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RESEARCH ARTICLE

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC INSIGHT OF NOMADIC TRIBES IN NORTH KARNATAKA

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ABSTRACT

Nomads are the a group of communities who travel from place to place for their livelihood. They do not have a fix settlement. Socio-demographic profile of the nomadic tribes who migrated from different states to Karnataka. Sample size of 30 families from 6 districts of North Karnataka have been taken. General information regarding socio-demographic was collected by pretested structured questionnaire. Majority of them were migrants from Rajasthan. Excreta disposal was open. They resided in tents. Overall socio-demographic characteristics of these tribes were found to be very poor.

INTRODUCTION

The tribal population is an imminent part of India's social fabric. According to oxford dictionary 'a tribe is a group of people in a primitive or barbarous stage of development acknowledging the authority of a chief and usually regarding themselves as having a common ancestor'. These indigenous communities live in about 15% of the country's geographical area with various ecological and geo-climatic conditions ranging from plains, forests and inaccessible terrains rich in natural resources. Nomads are known as a group of communities who travel from place to place for their livelihood. Anthropologists have identified about 500 nomadic groups in India, numbering perhaps 80 million people—around 7 percent of the country's billion-plus population.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Nomadic tribal families migrated from different states to North Karnataka were selected for the study. Six districts namely Dharwad, Hubli, Bijapur, Bagalkot, Gulbarga and Yadgiri of North Karnataka is the study location. A total of 30 families were the study population. The selected sample comprised of adult women of 18-45 years (n=30), adolescent girls of 12-18 years (18) and children of 2-12 years (74). Data was collected regarding socio economic status, type of place they live, occupation, education, excreta disposal, water source, family

size, tribe name, place from which migrated and assets they possess.

RESULTS

Majority of families were originally from Rajasthan (50%), followed by Maharashtra (26.67%), 6.67% from Jharkhand and 16.67% from other states. Thirty three percent of the families belong to Lambani tribe, 20% were Rajputs, 16.67% to Parthi and 30% to others. 96.67% of the population resides in tents along road side. 20% of the families were involved in occupation activities as clay statue making (20%), show piece maker (20%), bat maker (16.67%), soft toy seller (16.67%), glass decorative item seller (10%) and others (16.67%). Hundred percent of the families were nuclear. Ninety three percent of the families were Hindu, 6.67% were Muslim and no Christian. 86.67% of the families were non-vegetarians. Fifty percent of the families were medium sized. Seventy three percent of them collect water for drinking as well as utility from nearby temples and houses, 26.67% collect from nearby borewells. Hundred percent of the families have mobile phones with them, 26.66% of them have four wheelers and none of the families had television and two wheelers. Animals like milching (3.33%), poultry (16.67%), dog (10%) were domesticated and 83.33% of the families did not have any animal with them. Majority subjects had the income 250/- per day (83.33%), only about 16.67% had 500 /-per day. 46.67% of the families visited their native once a year, 40% of them visited twice a year and 13.33% of them visited thrice a year. (Table 1)

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Table 1. Demographic profile of Nomadic tribes
N=30

Characteristics	n	Percentage
Name of the tribe:		
Lambani	10	33.33
Parthi	5	16.67
Rajput	6	20.00
Others	9	30.00
Place from which migrated:		
Rajasthan	15	50.00
Jharkhand	2	6.66
Maharashtra	8	26.67
Others	5	16.67
Type of house:		
Tent	29	96.67
Carabean	1	3.33
Occupation:		
Clay statue maker	6	20.00
Bat maker	5	16.67
Show piece maker	6	20.00
Soft toy seller	5	16.67
Glass decorative item seller	3	10.00
Others	5	16.67
Type of family:		
Nuclear	30	100.00
Joint	0	0.00
Religion :		
Hindu	28	93.33
Muslim	2	6.67
Christian	0	0.00
Diet type:		
Vegetarian	4	13.33
Non-vegetarian	26	86.67
Family size:		
Small (1-4)	6	20.00
Medium (5-7)	15	50.00
Large (>7)	9	30.00
Water sources		
For drinking:		
Bore water	8	26.67
Nearby temple/house	22	73.33
For utility:		
Bore water	8	26.67
Nearby temple/house	22	73.33
Health facility		
Government	28	93.33
Private	2	6.67
Transportation		
Public	22	73.33
Private	8	26.67
Excreta disposal		
Open	30	100
Claset	0	0.00
Assets		
Materials:		
Television	0	0.00
Two wheelers	0	0.00
Four wheelers	8	26.66
Mobile	30	100.00
Animals:		
Milching	1	3.33
Poultry	5	16.67
Dog	3	10.00
No animals	25	83.33
Income:		
Rs.250/day	25	83.33
Rs.500/day	5	16.67
How often do they visit their native		
Once a year	14	46.67
Twice a year	12	40.00
Thrice a year	4	13.33

them were married, 6.67% were widow and none were unmarried.

