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SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF GONDHALI COMMUNITY IN BAGALKOT DISTRICT OF KARNATAKA

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ABSTRACT:

Of all the backward castes and tribes, Gondhali community is most backward in Karnataka. Their original caste-based occupation is fortune telling using parrots (parrotology), selling household and kitchen utensils, stitching rugs, blankets and chaddars using old clothes and so on. These are nomadic groups, wandering from place to place for searching demand for their occupations. As such, their children are deprived from education, their families are deprived from healthcare facilities and due to poverty and lower income they are struggling hard to fulfil the basic necessities of their life. Realizing their problems, present study has been made to assess the socio-economic conditions of Gondhali people in Bagalkot district of Karnataka. Total 410 Gondhali people both men and women were surveyed using interview schedules. It is found that, most of them are still engaged in caste-based occupations, which have lost their demand in urban areas and even in many of the villages, they are not demanded. It is found that, educational level of almost Gondhali people is lower and as such, they are depending on their caste-based occupations, the income from these occupations is lower. Consequently, they are facing problem of poverty. It is suggested to encourage self-employment among Gondhali people in modernized occupations such as Computer DTP, Beautician courses, stitching, tailoring, etc with financial assistance, so that Gondhali people can improve their standard of living.



KEYWORDS: Socio-Economic, self-employment

INTRODUCTION

The Gondhal means Govu (Cow) or GOPALA, the Krishna dal, or his paradigm, as well as lyrical acrobatic tricks cause. The word gondhi is sometimes translated into English by Kannada letters and it is derived from English letters. GONDAL + GONDALA + GONDALE it means one type of fish. They are also called as musicians and singers and makers of Gondhala. The Some studies show that before they came to be known as 'Gondhali', they were 'wild boar (kadukuruba)' by the name of the 'wild race (mavalejananga)'. The word 'gundala' is found in Prakrit and Sanskrit. In Sanskrit and Prakrit, it cannot be said to be correct. The Gondala is not just about 'Gondala' but the term is spoken by the scholars of Maharashtra as Kannada origin, and some scholars dismiss it. Because 'Gondali' (gondaliga) people speak Marathi as 'Gondhali'. The 'Gondhali' in the Kannada language naturally became 'gondali' in

Marathi mouths. The word 'gondhali' is a Marathi word that is accompanied by a great consciousness in 'gondala' as it is more likely to be "The whole Gondhal is Kannada word that is a worship method".

The quality of education in this community is very low. There are also meagre number Gondhali persons in Government employment. At least the Gram Panchayats are not elected by the individuals of this society. The Gondhal Society is an educational and vocational reservation which includes 46 sub castes recognized by the Government of Karnataka under a category. Approximately four per cent sub castes of the reservation is granted. But there are still 5 sub castes included in the nomadic category. So, it is very difficult for nomadic people to compete with others and get jobs. According to the Karnataka State District General Survey, it is estimated that around 70,000 Gondhala people live in Koppal 60,000 in Belgaum, 70,000 in Vijayapur and Bagalkot district, the lowest in Udupi and Chamarajapet.

In the case of astrology, Gondhali society is the predominant religion, which was originally spoken by Buddudike, Kani and Paratology. Many have retained the respect of society with love and respect, without any blemish from their practical mastery. In the Gondhalicommunity, women also make cotton professionals for menara in the community, such as cowdish shiny, blackberry, tattoos, and bands. Gossipers are traumatized and are found in most of Karnataka. Artistic forms of spirituality and entertainment to the public. Due to decrease in demand for their occupations, they are facing problem of poverty and lower income. Hence, an attempt is made to examine the socio-economic conditions of Gondhali people in Bagalkot district of Karnataka.

Objectives of the Study:

The present study mainly aimed to explore the socio-economic conditions of Gondhali community by assessing the age, education, marital status, present occupations, family income, etc, which are helpful to strengthen the Gondhali community.

Scope and Methodology:

The present study has been conducted in Bagalkot district of Karnataka and total 410 Gondhali people were surveyed using interview schedule. The questionnaire has included multiple choice questions, so that, the Gondhali people can provide primary data. It is observed that, most of the Gondhali people are engaged in their conventional caste-based occupations such as fortune telling by parrotology, selling household and kitchen utensils, stitching rugs, Chaddars and blankets using old clothes and so on. Only few of the Gondhali people are educated and employed in Government sector. The collected primary data is analysed, interpreted and discussed as under.

