

INDIAN FOREST POLICIES & NON TIMBER MINOR FOREST PRODUCES: ONE HEAD LOAD AS OFFERTORY

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Abstract

Indian peninsula and its large forest coverage area always attracted civility of the people at large. Extended geographical features, historical values, eye catching cultural heritage, created extraordinary natural creation. India is always wonderful and Indian Forest claims one of its most important phenomenon's.

Forests supply almost all kind of human needs like fuel, fodder, food and ingredients for shelter. Human civilization largely depended on Major and Minor Forest produces, maintained a symbiotic relationship with the forest and it's never ending resources. Therefore, Forest and Human beings are the prime factor to build up the society as a whole.

The Forest Polices was based on Scientific Management of the Forest, incepted since 18th Century. The Policy guidelines were formulated keeping in view of all aspects of the Forest, practiced and emphasised factors being socio-economic, rural development and environmental development. Concessions were comprehended and extruded for the forest dwellers specially the Tribes in connection with livelihood sustenance.

In1988, framework of the Forest Policy allowed one head load non-timber minor forest produces as offertory for home consumption, as enunciated in the Policy guidelines and practiced

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by the forest dwellers. Joint Forest Management and Forest Protection Committee's extent of exclusion from the Policy guidelines as practiced by the actual users, the Boscage dwellers.

The present sequel emphasized on the Lodha and the Santal tribes of Jua Bhangra Village of Lodhasuli Range, district Jhargram, West Bengal. Collection of non timber minor forest produces and uses thereof to maintain livelihood sustenance as offertory which executes degree of dependence on the forest at present day. While inclusion and exclusion determine the positivity of policy guidelines and practice encourage sustainable development of the forest dwellers.

Key Words: Act, Forest, Head Load, Minor, Offertory, Policy, Produces.

Introduction

Indian peninsula and its large forest coverage area always attracted civility of the people at large. Extended geographical features with all kinds of definitions, historical value in every nook and corners, eye catching cultural heritage, created forever beautification of natural creation. India is always wonderful and Indian Forest claims one of it one & most important phenomenon.

Forests supply almost all kind of human needs like fuel, fodder, food and ingredients for shelter to tangible benefits or environmental benefits of environmental equilibrium. Forest produces always fulfilled human requirements from time immemorial. Human civilization relied and emphasised on Major and Minor Forest produces, maintaining a symbiotic relationship with the forest and it's never ending resources. Therefore, Forest and Human beings are the prime factor to build up the society as a whole.

There was no research work on The Indian Forest Act and its impact on the Tribes till 2013.

Dr. Suparna Sanyal Mukherjee in her thesis entitled "Impact of Indian Forest Act on the Tribes of Paschim Medinipur 2013". The first ever research on the matter, has narrated of the changes brought about in the life of the Lodha (one of the studied tribes) due to the Act. She has found the inclination of the Lodha towards food growing.

The Vth edition, 1989 of **B.R. Beotra, on Law of Forests**, explains the Legislative history, National Forest Policy, Objects and Reasons, Scheme of the Act, Scope of the Act, its thirteen chapters and eighty six sections.

Forests and Tribes are the two sides of the same coin. They have a common history of suffering, neglect and exploitation so both are considered synonyms with backwardness. Forests and Tribal's are exploited for various reasons. Many species of flora and fauna are extinguishing, **The Forestry and Tribal Development** by **R.S. Shukla**, tried to find out the reasons behind it, at the same time explained that some tribal groups are also becoming extinct.

Economic development of Tribal's – Approach, Method and Strategy, by **Sri Kishore C Padhy**, introduced the notions of tribe and castes, which explained the primitive way of living, habitation in the remote areas and less easily accessible areas, denoted in the colonial period of India. **Subsistence system of different Societies and Strategies for their Development**, by **N. Pattanaik**, also describes the tribal situation in the Pre-British and British period. **History of Forestry in India**, by **Ajay S. Rawat**, pointed out the history of Indian Forestry and the root cause of the on-going disaster of deforestation, what lay behind the radical transformation of the social system of resource use that took place under the British Regime.

Prof. P. K. Bhowmik explained about the Lodha, of their Socio-cultural, Socio-economical, religious life in his book, *The Lodhas of West Bengal*, **1963**.

The entire ambit of forestry in India has been compassed by **S.S. Negi's** *India's Forests, Forestry and Wildlife*, in the year **1994** and *Forest for Socio-economic and Rural Development in India*, **1996**.

Dr. Suparna Sanyal Mukherjee described why the Lodhas are abdicate their traditional occupation in *The Lodha – Compelled to Abdicate Traditional Occupation Due to Indian Forest Act*, *The International Journal Of Humanities & Social Studies*, Vol 3 Issue 11, **Nov-2015**, Page-238-24. She also narrated in her article *Indian Forest Act & Democracy: Effects on Traditional Tribal System*, *Main Stream Weekly*, Vol LIV, No 18, New Delhi, **April 23, 2016**.

pp- 17-19. **Dr.Sanyal Mukherjee** also narrated the entire Tribal situation and their transitional phase in her Book “Impact of Indian Forest Act On The Forest Dwelling Tribes”, in Aug **2017**. **Dr.Sanyal Mukherjee** narrated the exact situation of the Forest Dwelling Tribes in her published Book “Impact of Indian Forest Act on the Forest Dwelling Tribes” on Aug 2017.

