

Tribal and Environmental Conservation with Special Reference to Nilgiris District

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Abstract:

Tribes are a group of people living under primitive condition yet not popularly known to the modern world. Tribals utilize forest produce forest timber and fuel wood record for the role of ethnic and indigenous conservation of biodiversity. Tribals have played pioneering role in protecting wildlife and forest. They are generally the best conservationists and have managed their cultivable lands since generations. The necessity to protect forests as a valuable heritage and preserving its innumerable resources to the present as well as future generations may be undisputed. Tribal people have been worshipping the environment considering it a god since time immemorial. Forest resources are the important livelihood contribution provided by the tribal society. In this study the data is collected through a structured interview schedule from 100 respondents by using the systematic random sampling method. In the first stage, Nilgiris district was selected. From Coonoor Taluk two villages namely Bambalkombai and Barliyar are selected. 50 respondents from each village are randomly selected as sample respondent.

Keywords: Forest resources, Tribal Activities, Utilization, and Forest conservation

Date of Submission: 04-01-2021

Date of Acceptance: 19-01-2021

I. INTRODUCTION

This article will try to assess the role of tribal's for conserving the forest. Tribal people have their own system of living with nature, without harming and destroy the forest. The objective of their system is to preserve, not destroy the forest. Forest utilization can have an impact on the environment at the forest and macro level. At the forest level, several activities can have negative impacts on plant, animal resources and on ecological functions of the forest. Active forest utilization can also have direct and indirect impact on human health and on cultural and social foundations in nearby areas. Different forms of forest utilization vary in the severity, irreversibility, probability of occurrence and significance of their impact. At the macro level, environmental impacts are determined by policies, plans and programmers. These impacts need to be assessed and mitigation measures are promoted when it is necessary. Increased recognition of the economic potential of national and international markets for the environmental services are provided by forests. Political pressure by environment-conscious groups is the root of policies influencing forest use, such as logging and log export bans, and the implementation of legally binding international conventions such as those on biological diversity, climate change and international trade in endangered species. These environmental conventions are the platform for policies and practices aimed at maximizing the local and global environmental benefits of sustainable forest use. At the macro level, a tool called strategic environmental assessment (SEA) is used to assess the environmental impacts of policies and program. Such assessments help unravel the complexity of linkages between policies affecting forest utilization and environmental conditions. The supplementation of stocks of natural resources is generated as a result of discoveries by explorations. For this reason, the process of exploration is highly linked with the administration of natural resources. The renewable resources possess proper rate of increasing or regeneration. It must be remembered, that the use of natural resources in the technological production process, takes place as a direct consumption of resources with a goal of satisfaction of demand and supply of goods and services. Resource exploitation is thus a complex, coordinated activity for simultaneous satisfaction of consumer demands.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To find out Socio economic condition of the respondents.
- To analyse the forest resource utilization and forest conservation activities among the sample respondents.

III. METHODOLOGY

A systematic and careful analysis of information is of primary Importance in any research. The data was collected through a structured interview schedule from 100 respondents by using the convenience sampling method. In the first stage, Nilgiris District was selected. From the Coonoor Taluk two villages namely Bambalkombai and Barliyar are selected. 50 Respondent from each village are randomly selected as sample respondent. Totally, for this study the selected sample size was 100. The required data for the study is mainly of primary nature. The detailed structured interview schedule was prepared containing questions on the role of tribal people on forest utilization. To analyze the primary data the researcher has used different statistical tools like percentage method, frequency analysis.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table: 1 Socio-Economic condition

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Gender		
Male	84	84.0
Female	16	16.0
age		
18-40	29	29.0
40-50	61	61.0
Above 50	10	10.0
Marital status		
Married	90	90.0
Widowed	10	10.0
Family member		
2-4	32	32.0
5-8	59	59.0
Above 9	9	9.0
Occupation status		
agriculture	44	44
labour	26	26
Govt.job	10	10
Self employees	14	14
Govt.job/agriculture	6	6
Education		
No formal education	59	59
Primary education	19	19
Upper primary education	6	6
Pre-University	12	12
Degree education	4	4
Total	100	100

Source: Computed values

This table 1 shows the gender wise classification of the respondent. Among this majority 84 percentages are male and the remaining 16 percentage are women respondents. The reveals that Age of the sample respondent. Among the 100 respondents, 18-40 are 29 percentages, 40-50 are 61 percentage and the remaining 10 samples are belong to above 50 age group. So majority of the age group are 40-50. The marital status of the respondents. Within total 100 percentage of the respondent majority 90 percentage are married and remaining 10 are widowed. The total number of family members of the selected sample respondent. 59 percentage of respondents having 5-8 members, 32 percentage are having 2-4 members and remaining 9 percentage of respondents are having above 9 members in their family. the village wise occupation of the respondent in totally 44 percentage are involved in agriculture within this 24 percentage belong to village, 26 percentage of the respondents are labors, 10 percentage are government job, 14 percentage are self employees and remaining 6 percentage are in both government job and agriculture. the village wise Education of the respondent in totally 59 percentage are not finished any formal education, within this majority 33 percentage are belong to 19

percentage are finished their primary level education, 6 percentage finished upper primary level, 12 percentage finished pre- university and remaining 4 percentage finished their degree education.

