.04 per cent (Anonymous, 2011). Out of total population of Chhattisgarh 23.24 per cent people live in urban regions and 76.76 per cent people live in the villages of rural areas.

The total population of the Korea district was 6,59,039 out of which 51.38 per cent were male and 48.62 per

cent were female, 70.2 per cent of this population was rural and 29.8 per cent were urban, 8.2 per cent belonged to the scheduled castes and 44.4 per cent belonged to the scheduled tribes (Anonymous, 2011). Literacy rate 71.41 per cent, the male literacy rate being 75.7 per cent and female literacy being 49.7 per cent. Korea has a sex ratio of 971 females for every 1000 males.

Materials and Methods

The study was conducted during the year 2014-15 in the Korea district of the Chhattisgarh State. The Chhattisgarh State consists of 27 districts out of which Korea district was selected purposively because 68.84 per cent of the population of Korea district lives in rural area of villages and the total population of this district 57.2 per cent comes under Scheduled Tribes population (Anonymous, 2011). Out of total 5 blocks in the district only three blocks namely Khadgawan, Baikunthpur and Manendragarh were selected purposively. Four villages were selected randomly from each selected block to take a total of 12 villages in the sample. 12 tribal youth were

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Table 1 : Distribution of the respondents according to their constraints faced in participation of different on-farm and off-farm activities.

(n = 144)

S. no.	Constraints	F*	%	Rank
1.	Lack of knowledge about proper land preparation	87	60.42	VI
2.	Lack of irrigation facility	123	85.42	I
3.	Unavailability of agricultural labour and high labour cost	108	75.00	II
4.	Lack of agricultural implements	97	67.36	IV
5.	Undulating land	33	22.92	XII
6.	Lack of timely availability of improved seed	81	56.25	VII
7.	Lack of crop insurance facility	55	38.19	IX
8.	Timely unavailability of fertilizers	72	50.00	VIII
9.	Lack of green fodder for Animal	93	64.58	V
10.	Lack of knowledge about improved poultry farming	48	33.33	X
11.	Loss of crops by deshi breed of poultry	37	25.69	XI
12.	Lack of training facility for fish farming	104	72.22	III
13.	Lack of pond	93	64.58	V
14.	High cost of pond construction	21	14.58	XIII
Off-farm activities				
15.	Lack of proper knowledge about off-farm activities	119	82.64	I
16.	Lack of training facility in tribal area for skill development related to different off-farm activities	110	76.38	II
17.	Lack of govt. support /subsidy	45	31.25	V
18.	High cost of credit	18	12.50	VII
19.	Lack of timely availability of credit	24	16.67	VI
20.	Lack of transportation facility	78	54.17	IV
21.	Engagement of tribal youths in other activities	45	31.25	V
22.	Poor economic status of tribal	95	65.97	III

F = Frequency

*Data are based on multiple responses

% = Percentage.

selected randomly from each selected villages. Thus, the total 144 tribal youth were considered as respondents for this study. The data were collected and analyzed by using appropriate statistical methods like mean, S.D., percentage, correlation and multiple regression analysis etc.

Results and Discussion

Constraints faced by tribal youth in participation of different on-farm and off-farm activities

An attempt has been made in this study to identify the constraints which were responsible for the participation of tribal youth in different on-farm and off-farm activities. The constraints reported by the respondents were grouped in two categories *i.e.* on-farm constraints and off-farm constraints. The details about these constraints are given below.

The data compiled in table 1 shows that the majority (85.42%) of the respondents faced constraints related to different on-farm activities were lack of irrigation facility, followed by unavailability of agriculture labour and high labour charges (75.00%), lack of training facility for fish farming (72.22), lack of agricultural implements (67.36%), lack of green fodder for animal and lack of pond (64.58%), lack of knowledge about proper land preparation (60.42%), lack of timely availability of improved seed (56.25%) and 50.00 per cent of the respondents were faced the constraints of timely unavailability of fertilizers, lack of crops insurance facility (38.19%), lack of knowledge about improved poultry farming (33.33%), loss of crops by deshi birds of poultry (25.69%), undulating land (22.92%). While only 14.58 per cent of the respondents were faced constraints of high cost of pond construction.