The Forest Policies were based on Scientific Management of the Forest, incepted since 19th Century. The Policy guidelines were formulated to keep in view of all aspects of the Forest which were practiced and emphasized on factors like socio-economic, rural development and environmental development as prime factors. Concessions were comprehended and extruded for the forest dwellers specially the Tribes in connection with livelihood sustenance.

In 1988, framework of the Forest Policy allowed one head load non-timber minor forest produce as offertory for home consumption, which led to inclusion of the Policy guidelines and practiced by the forest dwellers. But management orientation through Joint Forest Management and Forest Protection Committee to what extent did exclude the Policy guidelines practiced by the actual users, the Boscage dwellers.

The present sequel emphasized on the Lodha and the Santal tribes of Jhal Bhanga Village of Lodhasuli Range and Beat, district Jhargram, West Bengal. Collection of non timber minor forest produce and uses thereof to maintain livelihood sustenance as offertory which executes degree of dependence on the forest at the present day. While inclusion and exclusion determine the positivity of policy and its guidelines while practice encourage sustainable development of the forest dwellers.

Indian Forest

The forest is a complex eco-system consisting of trees that form a buffer for the earth to protect other life forms. Nature has enriched India with rich forests. About 22.6% of India's total land area is under actual forest cover. (Longman Atlas 2003).

With Alpine meadows of Kashmir in the North to the rain forests of Kerala in the South, the dry thorny forests of Rajasthan and the evergreen forests of North-East India has developed the natural beauty, vegetation, and represents a wide diversity. Over 40000 species of plants are

found in these forests, of which over 10000 are endemic and are not found anywhere else in the world, it represents about 12 percent of the global plant wealth.

The forest canopy of India can be classified in six major types.

- a) Tropical Evergreen Rain Forest.
- b) Deciduous Forests.
- c) Tropical Grass Lands.
- d) Desert Shrubs
- e) Mountain Vegetation
- f) Mangrove Forests.

These divisions may be considered as macro-level and in micro-level. Indian forestry has been divided in numerous sub-types (according to champion, Puri) West Bengal is divided in four forests eco-zones, i) The North Bengal Hills, ii) The North Bengal Foot Hills or Plains iii) The South West Bengal and iv) The Coastal Saline Zone. The total forest covered area of the State is 11,879 sq.km which occupies 13.38% of the States geographical area.

Paschim Mednipur lies in the south West Bengal forest eco-zone, with red laterite soil. The forest cover 1,709 sq. km (combindly in Puraba and Paschim Medinipur), which enables 12.14% recorded forest area of the State.

The West Bengal Forest's feature and Jhargram District's Forest View

West Bengal is the state of natural beauty and the heart of the countries art and culture. The State boast of a distinct identification of its coastal base with Sundari(*Heritiera fomes*), Keora(*Khalsi goram*), and various Mangroves species. In North Bengal, the Himalayan region has the elegance with Pinus, Sicus, Oak, Fir trees. The plane area is full of Teak, Sal, Arjun, and Mahua. In South-West Bengal, especially the district of Jhargram has plenty of Sal, Eucalyptus, Akashmoni, Mahua, and Mehogini in the top storey, while various shurbs, herbs, mushrooms, and creepers down below, as the forest attraction for the State, as well as the district. The forest in the district of Jhargram is classified under the Tropical-Dry Deciduous section.

Forest & Tribes

Considering the symbiotic relationship between the Tribes and Forests all agencies deployed for forest management should closely associate the Tribal people in the protection, regeneration and

development of forest for gainful employment of these people, but the customary rights and interest of these people should be safeguarded. Attention is to be given to: -

- A major cause of forest degradation is illegal felling and removal by the contractors and their labour. This can be eradicated if they be replaced by institutions like Tribal Co-operatives, Labour Co-operatives and Government Corporations.
- Protection, regeneration and collection of minor forest produce along with institutional arrangements for marketing the same.
- Development of forest villages at par with revenue villages.
- Family oriented schemes for improving the status of tribal beneficiaries.
- Development programmes to meet the needs of the tribal economy in and around the forest areas including the provisions of alternative sources of domestic energy at a subsidised rate to reduce the pressure on the existing forest areas.

The core of the 1988 Indian Forest Policy related to this study is, evident that the 1988 policy was more meticulous and thought provoking than that of 1952, which it supersedes. The 1988 Indian Forest Policy is still in force, with the view of trying to understand, maintain and manage the Indian Forests within the boundary of the Indian Forest Act and this policy.

