

KNOWLEDGE LEVEL OF HILL-KHADIA TRIBE ABOUT ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY HILL-KHADIA MANKIRDIA DEVELOPMENT AGENCY FOR THEIR DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract: ‘Odisha’ in India is known as one of the largest tribal dominated states. Of late, the Economic survey 2010-11 at the state assembly has claimed that Odisha has achieved 9.57% against the national average of 7.79%; at the same time, the state has witnessed a wide range of regional and social disparities in development, failing to address economic circumstances of the underprivileged and marginalized groups of KBK and Mayurbhanj district of Odisha. Although the central and state government has introduced an immense number of tribal development programmes and schemes, but in reality they have failed to reach the targeted population in many ways. The question remains whether there are flaws in the scheme or a lack of proper implementation of tribal development policies or a lack of awareness. The Hill- Khadia who are particularly vulnerable tribal groups of Mayurbhanj are nomadic tribal groups. The government has tried to settle the tribal group through HKMDA micro project. The study has tries to assess the knowledge level of Hill-Khadia about the activities undertaken by HKMDA for their development. The study was conducted on 8 villages of two panchayatsamities of Mayurbhanj district. A sample of 240 respondents were selected randomly. The pre-tested structured interview schedule was used to collect data personally. The collected data were processed, tabulated and analysed by using frequency, percentage, mean score, rank, etc.

Keywords: Hill-Khadia, HKMDA, Mayurbhanj, particularly vulnerable tribal group.

INTRODUCTION

Tribal communities are isolated from general population and are socially and economically disadvantaged. The Fifth Schedule of the constitution was based on the very philosophy of socialistic pattern of society. The last few decades has witnessed a reversal of this philosophy and the economic policies as well as reforms being taken care leading towards a negative approach to the disadvantage classes, especially the tribal communities. The special strategy of Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) has been implemented with the objective of ensuring the benefits from various developmental sectors and funds according to population are earmarked for the development of scheduled tribes.

The term “development” indicates the overall improvement in the quality of life. However, development in tribal regions has remained a challenge since time immemorial. The anthropological school of thought in reference to tribal development for tribal communities should be along the lines of their genius and that programmes implemented in tribal areas should have a ‘tribal touch’ or ‘tribal bias’ (Taradatt, 2001). Nevertheless, the battle of isolation and assimilation has affected tribal communities, thus obstructing the implementation of tribal development programmes. It was understood that the progress of social development can be observed in the form of empowerment, equitable distribution of income and wealth or in the broader context of socialization of natural resources, which can be possible only with the involvement of tribals in project formulation and implementation by working through their traditional system.

The Government has implemented several programmes for the development of Khadia people through Hill-Khadia and Mankirdia Development Agency. The important activities undertaken were developing irrigation facilities, farm activities, education, drinking water facility, health and sanitation, infrastructure facility, socio-cultural activities, credit and financial support, forestry activities, vocational activities etc. adequate programmes were also formulated for the Hill-Khadia people. Unless the Hill-Khadia people have detail understanding about the benefit of all these development programmes, they can not avail the opportunities. Hence, an attempt made to assess the knowledge level of Hill-Khadia about the developmental activities undertaken by HKMDA.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The present study was conducted in Jashipur and Karanjia blocks of Mayurbhanj district of Odisha and selected purposively because Hill-Khadia tribe is mostly found in Karanjia and Jashipur blocks of the district. 8 villages, 4 from each block namely Biunria, Batatinsira, Batpalsa and Kendumundi from Karanjia block and Kiajhari, Kapand, Matiagarh and Gudgudia from Jashipur block were selected randomly. Different activities like irrigation, farm activities, education, drinking water facility, infrastructure facility, credit and finance, forestry activities, vocational activities, marketing activities were measured in the help of three point interval scale. The three points were fully known, partially known and not known and assigned scores of 3,2, 1 respectively.

