



HEALTH STATUS OF KATHODI KATKARI TRIBE IN KARNATAKA

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ABSTRACT

Kathodi Katkari tribe community resides in Forest virgin of Khanapur Taluk of Belagavi district. This community has originated in Maharashtra State. The primary occupation of Kathodi Katkari tribe is to cut trees. This people of this tribe talk their own Tribal language and this called as Katkari. This tribe is not aware of cleanliness and sanitation. The people of this tribe do not bath daily. The people of Kathodi Katkari tribe Deliver babies at the home. Child marriage is observed in the Tender age when girl of this grow 14 to 16 years and when boy 16 to 18 years they get married. The people use traditional medicines.



KEY WORD: Kathodi Katkari, Health, Child Marriage, Traditional Medicine, Migration, Jasmine Bark, Vaivadanga.

INTRODUCTION

Some of the tribal communities do not have the permanent settlement, these tribal communities always keep migrating from one place to other. Kathodi Katkari tribal community is one amongst such tribal communities. Kathodi Katkari tribal community resides in forest region of Khanapur taluk of Belagavi district. This community has originated in Maharashtra state. They have migrated from Maharashtra to Karnataka several years ago. The primary occupation of Kathodi Katkari tribe is to cut trees. This tribe used to extract liquor named Kath through distillation process from the bark of trees. Therefore, this tribe acquired the name Katkari. This people of this tribe talk their own tribal language and this language is called as Katkari language. Apart from Katkari language this tribe also speak Marathi language. Dora Katkari and Sona Katkari are the sub tribes of Kathodi Katkari tribe. Sona Katkari is termed as superior to Dora Katkari tribe. As this tribe hunts the black faced monkey in forest and eat, the localites call this people of this tribe as Mangyanmari tribe. In Goa this tribe is named a Makadmari tribe. Even today the people of this tribe live in forest. This tribe are not availing any fundamental facilities from the government. This tribe is betrayed from fundamental facilities provided by the government The people of this tribe are leading a miserable life.

FIELDWORK:

In the present research about 25 families from 7 villages of Khanapur taluk of Belagavi district belonging to Kathodi Katkari tribe are selected to know the health status of the Kathodi Katkari tribes. In the survey method Fieldwork is carried out in the Khanapur taluk and Information is collected.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

In the present research the information is collected by Primary and Secondary sources.

Objectives of the Study:

- * To know the health status of the Kathodi Katkari tribe community.
- * To know the traditional and generic medicines used by the Kathodi Katkari tribe community.

*** Hypotheses of the Study**

- * These tribes are highly illiterates.
- * Agriculture is the main occupations of Kathodi Katkari tribe.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

* Mohanty P.K. in his book “Encyclopaedia of Primitive Tribes of India” has thrown light on the marital relations, and marriages of Kathodi Katkari tribe. Further the author has explained about the child marriages and the various types of child marriages like internal relation and external relations are explained.

* Metry M.K. in his book “Karnataka Alemari Samudayagalu” has explained the origin, habitat and primary occupation of Kathodi Katkari tribe. The book also throws on other sub castes, language and historical aspects of Kathodi Katkari tribe.

* Prakash Chandra Mehta in his book development of Indian tribes.

Make their livelihood. The people of this community are facing various problems illiteracy, Child marriage, lack of fundamental facilities is the major observed in this community.

Health Status of Kathodi Katkari tribe community:

Kathodi Katkari tribe community are living in forests. Kathodi Katkari tribal community possess a good health. But this tribe do not a permanent housing, they keep on migrating from one place to other to make their livelihood. They live in forest constructing the temporary huts.

Problem of Safe Drinking water:

The Kathodi Katkari tribal people are to walk many kilometers to fetch water. During rainy season this tribe utilizes the rain water stored in the pit dug surrounding their hut. But as the pit is small, during summer season the pit drains quickly. Therefore Kathodi Katkari tribe people are facing problem of drinking water. As this tribe lives in forest and are not clean, the people of nearby village do not provide them water. The people of Kathodi Katkari tribe hunt animals in the forest and eat their flesh. Therefore people of Kathodi Katkari tribe are prohibited from fetching water from lakes and wells in the villages. Further, other people of other community do not mingle with people of Kathodi Katkari tribe. Those agricultural owners in whose field these tribes work provide water from their borewells and wells. But the people of Kathodi Katkari tribe has to walk a long distance to fetch water from these fields.

