

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF TRIBAL THROUGH SERICULTURE; A CASE STUDY OF AMBIKAPUR BLOCK OF SURGUJA DISTRICT, CHHATTISGARH, INDIA

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Abstract— Sericulture is the production of silk through rearing of silkworm. It is not only a tradition but also a living culture in our country. It is a farm-based, labour intensive and commercially attractive economic activity falling under the cottage and small-scale sector. It particularly suits rural-based farmers, entrepreneurs and artisans as it requires low investment with potential for relatively higher returns. It provides income and employment to the rural poor especially, farmers with small land-holding and marginalized and weaker sections of the society. India is the second largest producer of raw silk after China and the biggest consumer of raw silk and silk fabrics and has the unique distinction of producing all the four varieties of silk viz., Mulberry, Tasar, Eri and Muga (Giridhar *et al.*, 2010). The bivoltine sericulture development has been one of the priority sectors of Indian silk industry but its production is yet to meet the targets. In Chhattisgarh Tropical Tasar and mulberry are reared on commercial scale. Tasar is really named as Kosa. Sericulture is being practiced by the tribal of traditional Districts of Baster, Raigarh, Bilaspur and Surguja. The study area has about 130 acres under mulberry cultivation. Total area covered under tasar centers is about 3153.25 acres. Tasar rearing in forest are covered 4729.88 acres. The total beneficiaries are 5739 out of them 3347 are tribal in the district. In the block only 20 (20%) beneficiaries out of 100 adopted the sericulture as main occupation and rest 80 (80%) as secondary occupation. Out of 100 respondents in block 30% received employment for duration of 100-150 days and 60% for a period of 151-200 days and 6% of 201-300 days and the 4% for more than 300 days. The total monthly income obtained from all sources to the families involved in sericulture occupation is average 3840/-. The total monthly expenditure is about 2380/-. The respondent tribe of study area collects forest minor products and thus they earn income about 5950/- once in year which is a satisfactory amount for poor families. Before having sericulture occupation, the economic condition of 72% of the respondent was normal, 8% was bad and 20% was very miserable. The average annual income from the old occupation was Rs. 19350/-. The change in annual income is reported app. Double which is good in amount.

Keywords— Socio-economic status, sericulture, employment, income, tribal

I. INTRODUCTION

The practice of sericulture constitutes one of the important agro - based pursuits with which rural population is associated from ancient times. Sericulture industry of India enjoys well established status which guarantees both direct and indirect

employment to various stakeholders and aids in augmenting their income in some of the states, where as in other states it serves as a full-fledged avenue for earning livelihood. Although sericulture sector provides sufficient returns to the farmers in less possible time, yet it does not involve possession of larger land holdings, sufficient capital & investment incentives or adequate farm infrastructure, but has an ample employment generating potential.

The reduction of rural poverty continues to be a paramount goal of the developing countries like India as the majority of the poor population still resides in these areas. The World Bank, for example, estimates that more than 70 % of the world's poor live in rural areas. So far, various strategies have been pursued to address this concern and among the major ones is rural employment creation. The agriculture sector, however, has been confronted with a number of factors that have limited its potential for generating new jobs in rural areas. It is, therefore, necessary to focus on a broader spectrum of the rural economy through improved ways and means. Thus the establishment of rural based industries like sericulture, in particular, can be very effective tool for providing succour to landless farmers and can also in a long way address the problems of rural women who can also make their earnings through its practice.

Sericulture is both an art and science of raising silkworms for silk production. Silk as a wearable fiber was first discovered by the Chinese empress Xi Ling Shi during 2,640 B.C. and its culture and weaving was a guarded secret for more than 2,500 years by the Chinese. Silk was a profitable trade commodity in China. Traders from ancient Persia (now, Iran) used to bring richly coloured and fine textured silks from Chinese merchants through hazardous routes interspersed with dangerous mountainous terrains, difficult passes, dry deserts and thick forests. Though, commodities like amber, glass, spices and tea were also traded along with silk which indeed rapidly became one of the principal elements of the Chinese economy and hence, the trade route got the name 'SILK ROUTE'. Even today, silk reigns supreme as an object of desire and fabric of high fashion. Being a rural based industry, the production and weaving of silk are largely carried out by

relatively poor sections of the society and this aspect of sericulture has made it popular and sustainable in countries like China and India.

