



## **Profile Analysis of Tribal Farmers of Vidarbha Region**

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### **Authors' contributions**

*This work was carried out in collaboration between both authors. Both authors read and approved the final manuscript.*

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### **ABSTRACT**

In Maharashtra 10.33 million population belonged to tribal's. Tribal people constitute the most deprived and neglected section of the population of the state, hence the research objective was formulated to study the profile of tribal farmers of Vidarbha region. An exploratory research design of social science was used for the present investigation. Study was conducted in Gadchiroli and Yavatmal districts in the year 2020, with 280 respondents. The findings suggested that, relatively high per cent (44.28%) of the respondents were belonged to middle age (36 to 50 years) group category, more than one fourth (29.30%) of the respondents were educated up to primary school level, nearly half (48.92%) of the respondents concentrated in medium size of family with 5 to 6 members in the family, majority (54.64%) of the respondent tribal farmers were belonged to nuclear type of family, relatively high per cent of the respondents (46.43%) involved in agriculture, majority of the respondent tribal farmers (72.14%) had annual earning up to Rs. 80,000/-, more than half (51.78%) of the respondents had small size of land holding (1.01 to 2.00 ha.), majority (52.85%) of the respondents had medium (24 to 43 years) farming experience, majority (71.43%) of the

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respondents had medium level of social participation, majority (73.92%) of the respondents were using medium level of sources of information, majority (54.64%) of the respondent tribal farmers belonged to medium innovativeness category, majority (63.92%) of the respondents had medium cosmopolitanism in nature, majority (75.71%) of the respondent tribal farmers had medium level of change orientation, whereas 56.07 per cent had medium level of fatalism, more than three fourth of the respondents (78.21%) had derived medium level of benefits.

*Keywords: Profile; tribal's; tribal farmers; vidarbha region.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Tribal peoples are children's of nature and their lifestyle is conditioned by the ecosystem. They have followed ways of life for many generations that are largely self-sufficient and are clearly different from the mainstream and dominant society. There are approximately 200 million tribal people in the entire globe accounting for about 4 per cent of the global population.

India is the home to large number of indigenous people, who are still untouched by the lifestyle of the modern world. With more than 10.45 million constituting 8.63 per cent of the total population and 11.3 per cent of the total rural population. India has the largest population of the tribal people in the world and the government has identified 700 tribal communities spread over different states and Union territories (UT's) of the country [1].

Presence of tribal in the regions of their present concentration was outcome of the dynamics of ethnic displacement within the country, many tribal folklore in all region of country is full of references to the history of displacement of tribes from their earlier habitat. The tribes usually live by the fringe of the river valleys in the forested hilly or upland tracts [2].

### 1.1 Tribal Definitions

Article 366 (25) of the Constitution of India refers to Scheduled Tribes as those communities who are scheduled in accordance with Article 342 of the Constitution. This Article says that only those communities who have been declared as such by the President through an initial public notification or through a subsequent amending Act of Parliament will be considered to be Scheduled Tribes [1].

The word tribe has been defined clearly under Article 342 of the constitution of India. Prior to the adoption of Indian constitution the tribes were variously termed as Aborigines, Adivasis,

Vanvasi, Pahari, Anusuchit, Janjati, Forest tribes, Hill tribes, Primitive tribes, etc. Up to the year 1919, the tribes were included under the head of depressed classes, the Indian Franchise committee in 1919 accorded a separate nomenclature for the census reports in 1931 primitive tribes, 1941 tribes and 1951 scheduled tribes.

### 1.2 Tribal Scenario in Maharashtra

India has a tribal population of 104.28 million and Maharashtra has the second largest number of tribal population in the country. The total tribal population living in the geographical boundary of the State estimated to be 10.33 million, which is 10.1 per cent of the total population of the state. The tribal people constitute the most deprived and neglected section of the population in the state. The tribes mostly live in three inaccessible hilly and remote forest regions of the state, i.e., in the Sahyadris, the Satpudas and Eastern Gondwana.