Analysis, Interpretation and Discussion:

The collected primary data on socio-economic conditions of the Gondhali people is an analysed, interpreted and discussed as under.

1. Age-Group of Gondhali Respondents:

It is noted that, the age group of the Gondhali people influence the problems and challenges faced by them. It is observed that, middle-aged or old aged Gondhali people are working in conventional caste-based occupations and young aged are working in unorganized sector or engaged in small self-employment other than their caste-based occupations. The age-group of the Gondhali people covered under the study is presented in the following table.

Table No. 1. Age-Group of Gondhali Respondents

Particulars	No. of Gondhali People	Percentage
Young (18 to 30 Years)	47	11.46
Middle (31 to 45 Years)	120	29.27
High (45 to 60 Years)	168	40.98
Elderly (More than 60 Years)	75	18.29
Total	410	100

The age group of all the Gondhali people surveyed revealed that, 168 (40.98%) are of high age groups that is between 45 to 60 years followed by, 120 (29.27%) are of middle age groups that is between 31 to 45 years, 75 (18.29%) are elderly people of more than 60 years and the remaining 47 (11.46%) are younger that is between 18 to 30 years of age. It shows that, many of the Gondhali people of young age are not engaged in their caste-based occupations and left their native villages and towns and working in other occupations such as unorganized sector or small-scale self-employment at various cities and towns.

2. Marital Status:

As the present study is sociological and the marital status is major influencing factor in social and family life of the Gondhali people. It is observed that, almost all the Gondhali people are married and some are widowers or widows. Hence, the primary data has been collected on the marital status of the Gondhali people and shown as under.

Table No. 2. Marital Status

Particulars	No. of Gondhali People	Percentage
Unmarried	--	--
Married	355	86.59
Widower/ Widow	44	10.73
Divorcee/ Separated	11	2.68
Total	410	100

355 (86.59%) of all the Gondhali people surveyed are married and living with their spouses, 44 (10.73%) are widowers or widows and the remaining 11 (2.68%) are divorcees or separated from their spouses. It shows that, marital life of almost respondents is satisfied as they are living with their spouses.

3. Educational Level:

At the time of field survey, it is observed that, only few of the Gondhali people are educated and majority of them are illiterates or completed only primary or secondary education. Education increases the knowledge of Gondhali people and helps to achieve progress in life. In this respect, the collected primary data on the educational level of the Gondhali people is analysed and discussed as under.

Table No. 3. Educational Level

Particulars	No. of Gondhali People	Percentage
Illiterate	70	17.07
Primary	168	40.98
Secondary	122	29.76
Under-Graduate	29	7.07
Graduate & Above	21	5.12
Total	410	100

It is found that, 70 (17.07%) of the Gondhali people surveyed have not went to schools and colleges and are illiterates, 168 (40.98%) have completed just primary education, 122 (29.76%) have completed secondary education, 29 (7.07%) have completed under-graduation and 21 (5.12%) have completed graduation, post-graduation or even research degrees. It is noted that, majority of the respondents engaged in their conventional and caste-based occupations were surveyed for the present study and hence, the educational level of almost Gondhali people is poor.

4. Marital Relations with Spouse:

The marital status reveals the social culture of the Gondhali community. Further, marital relations show the satisfaction in family and social life. As marital life is major determinant of social conditions of Gondhali people, the primary data collected on the marital relations of Gondhali people is disclosed as under.

Table No. 4. Marital Relations with Spouse

Particulars	No. of Gondhali People	Percentage
Cordial	83	20.24
Better	144	35.13
Satisfactory	115	28.05
Poor	13	3.17
Not Applicable	55	13.41
Total	410	100

The marital life of the Gondhali people with their spouses shows that, 83 (20.24%) of the Gondhali people have cordial relations with their spouses, 144 (35.13%) have better marital life or better marital relations with their spouses, 115 (28.05%) of the Gondhali people have satisfactory relations with their spouses, only 13 (3.17%) have poor marital relations with their spouses and it is not applicable to 55 (13.41%) of the Gondhali people as they include divorcees and widows.