Table 2 : Distribution of the respondents according to their suggestions for more participation in different on-farm and off-farm activities

(n = 144)

S. no.	Suggestions	F*	%	Rank
On-farm activities				
1.	The recommended seed and fertilizer should be timely available	122	84.72	I
2.	Agricultural implement and equipment should be available in low price	108	75.00	III
3.	Agriculture credit should be available at proper time	89	61.81	IV
4.	Irrigation facility should be available	113	78.47	II
5.	Herbicides and pesticide should be available in low price	32	22.22	IX
6.	Crop insurance facility should be available	40	27.78	VIII
7.	Training should be given on improved poultry farming, fish farming and livestock managements	78	54.17	VI
8.	Construction of new pond and deepening of existing pond.	18	12.50	X
9.	Extension activities <i>i.e.</i> kisan mela, demonstration, exhibition, training, visits etc. should be conducted at block and village level at proper time	86	59.72	V
10.	R.A.E.O.s should be convey right information at right time for crops production	56	38.89	VII
Off-farm activities				
11.	Training facility should be provided by the govt. for different off-farm activities like business, small industry and enterprises establishment	111	77.08	I
12.	Credit should be available at proper time	97	67.36	II
13.	Govt. should be started new policy for employment of tribal youths	62	43.06	III
15.	Transportation facility should be available	32	22.22	IV

F = Frequency

*Data are based on multiple responses

% = Percentage

In case of off-farm activities majority of the respondents (82.64%) had faced the constraints like lack of proper knowledge about different off-farm activities, followed by lack of training facility in tribal area for skill development related to different off-farm activities (76.38%), poor economic status of tribal population (65.97%), lack of transportation facility in tribal area (54.17%), lack of govt. support /subsidy and engagement of tribal youths in other activities (31.25%), lack of timely availability of credit (16.67%) while only 12.50 per cent of the respondents were faced constraints of high cost of credit.

Suggestions from the tribal youth for improving the participation of different on-farm and off-farm activities

As regards to suggestions given by the respondents to overcome the constraints and for improving the participation of different on-farm and off-farm activities the finding are presented in table 2. With regard to on-farm activities the data reveals that the majority of the respondents (84.72%) suggested that the recommended seed and fertilizer should be timely available, followed by 78.47 per cent of the respondents suggested that irrigation

facility should be available, 75.00 per cent of the respondents suggested that the agriculture implement and equipment should be available in low price, 61.81 per cent of the respondents suggested that the agricultural credit should be available at proper time. 59.72 per cent of the respondents suggested that extension activities *i.e.* kisan mela, demonstration, exhibition, training and visits etc. should be conducted at block and village level at proper time, 54.17 per cent of the respondents suggested that training should be given on improved poultry farming, fish farming and livestock managements, 38.89 per cent of the respondents suggested that R.A.E.O.s should be convey right information at right time for crops production, about 27.78 per cent of the respondents suggested that crop insurance facility should be available, 22.22 per cent of the respondents suggested that herbicides and pesticide should be available in low price and only 12.50 per cent of the respondents suggested that construction of new pond and deepening of existing pond.

With regard to off-farm activities the data reveals that the majority of the respondents (77.08%) suggested that training facility should be provided by the govt. for different off-farm activities like business, small industry

and enterprises establishment for improving the participation of rural youth in different off-farm activities, followed by 67.36 per cent of the respondents suggested that the credit should be available at proper time for off-farm activities, 43.06 per cent of the respondents suggested that the govt. should be started new policy for employment of tribal youths in different off-farm activities and 22.22 per cent of the respondents suggested that transportation facility should be available.

Conclusion

From the findings of this study, it can be concluded that, if the government take proper initiative for increasing the involvement of the rural youth in different on farm and off farm activities. If so, then the problem of unemployment in rural area can be solved. In this context, it is necessary that government should plan the programme on the basis of the constraints faced by them.

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