

Economic Participation and contribution of Kandha Tribal Women in Daily life: Study among the Kandha Tribe of Kandhamal, Odisha

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Introduction

The social life of Kandha particularly the women is conditioned and socialized through their age old tradition as well as eco-cultural setting of the area. The Kandha usually involved in various activities relating to land, Horticulture, Kitchen garden and forest etc. The women folk are mostly involved freely in such activities to fulfill the socio-economic requirement of their family. Their work is most disciplinary and systematic. They labour hard from dawn to dusk without feeling any retirement. However inside the society they look below to the status of their male counterpart.

Obviously, it is believed that, agriculture is a man's occupation similarly the economy of the family rested on the male. The authoritative management and decision making are also reveals man dominancy. It is also religious sphere the Kandha females are looked down upon but in totality it is observed that, the role of women in all such spheres in no way insignificant to their male counterpart, here my observation goes to this extent.

1. Women are more laborious and systematic in organizing social life.
2. Women never feel weaker or deprived so far as the family is concerned.
3. Due to influence of modernity women are most exposed to the outside world in mixing with other people.
4. Their social life is such that makes them free to do different work outside their family.

The Kandha were shy that they always keep themselves away from the population. They mainly depend upon ploughing in the agricultural field. The Kandha women also participate with the male in agricultural work. The Kandha women believed in superstition till now. The Kandha women are very afraid of modernization. Their cheap food is boiled rice and horse gram dal (*Kolatha Dal*).

The Study Area and the People:

For the study, The Phulbani block of Kandhamal district is selected. Most of the information and data were collected from many villages. The Kandhas are one of major tribe of Orissa. They are found concentrated in district of Kandhamal, Kalahandi, Koraput, Ganjam, Boudh, Nayagarh and Gajapati. They are also found scattered here and there in the district Sambalpur and Bolangir their chiefly concentrated

in Kandhamal district which the nomenclature suggests and their original reside of Kandhamal district.

Methods and Techniques:

The primary data was collected canvassing the household survey, focused group discussions, interview with male and female, informants and Government officials at Phulbani Block of Kandhamal District. Secondary data was also collected from ICDS centers, primary and secondary schools, B.D.O office, journals, government records, books of local authors, internet etc.

In modern days the Kandha women mix with the people of the town freely. The living style of Kandha women is now very changed and they also very smart and clever. The Kandha women mixed with the people of town then influenced by their dress pattern, food habit and life style. In modern day the women are know the use of fire, machines, etc. now the women learning more education and doing such type of service and business. They mainly depend on tube-wells, wells for water, they don't use many advanced agricultural machine for agriculture. They spend their leisure time stitching in leaf plate and mat etc.

Economic Life:

The economic conditions of Kandha women are not very poor. Their income is not sufficient for them. We know that, men are mainly agriculturalist or daily labourer but in my observation I found that, they equal to male. They do equal labour in agricultural field too.

1. Women are doing equal work agricultural field like the men.
2. Women are going to forest and collect the forest products.
3. Women are going to market and selling the vegetables and other things.

Kandha women are mostly depending on the forest products such as Mahua, Resin, lakha, wood, kendu leaf, etc. The Kandha women are doing several works but their main source of income is agriculture. They have their own land could not manage it properly. They irrigate their lands through wells, tube-wells, canal and rain.

In agricultural field men are only ploughing the field and except the ploughing, the female are doing all the work in field like weeding, fencing, harvesting, gardening etc. the

products were also preserved by Kandha women. The women used different types of technology and they have their local name.

Name	English Name	Local Name	Rate (Rs)	How long it exist
Langala	Plough	Mai	150/-	1 year
Daa	Sickle	Gadi	Above 50/-	7 to 8 years
Kodi	Spread	Fauda/Kanka	120/-	6 years
Kula	<i>Kula (bamboo made)</i>	Vurki		
Dala	<i>Dala (bamboo made)</i>	Voga		

In leisure period Kandha women make leaf plates, Choukins, mats, etc. it is the tertiary income of Kandha females.

Two of the Kandha women are Govt. servant they get the salary of 3000-5000/- rupees per month. The Kandha women are not used to modern process for agriculture so they cannot increase their products an income day to day.

Occupational Diversification of Females:

Types of occupation of women:- Occupation means the way of moving by which they get money. The occupation is 3 types.

