



A STUDY TRIBAL HANDICRAFTS MAKER'S INCOME IN NANDURBAR DISTRICT (M. S)

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Abstract

India is very rich with the variety of aboriginal tribes . The tribals have a very rich socio-cultural history. They have enriched the Indian arts and crafts with their innovations and creativity .Their arts and crafts have the speciality of being eco- friendly and using the local natural resources .The art and crafts of the tribals cause no harm to nature and environment .The tribal people are basically the worshippers of nature and so their music, dance, folk, literature arts, crafts, painting are harmonious with nature. The tribals have very brilliantly used there crafts for their livelihood. But widespread modernization has posed same challenges before the tribals regarding the very sustainability of their arts and crafts. As deforestation increased highly in the Satpura mountain the tribal people are facing the decline of their handicrafts .As the tribal people are greatly affected by the displacement caused by Sardar Sarovar in Nandurbar district.

Keywords: *Tribe, Handicrafts, Innovations, Livelihood, sustainability, Income.*



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Introduction: - Making handicrafts is one of the importance occupations of the tribal communities. Traditionally it is related with nature and environment. The tribal handicrafts are specialized skills which are passed on from one generation to another and these handicrafts are means of livelihoods of artisans. This art is a gift for tribal society given by nature. Nandurbar district is one of the districts in Maharashtra known as, a tribal district. About 67 percent population of the district is tribal. Tribal communities have been living from ancient time to modern age in the surrounding of nature. They live free and frank life here. Culture of this community is totally related with nature. Tribal groups are at different stages of social economic and educational development.

Handicrafts are mostly defined as “ Items made by hand ,often with the use of simple tools, and are generally artistic and or traditional in nature They are also objects of utility and objects of decorations”. Due to highly increased deforestation in the Satpuda mountain the tribal handicrafts are on the way to decline. Beside that the tribal people are

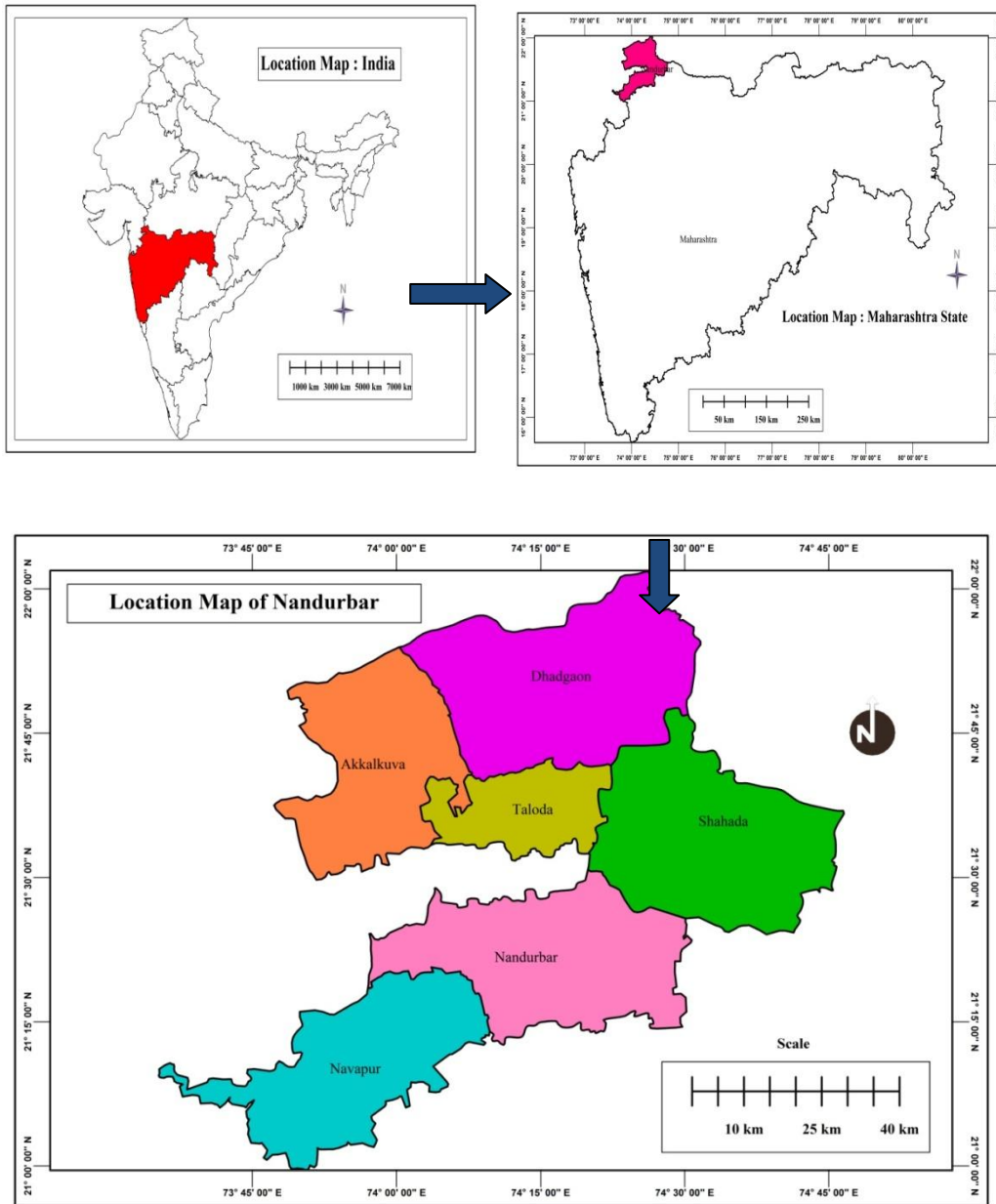
affected by the Sardar Sarovar. The various forest acts and wildlife conservation acts deprive the tribals from the basic input necessary for the handicrafts and thereby causing their decline.