Sericulture Industry in India and its strengths

If fashion is a fine art, then silk is its biggest canvas, and if silk is the canvas, then all its weavers, dyers, designers, embroiderers are the greatest artists. Indian silk has enthralled fashion watchers and all categories of consumers across the world with its vast repertoire of Indian sericulture industry in Chhattisgarh motifs, techniques and brilliant hues. India's traditional and cultural bound domestic market and an amazing diversity of silk garments that reflect 'geographic specificity' has helped the country to achieve a leading position in silk industry.

Presently in Chhattisgarh three types of silk viz. Mulberry, Tasar and Eri are produced; Where Tropical Tasar and mulberry are reared on commercial scale (Rakesh, 2008). Tasar is commonly named as Kosa. Sericulture is being practiced by the tribal of traditional Districts of Baster, Raigarh, Bilaspur and Surguja (Chatterjee and Chakravorty, 2009). There are 258 well recognized tribal communities, notified as scheduled tribes in India (Sinha, 2003). This culture is able to generate quite remunerative and meaningful employment (Jolly, 1967; Narsimha, 2003). Tasar sericulture is a labour intensive industry in all its phase. It can generate employment up to 11 persons for every kg of raw silk produced (Ramalaxmi, 2007).

Sericulture is the activity of low investment and high output (Benjamin and Jolly, 1987). The tasar silkworm is a boon to its rural tribal rearers as their livelihood linked with the collection and sale of nature grown tasar cocoons (Nayak, 2000; Hansda *et al.*, 2008; Ojha *et al.*, 2009) Sericulture is a cottage, agro-forestry and forestry based industry that provides sustainable livelihood to several rural communities in the country to earn foreign exchange (Chatterjee *et al.*, 2007) Silk industry has lot of socio-cultural and traditional linkages in India and plays a vital role on rural economy and hence, the aboriginals are practicing sericulture simultaneously with agriculture for base livelihood (Thangavelu, 2002; Mahapatra, 2009).

Tasar culture is a traditional and exclusive craft of the tribal of study area and is being practiced since 10 years. Total area covered under tasar centers is about 3153.25 acres though effective area is about 2350 acre. Tasar centers are 22 in number. Tasar plantation under CGSP is situated in 57 sites and covers 3795 acres. Tasar rearings in forest are covered 4729.88 acres. The total beneficiaries are 5739 out of them 3347 are tribal in the district (DG, 2004). Initially the list of sericulture villages and the names of beneficiaries were obtained from local sericulture department of Ambikapur Block.

1.1. Aims and Objectives

The Study is concentrated at the Ambikapur block of Surguja district. This will include Identification of the areas where the tribal populations have been directed to adopt sericulture practices for their livelihood. Since how long this population is practicing sericulture. What percentage of male, female are involved in this process.

II. MATERIAL AND METHODS

Ambikapur Block of Surguja district, Chhattisgarh state, was purposely selected for the study, based on potentiality and production of tasar/mulberry cocoons, where both types of sericulture-mulberry and tasar are being practiced. The study area has about 130 acres under mulberry cultivation though effective area is only 80-110 acres. Mulberry gardens are 15 and Reeling Unit in 1 number.

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Initially the list of sericulture villages and the names of beneficiaries were obtained from local sericulture department of Ambikapur Block, The primary data was collected from the sampled respondents following the personal interview method using structured interview schedule standardized.

In the above mention block four villages were selected at random and in each village 25 beneficiaries were selected at random for collection of data. Thus 100 beneficiaries were selected from block. The farmers were post classified into main and additional based on the engagement of employment.

