

Livelihood and food security of some PVTG in Jharkhand

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Introduction

- Tribes are considered as most food insecure communities in India
- Tribes are not homogeneous settled cultivators / nomadic / denotified tribes / artisans / PVTGs forest dependent and having low levels of technology / literacy levels and so on
- The vulnerabilities / access to resources / livelihood support system /issues are different
- Settled cultivator Tribals have diversified means of livelihood that includes farming , withdrawal from forest , rearing of small ruminants/wage labour , migration
- There is seasonality in the livelihood options so are food security levels

- There are many definitions of Food security
- Narrow definition has been used in the present study : absence of involuntary hunger
- Food secure HH are those who are able to meet their perceived need of food items/ partially food insecure are those who are able to meet for more than half the need of the most of the time and fully insecure are those who are not able to meet their food needs most of the times month
- Livelihood security and food security are linked / vulnerable and insecure livelihoods lead to food insecurity .

Food accessibility/entitlements

- Own production
- Exchange entitlements
- Entitlements by the state

Four A's Availability /accessibility / Absorption / Awareness

Own production, collection from CPR

- Majority of the tribal farmers small and marginal continuous
- Rise in population
- They have a diversified means of livelihood, dependence on CPR is high
- Only 12% area irrigated
- Low cropping intensity
- Erratic monsoon
- Low productivity
- Soil degradation, deficiency of macro nutrients, acidity
- 60% upland only around 40% low land
- Poor access to institutional credit, lack of education
- Low productivity in animal keeping

Exchange entitlements

- Low price for the products including forest produce as they are without processing
- Interlocking of markets and distortions
- Low wages, wages even with migration is only at subsistence level as migration from rural areas primarily in unskilled sector

Present study

- Study is on two PVTGs namely Savars and Birhors
- There are eight identified PTGs in Jharkhand
- Findings based on the study of 50 hh in 3 hamlets each of Birhor and Savars
- Savars are primarily settled in E.Singhbhum of Jharkahnd almost within 40 Kms of the industrial Hub of Jamshedpur
- Birhors are scattered in many districts of the State
- FGDs/ Schedules used survey conducted during three seasons of 2013-14 and 2016 March
- Primarily Qualitative findings

Sample villages

Village Savars	Neighborhood community	Birhors		
Butgora	Santal	Demotanr	OBC /Yadav	Semi urban
Pora	Santal/Mahto	Omanburu	Munda	Forest
tangrain	Santal/ Mahto	Birhor Tola/Katkamsa ndi	Mahto /PBC	Partly forest

Livelihoods

Savars

Seasonality in the livelihoods

- Major is selling of fuel wood
- Have IAY houses
- Agriculture work during transplantation and harvesting
- Collection of forest produce / very few families had small ruminants and birds hen and so on
- Only four HH have some land less than ½ acres / forest land
- Women Broom making / mats /dona pattal
- Worst time May /June/ July Excessive heat / rainfalls and September/cold

Changes

- Fall in Bamboo, work for making baskets / coupe transferred to contractors
- Collection of honey has declined
- Forest produce has also declined
- They do not migrate /

Birhor

- 11 out of 50 did some cultivation
- 40% went to the forest catching birds / rabbit sometimes killing banned items like Deer / catch mongoose /also medicinal herbs
- Driver 2 , Four regular government job in Class IV
- Casual wage workers / 3 reported migrating more exposed than Savars

- Women rope making by cement plastic bags
- Earlier it was from forest creepers access declined due to forest laws
- Settled from forest villages to periphery urban areas Demotanr and Birhor Tola / given some barren land not
- Have IAY houses
- Very few have small ruminants
- Seasonality in livelihoods

Food gaps

	Savars		Birhors	
Items	Actual C	Required	Actual C	Required
Rice	59.5	75	63.6	70
Pulses	0.3	2	0.2	2
Potato	1.74	4.23	1.2	5
Meat / eggs	0.81	2.74	1.4	3

Sources of Food Savars

Food items	Own production	market	State Entitlement	
Rice	5%	55%	40%	
Pulses		100%		
Vegetables	6%	94%		
Potato		100%		
Meat /Egg	8%	92%		

Sources of Food Birhors

Food items	Own production	Market	State
Rice	15%	69%	16%
Pulses	5%	95%	
Meat / eggs	25%	75%	
Potato		100%	

Food security

- Only 5 of the Savar families reported that they had enough food through out the year they had some land from where they could produce, when they have money they have meat /eggs and rice also liquor
- Rest 45 had scarcity almost through out the year worst days And worst months
- Birhor families 18 families reported that they had no food gaps but other families had some gap in some months regular employment / some cultivation
- Mechanisms for food restrictions for pregnant and lactating women

Threats / Exclusions Savars

- Considered as thieves / lazy / non reliable / dirty/ low credibility
- Drought results in fall in agriculture wages and work
- Inflation has reduced the consumption of Dals / meat
- Market for fuel and other products dominated by petty traders
- Exclusions by neighborhood community in terms use of forest conservation by neighborhood community even if they are tribals / have to travel long distances / deliberately wages are kept low /
- Effects of LWE and conflicts reduce their frequency of forest visits
- State entitlements Anganwari situated in other tola / last 6 months no grains have been received under PDS as new ration cards are being prepared / pensions are irregular

Birhors insecurity/Issues

- Irregular catch of birds / animals / threat of forest officials being caught also the animal protection movements
- LWE both police and naxals use them as informers movements
- Dominant community practices exclusions prohibiting access
- Govt policy shifting them out of forest
- Considered as cattle thieves / monkey eaters some had to leave schools due to the attitude of both students and teachers belonging to

Coping mechanisms when they lack food

- Normal food is Rice /Marh or Rice salt little of some vegetable say potato
- Reducing frequency of consumption from three times to two times to once for adults
- Reducing the quality putting more water in the rice /more edible leaves / moving to roots / tubers the availability has declined
- Children given preferences
- Sold livestock /small ruminants distress sale
- Food credit for a day or two against their assetsmainly

Problems in State entitlement

- None given Forest Rights
- Ration cards
- ICDS / MDM and pensions

Suggestions

- In short run the PDS is very crucial for mitigating the gap as well as seasonality for the communities in the short run
- In long run stabilization of livelihoods
- It has important implications for conservation also

Thanks

For your Attention