### 1.3 Tribal's of Vidarbha

The Vidarbha region of Maharashtra state consists of 11 districts with a large tribal population. Among the major tribes in this region include Gonds form the largest group and has ethnically related tribes like Pradhans, Kolams having with some cultural similarities. They are from the Dravidian group, while Korkus from Amaravati, are came from Kaularian group of tribes. Gond tribe has many sub tribes mainly include Raj Gonds, Madia Gonds, Dhurve Gonds and Khatulwar/Khatole Gonds and Naik Gonds. The Kolam tribes have been classified as primitive tribe, due to low levels of acculturation as compared to their co-tribes or other tribes. The third primitive tribe from Maharashtra is Katkari, which is from western Maharashtra. In Gadchiroli district Gond, Madia Gond, Pardhan and Kolam these tribes are the primitive tribes and in Yavatmal district Kolam, Andh, Gond and Pardhan these are primitive tribes.

The study was focused on studying profile of tribal farmers. The word "tribal" or Adivasi brings to our mind a picture of men and women with arrows and spears in their hands, feathers in their heads, and speaking an unintelligible language, their lives often combined with myths of savagery and cannibalism.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Research Design

An exploratory research design was used for the present study.

### 2.2 Sampling Procedure

#### 2.2.1 Locale of the study

The present investigation was carried out in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, in Vidarbha region there are two divisions i.e. Nagpur division and Amravati division. So from the two division two districts selected purposively having high proportion of tribal people i.e. Gadchiroli district selected from Nagpur division and Yavatmal district selected from Amravati division [3].

#### 2.2.2 Selection of Tahsil

On the basis highest population of tribal people from the selected districts it was decided to select two tahsils purposively from each district to carried out the study.

Hence from Gadchiroli district two tahsil namely Etapali and Dhanora were selected but instead of Etapali tahsil Aheri tahsil was selected for the study as there are number of problems of naxlite activities in Etapali tahsil so at third place Aheri tahsil having the highest population of tribal people in Gadchiroli district considered for the study.

From Yavatmal district two tahsils was purposively selected i.e. Yavatmal and Kelapur, as these tahsils having the highest population of tribal people.

#### 2.2.3 Selection of villages

The seven villages from each tahsils were selected randomly for the purpose of the study. Thus, total 28 villages were selected for study from selected two districts.

### 2.2.4 Selection of respondents

In the present study from each selected village, the list of tribal farmers were obtained from the Gramsevak and Talathi and from that list ten tribal farmers who were having minimum one acre of land holding and continuously engaged in farming activities and allied activities were selected randomly by using lottery method of random sampling and they were consider as respondents.

Thus, for the study total 280 tribal farmers were selected randomly from twenty eight villages of four selected tahsils of two district of Vidarbha by random sampling method and they were consider as respondents in the present study.

### 2.3 Selection of Variables

The focus of the present investigation was to study profile of tribal farmers. Thus, the variables of the present study were selected on the basis of review of literature related to tribal farmers and after consultation with the research guide and experts. These variables namely; age, education, family size, family type, occupation, annual income, land holding, farming experience, social participation, source of information, innovativeness, cosmopolitaness, change orientation, fatalism and benefits derived.

### 2.4 Statistical Tools and Techniques

Data were collected with the help of pre-tested, well structured interview schedule. The data were filled in excel and basic statistical tools like frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation were used for data analysis. The final categories were made on the basis of mean  $\pm$  standard deviation.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 3.1 Age

Age denotes the chronologically completed calendar years by the respondents. Age indicates maturity, experience and knowledge gained by the tribal farmers, therefore age of the respondent tribal farmers was considered as an essential aspect in the present study.

It could be inferred from the Table 1 that, relatively higher per cent (44.28%) of the respondents were belonged to middle age (36 to

50 years) group category, followed by 42.50 per cent were belonged to old age (Above 50 years) group category. While 13.22 per cent of the respondent tribal farmers were found in young age (Up to 35 years) group category.

Hence from the results, it could be concluded that majority of the respondents were belonged to middle age group. This might due to from generation to generation agriculture is a main source of livelihood for them and more interest and enthusiasm shown by the middle and old age tribal farmers in agriculture activities. Also because of the middle and old aged tribal farmers might be continuing their life in tribal environment by taking agriculture as their livelihood option. These findings were in accordance with the findings of Patel *et.al.* [4], Ramya [5], Mahima Shakrawar [6], and Roshni Arya[7],

### 3.2 Education

Education has been considered as one of the important variable because it helps in the psychological development of an individual. Education influences the behavior of the respondent tribal farmers by exposing them to various knowledge that helps in the social and economical development. Also education helps to create awareness about self development it widens the scope of thinking and practice.