The information sought from the respondents involved in sericulture activities consisted of three types. The first type pertained to general information. The second type was related to Occupational Status, Employment days in a year, Total Monthly Income, Total Expenditure, Occupation before the Sericulture, Duration of Sericulture Work, Main Occupation related to Sericulture, Average Annual Income from the Old Occupation, Crops take in a year, Cocoon produced in each crop, Profit from each crop, Yearly production of cocoons, Average Annual Income. The third type of information pertained to the Losses in Sericulture, Compensation by Government, Loan according to requirement, Attachment with Sericulture, Sericulture is favourable or not, Traditional Business is affected or not, Total labour period, Change in economic status, Change in Annual Income through Sericulture, Displacement by Sericulture, Impact of Sericulture in Life Style and economics of silk production. Primary and secondary data was analyzed using various statistical tools viz., mean, mode and median.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Employment for sericulture:

In the block only 20 (20%) beneficiaries out of 100 adopted the sericulture as main occupation and rest 80 (20%) as secondary occupation. Out of 100 families the number of working member in 20 families is only 01 and the same way in 30 families is 02, In 36 families is 03, in 10 families 04 and in 04 families 05 or more than 05 members are working.

The total monthly income obtained from all sources to the families involved in sericulture occupation is average 3840/-. The respondent tribe of study area collects forest minor products and thus they earn income about 5950/- once in year which is a satisfactory amount for poor families.

The total monthly expenditure from all sources to the families is about 2380/-. Only respondents 14 are ineptness. Before starting sericulture occupation in the study area 58% of the total respondent were involved in agriculture and 35% in agricultural labor. Only 4% are in rearing of worm and 3% are both agriculture and sericulture. Now 148 men and 131 women are involved in the occupation under this silkworm rearing, agriculture and silkworm rearing, plantation and silkworm rearing and labor are included.

All the respondent are accepted that the work of sericulture is comparatively better than other work. It is estimated that and averages of 5900 numbers of Cocoons are produced in each crop and an average of 4720 /- Rs. are gain by respondent while yearly production is an average of 18300 numbers and Average annual income about 18220/- Rs. Respondents. 99 respondent getting losses some time in this occupation and the reason are high temperature and humidity followed by diseases and pollution. Govt. did not give compensation for any loss in crop it is responded by all.

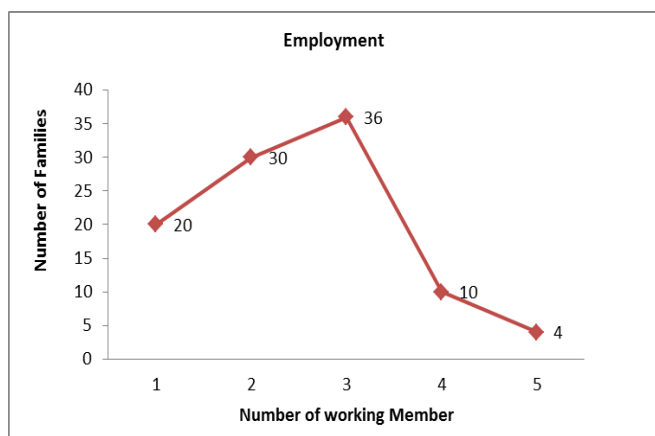


Fig.1 – Employment Generation

Before having sericulture occupation, the economic condition of 72% of the respondent was normal, 8% was bad and 20% was very miserable. This occupation is not new to the tribes in the study area because they are practicing sericulture since average of 13 yr. The average annual income from the old occupation was Rs. 19350/-. From 100 respondent 15 are take one crop in year while 12 are two, 73 are three. All respondent received dfls from sericulture center and they are satisfied with dept. Primary host plant for silkworm rearing is in the priority of T.arjuna, T.tomentosa, M.alba and S.robusta with Z.zuzuba and that is about 3190 for each respondent.

