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An Analysis of the Living Standards of the Kandha People in Kandhamal District of Odisha

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Abstract---Odisha is a Homeland of 62 tribes and 13 Primitive tribes (Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups). Kandha tribe is the numerical the largest tribe in Odisha. The majority of Kandha tribe people live in Kandhamal district of Odisha, so the name of the district is Kandhamal. The present paper aims to analyze the standard of living of the Kandha people in Kandhamal district of Odisha. The Kandhas spend a little amount of their Income on non-food things. They spend on food items 63.27 percent and non-food items 36.73 percent. Out of 400 households under study, it is found that 29.25 percent of the tribe's monthly income is within Rs 5000 to Rs 7000. Merely 8.75 percent of people have a monthly income of more than Rs 9000. So, the income of the Kandha people is very low due to a lack of employment opportunities. These Tribal people have no saving habits. The situation is such that 70 percent of tribal families do not save at all and also observed that they have 78 percent cycle, 30 percent Television, 70 percent mobile, 12 percent Bike, 50 percent Fan 45 percent Watch and 92 percent Toilets and engaged in traditional occupation is 84.5 percent.

Keywords---expenses, income, savings, survival, tribes.

Introduction

The standard of living understands the comfort, wealth, material products, and necessities accessible for a specific geographical area. Factors are included in the standard of living such as Employment, quality and employment availability, class inequality, poverty rates, income, quality and affordability of households, hours worked to buy necessities, gross domestic product, inflation rate, life expectancy, annual leave, and affordable access to health care. Quality and availability of education, disease-related diseases, cost of goods and services, infrastructure, national economic growth, economic and political stability, independence, environmental quality, climate, and security. The living standard is closely related to the quality of life ([Jungari, 2020](#); [Saravanadurai & Manimehalai, 2016](#)).

The tribes are the most neglected, deprived, and oppressed sections of the country. Half of the Adivasi people don't have land. Mainly they depend upon the forest for their cultivation and survival. In most cases, some land they have only marginal holdings. Neediness, hardship, ignored and present, the decrease of government use on the fundamental clinical wellbeing offices is reflected in the chronic frailty state of Adivasi ladies and kids. India has formed several constitutional provisions and laws, such as the Fifth Schedule for mainland India and the Sixth Schedule for certain areas of northeast India, which recognize indigenous people's rights to land and self-governance ([Balarajan et al., 2011](#); [Bouman, 1995](#)). There are many shortcomings in the laws designed to protect the Scheduled Tribes, and their implementation is unsatisfactory. The purpose of this paper is to test the quality of life with the help of preliminary data collected from field surveys from 400 families in the Kandhamal district of Odisha, using a stratified random sampling method and printed questionnaire.

Tribal view of Odisha

India is the second-largest indigenous population in the world after Africa. Indigenous peoples are the most backward and neglected sections of society. Article 366 (25) of the Constitution of India refers to the Scheduled Tribes as the community referred to in Article 342 of the Constitution. This article says that only communities who have been declared as such by the President through an initial public notification or subsequent amending Act of Parliament will be considered to be Scheduled Tribes ([Bakshi & Bala, 2000](#); [Roy Burman & Harit, 1971](#)). Article 342 of the Constitution of India, provides for the specification of tribal communities or parts of or groups within tribes or tribal communities which are deemed to be for the Constitution the Scheduled Tribes about that State or Union Territory and are valid only within the jurisdiction of that State or Union Territory and not outside. There are 705 tribal communities and 75 primitive tribal groups in India (Statistical profile of scheduled tribes in India 2013). Out of 705 tribes in India, Odisha has the distinction of being the homeland of 62 tribal communities. Out of 62 tribes, 13 tribes are identified as particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). Kandha is the most populous tribe with a population of 13,95,643 constituting 17.8 percent of the total Scheduled Tribe population, mainly live in Kandhamal and adjoining districts namely Rayagada, Koraput, Bolangir, and Boudh. The name of the district Kandhamal comes from the name

of its main inhabitant of the Kandha people. Almost 66 percent of the land area of the district is covered with thick forest and towering mountains which give shelter to the major inhabitants of Kandha people (Mallik et al., 2012; Chandra & Paswan, 2020). The deep concentration of the district's tribal population is seen as a drag on its rapid socio-economic transformation.

