



Assets Generation of Tribal Farmers of Adilabad And Their Relationship With Profile Characteristics

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted in Adilabad district of Telangana to study the profile and assets generation of tribal farmers. Total 120 respondents were randomly selected for the study and interviewed. Most of the (44.20%) respondents belonged to medium category followed by low (40.00%) and high (15.80%) assets generation. Variable like farm size, achievement motivation, social support and mass media exposure had a positive and significant correlation with the assets generation. Whereas, the variable ethnocentrism had a negatively significant correlation with assets generation. All other independent variables namely, age, education, farming experience, training received, risk orientation, religious belief, credit orientation and extension contact no significant effect on assets generation.

Keywords: assets generation, profile characteristics and tribal farmers.

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INTRODUCTION

Economic and social empowerment and educational up-liftment of socially disadvantaged groups and marginalized sections of society is necessary for achieving faster and more inclusive development. There are twenty countries in the world with substantial tribal population. India has the largest tribal population in the world. The tribal population of the country, as per 2011 census, is 10.43 core, constituting 8.6 per cent of the total population. Tribal groups are very heterogeneous. India's tribals are a diverse and heterogeneous group. Some are still in the food gathering stage, others practice shifting cultivation, yet others may be pursuing primitive forms of agriculture.

Telangana state is very rich in the variety of cultures that represent all stages of human progress. We have the Chenchus, as primitive as those who lived in stone age and at the same time tribes such as Gonds who are in no way inferior to their neighbours. Andhs and Bhils are backward and yet assimilated enough to be hardly distinguished. From the Gond settled cultivators to the Koyas and Konda Reddis who are still found inclined to indulge in shifting cultivation, we see the Chenchus who would not care to produce anything and prefer to live on the roots, tubers and other forest produce.

The sustainable livelihood approach enable development departments to improve the design and implementation of poverty alleviation efforts in tribal areas. It helps to analyze opportunities and constraints of the tribal poor, builds better understanding of multiple perspectives, identifies what options have better potential to reduce poverty and what enabling conditions, policies and incentives are needed for the poor to increase the range of better livelihood options.

Hence, "a study on sustainable livelihoods of tribal farmers of adilabad district in telangana state" would enable development agencies to design appropriate and suitable programmes to create and provide sustainable livelihood options to tribal farmers.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

For this study, *ex-post facto* research design was adopted. According to Kerlinger [3], *ex-post facto* research is a systematic empirical enquiry, in which the scientists do not have direct control on influencing (independent) variables because their manifestations have already occurred. Telangana was purposively selected for the study as the researcher is from this state. Adilabad district of Telangana was

purposely selected for the study as Adilabad district has a population of about 4,95,794 scheduled tribes and this district is ranked 3rd in scheduled tribes areas, after Khammam and Warangal in the state. Out of 53 mandals 35 mandals were having more tribal population. Out of 35 mandals two mandals were selected randomly. Three villages from each of the two mandals were selected by following simple random sampling method, thus making total of six villages. From each of the selected village twenty (20) respondents were selected by following random sampling procedure, thus making a total of 120 respondents. Assets generation was operationalized as the capacity of the respondent to generate assets in terms of housing, household assets and items, land, livestock and livestock dwellings, farm assets and transport.

Scoring and Categorization: A schedule was developed for the variable and respondents were categorised into three categories based on exclusive class interval method as low, medium and high level of assets generation. The value of assets generated were taken in rupees for assessment. A score of 1 was assigned for every rupee of assets generated. The results were expressed in frequency and percentages. The obtained scores varied from 10000 to 100000

Sl. No.	Category	Class interval
1.	Low assets generated	Rs 10000 – 40000
2.	Medium assets generated	Rs 40000 – 70000
3.	High assets generated	Rs 70000 – 100000

Results and discussion:

It was evident from table 1 that 44.20 per cent of respondents belonged to medium category followed by low (40.00%) and high (15.80%) assets generation respectively.

Table 1 Distribution of the farmers according to their assets generation (n=120)

Sl. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Low (Rs 20000-40000)	46	40.00
2	Medium (Rs 40000-70000)	53	44.20
3	High (Rs 60000-80000)	19	15.80

Most of the respondents were under medium assets generation because the tribal farmers were not much interested in making money processing materialistic goods, instead are satisfied with their present lifestyle and culture as revealed from their high ethnocentrism and low achievement motivation. They were doing agriculture and other activities as the part of their culture and lifestyle which they enjoy without expecting high financial returns. It was observed that they perceived the role of money limited to just buy daily domestic needs. These findings are in contrary with the results of Krishnaprasad [5] and in accordance with Kiran [4].

Relationship between selected independent variables and employment generation

In order to study the relationship between the assets generation of sustainable livelihoods of tribal farmers and the profile characteristics of tribal farmers, the correlation co-efficient (r) values were computed and findings are furnished here under.

The relationship between the level of assets generation of sustainable livelihoods of tribal and their profile characteristics was tested by relevant null and empirical hypotheses.

Null hypothesis

There will be no significant relationship between assets generation and sustainable livelihoods with their profile characteristics and both of these are independent.

Empirical hypothesis

There will be significant relationship between assets generation of tribal farmers from sustainable livelihoods and their profile characteristics and both of these are dependent.