Indian Forest Policies

Forest Policy is a broad guideline for the planners and administrators which execute various laid down features with general objectives. The first Indian Forest Policy was implemented in 1894 by the then British Government in unmitigated Indian Sub Continent. The main objectives were –

- Promoting general wellbeing of the country
- Preserving climate and physical conditions of the country

- Permanent cultivation was emphasized before pointing out the forestry sector and needs of local population to be satisfied at low prices, if not free of cost. Only thereafter, realization of maximum revenue to be the guiding factor.
- There was no mention of the concept of sustained yields which formed the main plank of scientific forest management.
- The question of wildlife protection/preservation was not figured.
- There was no mention of private forest, forest education and training so far.

National Forest Policy 1952

The Government of India, enunciated in its Resolution no:- 13-1/52F dt. 12th May 1952, by the Ministry of Food & Agriculture. Later by the Department of Revenue and Agriculture which penned broad outlines of the general policy to be followed in the management of State Forests of the country.

The National Forest Policy of India, 1952 was formulated on the basis of six paramount needs of the country.

1. The prime need was focused on land allocation, which evolved through a system of balanced and complementary land-use, under which it would produce the most and deteriorate the least.
2. The need for checking :
 - a) The basins of the river system constitute the fertile core of the country, which solely depend on the supply of water from the mountains. The mountains are susceptible to various situations of natural calamities, destruction or denudation, affecting the perennial, perpetual and continuous sources of water supply to the rivers, thereby affecting the fertility of the river basins.
 - b) The erosion progression, space along the treeless banks of great rivers leading to ravine formation. On vast stretches of un-diluting waste lands depriving the adjoining fields of their fertility.
 - c) The invasion of sea sand on coastal tracts and the shifting sand-dunes, more particularly in the desert areas.

3. The general well being of the people to be promoted by way of forming tree land wherever possible, by amelioration of physical and climatic conditions.
4. Ensuring the need for the progressively increasing supplies of grazing. Small wood for agricultural implements, firewood in particular, to release cattle dung acting as manure, to step up food production.
5. The need for sustained supply of timber and other forest produce, required for defence, communication, and industrial growth of the country.
6. The need for realisation of maximum annual revenue in perpetuity, consistent with the fulfilment of needs, as iterated here-in-before.

These vital needs indicate the fundamental functions, the forests are to fulfil, and provide the fundamental basis of the policy as guidelines for future.

FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF FORESTS

Having regard to the functions as discussed, the forests of India whether State or privately owned, may conveniently be classified as:

- a) **Protected Forests**: Those which must be preserved or created for physical and climatic considerations.
- b) **National Forests**: Those which have to be maintained and managed to meet the needs of defence, communication, industry and other general purpose of public interest and importance.
- c) **Village Forests**: Those which have to be maintained to provide firewood, to release cattle-dung for manure and yield small timber for agricultural implements and other forest produce for local requirement, to provide grazing for cattle.
- d) **Tree Lands**: Those areas, which though outside the scope of ordinary forest management are essential for amelioration of the physical conditions of the country.

These classifications are merely illustrative and by no means exclusive. Factually every forest is multifunctional and hence has to be so managed as to achieve the highest efficiency in respect to the functions assigned. This fundamental classification has no bearing on the classification of the forests distinguished in the Indian Forest Act XVI of 1927, which is based on the degree of control exercisable on them.

National Forest Policy 1988.

Post 1952 Indian Forest Policy, Indian Forestry began to experience rapid changes by way of which its socio-economic and rural developmental aspects became more pronounced. Taking into account the progress being made, the necessity of a new Forest Policy became essential. Efforts began for formulating a new National Forest Policy which was finally pronounced in 1988, taking into account the strategy to be followed for taking Indian Forestry into the 21st Century.

The earlier resolution passed by the Government of India on May 12th 1952 were the guidelines for the management of forests in India. But over the years Indian Forests suffered serious depletion, which arose from the ever increasing demand for fuel-wood, fodder, and timber. Inadequacy of protection measures saw diversion of forest land to non-forest uses, other than agriculture also. Naturally it did not ensure compensatory afforestation and essential environmental safeguards. Strategy of forest conservation became imperative. Conservation meant, preservation, maintenance, sustainable-utilisation, restoration and enhancement of natural environment.

The principal aim in the Forest Policy was to ensure environmental stability and maintenance of ecological balance, including atmospheric equilibrium for sustenance of all life forms. The derivations of direct economic benefit had to be subordinated to this principal aim.

Rights and Concessions of the 1988 Indian Forest Policy, related to present study:

- The holders of the customary rights and concessions in the forest areas should be motivated to identify themselves with the protection and development of the forests from which

they derive benefits. These facilities should primarily be for the bonafide use of the communities living in and around the forest areas with a special mention for the tribal.

- The life of the tribal and poor people living within or near the forest area revolved around the forest. The rights and concessions for such groups of people should be fully protected. Their captive consumption of fuel-wood, fodder and minor forest produce, construction timber and other allied forest products, should be the first charge on forest produce. These and or substitute materials should be made available through conveniently located depots at reasonable and affordable prices.
- The holders of customary rights and concessions in forest areas should be motivated to identify themselves with protection and development of forests from which they derive benefits.
- Collection of one head load Non Timber Minor Forest Produces for home consumption as offertory for forest dwellers specially the tribes is included under customary rights and concessions, though it is not mentionable in the policy directly.

