



TRANSITIONS IN TRIBAL LIFE: A CROSS CASE ANALYSIS ON SCHEDULED MANNAN TRIBES OF IDUKKI DISTRICT IN KERALA.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Mannan tribes of Idukki District, being one of the scheduled tribes in India is one of the most backward and unrecognised tribes of the state. Multiple researches were carried out on the anthropology, economic situation, nutritional profile and the transmission of their culture. A cross case analysis is conducted on the transitional phase of the tribes to gather a greater sense of the wide literatures published and to derive at a meaningful conclusion on their current and projected socio- economic and political state.

The studies conducted by Dr. Sunil TK [*Socio economic conditions of tribes in Idukki district with special reference to 'mannan' and 'oorali' tribal groups in the district*] and Dr Clara M. A [*Tribal life in transition- The Case of Mannans and Uralies of Periyar Tiger Reserve in Idukki District.*]. is cross analysed to examine the similarities and patterns in their advance both culturally and economically.

KEYWORDS:

Scheduled Tribes, Mannan, Adivasi, Aborigines,

INTRODUCTION

Cross-case analysis is a research technique that simplifies the comparison of commonalities and variance in the actions, events, and processes that are the elements of analyses in case studies. Despite an excess of case studies in the social science works and filed away on web sites, very rare literatures are effectively used again by researchers. The knowhow rooted within the vast quantity of case studies in the grounds of education and sociology remains comparatively inactive. In this article, we analyse the researches directed by authors using cross-case analysis as an instrument for mining prevailing case studies so that information from cases can be put into service for bigger purposes.

REVIEW OF RELEVANT LITERATURE

ANOOJA CHACKO(2018) studied the level of forest dependence of the mannan community with relation to deforestation, income and their livelihood practices. Observations were made on the impact of modern lifestyles on the community which inversely affected their lifestyle. The social evils such as alcoholism, chewing paan, dowry, land leasing etc. was brought into the community which gradually turned out to be the reason for distress sale off land and dissolution of certain families. The

people who depended on forest resource collection for a living had to turn their backs to the traditional form of life and this resulted in clearing of large areas of forests and cultivation of cash crops which attracts a lot of synthetic insecticides and chemical fertilizers, thereby destroying the forest ecosystem and their chance of getting back to their traditional way of life.

Clara M.A (2009) Have noticed the change in anti social behaviour of the tribes to that of an organised communal trust within the society, especially among the youngsters of the tribe. She has pointed out the different initiatives they have put together to impose a sense of belongingness among the younger generation towards their ethnic group.

The awareness of their cultural uniqueness has resulted in much organised coming together of youngsters and also with their social behaviour towards outsiders such as forest departments, NGOs and other welfare initiatives, tourists and volunteers which have impacted their attitude and behaviour towards outsiders tremendously.

The economic practices of Mannans and Paliyans in present day and in the past many belong to multiple levels of economy. The occasion of "general economy" and "restrictive economy" is a site of hybridisation. These systems came to effect in their social life with advances and more intense negotiations with the market system. Ethnographic instances as noted in his thesis are evident elsewhere in documents, memories, imagination, and conversations emphasizing the stresses and pressures in the hybrid economy. Dr. M Suresh(2008).

METHODS OF THE STUDY

Multiple case study analysis approaches and techniques are available to the researcher, depending on the study and the type of data. RAGIN (1997) for example delineates between variable and case-oriented research as two approaches to cross-case comparisons. In variable-oriented research, variables take center stage; that is, the outcome observed in the cases varies across observations and causes appear to compete with one another. The cases are selected in advance with an eye toward randomness or the degree to which they represent the general population. The goal is to explain why the cases vary. Variable-oriented approaches to cross-case analysis are a challenge to conduct because fair comparisons are difficult to achieve and the multitude of factors that are associated with social phenomena are often too numerous to disentangle. In case-oriented research, commonalities across multiple instances of a phenomenon may contribute to conditional generalizations (MILES & HUBERMAN, 1994). The researcher can thus demonstrate that the outcomes in the cases selected are in fact enough alike to be treated as instances of the same thing. The central question of interest to the case-oriented researcher is in what ways the cases are alike. Therefore, special emphasis is given to the case itself instead of on variables across cases.