Area of the study

Kandhamal district is covering a geographical area of 7654sq kms and is located in central Odisha. It is bounded by Ganjam and Nayagarh districts in the East, Boudh district in the north, Rayagada district in the South, and Kalahandi district in the west. The district lies between 190, 34' to 200, 36' north latitude and 830, 34' to 840, 34' east longitude. Kandhamal is the 6th biggest district by area in the State. The district is home to about 7.3 lakh people, among them about 3.6 lakh (49 percentages) are male and about 3.7 lakh (51 percentages) are female. 31 percent of the whole population are from the general caste, 16 percent are from Scheduled Caste and 54 percent are Scheduled Tribes according to the 2011 census.

District-wise distribution of the Scheduled Tribe in Odisha shows that Kandhas are the highest proportion (93.3 percent) in Kandhamal district followed by Nayagarh (76.9 percent), Boudh (76.4per cent), and Rayagada (71.1 percent) districts. The density of population in the Kandhamal district is 91 persons as against 270 for the state per square kilometer as per 2011census which is the lowest of all thirty districts of the state of Odisha. The percentage of the rural tribal population in Kandhamal district in 2011 is 96.89 and in 2001 it was 98.14 percentages as against the rural general population of 90.10 and 93.21 percentage respectively. Only 52.25 percent of tribals are literate against the state percentage of 72.9 percent the literacy rate for ST males is 43.94 percent and ST females are 11.56 percent (Deogaonkar, 1980; Deogaonkar, 1992). Forest occupies about 74.20 percent of the total geographical area of the district and covers about 5710 square kilometers in the year 2010-11. The district presents mostly a picture of the major crops. The major nonpaddy crops cultivated in the district as Kharif crops are High Yielding Varieties paddy, muga, biri, groundnuts, Maize, miger, ragi. The major rabi crops are cereals, oilseeds, pulses, spices, vegetables, turmeric. Maize is cultivated next to paddy and turmeric is the chief commercial crop. Turmeric cultivation is hereditary with Kandhamal, which is traditionally practiced by the Kandha people (Behura & Panigrahi, 2006; Danda, 1991). The district is famous for turmeric cultivation in the state of Odisha as well as in India.

Kandhamal is the most backward district of the state of Odisha with a high concentration of Kandhas. Kandhas are divided into three sub-groups such as Kuita Kandh, Dangaria Kandha, and Desia Kandha. Kuita and Dangria Kandhas are living in Kandhamal district. Kutia Kandhas are found mainly in the Kotagarh and Tumudibandh block areas. Desia Kandha is lives in plain and foothills areas all over the district and more developed than Kutia Kandhas. The tribals of Kandhamal district keep animals like bullocks, cows, goats, pigs, sheep, and other domestic birds in the shed. The cowsheds are some little distance or attached to each house of their habitation. But the chickens and goats are kept in

the home or the varandha. Mainly Kandhas are shifting cultivators ([Mohindra et al., 2011](#); [Behera & Misra, 2005](#)). They produced paddy from the uplands, were available at the foot of the hills but mainly depend upon minor millets and cereals. Kandhas have also produced cash crops like turmeric, ginger, groundnuts, black gram, and mustard, and arrow-root, etc. kandhas learn the techniques and processes of collection of the firewood and forest products by their ancestors. Both men and women go to the forest to collect firewood.

Methodology

This paper tries to examine the standards of living of Kandha people in Kandhamal district. The researcher has attempted to portray the standard of living variables of the tribes. A descriptive research design was used. In the study areas are 400 households belong to Kandha people ([Bagchi, 1994](#); [Bhanage, 1993](#)). A self-prepared interview schedule is prepared to collect data from the respondents. The interview schedule includes information on financial status, nature of the profession, educational qualifications, and residence.

Objectives

- To examine the standard of living of the kandha people.
- To analyze the monetary status of the kandha people.
- To know the schooling status of the kandha people.

Income of tribes

The impact of pay is the main determinant of utilization. Kandha families get their pay from an assortment of sources from horticulture, non-agribusiness, poultry, and domesticated animals, compensation, and other independent work exercises. Under the head consumption expenditures, all items under food and non-food including expenditures on consumer durables goods are included ([Bardhan, 1999](#); [Majumdar, 1961](#)). Monthly data were collected on expenses on each item of food while monthly data were collected for the family on head expenses such as electricity, communication, cosmetics, and sanitary items. Expenditure data, which does not happen frequently, such as clothing and shoes, consumer sustainability and other household items, and religious and cultural activities, were collected on an annual basis for the family. The study of consumption pattern of tribal envisages that almost all the tribal household consume rice. Most people are eating rice; a small number of people are eating wheat. Some people consume pulse but don't form major consumption items. All indigenous peoples eat edible oil. Indigenous people cultivate vegetables for their use. In addition, they collect a variety of fruits, leaves, and cherries from the forest for their use and also sell them in the local market. The financial statuses of the tribals are very bad and income is scarce, they fail to give more expenditure for the purchase of rice, dal, wheat, and edible oil. The poor financial situation forced them to eat less of the product ([Mitra, 2008](#); [Xavier et al., 2014](#)).

