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NOMADIC DOMBI DASA COMMUNITY OF KARNATAKA:

A Sociological Analysis of impact of education

Dr. S Srinivas

Assistant Professor

Government First Grade College, Annigeri, Karnataka - 582201

ABSTRACT

Education, to be complete, must be humane, it must include not only the training to the intellect but also the refinement of the hear and the discipline of the spirit. Therefore, education is required to everyone.

One such community is 'Dombi Das'. As this community wanders from place to place for the sake of livelihood, it is very difficult for the community to have better education. This community strives day in and out to get a meal a day. Thinking about the education of this community is still a dream.

This article focuses on the educational background and life cycle of Dombi community. As we know education brings overall development of the personality of the child, this community lacks such education. One of the big difficulties this community facing is communication as they migrated from Andhra Pradesh to Karnataka.

So, the NGOs and educational institutions and Governments have to take care of the community.

Key words: Dombi Das, Nomadic, Education, Communication, Migration etc

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Nomads are known as a group of communities who travel from place to place for their livelihood. Some are salt traders, fortune-tellers, conjurers, ayurvedic healers, jugglers, acrobats, actors, story tellers, snake charmers, animal doctors, tattooists, grindstone makers, or basket makers. Some anthropologists have identified about 8 nomadic groups in India, numbering perhaps 1 million people—around 1.2 percent of the country's billion-plus population. Aparna Rao and Michael Casimir estimated that nomads make up around 7% of the population of India.

The nomadic communities in India can be broadly divided into three groups hunter gatherers, pastoralists and the peripatetic or non-food producing groups. Among these, peripatetic nomads are the most neglected and discriminated social group in India. They have lost their livelihood because of drastic changes in transport, industries, production, entertainment, and distribution systems.¹ (Wikipedia). Similarly, some communities have been migrated to other

places from their origin. Dombidasa community has migrated to Karnataka for their survival from Andhra Pradesh.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

The Research Problem of the present study constitutes "**Nomadic Dombi Dasa Community of Karnataka: A Sociological Analysis of impact on education**". This community has migrated from Andhra Pradesh to Karnataka for their livelihood exhibiting their skills. The National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) data (2007–08) shows that the rate of migration in Karnataka is pegged at 38. There are vast differences among caste groups. 25.7 per cent is for the Scheduled Tribes (STs), 34 per cent for the Scheduled Castes (SCs), 41 per cent for the other backward classes (OBCs) and 38 per cent for others. Source: National Sample Survey (2007-08)³

Dombi Dasa community is well-versed in vedic knowledge. They don't have any religious guru to learn the vedic knowledge but they have gained this knowledge through observation. This knowledge helped them to get involved in enacting dramas. They are the devotees of Vishnu. They show the dramas in the society especially in rural areas begging money for their livelihood. Therefore, their occupation is placed under begging profession. Only a few of dombi dasa community involved in basket making. They are also working as agriculture labourer for low wages.

The interview conducted with the leaders of Dombi dasa by the media, indicates that, they belong to shudra community in ancient days. Till now in Andhra Pradesh, this community is under scheduled tribe but not in Karnataka. Majority of the young generation in this community is not able to get higher education just because of poverty. They have involved in petty businesses like selling plastic materials such as toys, balls and these businesses are entirely depended on fairs and festivals in different part of villages in Karnataka. Therefore, they are not able to provide proper education for their children and even all the family members have involved in the business. The income from this business is not sufficient to satisfy their daily breads. Some families have involved in repairing the musical instruments in their own places. Though they belong to Shudra as in ancient days, they have been considered as other backward community in Karnataka. As a result, they are not getting benefits from the government. The community has not been involved in political activities because of poor background. The observation has revealed the fact that, the overall life of Dombi community is in critical condition. They are being neglected by politicians and government. Therefore, a research study is essential to highlight the genuine problems being faced by this community. This study will be helpful for the government to chalk out plans and policies for the growth and development of community.

1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The following are the objectives of the research study. They are as follows:

1. To know the impact of education on children because of their migration

1.4 REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

The Indian tribal society is unique in nature. The economic condition of majority of tribal society in India is extremely poor. The social problems of Indian tribal society are poverty, poor health and sanitation, illiteracy etc. These problems have negative impact on their economic condition. These nomadic tribal communities are residing in various parts of India. India alone is estimated to have a nomadic population of at least 60 million (between 7-10% of the population) (National Convention, 2005 in Kratli&Dyer 2009).⁴

The nomadic communities are rich in their culture. They can be identified based on their culture. According to National Convention, 2005 and Kratli & Dyer, 2009, the community is facing a lot of social and economic problems such as extreme poverty, ignorance from outside world, early marriage, homeless and migratory life, illiteracy, superstitions, unemployment, lack of unity and political leadership, scattered groups, alcoholism, lack of civic amenities etc. Their lifestyles have progressively come under strain (Dutt 2004).⁵ Nomads have found it increasingly difficult to meet their basic requirements of shelter, security, livelihood etc. further, they have found extremely difficult to gain the acceptance of the societies they have chosen to settle down with. Therefore, we can say that the life of this nomadic community is in critical condition.

