

CHAPTER SEVEN

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The present research entitled, Economy and Development Communication among the Gavalis of Uttara Kannada District in Karnataka was conducted through the use of Social Survey and Interview Schedule. Due to constraints of time and money the researcher selected 20 families from two Gavali Settlements purposively and collected various types of socio-economic data pertaining to the economy and society.

Gavalis have been a pastoral community and their history can be traced back to very early periods in Indian history. Gavalis have been semi-nomadic people, selecting and settling down at places in the far off slopes or tops of hills. They are in occasional contacts with the neighbouring villagers. The locality in which they establish their households influence their day-to-day life.

Gavalis for centuries together are drawing their subsistence through economic activities such as cattle and buffalo keeping, primitive agriculture, selling forest products, etc. Confined to their habitat construction of several Dams and Mineral extraction projects (INDAL) has made them to displace to forest areas of Karnatakas.

FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS :

The family type is found to be both of Nuclear and Joint in both these villages. In Jogiswarala we found 7 (35%) Nuclear families and 2 (10%) Joint families. In Kandrankoppa among 11 family respondents only 1 (5%) family is Joint and remaining 10 (50%) families is Nuclear.

OCCUPATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS :

A large majority of the Gavalis in both the villages 13 (65%) respondents were found to be Agricultural labourers. 4 (20%) respondents were found to be Agriculturists and 3 (15%) respondents are depend upon their traditional occupation i.e. Animal husbandry. It is to be noted that majority of the Gavalis depend upon the Agriculture Labour.

Majority of the Gavalis in these two villages i.e. Jogiswarala and Kandrankoppa have land between 2-4 acres, 10 (50%) families possess less fertile land. 1 (5%) family have 7-8 acres of land, 2 (10%) families hold 9 and above acres of land.

EDUCATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS :

There are hardly few schools in these tribal areas. Majority of schools have single teacher without proper facilities to children as well as for teacher. Christian Missionaries and their social workers are doing a good job of providing free education through day care centres & primary schools.

Gavalis poor situation in education is owing to their isolated settlements, have remained away from pursuing any formal education the Gavalis. Far off settlements and specific livelihood makes them interested in education of their children. Hence, the percentage of literacy and school going among Gavalis is extremely low.

One of the present village settlement/hamlet is called 'Jogiswarala'. It is 3 Kms. away from Mundgod which is totally insulated from outside contact. There is a Government primary school upto IVth standard which is poorly attended. Regarding their school problem it was realistically stated by a Gavali : "If there was teacher, there were no students and if there were students there was no teacher."

Absentee and drop-out problem is acute among the Gavali children the fact of the matter is that the parents have as many as five to seven children with very less age difference between successive children. As a result of their environment which is one of manual work, they need the services of the elderly siblings to look after the babies take the cattle to the forests for grazing, fetching water and bringing wood for cooking.

JOGISWARALA :

Jogiswarala settlement is at a distance of a 3 Kms. from Mundgod town and 57 Kms. from Hubli. It has a population of 70 persons. The Gavalis are

said to be the first settlers in the village and even today. Total Gavali families from this village with a population of 70 souls have also been taken for the present study. The villagers are mostly cultivators and pastoralists. The Gavalis having land mainly 2 to 3 acres. Among them 2 families have 7 to 8 acres of land and their traditional occupation is buffalo and cattle keeping and milk selling. Now it is more concerned with agriculture.

In this village electricity supply has come to a few houses, 2 families have Bicycles, 3 families have Radio, 2 families have Bullock-carts.

There is a lower primary school in Jogiswarala upto IVth std. which is run by Government of Karnataka from past 5 to 6 years. There is also a Primary and High school very close to the village run by Christian Missionaries name Ignitius Loyala. These institutions Head Office is in Kerala. The Chairman Fr. Simon Fredrick is running. Ashrama shala, Hostel for orphans, children since 15 years. A few of the Gavali children attend these schools.

Due to its isolated location the Jogiswarala Gavalis are very much afraid to send their children to school. They generally discourage their children to attend the school and instead send them to the forest with the animals. Many of the Gavalis in this village are landless labourers exploited by the Lamani liquor distillers and money lenders.

KANDRANKOPPA :

It is located 42 Kms. from Mundgod but is close to the state highway transport and communication facilities. On account of their higher land holding and contact with progressive farmers extension officials, urban contact, Christian missionaries and social workers they are comparatively much progressive than the Gavalis of Jogiswarala.

This study brings out the following observations for promoting Gavalis further development :

- i) Provision of forest land and improved agricultural technology to landless Gavalis.
- ii) Promotion of Dairy and Animal Husbandry as subsidiary economic activity.
- iii) Promotion of basic educational and health services.
- iv) Not to undertake any development programme which destroys the forest resources and eco-system of the Gavalis and finally.
- v) To promote balance between bringing their economic growth and conserving sustaining their forest resources.

CONCLUSION : Major observations pertaining to Jogiswarala and Kandrankoppa villages for promoting Gavalis development are also discussed. Following observations have been made in these two villages. Kandrankoppa Gavalis have come in contact with progressive farmers, urban contact and better exposure to mass media. Consequently they are more developed agriculturally and modernised in their attitudes towards education, health, agriculture and change. This study brings out the critical importance of mass media and development communication in promoting modernisation of values and attitudes and for enhancing economic growth and all round social development. After migration, Gavalis in Karnataka are found to be in a better state of Socio-economic development than some of their brethren in Maharashtra. The lessons that planners and implementers of development programmes need to remember is that economic growth programmes need to be balanced with conservation of natural resources..