



Food Expenditure Pattern of Tribal's of Buldhana District, Maharashtra

KEYWORDS

Expenditure, Health, Income.

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ABSTRACT India has the largest tribal population in the world perhaps next to Africa. These tribal's have their own socioeconomic and cultural system and are mostly illiterate, ignorant, economically backward and have little awareness about hygienic living and nutritional food intake. Further limited means of subsistence, addiction to alcohol, marriages at adolescent age, early pregnancies low birth weight babies are factors which adversely affect their health status. Similarly they are ignorant about how much to spent on food and other items. It is observed from the data that tribal's from the study area i.e., Buldhana District where the tribal population is 115,000 (Revenue Division TRTI, Pune) had good income and hence it was of profound interest to study the expenditure pattern. It was observed that the results are in contrast to observation normally reported in rural families where in a major percentage of income is shown to be spent on food items. This is perhaps due to the fact that the bulk of millets that they were consuming were either on their own farms or given in barter to the labour in return of their services. It is duty of the nutritionist and dietitians from the periphery that with proper nutrition education about food and their nutritional importance in maintaining health should be explain to the tribal's so that they can spend on right food items and stay in good health and vigor.

INTRODUCTION

India is considered to be anthropological laboratory because of its religious ethnic, social and linguistic diversities. It has always attracted the attention of the world as being one of the oldest civilizations with kaleidoscopic variety of rich cultural heritage.

Next to Africa, India has the largest concentration of tribal's in the world. There are over 314 tribal communities in India, known by different names such as 'Adivasis' – the original inhabitants, 'vanyajantis'- inhabitants of forest, 'Pahari'- the hill dwellers. 'Anusuchit'- the scheduled tribe, Adimjati – the primitive people, 'janajati' the folk people, wild flowers etc. (Tribhuvan Sherry, 2004),

Current status of tribal population as reported 2011 census is 8.6% of the nation total population, whereas the tribal

population of Maharashtra is 8.6 million. About 80% of tribal's in India live in remote forest areas and hilly regions, without an access to the modern socio-economic inputs. Further, the infrastructures and communication systems are so poorly developed that they still remain isolated from the outside world and modern technological developments. Although there are some differences among various tribal groups in India, they share certain common characteristics like nature of reality especially illiteracy, economic backwardness and social deprivation. Health status of tribal's in India is same with certain minor differences. Taking in consideration this aspect of the tribal's it was felt that to see the expenditure pattern of the tribal's.

Before studying the food expenditure pattern of tribal's the total family income of the family was also studied and presented in the following table.

TABLE NO. 1 TOTAL FAMILY INCOME

Sr. No	Socio-Personal & Economic Traits	Males (%)			Females (%)				
		13-15 Yrs (n=17)	16-18 Yrs (n=105)	19 Yrs & above (n=13)	13-15 Yrs (n=18)	16-18 Yrs (n=142)	19 Yrs & above (n=22)	Pregnant (n=48)	Lactation (n=35)
1		TOTAL FAMILY ANNUAL INCOME (Rs.)							
M ± SD		66628±28597	71783±40822	89123±43482	63364±31946	68809±34593	81627±38304	66000±38226	81653±42560
R		24000-126000	3000-216000	10800-165000	24000-156000	6600-176400	2400-151200	8400-151200	8400-165000

It is observed from the above table that the annual income exhibits a wide range from as low as Rs. 3000 /- to a high value of Rs. 1,76,400 /-. The range of variation in the mean values of annual income appears to be a more representative projection of a realistic situation. It varies between 66000/- and Rs. 89123/-, being higher than the below poverty line income limit fixed by the Government of Maharashtra and also Indian tribal development project (ITDP) has considered any family earning less than Rs. 11,000/- per annum as income below poverty line (Tribhuvan, Sherry 2004).

Hence it was of profound interest to study the food expenditure pattern of the tribal's. Food expenditure has direct influence on health and nutrition. Hence an attempt was made to study the same of the tribal's belonging to Buldhana District, Maharashtra.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Mankar et al (2006), report on annual income of tribal's from kokan area 12.50 % had low income (upto Rs. 9,000), 76.25 percent had medium income (up to Rs. 27000), and 11.5 percent had high income (above Rs. 270000) respectively.

Mankar et al (2006), report that more than half of the tribal's (51.25) percent of tribal's from kokan areas had marginal land holding.

Tribhuvan and Sherry (2004), tribal's from Nandurbar and Taloda districts of Maharashtra owned land less than three acres of which 40 percent were landless or owned land of one acre.

While discussing of economic aspect it is imperative to reveal the debt cycle among tribal's. While informal chat with some of the non tribal's but close associate of tribal's from the study area reveal that majority of tribal were debt ridden. When in need of money may be marriage or some religious function tribal's get loan from private money lenders with high rate of interest which they are unable to repay during their life time and therefore they have to be under complete bondage of money lender. Studies carried by Jain and Tribhuvan (1996), tribal's of Maharashtra reveal the same debt cycle.