1.5 RESEARCH GAP:

The research study pertaining to nomadic community has been carried out by the researcher with special reference to the health sector. The research pertaining to Social and economic conditions of nomadic Dombidasa community has not been carried out by any researcher in Karnataka. Therefore, keeping this in mind, a researcher intends to carry out detailed Sociological research on Dombidas community in Karnataka. These Dombidas community are residing in three different villages namely Arjunwad, Kurni and Kotabagi of Hukkeri Taluka in Belgaum district of Karnataka State.

1.6 SCOPE OF THE STUDY:

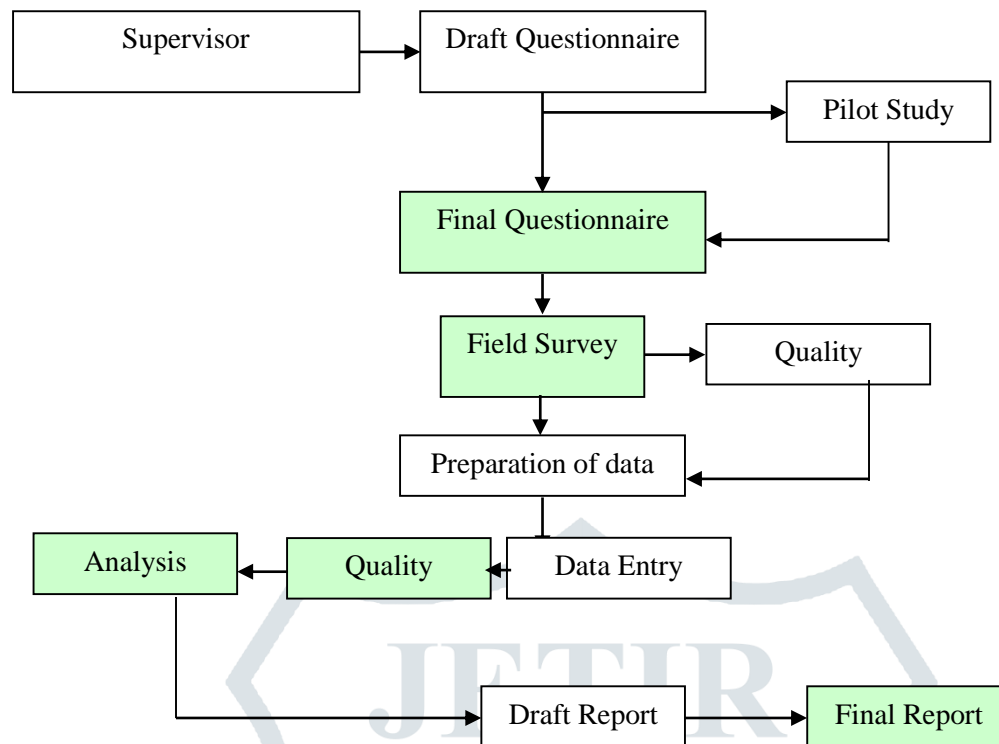
The present research study constitutes detailed investigation on socio-economic conditions of dombi dasa community. The study covers current socio-economic problems and the researcher also studies how the culture of the dombi dasa community is fast disappearing. This study will also include the remedies for educational problems for their children.

1.7 METHODOLOGY:

The present work is exploratory in nature and is based on the primary data collected from the personal visits among three villages. The researcher will try to get acquainted with community's problems. The participant observation method will also be followed to understand the problems of the community. Secondary data will be obtained from Planning and Statistical Department and Social Welfare Department. Most of the discussions and analysis work are based on primary data, field study, participation observation, video recording and investigations carried out by the authors at the field.



CHART 1: APPROACH TO THE STUDY



1.8 RELEVANCE OF THE PROJECT:

The study of Dombi dasa community in Karnataka has acquired a greater significance, after the community have not been included in the list of scheduled tribe. The dombi dasa community doesn't have basic amenities in their area because of poverty, therefore, they have got involved in various low wage-earning activities. This community is suffering from severe poverty and they have involved in selling the articles during village fairs and the income from the business is not sufficient to satisfy their basic needs. This is the main reason for gap in the education of younger generation. Therefore, the younger generation is continuing the same occupation held by their parents. This hurdles them to develop socially and economically. As a result, they are unable lead peaceful life in society. The findings of the study will be helpful to the sociologists, anthropologists, government of India and voluntary organisations, which intend to introduce new development activities. This will also help in assisting the Karnataka State Government to prepare an action plan for the developmental activities for this community. It will also benefit the respondents to place their unsolved/unresolved problems before the Government to address the emerging concerns and issues of the community.

1.9 EDUCATIONAL STATUS:

In this study an attempt is made to analyse the education system and the impact of education on Dombi Das Community. Educational level of the respondents, parents, attending the school by children, donation for the admission, coaching classes, reasons for sending children

to tuitions, medium of education, educational level of the respondents' children and supervision of the study have been analysed and their impact on the life style of Dombi Das community was considered in this section. The following tables consist of the educational level of the respondents' parents.

