



OCCUPATION AND CHANGES AMONG THE AMBIGA COMMUNITY

Sociology

Dr Dhruva B. Jyothi

Professor, P.G. Department of Sociology, Karnatak University Dharwad.

ABSTRACT

In Indian society, like education, economic power is an influencing factor in the social status of people. If the people of particular community are economically rich, then they may be in higher social status and vice versa. As such, it is necessary to assess the economic changes of the Ambiga community so as to assess their overall development. Change is determined by different factors such as traditional occupation of the family, income and their status. The primary data collected and analysed to write a paper.

KEYWORDS

Ambiga, Occupation, Status.

INTRODUCTION

The majority of the Ambiga people were engaged in fishing, rowing, messaging, maintaining law and order in villages, etc. But due to modernization, many of these occupations were disappeared and now Ambiga community is depending on different occupations. In this respect, the primary data was collected from the respondents on their family occupations and discussed in present paper. One's economic status depends on a particular person's occupation. Occupation is one of the most important determinants of social status. The style of a particular population group, community, caste or individual is predominantly determined by the nature and type of profession. IrawatiKarve in his work "What is caste? Caste and Occupation" revealed the relationship between caste and occupational structure by identifying certain groups of occupational specialists and certain caste names denoting their professions. G. S. Ghurye (Caste and Race in India) identified the lack of unrestricted choice of occupation as one of the fundamental characteristics of the caste system.

METHODOLOGY: OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The main objectives of the present study are as follows:

- 1) To study the Ambigas traditional occupation..
- 2) To study the status of the Ambiga community.
- 3) To analyze the recent changes among the Ambiga community women.

Source of Data:

Researcher went to the field and consulted with people, subject experts, NGO's officials etc. Further, he collected the data from different published and unpublished sources. Following are sources of data for the present study.

The Sample: A simple random sampling method has been adopted for selecting the sample. Keeping eye on the present research and duration of the study, the respondents are selected from the Gadag talukas (Rural and Urban). The data is collected from 100 respondents.

Selection of Field Study Area: The Ambiga community is found all over Karnataka state. But high population of this community is found in Kalaburgi, Gadag, Rayachuru, Karawar, Udapi, Mysore and Tumkuru districts. So, the researcher has selected Gadag taluk as area of field study to write an article.

Population of Ambigas in Karnataka (2021)

Sl.no	Divisions	Population (Approximate)
1	Kalyana Karnataka	7,63,443
2	Mumbai Karnataka	3,74,657
3	Karavali Karnataka	3,68,572
4	Mysore Karnataka	3,99,630
5	Other Districts of Karnataka	2,94,754
	Total Population	22,01,056

Source: Karnataka State Gangamatasthara Association ®

Table No-1 Respondent's Family Traditional Occupation

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
Agriculture Labor	10	10
Agriculture	05	05

Ambiga	22	22
Fisheries	31	31
Sunagara	32	32
Total	100	100

Table No-1 reveals that most of the respondents' parents and grandparents were illiterates and there is no scope for occupational mobility in the period of post-independence. 22 percent of the respondent's family pursues Ambiga occupation (rowing, boating, transportation of people and goods across rivers); 32 percent are involved in lime-stone quarrying; 10 percent in agriculture labor; 31 percent in fishing and 5 percent in agriculture as they own agricultural lands. Due to modern technology and rapid industrialization and mechanization, the services and products of the Ambigas traditional occupation are losing value in market. 85 percent of the respondents are not interested in continuing the traditional occupation of their family.

Table No- 2 Respondent's reasons for increase in social status by present occupation

Reasons	Frequency	Percentage
Modernization	11	11
More Demand	21	21
New Technology	7	7
Use of New tools	18	18
Education	31	31
Not applicable	12	12
Total	100	100

Table No 2 gives the respondents reason for increase in their social status by present occupation. 31 percent told that due to education they noticed increase in their social status; 7 percent due to new technology; 11 percent due to modernization effect; 18 percent due to use of new tools in their work and another 21 percent due to more demand for their products and 12 percent did not notice any increase in social status by their present occupation.