The initial study collected savings on income, income, domestic assets, and various food and non-food items used by the tribals. Household income is a key indicator of people's livelihood. During the field study, it was found that the

Kanda tribe was poor and had a low standard of living. The monthly income level of Kandha tribes is given below in table 1.

Table 1
Income of tribes

Monthly income level(Rs)	Number of households	Per cent (%)
0-1500	53	13.25
1500-3000	71	17.75
3000-5000	66	16.5
5000-7000	117	29.25
7000-9000	45	11.25
9000-11000	35	8.75
11000 and above	13	3.25
Total	400	100

Source: Primary data collected from Field Survey

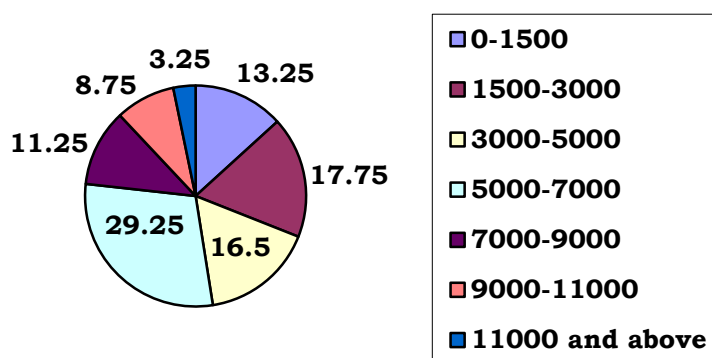


Figure 1. Monthly income level

The above table shows that 13.25 percent respondents out of 400 respondents under study have a monthly income range below Rs 1500, 17.75 percent of respondents have monthly income is between Rs.1500-3000, 16.5 percent of the respondent's monthly income is Rs.3000-5000, 30 percent of respondents monthly income is Rs. 5000-7000, 11.25 percent of respondents have monthly income is Rs. 7000-9000, 9 percent of households have a monthly income between Rs. 9000-11000 and only 3.25 percent of the households earn a monthly income range above Rs.1100. So the income of the Kanda people in Kandhamal is very low due to a lack of lucrative employment opportunities (Sharma, 2006; Datta, 1988; Rani, 2017). 70per cent of tribal households doesn't save at all.

Table 2
Saving profile of tribes

Savings	Number of households	Percent (%)
Nil	235	58.75
0-500	64	16
500-1000	49	12.25
1000-1500	36	9
1500-2000	16	4
Total	400	100