In this study, several variable-oriented and case-oriented approaches that are applicable to cross-case analysis are discussed by drawing upon the more extensive reviews of these approaches by GEORGE and BENNETT (2005) and MILES and HUBERMAN (1994). For variable-oriented cross-case analyses, several well-known research techniques include: MILLS' Methods, Case Survey, and Before-After research design. For case-oriented cross-case analyses, several well-known techniques include: Most different design, Typologies, Multicase Methods, and Process-tracing.

DATA COLLECTION: TWO INDIVIDUAL CASE STUDIES

CASE 1: *Socio economic conditions of tribes in Idukki district with special reference to 'mannan' and 'oorali' tribal groups in the district.*

DATA COLLECTION METHOD

Dr. Sunik T K points out that the total strength of Mannan families are 2426 in number and have an aggregate population of 9064. Male population number 4443 and female 4621. While there are 1894 families in the Oorali community with a population of 6823. The male population number 3478 and female 3345. The sample selection is made at in Idukki district. The researcher selected nine hundred families, five hundred from the Mannan and four hundred from the Oorali tribal families in seven Block Panchayaths in Idukki district. Probability sampling technique such as simple random and systematic random sample technique were employed for selecting the same for the detailed study.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

It was found that the living conditions of the Mannan and the Oorali tribes in the study area are miserably poor. Almost all of them are living in unhygienic and unstable huts with inadequate space and privacy. In Mannan families, 27.2 per cent of the youngsters have to bridge a distance from 2.5 km to 5 km. Children have to travel long distances and that too through dense forests to reach these institutions. This poses grave danger to their security. So, most of them are forced to take abode with their relatives to prosecute their studies.

CASE 2: Tribal life in transition- The Case of Mannans and Uralies of Periyar Tiger Reserve in Idukki District.

DATA COLLECTION METHOD

Primary and secondary data was necessary for the present study. Primary data includes the data collected from the extensive field work which includes information from personal and group interviews with the tribals. Secondary data including government documents, reports, and published articles and ethnographic studies are consulted. Extensive and informal dialogues are taken for obtaining the qualitative data to substantiate the quantitative data.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

We find changes in the agricultural practices that come to have substantial effect on tribal population. Although they were cultivating commercial crops they did not benefit much out of it, as the market was controlled by middlemen who amassed profit at the cost of the tribal communities. Middlemen who goes to the tribal hamlets and offer certain amount of money in advance, to those who are in need. Those who received such money would be forced to sell their entire produce to the money lenders. The middlemen harvest the crop, process it and sell it in the market realising a huge profit. This became a repetitive practice in tribal hamlets. Because of the financial insecurity the tribals could not think of any other alternatives.

CROSS-CASE FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Cross-case analysis empowers case study researchers to outline the grouping of aspects that may have underwritten to the results of the case, pursue or construct an clarification as to why one case is unlike or the identical as others, make logic of mystifying or exclusive findings, or further articulate the notions, hypotheses, or theories exposed or constructed from the novel case. Cross-case analysis enhances researchers' capacities to comprehend how associations may exist among distinct cases, gather knowledge from the original case, improve and advance on concepts.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

While may researchers who propose that cross-case analysis can improve a researcher's input to theory and technique, there are others who are less positive about associating cases. Counter-arguments shoot from an epistemic opinion that case acquaintance emerges from a solid descriptive study of the accuracies of a case. To begin to lessen the pressures among idiographic and nomothetic

research traditions, case study researchers must recollect their initial goals for the cross-case analysis, for example: further illustration, concept and hypothesis development, prediction, and empathic portrayals. Few limitations are listed below.

- This study fails to preserve the uniqueness of the two different cases to a certain extent.
- Contextual stripping might have happened while the data was getting analysed.
- Selection of cases were based on the availability of them.

CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

With the implementation of eco-development project there evolved new spaces of interaction between tribals and Forest Department. Similarly there evolved new forms of relationships among the tribal people themselves. The interaction with NGOs working in the field of social development in the tribal areas also has created a situation of dynamic interaction between tribals and non tribals. Interaction with tourists has opened up new forms of generating income and the close association with the tourists gave opportunity to familiarise with new cultures.

In spite of all that have been said and done, the condition of the tribal population as a whole in the Idukki District is quite pathetic and deplorable even today. Various reasons have been given for this tragic state. The dire fact is that there is no co-ordination among the various agencies constituted for tribal development and welfare. They refuse to accept the fact that they have failed to achieve the objectives for which these institutions have been founded. Each one blames another one for the shortcomings in the implementation of the schemes and dare not admit its own failure

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