

A Study on Changes of Tribal's Natural Vegetation in Nilgiris District

M. Roja¹, Dr. N. Mani²

¹Ph. D Scholar, PG and Research Department of Economics, Erode Arts and Science College (Autonomous), Rangampalayam, Erode – 638 009, TamilNadu, India

²Ph.D, Associate Professor, PG and Research Department of Economics, Erode Arts and Science College (Autonomous), Rangampalayam, Erode – 638 009, TamilNadu, India

Abstract: *Natural vegetation in Nilgiris where prelude the Spatial Distribution which is pertains to the settlement of land, such as slope, Geo morphology, winter effects etc., their periodical growth and cultural, socio economic background was determined in terms of resource utilization, change of Geographical identities due to construction work, natural calamities, Nilgiri district has been predominantly existence of natural resources which belonged to Western Ghats in Tamil Nadu. During British Legacy, the Governance was prelude by the British rulers Headquarters and most of tribes were Tea Estates laborers from Sri Lankan Migrants. Secondly, the fiscal measures on development works had been undertaken for Dams, Forest. This paper highlights the people's occupancy, distribution in order to understand the livelihood characteristics and practices of the past two decades.*

Keywords: Tribal communities in Nilgiri district

1. Introduction

The natural vegetation and spatial distribution of population is one of the major elements of geography. It is significant because man has brought tremendous change over the earth surface. The tribal community's origin, domicile of soil, living status, occupation, cultural fitness are the major components of spatial distribution in every mountain based Geographical parts. In Tamil Nadu state, Nilgiri district is one of the districts with unique features of tribal communities who occupied and engaged for their survival which belonged to natural resources and environmental concern. The spatial distribution for tribal population leads to sequence range of development in accordance with the Government programs; Such as HADP, NHRC for health and water shed development, Hydraulics power Generation, reservoir constructions. This type of developmental aspects would aroused, how they manage for their spatial issues on land use pattern and livelihoods. Therefore, the location of tribal hamlets is equally distributed according to their livelihood operations and land use pattern in the hill zone. This paper is describes that decadal growth and paradigm shift on occupational category which decides the pattern of spatial distribution of tribal people in selected blocks of Nilgiri district.

2. Study Area

The Nilgiri district is located in the North West direction of Tamil Nadu state. The name Nilgiri derives from the Neel means (blue) and Giri means (mountains) and The Sanskrit name "Nilgiris" means Blue Mountains and in Tamil it denotes Neelamalai. The district is a hilly area with 2549 sq. kms and it has found 11⁰10'N and 11⁰30' N latitude and between 76⁰25'E and 77⁰40' E longitudes. It has made of plateaus, landforms, with numerous perennial streams and equitable climate. The district total population are 735394 and 360143 male 375251 female populations respectively. It is surrounded by the Coimbatore District in eastern side of

Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka State of western and northern sides respectively. Eastern and Western Ghats has in this district.

3. Statement of the Problem

The natural vegetation is meant for that pattern and geographical structures have determined on the basis of water supply in the surface and the force and existence of slope based distribution of route, plants growth, flora and fauna etc.,. It has relevance to natural resources and living patterns and feasible in which sustainable growth in future and design or structural modify by Government in order to maintain infrastructure; such as fiscal policy implementation for decadal change or growth, in this context, tribal people's occupancy of land (or) dwelling parts have classified into livelihood operation cultural fitness, occupational background natural resources utilisation have formulates for their living background. It was emerged before independence either their migration, decadal growth of socio - economic background along with government intervention programmes. It perhaps, the spatial distribution was formulated in order to analyse occupational background practiced and designed by government with utilisation of natural resources among the tribal community. In particular, Toda, Kota, Kurumba, Irula, Paniya and Kattunaika are predominant in the selected blocks of Nilgiri District. Is there any relevance with the preservation of natural resources where assigned by the tribal in terms of spatial distribution of natural resources? Is there any cause with their livelihood pattern and responsible by forestry department?

What are the changes of developmental aspects with relevance to spatial distribution, among tribal community? Hence, this paper makes an attempt to find out the solution for paradigm shift on economic aspects with relevance to occupational category of tribal growth in order to maintained spatial distribution of Tribal population in Nilgiris district.