Source- Primary data collected from Field Survey

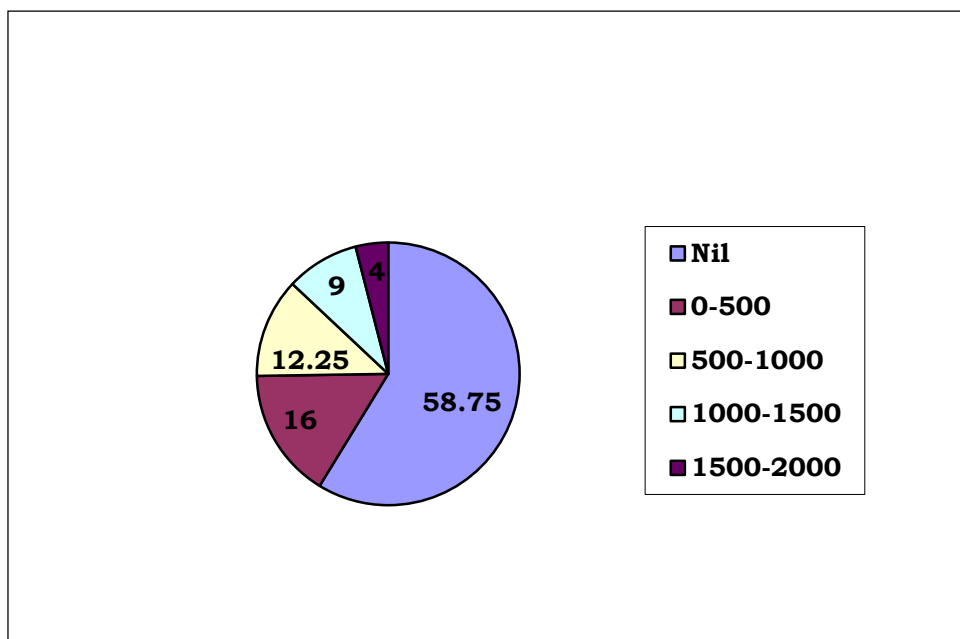


Figure 2. Saving profile of tribes

The above table-1.2 shows that 09 percent of households save within Rs1000-1500, 16 percent of households save monthly range from below Rs. 500, 12.25 percent households save between Rs. 500-1000 and only 4 percent households save Rs. 1500-2000 in a month. So that saving of the tribe is low.

Table 3
Landholding size

Land Holding Size (in Acres)	Number of households	Percentage (%)
0-1	36	9
1-2	88	22
2-3	91	22.75
3-4	98	24.5
4-5	49	12.25
5 and above	38	9.5

Total	400	100
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Source: Primary data collected from Field Survey

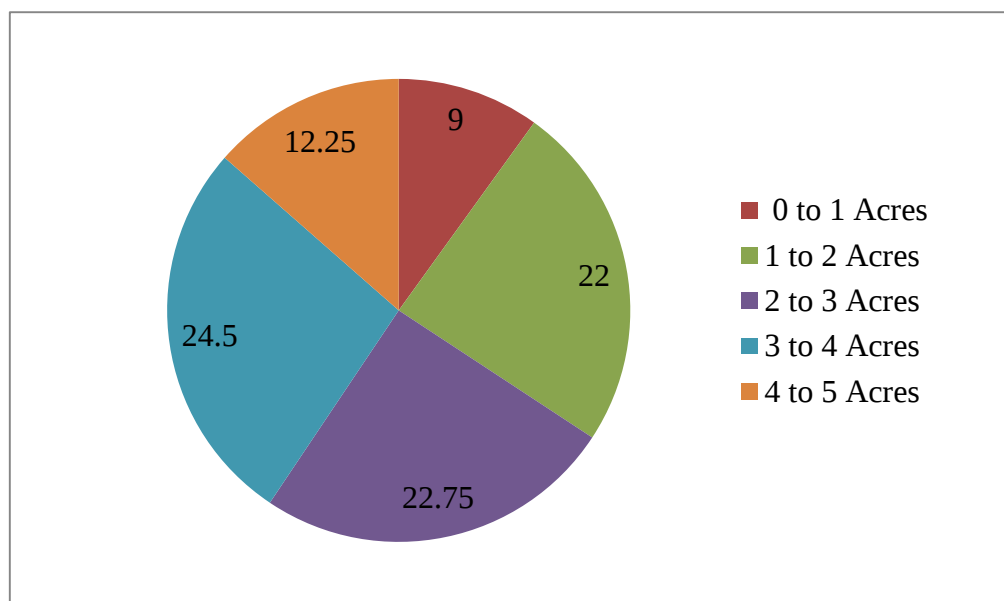


Figure 3. Landholding size in acres

Regarding land holding it is seen from the above table-1.3 that only 9.5 percent of households possess 5 Acres of land, 9 percent of the households have below 1 Acre land on their own. 23 percent of households are having 2 to 3 Acre, 24.5 percent of households are have 3 to 4 Acre and only 9.5 percent of the households have above 5 Acre. More than 22.75 percent of households have less than three acres of land so the tribals in the study area are not rich in real estate.

Table 4
Currently engaged in traditional occupation

Particulars	Number of households	Percentage
Yes	338	84.5
No	62	15.5
Total	400	100