Table No- 3 Respondent's reasons for unchanged social status by their present occupation.

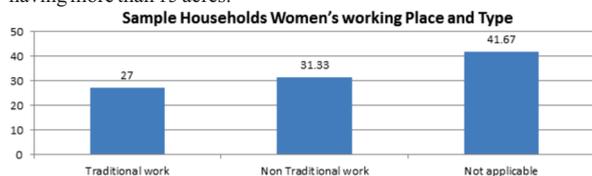
Reasons	Frequency	Percentage
Black color	7	7
Keep distance	30	30
Bias	20	20
Low Demand	22	22
Not applicable	21	21
Total	100	100

Table No 3 reveals the respondents' reason for not noticing increase in social status by their present occupation: 30 percent because of social distance; 20 percent because of bias; 22 percent because of low demand to their present work, and 7 percent because of their black color. Even though the respondents' type of occupation changed, around 38 percent of the respondents' social status has not increased by their present occupation because of social segregation in the study area and low demand for their present occupation. Social ostracization can be understood as a practice whereby a particular caste is discriminated on the basis of their being born in that particular caste or on the ground

of their being members of those social groups involved in menial or domestic jobs.

Land Ownership Pattern:

Data reveals that 26 percent of the sample households are landless; 37.34 percent owns less than 5 acres of arable land 3.33; percent between 6 to 10 acres; 2.33 percent 11 to 15 acres; 1.17 percent 16 to 20 acres; and only 0.83 percent owns above 20 acres; 29 percent dry land, and hence more than half of the total sample households does not own irrigated land. 63.34 percent are landless or small and marginal farmers who own land only up to 5 acres and find it very difficult to earn a living from a small piece of land. 2.33 percent are medium farmers owning land between 11 to 15 acres, and another 2 percent are big farmers having more than 15 acres.



Graph No- 1

Graph No 1 reveals that 58.33 percent of the sample household women are employed outside the house in traditional and non-traditional work. Among the total sample households, 27 percent women are engaged in traditional work like manufacturing lime-stone, selling fish and fruits. 31.33 percent are working in non-traditional work like agriculture labor, daily wage earners etc. And 41.67 percent are not going to work outside the house. The Ambiga women need to have husband's approval and sometimes of husband's parents to work outside, in offices, schools and other places.

Table No 4 Household by Annual Income

Income in ₹	Frequency	Percentage
Below 15,000	18	18
15,000-30,000	21	21
30,000-45,000	31	31
45,000-60,000	13	13
Above 60,000	17	17
Total	100	100

Table No 4 reveals the annual income of sample households. 18 percent of the total sample households have less than ₹15,000 Income. 21 percent of the households are in the income group of between ₹15,000 to 30,000. Another 31 percent of the households have income between ₹30,000 to 45,000. Another 13 percent of the households have income between ₹45,000 to 60,000. And only 17 percent of the households have more than ₹60,000 per year as their annual income from all sources put together.

Data reveals that 81.33 percent of the respondents have household durables like telephone, television set, of dining table, cot, cooking tools, chairs, fans, refrigerators and tables as movable assets. 30.33 percent have ornaments as movable assets and majority of these family consist of one or two government servants. Since the Ambiga's present occupation demands two wheelers to go from one village to another, 51 percent have two wheelers in their movable assets, 18 percent have four wheelers in their movable assets. And only 11 percent have fixed investments as movable assets. And 80 percent of the respondents have livestock as movable assets.

CONCLUSION:

As a result of the loss of their traditional employment, the Ambiga community is currently experiencing a number of social issues. In order to engage in self-employment or work in the organized sector, it is advised that higher education and professional education be provided depending on their skills. The community must receive a suitable reservation for this reason depending on their population. Various communities that come under the umbrella of Ambigas are encouraged to band together and create organizations for their mutual support.

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