Majority subjects (90%) were illiterates, only about 6.67% subjects completed primary school, followed by high school (3.33%). About 89.27% of their husbands were illiterates, 7.13% had completed primary schooling and about 3.6% had completed education up to high school level. All the women were home makers and involved in their own occupational activity (Table 2).

Table 2. Profile of nomadic tribal women
N=30

Characteristics	n	%
Age (years)		
<30	24	80.00
>30	6	20.00
Marital status		
Married	28	93.33
Unmarried	0	0.00
Widow	2	6.67
No. of pregnant women	0	0.00
No. of lactating women	0	0.00
No. of non-pregnant non-lactating women	30	100
Education of women		
Literate		
Primary	2	6.67
High school	1	3.33
Illiterate	27	90.00
Education of husband		
Literate		
Primary	2	7.13
High school	1	3.60
Illiterate	25	89.27
Working status		
Employed	0	0.00
Home maker and involved in their own occupation	30	100
Total	30	

Profile of adolescents is denoted in Table 3. According to the results, more than half of the subjects belonged to 12-15 years of age group (55.56%), remaining subjects belonged to 15-18 years of age group (44.44%). More than half of the subjects were males (66.67%) and about 33.33% were females. All of them were unmarried. Majority of adolescents were illiterates (72.22%) and about 27.78 per cent had completed primary schooling (Table 3).

Table 3. Profile of adolescents
N=18

Characteristics	No.	%
Age (years)		
12-15	10	55.56
15-18	8	44.44
Gender		
Male	12	66.67
Female	6	33.33
Marital status		
Married	0	0.00
Unmarried	18	100
Education		
Literate		
Primary	5	27.78
High school	0	0.00
Illiterate	13	72.22
Total	18	

Demographic profile of nomadic tribal women is denoted in Table 2. According to the results, out of 30 nomadic tribal adult women, majority (80%) were aged less than 30 years and followed by more than 30 years age group (20%). 93.33% of

Profile of children is depicted in Table 4. Out of 74 children, 36.49% children belonged to 5-8 years of age group, followed by 8-12 years (28.38%), 2-5 years (24.32%) and 0-2 years (10.81%) age groups. Majority of children's residing with

their parents (77.03%) and only about 22.97% of the children residing in their native place. Only about 25.76 per cent children attending primary school, remaining all the children not attending school (74.24%). All the subjects belonged to school age group (100%). 52.7% children were female and 47.3% children were male (Table 4).

Table 4. Profile of children
N=74

Characteristics	N	%
Age (years)		
0-2	8	10.81
2-5	18	24.32
5-8	27	36.49
8-12	21	28.38
Children residing with their parents	57	77.03
Children residing in their native	17	22.97
Education		
No school	57	74.24
Primary schooling	17	25.76
Presently attending School		
Preschool age children	0	0
School age children	17	100
Gender		
Male	35	47.30
Female	39	52.70
Total	74	



Washing utensils in the open dirty area

DISCUSSION

These tribes keep migrating from place to place to earn their livelihood. Majority of them have migrated from Rajasthan, this may be because of lesser occupation opportunities and lack of water for agriculture there. These families migrated along with their children, elderly people are left at native. They have no place to live. So they make tents roadside, wherever they find free place. They usually stay in a particular place till their business is running well then they shift to next place. They visit their natives once or twice a year. For medical services they approach Government hospitals. They are moving by Public transportation. Money earned everyday is spent to meet that particular days requirements. Rate of Illiteracy was high in all the age group. This may be due to their mobile lifestyle they fail to educate their children. Women is involved in both occupational activities and household activities. Adolescent boys and girls are helping hand to the family and are involved in occupational activities.

Conclusion

The type of environment in which these families reside is not fit for humans to live. They have no security. Quality of life of these families are very poor. Measures are to be taken for upliftment of these tribes, so that they can also lead a decent life.

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Road side cooking of meals



Bathroom along the highway



Residence of the nomadic families