

CHAPTER IV :

ANALYTICAL INTERPRETATION : TRIBAL PEOPLE AND EDUCATION

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CHAPTER IV

ANALYTICAL INTERPRETATION : TRIBAL PEOPLE AND EDUCATION

4.1 INTRODUCTION

West Khandesh (Dhule district of Maharashtra state) is largely a rural area where 1,650,113 persons out of the total district population of 2,050,294 reside in villages, remaining 400,181 persons abode in Urban areas. Population residing in Urban areas is nearly 19.52 percent, whereas the remaining 80.48 percent reside in small villages and hamlets, scattered across the countryside. Among the groups that makes up the rural population are mostly scheduled tribes. The largest of whom are Bhils, Dhanka, Gamit, Konkna and Pardhi tribes.

4.2 CONCEPT OF TRIBE

Many anthropologists and Sociologist have tried to define a tribe. Some of the Definitions of tribe are discussed below:

According to the World Book Encyclopedia, "A tribe is a group of people who live in particular place, speak the same language, and obey a chief or elders. Its members have a common way of life. The tribe is earliest form of society. Tribes range in size from few hundred to more than a million. They may be

organized into a clans, families or communities. Social behaviour within a tribe is regulated by customary ways of doing things."

Dube describes tribe as, "The term tribe generally refers to territorial communities living in relative isolation in hills and forests. Their isolation has kept them away from the main stream of life. They have a limited view and a lack of historical depth."

Majumdar defines tribe as, "A tribe is a social group with territorial affiliation, ruled by tribal officers, hereditary or otherwise, united in language and dialect, following the tribal beliefs and traditions and customs."

Ehrenfels writes, "The members of a true tribe are generally not included in traditional Hindu caste hierarchy and frequently speak a common dialect, entertain common beliefs, follow common occupational practices, and most important consider themselves as members of small but semi-national unit."

According to the Imperial Gazetteer, "A tribe is collection of families bearing a common name, speaking a common dialect, occupying or professing to occupy a common territory and is not usually endogamous through originally it might have been so."

From the definitions quoted, it can be noticed that there is some confusion on the subject of the Concept of tribe.

Tribe ,for the research purpose is consider as , "All such

tribes of tribal community or part of group within tribal community as are declared by president of India, to be treated as Scheduled Tribes, Under the Article 342(i) of the Indian Constitution."

The District Census hand-book of Dhule district that is West Khandesh states, "Dhule accounts for the highest percentage of Scheduled Tribes in the state. Out of the total district population of 2,050,294 Scheduled Tribe population is 831,064 or 40.53 percent."

4.3 POPULATION DISTRIBUTION IN SCHEDULED AREA OF WEST KHANDESH

Ninety six percent of the scheduled tribes population live in rural areas. It follows naturally that Seventy-eight percent of the tribal population is involved in some type of agricultural labour, although Scheduled tribes are said to , "----- subsist on forest produce and allied work."

The Bhils are the largest group of Scheduled Tribe in West Khandesh, numbering 300,009 persons in the 1961 Census report. At that time they accounted for 22 percent of the population of West Khandesh.

Broadly speaking, the Scheduled area of West Khandesh consisting of Nawapur, Akkalkuwa and Akrani tehsils is predominated by tribals . TABLE IX points out that Scheduled area has an average tribal population of 89.28 percent. These three tehsils are the most backward area of West Khandesh and therefore it is

categorized as Scheduled area that means the backward area demanding serious attention on the part of the state.

From the TABLE XIII it can be well observed that out of the total population of 318,199 persons 299,084 persons live in rural area. Remaining 19,115 persons live in Urban area. This shows 93.99 percent of the people live in rural area and only 6.1 percent of people reside in urban area.

Population distribution in Scheduled area of West Khandesh

TABLE XIII

Source : Census report 1981.

Sr. No.	Tehsil	No. of Villages	Total Population	Rural Population	Urban Population	No. of Towns
1	Nawapur	128	154,6777	135,562	19,115	1
2.	Akkalkuwa	185	100,237	100237	Nil	-
3.	Akrani	160	63,285	63,285	Nil	-
Total--		473	318,199	299,084	19,115	1

In the three tehsils, there is only one town that is Nawapur. This region is very backward and is not exposed to modernity.

From the TABLE XIV reveals that out of 475 households in the Scheduled tehsil of West Khandesh, 433 households are in rural area, which clearly indicates that 91.15 percent of the households are in rural area. Only 8.85 percent of households are in Urban area.

In Tehsil Akkalkuwa and Akrani all the household are in rural area that means 100 percent households are in rural area. Only in Nawapur tehsil 16.22 percent of households are in urban area.

