

## Research Paper

## Social Science



## Occupation among Beda Tribal of Ganadal Village in Karnataka

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### Keywords:

#### Occupation:

Occupation is one of the important determinations of social status. The style of a particular population group or individual is predominantly determined by the nature and type of occupation. Mumtaz Ali Khan (1989:74) emphasized that, "One of the most important factors which determine the social status of any individual or group of individuals relates to the economic conditions. Depressed economic conditions lead to illiteracy, loss of personal freedom and eventually affect the development of the human personality. This is particularly so, in the case of the backward and weaker section....".

#### Objectives of the study:

1. To observe the traditional occupation of Beda community.
2. To examine the occupation status among respondents and fathers; grand fathers.
3. To pinpoint income status of the respondents.
4. To examine the recent changes and occupational pattern of Beda Tribes.

#### Methodology:

##### Universe of the study:

According to the 1981 census of Raichur district, the total population was 1,783,822. The total tribal population was 9.96 but in our study region according to the 2011 census they constitute nearly 80% of the total population.

#### Sample:

The respondents have been selected from Ganadal village. The data was collected from 100 persons (heads of households). Moreover, for collecting the data of the past the elders, opinions leaders and other knowledgeable persons in the community were also interviewed.

In traditional Indian society, Occupation which was closely linked with caste, played a predominant role in determining the status of an individual or a group. But in tribal societies whatever the mode of production followed, whether hunting, food gathering or "primitive" agriculture, there is no conscious separation of social categories on the basis of their different positions in the system of production. Therefore, tribal societies are unstratified, because of the absence of specialization, the tribal economy is undeveloped. It is a non-monetized economy. "For a society based on a domestic economy where producers are themselves consumers the role of money does not exist". Bedas who were in the lower stratum of caste hierarchy were normally engaged in lower occupation, which is not sufficient for their livelihood. Sometime, which is supporting and profitable occupation of the higher caste. Innovation and the emergence of case free occupation industrialization, modernizations, legislation and protective discrimination, we come across a change in their traditional occupational structure.

The government and some voluntary organizations are taking immense interest ameliorating the conditions of the weaker sections of society.

To account for the various factors that led to the occupational change among the tribals Ram Shankar Singh (1986:29) observes "while scheduled tribe living in rather economic and socio-cultural isolation from the other communities could hardly absorb the modern changes occurring in the process of recent economic development. Thus the selection of scheduled tribe as a representative of original inhabitants of the region to test the aforesaid hypotheses may provide to be much valid a proposition.

Further an understanding of the diverse socio-economic and cultural attributes of original inhabitants of a developing region and will, provide background for formulating proper plans for their development. So that challenges of regionalism can be dealt with in the proper perspective of integration in the full scale of occupational structure, economic development and social change.

On the other hand Prabhat Kumar Pankaj (Khadigramodyog 1989:347) remarks that "with the introduction of modern technology the occupation pattern is likely to be changed. Since machine performs routine works more effectively than man, the ratio of "White-Collar" workers to "blue collars" workers is likely to increase. It would raise the demand for skills and intelligence both in production work and supportive services. A labour would be a crane man, a shop clerk, a computer programmer, laboratory technician, an electrical engineer and so on. Thus technology would upgrade the skills and intellectual requirements of the entire work force". Thus he stressed the need of modern education to the tribals in this transformation period.

**Table 1.1**  
Occupation structure among respondents father and Grand Father.

Sl.No	Occupation	Respondents father	Respondents grand father
1	Hunting	49 (53.85)	90 (96.77)
2	Gowdaki	02 (2.20)	-
3	Agriculture	15 (16.48)	-
4	Agriculture labour	2 (2.20)	-
5	Coolie	6 (6.06)	2 (2.15)
6	Cowherds	2 (2.02)	-
7	Shepherd	14 (15.38)	1 (1.08)
8	Others	1 (1.09)	-
	Total	90 (100)	93 (100)

The table 1.1 indicates the occupation structure of the respondents father and grand father. It is seen that 53.85 percent of them were engaged in hunting. So it is witnessed that hunting was a major source for their livelihood. 2.20 percent were

engaged in Gowdaki, 16.48 percent were engaged in agriculture. 2.20 percent were involved in agricultural labour, an 6.06 percent coolie, 2.02 percent cowherds, 15.38 percent were shepherd. Only 1.09 percent were depending on other activities. It is also seen that, among the respondents Grand father, 96.77 percent were engaged in hunting. So it is witnessed that hunting was a major source for their livelihood. 2.15 percent were engaged in Coolie, 1.08 percent were involved in shepherded. We have also noticed through the respondent, that they had been hunting the birds of Pigeon, Parrot, Weaver, Quail, peacock and Crane, Among wild animals Boar, Hare, Musk deer, Leopard, Hind wolf, Porcupine, Jackal, forest- pig etc.,

After the Britisher's entry and Surpur dynasty's ruler time, Bedas occupational structure changed. Many of them have served as soldier, kings policeman, valekars etc.