AIM OF STUDY

Looking at the above economic scenario it was aimed to study the food expenditure and food purchase pattern of the tribal population of Buldhana District, Maharashtra.

METHODOLOGY

Selection of area: The objective of present study was to cover adolescent girls and boys. It was therefore planned to reach the same Tribal infested area the tehsils of Buldhana district namely of Sangrampur and Jalgaon-Jamod were selected for study. While selecting area it is important to know tribal population of region and district. Tribal population of Amravati division 1,116 thousand and that of Buldhana district being 115 thousand (Revenue division, TRTI, Pune.) Buldhana district comes under Amravati region.

Subjects: Subjects included tribal boys and girls.

DURATION OF SURVEY: Duration of survey continued for one year. Several small visits as when required were observed. Hilly areas were not accessed during rainy season.

ASSISTANCE RECEIVED DURING COURSE OF SURVEY:

For conducting in-depth survey it is very necessary to seek assistance from those who are acquainted with area and the people. Manager of Jalgaon Jamod Aasram school, local doctors, social workers, anganwadi sewika's, active tribal adolescent boys and girls were the personnel who helped researcher in conducting the survey. These personnel's were not only acquainted with them but knew their dialect very well which helped in receiving correct responses.

MODE OF TRANSPORT:

Four wheeler was used for accessing the destined area where as a jeep with four wheel drive was used for accessing hilly areas.

DESCRIPTION OF TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES USED IN SURVEY.

1) Sampling Technique: Purposive sampling method was used to collect data. Since only adolescent group was assessed purposive method of sampling was adopted.

2) Statistical Survey: Collection of data from tribal household on the basis of questionnaire and interview method. Responses tabulated and subjected to statistical analysis.

3) Interview: Illiteracy a major hurdle with respect to recording responses from questionnaire, hence tribals were interrogated and responses were filled in. Selected informants like anganwadi sewika, local inhabitants, school teachers, doctors were interrogated for relevant information.

4) Questionnaire: A well structured pretested questionnaire was framed to collect relevant information. Questionnaire was divided in different sections each section represented specific information. Section wise information is presented as follows and the responses interpreted in detail in table No. 2.

Section 'A': Pertained to income expenditure and purchase pattern. Yearly income was generated by observing weekly income from totally family members. Income from two main sources of the tribal's that is daily wages and agriculture was estimated. Yearly expenditure on food items and non food items (alcohol, tobacco,) were estimated by observing weekly expenditure on the same by the family. Purchase of food items and non food items with respect to frequency was estimated by observing daily, weekly, monthly purchase.

Income: To estimate income of family, number of family members earning, mode of earning - daily **wages**, agriculture were observed. With respect to daily wages income from males and female were asked since rate of wages differed with sex, males had slightly high wages than females, weekly income was assessed for the same. To estimate agricultural income, land in acres was considered, which helped to estimate income from the same. Yearly income was generated by observing weekly income from the above sources. Data was subjected to calculations to express values with mean and standard deviation.

Expenditure : To estimate expenditure of family, weekly expenditure incurred on foods such a cereals, pulses, nuts, vegetables, fruits, milk, animal food and non food items like alcohol, tobacco, cigarette, bidi, were estimated. Data was subjected to calculations to express values with means, standard deviations.

Engel's coefficient was used to estimate percentage of income spend on food.

DEVELOPING INCOME SCALE:

Total number of family members earning were observed. Yearly income was derived by observing weekly income generated from the two main sources that is daily wages and agriculture. (As discussed in section H of questionnaire)

Developing expenditure scale:

To estimate yearly expenditure, weekly expenditure incurred on various food items and non food items were calculated. (as discussed in section H of questionnaire)

Engel's coefficient was used to derive percentage of income of family spent on food by using formula

$$= \frac{\text{Annual expenditure on food}}{\text{Annual total expenditure}} \times 100.$$

Narayana Kumar, R. et al (2003).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION EXPENDITURE

The data on food expenditure pattern on tribal families of males and females subjects under study is presented in table 2.

