

Study of Cultural Status of Korku Tribes in Madhya Pradesh (With special reference to Betul District)

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Abstract

Korku are tribal people of Central India concentrated in the state of Madhya Pradesh. In last few decades research studies have showed that Korku in grief of severe cultural status. Even today the situation is Korku tribes still critical in these areas. The results showed that there is a great cultural status among male and female Korku which is mainly due to low intake of pulses milk, and milk products green leafy vegetables, fruits, fats and oils and sugar jaggery. The study suggests the needs of bring about changes of Korku tribes in order to improve cultural status.

Keywords: Cultural status, Korku tribes, Madhya Pradesh, Betul District.

Introduction

Tribes of mainly group of people with a common ancestry language a shared cultural, historical tradition and identifiable territory. in all India there exists a wide variety of tribes and Korku are one of them. Korku are tribal people of Central India concentrated in state of Madhya Pradesh.

According to 2001 census conducted by Govt. of India. India has more than 84 million tribal who constitute 8.2% of India's population several research studies of various tribal populations living in the different parts of India. India have found them to be socially and economically disadvantaged. (Milltal and Srivastava 2006) also studies conducted by Bose and Chakraborty (2005-06) suggest that there is an urgent need to evaluate the cultural status of tribes in India.

Korku tribes are generally illiterate and are not aware of health and sanitary practices for decades they have been losing their lives due to the inadequacy in their diet. This is particularly true of the Melghat forest area in Amravati District of Maharashtra where between 1992 and 1997. Korku are used busy life where in they

hardly get time to dress up themselves. They do dress up occasionally especially during marriage ceremonies, festivals, fairs etc. Similar condition persists in Madhya Pradesh also only 38.8% Korku are literate rest others are illiterate and unaware of health and healthy living. Therefore this study was conducted to know about cultural status of Korku tribes in Betul district of Madhya Pradesh.

Methodology:

In order to study the cultural status of Korku tribes in Betul District of Madhya Pradesh there are five tehsils and 10 block of Betul district there are Bhainsdehi, Betul, Shahpur, Multai and Amla in which three tehsils of Betul district Betul, Shahpur, Amla the ten villages of Betul district namely Ghoradongri, Vikrampur, Padhar, Ranipur, Bagdona, Rehwadi, Baretha, Chorepandra, were selected by random sampling. After wards 1965 Korku tribes were selected as study samples from these villages by probability proportional to size (PPS) sampling. Among them 862 were male Korku and 903 were female Korku these samples were than equally divided into three group. Group-I consisted of individuals of age group between 19 and 35 years Group-II comprised of individuals having age group between 36 and 55 years and Group-III comprised the persons ranging a group above 55 years. Than a survey was carried out by oral questionnaire (ICMR 1991) which comprised of questions regarding choice of cultural status.

Result/Discussion:

An analysis of data results that the obtained mean cultural status intakes of both the male and femal Korku are less than in the levels of an other tribes. This shows that the average consumption of cultural status by Korku is not appropriate. The main reason for this may be because Korku do not use oil in their food preparation daily instead they consume boiled vegetables with salt and chilly powder.

This is mainly because most of the Korku take green leafy vegetables, occasionally in their diet and consume wild roots and tubers like Kolu which is quite poisonous. This shows that the male Korku having younger age groups posses a good adequacy percentage towards cultural status were as these who are having age more than 55 years needs much attention.

These results are quite similar to the study conducted by Bose and Chakraberty in 2005 on adult sever tribes of Keonijhar District Orissa. According to which the prevalence of adult Korku was very high among saver man. The rate increased with increasing age. Therefore from the public point of view it was concluded that immediate cultural status intervention programmes are needed from implementation among savers especially among older individuals.

The study also reveals that most of the Korku tribes in Betul district are illiterate and so are unaware of about social change and social system in the society. Korku tribes are not only deprived of access to land and employment. But they are denied their right to basic education (Bunsha 2002).

One of the main reasons of illiteracy among these tribes is poverty. Due to poverty

and hunger these tribes are spending their life in pain and grief, like other Korku tribes of Melghat region. As per info change news and features, October 2002 racked by ignorance and poverty. The Korku tribesmen in Melghat region are finding life a painful experience.

Conclusion:

India has emerged from a long period of economic hibernation but still cultural status is a challenging issue, especially in tribal resident areas. Through a lot of work has been done to improve the conditions of tribes, but still they are in bad condition due to poverty, illiteracy and superstition.

According to him, the Korku belief that child birth will be difficult if a women eats well during the last trimester has led to under weight babies. Besides, the pregnant women must return to work in the field immediately after they given birth, and therefore can not nurse their infants for long (info changes news and features, October 2002). The condition is similar here. Only 10% Korku are literate and rest are unaware of basic of health and healthy living.

But for meals it is really not good as they perform hard labour in fields and their work places. It is mainly because Korku do not take leafy vegetables, milk eggs, in their diet. Mostly the Korku are very poor due to which they take their meals only once a day. The condition is quite similar to Korku tribes in Maharashtra. According to National Sample Survey Organization (1997) more than half the families in Maharashtra do not get enough to eat.

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