**Table 1.2**  
**The role of respondents father's and forefather's during Nayak period.**

Sl.No	Respondents Father and Forefather's role	Percentage
1	Tax Collection on behalf of king	02 (2.22)
2	Gowdaki	34 (37.77)
3	Role in war	17 (18.88)
4	Servant at Surpur Kingdom	13 (14.44)
5	Talawars	06 (6.66)
6	Police man	05 (5.55)
7	Soldiers	01 (1.11)
8	Valekars	4 (4.44)
9	Palegars	3 (3.33)
10	Head of the village at the time of fighting (war)	4 (4.44)
11	Others	1 (1.11)
	Total	90 (100)

Table 1.2 indicates that, out of 90 respondents a majority of 37.77 percent of the respondents fore fathers have enjoyed the role of Gowdaki, on behalf of king they were ruling the village and carrying out administration smoothly, 2.22 percent were collecting the taxes. 18.88 respondents, told that their forefathers were engaged in aggression in external wars. 14.44 percent respondents fathers and forefathers, served as a servants at Surpur and Hulihaidar Kingdom. 6.66 percent respondents told that "their elders were engaged in Talavarike". 5.55 percent have served as policeman 1.11 percent as valekar's (night watchman) 3.33 percent as Palegar's, 4.44 percent as leaders in the village area and fighting against sudden attack or war in the villages.

During 1857-1950, the Bedas of Ganadal village played the unique role. They were not only great warriors, they were as we know they were the only rulers in India who granted Jaha-girs to musicians and architects in those days, the highest distinction that a ruler could confer on a lay citizen. According to the views of late Sri.Krishna Rao Kapatral of Shorapur (1977 :IV) of the various reasons for the subsequent downfall of this martial race. The most important to my mind, is the vindictive policy decision of the British Government taken soon after the war of 1857, not to recruit Beydars into the Indian Army on account of their "turbulent and unreliable character" turbulent and unreliable to a power that was slowly but surely depriving the Indian people of their freedom".

**Table 1.3**  
**The type of land received by Nayak rulers for cultivation**

Sl.No	Types of land	Numbers
1	Dry land	37 (40.66)

2	Wet land	3 (3.29)
3	Black land	4 (4.40)
4	Red land	47 (51.65)
	Total	91 (100)

Table 1.3 indicates that, out of 91 respondents 51.65 percent of them had received the red land. This land is more fertile land. 4.40 percent received black land, this is also a fertile land, 3.20 wet land, and 40.66 percent dryland.

**Table 1.4**  
**Number of acres of land received from Nayak rulers**

Sl.No	Number of acres land received	Percentage
1	1 Acre	7 (7.50)
2	1-5 Acres	47 (50.54)
3	5-10	32 (34.41)
4	More than ten acres	7 (7.54)
	Total	93 (100)

Table 1.4 reveals that 7.50 percent had received 1 acre of land, 50.54 percent 1-5 acres, 34.41 percent 5-10 acres, 7.54 percent had received more than 10 acres of land.

**Table 1.5**  
**Respondents reason's for their primary occupation (agriculture)**

Sl.No	Reasons for their primary occupation	Percentage
1	Livelihood	70 (70)
2	Regular income	7 (7.00)
3	Sufficient income	3 (3.00)
4	Traditional Occupation	20 (20.00)
	Total	100 (100)

#### Income:

Income is one of the major factors in determining the economic and social status of a person. As we are, there is a close link between the nature of occupation and the income level. As Mumtaz Ali Khan (1989:104) notes, "Income depends upon the nature of occupation. It is generally expected that income from occupations like cultivation, industrial work and 'white collar' jobs is higher than the income derived from the traditional manual work and also from the non-traditional occupations such as peonage and unskilled industrial labour".

In this case study, it is necessary to examine the source of income of the respondents.

**Table 1.6**  
**Income-wise classification of respondents family members.**

Income	Respondents	Respondents brothers	Respondents spouse	Respondents son	Respondent daughter
Below Rs200/-	60 (60)	60 (50)	80 (80)	150 (75)	110 (84.61)
201-300	20 (20)	30 (25)	20 (20)	30 (15)	10 (7.69)
300- above	20 (20)	30 (25)	-	20 (10)	10 (7.69)
Total	100 (100)	120 (100)	100 (100)	200 (100)	130 (100)

**Major findings**

1. The data shows that the respondents fathers and forefathers had occupied prominent place in society during the Nayak period. They were found both in the military and administrative service.
2. It is seen that 91 percent of the Bedas had received agricultural land as a gift from the kings for rendering service to the rulers in appreciation for their service.
3. Due to modern education respondents given away the tradition type of occupation eg: hunting and today they are engage in agriculture work
4. After the Indian independence they lost the role of kingdom and today they are engaged in private and agricultural activities.
5. The data also reveals that their income is very low.

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