The results from the Table 1, pertained that, more than one fourth (29.30%) of the respondents were educated up to primary school level and nearly one fourth (24.64%) of the respondents were illiterate. About 21.42 per cent of the respondents have education up to secondary school level, 13.57 per cent of them were educated up to middle school level, and 10.35 per cent were educated up to higher secondary school level. The very merger percentage (00.72%) of respondents had under graduate degree education. None of the respondents were found in diploma/ technical education and post graduate degree levels of education.

The possible reasons for above trend may be due to lack of higher education facilities available in tribal areas, also lack awareness about importance of education among tribal's and early involvement in livelihood activities for earning. The establishment of primary education institutions in tribal areas, the intensive education campaigns and other educational facilities

resulted education of tribal farmers up to primary level.

These findings were in accordance with the findings of P. Mooventhan *et.al* [8], Kethavath [9], and Priyanka Darade [10].

### 3.3 Family Size

In the present study family size considered as an essential aspect because family size has an effect on social and economical development, also it has an effect on decision making and risk taking ability of the respondents which is reflected in their socio-economic status.

The data presented in Table 1 reveled that, nearly about half (48.92%) of the respondents had medium size of family with 5 to 6 members in their family, while 46.08 per cent respondent tribal farmers had small size of family with 4 members in their family, where as remaining 05.00 per cent of the respondent tribal farmers had large size of family with more than 6 members in their family.

Hence from the results, it could be concluded that nearly half of the respondents were belonged to medium family size, this could be because of two possible reasons firstly, shifting of family members to the urban areas for the employment purpose and good implementation of family welfare programmes in the tribal areas.

These findings were in accordance with the findings Barman et al. [11], Govind [12], Jalaja and Kala [13], Ramya [5], and Wadekar *et.al* [14],

### 3.4 Family Type

Family type is one of the important aspects in the socio-personal characteristic of the respondents, which has influence on their social and economical attributes.

The data presented in Table 1 reveled that, majority of the respondents (54.64%) were belonged to nuclear type of family and remaining 45.36 per cent of them belonged to joint type of family.

Hence from the results, it could be concluded that majority of the respondents were belonged to nuclear type of family, this could be because of the importance of money, individual differences, lack of livelihood opportunities in the

tribal areas and individual priorities might have influence and leading their culture to nuclear approach. Also there were many tribal families who live together because their culture dose not allow them, also respect of old ones and established relationship with them.

These findings were in accordance with the findings of Swathi G. [15], and Patel *et.al.* [4].

### 3.5 Occupation

Occupation refers to the activities in which the respondents were regularly engaged and get major income out of them. In the present study occupation considered as a main aspect because it affects the social and economical characteristics of the respondents.

From Table 1 it was observed that, relatively high per cent of the respondents (46.43%) involved in agriculture, 44.29 per cent of them involved in agriculture + forest activities, 07.50 per cent of the respondent tribal farmers involved in agriculture+ labour activities, 01.43 per cent of them involved in agriculture + allied occupation activities, only 00.35 per cent of them involved in agriculture + business activities and none of them involved in agriculture + service activities.

The possible reasons for above trend may be due agriculture is supposed to be the core occupation of the tribal's and they are fully depend upon agriculture as a major source of their livelihood and from generations to generations they actively involved themselves to do agriculture activities. Also as their habitat is near to the forest areas they also collect forest product such as Tendu pattas (*East Indian ebony*), Behada (*Terminalia bellirica*), Hirda (*Terminalia chebula*), Bibba (*Marking nut*) and Bamboo (*Bambusa bambos*) to get additional income from them.

These findings were in accordance with the findings of Patel *et.al.* [4], Pandey [16], and Roshni Arya [7],.

### 3.6 Annual Income

Annual income provides the information regarding the availability of the capital for farming. Annual income refers to the gross annual income of the respondents from all available sources. It is assumed that, annual income plays an important role in the socio-economic development of the respondents.

It was observed from Table 1 that, majority of the respondents (72.14%) had annual earning up to Rs. 80,000/-, followed by 23.22 per cent of the respondents were at annual income range of Rs. 80,001 to 1,40,000/- and 04.64 per cent of them belonged to income above Rs. 1,40,000/- .

The possible reason for above trend is that respondents lives under resource poor condition, they mainly depend upon agriculture as a main source of their income but while practicing agriculture they take only one crop (seasonal cropping pattern) in entire year and so the agriculture did not generate remarkable financial assistance to them. It is also felt that respondent tribal farmers are satisfied with their present living conditions and they does not need any change in their living conditions, also the low level of education holding them back from identifying the other sources of getting higher income.