Source- Primary data collected from Field Survey

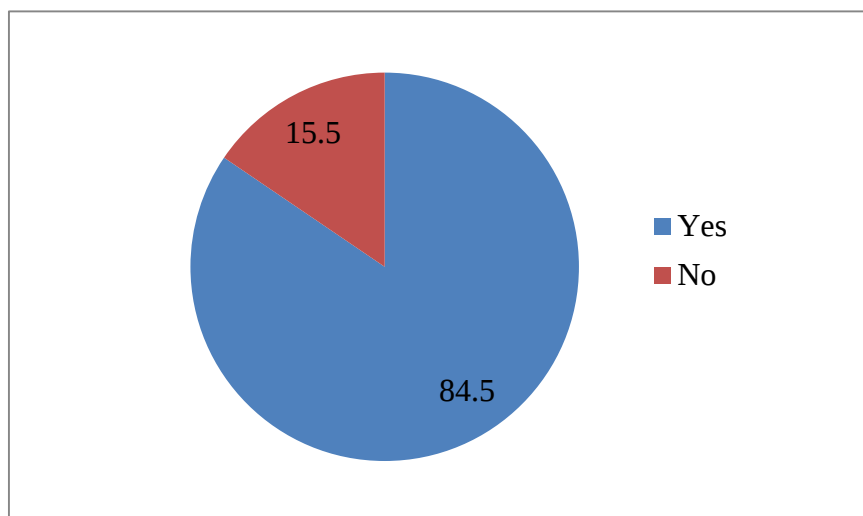


Figure 4. Currently engaged in traditional occupation of tribes

The above table-1.4 shows that out of 400 households 62 numbers of households consisting of 15.5 percent of the total households are not engaged in traditional occupation (Bardhan, 1973; Bailey, 1960). On the contrary 338 numbers of households consisting of 84.5 percent of the total households engaged in a traditional occupation, which has a significant contribution to their low economic status in this area.

Table 5
Loan of tribes

Range(Rs)	Number of households	Percentage (%)
No Loan	248	62
1-50000	53	13.25
5000-10000	78	19.5
10000-20000	21	5.25
Total	400	100

Source: Primary data collected from Field Survey

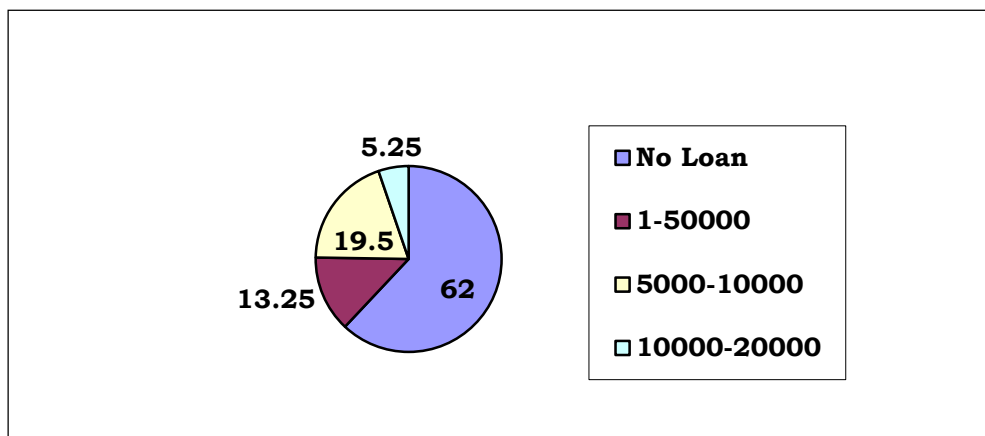


Figure 5. Loan of tribes

The above table-1.5 shows that generally, tribal people don't like to take a loan. 62 percent of people have no loan. 13.25 percent people have a loan within Rs 5000, 19.5 percent people have loan between 5000-10000, and only 5.25 percent people have loan between 10000-20000.

Table 6
Education status of tribes

Class	Number of households	Percent (%)
Illiterate	68	17
I to v	109	27.25
vi to 10 th	171	42.75
plus two	39	9.75
Graduation and above	13	3.25
Total	400	100