People of Kathodi Katkari tribe lack cleanliness and sanitation:

This tribe is not aware of cleanliness and sanitation. The people of this tribe do not bath daily. Instead they bath once in a week. Both men and women wear torn or dirty clothes. Even the children of this tribe do not take bath daily. Children of this tribe play in the mud wearing torn clothes. Due to the shortage water, Scarcity of water would be the reason for the tribe for not bathing daily. Though during rainy season there is adequate availability of water this tribe does not bath regularly. This tribe keeps migrating from one place to other, they work hard for making their livelihood, Some of the people of this tribe bath once in 15 or 20 days. This tribe keeps roaming from one place to other just to make their days meal. The people of this tribe are not concerned about the cleanliness and sanitation.

Delivering baby at Home:

The people of Kathodi Katkari tribe deliver babies at the home. The elderly women of the family or elderly women of the community will assist the mother in delivering the baby. The people of Kathodi Katkari tribe believe that delivering the baby in the hospital is unholy. Even today people of Kathodi Katkari tribe do not go to hospital to instead deliver babies at the home.

Observance of Child Marriage:**Child Marriage:**

Child marriage is observed in the Kathodi Katkari tribe. Children are married at the tender age. When girl of this tribe grow 14 to 16 years and when the boy grows 16 to 18 years they get married. The elder people of this tribe states that this is custom of the tribe and it has been followed since long time. Due to the marriage at young age, girls conceive at the early age children born to them are suffering from malnutrition and are underweight. The girl born in Balagunda village died due to malnutrition. As a consequence of becoming mother at a tender age, health of the women is severely affected.

Use of traditional medicine system:

The people of Kathodi Katkari tribe use traditional medicines to cure certain diseases. Even today this tribe don't go to hospital they use traditional medicines and cure the diseases. The following are some the herbal medicines they use to cure certain diseases:

Jasmine Bark:

People of Kathodi Katkari tribe use the medicine extracted from Jasmine bark to save the person on snake bite. The Jasmine bark is thoroughly crushed and is mixed in water. This mixture is fed to the snake bit patient. Jasmine bark juice reduced the intensity of velum of the snake. Further the people of this tribe tie bark of the jasmine tree to their trunk, they opine that the snake does not come near them due to the smell of jasmine bark.

Vaivadanga:

Vaivadanga is the creeper, the green leaves of this creeper is placed on the forehead of the patient suffering from fever. The patient gets relieved. When suffering from omit and dysentery the people of this tribe the crush the leaves of this creeper and consume. To cure small wounds on the body, they crush the leaves of the creeper and apply the paste on the wounds. Even today this tribe follow this traditional medicine to cure certain diseases.

SUGGESTIONS:

1. Government has to provide basic infrastructural facilities to this tribe.
2. Awareness has to created about the cleanliness and sanitation amongst this tribe
3. The tribe has to be made aware of ill effects of child marriage on the health of the women
4. Safe drinking water facility has to be provided in the habitat of this tribe.

CONCLUSION:

Kothodi Katkari tribe migrate from one place to other to make their livelihood. This tribe do not settle in one permanent place for long time, they keep wandering from one place to other. They do not have a descent house they stay in huts in the forest. The settlement of this tribe does not have drinking water facility, this tribe are not aware of cleanliness and sanitation. They live in forest without availing any facilities from the government.

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- Prakash Chandra Mehta in his Book Development of Indian Tribes explains about the culture and Medicinal Systems followed by these tribes. These tribes utilize the medicinal herbs and roots to cure fever, headache and even for curing the Snake bite patients. This book mentioned about the population of these tribes existing between 1961-1991. (Pages 75-78)

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