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ROLE OF TRIBAL LIVELIHOOD OF NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCT COLLECTED IN SIMILIPAL AREA OF MAYURBHANJ DISTRICT OF ODISHA

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ABSTRACT

Forest productions a vital role in the socio-economic life of tribal people in fact their life can't be imagined without forest. Collection and sell of different minor forest products for commercial purposes are considered as crucial means of their livelihood. The tribal people seasonally collect various NTFPs to satisfy the needs for their food, fodder and medicine. The dominant tribes involved in using minor forest product in the District of Mayurbhanj are santal, kolha, munda, bathudi, bhumij, gonds, saunti, hill kharia, mahali, mankirdia, lodha etc. The current study tried to explore the role of tribal livelihood of NTFPs collected in similipal area through a sample of 150 respondents selected from eight villages in Jashipur block, Mayurbhanj district of Odisha. In this context, the purpose of the paper is to examine the non-timber forest product the collects the different seasons and mostly use the forest for their livelihood. The research is focused on both quantitative and qualitative data using empirical field work. The respondents were given a structured interview schedule. The result shows that almost all tribal people in the study village collect minor forest products illegally and sell in local markets. Specific knowledge about NTFPs is required to ensure that communities create optimal use of their rural resources.

INTRODUCTION

The forest production an imperative part in the socio-economic, culture and livelihoods of forest dependent rural peoples by provided that sustenance

profits, service, energy, nutritious foods, fodder, housing material, medicine, and a wide range of supplies and ecosystems facilities in India. The role of forest in terms of providing are biodiversity, creating environmental stability, promoting livelihood sustainability. The collection of non- timber forest products likes fodder, timber, lac, fuel wood, fibers, floss, medicine tubers, roots, vegetables, leaves, fruits, bush meat, housing material etc. forest derive items are an important fraction of tribal people on a daily basis livelihood activities. They also collect kendu leaves, sal leaves, siali leaves, gums, mahula flowers, which they sold in the local market to finance for their on a daily basis needs. The processing and selling of non-timber collections is a vital means of livelihood for people living in the region of the forest areas every year and contributes significantly to the rural economy. The macro level production and consumption of non-timber forest products have not ever important appeared as resources of great economic but provide a minor produce portion to the country wide economy in comparison to profitable timber. Though, the level of micro, for century's group of tribal people living in all over the jungles has recognised minor forest products imperative forests resources for livelihood security.

Minor forest product includes all or any biological material other than timber which are collected for human being use from natural forests. The tribals are interested in collecting and selling those products and profitable minor forest products are rented out by the forest department. Non-timber forest products provide countless people each year with local job opportunities and contribute considerably to the agricultural economy as over half the products are utilized by the tribal people living in and round the forest areas to satisfy their basic needs. The rural community economy, therefore, is largely enthusiastic about the different non-timber forest products obtainable in its areas. As a consequence of rampant deforestation and also tribal displacement from their traditional habitat, tribal selection activities are presently disappearing (Kennedy 2006). In Mayurbhanj district of Odisha harbours an upscale diversity of species, which produce considerable profits from social and economic perspectives. From past, the tribal communities' intimate relationship and dependence on local natural resources provided them with essential resource use information and thus established widespread information on many plants. Investigation are made on medicinal values of this region's angiosperms (Pandey and Rout 2006; Rout et al. 2009; Saxena et al . 1988), but the impact of non-timber forest products on tribal livelihoods is unfortunately ignored. In India tribal people have enjoyed historically the proper to receive NTFPs. They accustomed collect NTFPs to be used only within the beginning but in later on came to sell them used for cash income. The Mayurbhanj and Similip hill tribal areas are rich in NTFPs such as Kendu leaf, Sal seeds, Mahua, Kusum, Karanj, Palas, Harra, Bahera, Amla, Neem, Honey, Wax, Gum, etc. Medicinal plants such as Amla, Harra, Bahera, and herbs such as Satwar, Amarlata, Neem, and Belo are highly valued, and most of the minor forest products are sold in raw form within the forests of similar areas. During this area, 2 particularly important forest produce are the Lac and Tassar, which give jobs for thousands of tribal peoples residing in round

the forests. So it will be recognized that the tribals and forests are interdependent and interrelated.

