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A socio-economic study on Kolha tribe of Birmaharajpur block

District- Subarnapur, Odisha

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Abstract

Odisha occupies a unique position in the ethnographic map of India because here live a large number of tribal communities from the ancient period of time. There are 62 type tribal communities in Odisha. Each tribe has their own indigenous culture, customs, religion practices, marriage system, social system, Economic activities etc. The purpose of this paper to study on social, economic and religious practices of Kolha tribes in the Birmaharajpur Block of Subarnapur district, Odisha. The sample village taken for study are luturpank. Bardakata, Bhalbunguri and Sagjuri village.

Keywords- Tribe, culture, customs, Kolha

Introduction

The English term “Tribe” is derived from Latin term “Tribus” which refers to a particularly group of people living in a primitive condition under headman. The Odishan tribe is known as *Adivasi*(aborigine), *Vanabasi* (Forest dweller) and *Girijanas* (Mountain dweller), (Ekka: 2013). They mainly live in isolated area of village with their own tradition, custom, beliefs and myth. Odisha has been placed the second largest tribal state in India (Census: 2011). Odisha is a tribal dominated state where 62 types of tribal peoples live. Out of this, Kolha is a small tribal group in Odisha. These tribes are mainly concentrated in Mayurbhanj and Sundargarh district, besides other district also found these tribes. The Kolha tribes of Subarnapur district is different from the other tribes of Odisha with their own culture, tradition, religious practices and socio-economic activities. The aim of this research paper is to study detail about the socio-economic and religious profile like education, marriage

system, house pattern, food habit, language, Fair and festival and religious practices of Kolha tribe in Birmaharajpur block.

Area of study

Among the thirty districts of Odisha, Subarnapur district occupies an important position in the cultural history of ancient Orissa. The district is located in the western part of Odisha. It lies between 20° 30' to 20° 10' North latitude and 80° 27' to 84° 15' East longitude. It is bordered by Bolangir in the west, Sambalpur in the north, Boudh in the south-east and Rairakhol in the east. The rule of various dynasty like Bhanja, Somavamsi, Telguchoda, Ganga, Gajpati and Chauhan has made a strong political history of Subarnapur district. (Dutta, 2016).

The Mahanadi flows right through the heart of Subarnapur district. The other prominent rivers which traverse the territory are the Tel and Ong. They drain water from different parts of the area through small tributaries and ultimately flow into the Mahanadi at Sonepur. (Dutta, 2016).

Birmaharajpur is a Tehsil in Sonepur District of Odisha. As a subdivision of it is located on the left bank of river Mahanadi which is 22 kilometre from Subarnapur district. It is bounded by Boudh Tehsil towards South, Ulunda Tehsil towards west, Rairakhol Tehsil towards North, and Sonepur Tehsil towards west. Phulbani, Balangir, Sambalpur district and Burla are the nearby Cities to Birmaharajpur (Dutta, 2016).

Flora –: In the Birmaharajpur block Mahua, Babul and other species such as Harida, Bahara are found. Besides in the village of Birmaharajpur Tamarind, Jamun, Bel, Borokoli, Maya, Badhal, Bara and Aswatha species are found (Dutta, 2016).

Fauna-: In the forest of Birmaharajpur various species have been seen like panthers (Kalara patria), Felischaus (Banabiradi), bear (Bhalu), mongoose (HatiaNeula), Cnonalpinus (Balial kukur), jackal (Bilua), hyaena (Gadhia), Viverriculaindica (Saliapatani), Paradoxurushermaphroditus (Katasha), porcupine (Jhinka), spotted deer (Chittal) barking deer (Kutura), black-buck antelope (Krushna Sara), Cervusnnicolor; Sambar, bison (Gayala), Bandar(Pati) and Presbytis entellus: Langur (Hanuman) etc(Dutta, 2016).

Birds like domestic crow (Patikau), Corvusmacrorhynchos (Damarakau), jungle fowl (Banakukuda), Peacock (Mayura), Bluejoy (Bhadabhadalia), Hill Mynah (Sari), house sparrow (Chatia), Haliastur Indus (Sankhchila), Milvusmigrans (Chila), vultures (Saguna),–

Koyal (Koili), King fisher, common Mynah, Drongo, Redventalbulbul, spotted dove are found (Dutta, 2016).