- ❖ Primary Occupation
- ❖ Secondary Occupation
- ❖ Tertiary Occupation

The main source of Kandha people of village Kaladi is agriculture. It is the primary occupation. Except agriculture the Kandha women including with wage labour, collection of forest product, farm based agriculture, kitchen garden, business, service, construction work. It is the secondary occupation a tertiary occupation. In this work women are equal work with men. The making of leaf plates, cups, mats are their tertiary occupation.

Agricultural Type:

Agriculture is the main source of occupation of Kandha people. In Agriculture both men and women are participate equally. Generally the Kandhas cultivate Rice, wheat, Corn (*Makka*) and any other in their field. There are generally 4 types of land. These are

1. High land
2. Middle land
3. In between Middle land and Low Land (*Padar Land*)

4. Low land

In rice cultivation there is need of sufficient water and it is present in low land. So rice is suitable for cultivation in low land. In padara land pulses type of agriculture like Horse gram (*Kolatha*), Green gram (*Muga*), Black gram (*biri*), *Mandia*, turmeric etc. these crops do not need much water. In village Kaladi there is found 4 types of Rice that are:

1. Punia rice
2. Jhalka rice
3. Chinamali rice
4. Dalva rice

In village Kaladi they irrigate water from the nearby wells. Tube-wells, Canal for agriculture. The Kandha women are generally sowing the rice before June and harvesting before December. Before harvesting they observe a taboo on the agricultural field and this same thing doing before sowing by which crops became god. In this taboos women play a great role. The woman plays a great role in showing, preparing, seeding, weeding, caring and harvesting of an agricultural field.

Forest Products Collecting Type

The Kandha women depend upon the forest very much. They collect the forest products from the forest and sell them in the market places. Generally they collect woods, leaves, *lakha, jhuna, mahu, chantu, bausa, Lakha* etc. from the forest and sell them at very low price to get a little money. In village Kaladi the forest products have their local name.

Forest Based Economy

Oriya (Name)	Kui (local name)	English/Botanical name
Amba	Maska	Mango tree
Sala	Sargi	Shrearousta
Saguan	Saguan	
Sisoo	Sisu- Mrahanu	Dulbergialatitolia
Sirisa	Sirish- Mrahanu	Albizziaprocera
Mankada	Mankada	Dcospyrosbryopteris
Kendu	kendu- mrahanu	
Mahula	Irpi	Madhukalatitolia
Kusum	Kusumi	Schloichenauleose
Kochila	Kochila	Strychros
Bela	Bela	Anglemarmelos
Begunia	Nirgundi	Switeniu
Bahada	Bahada- Mrahan	Tenminalcabela
Aswastha	Pipuli	Savalka India
Harida	Junga	Phyllasnthousamblica
Limba	Limba	Azadirchataindica
Panasa	Panasi	Buteamonosperma
Baidhanka	Tulesinga	Lucrate
Gangshiuli	Tulesinga	Nyctanthesanbonrstics
Salapa	Salapa	Tris

The Kandha women go to sell a bundle of woods at a rate of 20 to 25 rupees per day in town. The Kandha women also went to forest and collect wood, leaf, etc. they made leaf plates, chaukins from the sala or piasala leaves and also from siali leaves and a bundle in a rate of 3 rupees in the market. They also collect some fruits from forests which are eaten by them like mango, bhanila, kendu, etc. Resin is made from sala trees. The liquid that get out from the sala tree after dry became resin. It is used in the time of ceremonies of God. Resin is made up Saal trees; Atta is made up of Dumri, Bara, Mahua, Dhupa trees.

Use of Bamboo:

Bamboo (*Baunsa*) is used in houses of the Kandha tribal houses. For making basket, Broom, Leaf plate, Leaf cup bamboo is extensively used by the women of Kandha Tribe.

1. Katal Bamboo
2. Shika Bamboo
3. Kera Bamboo

Kitchen Garden Type:

Kitchen garden is present in the back side, front side, left side or right side of every house in Kaladi. Most of the Kandha family has a kitchen garden at the back side of their house. They cultivate vegetables fruits and flower in kitchen garden. In kitchen garden the men are only ploughing the garden and the other works are done by women. The daughters and daughter-in-law of the Kandha family go to market to sale these products. The money obtained by women's who sell the products. They expense their money in their family.