The above findings were accordance with the findings of P. Mooventhan *et.al* [8], Mahima Shakrawar [6] and Kharmudai *et.al* [17].

### 3.7 Land Holding

Land holding is an indicator of economic status of the respondents. Land holding explains the ability of the respondents to bear risks, to adopt modern innovations and to invest in the land for cultivation of various crops.

It was seen from data presented in Table 1 that, more than half (51.78%) of the respondents had small size of land holding (1.01 to 2.00 ha.), followed by 25.72 per cent of the respondents had marginal size of land holding (up to 1.00 ha.), 14.65 per cent of them had semi medium size land holding (2.01 to 4.00 ha.) and 07.85 per cent of the respondents had medium (4.01 to 10.00 ha.) size land holding. It was also noticed that none of the respondents had large size of land holding (above 10.01 ha.).

Hence from the results, it could be concluded that majority of the respondents had small size of land holding (1.01 to 2.00 ha.). It is due to the land fragmentation among the family members making them to take agricultural activities on a limited scale. On other side the restrictions put by the forest department over the tribal farmers restricting them to acquire more land. Also the land issued by government to the tribal people is of limited size.

The above result were in agreement with the findings of Kethavath [9], and Priyanka Darade [10].

### 3.8 Farming Experience

Farming experience is an important character which is not transferable but earned by the respondent tribal farmer himself. Experienced farmers have more knowledge of agriculture than less experienced farmers. Also farming experience plays important role in taking risk in farming.

The data presented in Table 1 shows that, majority (52.85%) of the respondents had medium (24 to 43 years) farming experience, followed by 35.00 per cent of them had low (Up to 23 years) farming experience and 12.15 per cent of the respondents had high (above 43 years) farming experience.

As agriculture is one of the ancient livelihood options for the tribal's, the respondents engaged in agriculture activities in the early years of their age and considered agriculture as their main occupation. Previously they perform agriculture and forest based livelihood activities to fulfill their basic need. But to suit to the modern economic conditions and also the restrictions put by forest department on collection of forest products, tribal farmers were shifted to agriculture activities and get major income from it.

The above result were in agreement with the findings of Senthil [18], P. Mooventhan *et.al* [8], Kethavath [9], Priyanka Darade [10], and Reddy [19].

### 3.9 Social Participation

Social participation refers to the participation of the respondents in formal and informal organization in the village and elsewhere. Social participation helps to understand the respondents involvement in social activities that provide interactions with others in the community and express the interpersonal interaction outside the home.

From Table 1 it was observed that, near about three fourth (71.43%) of the respondents had medium level of social participation, followed by 18.93 per cent of them had low level of social participation and 09.64 per cent of the respondents had high level of social participation.

Hence from the results, it could be concluded that majority of the respondents had medium to low level of social participation. They participate in their tribal group activities. Every respondent tribal farmer is a member of his/her tribal community. They actively participate in Gaanv Gramsabha specially organized for villagers in villages, they also participate in the Bhajan mandalas, Youths club (Tarun mandal) and informal organizations formed at village level. Regarding formal organizations as the tribal villages were combined to formulate Gat Grampanchayat (Group village council) there was a less opportunity to participate. Respondent's participation in the informal organizations were more rather than formal organizations.

The above result were in agreement with the findings of Kethavath [9], Ramya [5], Bande [20], Sharma [21], and Priyanka Darade [10].

### 3.10 Source of Information

It refers to the source utilized by the respondents for seeking information related to different aspect of farm technologies. Sources of information helps tribal farmers to get information related to various aspects of agriculture and various agricultural schemes available for them that in turn help farmers to increase their knowledge.

It was observed from the Table 1 that, majority (73.92%) of the respondents were using medium level of sources of information, followed by 18.57 per cent of them used low level of sources of information and remaining 07.51 per cent respondents were using high level of sources of information.

The probable reason might be that respondents were use more localite sources like Friends, Relatives, Neighbors and Sarpanch of their village for getting information as they have more trust on them. While from cosmopolite sources they derive information from local authorities like Gramsevak, Talathi and Agriculture Assistant as their work position located in villages, while in case of higher authorities tribal farmers hesitate to communicate with them. As the tribal farmers lives in remote and inaccessible areas there was restriction on the use of mass media sources.

The above result were in agreement with the findings of Govind [12], Patel *et.al* [4] and Bande [20].