5. Status of Women Compared to Men:

In Gondhali community, the educational level is lower and Gondhali people believe in orthodoxy, conventions and traditions. As such, most of them believe in gender inequality. Of course, women are participating in their caste-based occupations such as stitching blankets and rugs made of old clothes and selling of household utensils. Still, the status of women is lower compared to men among Gondhali people. In this context, the collected primary data on the status of women compared to men is analysed and discussed as under.

Table No. 5. Status of Women Compared to Men

Particulars	No. of Gondhali People	Percentage
Higher	31	7.56
Equal	53	12.93
Lower	184	44.88
Neglected	142	34.63
Total	410	100

Among all the Gondhali people surveyed, only 31 (7.56%) have expressed that, the status of women is higher compared to men among Gondhali people, 53 (12.93%) have agreed that status of women is equal compared to that of men, 184 (44.88%) have stated that, status of women is lower compared to men and 142 (34.63%) of the Gondhali people have mentioned that, status of women among Gondhali people is neglected.

6. Nomadic Group:

It has already been discussed on the occupations of Gondhali people, which are based on nomadic culture. It is observed that, some of the Gondhali people living in Karnataka are wandering across different countries for fortune telling using parrot or Panchanga. Even there are singers and sellers of household utensils, who are wandering from place to place to search for good demand for their arts or utensils. Gondhali community is nomadic depending on their occupation. Still, impact of modernization has resulted in settlement of Gondhali people at single village or town and participate in other types of employment. The primary data collected from the Gondhali people on whether they are wandering or nomadic groups is depicted in the following table.

Table No. 6. Nomadic Group

Particulars	No. of Gondhali People	Percentage
Yes	246	60.00
No	164	40.00
Total	410	100

Majority that is, 246 (60.00%) of all the Gondhali people have agreed that, they are nomadic groups whereas, 164 (40.00%) are not wandering from place to place. It is also observed that, even though Gondhali families are settled at single place, still the elders in their families are wandering from place to place as part of their occupations.

7. Purpose of Nomadism:

Of course, the nomadism is social culture of Gondhali community. Still, many of the families are settled in their own buildings/ houses at single village or town in Bagalkot district. Even though some of the Gondhali families are settled at single place, still the elders in their families are wandering to search opportunities for their occupations such as fortune telling, parrotology, etc. The purposes of the nomadism as stated by Gondhali people covered under the study are as under:

Table No. 7. Purpose of Nomadism

Particulars	No. of Gondhali People	Percentage
Demand for Occupations	121	29.51
Caste Culture	42	10.24
No Residences (Housing)	73	17.81
Any Other	10	2.44
Not Applicable	164	40.00
Total	410	100

On the purpose of nomadism of the Gondhali people, it is found that, 121 (29.51%) of them are wandering to search demand for their occupations, 42 (10.24%) of the Gondhali people feels that, it is their caste culture, 73 (17.81%) have no residences or own houses at their native places, 10 (2.44%) have given other purposes of wandering and it is not applicable to 164 (40.00%) of the Gondhali people as they are settled at single place and not following nomadism.

8. Present Family Occupation:

Majority of the Gondhali people have their community or caste-based family occupations. Still, some of them are engaged in other works such as agriculture, animal husbandry, self-employment, small business, organized sector, etc. It is found that, due to lack of demand for their caste-based family occupations, the Gondhali people are started to engage in other occupations like small business, self-employment, unorganized sector employment, etc. The present family occupations of the Gondhali people covered under the study are as under.

Table No. 8. Present Family Occupation

Particulars	No. of Gondhali People	Percentage
Agriculture	23	5.61
Self-employment	51	12.44
Fortune Telling	67	16.34
Selling Household Utensils	108	26.34
Stitching Rugs & Blankets	36	8.78
Organized Sector	32	7.80
Unorganized Sector	81	19.76

Any Other	12	2.93
Total	410	100

Among all the Gondhali people surveyed on their present family occupations, 23 (5.61%) have responded that their families are engaged in agriculture and animal husbandry now, 51 (12.44%) have stated that their families are engaged in self-employment and small business now, only 67 (16.34%) of them have remarked that, their families are engaged in fortune telling using parrotology, 108 (26.34%) have mentioned that their families are engaged in selling of household utensils, 36 (8.78%) have expressed that their families are engaged in stitching rugs and blankets, 32 (7.80%) have remarked that, their families are working in organized sector of employment, 81 (19.76%) of them opined that their families are working in unorganized sector and 12 (2.93%) have given other occupations in which their families are engaged now. It shows that, due to decrease in demand and lesser income from their caste-based family occupations, Gondhalis are started to work in other types of occupations such as unorganized sector of employment, self-employment, small business, agriculture, animal husbandry and so on.

