# Socio-Economic and Socio-Personal Data of Tribal's of Buldhana District- An Requisite for Assessing Nutritional Statu

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**ABSTRACT** *Tribal population of Buldhana District is 115,000(Revenue division TRTI,Pune)Buldana District falls under Amravati division. It was of profound interest to study the socio-economic and socio-personal aspects of the tribal's. Socio-economic features directly influence on the nutritional status. Hence socio-economic features like education, occupation, marital status, income, number of family members earnings, land holding, facilities available like Anganwadi, Primary health centers, quality of water were studied. An attempt has been made in the paper to study these features. It was observed that middle and high school education was less. With satisfactory income level debt was lowering economic strata of the population. Tribal adolescent population was gainfully engaged in generating income, meagre land holding encouraged adolescent to work on daily wages. Daily wages and income from agriculture were main sources of income. Tribals form the area had facility of anganwadi, ration shop, public transport, CHC, PHC, RHC and private hospital however tribals from hilly area had to travel a long distance to access the same. Quality of water was potable. Concentrated efforts are required to improve educational levels of tribal's they should be counseled to utilize technical educational facilities available within the tehsil. Modern techniques of agriculture can be adopted to increase the agricultural production.*

## INTRODUCTION

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.

Socio-economic features like education, occupation, marital status, income, number of family members earnings, land holding, facilities available like Anganwadi, Primary health centers, quality of water directly influence on the nutritional status and health. Hence these features are very important when nutritional status is assessed. An attempt has been made in the paper to study these features.

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Saha (2003), report government of India has conducted survey on socio economic aspect of tribal population revealing that they are living economically in abysmally poor economic condition for years. Plenty of such scenarios are found in tribal district of Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Orisa, Assam, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Daman and Diu. Majhi et al (2001) report that low social status of women in developing country limit their access to economic resources Indira Naik (2001) reveal that tribal of Orion tribe who are educated and socio economically better seek assistance of nearest primary health center and act according to advice of doctor. Rao, et al (1997) report from the studies conducted in the past among various tribal's groups reveal that wide variation in their health and nutritional status is characterized by their individual socioeconomic and socio-biological condition as

well as socio-cultural practices.

## AIM OF STUDY

Looking at the above socio-economic aspects it was aimed to study the socio-economic and personal features of the tribal's belonging to Buldhana District, Maharashtra.

## METHODOLOGY

The details of methodology are presented in following paragraph.

### 1. SELECTION OF AREA:

The objective of present study was to cover adolescent girls. 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.

### 2. SUBJECTS:

Subjects included adolescent girls (including pregnant status)

### 3. 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 tribal's were interrogated and responses were filled in. Selected inform-

ants 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.

**RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

The data regarding the socio-personal and economic profile of the respondents is presented in table no. 1.

