

CHAPTER - FIVE

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The present research entitled, study of Gond-Govari tribe in Deoli Taluka of Wardha District was conducted through the use of an interview schedule. Due to constraints of time and money, the researcher selected fifty respondents and collected various types of socio-economic data.

Occupational characteristics:

A large majority of the Gond-Govari (24 respondents 48 %) were found to be agricultural labourers, while (07 respondents 14 %) worked as saldar (annual servants). In other words insufficient wages and under-employment are the characteristics of majority of the Gond-Govari.

Those who are cultivators hold very less land (0-2 acres) which many a time is barren land. Jawar, Tur, Bajari, Til and Cotton crop are cultivated by a few (10 respondents 20 %) Gond-Govari families. Some families (03 respondents 06 %) are also working in ammunition factory located at Pulgaon.

It may be noted that in Wardha district which is mainly dry area and which has high Urban population, has the least agricultural population. Naturally, this is also reflected in the occupational characteristics of Gond-Govari.

Educational Characteristics:

There are hardly one or two schools in the tribal area. Majority of the schools have a single teacher. In Deoli taluka there are 98 primary school, 26 higher secondary schools, including 05 Junior Colleges and 02 Senior Colleges and one Industrial Training Institute (I.T.I.). A separate schedule was used by the researcher and 47 Primary Schools (Approximate 50 samples of the total schools), 23 Secondary Schools, 05 Junior Colleges, 02 Senior Colleges and one Industrial Training Institute (I.T.I.) were studied. It was observed that both boys and girls from this community have been going to Primary School. The percentage of Gond-Govari girls (52.46 %) studying in the Ist Standard is more than that of the Gond-Govari boys (46.54 %). In the IIInd Standard also the percentage of girls (55.56 %) was found to be more than the Gond-Govari boys. In the IIIrd Standard the percentage of boys (53.29 %) was more than that of the Gond-Govari girls in that class (46.71 %). In the IVth Standard the boys percentage was more than that of the Gond-Govari girls percentage.

The lesser number of girls in the IIIrd and IVth Standard may be due to female child labour and poor economic conditions of the Gond-Govari family. In the secondary classes that is in the Vth Standard and VIth Standard, surprisingly the girls percentage is more than that of the

Gond-Govari boys. In the VIIth standard the percentage of boys is slightly more than that of the Gond-Govari girls. In the higher standard the strength of the boys and girls goes on decreasing. This is mainly due to the reason that as the boys grow they have to shoulder economic responsibilities of the family, like grazing cattle, collecting gum, working as agricultural labourers looking after the younger children and so on. In the VIIIth to Xth standard the percentage of Gond-Govari girls further decreases considerably in comparison to that of the Gond-Govari boys.

In response to the question - Do you feel, that you should send the girls to school and educate them, most of the Gond-Govari said that they should be educated upto the Xth standard. This would help the girls to get better husbands but in practice their economic conditions force them to discontinue their education.

A total of 93 Gond-Govari students were observed to be studying in the XIth to XIIth standard in Arts, Science, and Commerce courses (Pre-university courses). This is a favourable trend in the educational development of the Gond-Govari contemporary generation.

From the above it can be seen that the modern educational institutions and the urban influence have been the reasons for change in the educational level and attitudes of the Gond-Govari.

Gond-Govari and the Influence of Hinduism:

Their beliefs practices, marriage, rituals, food habits, dress style and attitudes towards purity and pollution indicate influence of Hindu religion and castes. Their present life style and future trends may ultimately change the Gond-Govari (which at present is recognised as a scheduled tribe by the government) to a caste in the Hindu fold. This is the tribal rural process of change. The increasing educational or school going among the present generation and urban, industrial influence is likely to bring many cultural changes in the community.

1993 is being celebrated as the year of the indigenous people of the world. Indigenous people in the world number approximately three thousand million out of which about seventy million are Adivasis or indigenous people are in India. Most of the development that is taking in India is in the form of big dams, coal mines, iron mines and exploitation of the other minerals and raw materials. In the process the tribal people are being alienated from these resources namely land, forest, water etc. This has harmed their Identity which is a product of the economy identity as well as social and cultural identity.

If at all, identity of the Gond-Govari as a community is to be protected occupational and hence

economic rehabilitation is to be done, first and only then their cultural and social identity will be protected and maintained as an indigenous people. Only then we can claim our country as 'culturally pluralistic.

This does not mean that we have to stop development programmes and activities. But, the indigenous people needs and requirements, their social and cultural aspects and institutions have to be taken into consideration. Appropriate rehabilitation policies and programmes have to be included as a part and parcel of every development programme in the country. Only then we can protect their identity and culture of the Adivasis who are one of the earliest indigenous peoples of our country.

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