TABLE XIV`

Household distribution in tribal area of West Khandesh

Source :.Census 1981

Srl.No.	Tehsil	Total household	Urban household	Rural household	Percent of urban household	Percent of rural household
1.	NAWAPUR	259	42	217	16.22	83.78
2.	AKKALKUWA	135	NIL	135	NIL	100
3.	AKRANI	81	NIL	81	NIL	100
TOTAL		475	42	433	8.85	91.15

From the TABLE XIV it is very clear that scheduled area of West Khandesh, consisting the three tehsils, is mainly rural area, this area is heavily concentrated with scheduled tribes.

TABLE XV

Number of villages having or not having schedule tribes

population source: Census 1981

Srl. No.	Tehsil	Total villages	inhabited villages	inhabited villages	village without scheduled tribe	village with scheduled tribe
					Population	Population
1.	NAWAPUR	133	5	128	-	128
2.	AKKALKUWA	187	2	185	-	185
3.	AKRANI	160	-	160	-	160
TOTAL		480	7	473		473

TABLE XV points out of the total 473 inhabited villages all the villages of the three tehsils, viz. Akrani, Akkalkuwa and Nawapur of the West Khandesh have scheduled tribe population. There is not a single inhabited village without tribal population.

From the TABLE XV it can be inferred that scheduled area is fairly occupied with tribal population as all the villages do have tribal people.

4.4 EDUCATIONAL PATTERN IN WEST KHANDESH

The educational standards in west Khandesh are in keeping with the general education pattern in the country, This district in one of the educationally backward district in Maharashtra State. However, the gradual increase in the number of literates from 206,084 in 1951 to 339,793 in 1961 is sufficient testimony to the fact that in the past conscious efforts were made by the state Government and some voluntary organization for the spread of literacy and education. The percentage of literates to the total population came to 25.5 in 1961 as compared to 18.0 in 1951. In 1981 the literacy has risen to 37.51 percent.

Prior to formation of Zilla Parishad, primary and secondary education in the district was under the control of the district educational inspector who was a class I officer of Maharashtra education service and who was directly under the control of the director of education, Maharashtra State Poona.

The educational Inspector was responsible for :

- 1> The supervision of primary education.
- 2> The administrative control of all Government primary

school, secondary schools and training colleges (Institutions) under the school of education department and

3) The control and inspection of all secondary schools including english teaching schools multi-purpose and training institutions of primary teachers and such special schools as were under the control of Education Department.

After the formation of the Zilla Parishad in May 1962, the educational inspector was designed as the parishad education officer of the Zilla Parishad. The primary and secondary education in the district came under the dual control of the education department of the Zilla Parishad and the education department of the State Government, At the head of the education set up in the district is the Parishad Education Officer who is to discharge his duties under the guidance of the chief Executive Officer of the Zilla Parishad. He is assisted in his work by two deputy educational officer, one dealing with primary education secondary schools.

Educational facilities provided to tribal pupils in the scheduled area of West Khandesh

Primary education is an important stage in the education of a child. It is here that the foundation of the future of a child

as well as of the country is laid. The word "Primary" itself indicates that it is the type of education without which man cannot live in modern society. Time and again various education commissions, conferences, policies and workshop have pointed out the importance of primary education, the recent being New Education Policy (1986).

Article 45 of the Indian Constitution directs "The State to make provision within 10 years for free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age 14 years".

Hence providing primary school to each village and to provide free and compulsory education should have been achieved by 1960, but even after 44 years of enforcement of the Constitution this provision of universalization of primary education remains a dream.

4.5 EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES PROVIDED TO TRIBALS IN THE SCHEDULED AREA OF WEST KHANDESH BY ZILLA PARISHAD

TABLE XVI points out that in the three tehsils of West Khandesh viz. Nawapur, Akkalkuwa and Akrani out of 473 villages only 330 villages have the facility of primary school which means that 69.76 percent of the villages are provided with primary.

TABLE XVI.

Tehsil wise education facilities in the scheduled area of West Khandesh

Source : Census Report 1981.

Srl. No.	Tehsil	Total no. of Villages in tensil	No. of Villages With primary school	No. of Villages with secondary school	No. of Villages with higher secondary schools	No. of Villages with college and above	No. of Villages with adult literacy centre
1.	NAWAPUR	128	124	7	6	Nil	Nil
2.	AKKALKUWA	185	111	9	25	Nil	Nil
3.	AKRANI	160	95	1	3	Nil	Nil
Total		473	330	17	34	Nil	Nil

schools while 30.24 percent of villages are not provided by any educational facilities at all.