TRIBALS AND FOREST

The tribals are basically forest dwellers and have been depending upon forest for generations because it not only provides them security and shelter but also shelter to their pantheons and many benevolent and malevolent sprits and ghost and even to their totem. The tribals collect food, house building materials, fuel for cooking, fodder for cattle herbal medicine for health and many other forest items to meet their day to day necessities. The tribal people and the forests have a symbiotic relationship which is credited to be mutually beneficial. However, this relationship was shaken due to arrival of outsiders to forests and growth of tribal population. There is an inseparable link between the forest dwelling people (the tribals) and the forests that they have resided in survival of one without the other is impossible.

Tribal communities know no other way to livelihood and survival. The relationship with forest resources is so closely interwoven that separating the two is impossible. The fundamental rights of the adivasi communities to these forest resources flows from the fact that they are the original inhabitants who have been having these forests as their homes, where their ancestors have lived and died and continue to live their life after dead as the believe. The tribal and forest interface, though, isn't limited to located a forest as a tribals habitation. It is important to explore the main issues which concern their relationship among the forest for their physical and cultural survival, meant as "symbiotic" within the Forest Rights Act 2006.

FOREST RIGHTS ACT 2006

The scheduled tribes and other traditional forest dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, raised on the grounds that the forest rights act, was passed in 2006. It empowers people who keep up forest areas, and individuals who gain their livelihood from forested areas, to mention the legitimate rights to the forest land they use. The forest rights act gives key rights to individuals of Scheduled Tribes et al. Who board and off timberland generally: historically:

1. Rights to hold and live in the forest land or they have lived on occupation for habitation or self-cultivation.

2. Ownership rights, access, water sources, use of pastures and traditional minor forest products in forest areas,

3. Protection to preserve community forest resources like wildlife and biodiversity, to regenerate or conserve.

STUDY AREA

The mayurbhanj district of Odisha, displays the natural landscape of the varied wooded hills and fertile planes mountains and forest resources and magnificent wild life including the famous at similipal hills. A hill known

as the identical range covers the district and the residual share is occupied by undulating plain land and dropping on gentle slopes. The district was once endowed with rich forest, which provided a favourable physical environment and resources base conductive to the tribal communities not only for habitation and livelihood but also for maintaining their socio-cultural needs. The important forest produce is timber, fuelwood, ballies, bamboos, tendu leaf, mahua seeds, sal seeds etc. Mayurbhanj district is primarily a tribal depend upon forest for their livelihood and their everyday requirements. The district has 10,418 km of its geographical areas covered with forest. The forest cover is divided in to broad categories namely the reserved forest (894.38 sq.km.) and declared protected forest (23.15 sq.km.) and undeclared protected forest (723.83 sq.km.) and un classed forest (0.53 sq.km.) total forest amount to 1641.89 sq.km.

The forest can be broadly classified in to vegetation types as follows.

- Tropical moist deciduous sal forests.
- Tropical semi evergreen forests.
- Mixed deciduous hill forests.
- High level sal.
- Dry deciduous sal forests.
- Plain sal forests.
- Grass land and savannah.

The districts are major tribes like Santal, Kolhs, Bathudi, Kharia, Mankidia, Gond, Ho, Bhuyan, Paudi and Bhuyan. Some of the tribes are still living in the Specific Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), namely Kharia, Mankdias and Saharas. The tribal peoples are depending on the forest products for their livelihood. Kharia is mainly gathered from minor forest products such as honey, resin, lake and arrowroot etc. Mankidia is often obtained from Siali fibers and used to make rope. Many of the tribes like Gond and Bathudi spend their time collecting the Sabai grass forest-land. In return for the honey and resin they produce, they hardly come from the forest to the plain areas just to gather salt, potato, or onion (Pattnaik 1997).

