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Extension Mechanism of Field Functionaries to Check Occupational Mobility of Tribals from Agriculture to Non-agriculture Sector in Mayurbhanj District of Odisha

Jagannath Patra[1], Sarthak Chowdhury[2] and Rabindra Kumar Raj[3]
Palli Siksha Bhavana,
Visva Bharati, Santiniketan, West Bengal, Pin- 731204

ABSTRACT

`There are various agencies working for the development of tribal people. In spite of these the tribals go for other vocations particularly to work as unskilled labourers. Enough technology in the field of agriculture has been developed which is not only profitable; but also stable, sustainable and equitable. The present study has been carried out with the objectives to study the mechanism of extension functionaries for checking the occupational mobility from the agriculture to non-agricultural activities of the tribal people. The study was conducted in Mayurbhanj district of Odisha purposefully in which the tribal occupy 58.72 % of the total population. Four blocks were selected randomly each one from four sub divisions. Forty five officials associated with the agriculture and allied sector at district, block and village level were randomly selected for study purpose. It is found that extension functionaries visit daily the tribal areas conducting group meetings followed by distribution of printed materials. Majority of field level staffs were engaged in input supply by farm and home visit activity. They opined infrastructure development was the mostly required followed by regular exposure and guidance for checking mobility.

Key Words: Agency, Development, Extension, Mechanism, Mobility,Occupation, Tribal.

INTRODUCTION

The most of tribal have unproductive and uneconomic holdings, lack of irrigation facilities, traditional skills and primitive implements along with land alienation indebtedness. Majority of cultivators use land only in *kharif* season and migrate to other places for alternative occupation like brickwork, construction work and industrial purposes in lean period. In spite of activities of various agencies the tribals go for other vocations particularly to work in non-agricultural sectors and work as unskilled labourers. The study in three districts viz. Koraput, Phulbani and Mayurbhanj on tribal livelihood based on forest as well as agriculture revealed that the average area cultivated per household comes to 2.0 ha. The main issue for the development plan was to provide a comprehensive strategy on sustainable development for these tribals (Karn Deo Singh, 2005)

Due to lack of sufficient scope for livelihood and deterioration of natural resources on which the tribal people depend much for their hereditary occupation, they migrate to other occupation or other places in search of job. There was a positive impact of various development programmes on the socio-economic, cultural and behavioural patterns of the tribal communities (Kailash, 1993). The study of Society for Regional Research and Analysis for Planning Commission (2010) had revealed that a large majority of migrant tribal women and

Corresponding Author's Email: jpatraouat@rediffmail.com
[1]Dr. Jagannath Patra, Scientist (Ext.), KVK, Mayurbhnaj-1 (OUAT), At/P.O.- Shamakhunta, Dist. Mayurbhanj, Odisha, M: 9437084804
[2] Former Principal, Palli Siksha Bhavana,Visva Bharati, Santiniketan, West Bengal
[3]Former Professor, Department of Extension Education, OUAT, Bhubaneswar

girls and their families were unaware of the tribal development programmes of the Union and State Government. examined The effect of reservation policy on SCs/STs on their socio-economic and spatial mobility and the wider perspective of group upliftment and reduction of caste discrimination in Mayurbhanj district of Orissa was examined in which it is seen that there was intergenerational upward mobility in terms of increased education, change in occupation from agrarian family to salaried person, improved economic condition and a shift from rural to urban (Roy, 2010). Emran and Shilpi (2010) presented evidence on intergenerational occupational mobility from agriculture to the nonfarm sector using survey data from Nepal. Ray and Majumder (2010) examined that the extent of intergenerational mobility in both educational and occupational attainments for diverse ethnic groups in India. The results indicated strong intergenerational stickiness in both educational achievement and occupational distribution among the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), who had been discriminated against historically. They further noted that occupational mobility was lower than educational mobility, indicating that educational progress was not being transformed into occupational improvement and brings up the possibility of discrimination in the labour market.