From the TABLE XVI it is further observed that Nawapur tehsil is provided with better educational facilities as compared to Akkalkuwa and Akrani tehsils. In Nawapur tehsil out of 128 village, 124 villages do have a primary school, which means that 96.87 percent of the villages have primary schools, where as only 3.13 percent of village are not provided with primary schools.

Where as in Akkalkuwa tehsil out of 185 villages 111 vil- lages have the facilities of primary school, the remaining 74

villages are short of primary school facilities. This clearly indicates that 60 percent of villages in Akkalkuwa tehsil have primary school but 40 percent lack this facility.

In Akrani tehsil the situation is not satisfactory either. Out of 160 villages only 95 villages have primary schools, the remaining 65 villages are not provided with even a primary school. Therefore, it means that 59.38 percent of the villages in Akrani tehsil do have educational facility and the rest 40.62 percent are in want of such a facility.

It is an interesting fact to note that out of 473 villages of the three tehsils of West Khandesh, 143 villages are not provided even with a primary school. Where as Government in its Constitution, promised to provide free and compulsory education by 1960. After 44 years of enforcement, the constitutional commitment remains to be fulfilled.

A major educational problem faced by the Government in this tribal area is the task of providing schools within the walking distance of all the children. Small size of habitation and long inter-settlement distance preclude the opening of school within habitation or within easy walking distance.

Beyond this, those villages that have primary schools are

not serving the educational purpose with which they are started. As even the basic educational equipment like, blackboards, chalks, charts, maps, books and furniture are in short supply in the schools located in the tribal area of West Khandesh. Even whatever is provided does not reach the school in time. Though, the provision of physical infra-structure is not a guarantee for quality but a basic minimum requirement is essential for ensuring good teaching and learning situation, Moreover most of these schools are closed, during the working days and on schools timings due to the absence of the teacher. This practice is more prevalent in Akkalkuwa and Akrani tehsils.

Non corrupt officials are needed for strict administration and supervision, as some of the corrupt officials, in this area accept bribe and therefore, take no action against irregular teachers. There are some villages where teachers don't go to school for months together and therefore no teaching is carried on, inspite of educational facility provided to the village in the form of primary school. There is a need to appoint ex-servicemen from the military for proper administration and supervision.

Inspite of low literacy level of 11.39 percent, it is surprising to note that there is not a single adult literacy

centre in any of the village of West Khandesh. There is a need to open literacy centers or cowherd schools in the scheduled area of West Khandesh. College student's assistance can be availed to spread literacy and bring awareness about the importance of education among the tribals.

Government has claimed to have provided a primary school at a radius of 1 kilometer to every pupil who intends studying. TABLE XVII points out the distance a tribal child has to cover to attend school from the villages that do not have primary school. TABLE XVII further indicates that children from 86 villages, out of 143 villages, that do not have school i.e. 60.13 percent, will have to walk up to 5 km to attend school.

The children from 31 villages i.e. 21.68 percent of villages that do not have primary school, will have to walk between 5 km to 10 kms to reach the nearest school, Whereas children from remaining 26 villages, i.e. 18.18 percent of villages will have to walk more that 10 kms to reach the nearest school.

From the TABLE XVII it is further inferred that, if a child wants to study from the 57 villages i.e. 39.86 percent of the villages that do not have primary school, he will have to travel more than 5 kms, In such case, the tribal child does not study at all because education is not his priority. Moreover, educa-

tion is not relevant and is not related to immediate economic gains it does not attract tribal pupils and therefore, it is very difficult for a child from such a village to study.

TABLE XVII

The distance that the children will have to cover to reach school from the village that don't have primary school

Source : Census 1981.

Srl. No.	Tehsil	Total No. of villages	No. of villages with no education facilities	No. of villages from where the children will have to walk up to 5 kms to reach school	No. of villages from where the children will have to walk between 5-10 kms to reach school	No. of villages from where the children will have to walk more than 10 kms to reach school
1.	NAWAPUR	128	4	4	-	-
2.	AKKALKUWA	185	74	43	17	14
3.	AKRANI	160	65	39	14	12
TOTAL		473	143	86	31	26

Most of the villages without educational facilities are in AKRANI AND Akkalkuwa tehsils. In Akrani tehsil there is not a single "pucca" road. The interior part of Akkalkuwa is also not connected with "pucca" road. These roads become marshy during the rainy season and communication becomes extremely difficult.

In such a situation a tribal child of 6 to 11 years will not be able to go to school.

4.6 OVER VIEW

If the plans and programs need to reach every nook and corner of tribal areas, to make a real impact on tribals and in order to have greater coverage of the tribal areas it is necessary to launch an increasing expanding programs. So that, most of the villages are covered by at least a primary school.