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Role of forest in upliftment of tribal women's economic conditions of Ranchi district of Jharkhand

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Abstract- In numerous spheres of social, economic and religious life, women in tribal societies play a crucial role. As compared to non-tribal women, tribal ladies are more highly regarded. Indicators including education, health, work, and the ability to make decisions in the home are used to gauge women's status. They have better status than non-tribal women and co-participate with men in decisions made both inside the home and outside. But from the perspective of materialistic progress, tribal women still lack access to education and an acceptable standard of living. Ranchi district is a tribal dominated area, where in 18 blocks, tribal population lives. Their livelihood is affected as they lack the basic amenities of living. Tribal women play a significant role in uplifting their family's economic condition. The forest where they live is a major source in their economic upliftment. In the present paper, 30 plants and plant products are described which are used by tribal women to uplift their economic condition. In addition, a comparison of commodities price has been done and elaborated by line graph which help in improving tribal women economic conditions.

Key words: Forest, Tribal women, Economic condition

INTRODUCTION

The Girls and Women of the tribe are regarded as valuable resources in terms of the economy and are accorded the same status as men in the community. As we look to forests as a crucial component of the solution to our climate catastrophe, this knowledge is one that may and should be utilised. Women plays a significant role in the design and execution of sustainable forest management plans, restoration projects, and programmes aimed at lowering emissions caused by deforestation and forest degradation.¹ Around a billion women depend on forests for their livelihoods around the world, helping to provide

for their families and add to household income while also developing specialised knowledge of the most effective methods to manage and use forests sustainably.

Women in remote forest communities are active forest users, gathering forest resources for fuel, medicines, livestock feed, and wild food for their own consumption or to market. According to estimates, women and girls collect 80 percent of the unpaid fuelwood worldwide. However, these women's roles frequently go unnoticed and unacknowledged. The informal economy still employs women, who frequently earn less than males do. Their access to training, credit, and technology is restricted or occasionally refused. They frequently have little influence

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over decisions affecting their own forests and their contributions are not properly acknowledged.²

However, women who depend on forests to provide for their families frequently have unique understanding of these priceless natural resources, as well as how to manage and utilise them responsibly.

One of the districts that make up the Indian state of Jharkhand, Ranchi, has a population of 3,253,151 residents as of 2022. Out of total population 35.76% are tribes. Eight of these tribes have been classified as being among the most primitive tribal groups. They are the Asur, Baiga, Banjara, Bathudi, Bedia, Binjhia, Birhor, Birjia, Chero, Chik Bariak, Gond, Gorait, Ho, Karmali, Kharwar, Khond, Kisan, Kora, Korwa, Lohra, Mahli, Mal Paharia, Munda, Oraon, P Asur, Birhor, Korwa, Birjia, Mal Paharia, Sauria Paharia, Parhiya, and Savar are among them (Hil Kharia).

The tribal members have contributed equally to household and agricultural fields alongside their tribal counterparts. Compared to tribal men, tribal women perform more physical labour in the agricultural production, home and forest.³ They carry out home chores like

cooking, cleaning, gathering fuel and fodder, and caring for the young kid and elderly family members. They are able to find work outside the home as labourers in farms, construction projects, brick kilns, etc. They are free to market agricultural products on their own and independently. They used to go to the neighbourhood market to sell the fruits, veggies, and handcrafted goods. In their respective groups, tribal women typically enjoy a greater social status than Indian women as a whole.

MATERIAL & METHODS

Ranchi district has 18 Blocks. It has a total area of 5097 Km² and a total of 1296 villages.⁴ In main areas of Ranchi district where local haats and local Bazar are being organised, a random sampling through questionnaire was done between 2021 till 2022 August. The questionnaire contains different questions related to forest product, collections and their marketing. ⁵ Based on survey on different tribal women belonging to different tribal groups inferences were drawn.

OBSERVATION

The table-1 shows some plants and plants product of Ranchi District which are sold exclusively by the Tribal women of Ranchi district

