



## SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF TRIBAL PEOPLE IN SITHERI HILLS, DHARMAPURI DISTRICT, TAMILNADU



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### ABSTRACT

*The study was conducted comprising the Socio-Economic Status of Tribal (Malayali) people in Sithri hills station in Dharmapuri District located in Tamilnadu. Sithri hills people speak in Tamil language. Sithri hills are one of the Eastern Ghats of Tamilnadu. This comes under the Pappireddipatti Taluk. It is situated at an altitude of 1097.3 meters (3600 feet). The study variables like, Age, Sex, Education, Family Education status etc having importance in maintaining the Health status,*

**KEY WORDS:** *Socio-economic Backwardness, Employment, Income., Agriculture.*

### INTRODUCTION

India living being the second largest tribal dominated area after Africa is one of the most fascinating Nations of World from anthropological point of view. The total tribal populations of India, is 8.6 per cent (census of India, 2011). As many as 550 tribal communities are residing in India, of whom 75 are declared as primitive tribal groups who are spread across the country.

The tribal population is identified as the aboriginal residents of our country. For centuries, they have been living a simple life based on the natural environment and have developed cultural patterns congenial to their physical and social environment. References of such tribal groups are found even in the literature on the ancient period, right from the Ramayana and the Mahabharata periods (Mehta, 2000). According to L.P.Vidvarthi tribe is a social group with definite country,

common name, common descent, common culture, behavior of an endogamous group, common taboos, existence of distinctive social and political system, and full faith in leaders and self-sufficiency in their distinct economy (Vidvarthi, 1981).

### ABOUT INDIAN TRIBES

The word „tribe has not been defined anywhere in the constitution in India. But it states in Article 324 that the scheduled tribes are „tribes or the tribal communities or parts of or groups within tribes or tribal communities which the president may specify from time to time by public notification. As these communities are presumed to constitute the oldest ethnological segment of the Indian society, the term „Aid („Aid means oldest and „vasi means inhabitation) is commonly used to designate them.



## AREA OF THE STUDY

Sithri is a Hills station in Dharmapuri District located in Tamilnadu. Tamil language. A Sithri hill is one of the Eastern Ghats of Tamilnadu. This comes under the Pappireddipatti Talk. It is situated at an altitude of 1097. Meters (3600 feet) the area comprises various vegetation types such as the evergreen, semi-ever green, riparian, dry deciduous scrub and southern thorn scrub forests. Minimum and maximum temperature is 19°C to 40°C in summer respectively the average annual rainfall is 900 mm attained from both northeast and southwest monsoons. the topographically, the area is undulating with an altitude the varying from 240 to 1266 m. the total area of Sitheri village is found to be 400 population .

At present, all cultivation is dry and it yields good Harvest due to moderate rains. in consists chiefly of dry paddy, Ragi, Cambu, Thinai, Varagu, Mochai Pulses. There are also a few garden lands in which lime , mangoes and plantains are grown .the natural growths on these hills consists of large trees such as myrobalam (kadukkai), tamarind and jack fruit tree. There are good number of small mountain-streams which are not properly utilized .the ground -water table is is at a depth of 60 to 150 feet .the hills receive moderate rains during the north-east monsoon period.

## SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF SEITHERI HILL TRIBE

Sitheri hills are identified as forest area that people also make and per level of agriculture labour and scuttled they are identified by their duties. In earlier time

they work that people and migrate to other state and cities for generating employments, this is also another reason to identify them as sitheri hills tribes. In earlier days, they are also called as an important community whose identity forest dwellers. Now a day's their number is decreasing. Forest is not just dwellieang place but is too scared to them. Even with all the government policy and programmes, they have allotted but properly not utilized any land for cultivation. They are not idea about the cultivation of land. Now also they some people have their own land, they are work as laborers in other's lands. In TamilNadu, the economic status of Sitheri hills tribes is very low, their population is very low and they are not able to get the facilities given by the Government.

## OBJECTIVES

- To study the socio economic condition of tribal people at seitheri hills.
- To study the educational facility offered for tribal people at seitheri hills.
- To identify the resources available in sitheri hills

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Both primary and secondary sources of data are used for the present study. The primary data were collected from the household in Sitheri hills with the help of a pre-tested semi structured interview schedule. Secondary data were collected from; articles published in journals, websites, Census of India volumes, Economic Survey, District Statistical Hand books etc.