Kolha tribe of Birmaharajpur Block

Among the 62 tribes of Odisha, kolha tribe is one of them. As per 2001 census the tribal population of Subarnapur district is 52978(Tribal profile of Odisha: 168). The Subarnapur district of Odisha has been consisted with six block namely Birmaharajpur, Binka, Dunguripali, Sonapur, Tarva and Ulunda. There are 09 Scheduled tribes in the district. They are 1. Binjhals 2. Khadias 3. Gonds 4.Kandhas 5. Mirdhas 6.Mundas 7. Saharas 8.Shabaras 9. Kolhas (Datt, 2016). In all the six block the kolha tribe are resided, from which the most dominated area are Birmaharajpur, Binka and Tarva block. The present study is based on kolha tribe of Birmaharajpur block. In the Birmaharajpur block of there are 13 gram panchayat and 181 village on the basis of 2011 census. Among the 13 Grampanchayat in four panchayat such as Bahalpadar, Durjantaila, Kenjhariapali, Luturpank, the Kolha tribe are lived.

District wise population of Kolha tribe of Odisha as per 2001 and 2011 census

SL NO.	DISTRICT NAME	CENSUS YEAR	
		2001	2011
1	Angul	7796	9234
2	Balasore	40194	49334
3	Bargarh	207	189
4	Bhadrak	8029	7681
5	Bolangir	685	612
6	Boudh	205	323
7	Cuttack	3292	2978
8	Deogarh	2430	2061
9	Dhenkanal	5404	7752
10	Ganjam	85	95
11	Gajapati	9	3
12	Jagatsingpur	1145	1228
13	Jajpur	18569	15886
14	Jharsuguda	603	193

15	Kalahandi	399	135
16	Kandhamal	32	7
17	Kenrapada	66	120
18	Keonjhor	175233	251944
19	Khurdha	3349	3644
20	Koraput	340	186
21	Malakanagiri	441	49
22	Mayurbhanj	218886	261578
23	Nabrangpur	43	4
24	Nayagarh	151	336
25	Nuapada	208	39`
26	Puri	219	273
27	Rayagada	18	13
28	Sambalpur	1585	1687
29	Subarnapur	1713	2833
30	Sundergarh	7774	4592

Source: - Tribal profile of Odisha

As per the 2001 and 2011 census the total population of kolha tribe in Subarnapur district are 1713 and 2833 respectively.

Socio-Economic Profile of Kolha Tribe of Birmaharajpur Block

Social Life

The kolha tribe of Birmaharajpur live a very simple life. All are maintain equality among themselves and cooperate to each other. In Birmaharajpur block four village namely luturpank, Bardakata, Bhalbunguri and Sagjuri have been taken as village sample.

Family

The family system of Kolha tribe is based on nuclear and patriarchal family. All the family member are cooperate to each other. The parents affectionate towards their children and the children obey and respect their children.

The Kolha have their own traditional community council. Pradhan is the village head who is assisted by village elders and a messenger (Dakua). The regional head is known as Sardar (tribal profile of Odisha: 168-169).

House pattern

They live in a separate place (pada) of a village known as kolha pada. They make their houses by using clay, wattle, wood, bamboo, straw and dub. They make beautiful art on the floor at the time of flooring by clay.



1. Kolha house pattern at Birmaharajpur block

Food, drink habit

Their food habit are same as present society. The kolha are non-vegetarian. They eat rice (mandi), dal (uttu), vaja (uttu), saga (uttu), meat (mash), fish (haku) etc. They also eat the meat of squarrel, dove, rabbit and hen. With the help of bow and arrow they humt animals and birds.

They drink water (dah) from well and bore well. Their main drink are handia or kusna. In the preparation of handia, firstly rice are cooked in liquid form like kheer, then keep that liquid 2 to 3 days. After that they mix a medicine or baramuli osadh (made from root of different forest plant) known as ranu. Then they drink. All the male of kolha tribe and old women drink handia.

Clothes, Ornament and Education

Both male and female use clothes made of cotton. The male person use dhoti, lungi, gamuchha, pant and shirt, and the females use Saree, saya, blouse etc. The young girl wear salwar suit. Only females use ornament made of brass and silver and rarely use gold. They wear ear rings, nose ring, finger ring, and bangle. In the field of education they are lack behind from many other tribes. The male person more literate than female. But the present young generation of kolha tribe are taking their interest on education.

