

The underdeveloped economy of Mayurbhanj; A study on its workforce participation

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Abstract: *Mayurbhanj, the most tribal district of Odisha is famous for its underdeveloped economy. Through high birth rate and high death rate the population of the district grows in a faster pace. This puts tremendous pressure on the rich natural resources present in this district. The much awaited development in Mayurbhanj has been hampered due to the poor work force participation which can be attributed to high sex ratio, low literacy rate, lack of infrastructure, cultural rigidity and above all the geographical attributes of the districts.*

Key words: Occupational structure, main worker, marginal worker, non worker

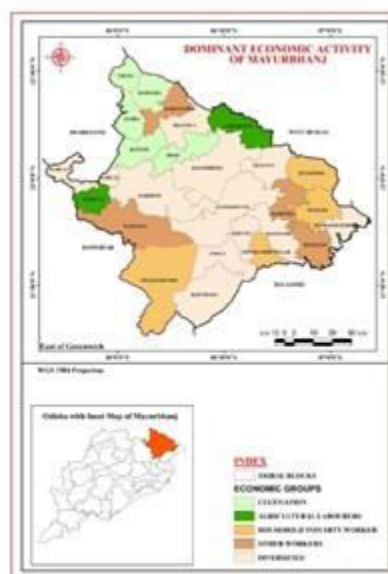
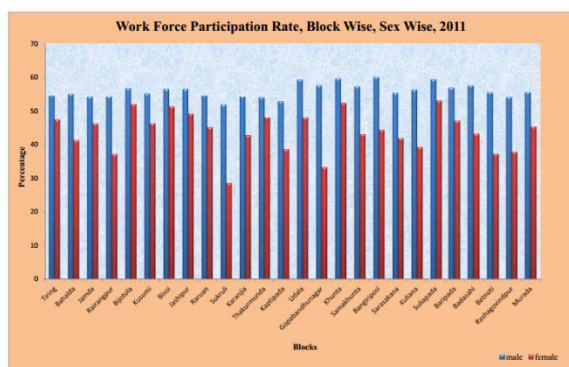
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF MAYURBHANJ

Economic development creates various types of occupations in an economy. All these various occupations can be broadly classified into three categories i.e. primary, secondary and tertiary. The primary occupations include all those essential activities such as agriculture and allied activities like animal husbandry, forestry, fishery, poultry farming etc. Secondary activities include manufacturing industries composed of both large and small scale and mining. Tertiary activities include all other activities like transport, communication, banking, insurance, trade etc. The occupational structure indicates the distribution as well as absorption of population into these various types of occupations. In underdeveloped regions, majority of the population is engaged in agriculture and other primary activities. Occupational structure is an indicator of status of the economic development and economic growth. More percentage of people concentrating in primary activities signifies the areas of economic stagnancy and backwardness. When worker concentration is high in industry & other allied activities it indicates the stage of economic growth starting from pre-industrial to advance stage. People's employment in tertiary sector, indicates the developed status of a country. Hence there is a need to study and analyse occupational structure of a region.

The total population of an area may be divided into two categories – the working and the non-working population. The economically active population i.e, the working population is the important factor which affects the entire stream of production. As per 2011 Census, workers are broadly classified into three categories: Main Workers , Marginal Workers Non workers. Main workers are those who had worked for the major part of the year (six months or more) in any economically productive activity. Marginal workers are those who do not work for a major part of the year, i.e., those who work for less than six months in a year. Non-workers are those who do not work any time at all in the year or are not engaged in any productive activity during the year

Table:1 Percentage of Workers Block wise, Sex wise (Source: District Census Handbook,Mayurbhanj,2011)

