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SOCIAL INCLUSION IN KODAGU DISTRICT OF KARNATAKA: AN EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS



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ABSTRACT

Social inclusion is a very complex and multi-dimensional concept. It is understood as the process by which communities fight for removal of poverty and social exclusion. The aim of social inclusion is to create an inclusive society, in which every individual, each with rights and responsibilities, has to play an active role. Hence, inclusion is can be achieved when everyone has essential dignity and everyone has something contributes to the community. In this context the micro level study was undertaken to examine the social inclusion with special reference to the Kodagu district of Karnataka. The study was based

on the secondary data. Results of the study indicated that the sex ratio, literacy rate and work participation rate have shown the district is achieved the objective of socially inclusion compared to overall state achievement. The sex ratio among households of schedule caste and schedule tribes was more than the overall sex ratio in the district. The female work participation rate was more in the district compared to the state level average. Finally, the percentage of schedule caste and schedule tribe households in the district are resource poor families compared to the others with respect to the ownership of landholdings. Further, the schedule tribe households in the district still depend upon agriculture for their livelihood compared to SC and Others. Therefore, it is important to encourage the schedule caste and schedule tribe households for undertaking the non-farming activities.

KEYWORDS :Exclusion, Inclusion, multi dimensional, marginal and Coorg,

INTRODUCTION:

Since 11th five year plan, the Government of Indian has committed to achieve the inclusive growth. It ensures opportunities for all sections of the population with special emphasis on the poor, particularly schedule caste, schedule tribes, minorities and women who are most likely to be marginalized citizens of the country. The terms "inclusion" and "social inclusion" have become popular, especially for the last decade, however it is not easy to define or to quantifying it. Social inclusion is not

only crucial to eradicate extreme poverty but also it is important for achieving universal education, promoting gender equality, reducing child mortality and improving maternal health. A vision of an inclusive society as a 'society for all' in which every individual, each with rights and responsibilities has an active role to play. The World Social Summit identified poverty eradication as an ethical, social, political and economic imperative of mankind and called on governments to address the root causes of poverty, provide for basic needs for all and ensure that the poor have access to productive resources, including credit, education and training (World Summit for Social Development, 1995). Thus, the social inclusion is understood as a process by which efforts are made to ensure equal opportunities for all, regardless of their background, so that they can achieve their full potential in life. It is a multi-dimensional process aimed at creating conditions which enable full and active participation of every member of the society in all aspects of life, including civic, social, economic, and political activities as well as participation in decision making processes.

Karnataka is home to 6.1 crore inhabitants (2011 Census) which accounts for 5.05 percent of India's population and it has 5.8 percent of India's geographical area. The state's population has grown by 15.7 percent during the last decade, while its population density has risen from 276 in 2001 to 319 in 2011, indicating an increase of about 15.6 percent (Economic Survey of Karnataka 2014-15).

In spite of higher growth of state's income, Karnataka has lagged behind in several social variables of human development viz. low literacy, low work participation of labour force, old traditional customs and values, low status of women and slow pace of modernization etc compared to the neighbouring states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala. In 30 district of Karnataka, Kodagu district has a strong track record supporting women's empowerment and gender equality, compared to its neighbouring districts like Mysore and Hassan and to the rest of the state. Though there have been various studies conducted across the country to analyze the social inclusion, many issues related to social inclusion are region specific. Moreover, the conditions prevailing in one state are quite different from another state in general and districts across the country in particular. Therefore it is necessary to undertake the region specific study more importantly the district level. In this background, an attempt has been made to analyze the social inclusion with special reference to Kodagu district.