In the present paper an attempt is made to study how the tribal handicrafts in traditions, Gods, festivals and celebrations have persisted defying the modern mechanical civilization. Some times one gets the creepy feeling that the present mechanical civilization may push these tribal society activities in the background and they may become a part of history thus causing the wipe out Humanity is likely to lose guiding light for the preservation of environment. This fear intensifies our awareness for the preservation of continuations and these eco-friendly tribal societies.

A.K. jha and R.D. Tribhuwan (2008) Examine extensively the tribal handicrafts of Maharashtra. Jain and Tribhuwan (1996) Elaborately discuss Various strategies for promotion and propagation of tribal art and handicrafts. Basha and chand (1992) explain the impact of forest policies in tribal life. Bernard Auden (1992) Discuss on poverty, Human right and the consequences of deforestation. Dashora (1992) attempted to explain the vanishing tribal culture. Gosh and Das (1982) studies the correlation of forest and tribals. Kunhaman (1979) elucidate various problems in the development of tribal economy.

Now several scholars have attempted to carry out investigating field based researches to analyse the sustainability of tribal culture, economy and handicrafts from micro to macro level such studies involve interdisciplinary approaches. Beside that mukhopadhyaya (1998), Luiz (1962), Maheshwari (1990) Jha (1982), Mathur (1977), Rao (1999), Nag (1958) also have made noteworthy contribution on sustainability of tribal handicrafts and allied topics.

Study Area :- Nandurbar district is located in north western part of Maharashtra state. Nandurbar district is bounded to the south and south - east side by Dhule district to the north, Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh, to the west lies Tapi district of Gujarat state. Satpuda mountain and piedmont plain stretches from east to west, Northern part of the study area is occupied by the Satpuda mountain and central parts of the area is occupied by piedmont plain. The southern part is characterised by the Sahyadri hills the Narmada forms the boundary for about 70 k.m. of the northern border of the district. A large part of the district falls in the Tapi river basin. The study region lies between 21° 00' north and 22° 03' north latitudes and 73° 31' east to 74° 47' east longitudes. The total area of study region is 5035 sq k.m.



Objectives:-

1. To analyse the major handicrafts of the tribal's in Nandurbar district
2. To identify the problems and prospects of making handicrafts
3. To find out cost benefit analysis of handicraft making and marketing
4. To suggest proper action plan to improve sustainability of handicraft business in this study area

Hypotheses:-

“Industrialization, modernization and globalization are responsible for the decline of tribal handicrafts.”

Data collection and Methodology:-

To fulfill the objectives related primary data has been collected through the specially designed household questionnaires .Interviews were held for first hand information. Beside that detailed information was collected though pilot survey, filed visits and observations.

Result and Discussion:-

The tribal handicrafts are specialized skills which are passed on from one generation to another and these handicrafts are means of livelihood of the artisans.