**Table-1, Age Wise Classification of the Respondents**

Age	Frequency	Percent
<b>Below 20 years</b>	4	8
<b>21-30 years</b>	31	62
<b>41-50 years</b>	10	20
<b>Above 51years</b>	6	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

(Source: Primary Data)

The above table shows that 62% of respondents are in the age group of 21-30 years, 20% of the respondents are come 41 to 50 years age category 12% of

the respondents are come under Above 51 years age category, 6% of the respondents are come under the age group Below 20 years.

**Table-2, Marital Status Wise Classification of the Respondents**

Marital Status	Frequency	Percent
<b>Married</b>	44	88%
<b>Unmarried</b>	6	12%
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

(Source: Primary Data)

The above table clearly shows the marital status of the respondents. 88% of the respondents are married

and only 12% of the respondents are unmarried. To conclude majority of the respondents are married.

**Table-3, Educational Qualification Wise Classification**

Educational Qualification	Frequency	Percent
<b>Uneducated</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>44.0</b>
<b>Primary</b>	22	28.0
<b>SSLC</b>	10	20.0
<b>HSC</b>	4	8.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(Source: Primary Data)

The responds are classified in to four categories according to the qualification as uneducated, primary, SSLC, and HSC, portrays 44% of the respondents are at Uneducated level, 28% of the responds have primary level, 20% of the responds have their school level(SSLC), 8% of the responds have complete their (HSE) level.

**Table-4, Contribution to Household Income**

Yearly income	Frequency	Percent
<b>Below Rs. 5,000</b>	18	36.0
<b>Rs. 5, 001 - Rs. 10, 000</b>	20	40.0
<b>Rs. 10, 001 - Rs 15, 000</b>	5	10.0
<b>Above Rs. 15, 001</b>	7	14.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(Source: Primary Data)

The above table clearly shows that 36% of the respondents monthly income range from below 5,000, 33% 10000, 17% of the respondents monthly income is 10001-15000, and only 14% of the respondents earns a monthly income range above Rs.15001 yearly income.

**Table-5, Type of Family Wise Classification**

Type of Family	Frequency	Percent
<b>Joint Family</b>	37	74
<b>Nuclear Family</b>	13	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

(Source: Primary Data)

It is evident from that above table 74.0 percent of the respondents are Joint Family, 26.0 percent of the respondents are nuclear family.

**Table-6, Occupational Status**

Occupation	Frequency	Percent
<b>Coolie</b>	14	28.0
<b>Agriculture</b>	19	38.0
<b>Private employee</b>	10	20.0
<b>Others</b>	7	14.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(Source: Primary Data)

From the above table state that 38% of the responds are come the Agriculture level, 28% of the responds are come under the daily wagger level, 20% of the responds are come under the private employee category, 14% of the responds are are other category.

**Table-7, Opinion on Road Facility**

Opinion	Frequency	Percent
<b>Very Good</b>	3	6
<b>Good</b>	5	10
<b>Fair</b>	12	24
<b>Poor</b>	30	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

(Source: Primary Data)

**Interpretation:-**

Form the above Table state that 47% of the respondents are opinion that road facility was good, 31% of the respondents are opinion that road facility in very good level, 16% of the respondents are road facility is fair level, and 6.0% of the respondents are road facility is poor level.

**SUGGESTIONS**

In order to improve the standard of living of living of tribals in sitheri hills dharmapuri district, the researcher suggests the following policy measures.

1. Since the land alienation is the main cause of the backwardness of the tribal's legislations should be enacted for the restriction on transfer of land belonging to the tribal's and restoration of alienated lands.
2. Education attainment index is low among tribals. The government should give priority to the importance of educational facilities of the tribal's.

**CONCLUSION**

This study has investigated 10 villages in the study area sitheri hills and 50 household were interviewed who were well known to the tribal people of the study area. In sitheri hills the socio-economic status of the tribal people are substantially lower than the general people. People could take the significant steps to improve the above-mentioned status of the concerned people socio-economic status. The minimum level Cultivation and scuttled is the main occupation, the respondents of all sitheri hills tribes in below poverty line other then the most of the people in

daily wage labour. Thus need of money, attention and motivation along with, there is an urgent need to launch income generating, educational and health awareness programmes to make them aware and help them to take the opportunities given by the government and non-government organizations.

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