

Employment Scenario among Marginalized Communities of Kachchh district

Summary:

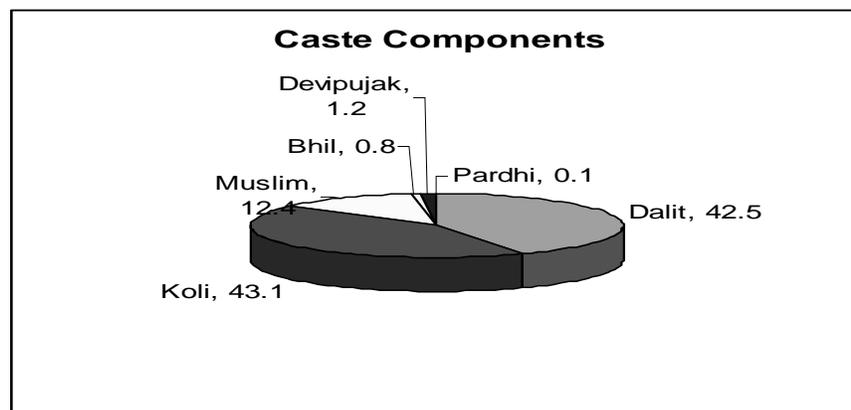
The study attempts to map the employment scenario among the Marginalized Communities of Kachchh. It is an attempt to analyze the employment pattern in the region to explain the reasons for marginalization of specific communities who face economic marginalization along with social discrimination. These communities are living on the periphery, as far as employment opportunities are concerned. The demography suggests that the marginalized communities constitute a large share of the population; therefore addressing the issue becomes more essential.

The study examines the present scenario to identify major constraints of their main-stream involvement and suggests taking corrective measures to improve their condition. The study also aimed to explore the areas where new job avenues and employment opportunities could be generated for such underprivileged and marginalized communities.

The survey covered 987 respondents during August 2008 and November 2008. Out of 987, 500 from 47 villages of Bhachau taluka and 487 respondents are from 52 villages of Rapar taluka.

Major findings

- ⇒ 419 (42.5%) are Dalit, 425 (43.1%) are Koli, 122 (12.4%) are Muslim, 8 (0.8%) is Bhil, Devipujak are 12 (1.2%) and Pardhi is 1 (0.1%).
- ⇒ The male respondents are more than half (55.6%) and female respondents are 44.4%. In Bhachau, male (60.4%) outnumber females (39.6%) with a large margin, whereas, in Rapar, males (50.7%) and females (49.3%) are almost in the same proportion.



- ⇒ The majority of the respondents come under the age group of 19-35 years, which constitute 56.9% and 24.8 % of the respondents are in the age group of 15-18 years, 14.7% are above 36 years of age and only 0.6% come under 10-14 years age group.
- ⇒ Total 480 (48.6 %) are non-literate, whereas 366 (37.1%) have received Primary Education, 109(11%) have received Secondary Education and only 18 (1.8%) have received Higher Secondary Education, 7 (0.7%) have studied till graduation, 1 (0.1%) have done Post Graduation and rest 3 (0.3%), 2 (0.2%) and 1 (0.1%) have done B.Ed., PTC and Computer Course respectively.
- ⇒ The highest number of Non-literates is observed among Kolis with 47.5%, while 37.9% of the non-literates are Dalit, 11.5% are from Muslim community, 1% is Bhil and 1.9% and 1% are Devipujak and Pardhi, respectively.
- ⇒ More than half 576 (58.4%) are found to be BPL (Below Poverty Line) card holders including Antyodya card holders whereas 125 (12.7%) respondents do not have any ration card.
- ⇒ Among asset holding: (i) though 909 (92.1%) possess a house yet a very traumatically huge number, only 703 (71.2%) do not have a house plot of their own; (ii) less than half 483(48.9%) own cultivable land, and in them too, as huge as 350 (72.5%) are small (<8 acre) land holders, 76 (15.7%) are medium (9-16 acre) land holders and only 24 (5.0%) are large (17<) land holders; (iii) 48% have cattle; and (iv) the percentage of vehicle owner is small 47 (4.8%).
- ⇒ Most of them are engaged in multiple income generation – 389 (39.4%) are involved in single income generation activity, 328 (33.2%) are involved in two activities, 195 (19.8%) are involved in three different activities, 70 (7.1%) are involved in four different activities and 5 (0.5%) is involved in five income generation activities.
- ⇒ 699 (36.2% of total 1930 responses) work as Casual Labours and 3.3% have jobs. Only 120 (17.2%) of Casual labours earn more than 15,000 Rupees annually, or else 5 (0.7%) earn even less than Rs. 1000 annual, 56 (8%) earn 1000-3000 Rupees, 120 (17.2%) earn 3001-5000 Rs., 247 (35.3%) earn 5001-10,000 Rs, 143 (20.5%) earn 10,001-15000. Being the largest mass, a lower income among this segment epitomizes the general trend.
- ⇒ 158 (16%) get employment for 21-30 days, 557 (56.4%) get for (11-20 days), 133 (13.5%) get for 1-10 days and 74 (7.5%) are totally unemployed.
- ⇒ A high number of respondents 648 (65.7%) are aware about NREGA, however only 103 (10.4%) have their job card made, and only 68 (6.8%) got job under NREGA in 2008.
- ⇒ Despite being involved in multiple income generation activities, the income earned is observed to be very low. A maximum of 24.5% have an annual income higher than 15000 Rupees, otherwise 349 (35.4%) have an income of (Rs. 5001-10,000), 166 (16.8%) have an income of (10,001-15,000), 131 (13.3%) have an income of (Rs. 3001-5000), 62 (6.3%) have an annual income of (Rs. 1001-3000). Remorsefully, 17 (1.7%) have an income of (<1000) and 2 (0.2%) does not have any income at all.

The study points out that creating new job avenues and preparing the marginalized communities to be self reliant could be the best possible approach. The study has revealed that there is a large number of non-literate casual labours and a big chunk of Primary educated casual workers in the region, which needs to be addressed. This large portion of the population could get more opportunities to work, have they been provided any skill. This mass has the potential to be trained for various skill base tasks and self employment.