Source: Primary data collected from Field Survey

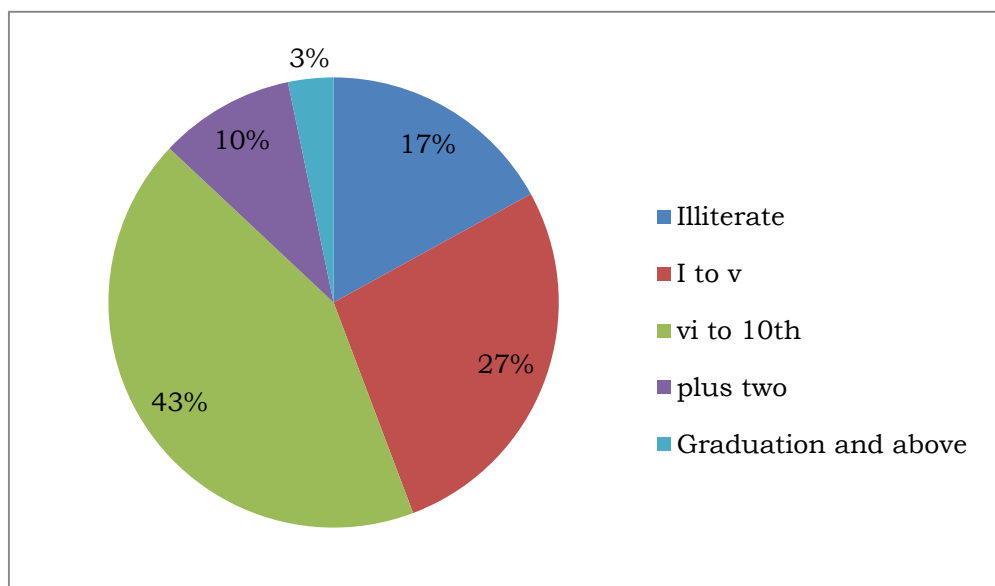


Figure 6. Education status of tribes

The above table-1.6 portrays that 17 percent of respondents are illiterates, 27.5 percent of respondents have education between class-1 to class-V, and 42.75 percent of tribes have education above the class-v. Only 3.25 percent of respondents are graduates. It's clear from the above table-1.5 that the education status of the tribes is very low in the research area.

Table 7
Food expenditure of tribes

Level of expenditure	Number of households	Percentage (%)
1000-1500	31	7.75
1500-2000	20	5
2000-2500	47	11.75
2500-3000	46	11.5
3000-3500	52	13
3500-4000	42	10.5
4000-4500	36	9
4500-5000	29	7.25
5000-5500	28	7
5500-6000	19	4.75
6000-6500	21	5.25
6500-7000	17	4.25
7000 above	12	3
Total	400	100

Source: Primary data collected from Field Survey

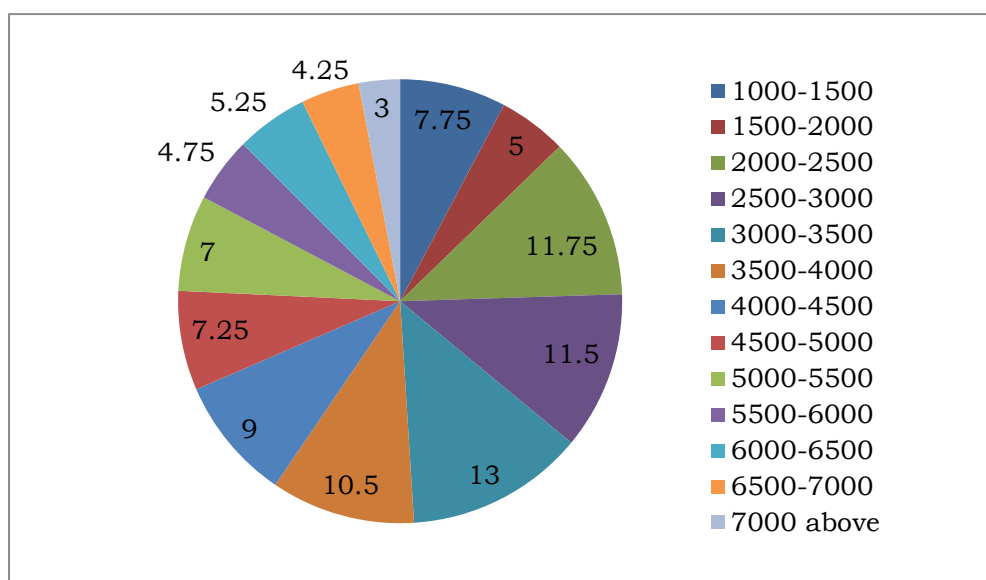


Figure 7. Food expenditure of tribes

Total expenditure is divided into food and non-food expenditure. The people spend 63.27 per cent on food items and 36.73 percent on non-food items. It is very interesting to note that people spend 11.02 per cent on beverages. Above table-1.1 portrays that 29.25 percent of the household out of 400 tribe household understudy monthly income is between Rs 5000 to Rs 7000. The details on food expenditure are given in the above table 7.

