



A STUDY ON DIFFERENT DIMENSIONS OF KOLHI VILLAGE IN VAIJAPUR BLOCK OF CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJI NAGAR DISTRICT IN MAHARASHTRA

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ABSTRACT

The Kolhi village in India is a geographically distinguishable place where a diverse community resides. The village relies primarily on agriculture for livelihood, with crops like cotton, maize and millet being cultivated. The villagers have strong cultural and traditional practices, celebrating festivals and worshipping deities. However, the village faces development challenges such as inadequate infrastructure, healthcare facilities, and waste management systems. Gender-based wage inequalities exist, and dowry practices persist in marriages. Interventions focusing on infrastructure development, livelihood empowerment, and sustainable farming practices are needed to address these issues. Collaboration among local authorities, NGOs, and community members is crucial for holistic development in the village.

KEY WORDS: *Crop cycle, Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), Multidimensional Poverty Index (MDPI).*

1. INTRODUCTION

“The soul of India lives in its villages”

A village is a geographically distinguishable place which is habitat of some human beings who live in groups called ‘family’ are socially, culturally and economically interrelated. According to census data of 2011, 68.84% Indians are stayed in village which is around 833.1 million people live in 640,867 different villages. The size of these villages varies considerably. 236,004 Indian villages have a population of fewer than 500, while 3,976 villages have a population of 10,000. Villagers are mainly depending on the primary sector for the livelihood most of them are farmers, but the fishing, mining and daily labour also contribute a lot in the rural livelihood. India is the land of diversity so have their own unique characters.

A village Kolhi located on the bank of river Borinala. A big temple of Babaji and other different temples are there. Due to the river and highway, village gets divided into two parts. Dam is situated in the Kolhi village named as ‘Shivayogi Dam.’ After the construction of dam, cash crops became a trend in the village. In the middle of the village, statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji is situated.

2. METHOD

The area selected to understand the ecosystem is Kolhi village of Vaijapur block at Aurangabad District in Maharashtra. According to Tripathy and Khan (2020) the participatory tools are most efficient tools to understand a village deeply. Thus, same methodology is used to collect the data. Where homogeneous groups of people were invited and optimum ignorance was followed.

3. DISCUSSION

Language: Language spoken in the Kolhi village is Marathi.

Caste: Community is divided into different castes in Kolhi village. Number of people belonging to OBC & Open category in village is 1213, Number of people belonging to Scheduled Castes is 162 and from Scheduled Tribes is 192.

Practices: Total six built temples are present in the village. People from all castes can go to all temples. For each family a ‘family deity’ is there. Once in a year, people go to that particular temple.

People worship the god regularly. Every morning, they go to the temple and pray. If a person in the house gets ill, house members would go with him to the Pada (2 Km distance from the center of the village) to get cured by the holy water. Educated people usually go to the doctor; but the majority of the people go for the traditional healer.

4. MARRIGE

The group discussion revealed that the average age of marriage for men is 24–26 and for women is 22–24. Because there is no marriage hall in the hamlet, most weddings take place in the vicinity of temples, while wealthy families often arrange their



ceremony in either Vaijapur or Aurangabad. If the financial situation is poor, individuals would arrange marriages in their backyards. The community still uses the dowager system. Rich families donate 2-3 lakhs in dowry, whereas impoverished families give just one lakh. The wealthy family spends between 5 and 6 lakhs, whereas the impoverished family only spends between 1 and 2 lakhs. Most individuals do not provide dowries in the form of cash to the groom's family. They will give it in the form of gold jewels, vessels, vehicle form.

5. FESTIVALS

Every event is given extra prominence because people highly value culture and tradition. Every community celebrates the holiday in accordance with some defining component of its traditions and religion. They observe holidays like Makar Sankranti, Vat Purnima, Pola, Dussehra and Diwali among others. In the hamlet, there are two well-known festivals: the Devdongari Baba Yatra and the Mhasoba Yatra.

Makar Sankranti: Makar Sankranti is determined by the solar cycle and marks the precise moment when the Sun enters Capricorn.

Vat Purnima: Married women observe this occasion. They fast on this day to protect their husbands' health and to revere Savitri.

Pola: It demonstrates love and deep ties between people and animals. Farmers who own bulls are arming their animals in various ways. Bull used to relax all day on that day.

Dussehra: The girls and ladies enthusiastically participate in this celebration. The goddess Durga is receiving their prayers. At night, girls play dandiya. In the village, there are rangoli competitions.

Diwali: The main holiday in the hamlet is Diwali, when people buy new cloths and a wide range of food products. Each household spends between Rs. 15000 and Rs. 18000 on this occasion.

Devdongari Baba Yatra: The local Saint was there, named 'Devdongari.' People have belief on him. So, they celebrate his birth anniversary every year.

Mhasoba Yatra: According to the people belief, Mhasoba is the god who protects the boundary of the villages. People have that belief so they celebrate Mhasoba Yatra.