The draft of **National Forest Policy 2018** has been declared on **14th April 2018 by the Union Government** opined that, the degraded and underutilized parcels of land available with forest corporations will be managed to produce quality timber with scientific interventions. Additionally, public-private participation models will be developed to undertake afforestation and reforestation activities in degraded forest areas. This has angered activists, who are worried about the possible privatisation of forest land.

Therefore, inclusion in policy guidelines always entertained the benefits of forest dwellers while one head load collection as an offertory.

Indian Forest Act & Policies

Indian Forest Act 1865 which represented the first attempt to enact a comprehensive law relating factor of forests within India was primarily based on commercial grounds, satisfying the needs of the implementers the then British Government.

The 1865 Act was heavily biased, with all of its lacunae was revised, amended and Superseded as Indian Forest Act VII of 1878, hence it gave the legal shape to the Act. It was made applicable Indian woodlands, classified it as Reserved Forest, Protected Forest and Village Forest the first of its kind. It enabled the Revenue and Forest Department to regulate most of the Indian woodland and grazing land, ensured powers to the State to effectively regulate waste land, regulated actions like felling trees, girdling etc. Prescribed penalties for boscage offences, though it recognised some privileges for the local people.

The 1878 Act was amended from time to time of which mentionable years being – 1890,1900,1901,1918 and 1919 and was finally enacted in 1927 as The Indian Forest Act XVI of 1927, the basic “Forest Law” of the entire country.

Post Independence the canvas of India totally changed, The Indian Forest Act 1927 is continuing till date except for a few amendments. Policy guidelines by implementation of National Forest policy in 1952 & 1988 also 1894 (made by the British) mentioned various developmental factors, conservation, scientific management, agricultural upliftment, canopy development, afforestation .

The Indian Forest Act 1927, Chapter IV of Protected Forest, Section 32, Sub-Section- a to e categorically mentioned that –

- a. The cutting, sawing, conversion and removal of trees and timber, and the collection, manufacture and removal of forest produce , from protected forests:
- b. The granting of licences to the inhabitants of towns and villages in the vicinity of the protected forests to take trees, timber or other forest produce for their own use, and the production and return of such licences by such persons.
- c. The granting of licences to persons felling or removing trees or timber or other forest produce from such forests for the purposes of trade, and the production and return of such licences by such persons:
- d. The payments, if any, to be made by persons mentioned in clauses (b) and (c) for permission to cut such trees, or to collect and remove such timber or other forest produce;
- e. The other payments, if any, to be made by them in respect of such trees, timber and produce, and the places the payment shall be made.

Thereby, it is evident that the Indian Forest Act though several time mentioned about the betterment and customary rights and concessions of local people specially the forest dwellers only on licence holders against nominal payment.

Joint Forest Management & Forest Protection Committee

The Indian Forest Policy, with its laudable objectives inter-alia wanted to “create a massive people’s movement with the involvement of women for achieving its objectives to minimize the pressure on existing forests.

The Policy envisages people’s involvement in the development and protection of forests, further enunciates, that it is one of the essentials of forest management, that the forest communities should be motivated to identify themselves, with the development and protection of forests, from which they derive benefits.

In pursuance of the objectives mentioned above, the Ministry of Environment and Forest issued a circular in June 1990 to various State Departments of Forest (vide No. 6-21/89-FP) encouraging the involvement of village communities and voluntary agencies for regeneration of forest land.

Jhargram Forest Division

The division styled as Midnapur Forest Division, bifurcated into two divisions East and West Midnapur Forest Division. The west was known as Jhargram and still remains Jhargram Forest Division with twelve Forest Ranges and thirty two Beat Offices. Lodhasuli Range and Beat are an important territory of the Jhargram Forest Division of Jhargram District.

Village Jual Bhanga

The village Jual Bhanga is inhabited by the Lodha and Santal. The total population of the village is 214 belonging to 38 households. Among them 156 are Lodha households and. 58 are Santal, located inside the forest. The Santal of Jual Bhanga is essentially agricultural workers and cultivators. The Lodha work as agricultural workers but still visit forests regularly. The places of worship are situated side by side for both the communities. The village has electrical connection.

Table-1 Population Distribution of the Studied Tribes.

SN	Name of the Tribes	Total Popu	Children 11-14 yrs age				Adlt 15-50 yrs age				Aged above 60 yrs			
			Male T%	Female T%	Male T%	Female T%	Male T%	Female T%	Male T%	Female T%				
01	Lodha	156	29	18.59	15	09.62	37	23.78	29	18.59	19	12.18	27	17.35
02	Santal	58	07	12.06	08	13.79	12	20.68	10	17.24	09	15.51	12	20.68
03	Total	214	36	16.82	23	10.74	49	22.89	39	18.22	28	13.08	39	18.22

- Total Lodha Male 85 and Female 71
- Total Santal Male 28 and Female 30

The above table depicts the Lodha and the Santal population of the village Jual Bhanga in category of their respective age groups, falling under the heading of children (1-14 years of age), adult (15-60 years of age) and aged (above 60 years of age).