Objectives

- To analyze the socio - economic background of tribal people.
- To examine the occupational categories of tribal people with change of Natural Vegetation.
- To study the involvement of Natural resources preserved by tribal people in the study area.

Scope

Tribal people’s involvement with livelihood operation are directly associated with environmental premises and spatial distribution for requirement on sharing natural resources. The government policies implemented on the basis of fulfillment of amenities which were allocated to all sections of the people. Therefore, tribal group’s contribution is required for changing pattern of living status and preservation of forest premises with mountain based zone.

Therefore, chronological development, paradigms shift on occupational background will be observed by the geographical concern and government policy adoption. Thus, changing pattern of life style and livelihood operations where leads to paradigm shift on employment are need of hour.

4. Methodology

This study is basically from descriptive cum observation with empirical in nature. This seeks to examine the living status and livelihood premises on tribal which relates to spatial distribution of surface structures. Primary data was collected from the selected block’s tribal for both forest and revenue villages. The collected data were analysed through SPSS.

Table 1: Distribution of Age with Gender in Nilgiri District

S. No	Age of respondents in Years	Gender of Respondent					
		Male	In %	Female	In %	Total	In %
1	below 20	14	12.07	6	10	20	11.36
2	21 - 30	21	18.11	21	35	42	23.86
3	31 - 40	29	25	19	31	48	27.27
4	41 - 50	31	26.72	7	11.66	38	21.59
5	above 50	21	18.11	7	11.66	28	15.90
	Total	116	100	60	100	176	100

Source: Primary Data - 2023

Age is prescribed for matured stage and decision making power for every citizen. The component and parameter of spatial distribution for tribal’s where identified and settled with economic and social tool is “age”. It has observed every past events and incidents were related to their survival fitness and amenities where there is emerged with subsequent observation for life dynamic. In this context,

65% of them male respondents who covered the age category of 41 - 50 years and 35% of the female respondents who covered the age category of 21 - 30 years. It is inferred that mostly they are observed about their origin, land shape which is they residing and socio economic background are explained aware level.

Table 2: Natural vegetation

Nilgiri	Fallow land	%	Medium Forest	%	Open Forest	%	Very Dense Forest	%	Scrub	%	Water	%	Total	%
Kattunaikan	13	11.82	4	6.25	23	21.90	1	1.96	0	0	0	0	41	12.23
Kota	4	3.64	0	0	2	1.91	1	1.96	0	0	0	0	7	2.08
Paniya	15	13.64	11	17.18	29	27.62	5	9.80	1	33.33	0	0	61	18.20
Irula	18	16.36	17	26.56	19	18.09	9	17.64	0	0	0	0	63	18.80
Kurumba	24	21.81	22	34.37	30	28.57	16	31.37	2	66.67	0	0	94	28.06
Toda	36	28.18	10	15.62	2	1.91	19	37.25	0	0	2	100	69	20.60
Total	110	100	64	100	105	100	51	100	3	100	2	100	335	100

Source - Primary data 2023

In Nilgiri district the tribal settlement is found in Fallow land were found Kattunaikan, Kota, Paniya, Irula and Kurumba in the region has covered 11.82, 3.64, 13.64, 16.36, 21.81 and 28.18 percentages each respectively. In medium forest were found Kattunaikan, Paniya, Irula and Kurumba in the region has covered 6.25, 17.18, 26.56, 34.37 and 15.62 percentages each respectively. There is an absence of Kota settlements in Fallow land areas. In Open Forest were found Kattunaikan, Kota, Paniya, Irula and Kurumba in the region has covered 21.90, 1.91, 27.62, 18.09, 28.57 and 1.91 percentages each respectively. In Very Dense

Forest were found Kattunaikan, Kota, Paniya, Irula and Kurumba in the region has covered 1.96, 1.96, 9.80, 17.64, 31.37 and 37.25 percentages each respectively. In Scrub were found Paniya, and Kurumba in the region with 33.33 and 66.67 percentages each respectively. There is an absence of Kattunaikan, Kota; Irula and Toda settlements in Scrub areas. In near water were found Paniya, and Kurumba in the region with 33.33 and 66.67 percentages each respectively. There is an absence of Kattunaikan, Kota, Irula and Toda settlements in near water areas.