2. BRIEF HISTORY OF THE KODAGU DISTRICT

Kodagu is also known as Coorg is the smallest district in the state of Karnataka. It is a hilly district located in southwestern Karnataka, on the Western Ghats of India and is considered as one of the most beautiful hill stations of Karnataka. It occupies an area of 4,102 square kilometers (1,584 sq. mi) in the Western Ghats and is surrounded by Dakshina Kannada district to the northwest, Hassan district to the north, Mysore district to the east, Kannur district of Kerala to the southwest and Wayanad district of Kerala to the south. Kodagu is considered rich with wildlife and has three wildlife sanctuaries and one national park: the Brahmagiri, Talakaveri, and Pushpagiri Wildlife Sanctuaries, and the Nagarhole National Park, also known as the Rajiv Gandhi National Park. Kodagu has numerous unique characteristics that make the analysis of its human development unique and insightful. It is the smallest district in Karnataka in terms of its population and has the highest proportion of rural population in any district. The district is known as the "Coffee-cup" of India and produces one thirds of India's coffee. The honey produced in Kodagu, famously known as "Coorg Honey" is also a household name in Karnataka. Kodagu is also one of the richest districts in the state (in terms of per-capita income) and is majorly driven by its agricultural economy (District Human Development Report Kodagu Draft Report). However, the district has lagged behind in many socio-economic indicators when compared to the state and hence this study has been undertaken to examine social inclusion with special reference to Kodagu

district.

3. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY;

The primary objective of this study is to analyze concept of social inclusion and to compare the socio-economic indicators of Kodagu district with the Karnataka state. To suggest few measure for achieving more social inclusion in the district.

4. METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY:

The study is mainly based on secondary data. The data required for this study collected from various articles published in national and international journals. The reports of government authorities are; the Karnataka State at a Glance, Statistical abstract of Karnataka, Karnataka Human Development Report 2005(2006), Economic Survey of Government of Karnataka 2013-2014, Population Census Report 2001 and 2011 of Government of India. Simple statistical techniques like averages, percentages and growth rates are used in the study. Scope of study was limited to the size of population, rural and urban ratio, literacy rate, work participation rate and size of land holdings of in Kodagu district.

5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the study have been presented in this section. The concept of social inclusion and socio-economic conditions of the state and district are also discussed in the following way.

5.1. Concept of Social Inclusion

Social inclusion has drawn public attention towards the effects of deep inequalities in both the state and the district level. There are many signs of social dissatisfaction, declining levels of trust in governments, unrest in response to rising food prices and labour retrenchments. While deep-seated and locally specific factors support the recent uprisings in various districts around the state, high rates of unemployment, insecure livelihoods and exploitive state practices are common sources of disgruntlement that feed popular unrest. Social inclusion explains how a society values all of its citizens, respects their differences, ensures everyone's basic needs are met, welcomes and enables full participation in that society. In this context, it is necessary to know the concept of social inclusion.

Social exclusion is understood as the condition (barriers and process) that impede social inclusion. Social inclusion is a term that can be used to describe a series of positive actions to achieve equality of access to goods and services, to assist all individuals to participate in community and society, to encourage the contribution of all persons to social and cultural life and to be aware of and to challenge all. The provision of certain rights to all individuals and groups in society, such as employment, adequate housing, health care, education and training, etc (English Dictionary Pioneers in dictionary publishing since 1819)

Social inclusion is understood as a process by which efforts are made to ensure equal opportunities for all, regardless of their background, so that they can achieve their full potential in life. It is a multi-dimensional process aimed at creating conditions which enable full and active participation of every member of the society in all aspects of life, including civic, social, economic, and political activities, as well as participation in decision making processes (DESA, 2009). Social inclusion can be described as a "multidimensional process aimed at lowering economic, social and cultural boundaries between those who are included and excluded, and making these boundaries more permeable" (Therborn, 2007).

An inclusive society is a society that over-rides differences of race, gender, class, generation,

geography, and ensures inclusion, equality of opportunity as well as capability of all members of the society to determine an agreed set of social institutions that govern social interaction. (Expert Group Meeting on Promoting Social Integration, Helsinki, July 2008) The concept of inclusion means the encompassing of the entire population in the performances of the individual function systems. On the one hand, this concerns access to these benefits and, on the other, dependence of individual modes of living on them. To the extent that inclusion is achieved, groups disappear that do not or only marginally participate in social living (Luhman 1990: 34). There are different views in terms of how a socially inclusive society functions. "Integration in all its forms may simply imply the existence of a stable community in which people can find a niche." (Taylor, 2007). A recent report Inclusion Matters: The Foundation for Shared Prosperity (World Bank, 2013b) defines social inclusion as "the process of improving the ability, opportunity and dignity of people disadvantaged on the basis of their identity to take part in society."