**TABLE 1: SOCIO-PERSONAL AND ECONOMIC PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS**

| 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 | TEHSIL | | | | | | | | |
| | Jalgaon Jamod | 88.24 (15) | 72.38(76) | 92.31(12) | 83.33(15) | 76.76(109) | 72.73(16) | 81.25(39) | 88.57(31) |
| | Sangrampur | 11.76(2) | 27.62(29) | 7.69(1) | 16.67(3) | 23.24(33) | 27.27(6) | 18.75(9) | 11.43(4) |
| 2 | TRIBE | | | | | | | | |
| | Korku | 23.53(4) | 14.29(15) | 7.69(1) | 33.33(6) | 23.94(34) | 22.73(5) | 27.08(13) | 11.43(4) |
| | Bhill | 47.06(8) | 22.86(24) | 30.77(4) | 33.33(6) | 19.72(28) | 40.91(9) | 10.42(5) | 37.14(13) |
| | Bhilala | 5.88(1) | 20(21) | 15.39(2) | 22.22(4) | 28.17(40) | 9.09(2) | 22.92(11) | 8.57(3) |
| | Pawra | 17.65(3) | 24.76(26) | 46.15(6) | 11.11(2) | 13.38(19) | 18.18(4) | 18.75(9) | 42.86(15) |
| | Barela | 5.88(1) | 13.33(14) | 0 | 0 | 9.86(14) | 9.09(2) | 4.17(2) | 0 |
| | Nihal | 0 | 13.33(5) | 0 | 0 | 4.93(7) | 0 | 16.67(8) | 0 |
| 3 | RELIGION | | | | | | | | |
| | Hindu | 100(17) | 80(84) | 76.92(10) | 88.89(16) | 82.39(117) | 95.46(21) | 85.42(41) | 100(35) |
| | Muslim | 0 | 13.33(14) | 7.69(1) | 11.11(2) | 14.79(21) | 0 | 2.08/(1) | 0 |
| | Christian | 0 | 6.67(7) | 15.39(2) | 0 | 2.82(4) | 4.55(1) | 12.5(6) | 0 |
| 4 | EDUCATION | | | | | | | | |
| | Primary | 47.06(8) | 44.76(47) | 38.46(5) | 72.22(13) | 54.23(77) | 68.18(15) | 50(24) | 60(21) |
| | Middle School | 17.65(3) | 34.29(36) | 23.07(3) | 22.22(4) | 23.24(33) | 13.64(3) | 18.75(9) | 22.86(8) |
| | High School | 17.65(3) | 10.48(11) | 15.39(2) | 0 | 2.11(3) | 4.55(1) | 18.75(2) | 0 |
| | Graduation | | 0.95(1) | 0 | 0 | 0.70(1) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | None | 17.65(3) | 9.52(10) | 23.08(3) | 5.56(1) | 19.72(28) | 13.64(3) | 27.08(13) | 17.14(6) |
| 5 | OCCUPATION | | | | | | | | |
| | Farming | 23.53(4) | 25.71(27) | 15.39(2) | 22.22(4) | 29.58(42) | 31.82(7) | 35.42(17) | 22.86(8) |
| | Daily Wages | 76.47(13) | 60.95(64) | 46.15(9) | 77.78(14) | 57.04(81) | 50(11) | 52.08(25) | 68.57(24) |
| | Others | 0 | 13.33(14) | 15.39(2) | 0 | 13.38(19) | 18.18(4) | 12.5(6) | 8.57(3) |
| 6 | MARITAL STATUS | | | | | | | | |
| | Married | - | 3.81(4) | - | 11.11(2) | 9.16(13) | 9.09(2) | 70.83(34) | 71.43(25) |
| | Unmarried | 52.94(9) | 96.19(101) | 15.39(2) | 88.89(16) | 87.32(124) | 86.36(19) | 29.17(14) | 28.57(10) |
| 7 | TOTAL NUMBER OF FAMILY MEMBERS | | | | | | | | |
| | M ± SD | 7.29±2.73 | 8.26±2.41 | 8.54±2.30 | 6.07±1.64 | 8.22±2.56 | 8.96±2.85 | 7.69±3.02 | 8.89±3.20 |
| | R | 2-12 | 3-15 | 5-13 | 2-8 | 4-15 | 4-15 | 2-16 | 4-16 |
| 8 | NUMBER OF FAMILY MEMBERS EARNING | | | | | | | | |
| | M ± SD | 6.29±2.42 | 7.21±2.35 | 7.23±2.98 | 4.86±1.51 | 7.09±2.57 | 7.77±3.15 | 6.90±2.96 | 7.34±2.77 |
| | R | 2-10 | 2-14 | 3-13 | 2-7 | 2-14 | 3-15 | 2-14 | 3-14 |
| 9 | TOTAL FAMILY ANNUAL INCOME (Rs.) | | | | | | | | |
| | M ± SD | 66628±28597 | 71783±40822 | | | | 81627±38304 | 66000±38226 | |
| | R | 24000-126000 | 3000-216000 | 10800-165000 | 24000-156000 | 6600-176400 | 2400-151200 | 8400-151200 | 8400-165000 |

| 10 | LAND HOLDING (Acre) | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M ± SD | 3±1.16 | 5.38±3.45 | 6±2.83 | 0 | 4.08±1.85 | 4.82±2.74 | 4.48±3.04 | 3.46±2.18 |
| R | 2-4 | 2-16 | 4-10 | 0 | 2-8 | 2-12 | 2-15 | 2-9 |
| 11 | FACILITIES AVAILABLE | | | | | | | |
| Anganwadi | 17.65(3) | 3.81(4) | 0 | 22.22(4) | 11.97(17) | 113.64(3) | 27.0/8(13) | 8.57(3) |
| Anganwadi+PHC | 23.53(4 | 32.38(34) | 30.77(4) | 22.22(4) | 29.58(42) | 61.11(11) | 27.08(13) | 20(7) |
| Anganwadi + RS | 11.77(2) | 33.33(35) | 53.85(7) | 5.56(1) | 26.06(37) | 31.82(7) | 35.42(17) | 57.14(20) |
| Anganwadi + PT | 47.06(8) | 30.48(32) | 15.39(2) | 50(9) | 32.39(46) | 4.55(1) | 10.42(5) | 14.29(5) |
| 12 | DISTANCE FROM PHC | | | | | | | |
| M ± SD | 10.94±6.04 | 11.71±4.63 | 5.92± | | 11.70±4.34 | 14.27±3.17 | 12.73±3.19 | 13.4±4.27 |
| R | 6-25 | 6-25 | 2-8 | 6-25 | 6-25 | 8-25 | 6-15 | 6-25 |
| 13 | QUALITY OF WATER | | | | | | | |
| Potable | 88.24(15) | 99.05(104) | 100(13) | 94.44(17) | 97.89(139) | 95.46(21) | 100(48) | 94.29(33) |
| Non Potable | - | - | 0 | - | - | - | 0 | - |

PHC – Public Health Center
RS – Ration Shop
PT – Public Transport

Figures in parentheses indicate number of subjects.