The present study will help to delineate suitable extension strategy to check occupational mobility. Considering the above facts the study has been carried out with the objective of analysing the mechanism of the district functionaries about the remedial measure for checking mobility to non-agricultural sector

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted in Mayurbhanj district of Orissa purposefully as the district enriched with most number of tribal people. The tribal occupy 58.72 % of the total population. The districts and sub divisions were selected purposively whereas random sampling technique was followed. 45 officials associated with the agriculture and allied sector at district, block and village level were randomly selected for study purpose.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The field level functionaries in the field of agriculture and allied branches adopt many extension activities for the upliftment of the tribals towards the overall socio-economic development on the need based. Among these activities are main focus centered on group discussion, exposure visit, field study tours, training, demonstrations, field days,

Table 1. Extent of extension activities performed by the extension functionaries of the state departments of agriculture and allied sectors. n=45

Sr. No.	Activity	Extent of activities				Total score	Rank Order
		Regularly	Sometimes	Occasionally	Never		
		Number	Number	Number	Number		
1	Group meeting	25	13	05	02	151	I
2	Training	18	18	09	0	144	II
3	Supply of printed material	10	30	04	01	139	III
4	Demonstration	13	16	14	02	130	IV
5	Field days	10	07	18	10	107	V
6	Exposure visit	0	10	25	10	90	VI
7	Video Shows	0	05	24	16	79	VII

*Maximum obtainable score- 3

Table 2. Area covered in the training programmes conducted by the extension personnel.

n=45

Sr. No.	Topics/ Areas	Regularly	Sometimes	Occasionally	Never	Total score	Rank Order
		Number	Number	Number	Number		
1	Present farm activities	21	20	04	0	152	I
2	General	19	16	09	01	143	II
3	Commodity based	09	23	12	01	130	III
4	Interest Group based	09	20	16	0	128	IV
5	Next crop growing season	05	29	08	03	126	V

*Maximum obtainable score- 3

Table 3. Source of media used by the extension personnel for dissemination of information.

n=45

Sr. No.	Media	Number	Percentage
1	Leaflets/Printed material	41	91.11
2	Radio	09	20.00
3	Film shows	08	17.77
4	News paper	06	13.33
5	T.V.	01	02.22

video shows etc. The extension functionaries also follow different extension methodologies to reach out the clientele. They also involve in additional activities like input distribution, infrastructure development, marketing and credit linkages etc.

If these mechanisms perform suitably in the field, no doubt it might help in checking the occupational mobility of the tribals from agriculture to non-agricultural sector.

The extension personnel were doing various extension activities for dissemination of technologies in view of the development of agriculture and allied sectors. Among these activities group meeting was found to be mostly performed by the officials followed by training, supply of printed literature, demonstrations, field days and video shows as per analysis stated in the table1.

It was observed that present farm activities were covered in the training programme mostly by the extension personnel followed by the general topics, commodity based, interest group based and next crop growing season. As per the need based and problem identification approach, the practicing

Table 4. Frequency of visit to the tribal area by extension personnel.

n=45

Sr. No.	Period	Number	Percentage
1	Daily	24	53.33
2	Once in a week	09	20.00
3	Once in a fortnight	07	15.55
4	Once in a month	05	11.11
5	Once in a year	0	0
6	Not at all	0	0

Table 5. Extension methods adopted by the extension personnel to contact tribal.

n=45

Sr. No.	Method	Number	Percentage
1	Farm and home visit	39	86.66
2	By telephone/mobile	20	44.44
3	Through Sub-ordinate staffs	05	11.11
4	Newspaper coverage	04	08.88
5	Personal letter	0	0
6	Circular letter	0	0

methods are given always priority in the training programme as well as it create interest among the farmers.

The data (Table 3) indicated that mostly leaflets/printed materials were provided to the tribal people by the extension personnel followed by media sources like radio talks, film shows and newspapers. Although previously most of the tribal were illiterates, but in the present scenario due to intervention of government initiatives to educate them, the literacy rate have improved a lot which facilitates to provide the printed literatures on the new technologies for ready reference.