Table – 1
Educational level of the respondent's father

Father		
Education	Frequency	Percentage
Illiterate	181	90.5
Upto – IV	02	1.0
V – VII	12	6.0
VIII-X	05	2.5
Total	200	100

The above table -1 reveals the fact that, out of 200 respondents, 90.5 per cent of the respondents' fathers are illiterate. With this it is inferred that the Dombi das community are illiterate and they entirely depend on their street drama and the drama during rural fairs. Only one per cent of respondents' father has received education upto to IV Standard. 6.0 per cent of the respondents' fathers have received education from V to VII standard.

Table-2
Education level of the respondents' mother

Mother		
Education	Frequency	Percentage
Illiterate	190	95
Upto – IV	04	2.0
V – VII	04	2.0
VIII-X	02	1.00
Total	200	100

The table-2 reveals that the educational level of the respondents' mother was very low. Out of 200 respondents, 95.0 per cent of the respondents' mothers are illiterate. This shows that much importance is not given to women education and so, they are confined within the four walls. 2.0 per cent of respondents' mothers are educated upto to VII standard. Only 1.0 per cent of the respondents' mothers have received the education from VIII to X standard.

Table-3
Children are attending to schools

Sl No.	Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	55	27.5
2	No	145	72.5
	Total	200	100

The Table -3 provides the clear picture about whether the parents educate their children or not. To know this, the question is framed whether their children are attending schools or not. It reveals the fact that out of 200 respondents. 27.5 per cent of the respondents' children are attending schools. Only 72.5 per cent of the replied that, their children are not attending schools. Only a few numbers of the children are receiving education. It can be concluded that, the attitude of the parents towards their children education is negative, because of their profession and inevitable. The intention of the respondents is that the children should develop at least the attitude of writing and reading.

Table-4
Donations for the admissions

SI No.	Education	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	35	17.5
2	No	165	82.5
	Total	200	100

The above table-4 indicates that, out of 200 respondents, majority of the respondents that is 82.5 per cent replied that they have not given donation to seek admissions in the schools and colleges. Only 17.5 per cent of the respondents have given donation to seek admissions in private schools and colleges. This shows that the parents are interested to provide education to their children irrespective of its cost. Their intention is that the children should get high education level in the society.

Table-5
Opinion about the issue of language

SI No.	Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	178	89.0
2	No	22	11.0
	Total	200	100

The above table-5 indicates the issue of language problem for their children. Nearly 90 per cent of their children are facing the problem of language during their education, because their mother tongue is Telugu and they are origin of Andhra Pradesh. Initially, their children struggle a lot to understand the regional language.

Table-6

Education level of the respondents' children

SI No.	Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
1	Illiterate	364	40.05
2	Upto IV std	120	13.20
3	V to VII Std	205	22.55
4	VIII to X Std	153	16.83
5	PUC	32	3.52
6	Graduation	26	2.86
7	Post Graduation	02	0.22

8.	Any other	07	0.77
	Total	909	100

The table 4 indicates the educational level of the respondents' children. In the field study it was found that 40.05 per cent of children are illiterate, 13.20 per cent are educated upto IV std, 22.55 per cent between V to VII Std, 3.52 per cent upto PUC, 2.86 and 0.22 per cent upto Graduation and Post Graduation level respectively. Only a few candidates are found in Diploma and other courses like JOC and ITI, this 0.77 percent. The above concludes that the education level of the Dombi Das community is not so high.



Table -7
Reasons for sending to tutions

SI No.	Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
1	Children are weak in study	57	28.5
2	Teachers are not teaching well in class	4	2
3	Individual care is not possible	4	2
4	Language problem	135	67.5
	Total	200	100

The above table-7 reveals the fact that, among the 200 respondents, many of the respondents that is nearly 68 percent of children have faced the problem of language. Due to this, the education is incomplete and they are in a critical position. Only 2.0 per cent of the children faced the problem of non-availability of good and competent teachers. 28.0 per cent of the children faced the problem of individual care, which is not possible due to overcrowding in the classrooms.

1.10 FINDINGS

The following are findings of the above study. They are as follows

1. Majority of respondent parents are illiterate
2. The attendance of the children in the school is poor, because of the migration of their parents.
3. Majority of children are studying in government schools.
4. Communication is a big hurdle for the children to grow up.
5. The education level of the Dombi Das community is not so high.
6. Monitoring the children by the parents are quite difficult.

1.11 SUGGESTIONS

1. It is necessary to conduct the awareness programmes to parents about the importance of education.
2. Special awareness campaign is to be conducted for the children belonging to Dombi das community.
3. The issue of language can be solved slowly because the mother tongue of Dombi das community is Telugu because the Telugu language resembles Kannada language.
4. NGO and Government should chalk out the action plan for this community.

REFERENCES:

1. Wikipedia
2. Karnataka State Gazetteer
3. National Sample Survey Organization
4. Kratli & Dyer, 2009