Art of Weaving: -The art of weaving includes design on cloths and to making fishing nets. Many articles are made with the help of reeds of bamboo which includes basket, cage ,Tarfa, pungu pawari flute and various types of musical instruments. These skills are customary and have been developed by the tribal community.

Skill of Clay Works: - The tribal community has developed and preserved the skills of making the baskets and clay tiles used as roofing material of houses. Bricks and the domestic articles and objects which are useful for the family and such types of skill are customary and preserved in the tribal community.

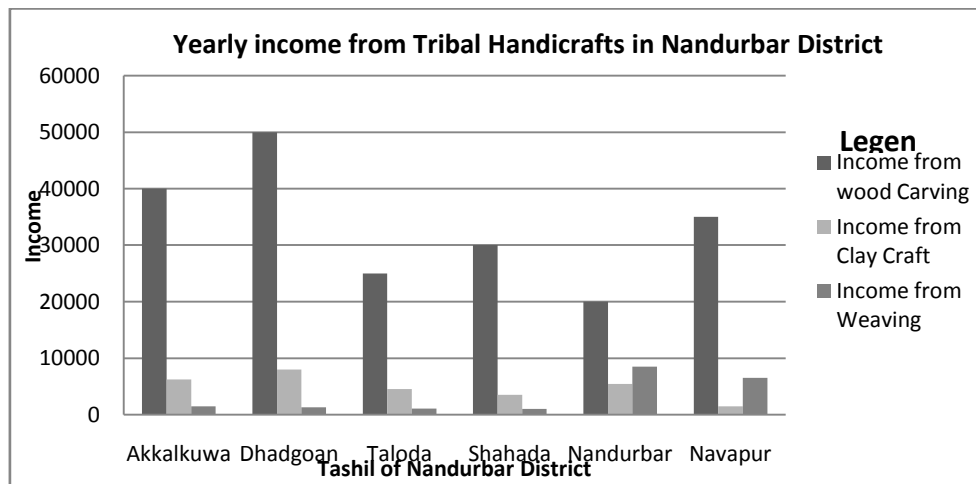
Wood Carving :-wood carvings are important handicrafts observed in Nandurbar district due to the availability of wood as raw materials from nearby forest areas . Wood craft is the most famous beautiful and unique art of wooden carving of tribal society. These wooden craft includes models, furniture items etc . among the furniture items Deewan (cot with box) is very famous, and attractive since it involves the art of carving with different pictures of tribal culture and other designs of interest .Craftsmen from Nandurbar use a variety of wood like sag , shisham , teak , dhudi , sal and kikar for making household furniture. The craftsmen also make pipes , masks , doors ,window frames , sculptures ,traditional instruments etc.

Tribal Handicraft Economy: -The tribal economy is basically focused on meeting their domestic consumption .One of the important occupation of the tribes is handicraft. It is a joint occupation done by them to fulfill their needs. These occupations are prevailing in Nandurbar district especially Satpura in hilly area. According to new survey nowadays also 30 to 40%pepole this occupation maintain Social systems of many tribes depends on these occupations.

Yearly income (in Rs) of Tribal Handicraft in Nandurbar District

Sr.No	Tahsill	Income from wood Carving	Income from Clay Craft	Income from Weaving	Total
1	Akkalkuwa	40000	6250	1500	47750
2	Dhadgoan	50000	8000	1300	59300
3	Taloda	25000	4550	1050	30600
4	Shahada	30000	3500	1000	34500
5	Nandurbar	20000	5450	8500	33950
6	Navapur	35000	1500	6500	43000

Source: Household survey of craftsman 2016



According to the above mentioned table researcher concluded that annual per head income of craftsman is 59300 rupees in Dhadgoan tahsil. This tahsil is in the remote hilly area of Satpura mountains. Similary annual income of craftman is 47750 rupees in Akkalkuwa tahsils . While as satisfactory occupation is going on in Navapur , Taloda, Shahada and Nandurbar .

Conclusion:-

Study region is a dominated tribal district. The tribal handicrafts and handicrafts makers are sector from satpura mountain ranges to sahyadri ranges. Due to availability of different forest timber species the handicrafts occupation developed in the study region. Due to oppressive forest rules, urbanization, modernization and allied process of social change have adversely affected ontribeal handicrafts. In is important to guide, support and training to the tribal craftsman by the government and society. It is also suggests a plan of action to commercialize tribal art to support the artist so as to make them selfreliant.

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