Table 8
Expenditure of tribes on non-food items

Level of expenditure (Rs)	Number of households	Per cent (%)
500-1000	37	9.25
1000-1500	45	11.25
1500-2000	53	13.25
2000-2500	46	11.5
2500-3000	67	16.75
3000-3500	49	12.25
3500-4000	76	19
4000 and above	27	6.75
Total	400	100

Source: Primary data collected from Field Survey

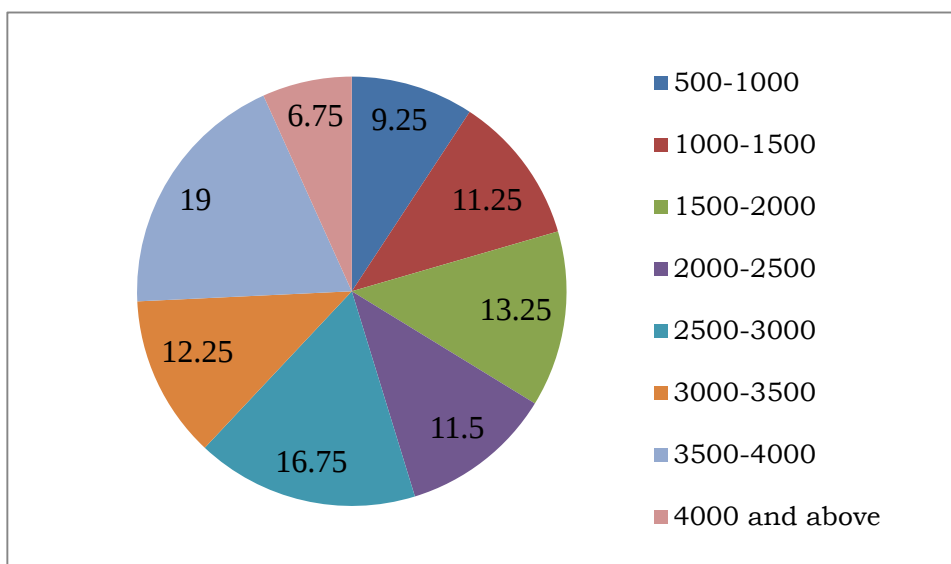


Figure 8. Expenditure of tribes on non-food items

The above table portrays that out of 400 households under study 9.25 percent of people spend on non-food items within Rs. 5000 to 1000, 11.25 percent of household spend is spend between Rs. 1000 to 1500, 13.25 percent of the household spends between Rs.1500 to 2000, 11.5 percent of household spending between 2000 to 2500, 17 percent of household spending between 2500 to 3000, 12.25 percent of household spend between Rs.3000 to 3500, 19 percent of household spend between Rs. 3500 to 4000 and only 8 percent of household spend Rs. 4000 and above (Devendra, 1986; Chhetri et al., 2005). Mainly clothing, medicine, transport, etc are non-food items and tribes spend less on non-food items.

Table 9
Total expenditure of tribes

Level of expenditure(Rs)	Number of households	Percentage (%)
1000-2000	21	5.25
2000-3000	32	8
3000-4000	38	9.5
4000-5000	38	9.5
5000-6000	42	10.5
6000-7000	45	11.25
7000-8000	49	12.25
8000-9000	47	11.75
9000-10000	32	8
10000 and above	56	14
Total	400	100

Source: Primary data collected form Field Survey

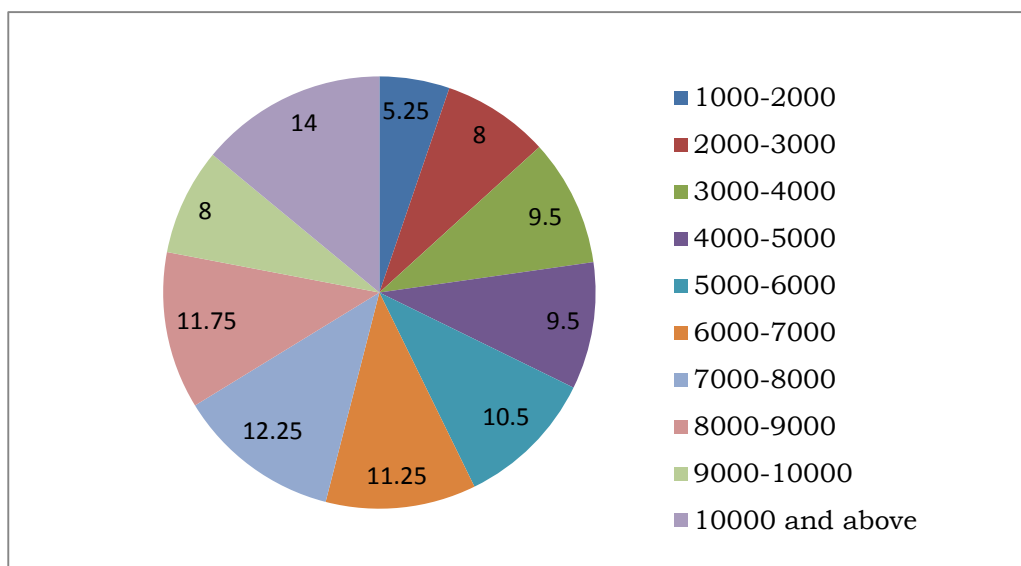


Figure 9. Total monthly expenditure of tribes

The above table-1.9 clearly shows that only 14 percent household spends more than Rs10000 in a month. Owing to the low income of the tribes total expenditure of tribes is also low in the research area.