The structured interview schedule was developed and pre-tested on non-sampled respondents. The interview was conducted personally by the investigator with the respondents

individually. The collected data were processed, tabulated and analysed by using frequency, percentage, mean score, rank etc.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

a. IRRIGATION

Assured irrigation facilities have been provided for deriving adequate return from the agricultural land allotted through the HKMDA. The families having own land can also utilize the water in raising crops. Knowledge level of the respondents regarding irrigation facilities developed have been analysed and presented in table –

Sl. No.	Activities	Fully known	Partially known	Not known	Mean score	Rank
1	Installation of L.I point	-	-	240(100)	1	V
2	Providing diesel pump sets	136(56.67)	64(26.67)	40(16.66)	2.40	I
3	Provision for repair and maintenance	74(30.83)	106(44.17)	60(25.00)	2.05	III
4	Digging of dug well	124(51.67)	24(10.00)	92(38.33)	2.13	II
5	Installation of shallow tube well	-	-	240(100)	1	V
6	Installation of deep bore well	-	-	240(100)	1	V
7	Water harvesting structure	-	-	240(100)	1	V
8	Community irrigation project	15(6.25)	11(4.58)	214(89.17)	1.17	IV

TABLE 1- Knowledge level of respondents about irrigation facilities (n=240)

The result from the table revealed that the respondents had better knowledge of providing diesel pump set, digging of dug well and provision of repair and maintenance etc. they don't had adequate knowledge on community irrigation project.

HKMDA has provided diesel pump sets and digging dug well also providing repair and maintenance facility. Hill-Khadia people should maintain it properly. Poor knowledge observed on community irrigation point may affect the use of infrastructure developed for longer period. The HKMDA officials have to analyse all these deficiencies and take appropriate action for increasing their knowledge towards community irrigation project.

b. INPUT SUPPLY/ FARM ACTIVITY

The Hill- Khadia were neither efficient cultivators nor depend on agriculture as their primary source of livelihood. As they were bringing to the agricultural stream and the land owned by them and allotted by HKMDA were less fertile, which need reclamation and development. The HKMDA undertaken plantation crops, supplied bullocks, cows, goats, poultry birds, farm implements, improve seeds, fertilizers etc. besides, planting materials such as mango, banana, lemon, papaya were supplied for backyard plantation for which Hill-Khadia people are adequately involved in various farm activities. The data collected from the respondents on their knowledge level on farm activities have been analysed and presented in table below-

Table 2- Knowledge level of respondents on input supply (n=240)

Sl. No.	Activities	Fully known	Partially known	Not known	Mean score	Rank
1	Supply of seed and planting material	165(68.75)	75(31.25)	-	2.69	II
2	Supply of fertiliser and chemicals	155(64.58)	85(35.42)	-	2.65	III
3	Supply of bullocks, poultry, goats etc.	118(49.17)	73(30.43)	48(20.00)	2.28	VI
4	Supply of farm implements and handy tools.	212(88.33)	20(8.33)	8(3.34)	2.85	I
5	Training and orientation for competency	106(44.17)	112(46.67)	22(9.16)	2.35	IV
6	Regular supervision and guidance	122(50.83)	73(30.47)	45(18.75)	2.32	V
7	Demonstration for Crop production technique	96(40.00)	92(38.33)	52(21.67)	2.18	VII

The respondents had better knowledge on supply of farm implements and handy tools, supply of seed and planting materials, supply of fertilizer and chemicals, supply of bullocks, poultry and goats as well as regular supervision and guidance. Less knowledge observed on demonstration for crop production technique. Without a proper knowledge of crop production technique people can't produce a better yield which may affect negatively. The finding therefore suggested that HKMDA officials should put effort towards demonstration of various crop production technique so that Hill-Khadia people develop their competency on farm activities undertaken.

c. EDUCATION

Literacy among Hill-Khadias is very low. It may be fact that neither the children are motivated to receive education nor the parents are interested in giving education to their

children. The district administration as well as HKMDA has taken much attempt to send the children to school. Responses received from the respondents on their knowledge level on educational programmes have been analysed and presented in the table-

Table 3- Knowledge of respondents on educational activities (n=240)

Sl. No.	Activities	Fully known	Partially known	Not known	Mean score	Rank
1	Tuition fee relaxation	199(82.92)	19(7.92)	22(9.16)	2.74	III
2	Supply of dress material	203(84.58)	26(10.84)	11(4.58)	2.80	I
3	Provision of monthly stipend	26(10.83)	40(16.67)	174(72.50)	1.38	IX
4	Residential accommodation	160(66.67)	44(18.33)	36(15.00)	2.52	V
5	Facilities for higher studies	108(45.00)	120(50.00)	12(5.00)	2.40	VI
6	Participation in educational exhibition and fair	32(13.33)	100(41.67)	108(45.00)	1.68	VIII
7	Supply of text book and material	202(84.17)	20(8.33)	18(7.50)	2.77	II
8	Priority of girl children	152(63.33)	80(33.33)	8(3.34)	2.60	IV
9	Renovation of institutional building	122(50.83)	76(31.67)	42(17.50)	2.33	VII

Data from the table revealed that respondents had better knowledge about supply of dress material, text book, tuition fee relaxation, priority of girl children, residential accommodation, facility for higher study, renovation of school building. Poor knowledge was observed on participation in educational exhibition and fair and provision of monthly stipend.