According to table the Lodha having 29 (18.59%) Male children and 15 (09.62%) Female. The adult Male counts 37(23.78%), Female depicts 29 (18.59%). The aged Lodha scores 19 (12.18%) Male and 27 (17.35%) Female out of 156 total Lodha population from 28 households.

The Santal population points 07 (12.06%) Male along with 08 (13.79%) Female children. Adult Male counts 12 (20.68%) and Female 10 (17.24%). Male aged exhibits 09 (15.51%) and Female 12 (20.68%) for specified categories.

Therefore, population distribution of the village Jual Bhanga is clearly points out the today's exact situation. The Lodha and the Santal are living together though their traditional way of living and forest dependence are distinctly different from each other.

Table 2 Literacy Rate of the Chosen Tribes

SN	Name of the Tribes	Total Pop	Male		Female	
			Total	%	Total	%
01	Lodha	156	35	22.45	20	12.82
02	Santal	58	12	20.69	11	18.96
03	Total	214	47	21.96	31	14.85

- The Literacy rate among the chosen tribes has shown the Jual Bhanga's people orientations and awareness contentions for their daily life.
- The Lodha Male shows 35 (22.45%) literacy, while Female counts 20 (12.82%). In respect of compares Lodah Male are showing 10% higher value than Female literates.
- The Santal Male also showing 12 (20.69%) higher literacy than the Female 20 (12.82%) out of total population 58.
- The total population of the village Jual Bhanga counts down 21.96% Male, 14.85% Female literates in respect of Lodha and Santal combindly.
- According to above table it is evident that lack of literacy and ignorance is leading them to backwardness. They don't know about any Policy Guidelines and Concessions thereof.

Table 3**Family Size of the Selected Tribes**

SN	Name of the selected Tribes	Total no of Household	Small Family size (Members up to 4 persons)	Medium Family Size (Members 5-10 persons)	Large Family Size (Members more than 10 persons)
		Total %	Total %	Total %	Total %
01	Lodha	28 73.68%	05 17.85 %	16 57.14%	07 25 %
02	Santal	10 26.31%	02 20%	07 70%	01 10%
03	Total	38 100 %	07 18.42%	23 60.52%	08 21.05%

- The above table denotes 28 (73.68%) Lodha and 10 (26.31%) Santal households of total 38 village households.
- The Lodha points out 05 (17.85%) Small Family Size (SFS), 16 i.e. 57.14% Medium Family Size (MFS) and 07 means 25% Large Family Size (LFS).
- The Santal exhibits 02 (20%) Small Family Size, 07 (70%) Medium Family Size and 01 (10%) Large Family Size out of total households 10.
- As per entire village households Small Family Size is 18.42%, Large family Size points 21.05% while Medium Family Size counts 60.52% which is higher than the rest two.
- It is observed that in both the Tribal heads Medium Family Size is higher than the Small and Large category of Family Sizes. 57.14% in Lodha and 70% in the Santal Medium Family Size proves the tendency of the tribal communities turning towards Nuclear Family system.
- Gradually leaning towards Nuclear and/or Small Family Size shows coming away from Large and/or Joint Family system.
- Nevertheless, the table iterates the community living is step wise getting absent which creates unhealthy living orientations, propagate lack of awareness, with availability of plentiful rights and concessions people are still not getting facilities due to communication faults though they still have a tendency to settle in a same village.
- The Family Size orientation is also responsible for not getting proper knowledge of Policy Guidelines and its facilities which provided for them.

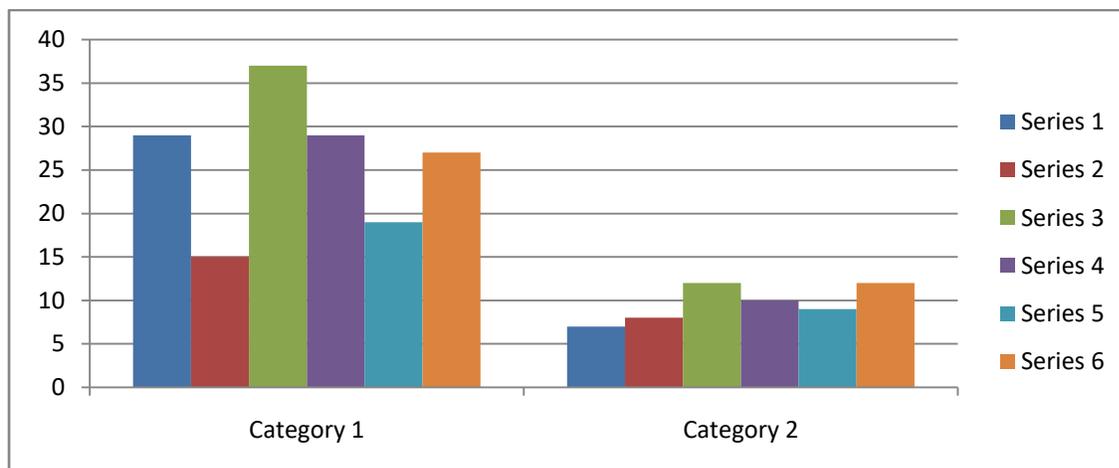
Table 4

Degree of Dependence on the Forest for Collections of Non Timber of Minor Forest Produces.