Table10
Availability of household assets holding of tribes

Assets	Number of households	Per cent (%)
Mobile	280	70
Watch	235	58.75
Cycle	312	78
Bike	45	11.25
Fan	180	45
TV	82	20.5
Toilet	368	92

Source: Primary data collected from Field Survey

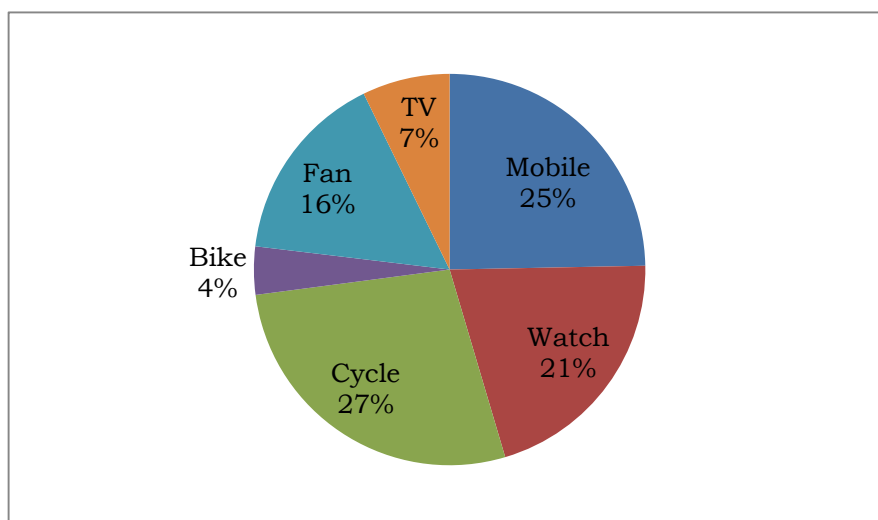


Figure 10. Households assets holding of tribes

The availability of household assets portrays the living standards of the households. From table-1.10, we observed that 70 percent Mobile, 58.75 percent Watch, 78 percent Cycles, 11.25 percent Motorbikes, 45 percent Fans, 20.5 percent TV, and 92 percent toilets.

Summary of Findings

The Following are the summary of findings presented below

- It is found that the majority of the respondent spend a little amount of their income on non-food items. They spend 63.27 percent on food items and 36.73 percent on non-food items.
- Out of 400 households under study, it is found that 29.25 percent of the tribe's monthly income is within Rs 5000 to Rs 7000.
- Merely 8.75 percent of respondents have a monthly income of more than Rs 9000. Due to lack of employment opportunities income of the tribal is very low.
- Tribes have no saving habits. The situation is such that 70 percent of tribal families do not save at all.
- it also observed that they have 78 percent cycle, 30 percent Television, 70 percent mobile, 12 percent Bike, 50 percent Fan 45 percent Watch, and 92 percent Toilets.
- It is observed that 84.5 percent of respondents engaged in traditional occupation.
- the education status of the respondents is very low in the research area.

Conclusion

Based on the results of the above study, it can be concluded that people's income and living standards are very low. The average monthly use-value of the Kanda tribe is low. They should move the performance from the lower index to the general

index. Proper implementation of the programmes and plans for their development and it is necessary to change in occupational pattern. Alcoholics' addiction will not only have a detrimental effect on their health but will also hinder their financial progress. It also hurts the behavior of other members of the family. The main causes of poverty are unemployment, under-employment, low income, illiteracy, low status of women, unequal distribution of land, and low agricultural production in the field of agriculture. Poverty alleviation in tribal areas has been a major cause of development strategies in the recent past. It has been accepted that the income generated from this profitable property will not only be sufficient to repay bank loans but will also help families in alleviating poverty. Programs that need to be properly understood to address the problems of tribal development should be tailored to the specific needs of the tribal community. Indigenous development programs will also be integrated with the ongoing rural development program to alleviate poverty. Only a realistic and holistic approach to tribal development can yield good results.

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