The analysis of data conclude that HKMDA has not taken adequate initiatives towards participation in educational exhibition and fair while participating in exhibition and fair is a great motivation for student and exposure to these kind of events encourage the students to explore their inner potential, motivates them for further study and create interest for higher studies. Hence, HKMDA officials should give importance to this area to promote education.

d. DRINKING WATER FACILITY

Reduction of waterborne diseases and development of safe water resources is a major public health goal in developing countries. Water is essential for life. To provide drinking water HKMDA undertaken different activities and data collected from the respondents towards their knowledge level on drinking water facility are reflected in table below-

Table 4 – knowledge about drinking water facility (n=240)

Sl. No.	Activities	Fully known	Partially known	Not known	Mean score	Rank
1	Installation of tube well	192(80.00)	26(10.83)	22(9.17)	2.71	I
2	Digging of open well	138(57.50)	6(2.50)	96(40.00)	2.18	II
3	Pipe water/ spring base facility	-	-	240	1	III

As per the data in the above table respondents were well known about the activities undertaken by HKMDA for drinking water facility such as installation of tube well and digging of open well.

e. INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITY

Infrastructure development is another important consideration of empowerment. Adequate infrastructures particularly communication and transport, electricity, community use, continuous flow of technological information are very much essential for both on and off farm activities. HKMDA have also provided all these infrastructure support. The data collected from the respondents on their knowledge level on these infrastructure support have been reflected in table-

Sl. No.	Activities	Fully known	Partially known	Not known	Mean score	Rank
1	Concrete road facility	240(100)	-	-	3	I
2	Solar energy for electrification	173(72.08)	16(6.67)	51(21.25)	2.51	V
3	Housing for traditional folk dance	-	11(4.58)	229(95.42)	1.05	X
4	Hosing for youth club	-	13(5.42)	227(94.56)	1.05	IX
5	Rehabilitation and resettlement	139(57.92)	92(38.33)	9(3.75)	2.54	IV
6	School buildings	223(92.92)	17(7.08)	-	2.93	II
7	Health centres	151(62.92)	56(23.33)	33(13.75)	2.49	VI
8	Sevashram facility	42(17.50)	60(25.00)	138(57.50)	1.60	VIII
9	Educational complex	185(77.08)	46(19.17)	9(3.75)	2.73	III
10	Non-formal education centre	93(38.75)	43(17.92)	104(43.33)	1.95	VII

Table 5- Knowledge level on infrastructure facility (n=240)

The respondents had better knowledge about concrete road facility, school buildings, educational complex, rehabilitation and resettlement, providing solar energy and electrification, health centers. The respondents had somewhat agreed for non-formal

education centre and sevashram facility. But poor knowledge were observed on housing for youth club and housing for traditional folk dance.

Ethnic communities are an integral part of our civilization, yet there are differences with the mainstream population in resisting change. In the course of time, modern technology causes identical changes in these communities, especially in their cultures. We should accept the positive aspect of modern technology for our socio- economic development but preserve and respect our traditional culture. Perhaps these aspects were not covered under the project for which the respondents were not agreed and suggested for these support.

f. CREDIT AND FINANCE

Production and productivity can not be ensured unless recommended inputs and materials applied. Khadia families are usually poor. They need financial support for effective management of their vocational activities. The data collected from the respondents on their knowledge about credit and financial support have been analysed and presented in table below.