SAMPLING PROCEDURE AND DATA COLLECTION

In selecting the respondents for this study a multi-stage technique was employed. The primary stage is that the purposive selections of the Jashipur block in similipal forest. The choice was because it's the biggest forest area in Mayurbhanj district where the collecting and marketing of NTFPs purchasable during the season could be a major pre occupation. Then the data has been collected with informal and open ended questionnaire. The study selected villages are Suapal, Kalikaprasad, Dhalabani, Badajhili, Palgoda, Padagargh, Durdura and Sansialiana. The data have been collected randomly 20 households (twenty) from each villages are involved in the collection of NTFPs. Total 160 samples were collected from the selected villages but after the removal of 10 irrelevant questionnaires, the total 150 samples are used for the data analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Demographic profile of the respondents is full knowledge about the four studies villages. It is important to known about the age, sex, education, family size and occupation of the inhabitants. Hence, demographic profile is essential for our study, which is shown in below table-1. Sex distribution of the respondents is needed to know about the male and female ration of the respondents. The table-1 shows from among 150 sample households covered in the study areas, 92 respondents (61.3 %) were female and 58 respondents (38.7 %) were male, thus higher percentage of females were interviewed. Age is key variable in determining an individual power, prestige, privilege and ranking in social life. Due to the absence of recording birth dates the age of the respondents are based on their own guess. The model group of the sample respondents as evident from the table was 41-50 years the highest percentage of the 56 respondents, i.e., is 37.3 percentage then followed by 21.3 percentage (32) respondents found for the age 51 above year and followed by 20.7 percentage (31) respondents for those in the 31-40 age groups and 14.7 percentage (22) respondents are age groups of 21-30. Below 20 year age groups are lowest 6 percentage (9) respondents are respectively measuring there by that aged groups/ person respondent also occupying some important social position in the village.

Table: 1
General profile of the respondent

Variable/settlement	Total number of respondents	Total percentage
Sex		
Male	58	38.7 % (150)
Female	92	61.3 % (150)
Age		
Below 20	9	6% (150)
21-30	22	14.7% (150)
31-40	31	20.7% (150)
41-50	56	37.3% (150)
51 above	32	21.3% (150)
Size of family member		
Below 4	57	38% (150)
5-7	65	43.3% (150)
8 above	28	18.7% (150)
Education		
Not formal literate	39	26 % (150)
Up to 5^{th} standard	42	28 % (150)
Up to 10^{th} standard	45	30 % (150)
12^{th} standard	15	10 % (150)
Graduation	9	6 % (150)
Occupation		
Farming	60	40% (150)
Seasonal daily wage labour	31	20.6% (150)
NTFPs collection	49	32.7% (150)
Employment	10	6.7% (150)

Source: Field data

It is observed that about 26 percentage (39) respondents of the tribals are not formal literate and 28 percent of the (42) respondents are having up to 5th standard education, 30 per cent (45) respondents are having up to 10th standard, 10 percent (15) respondents are 12th standard and only, 6 per cent (9) respondents are graduation level education. About 40 per cent (60) respondents in eight sample villages are engaged in farming as their primary occupation and 20.6 percent (31) respondents are engaged in seasonal daily wage labour, 33.7 percent (49) respondents are engaged in collection of NTFPs and 6.7 percentage (10) respondent are any job employed.

Table-2 Seasonality role of collected by non-timber forest products in Mayurbhanj District

Month	Calender month	NTFPs collection
Chaith- Baisak	March-May	Bardasaag, mango, siali leaves¸ khajuri, charamahula flowers, sal leaf¸ dantkathi, tasar etc.
Aashan-Jeth	May-july	Kendu fruits, jackfruit, bardasaag, mahua seed, char phal, saal seeds, jamu, mahudantkathi, kusum etc.
Sawan-Bhador	July-September	Mushrooms, dantkathi, kusum, saga, dantkathi, kurkuti
Kartik-aasin	September-November	Peeta kandha, karkekandha, honey, jhuna, dantkathi, kurkuti
Push- Aghan	November-January	Amla, harrada, beharra, karanja, dantkathi, sialichali, kurkuti
Magn-Phagun	January-March	Mahua, tamarind (tentuli), sal leaf, jhuna, ambdatanku, kurkuti, dantkathi