It was found that majority of the extension personnel explained that they had visited daily to the tribal areas followed by once in a week and once in a fortnight. However, from the study it was revealed that at least they visited the field within a month for the purpose of extension activities. It was possible due to availability of field staffs at the grass root level from the gram panchayat level in all the departments like agriculture and allied branches.

It was observed that majority of the extension personnel adopted farm and home visit approach as extension method to contact tribal people which is very day old practice as well as a very effective medium of communication and transmission of technologies with wide spread impact. This method was followed by contact though telephone/mobile found in almost every household that is also powerful medium of communication for information transmission. The contact via personal letter and newspaper was very rare now a day as per the finding from the study.

The input supply was the most additional activity performed by the extension officials followed by the infra-structural development, credit facilities, marketing of produce and procurement of produce. The extension functionaries involve mostly in input supplies like seed distribution, fertilizer

Table 6. Additional activities performed by the extension personnel apart from their normal extension activities. **n=45**

Sr. No.	Topic	Regularly	Sometimes	Occasionally	Never	Total score	Rank Order
		Number	Number	Number	Number		
1	Input supply	18	15	11	01	140	I
2	Infra-structural development	05	10	12	18	92	II
3	Credit Facilities	01	09	10	25	76	III
4	Marketing of the produce	0	05	14	26	69	IV
5	Procurement of the produce	0	05	12	28	67	V

*Maximum obtainable score- 3

Table 7. Importance of practices as perceived by the extension officials for checking mobility effectively. **n=45**

Sr. No.	Practice	Most effective	Effective	Not at all effective	Total score	Rank order
		Number	Number	Number		
1	Infrastructural development	31	14	0	121	I
2	Regular exposure	21	22	02	109	II
3	Regular guidance	18	27	0	108	III
4	Credit/Finance linkage	15	29	01	104	IV
5	Vocational activities for income & employment generation	15	29	01	104	IV
6	Adequate activities for each family	12	32	01	101	V
7	Timely Input supply	14	26	05	99	VI
8	Marketing facilitation	10	33	02	98	VII
9	Transportation and mobility	08	36	01	97	VIII
10	Bottom- up planning & top down approach	09	34	02	97	VIII
11	Technologies suitable for socio-cultural system	07	38	0	97	VIII
12	Training for competency development	05	40	0	95	IX
13	Community approach	05	38	02	93	X
14	Subsidized facility	07	31	07	90	XI

*Maximum obtainable score- 2

arrangement, availability of farm machineries, plant protection chemicals, organic products etc. for the timely and smooth availability to the farmers apart from their extension activities. They also facilitate infrastructure development like threshing floor, cold stores, storage go downs, poly houses etc.

The findings (Table 7) implied that infrastructural development would check mobility followed by regular exposure and regular guidance as perceived by the extension officials. In that place they opined that subsidies facility had very little effect for checking mobility. There is dearth of suitable infra structures in the locality mostly for the post-harvest management and assured irrigation facilities which are barely needed for the better income opportunity and increase in productivity and profitability. As the tribal people are very poor in terms advance technologies, so it is needed regular guidance and exposure to enhancement knowledge and skill on regular basis to adopt innovative practices in field of agriculture and allied fields.

CONCLUSION

Due to lack of sufficient scope for livelihood and deterioration of natural resources, the tribal people migrate to other occupation or other places in search of job. For some time intervention of different extension activities, the situation has been improving; still there are some areas of concern to be looked into. On the basis of the finding it was suggested for checking mobility of the tribal people from agriculture to non-agriculture sector that the development of infrastructure in agriculture and allied fields must be emphasized. The extension officials must be pro-active for the transfer of technology to the tribal people by regular visit and adopting suitable extension strategies to address the field problems. Proper care should be taken about the implementation of the different development programme meant for the tribal people so that the

benefit of the programme will reach to the ultimate target group effectively and timely.

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