9. Monthly Income of Family (From All Sources):

It is observed that, some of the Gondhali people are living in joint families and in such families, more than one or two or even more than three of their family members are working outside to generate family income. Further, in some of the families, husband, wife and children are also working outside to generate family income. Total family income includes incomes generated by all the family members including parents, respondent Gondhali persons, brothers, their spouses, sons, daughters, daughters-in-law, if any and sons-in-law, if any and such other family members. Even there are also passive income sources such as rent to a few of the families of Gondhali people. The collected primary data on the monthly income of the families of the Gondhali people surveyed is disclosed as under.

Table No. 9. Monthly Income of Family (From All Sources)

Particulars	No. of Gondhali People	Percentage
Less than Rs. 5000	--	--
Rs. 5001 to Rs. 10000	27	6.58
Rs. 10001 to Rs. 15000	35	8.54
Rs. 15001 to Rs. 20000	162	39.52
Rs. 20001 to Rs. 30000	98	23.90
Rs. 30001 to Rs. 40000	56	13.66
More than Rs. 40000	32	7.80
Total	410	100

Of all the Gondhali people covered under the study on their family income from all the sources, 27 (6.58%) have stated that their family income is between Rs. 5001 to Rs. 10000 per month, 35 (8.54%) have agreed that their family monthly income is between Rs. 10001 to Rs. 15000, 162 (39.52%) have stated that their family monthly income is between Rs. 15001 to Rs. 20000, 98 (23.90%) have mentioned that their family income is between Rs. 20001 to Rs. 30000, 56 (13.66%) have expressed that, their family income is between Rs. 30001 to Rs. 40000 and the remaining 32 (7.80%) have remarked that their monthly family income is more than Rs. 40000.

10. Worth of Properties Owned by Family:

Apart from the income of their families, another significant factor to reveal the economic conditions of the Gondhali people is worth of properties owned by their families. The worth of properties owned by the families of the Gondhali people is disclosed as under.

Table No. 10. Worth of Properties Owned by Family

Particulars	No. of Gondhali People	Percentage
Nil	100	24.39
Less than Rs. 1 lakh	44	10.73
Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 2 lakhs	95	23.17
Rs. 2 lakhs to Rs. 5 lakhs	56	13.66
Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 10 lakhs	69	16.83
More than Rs. 10 lakhs	46	11.22
Total	410	100

On the worth of properties owned by their families, it is found that, 100 (24.39%) of all the Gondhali people are not owned any properties, 44 (10.73%) of the Gondhali families have owned properties worth less than Rs. 1 lakh, 95 (23.17%) of the Gondhali families have owned properties worth between Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 2 lakhs, 56 (13.66%) of the Gondhali families have owned properties worth between Rs. 2 lakhs to Rs. 5 lakhs, 69 (16.83%) of the Gondhali families owned properties worth between Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 10 lakhs and even 46 (11.22%) of the Gondhali families are owned properties worth more than Rs. 10 lakhs.

SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION:

From the above discussion, it is clear that, caste-based occupations of Gondhali people have been disappeared already due to impact of modernization. Consequently, Gondhalipeople are facing unemployment and lower income. As the human rights emphasize food, clothing, shelter, education, healthcare, etc of all the people, it is essential to assure these basic necessities of Gondhali people. For this purpose, it is needed to encourage start self-employment among all the Gondhali people in various other areas such as Computer DTP works, stitching, tailoring, embroidery, beautician and such other occupations and free training with financial assistance to start such self-employment among all the Gondhali people. The Government has to implement such schemes for the backward castes and tribes, to empower the same and bring them to mainstream of the society.

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