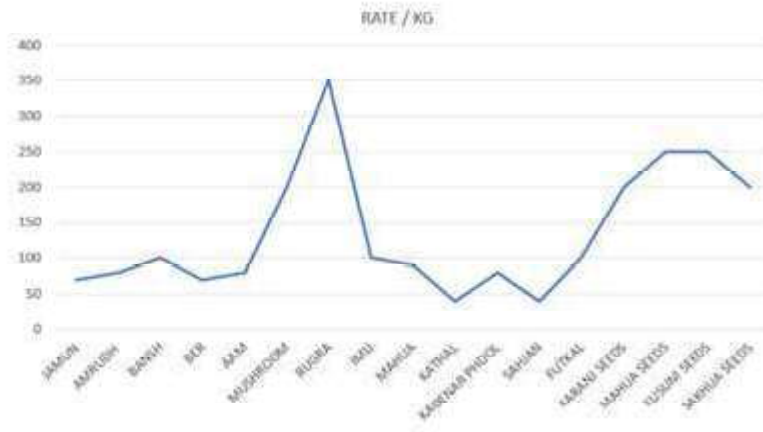
S.NO	COMMODITIES	RATE / KG	AVG SELL QTY / DAY	INCOME PER DAY	INCOME PER MONTH
1	JAMUN	70	2	140	280
2	AMRUDH	80	3	240	480
3	BANSH	100	3	300	600
4	BER	70	2	140	280
5	AAM	80	3	240	480
6	MUSHROOM	200	3	600	1200
7	RUGRA	350	3	1050	2100
8	IMLI	100	4	400	800
9	MAHUA	90	3	270	540
10	KATHAL	40	3	120	240
11	KAOENAR PHOOL	80	2	160	320
12	SAHJAN	40	2	80	160
13	FUTKAL	100	3	300	600
14	KARANJ SEEDS	200	2	400	800
15	MAHUA SEEDS	250	3	750	1500
16	KUSUM SEEDS	250	2	500	1000
17	SAKHUA SEEDS	200	3	600	1200
	TOTAL				12580

These are 17 commodities which are usually sold by these women with an average monthly income of Rs.12580.

The below table and graph show the rate at which these commodities are sold by the Tribal women in the local markets or Haats.

Table-2 and Graph-1: Rate of commodities per kilogram

COMMODITIES	RATE / KG
JAMUN	70
AMRUDH	80
BANSH	100
BER	70
AAM	80
MUSHROOM	200
RUGRA	350
IMLI	100
MAHUA	90
KATHAL	40
KAOENAR PHOOL	80
SAHJAN	40
FUTKAL	100
KARANJ SEEDS	200
MAHUA SEEDS	250
KUSUM SEEDS	250
SAKHUA SEEDS	200



The below table and graph shows the Average quantity of the commodities sold per day by the Tribal women in the local markets or Haats.

Table-3 and Graph-2: Average quantity sold per day

COMMODITIES	AVG SELL QTY / DAY
JAMUN	2
AMRUDH	3
BANSH	3
BER	2
AAM	3
MUSHROOM	3
RUGRA	3
IMLI	4
MAHUA	3
KATHAL	3
KAOENAR PHOOL	2
SAHJAN	2
FUTKAL	3
KARANJ SEEDS	2
MAHUA SEEDS	3
KUSUM SEEDS	2
SAKHUA SEEDS	3



The below table and graph shows the Income of those Tribal women by selling these commodities on market days.

Table-4 and Graph-3: Per day income of Tribal women by selling commodities.

COMMODITIES	INCOME PER DAY
JAMUN	140
AMRUDH	240
BANSH	300
BER	140
AAM	240
MUSHROOM	600
RUGRA	1050
IMLI	400
MAHUA	270
KATHAL	120
KAOENAR PHOOL	160
SAHJAN	80
FUTKAL	300
KARANJ SEEDS	400
MAHUA SEEDS	750
KUSUM SEEDS	500
SAKHUA SEEDS	600



Table-5 & Graph-4: Monthly income of Tribal women by selling commodities

COMMODITIES	INCOME PER MONTH
JAMUN	280
AMRUDH	480
BANSH	600
BER	280
AAM	480
MUSHROOM	1200
RUGDA	2100
IMLI	800
MAHUA	540
KATHAL	240
KADENAR PHOOL	320
SAHJAN	180
PUTKAL	600
KARANJ SEEDS	400
MAHUA SEEDS	1500
KUSUM SEEDS	1000
SAKHUA SEEDS	1700

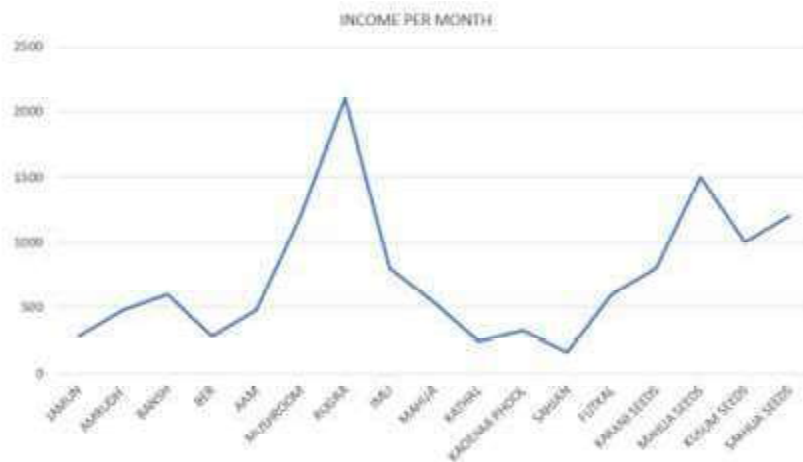


Table 6- List of plants with their Botanical name, Family and parts used by Tribal women of Ranchi District of Jharkhand to earn their livelihood .