Thus it is found from the above definitions that social inclusion needs to occur on various dimensions and multiple levels. Social inclusion does not mean a uniformity of people but a society which has room for diversity and still fosters engagement. Social inclusion is understood as the process by which societies combat poverty and social exclusion. The aim of social inclusion is to create an inclusive society, in which every individual, each with rights and responsibilities, has an active role to play. Hence, inclusion is the realization that everyone has essential dignity and everyone has something contributes to the community.

5.2. Socio-Economic Indicators of Kodagu District and Karnataka

One of achievements of the Karnataka toward social inclusion has been its success in raising people out of poverty over the two decades leading up to 2011. The socio-economic indicators are crucial to understand the benefits of economic growth will be shared equally by all the people in the society. Therefore, the data regarding to size of population, rural-urban ratio, density of population, sex ratio, literacy rate and work participation rate has been collected and presented in the table 1.

Population is a source of economic growth and it is demographic dividend for further development of the country. Size of population both in the state and district has been increasing over the years. It is visible from the table that there was very negligible increase of population in Kodagu district (5958) between 2001 and 2011 whereas in the state it was more than 81 lakh in similar period. India is a land of villages and large proportion of population living in the rural areas which is not exception to Karnataka and the district of Kodagu. The percentage of population living in rural areas of the state has fallen from 69.1 percent in 2001 to 61.3 percent whereas in Kodagu district marginally decreased in rural population from 86.3 percent in 2001 to 85.4 percent in 2011. Hence it was inferred that the Kodagu district lagged behind in achieving urbanization compared to the state and still higher proportion of people living rural areas. The number of people living per square kilometer is known as density of population. In Karnataka, density of population has been considerably increased from 235 in 2001 to 319 in 2011 whereas it was increased from 134 to 135 in similar period in Kodagu however it was negligible.

Sex ratio is one of the important indicators of the equal participation of men and women in economic activities in general and social inclusion in particular. The number of female per one thousand male is called sex ratio. The data of sex ratio in the district and the state was collected and presented in the table 2. Overall Sex ratio in Kodagu district was favorable for female compared to state and the number of female per thousand male in Kodagu (996 and 1019) was found to be higher than in Karnataka (965 and 973) during 2001 and 2011. Similar difference was found with respect to child sex

ratio. It is interesting to note that Kodagu district has well ahead than the state in terms of sex ratio among Schedule Caste (SC) and Schedule Tribes (ST) and even sex ratio of SC and ST was higher than the overall sex ratio of the state. Hence it could be inferred that socially and economically backward caste people like SC and ST families may prefer male kid even after having more than two female children. It is also shown that Kodagu district is forefront to achieve the objective of social inclusion than the state in terms of sex ratio.

Education is recognized as a fundamental human right along with other necessities, such as food, shelter and water (The Universal Declaration on Human Rights, 1948). Achievements in education in Karnataka have been quite remarkable and the state is moving towards universal literacy at a steady pace. Literacy is only the first step towards educational attainment. The economic motive is not the only reason why education is vital for the individual's well-being. Education is important in other ways as well as improving self esteem, enhancing social status, and gaining confidence while dealing with officials. The data from the table 1 revealed the fact that literacy rate in Kodagu district increased from 78 percent in 2001 to 82.6 percent in 2011 whereas state has achieved literacy rate from 66.6 percent in 2001 to 75.6 percent in 2011. The disaggregate data have shown male literacy rate which is higher for both Kodagu district and the state. However, it is glaring that percentage of female literacy is found to be more in Kodagu district (72.3% and 78.1%) compared to Karnataka (56.9% and 75.6%) during 2001 and 2011. Therefore it was inferred that the Kodagu district has ahead for socially inclusive for achieving universal literacy rate than the state and also encouraging female education.

Balanced growth ensures the equal participation of male and female workers in the economy and hence work participation consists of man and woman in the society. The total work participation rate was below the 50 percent which has shown the data collected and presented in the table 2. It is fact that overall work participation in Kodagu district has gone up to 50.3 in 2011 from 48.6 percent in 2001 whereas marginal increase was found with respect to the state (44.5% and 45.6%) during the similar period. The disaggregate data of gender-wise work participation rate showed the higher percentage of male worker participation than the percentage of female worker participation in both district and the state. In Kodagu district, it is evident from the table that the percentage of female work participation rate was found to be higher than the state during 2001 and 2011. Though the female work participation rate was more in the district, it is not satisfactory compared to the male worker participation rate. Hence, it could be inferred that female workers are not getting equal opportunities in different economic activities in the district and state and it is glaring social exclusion of female work participation.