SN	Name of the Selected Tribes	Total No of Population	Regular Dependence	Occasional Dependence	Non-Dependence
			Total %	Total %	Total %
01	Lodha	156	40 26%	35 23%	81 51%
02	Santal	58	08 14%	15 26%	35 60%
03	Total	214	48 22%	50 23%	116 54%

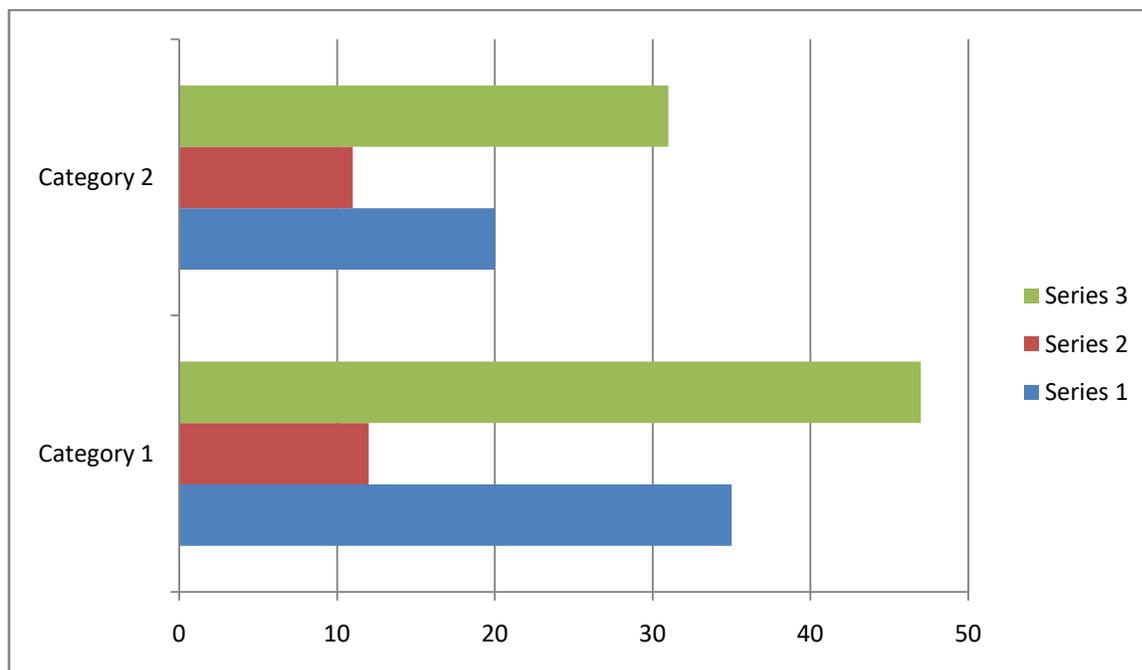
- Degree of dependence as per table Regular Dependence points out Forest visit more than 15 days in a month while Occasional Dependence denotes less than 15 days of Forest visits and Non Dependence means not a single day in a month of Forest visit and collection of Non Timber of Minor Forest Produces according to Policy Guidelines.
- The Table 4 clearly indicates the exact situation prevailing today, in respect of the Tribes dependence on the Forest. The Lodha who were absolutely depended on the forest are now not keen to the forest. Regular collection of forest produces reduced only 26% and occasional dependence 23% which are at per more or less and 51% non dependence speaks of Forest is not need based area for maintaining of their daily livelihood sustenance.
- The Santal non dependence is more than the dependence, only 14% regular dependence and 26% occasional dependence, 60% Santal are not depending on the forest for collection of non timber of minor forest produces at present situation.
- The Lodha Male is more dependable on forest than the Female i.e 26% and 23% respectably for livelihood sustenance.
- The Santal Female is more accessible into the forest visit than the Male counterparts. According to the above table 26% and 14% respectively.
- The above table depicts the alarming situation of the forest dwelling tribes for their collection of non timber minor forest produces. The Lodha are dependable 49% in comparison with the Santal which is only 40% in both way.
- As per table Female are more keen to the forest and their dependence is still higher than their Male counterparts and collections thereof among both the Tribal communities.