### 3.11 Innovativeness

Innovativeness means interest and desire of the respondents to seek changes in traditional method and introduced such changes in farming when practical and feasible. Innovativeness indicates socio-psychological orientation of the respondent tribal farmers who were closely associated with change, adopting new ideas and practices. As agriculture is a major occupation of the tribal farmers and by adopting new agricultural technologies in the day to day activities helps the tribal farmers to get more income and that will help to change present economical conditions.

The data presented in Table 1 revealed that, majority (54.64%) of the respondents belonged to medium innovativeness category, followed by 27.14 per cent of them belonged to low innovativeness category and only 18.22 per cent of the respondents belonged to high innovativeness category.

Hence from the results, it could be concluded that majority of the respondents belonged to medium innovativeness category. The probable reason might be that tribal farmers want more output from their primary source of occupation i.e. agriculture and they understand that by sticking to the old methods of farming it cannot be possible, that's why they now adopting modern technologies to perform agricultural activities. They hope for sooner or later this thing can bring some changes in their economical conditions. Also it was observed that some of them did not go for any new activity as they are very cautious about new agricultural technologies and took some time to adopt new technologies.

The above result were in agreement with the findings of Swathi G. [15], Govind [12], and Roshni Saxena [22].

### 3.12 Cosmopoliteness

Cosmopoliteness refers to the degree of contact of the respondents to the outside world, social system or place. Cosmopoliteness helps to create contact, acquire new information, improvement in knowledge. For tribal farmers these new things are necessary to bring changes in social and economical condition.

Regarding cosmopoliteness from Table 1 it was observed that, majority (63.92%) of the respondents had concentrated in medium

cosmopoliteness category, while 24.64 per cent of them concentrated low cosmopoliteness and 11.44 per cent of the respondents concentrated high cosmopoliteness category.

Hence from the results, it could be concluded that majority of the respondents had medium cosmopoliteness. The might be due to some reasons, firstly the nature of the tribals, they were not easily interact with others, also they feel uncomfortable while interacting with others and also because of they does not feel any need to go out their own habitat. Secondly the effort put by government officials to increase the contact with tribal farmers and bring tribals to outside their own social system. Some of them believe that it is necessary to make contact with outside world to acquire knowledge, information and new skills that will help in their own development while others believe that it is good be stick with their own social system.

The above results were in agreement with the findings of Jasudkar [23], Sharma [21], and S. Kareini Kayina *et.al* [24].

### 3.13 Change Orientation

Change orientation refers to the tendency of the tribal farmer to change tendency to experiment with or accept newer things and ideas. Changes are necessary in to day to day life of the respondent tribal farmer to improve their present standard of living.

From the Table 1, it was revealed that, majority (75.71%) of the respondents had medium level of change orientation, while 16.78 per cent of them had low level of change orientation and 07.51 per cent of the respondent tribal farmers had high level of change orientation.

From the result it could be said that majority of the respondents had medium level of change orientation. This might be due to farmers want changes in their farming activities, they want mechanization of farm to perform farm activities faster and obtain more benefits from farming. They also want to change educational status of family, they want their family members to be educate. But when they want all these changes they also want to stick their customs, beliefs and traditions they generally does not want to cross their stereotypes of life. It means that respondent tribal farmers want changes but change should be remaining within their own social system.

The above result were in agreement with the findings of Jasudkar [23],

### 3.14 Fatalism

Fatalism refers to the degree to which the tribal farmers perceive a lack of ability to control his future. This variable indicates the tribal farmers inability to control their things and leave things as it is.

The data presented in Table 1, it was observed that, majority (56.07%) of the respondents had medium level of fatalism, followed by 26.43 per cent of them had high and 17.50 per cent of the respondents had low level of fatalism.

From the result it could be observed that majority of the respondents had medium to high level of fatalism. This is might be due to that they believe "Nothing is in the hands of humans beings". Even though they desired to achieve something in their life they might prefer to leave things to god and luck. This might be due to their low education status and their disability to go outside their customs. As a agriculturist they want more output, but after all their efforts taken by them, they believe that higher yields purely depend on natures will, also they does not want to change

their farming pattern because they were afraid of taking risks and want to perform agricultural activities as they perform from many years. Also it was observed that many of them opposite of this situation as they believe we should take efforts to change our situations.

The above result were in agreement with the findings of Rambabu [25], Karna [26], and Bande [20].