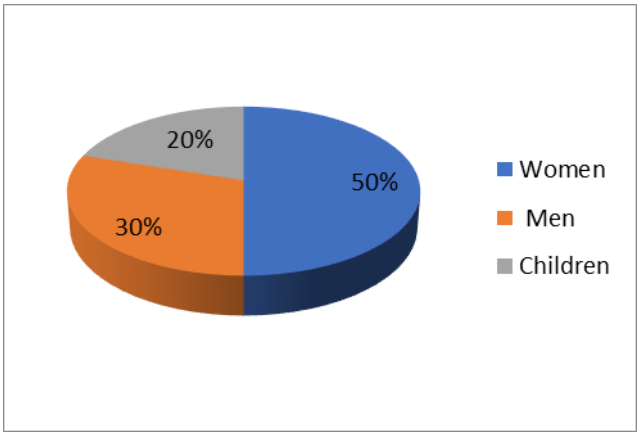
The tribal population of India constitute nearly 65% are Maharastra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhatisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh and contribute about 70% of non-timber forest products (Guha 1983). The seasonal wise NTFPs collection in Mayurbhanj show (Table-2) that, various item for sal leaf to medicinal are collected by tribals. The significant non-timber forest products are sal leaf, sal seeds, siali fibre, lac, tamarind, saga, dantkathi, honey, Mushrooms, kusum, saga, kurkuti, mahua flowers, mahula seeds, kusum seeds, tasar, jhuna, mahu and unlike type of other fruits and seeds. It is understood to, excluding a few, almost all of the minor forest products are limited to a season, and not all seasons are common. The minor forest product was collected within the forest during the collection season by local tribals including man, woman and children. Then the collection season is extended all year round for various items, the minor forest products collection activities provided the local tribes with employment all over the year. The collection and quantity of non-timber forest products depends on the provision. Some organisms will be collected during the April to July months. Villagers like tribal women run surrounded by the forest and cover long distance starting from two-five kms for the collection of minor forest products. Tribal women give longer to collect minor forest products, together with their children. Tribal children are at home with gathering minor forest items from an early age on. The chances of tribal children in literacy are thus reported

very less. Data on field was collected primarily through informal interviews with tribals engaged in minor forest products processing.

Table-3 Collection of NTFPs among total family members of the respondents

Collection of NTFPs	Number of respondents	Total Percentage of respondent
Women	75	50%
Men	45	30%
Children	30	20%
Total	150	100%

Source: Author Own



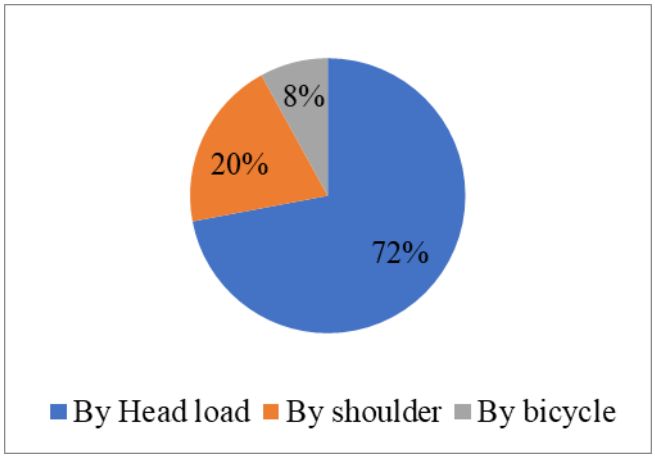
Figer-1

NTFPs collection for the family member (table 4): Shows the all household family member gatherer NTFPs from the forest. The NTFPs are collected mainly only by tribal women 50 Percent followed by only tribal men 30 Percentage are involved in the collection of minor forest products. Among the children are less involved 20 percentages in the collection of NTFPs as the girls cook food and do other works. In some households old men and women, who do not go out for the work young people and even school going children go out to collect NTFPs suitable time from forest and store them. During the rainy season and the winter to overcome the bitter cold for uses them. As forests are far away from the villages and in a six month season it is not possible to collect the NTFPs because of all household member are working in agriculture labours.