Table 5 Column Diagram shown population distribution of the Lodha & the Santal



- The above column diagram depicts Male Female population distribution the concerned tribes.
- Category 1 exhibits the Lodha population of the village Jual Bhanga from series 1 – 6.
- Category 2 points out the Santal population distribution of the mentioned village.
- Series 1 & 2 counts Male & Female children of both the tribes.
- Series 3& 4 points out Adult and 5& 6 series depict Aged population of the both tribes are concerned.
- Adult Lodha & Santal are showing higher strata in distribution category for both the tribes.
- Aged Female is find high value to the Lodha & the Santal portfolio.
- Adult Male are maintaining higher ratio than the Female for both the tribes.
- Male and Female children are maintaining equilibrium in case of both the tribes .
- Village population of the Jual Bhanga village are very alarming so far as livelihood sustenance is concerned.
- The ratio of working people is less than the non working mass.

Table 6 Literacy Rate of the Chosen Tribes.



✚ The above Bar diagram points out literacy rate of the selected tribes the Lodha and the Santal.

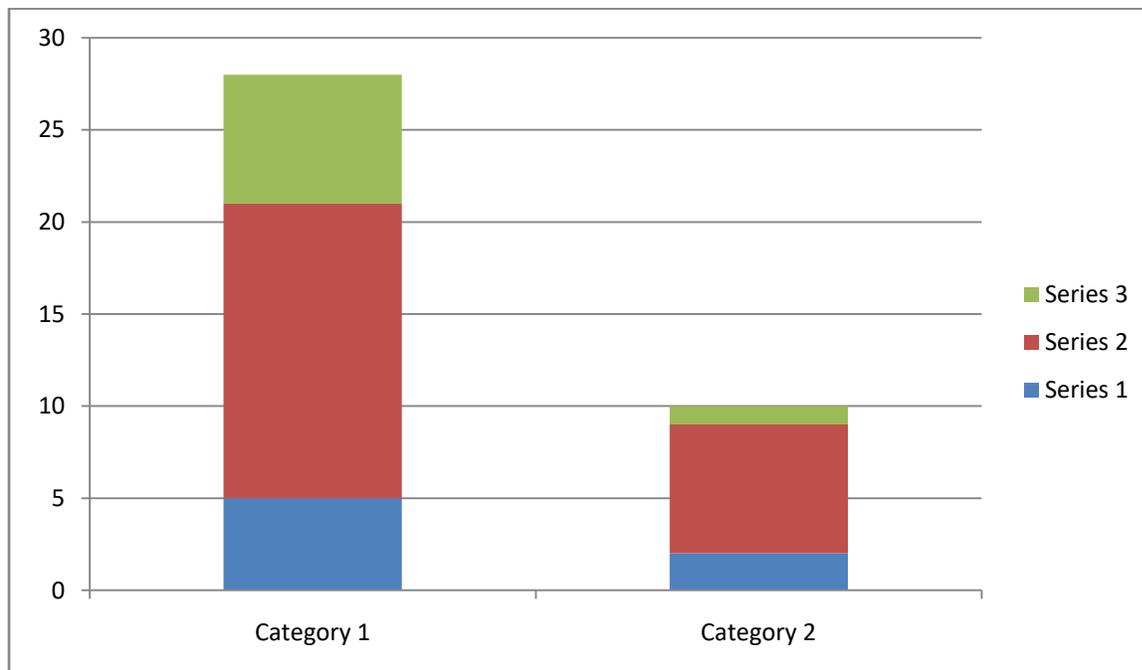
✚ Series 1 denotes Male literacy of the concerned tribes while series 2 depicts Female literacy and series 3 points out total literacy of the village conjointly Male & Female,

✚ Category 1 is depicting for the Lodha literacy and category 2 is showing the Santal literacy rate.

✚ The literacy rate higher in the male population than their female counterparts.

✚ Village literacy is not maintaining proper ratio in case of both the tribes but people are still trying to be literate at present day.

Table 7 Family Size of the Selected Tribes.



✚ The above table exhibits Family sizes through three series exhibition of the concerned tribes the Lodha and the Santal.