### 3.15 Benefits Derived

It refers to the facilities availed by an individual tribal farmer through different integrated tribal development programmes of government schemes and other sources. As our constitution granted special status to schedule tribes of India and considered them as the most back ward section of society. For their improvement many schemes and policies were made that helps the tribal to improve their socio-economic condition.

From data presented in Table 1, it was found that, more than three fourth of the respondents (78.21%) had derived medium level of benefits, followed by 16.07 per cent of them derived low level of benefits and 05.72 per cent of the respondents had derived high level of benefits.

**Table 1. Distribution of respondents according to their profile characteristics (n=280)**

Sl. No.	Characteristics	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
1	Age	Young (Up to 35 years)	37	13.22
		Middle (36 to 50 years)	124	44.28
		Old (Above 50 years)	119	42.50
2	Education	Illiterate	69	24.64
		Primary school	82	29.30
		Middle school	38	13.57
		Secondary school	60	21.42
		Higher secondary school/ Junior college	29	10.35
		Diploma/ Technical education	00	00.00
		Under graduate degree	02	00.72
3	Family size	Post graduate degree	00	00.00
		Small (Up to 4)	129	46.08
		Medium (5 to 6)	137	48.92
4	Family type	Large (Above 6)	14	05.00
		Nuclear	153	54.64
5	Occupation	Joint	127	45.36
		Agriculture+ labour	21	07.50
		Agriculture+ forest activities	124	44.29
		Agriculture	130	46.43
		Agriculture+ allied occupation	04	01.43



Sl. No.	Characteristics	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
6	Annual income	Agriculture+ business	01	00.35
		Agriculture +services	00	00.00
		Up to 80,000/-	202	72.14
7	Land holding	80,001 to 1,40,000/-	65	23.22
		Above 1,40,000/-	13	04.64
		Marginal (Up to 1.00 ha.)	72	25.72
8	Farming experience	Small (1.01 to 2.00 ha.)	145	51.78
		Semi medium (2.01 to 4.00 ha)	41	14.65
		Medium (4.01 to 10.00 ha)	22	07.85
9	Social participation	Large (Above 10.01 ha)	00	00.00
		Low (Up to 23 years)	98	35.00
		Medium (24 to 43 years)	148	52.85
10	Source of information	High (Above 43 years)	34	12.15
		Low (Up to 3)	53	18.93
		Medium (4 to 9)	200	71.43
11	Innovativeness	High (Above 9)	27	09.64
		Low (Up to 12)	52	18.57
		Medium (13 to 21)	207	73.92
12	Cosmopolitaness	High (Above 21)	21	07.51
		Low (Up to 11)	76	27.14
		Medium (12 to 15)	153	54.64
13	Change orientation	High (Above 15)	51	18.22
		Low (Up to 7)	69	24.64
		Medium (8 to 13)	179	63.92
14	Fatalism	High (Above 13)	32	11.44
		Low (Up to 6)	47	16.78
		Medium (7 to 12)	212	75.71
15	Benefits derived	High (Above 12)	21	07.51
		Low (Up to 3)	49	17.50
		Medium (4 to 8)	157	56.07
		High (Above 8)	74	26.43
		Low (Up to 2)	45	16.07
		Medium (3 to 4)	219	78.21
		High (Above 4)	16	05.72

As the governments has focus on the development of tribal there are many schemes available to the respondents, from providing scholarships to their children's up to the construction of their houses, also government provide subsidies on the purchase of the agricultural equipments. Governments implementing tribal development policies through "TDP" and "POCRA" projects these project select particular villages for the distribution of the schemes. Tribal farmers of the selected villages gets more benefits as compare to the other tribal farmers of non selected villages. Also the documents required for availing the schemes usually not available with the tribal farmers and that's why they show lack of interest in the schemes and policies. Many of them also not

aware about the schemes and policies available for them and hence not taking benefits. It was also observed that those who have good access to the implementing agencies easily avail schemes and get benefited.

The above results were in agreement with the findings of Jadhav [27] and Bande [20].

#### 4. CONCLUSION

From the results it was concluded that, relatively high per cent of the respondent tribal farmers were middle aged, having education up to primary school level and belonged to nuclear type of family with 5 to 6 members in their respective families. Also it was observed that

they mainly depend upon agriculture and earn major income from it. They had good extent of farming experience. They were more participated in informal organization than the formal organizations, respondents received more information from personnel of their own social system. Respondents had hesitated in adopting modern innovations, contacting to outside world and changing their beliefs.

## COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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