Language

The language of kolha tribe is known as munda language. Their language are different from other tribal language which are so interesting to listen. For example-: rice-mandi, dal, saga, vaja- uttu, fish- haku, meat-mas, salt- bulum, chili-marchi, water- dah, soil- hasa, plough- uri, sacrifice- meram, agricultural field- munda, hen-sim, squirrel- tud, dove- putam, rabbit-kuleh, leaf khali-patdi, leaf dana- katu etc.

What are you doing? -chikatanam ?

Where are you going? – Kata sintana?

Where will we go? – katesenabu ?

Take plough to agricultural field. – Uriidikam munda ke.

Give me rice- da mandi.

What did you eat? China jamakerape? (Datt, 2016).

Whether you have eaten or not? Jamakerapechi kapi?(Datt, 2016).

What are things found in Jungle? Birare menali chinabeta ale? (Datt, 2016).

Marriage system

The kolha tribe has accepted the Hindu marriage system. The Hindu Brahmin perform the marriage ceremony of this tribe. Arranged marriage are prevalent in their tribe. The Kolhas follow the rules of the tribe endogamy and clan exogamy at the time of marriage. A kolha boy is allowed to marry a girl only if the clan is different (Datt, 2016). At the time of marriage bridegroom give four cow or goat as bride price to bride parents. In the feast of their marriage ceremony fish and meat are given compulsory with other food.

The other forms of marriage like capture (oportipi), mutual consent (RajiKhusi) and intrusion (Anadar) are also practised in this tribe(Tribal profile of Odisha :168).

Religion

With the passage of time the kolha tribe have come under the Hindu fold of religion. They worship various god and goddess like Laxmi, Siva, Tulasi and Mangala. In the odia month of chaitra they worship goddess Mangala. Their presiding deity is Karamsani or Thakurani. Mother goddess Karamsani is placed outside the Kolha pada known as Pirah. When a child is born they sacrifice hen before goddess Karamsani for his/her long life. In the

odia month and tithi of Bhadraba ekadasi they celebrate Karamsani puja or festivals. In this occasion branches of karma tree are put before goddess Karamsani. Various type of bhogas like lia ladus, banana, apple, grapes are offered before goddess. Hen and goat are sacrificed before goddess and day after ekadasi all the kolha tribe eat nua. So in the Bhadraba dwadasi, they celebrate Nuakhai.

They observe death ritual for a period of seven days. The Kolha practise burial for their dead and also burn the dead body. They have their tribal deities like Sing Bonga, Nagea Bonga, Marang Bonga, Basgea Bonga, Borum Bonga, Sendra Bonga, worship by their traditional priest known as Dehuri (Tribal profile of Odisha, 168).

ECONOMIC LIFE

Economically the kolha tribe are backward tribe. As the kolha belong to tribal community, they earn their livelihood by depending on agriculture and forest resources.

Agriculture

Most of the kolha people have no agricultural field, so they work on other's agricultural field as a labourer to sustain their livelihood. Some people have their own a little amount of agricultural field, so they struggle hard to manage their family. They produce paddy and rarely green gram.

Forest resources

They collect various forest resources like sal leaf, chara, Kendu, wood, different variety of saga like kenjari, kulari etc. Apart from that during rainy season they collect various type of mushroom. They sell all these resource near the market and by moving village to village. They also collect Mahua flower for selling and the preparation of liquor.

Production of leaf utensil and other work

Their main occupation are collecting sal leaf and making Khali (patdi) and Dana (katu). Firstly they collect sal leaf, then make Khali and Dana by using sinka which is made from date branches. After that they dry the Khali and Dana in Sun rays for evaporating moisture from that. And then they sell near the market. The price of 100 number of khali is 20 rupees and 100 number of Dana is 20 rupees. Besides this they collect benna (broom stick) and date leaf and make brooms and mat for selling. In this way they earn their livelihood.



2. Making of Khali and Dana



3. Sinka for making leaf utensils



4. Draying leaf utensils



5. Draying Mahua flower

Concluding Remarks

So from the above, we may say that the kolha tribe lead a very simple life. They are kind hearted. Their socio- religious life are different from other tribe of Odisha. Their language is also different and interesting to listen. Although they are economically weak but they enjoy all the fair and festivals happily. Most importantly for their livelihood, they depend on agriculture and forest resources. They live in the family with faith and cooperation.

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