FAMILIES TABLE 2: DATA ON FOOD EXPENDITURE PATTERN OF TRIBAL

Sr. No	Expenditure (Rs)	Males			Females				
		13-15 Yrs (n=17)	16-18 Yrs (n=105)	19 Yrs & above (n=13)	13-15 Yrs (n=18)	16-18 Yrs (n=142)	19 Yrs & above (n=22)	Pregnant (n=48)	Lactation (n=35)
1	ANNUAL TOTAL FAMILY EXPENDITURE (Rs)								
	M ± SD								
	Range	24000-126000	2400-176400	24000-165000	25200-88200	3000-156000	8400-216000	7200-165000	8400-165000
2	Weekly Expenditure on Grocery (Rs)								
	M ± SD	66.47±21.99	71±21.64	80.77±22.81	57.14±23.43	69.33±24.27	76.82±33.83	67.81±35.37	83.14±42.22
	Range	40-100	40-100	40-100	40-100	40-200	40-200	40-200	40-200
3	Weekly Expenditure on Pulses (Rs)								
	M ± SD	22.94±13.59	23.81±11.96	22.31±10.92	13.57±4.97	22.96±11.66	25.46±11.44	19.17±11.08	22.29±11.40
	Range	10-40	10-40	10-40	10-20	10-40	10-40	10-40	10-40
4	Weekly Expenditure on Vegetables (Rs)								
	M ± SD	15.88±5.07	17.14±4.75	17.69±4.39	13.57±4.97	17.11±4.99	19.09±6.10	15.83±7.09	18.86±7.96
	Range	10-20	10-30	10-20	10-20	10-40	10-40	10-40	10-40
5	Weekly Expenditure on Animal Foods (Rs)								
	M ± SD	96.47±39.48			71.43±18.44			92.40±38.69	
	Range	40-140	50-140	60-140	40-100	50-200	50-200	40-200	50-200
6	Weekly Expenditure on Alcohol (Rs)								
	M ± SD	26.47±12.22	27.43±10.83	27.69±10.13	18.57±3.63	27.47±10.55	29.55±10.90	25.83±10.49	27.14±11.00
	Range	10-40	10-40	20-40	10-20	10-40	10-40	10-40	10-40
7	Weekly Expenditure on Beedi (Rs)								
	M ± SD	19.41±6.59	20.67±6.33	23.08±7.51	18.57±3.63	21.62±7.01	24.09±9.08	22.5±9.11	23.71±9.42
	Range	10-40	10-40	20-40	10-20	10-40	10-40	10-40	10-40
8	Weekly Expenditure on Tobacco (Rs)								
	M ± SD	19.41±6.59	20.57±6.40	23.08±7.51	18.57±3.63	21.62±7.01	24.09±9.08	22.5±9.11	23.71±9.42
	Range	10-40	10-40	20-40	10-20	10-40	10-40	10-40	10-40
9	MEAN TOTAL WEEKLY EXPENDITURE (Rs)								
	Mean	267	282	300	211	280	308	266	305
10	MEAN ANNUAL EXPENDITURE (Rs)								
	Mean	12816	13536	14400	10128	13440	14784	12768	14640
11	ENGEL'S COEFFICIENT #								
	Mean	18.12	17.41	16.64	16.73	19.12	15.39	20.99	18.76

- indicates the percentage of amount spent on food by the family.

It is observed that mean annual expenditure was found to be Rs. 7069 Rs. to Rs. 8653 in families of male subjects while it was found to be Rs. 6053 to Rs. 9608 in the families of females subjects. A similar annual expenditure was noted in family of pregnant and lactating women. As also observed from the table the minimum to maximum range of annual income varied widely in both sexes.

The expenditure on food and non food item were calculated based on the information provided by the tribal families. The data has been categorized for each food item consumed weekly and the amount of money spent on the same.

The miscellaneous items like sugar, salt, red chilly, oil, included under grocery showed a mean expenditure ranging between Rs. 86 – 80 per week. The minimum range was found to be Rs. 40 where as maximum range varied from Rs. 100 to Rs. 200.

It was found that expenditure on pulses was quite low

ranging between minimum of Rs. 10 to maximum of Rs. 40. The consumption of pulses was also found to be low among the tribal's as their dietaries mainly consisted mainly Jowar Bhakri and red chilly chutney.

It was similarly found that the weekly expenditure on vegetables was quite low showing a mean ranging between Rs. 15 to Rs. 19/-. In contrast though animal food was consumed weekly the expenditure indicated was found to be higher showing a mean of almost Rs. 70/- to Rs. 100/- per week. The maximum range of expenditure in this category to found to be Rs. 200/- weekly.

The weekly expenditure on non food items like alcohols, beedi, tobacco, showed a mean of Rs. 18 to Rs. 25/- with the maximum of Rs. 40/-

An effort was made to calculate percentage of income spent on food by using Engels coefficient formula. Engels coefficient indicates the percentage of amount spent on food of each family and level of spending on food decides

ones standard of living. It is observed that the families of both male and female showed a similar pattern where in 16 % to 20 % of the income has been calculated to be spent on food

These results are in contrast to observation normally reported in rural families where in a major percentage of income is shown to be spent on food items. This is perhaps due to the fact that the bulk of millets that they were consuming were either on their own farms or given in barter to the labour in return of their services.

CONCLUSION

These results are in contrast to observation normally reported in rural families where in a major percentage of income is shown to be spent on food items. This is perhaps due to the fact that the bulk of millets that they were consuming were either on their own farms or given in barter to the labour in return of their services. It is duty of the nutritionist and dietitians from the periphery that with proper nutrition education about food and their nutritional importance in maintaining health should be explain to the tribal's so that they can spend on right food items and stay in good health and vigor.

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