It is revealed from the table 4.22 that, calculated 'r' values between ethnocentrism and assets generation of tribal farmers from sustainable livelihoods were greater than table 'r' value at 0.05 level of probability whereas, the calculated 'r' value of the variables farm size, achievement motivation, social support and mass media exposure were greater than table 'r' value at 0.01 level of probability Hence, null hypothesis was rejected and empirical hypothesis was accepted. Therefore, it can be concluded that there was a positive and significant relationship between farm size, achievement motivation, social support and mass media exposure and assets generation.

Table 2 Relationship between independent variables and assets generation of sustainable livelihoods of tribal farmers

Sl. No.	Characteristics	Correlation coefficient (r)
1.	Age	-0.006
2.	Education	-0.141
3.	Farm size	0.381**
4.	Farming experience	0.034
5.	Training received	0.127
6.	Risk orientation	0.071
7.	Religious belief	0.099
8.	Credit orientation	0.119
9.	Achievement motivation	0.526**
10.	Social support	0.257**
11.	Extension contact	0.095
12.	Mass media exposure	0.327**
13.	Ethnocentrism	-0.224*

* Significant at 0.05 level of probability

** Significant at 0.01 level of probability NS –Non Significant

On the other hand calculated 'r' values between ethnocentrism, age and education and assets generation of tribal farmers from sustainable livelihoods were less than table 'r' value. Hence, null hypothesis was accepted. Therefore, it can be concluded that there was no significant relationship between the s assets generation of tribal farmers from sustainable livelihoods and farm experience, training received, risk orientation, religious belief, credit orientation and extension contact.

Age Vs Assets generation

Findings of the investigation showed a non-significant relation between age and assets generation, which means assets generation was not affected by the age of the tribal farmers. These findings are in accordance with the results of Islam *et al.* [2] and Prajapati *et al.* [6].

Education Vs Assets generation

It was evident from the table that education had no significant effect on the dependent variable assets generation. These findings are in accordance with the results of Prajapati *et al.* [6].

Farm size Vs Assets generation

From the findings it was apparent that a positive and significant correlation existed between farm size and assets generation. The reason behind this finding may be due to the fact that with more the farm size, farm implements and tools may be required in larger numbers, in addition dwellings, livestock and draft animals will also increase. Thus, more assets generation may become a necessity. As majority of the respondents fall under small and medium farm size, and the asset generation also trending medium to low. The research institutes should come up with low cost tools, implements and dwelling options to suit the tribal community needs. These findings are in accordance with the results of Islam *et al.* [2].

Farming experience Vs Assets generation

It was evident from the table that farming experience had no significant effect on the dependent variable assets generation.

Training received Vs Assets generation

It was evident from the table that training received had no significant effect on the dependent variable assets generation.

Risk orientation Vs Assets generation

Findings of the investigation showed a non-significant relation between risk orientation and assets generation, which means assets generation was not affected by the level of risk orientation of the tribal farmers.

Religious belief Vs Assets generation

Religious belief had negative and not-significant correlation with assets generation. Which means assets generation was not affected by the level of religious belief of the tribal farmers.

Credit orientation Vs Assets generation

Findings of the investigation showed a non-significant relation between credit orientation and assets generation, which means assets generation was not affected by the level of risk orientation of the tribal farmers.

Achievement motivation Vs Assets generation

Achievement motivation had a positive and significant correlation with assets generation, means if the person is motivated to achieve will have better assets generation. As mentioned earlier, it was observed

that the tribal farmers were not much exposed to successful enterprises and better livelihood sources outside their own situations, thus they tend to be low in setting their goals. The development agencies involved, should conduct activities like exposure visits, interaction sessions with progressive and successful farmers from similar conditions, so that the tribal farmers gets motivated to achieve. These findings are in accordance with the results of Dhanasree *et al.* [1].

Social support Vs Assets generation

Social support had positive and significant correlation with assets generation. It was obvious that with better support from different government agencies, NGO's and friends, the respondents could improve their chances of employment and income generation which may lead to the high assets generation, as their capacity as well as requirement for more assets will be there. The government agencies and NGOs should develop modules to enhance the credibility among tribal people towards development agencies.

Extension contact Vs Assets generation

Findings of the investigation showed a non-significant relation between Extension contact and assets generation, which means assets generation was not affected by the level of extension contact of the tribal farmers.

Mass media exposure Vs Assets generation

From the findings it was revealed that the independent variable mass media exposure was positively and significantly correlated with the dependent variable assets generation. This trend may be due to the fact that with sufficient exposure to mass media tools like, T.V, radio, kisan melas, ICT's, news paper and agricultural magazines, tribal people can learn about new tools and implements, better livestock and draft animal maintenance for which they will require more assets. As both of these independent and dependent variable were showing medium to low trend, measures should be initiated to improve the mass media exposure of tribal farmers *viz.*, kisan melas, target based television shows, community radio and strengthening of ICT tools which can provide good platform for improved mass media exposure among the tribal farmers. These findings are in accordance with the results of Islam *et al.* [2].

Ethnocentrism Vs Assets generation

There was a negative and significant correlation between ethnocentrism and the dependent variable, assets generation. Due to their high ethnocentric character, they lack cosmopolitanism, which lead to lack of knowledge about different assets they actually need. These findings are in accordance with the results of Prajapati *et al.* [6].

From the above all it could be stated that the tribal farmers with high profile characteristics like farm size, achievement motivation, social support and mass media exposure were shown high assets generation of sustainable livelihoods.

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