Table: 2 Village wise product usages

Name of the Village	Products					Total
	Nil	Honey	Herbals	Fruits	All	
Bambalkombai	6	13	10	10	11	50
	6.0%	13.0%	10.0%	10.0%	11.0%	50.0%
Barliyar	6	13	15	13	3	50
	6.0%	13.0%	15.0%	13.0%	3.0%	50.0%
Total	12	26	25	23	14	100
	12.0%	26.0%	25.0%	23.0%	14.0%	100.0%

Source: Computed values

Table 2 shows the village wise product consumed by the sample respondent. Within the total 100 respondents 26 percentage are using honey, 25 percentage are using herbals, 23 percentage are consuming fruits and remaining 14 percentage are consuming all the products which are available in forest.

Table 3: Uses of Forest Products

Name of the Village	Uses of Forest Products				Total
	Nil	Sales	own use	both	
Bambalkombai	6	34	4	6	50
	6.0%	34.0%	4.0%	6.0%	50.0%
Barliyar	4	25	11	10	50
	4.0%	25.0%	11.0%	10.0%	50.0%
Total	10	59	15	16	100
	10.0%	59.0%	15.0%	16.0%	100.0%

Source: Computed values

Table 3 shows the village wise forest product usage of the sample respondent. Within the total 100 respondents 59 percentage are using for sales, 15 percentage are using for own purpose and remaining 16 percentage are used forest products for both selling and own consuming.

Table 4: Accessing forest reserve

Forest reserve	Frequency	Percent
Free	15	15.0
Permission	61	61.0
For a fees	24	24.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: Computed values

Table 4 shows the way of accessing forest reserve. Among the total 100 respondent 15 percentage are access through free of cost, 61 percentage are access forest reserve through permission from forest department and remaining 24 percentage are through fees payment.

Table 5: Members responsible for forest product collection

Forest product Collection	Frequency	Percent
Male	27	27.0
Female	32	32.0
Male and Female	41	41.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: Computed values

From the above table 5 it was revealed that 41 percentage of male and female together involved in forest product collection. 32 percentage female and remaining 27 percentage male are separately involved in forest product collection.

Table 6: Number of days collecting forest product

Forest product	Frequency	Percent
5 to 10 days	11	11.0
15 to 25 days	28	28.0
10 to 30 days	32	32.0
Above 30	29	29.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: Computed values

Table 6 shows the number of day's respondent involved in collecting forest products. 11 percentage are involved in 5 to 10 days, 28 percentage are involved around 15 to 25 days, 32 percentage are involved around 10 to 30 days and remaining 29 percentage of sample respondents are involved in collecting forest products above 30 days.

Table 7: Marketing of forest products

Marketing this Product	Frequency	Percent
Yes	63	63.0
No	37	37.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: Computed values

Table 7 shows the sample respondent opinion about marketing of forest products. Among the total 100 respondent, 63 percentages are interested and 37 percentages are not interested to marketing forest product.

V. CONCLUSION

The contribution of forest resources to the livelihood strategies of poor people is been appreciated as significant. Most rural poor people rely directly and indirectly on forest for their livelihood. Tribal people have rights and opportunities to access forest resources, as well as responsibilities for the sustainable management. The process of exploration are highly linked with the administration of natural resources. The renewable resources possess proper rate of increasing or regeneration. The main income earning activity is farming for a majority of the tribal households. Thus, the strategies of minimizing the dependency on the forest by introducing alternative income generating activities and addressing livelihood issues have not been achieved. Based on the results it was clear that, people are not involved in the management of natural forest resources, since the lack of ownership of the natural forest. This study, therefore recommends that there should be improvement of relationship between members of the local communities and the forestry section authorities. Local people are not aware of the rules that protect the natural forest. Hence this study recommends that ethnic leaders and the forestry section officials educate people about the rules that regulate access to forest resources and protect the natural forest for ensuring that the natural forest is highly protected and well managed. This study recommends that, the member local communities should be provided with economic incentives by the government so that there is maximum involvement in the sustainable management of forest resources.

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