Name of the Blocks	Percentage of workers								
	Workers			Main			Marginal		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Tiring	50.93	54.59	47.35	42.45	53.44	30.07	57.54	46.56	69.93
Bahalda	48.11	55.11	41.21	39.23	51.94	22.49	60.76	48.06	77.51
Jamda	50.02	54.08	46.20	43.68	60.24	25.46	56.31	39.76	74.54
Rairangpur	45.57	54.24	37.21	55.18	68.37	36.68	44.81	31.63	63.32
Bijotola	54.28	56.69	51.93	46.61	66.71	27.30	52.38	33.29	72.7
Kusumi	50.62	55.24	46.21	40.81	54.86	24.76	59.18	45.14	75.24
Bisoi	53.82	56.49	51.29	41.97	58.27	24.91	58.02	41.73	75.09
Jashipur	52.81	56.49	49.21	43.86	60.09	25.71	56.13	39.91	74.29
Raruan	49.83	54.58	45.12	36.47	48.69	21.83	63.52	51.31	78.17
Sukruli	40.01	51.83	28.56	38.75	50.17	18.68	61.24	49.83	81.32
Karanjia	48.56	54.34	42.89	42.45	57.73	23.48	57.54	42.27	76.52
Thakurmunda	50.98	53.92	48.17	42.11	57.23	25.90	57.88	42.77	74.1
Kaptipada	45.71	52.78	38.64	43.28	57.61	23.67	56.71	42.39	76.33
Udala	53.54	59.18	47.91	42.99	57.87	24.58	57.00	42.13	75.42
Gopabandhunagar	45.32	57.52	33.27	55.01	65.98	36.28	44.98	34.02	63.72
Khunta	55.86	59.52	52.32	48.72	66.43	29.23	51.27	33.57	70.77
Samakhunta	50.16	57.22	43.13	48.69	61.94	31.17	51.30	38.06	68.83
Bangiriposi	50.16	59.93	44.41	36.62	50.19	19.59	63.37	49.81	80.41
Sarasakana	48.69	55.41	41.84	33.28	45.72	16.48	66.71	54.28	83.52
Kuliana	47.81	56.33	39.25	41.22	54.45	22.14	58.77	45.55	77.86
Suliapada	56.13	59.26	52.97	37.45	52.56	20.35	62.54	47.44	79.65
Baripada	52.04	56.84	47.04	46.95	58.73	32.15	52.04	41.27	67.85
Badasahi	50.45	57.59	43.23	45.82	58.63	28.55	54.17	41.37	71.45
Betnoti	46.43	55.50	37.24	43.35	55.76	24.62	56.64	44.24	75.38
Rashagovindpur	44.95	53.98	37.72	36.94	46.31	22.47	63.05	53.69	77.53
Murada	50.24	55.34	45.22	46.40	54.70	36.37	53.59	45.3	63.63
Mayurbhanj	46.35	52.00	40.74	42.85	56.38	25.67	57.15	43.62	74.33



Suliapada block has the highest percentage of workers i.e. 56.13 percent where as Sukruli has the lowest percentage i.e. 40.01 percent. Rasgobindpur, Gopabandhunagar, Kaptipada, Sukruli and Rairangpur blocks have less worker percentage than that of the district. Rairangpur, though an urban centre has less worker percentage due to the low female participation in work force. All most all the blocks have male worker percentage in the range of 52-60 percent, either at par or more than that of Mayurbhanj which stands at 52 percent. The highest among them is 59.93 percent of Bangiriposi and the lowest worker percentage is 51.83 of Sukruli block. Female work force participation in Mayurbhanj is very low i.e.40.74 percent. Six of its blocks have female workers even less than this. The highest is 52.97 percent of Suliapada and lowest is that of Sukruli i.e.28.56 percent. Main workers constitute 42.85 percent of the total work force in Mayurbhanj. Nearly fourteen blocks have main worker percentage below this mark which indicates that these blocks have higher number of marginal workers. Rest blocks where main worker percentage is more than that of Mayurbhanj, are lagging in terms of marginal workers. A maximum of 55.18 percent of the workers in Rairangpur are main workers. This block has also to its credit highest percentage of male and female main workers among all the blocks of Mayurbhanj which stands at 68.37 and 36.68 percent respectively. On the other hand Saraskana has the lowest in all the above three aspects. Its main worker percentage, male and female main worker percentage are 33.28, 45.72 and 16.48 percent respectively.

The block which has highest percentage of main workers is at the bottom of the marginal worker list and vice versa. So Rairangpur has the lowest percentage of marginal workers, male marginal workers and female marginal workers with 44.81, 31.63 and 63.32 percent respectively while Saraskana has the highest with 66.71, 54.28 and 83.52 percent respectively. It is also observed that in all blocks more males are engaged as main workers with the district figure of 56.38 percent and in marginal sector female outnumber males with a figure of 74.33 percent.