6. LIVELIHOOD

It is clear from a study of 45 households that agriculture and animals connected to agriculture are the main sources of income. 60% of individuals rely mostly on agriculture for their income. Despite having strong natural resources including the availability of water and feed, 30% of the population raises animals as their primary occupation. A primary occupation for 22.22% of people is wage labour. 11% of people make their primary living from their company. 6.78% people are Drivers.

Crop cycle

The main crop of the village is cotton, maize, millet, Tur, Green gram, Soya bean, Ginger Kharif crops and Wheat, Jowar, Red gram. From following crop cycle, it is seen that seedling to harvesting crop length. It can be understood from below table,

Table 1: Season and crops

Season	Crops
Kharif	Cotton
Kharif	Maize, Millet, Pigeon Peas, Green Gram, Black Gram, Soybean
Rabbi	Ginger, Sugarcane and Wheat and Jowar
Zayat	Red Gram, Cauliflower

(Source: Primary data, PRA, Crop Cycle)

Wage pattern: There is an inequality in wage pattern for male and female. Male getting 250 rupees per day for a farming labour work while women get 175 rupees per day.

7. ECONOMICAL

Economy of the village is mainly depended on the agriculture. For understanding the economic condition of the village Global multidimensional poverty index, Wealth ranking (Participatory appraisal tool) have used.



Poverty

The state of being poor is known as poverty. Inequality causes the poverty because marginalized people from the section of society are deprived from basic needs such as health, education, proper means of livelihood.

MDPI sample survey – The indicator which displays the state of village based on three factors such as health, education and standard of life. It has 10 indicators for these three dimensions are health (child mortality, nutrition), education (years of schooling, enrolment), and living standards (water, sanitation, electricity, cooking fuel, floor, assets). It first detects which of these 10 deprivations each household encounters, then labels households as poor if they suffer deprivations across one -third or more of the weighted indicators.

As from 45 household sampling survey in village subtotal is shown below,

Table 2: Details about MDPI

Village	Health subtotal	Educational subtotal	Standard of the living subtotal	MDPI
Kolhi	0.063938	0.06625	0.07095	0.2011

Health

The value of 0.063938 suggests that the village Kolhi experiences relatively low levels of deprivation in terms of health indicators. Because unavailability of primary health care centers. They are not health conscious, mainly women avoid proper health care. List awareness about health insurance is there in the village. Proper health education is not getting provided.

Education

The value of 0.06625 implies that the Kolhi village does not have secondary and higher secondary schools. The percentage of dropouts is 30% after the 7th standard. Comparing to boys' girls' dropout ratio is high due to early marriages practice. Student have to travel from 10 Km for further education. As per CBSC, teacher-student ratio should not exceed 30:1 but Kolhi village have 32 :1.

Standered of Living

These indicators include access to water, sanitation, electricity, cooking fuel, floor quality, and possession of assets. The value of 0.07095 indicates that the village of Kolhi faces a higher level of deprivation in terms of living standards compared to health and education. This suggests that the village struggle with basic amenities and infrastructure necessary for a decent standard of living. Because of unemployment, poor transportation, unavailability of bank and availability of credit.

The MDPI is the overall multidimensional poverty index for the village of Kolhi, combining health, education, and standard of living indicators. The value of 0.2011 represents the proportion of households in the village that experience deprivations in at least one-third across these dimensions. It indicates that the village as a whole face a relatively high level of multidimensional poverty.

8. CONCLUSION

Livelihood Patterns: Kolhi village predominantly rely on agriculture as their primary livelihood, with 60% engagement. Livestock farming and labor work also contribute significantly. Business and service sectors have a smaller presence. Understanding these livelihood patterns is crucial for designing targeted development interventions.

Development Challenges: Kolhi village face several development challenges. Like, lacks essential facilities such as filtered drinking water due to mismanagement, unavailability of school after 7th standard, a PHC, a library, kaccha roads, unemployment, smoking and alcoholism. Addressing these challenges is essential for improving the quality of life and overall development in the village.

9. WAY FORWARD

Awareness and Intervention on Alcoholism and Smoking: To tackle the persistent issues of alcoholism and smoking, a well-organized and strong awareness campaign should be implemented. It is crucial to engage the community actively, ensuring that the campaign is culturally sensitive and tailored to their specific needs. Ongoing monitoring and evaluation are necessary to measure the effectiveness of interventions and bring about lasting behavioral changes.

Sustainable Water Management: Given the water shortage issue, the community's initiatives, such as tree plantation and collaboration with organizations like Paani Foundation, have been commendable. To build upon these efforts, a comprehensive water management strategy should be implemented. This may include rainwater harvesting, efficient irrigation techniques, and



promoting water conservation practices. Empowering the youth and involving them in sustainable water initiatives can play a vital role in addressing the water scarcity problem and ensuring long-term resilience.

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