Table 6 – Knowledge about credit and financial support (n=240)

Sl. No.	Activities	Fully known	Partially known	Not known	Mean score	Rank
1	Motivating for availing credit	101(42.08)	76(31.67)	63(26.25)	2.16	V
2	Facilitating credit support	127(52.92)	68(28.33)	45(18.75)	2.34	IV
3	Liasoning with credit institution	155(64.58)	73(30.42)	12(5.00)	2.60	I
4	Subsidy facility	145(60.42)	82(34.17)	13(5.42)	2.55	II
5	Flexibility in fixing instalment	109(45.42)	117(48.75)	14(5.83)	2.40	III
6	Act as guarantee in availing credit	63(26.25)	99(41.25)	78(32.50)	1.94	VI

Respondents had better knowledge about liasoning with credit institution, subsidy facility, flexibility in fixing installment, facilitating credit support, motivating for availing credit. Poor knowledge were observed towards act as guarantee in availing credit.

Since the Khadia people have not much assets for mortgage in availing credit, the project authorities may act as guarantee. It is therefore suggested that the project officials have to analyse various dimensions of the credit and financial aspects and take appropriate steps enabling the Khadias to develop interest in availing credit and use recommended management practices in their vocational activities enabling to achieve desired production.

g. FORESTRY ACTIVITIES

The Hill-Khadia is a nomadic food gatherer found in the hilly areas of similipal hill ranges. They collect various minor forest products like honey, resins, arrowroot, sal seeds (Shorea robusta seed), harida (Terminalia chebula), sal leaves etc. The knowledge level of people towards forest activities has been analysed and presented below in the table-

Sl. No.	Activities	Fully known	Partially known	Not known	Mean score	Rank
1	Collection of minor forest product	147(61.25)	26(10.83)	67(27.92)	2.33	I
2	Collection of siali and sal leaves	107(44.58)	87(36.25)	46(19.17)	2.25	II
3	Training for better collection of forest product	64(26.67)	53(22.08)	123(51.25)	1.75	III
4	Marketing of the produce	12(5.00)	34(14.17)	194(80.83)	1.24	IV

Table 7 – Knowledge of people on forestry activities (n=240)

From the above table it was revealed that respondents had better knowledge about collection of minor forest product and collection of siali and sal leaves but poor knowledge was observed on training for competency development in collecting different forest produce and marketing of the produce.

Training should be imparted to the people so that they can build competency for sustainable collection of forest produce and the most important aspect is marketing. Unless there is proper marketing facility, there is no use of collecting produce. People were facing problem in marketing the produce. Hence it is suggested that HKMDA officials should take care of these aspects and take necessary action for welfare of Khadia people.

h. VOCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

HKMDA has taken vocational activities such as carpentry, tailoring, goatery, poultry, leaf plate making, fruit tree plantation etc. for their self-employment. The study attempt to assess the knowledge level of respondents about various aspects of vocational activities undertaken by HKMDA have been reflected in table below after analysis of data collected from the respondents.

Table 8 – knowledge on vocational activities (n=240)

Sl. No.	Activities	Fully known	Partially known	Not known	Mean score	Rank
1	Promoting vocational activities from local product	118(49.17)	48(20.00)	74(30.83)	2.18	II
2	Training for capacity building	147(61.25)	69(28.75)	24(10.00)	2.51	I
3	Exposure visit to gain experience	44(18.33)	40(16.67)	156(65.00)	1.53	III
4	Creating marketing opportunity	8(3.33)	14(5.83)	218(90.84)	1.13	IV

The data in the table revealed that respondents had better knowledge about training for capacity building and promoting vocational activities from local product but poor knowledge found on exposure visit to gain experience and creating marketing opportunity.

The project officials should have to liaison with traders and business man for marketing of the produce with reasonable price failing which there is every possibilities of discontinuance. There should be provision of exposure visit to gain experience which improve their knowledge and motivate them to take various enterprise. Poor knowledge of the respondents on these aspects conclude that all these facilities were not provided and suggested for the same facilities enabling the Khadias to run the vocational activities smoothly with regular income generation leading to their economic improvement.

CONCLUSION

It was found that the knowledge level of Hill-Khadia people towards various developmental activities undertaken by HKMDA were quite good. Respondents were well known about various educational activities, farm and input supply activities, infrastructure activities, credit and finance activities. Mixed response found in case of irrigation facilities, forestry activities, vocational activities. Mixed response found may be because of less involvement of people. Without having a market facility there is no use of persuading people to produce or encouraging for different vocations. People should be involved in planning and implementation of developmental programmes. Development programmes should be planned and implemented in such a manner that maximum benefit should be given to the community need. Hence, they can easily accept the programme and accommodate themselves within it.

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