Business

A few women of Kandha society do business. The people who have a large area of kitchen garden, they cultivate more vegetables in their kitchen garden. They keep some vegetables for their own purpose and remain vegetables are sold by them in the local market. Women are generally doing such type of business. The business will be taken on the weekly market. The women are taking proper care for the plants which are at their garden for better production. In the market the women are selling papaya, jack fruit, tomato, turmeric, Sweet Roots (Kandhual), Potato etc.

Name of the vegetables or fruits	Rate (Rs) per K.G
Papaya 1K.g	8/-
Ripe jack fruit	15/-
Jack fruit	2/-
Tomato	5/-
Potato	10/-
Kandula	30/-
Brinjal	10-12/-
Turmeric	18-20/-

The Kandha women also sell the leaf plates and they send the leaf plates in size of 10 Ft. per day they income 30/-.

In the village Kaladi there is found barter system. They brought 3 pots exchange of 10 tambu (One tambu is two K.G) of paddy.

They sell the big goat at the rate of Rs.3500/- and small goat at 2500/- rupees.

Service:

In the village Kaladi there are very few women who were service holder. There are two women of Anganawadi worker and their income is 200/- per month each. There is one woman cooking for the pupils of Anganawadi. From Kaladi, one teacher is in school and her salary is 1500/- per month.

Wage Labourer

Many women of Kaladi village are wage labourer in the village there are 10 women and wage labourer. They get income per year 9000/-.

From village Kaladi there are 15 females were doing the work of stone hammering. From these 2- 3 female were age of 30 years, above 30 years 10 female, above 55 year 2 females working. They went for work at 6 am and came to at 6 pm and per day their income 70 rupees.

Construction Work

Women also engaged in construction work but due to lack of education they are being cheated by Contractors. They get less money than the male counterpart for same work.

Agriculture Based Economy

The economy of a village is a system of production, consumption and distribution. The more in saving the village is high economic status. But the Kandha women are living poor life because of low production lack of agro-tech knowledge.

A) Production & Income:

The economy is consisted of income and expenditure. The income of the Kandha women are coming from various source we may include the production and income into 3 main division.

- i.Primary Income
- ii.Secondary Income
- iii.Tertiary Income

i. Primary Income:

The primary income of Kandha women is agriculture. It is their main source of lively hood. Agriculture is based on 2 types.

- Food Crops
- Professional harvesting

Food Crops:

The Kandha women produced wheat, paddy, Kandula,Black gram (*Biri*), Muga, Mandia,Corn (*Maka*),

(Horse gram) Kolatha and vegetable such as potatoes, tomatoes, Onion, Chilly, Brinjal, Bean, Papaya, etc. in this they fulfill their needs and also selling these things.

Professional harvesting:

Kandha women also produce ginger, turmeric, etc. by which they earn some money. In urgent time they sell jack fruit, mango and earning some money. There should be marketing facility to selling their production. Their agricultural income is very low. Due to their lack knowledge, shortage of investments, not using the modern instruments, improper irrigation and finally due to illiterate

ii. **Secondary Income:**

The secondary income of Kandha women is wage labourer construction working, stone hammering, in village Kaladi 10 women working as wage labourer, they get 40 per day. Many women are also working in construction sector. There are also found 10 to 15 women going for stone hammering. They get 70/- per day.

iii. **Tertiary Income:**

The tertiary income of kandha women is stitching of leaf plate, baskets, choukins, mats, bamboo materials etc. They sell the jack fruit, mango, bundle of wood etc. in the market. They also sell cattle, goat, Fouls etc. in the market.

B) Agricultural Production Month Wise:

Month	Production
Baisakh (April to may)	Sag
Jyestha (May to June)	Preparing the field
Ashadha (Jun to July)	Punia rice
Sraban (August)	Muga, Biri
Bhadrab (August to September)	Kolatha, mandia
Margsir (December)	Maka, flake corn
Pausa (December to January)	Vegitables
Magha (February)	Potatoes, beans, tomatoes,
Falguan	Turmeric , Dalua rice,
Chaitra (April)	Field remain

(C) Land Type:

- The lands are mainly divided into 4 types
1. High land
 2. Low land
 3. Padar Land
 4. Middle land

D) Cultivated Land:

Paddy: The people of Phulbani periphery villages mostly cultivated paddy in their low irrigated land. The paddy is mostly rain fed type and few low land area is mean for irrigation as it rain fed agricultural type it is year round activities starts from the month of Baisakha. They prepared the abundant land for re-cultivation in the Baisakh & Jestha that is March plush April they dewed the land by means of ploughing after and occasional shower of rain. Then they left the land till May and June (*Ashadha & Sraban*). When rain starts in month of Ashadha that is May & June they starts transplanting and after rain they make bundles (*chheka*) of transplantation paddy trees for 2 months. During this time they fenced the total area from animals and this activity continue till *Bhadrab* (August to September) In the Aswin (September to October) just after 3 months the paddy is prepared for harvesting. They harvest the paddy in their home land (*Khala*) and separated paddy from Straw (wall) and kept them Bhady for storage purpose. The paddy kept on Granary (Dolies) in their own house if they have two granary (*doly*) of paddy than it can fed to a four member family throughout the year.

This is a co-activity type of male and female. Except ploughing the female help the male persons in entire activities. Here the female contribution is most vital in all aspects.

(E) Preservation

Process:

1. After harvesting they have to choose better seeds and make them preserve for future use. They have to dry them properly in sun and keep them in open light and air available.
2. The ripe tomatoes kept on a plate after separating seeds from them; they dried them on sun and the dried seed to be preserved for future use.
3. The Brinjals are kept in the field to ripe and dried there. Then they collect them dried them again in the home separate seeds and kept for future use.
4. From the pumpkin the seeds are collect and dried them in sun and preserved it.
5. From chilly, bean the seeds are collect and dried them on sun light then preserve it.
6. When better gold ripe the seeds separate and pasting in the wall and when it dry then it preserve it.

(F) Expenditure:

The Kandha women have a good income but due to lack of knowledge they cannot manage their expenditure. They should utilize the money properly for their regular expenditure; I came to know from many women they told that.

Expenditure in a day:

Total Income per day=	40/-
Spent amount per day=	
Lunch	= 10/-
Tiffin	= 05/-
Tabooed/Plan	= 07/-
Evening Tiffin	= 05/-
<u>Bus fare</u>	<u>= 02/-</u>

Total = 29/-
Remain = 40-29 = Rs. 11/-

Her personal expenditure is above than 72% with the remain. They manage the family and fulfill the wanting for this reason they were back ward in society and they are very poor.

G) Deficit Loan:

The people of village Kaladi and other nearby villages are not very poor, but due to illiterate they do not cultivate properly. They do not want to take loan from the Bank, because they thought that, they could not return the money to the bank. If takes loans then their deficit is so much. Then they have to sell their land and house.

Banks plays a key role in rural development. The people of this village generally get help from Allahabad Bank, UCO bank and Kalahandi Anchalika Gramya Bank. Generally the people of Kaladi and other nearby villages take loan from Allahabad Bank, Phulbani. All people, those who have taken loan, still has not repaid.

Discussion:

The tribal agricultural economy systems mostly revived by the intervention of Govt. programme improve technology and new form of agricultural initiatives. There are changes noticed now in their traditional economy activity and depend more upon in farm based agriculture (Kitchen garden). In village Kaladi 62% of villagers have their Kitchen Gardens where seasonal vegetable are grown are marketed in local market at Phulbani. Women have great role in kitchen gardens and selling of the produces too. Now days, the people are

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habituated with taking vegetables in their diet. They are almost stop the practice of shifting type of agriculture and depend on plain land agriculture type. Though they still depend on rain fed agriculture type and traditional mode of agricultural practices still the agricultural economy of Kandha of Kaladi village, a better of it is because of

- ❖ They can find better marketing facility of their products
- ❖ The vegetables grown on Kitchen garden supplement to their economy mostly.
- ❖ Due to the partnership of Govt. Officials and programmes they can cultivate improve and high yielding varieties of crops in their soil.
- ❖ The female actively participate in farming and non-farming type of cultivation and get liberty to earn by selling.
- ❖ The formation of SHG in village also helps immensely to enrich their economy standard.

In spite of all these, they do not left their age old practice. Ceremonies and religious functionaries relating to agricultural activities these practices sometime compel them to go for loan and they have to spend lot of money. The new form of economy system still has not make much impact in their socio-economic life. In this regard the structural change in their social relationship, inter personalize, modernization process, women's liberalization and women empowerment etc. should be judged in this connection. However, I hopeful my research may give new venture for the researcher where more areas in this regard may be analyzed and discussed with relation to Kandhas women socio-economic life especially economic participation and contribution in daily life of Kandha tribal women.