Table: 4 Mode of bringing NTFPs among the total family member of the respondents

Bringing of NTFPs	Total member of NTFPs collector	Total percentage
By Head load	108	72%
By shoulder	30	20%
By bicycle	12	8%
Total	150	100%

Source: Author Own



Figer-2

They carry NTFPs on their head and shoulder to their home and some of them carry to local market. Few of them they use their bicycle to carry but none of them use any commercial vehicle either to their home or to carry to local market. They collect NTFPs from the deep forest, where there is no road connectivity and any transport facilities. Therefore 72 percentage households brought by head load, 20 Percentage brought by shoulder by tying ropes and only 8 Percentages brought by bicycle.

Separately, local consumption, non-timber forest products are one place to another place sale for different parts of India. There are numerous seeds, roots, medicinal fruits, and barks that are collected and one place to another place sale different part of locality. Many factors depend on the amount of minor forest products collected by the tribals. One critical factor remains the economic position. The very poor tribal family with a limited holding of land gathered maximum quantities of minor forest products. The Mayurbhanj district of Odisha in tribals uses non-timber forest products as staple food and ingredient in traditional medicines and involves them in cash sale for making their livelihood in the financial system. As a result of local facility processing, most non-timber forest goods are exported away from the areas, resultant in loss of values that could have been contributed to them by the village and cottage industries. Though, substantial potential exist in selling the existing on-timber forest products and developed of use products by use knowledge accrued by the indigenous people. Onward and linkages may be found to keep the benefits of collecting and products in a local area. Although the collection and processing of products for assorted non-timber forest products is seasonal, do business can provide year-round employment for the ease of use of forest product diversity in Mayurbhanj district of Odisha.

The SFDC (Similpal Forest Development Corporation) was founded in 1982 to improve the economic situation of the tribal's local peoples in Mayurbhanj district's similipal forest areas. One of the donations from similipal forest Development Corporation Ltd. was the Jashipur training center established during 1986.Which positions for procurement; conservation and implementation of certain minor forest products are available in the Similipal forest areas. The collection of minor forest products contributes significantly to the tribal community's economic

benefits in every day, where the production and process of these goods significantly supports basic needs and livelihood earnings. Kendu and Sal leaves are the main resource of income in Mayurbhanj district, provided that tribals are given considerable employment for the duration of the lean time of cultivation. Thus its roles in growing rural people's economy in this region are important and its scope is good. Sal seeds, Mahua flowers and seeds of Char are next. The majority of these are available for the collection season, but throughout the year they are used.

CONCLUSION

This study we can conducted that non-timber forest products have played the vital role in tribal livelihoods and in fulfilling people daily needs, especially of food and medicine. This study found that almost all tribal people in the study village collected NTFPs illegally and sell in their local markets. Non-timber forest products provide basic food support, shelter building materials, medicinal, cultural and ritual values with cash income for many local communities, in particular when groups reach forest area. For example, marketable non-timber forest products may provide a significant means for economic development in local communities and sustainable forest management. For communities to make effective use of their natural resource, basic data regarding non-timber forest products is required. Therefore, it is important to have information about non-timber forest products, as they can be established for the conservation of forest resources and economic development.

Non-timber forest products form an important food item for the forest-dependent communities. Most of them carry NTFPs on their heads, and few of them carry bicycles, but none of them use any vehicle for transport. The study also found that tribal people tend to sell NTFPs at a cheap price to traders near their home to reduce transportation expenses, salaries for days and also reduce the forest department's monetary fines. Since the livelihoods of tribal people in villages depend on the collection of NTFPs, the study suggests that these items must have markets and proper prices. Government should provide self-help group with some financial advantages or encourage individuals to set up paper plate or cup factory to avoid the dominance of the trader.

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