Following observations are made from the above table that Samples from Jalgaon Jamod were more than Sangrampur tehsil as tribal infested pockets were more in Jalgaon Jamod tehsil.

Six tribes namely Bhill, Korku, Bhilala, Pawra, Barela and Nihal inhabited the present study area data revealed (Table 1) concentration of Bhills with maximum percentage followed by Korku, Barela, Pawra and Nihal respectively. It was interesting to note Buldhana was called 'Bhill thana' (the place of Bhills) probably the corrupt name of Buldhana. (Gagezette). Hinduism was followed by majority of subjects followed by Islam and Christianity.

The two tehsils had educational facilities from primary to graduation (fig.4.1) despite the percentage of educated tribal is far from satisfactory . Though fairly high percentage of adolescents under all categories of age groups had primary education ranging from 44% to 72%. Drastic reduction at middle and high school level was observed.

Occupation an important activity represents socio economic status. Mainly income was generated from daily wages followed by income from farming land per family was small table 4.1 depicting the fact it cannot generate enough income for sustenance. Hence majority of them were working as laborers in farms on daily wages. Data revealed pregnant women were also working. It has been observed that these tribal groups are very hard working and keep themselves engaged in enhancing their income as may be seen from the satisfactory income levels. Other sources of income were of seasonal nature contributing meager income.

Marital status an important phase affecting health and nutritional status particularly among rural and tribal population where marriages take place in adolescent stage. Various studies with tribals report marriages (as discusses in chapter four) at an early age. However it can be observed from table 4.1 only 2.86 percent males from 16-18 year age group were married similarly from the same age group 9-11 percent females were married. Both the percentages being low. This observation is note worthy, however with unmarried status there were children born to adolescents

as described in chapter four it was during the 'Phagwa' (celebration of 'Holi ') partners were chosen lived like husband and wife there after and bore children. Actual marriage ceremony took place when bridegroom could pay the bride price. This sort of custom might have reported giving less percentage regarding marriage. Several studies as mentioned in chapter four have supported similar custom of marriage.

Income level determines economic status. The annual income from the present study exhibited a wide range form as low as 3000/- p.a. to a high value of Rs. 1,76,400/- p.a. the income appeared more than fixed by ITDP (Income less than 11,000/- p.a.) the reason could be attributed to fact that meagre land holding (range of 3 acres to 6 acres) generated less income there by income from daily wages raised the income level. Hence it can be said that a combination of agricultural income from daily wages comprised of the population. inspite of satisfactory income levels tribals from study area were debt ridden repaying with high rate of interest to the money lender thus lowering their economic status.

### Facilities available
Results from the table 1 reveal anganwadi facility was available with the tribal population, rural health center, primary health center, sub centers, facility with ration shop which 55.58 percent could avail the rest could not due to distance specially those residing in hilly areas, maximum 47 percent males and maximum 50 percent of females could avail the facility of public transport the rest who could not were residing in hilly areas. Data on distance from primary health center reveal a wide range (2 kms -25 kms). A distance of 25 kms fairly more. It was the tribal population from hilly area who had to access this distance.

With respect to portability of water tribals had no problems regarding digestion or water borne diseases thus finding water potable.

### CONCLUSION
It can be concluded from the above result that Middle and high school education was less. With satisfactory income level debt was lowering economic strata of the population.

Tribal adolescent population was gainfully engaged in generating income, meagre land holding encouraged adolescent to work on daily wages. Daily wages and income from agriculture were main sources of income.  Tribals form the area had facility of anganwadi, ration shop, public transport, CHC, PHC, RHC and private hospital however tribals from hilly area had to travel a long distance to access the same.  Quality of water was potable.

## SUGGESTIONS

Following suggestions can be made to improve the socio-economic status of tribal's.

Concentrated efforts are required to improve educational levels of tribal's they should be counseled to utilize technical educational facilities available within the tehsil.  Modern techniques of agriculture can be adopted to increase the agricultural production.

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