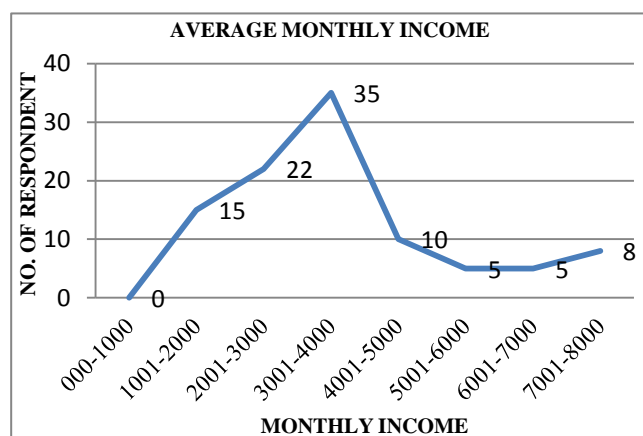
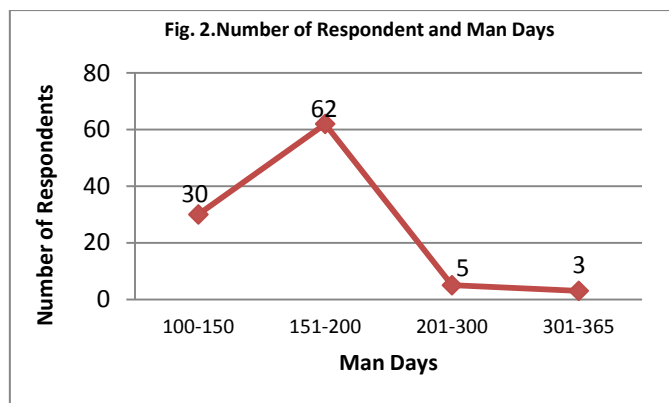


Fig.3. Average Monthly Income

All the respondent want attach continue with sericulture because it is suited to their lifestyle. The work is simple and can be done without any cost. Sericulture can serve better for the additional income generation and lay concrete on the way for the local employment generation. All respondents have view that sericulture has not affected their traditional business, and their economic status is change and denied for any migration or displacement caused. The change in annual income is reported app. Double which is good in amount.

All the respondents attributed the following impact by Sericulture: Conservation of environment, No cutting and felling of trees, Interstate migration is checked, Local

employment is generated, served as additional income generating source, Regular savings habit has been developed, Reduction of human pressure on the forest

IV. CONCLUSION:-

In a nutshell sericulture is the source of additional income generation. Sericulture provides more than 50% employment to the respondent in a year thus stops the inter-state migration. According to the MNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guaranty Programme) population must receive 100 days employment in a year where as sericulture provides 151-200 days employment to respondent i.e., 64%.

Majority of the respondent were practicing agriculture before adopting the sericulture but later on more than 80% respondent are doing rearing practices. Economic status from old occupation are normal for 72% respondents. The average annual income from the old occupation were estimated as Rs. 19350/-. Due to this practices respondent were earned around double income than earlier income.

Tasar culture is helpful for saving 3190 host plant by each respondent i.e., tribal were very much eco-friendly. It is noteworthy that adopting the Sericulture by tribal they conserve the environment by non-cutting and felling of trees because sericulture is now their way of life. Interstate migration is checked because sericulture provides additional income at their door level. Regular savings habit has been developed by sericulture practices among the tribes because they earn much more than their standard of living. It is remarkable that sericulture is suited the life style of tribe because practice of sericulture is simple and can be done without any cost and skill.

The total monthly income obtained from all sources to the families involved in sericulture occupation is average 3840/-. The total monthly expenditure is about 2380/-.

Recommendations

- The government should give them compensations for the losses incurred in this occupation due to diseases and the negative impact of natural factors
- There should be enough loan facilities for the improvement of their occupation which is still more beneficial
- The government should be encouraging them to make clothes along with sericulture occupation
- Provision of refresher training programme for the silkworm rearers
- Focusing on use of new technology.

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