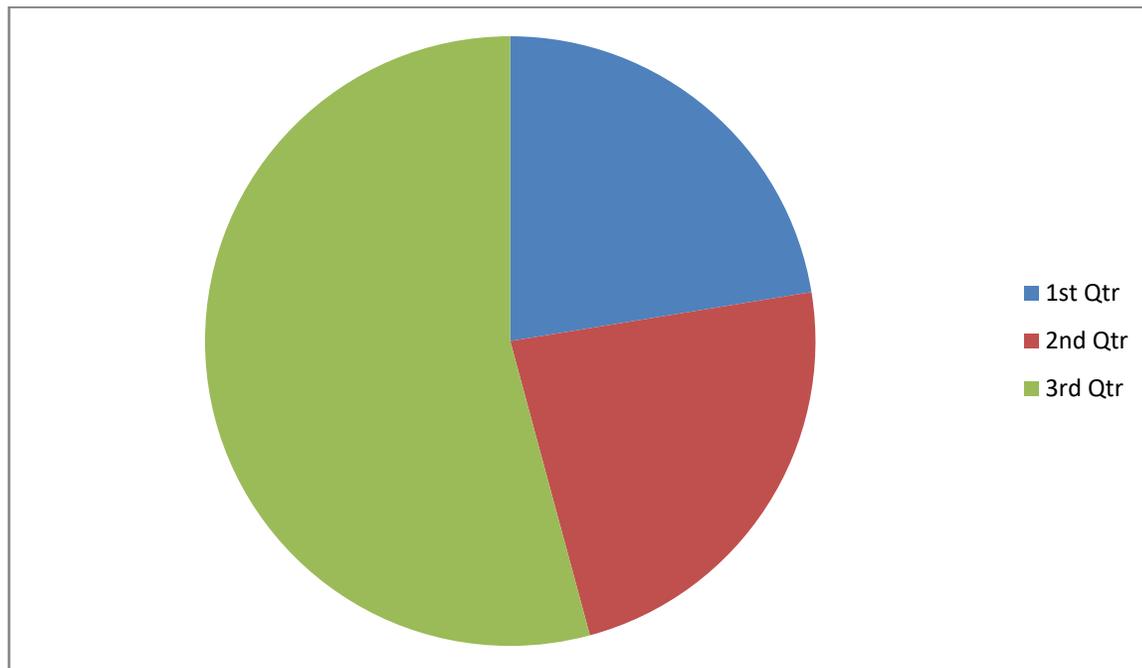
✚ Series 1 points out Small Family Size in case of both the tribes.

✚ Series 2 depicts medium Family Size and series 3 counts Large Family Size.

✚ Series 2 befitting for the Medium Family Size distribution for both the tribes.

- ✚ Series 1 & 3 are less counting for Small & Large Family Size are concerning for both the studied tribes who are living in the village Jual Bhanga.
- ✚ The Bar diagram proves that the tribes are leaning towards Nuclear or Small Family Size system though Medium Family size shows higher vale than the other two.

Table 8 Degree of Dependence on the Forest for Collections of Non Timber Minor Forest produces.



- ✚ The above Pie diagram points out degree of forest dependence of the concerned tribes for collection of non timber minor forest produces.
- ✚ Ist Qtr denotes scale point of 22% of regular forest dependent of the tribes.
- ✚ 2nd Qtr points out scale point 23% of occasional dependence on the forest.
- ✚ 3rd Qtr exhibits scale point of 54% non dependence on the forest for collection of non timber minor forest produces for maintaining livelihood sustenance.
- ✚ Thereby, it is evident from the above table that degree of dependence on forest is deteriorating gradually of the tribal communities for livelihood sustenance.

Conclusion

On careful consideration of data, it is analyzed for the captioned subject, the affected are still in a state of shadow, so far as collection of non timber minor forest produces is solicitude. The laid down guidelines of the Forest Policies of 1894, 1952 and 1988 always provided special spaces for the local communities, especially the tribes.

The tribes who were absolutely forest based for their daily subsistence and maintenance of livelihood pattern were jerked by the implementation of the Indian Forest Act in 1865. Continuing with such jeopardising situation and livelihood status the Forest Policies were/are the Oasis to them. Ushering a new pattern of life style and living standard the community tried to walk back with new leg wears.

Collection of forest produces especially the non timber minor forest produces were practiced by the community concerned since time immemorial. The Forest law directly hit their age old right which they enjoyed generation wise. The sudden implementation of the law pushed them in a jeopardizing situation.

Though time to time implementation of Policy guidelines were relaxed for them on the points of rights and concessions to collect non timber minor forest produces, one head load as offertory, but without any laid down features.

The Indian Forest Act 1865 to 1927, Chapter IV of Protected Forests, Section 32, Sub Section a to e categorically mentioned cutting, sawing, collection of any kind of forest produces for own uses and productions thereof, the forest inhabitants have to obtain license by depositing nominal fees to the forest depot. For entering into the forest and a separate nominal fee for execution of procurement of minor forest produces.

The present sequel iterates the exact situation of the village Jwal Bhangra and degree of dependence on the forest of the tribes concerned. The specified tribes the Lodha and the Santal are still in jeopardy regarding their state of living. They are in utter dismay still. The study proves their present population structure, literacy rate and family size pattern are alarming, to survive in a critical society at large, while degree of dependence on the forest is gradually deteriorating which were known territory of livelihood sustenance.

The Forest Act nowhere allowed them for collection of non timber minor forest produces without licensing and collection fees. The Policy guidelines also mentioned of nominal and affordable fees for collection of produces, at the same time none of the policies mentioned of one head load

collection of non timber minor forest produces as offertory for home consumption or for any other purpose. Hence the tribes continuing their collection till date, is ignorant of law. The authority knowing full well of the law are allowing them the collection.

Thereby, collection and uses of non timber minor forest produces from the forest, one head load as offertory inclusion is in the purview of Forest Policy guidelines while it denotes exclusion of overture under the compass of Forest Act, and Management.

The concerned forest dwelling tribes' are the forerunners.

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