Table: 1.Socio-Economic Indicators of Karnataka and Kodagu District

Sl.No.	Particulars	Kodagu District		Karnataka State	
		2001	2011	2001	2011
1	Population	548561	554519	5.3	6.11
	Rural Population (%)	86.3	85.4	69.1	61.3
	Urban Population (%)	13.7	14.6	30.9	38.7
2	Density of Population	134	135	235	319
3	Sex Ratio	996	1019	965	973
	Sex Ratio among SC	1020	1058	973	990
	Sex Ratio among ST	996	1036	972	990
4	Child Sex Ratio(0-6)	974	978	946	948
5	Literacy Rate (%)				
	Male	83.7	87.2	76.1	82.9
	Female	72.3	78.1	56.9	68.1
	Total	78.0	82.6	66.6	75.6
6	Total Work Participation Rate (%)	48.6	50.3	44.5	45.6
7	Gender-Wise Work Participation Rate (%)				
	Male	60.9	62.7	56.6	59.0
	Female	36.2	38.2	32.0	31.9

Source: i) Census of India 2011 Primary Census Abstract Data Highlights Karnataka Series 30.
 ii) Karnataka at a Glance
 iii) : Economic and Social Analysis of Kodagu District, 2010-10.

It is worth noting that the Kodagu district has made constructive effort to reduce the growth of population and some extent succeeded to reduce the population size and growth. However, the district is needed more attention towards urbanization which largely contributes to the economic growth. Finally, sex ratio, literacy rate and work participation rate have indicated district is achieved objective of socially inclusion compared to overall state achievement.

Land is an important asset in rural areas and it is the indicator of social status of an individual. The inequalities in the distribution of income and land assets have grown considerably across the state and it is glaring in Kodagu district. It is fact that earlier analysis of landholdings pattern in the district reported nearly 64.6 percent of farmers in the district are marginal and small farmers cultivating below two hectares. The data related to the operational land holdings has been collected and summarized in the table 2. In Kodagu district, the distribution of land holdings among farm households has been broadly categorized as Schedule Caste (SC), Schedule Tribe (ST), Institutions and Others. It was observed from the table that the area of agricultural land held by all the categories of farm households has been declining between 2005-2006 and 2010-11 however the area under institutions has been increasing. The number of holdings of schedule tribes were found to be increased from 1110 to 1141 whereas it was declining among schedule caste and others but negligible increase was visible in institutions land holdings. Hence, it could be inferred that the schedule tribe households in the district still depend upon agriculture for their livelihood compared to SC and Others. It was interesting to note that the land area held by ST community declined from 1929 hectares in 2005-06 to 981 hectares in 2010-2011. In terms of percentage of land area-wise ownership, others held more land compared to SC, ST and Institutions in 2005-06 and 2010-2011.

Table: 2: Land Ownership Pattern in Kodagu District (2005-2006 and 2010-2011)

Sl. No	Particulars	2005-2006		2010-2011	
		Area	Number of Holdings	Area	Number of Holdings
1	Schedule Caste	2122 (1.2)	3264(4.5)	2017.8(1.2)	2823(4.1)
2	Schedule Tribe	1929(1.1)	1110(1.5)	981.0(0.6)	1141(1.7)
3	Institutions	9150 (5.2)	430(0.6)	10351.6(6.2)	427(0.6)
4	Others	162088(92.5)	67343(93.4)	154511.6(92.0)	64490(93.6)
	Total	175289(100.0)	72147(100.0)	167862.0(100.0)	68881(100.0)

Sources: Economic and Social Analysis of Kodagu District, 2010-10.

Kodagu District Statistics at a Glance 2014-2015

Note: Figures in parenthesis are percentage to total

In Kodagu district, area and the number of holdings were found to be declining between 2005-06 and 2010-11 however the number of holdings in case of schedule tribe has been increasing. It is because of the percentage of tribal people (2.2%) living urban areas was found to be lowest compared to the schedule cast (11.1%) and others (86.7%) with respect to total urban population (80988) in the district. Hence, the schedule tribes still depended upon agriculture for their livelihood in Kodagu district.