Table 3: Factor Analysis

Variable	Variables	Factor 1 Loadings	Factor2 Loadings	Factor3 Loadings
7	Occupation current	0.970	-	-
8	Occupation Before 10 years	0.977	-	-
11	Agriculture land before 10 years	0.766	-	-
12	Agriculture land at present	0.920	-	-
4	Name of tribe	-	- .246	-
5	Permanent Domicile of village	-	- .210	-
13	income Vegetable - before 10 year	-	0.758	-
14	income Vegetable - At present	-	0.415	-
15	Income from spices - Current	-	-	0.816
16	Income from spices - before 10 years	-	-	0.639
17	Wage at present	-	-	0.594
18	Wage before 10 years	-	-	2.92
20	Disease affected	-	-	2.003
21	Treatment taken	-	-	2.336
	<i>Eigen value</i>	3.219	1.131	0.966
	<i>% of variance</i>	15.329	5.387	4.598
	<i>Cumulative %</i>	15.329	35.374	45.151

Source: Primary Data - 2023

The major component which determines that change of occupation with shifting their location is depends upon the existence of natural vegetation. It perhaps interchanged with location either migration (or) encroach by government due to developmental sector works where carried out within this duration. Therefore, ultimate influence (or) effects may have ascertained by gradual increase of their income (or) sudden shift of occupation. Basically, their income sources depend on natural with seasonal variations. In case forest department will decide to extend whether they have to provide livelihood sources to the tribals. In this regard, the major infrastructure development will be implemented by the government in the mountain region, such as, road and bridge construction, reservoir - revamp or new type of Cannel, slopes have streamlined for forest development, dam construction etc. The total spatial structure of the surface would reshape with maintenance work. There is no major constructive works were carried out in this decade. The livelihood operations and occupational status itself decide about the spatial distribution on tribal communities in Nilgiri district. Table shows the factor loading results were influenced according to the weight age of parallel increased (or) decreased on occupational shift (or) changed in the particular region. Whereas, the tribal's domicile of soil has belonged birth place as major level (factor loading 2, - 0.210, Eigen value 1.13) which observed that there is no interrupted (or) mismatched with nature of tribe and birth place is not immigrant. The irrespective characteristics of birth place; their occupational category was not changed. Secondly, agriculture has been gradually increased and its parallel source of income also increased according to the duration of commodity value (factor 3, .816, Eigen value .966.) the wage rate also positively increased at significant level (0.594 to 2.92) Therefore, the livelihood operations and occupational categories are remaining exist, there is no change. There is no impact or affecting factor on spatial distribution where pertains to the occupational category of people and tribal hamlet which is prescribed by the forest.

5. Discussion

The paradigm shift on occupational status, economic background on the people in civil society, environmental perspectives are the major components and integral parts of spatial distribution. Hence, the surface of land which is occupied for a particular group of social class (or) economically sound in terms of business background will become a strong (or) permanent residentship. But, in mountain based living status are unable to predict for permanent settlement where there is a resident structures, especially tribal occupied zones. In this context, the observation of this study reveals that occupational background is a pillar of residentship which is pertaining to the spatial distribution of Tribals in Nilgiri district.

Based on the market value, Government policy towards fiscal measures need based assessment on people's welfare and provisions, launched various schemes were applicable for the livelihood operations on tribal people and their income source. Mostly, wages and agricultural works and cultivation practices are increased.

6. Conclusion

This study shows and reflects towards tribal people livelihood, migration, cultural norms and fitness, occupational status, changes on occupational categories (interstate migration within this decade) are not contradictory on their living status. The decadal growth is similar to the competition of life, security and economic viability. Besides, there is no encroachment (or) major project implementation which leads land shift, major construction. This much of major construction works results shifting people from existing place to selected place for resident ship. But, there was no major shifting which comes under construction work. On the whole, the paradigm shift on occupational categories was no major change among tribal communities in the selected blocks of Nilgiri district.

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