It is observed that agriculture is the prime occupation in Mayurbhanj. About 34 percent of main workers are engaged in cultivation and 28.84 percent as agricultural labourer in the district. Among the blocks, 55.47 percent of the main workers in Tiring are engaged in cultivation and only 6.82 percent of main workers in Baripada are in the field of cultivation. It shows that people in urban areas are less interested in cultivation. Similarly 39.77 percent of main workers are engaged as agricultural labourer in Gopabandhunagar which is the highest among all the blocks and again Baripada is at the bottom with 8.03 percent.

In household activities a mere 6.8 percent of the population are engaged and about 30.26 percent of the district population are engaged in other sectors like service, business etc. and Baripada has the highest proportion of main workers i.e. 79.51 percent where as Khunta has the lowest i.e. 16.90 percent engaged in this sector. Tiring, Khunta, Kaptipada, Bijotola & Jamda are the blocks where majority of mainworkers are in the field of cultivation, next to it as agricultural labour followed by othersectors and the least number of workers are in household activities. These blocks are the mainfood suppliers of the district due to large scale cultivation.

Bahalda, Kusumi, Bisoi, Sukruli, Murada, Suliapada, Sarasakana & Thakurmunda are the blocks where majority of main workes are in the field of cultivation, followed by other sectors next to it as agricultural labour and the least number of workers are in household activities. It indicates that the number of literates and skilled labours are comparatively more in these blocks. Rairangpur, Jashipur, Karanjia, Betnoti, Baripada, Kuliana, Samakhunta & Udala are the blocks where majority of main workers are in other sectors, followed by agricultural labour, next to it is cultivation and the least number of workers are in household activities giving a clear indication that these are mainly urban centres where people depend on jobs and activities other than cultivation. These blocks can be considered as the most developed or developing blocks in Mayurbhanj. It is observed that females outnumber male in all blocks in terms of

non-worker. This creates an economic imbalance in this region. Females do not enjoy financial freedom here as most of them are either marginal or non-workers. Due to a high sex ratio and low female work force participation, the economy of Mayurbhanj is not growing as expected though it is rich in minerals, forests and other natural resources. So female work force participation must be encouraged and suitable effective policies must be implemented.

However from the above table which shows the block wise occupational structure of the district it is evident that most of the people here depend on cultivation of paddy, pulses & oil seeds totally or marginally. Besides cultivation, people engage themselves as agricultural labours or in household industries like mineral grinding, stone crushing, ceramics, fertilizer, paint industry etc. Very few are engaged in other sectors like jobs, travels & tourism etc. It can be very much observed that the increase in numbers of marginal workers and non-workers are mainly due to low work force participation of females. Tribal women are very much deprived of the employment opportunity as well as parity in wages. Minor forest products form a major source of income in many tribal communities. Women and children are almost exclusively involved in collection of minor forest produce, its storage, processing and marketing (Singh, B., 1993; Roy Burman, 1988). Increased government control of forests has distributed tribal economy adversely affecting tribal's lives, particularly that of women.

Appointing of agents from outside for collecting forest products has not only affected their livelihood, but has also made the work of women more difficult. Collection of fuel wood has become more difficult since it is less accessible and more time-consuming. The result has been less income combined with less fuel wood available for themselves and lesser nutrition. It also leaves them little time for earning wages. Government control over forests has also reduced hunting to a ritual. High included difficulty of communication in local language, residential accommodation, employment, education of children, local contacts, adjustment with city life and environment etc. The main causes of financial, physical and sexual exploitation of the migrant tribal women and girls in cities were poverty, lack of employment opportunities, lack of awareness, education, unorganized nature of labour force, misunderstanding of the local people about free sex in tribal's, and lack of community support to victims of sexual exploitation. Besides routine household work, the tribal women work in the agricultural fields, forests for long hours. The overall output if seen in terms of number of hours of work is low. Their schedule of long working hours continues even during pregnancy, natal and postnatal stages. They have a negative energy balance, high morbidity rate, and low child survival rate. They suffer from taboos and superstitions and remain deprived of the benefits from existing development and welfare programmes.

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