Size of landholding determines the pattern of crops, adoption of technology, mechanization, practice of modern methods etc and influence on socio economic status of the family in rural areas. Therefore, the information of the size of landholdings collected and summarized in the table 3. The size of holdings has been categorized as small and marginal farm (less than 2 hectares), medium farms (between 2 and 10 hectares) and large farm holding (More than 10 hectares). It was also seen from the table that the distribution of landholding among the SC, ST and Others. There are 68454 farm households in the district. Of these, the 2823, 1141 and 64490 farm households belonged to the SC, ST and Others respectively. In the disaggregate data, small and marginal farmers (45046) were found to be highest followed by medium (21242) and large farmers (2166). The highest percentage of small and marginal farmers and medium farmers belonged to the Others whereas the lowest percentage farmers of SC and ST belonged to the similar category farms. It is interesting to note that none of the SC and ST farmers were having the large farms in the district. Hence, it was inferred that the land is an important asset in rural area more unevenly distributed and weaker section people like SC and ST partially excluded in the society.

Table: 3: Size of Landholdings in Kodagu District (2010-2011)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Category-Wise Distribution of Landholdings			
		SC	ST	Others	Overall
1	Small and Marginal Farmers (<2Hectares)	2698(6.0)	1071(2.4)	41277(91.6)	45046(100.0)
2	Medium Farmers (2 to 10 Hectares)	125(0.6)	70(0.3)	21047(99.1)	21242(100.0)
3	Large Farmers (>10 Hectares)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	2166(100.0)	2166(100.0)
	Total	2823(4.1)	1141(1.7)	64490(94.2)	68454(100.0)

Source: Kodagu District Statistics at a Glance 2014-2015

Note: Figures in parenthesis are percentage to total.

Institutional holdings are not included in this table

POLICY MEASURES

Though the Kodagu district has made a constructive effort to reduce the size and growth rate of population, there should be more attention is necessary to reduce the gap between male and female child sex ratio. It is evident from the data that sex ratio among schedule caste and schedule tribes was found to be more than the overall sex ratio hence it is further needed to create awareness to reduce the fertility rate among SC and STs. The district administration has to undertake the development works in urban areas such construction of multi-specialty hospitals, higher education institution, forest based industries etc for reducing the rural population.

Education is very important to achieve the social inclusion for participating in social, political and cultural activities. In spite of literacy rate in the district was higher than the overall literacy rate in state, the local administration must take suitable steps to achieve the hundred percent literacy rate by creating awareness regarding the importance of education among marginalized communities. It is imperative to raise literacy among schedule caste, schedule tribe and minority areas in the district. It helps us to reduce the population and raise the quality of life.

The percentage-wise work participation rate and gender-wise work participation rate are higher in the district than the state. Local administration has to identify the excluded and vulnerable communities for encouraging them to participate in organized and unorganized sector. It is necessary to design the special self-employment schemes to SC and ST because the percentage of these communities is found to be relatively more in Kodagu district.

Land holding pattern indicates that the social and economic exclusion of weaker sections in the district. Therefore, it is necessary to encourage the schedule caste and schedule tribe households to undertake the allied activities like dairy, poultry, piggery, extracting the forest based products, bee keeping etc. In addition to these, youth should be encouraged the non-farming activities like, tourist guide, repair works, skill based programmes which enhance the income of these households.

CONCLUSION

Social inclusion is a very complex and multi-dimensional concept. Social inclusion does not mean a uniformity of people but a society which has room for diversity and still fosters engagement and it is the process by which society's combat poverty and social exclusion. It is observed from the study that the Kodagu district has achieved the social inclusion in few socio-economic indicators such as control of population, density of population compared to the Karnataka state. The state has achieved the higher percentage of urbanization compared to the Kodagu district however the Kodagu district is more inclusive than the state in terms of literacy rate, sex ratio, work participation rate. The lowest percentage of schedule caste and schedule tribe households were having less than two hectares of landholdings and hence the district administration has to encourage the people belonged to SC and ST community to undertake the self-employment activities. Though the Kodagu district has lagged behind in urbanization, the school education, urban housing, decent work in labour markets and legal justice in relation to anti-terror legislations are essential for ensuring the social inclusion in the district.

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