S. No.	Common Name	Botanical Name	Family	Plant/ Plant Part Used for Selling
1	Jamun	<i>Syzygium cumini L.</i>	Myrtaceae	Fruit
2	Ber	<i>Ziziphus mauritiana</i>	Rhamnaceae	Fruit
3	Amrud	<i>Psidium guagava</i>	Myrtaceae	Fruit
4	Aam	<i>Mangifera indica</i>	Anacardiaceae	Fruit
5	Sarifa	<i>Annona squamosa</i>	Annonaceae	Fruit
6	Kend	<i>Diospyros melano xylon Roxb.</i>	Ebenaceae	Fruit & Leaf
7	Sakhua	<i>Shorea robusta</i>	Dipterocarpaceae	Leaf
8	Kusum	<i>Schleichera oleosa</i>	Sapindacea	Seed
9	Mahua	<i>Madhuca longifolia</i>	Sapotaceae	Whole plant
10	Baans	<i>Bambusa vulgaris</i>	Poaceae	Stem
11	Palash	<i>Butea monosperma</i>	Fabaceae	Stem
12	Rugda	<i>Lyeoperdan spp.</i>	Agavaceae	Stem
13	Bada Khukhdi	<i>Maerolegiota procesa</i>	Agavaceae	fruiting body
14	Baans Khukhdi	<i>Lentimla spp.</i>	Agavaceae	fruiting body
15	Imli	<i>Tamarandus indica</i>	Fabaceae	Fruit
16	Kathal	<i>Artocarpus heterophyllus</i>	Moraceae	Fruit & Leaf
17	Koyanar	<i>Boehinia verigata</i>	Fabaceae	Leaf
18	Sahjan	<i>Moringa oleifera</i>	Moringaceae	leaf and flower
19	Putkal	<i>Ficus virens</i>	Moraceae	leaf
20	Patal Kohda	<i>Pureria tuberosa</i>	Fabaceae	fruit
21	Karanj	<i>Millettia pinnata</i>	Fabaceae	bark and leaf
22	Gamhar	<i>Gmelina arborea</i>	Lamiaceae	whole plant
23	Gathi Kanda	<i>Dioscorea bulbifera</i>	Dioscoreaceae	fruit
24	Shisham	<i>Dalbergia sissoo</i>	Fabaceae	whole plant
25	Teak	<i>Tectona grandis</i>	Lamiaceae	Whole plant
26	Harre	<i>Tereminalia chebula</i>	Combretaceae	bark and leaf
27	Bahera	<i>Terminalia bellirica</i>	Combretaceae	bark and leaf
28	Asan	<i>Tereminalia tomentosa</i>	Combretaceae	Whole plant
29	Gangu	<i>Boerhavia vahlii</i>	Nyctaginaceae	leaf
30	Kendu	<i>Diospuros melanoxylon</i>	Ebenaceae	leaf

RESULT & DISCUSSION

Tribal economies are based primarily on forest products. Primitive tribes' primary source of subsistence is the collection of forest products including Mahua, Tendu leaves, Khukhdi, Bahera, Gungu leaves, Pithore, Honey and herbs. They consume forest products for food, and some tribes make money by selling these products in the neighbourhood market. The availability of forest products has diminished as a result of deforestation. The primary sources of revenue for tribes living in or close to forests are mahua and tendu leaves.

The tribal women and girls are valued as resources by their society and are treated equally to men. However, from the perspective of materialistic development, tribal women continue to lack access to an education and a respectable quality of living. The literacy rate among tribal people, particularly tribal women, is relatively low, and this is also correlated with their subpar nutritional, physical and economic condition.^{6,7}

CONCLUSION

The tribal women of Ranchi district plays an important and vital role in the upliftment of economic condition of their family. The present study conclude that the tribal women of Ranchi district gather more than 30 forest product which belongs to category of fruits, Timber, food and beverages decorative items, medicinal plants etc. After selling them in different local Bazar and haats they contribute a major share in the upliftment of their livelihood,

which can be enhanced if proper marketing facility are provided to the tribal women in their own vicinity.

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