

Culture and lifestyle of Paliyan tribes at Palani hill, Dindigul district

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Abstract

The Vedas described the existence of a people India. Who could have been Dravidians or perhaps pro Dravidians the cause's reports practices which later became and a part of a heritage Since 1901 revealed that aborigines primitives animists primitives tribal's the efforts of British administrators and missionaries and start in the year welfare was made by Mahatma Gandhi. The Paliyan, or Palaiyar or Pazhaiyar are Adivasi Dravidian people living in the South Western Ghats montane rain forests in South India, especially in Tamil Nadu and Kerala. They are traditional nomadic hunter-gatherers, honey hunters and foragers. Yams are their major food source. In the early part of the 20th century the Paliyans dressed scantily and lived in rock crevices and caves. Most have now have transformed to traders of forest products, food cultivators and beekeepers. Some work intermittently as wage labourers, mostly on plantations. They are included in the List of Scheduled Tribes in India.

Key words: culture and lifestyle

Introduction

The tribe is a social group with definite territory, common name, common culture, and behavior of an endogamous group, common taboos existence of distinctive social and political system. Full faith in leaders and self-sufficiency in their distinct economy. The tribal population in India is 84.51Million, which constitutes 8.14% of tribal Population. There are about 449 tribes and sub tribes in different part of India. Half of India's tribal people live in the forests and forest fringes and their economy is linked with the forests. Tamilnadu has 6, 51,321 tribal populations as per 2001 census which constitutes 1.02% of the total population. There are 36 tribes and sub tribes in Tamilnadu. Literacy rate of the population is 27.9 %. Most of the tribal in Tamilnadu are cultivators, agriculture, laborers or dependent on forest for their livelihood.

Concept of Tribes

The term Adivasi [Original vasi = Inhabitant] has become current among certain people. The international labour organization has classified sick people as Indigenous.

A tribe is a social group of simple kind, the members of which speak a common dilert have a single government act together for common purpose and have a common name, contiguous territory, a relatively uniform culture or a way of life and a tradition of common descent.

Characteristics of Tribes

- Definite common topography
- Sense of Unity
- Common language
- Endogamous groups
- Ties of blood relationships
- Experience of the need of protection
- Political organization
- Importance of religion
- Common name
- Common culture

The Tribes of India

- Austro Asiatic linguistic group kots and mundas of central and western India khari of Assasm and Nicobaries.
- Dravidians and linguistic group Central and southern India includes Gonds malarpalio, Kaya,Paniyan, MalaKurawan, Tibeto, Chinese Sothern slopes of Himalayan from Northern Part and Assam.
- Mangland group : Nagas,KukyDeita and Khasi
- Nagalaya group: Sub Himalaya region, Area Sub Himalaya region Nagas. Mongland, Chakmas, lepchas, Physical traist - light skin Colour, Straight and dark hair, flat nose, praminan Check homes, medium Structure with long head.
- Proto – Austrolaid - Area central scheme people Kurumbas, Malayans Munda, Santhal and Bhills, Physical tribes Short and medium structure, long head , broad nose and even lips,Negative group area,Aandhaman and southern region people Paniyans, Bonds, Kots tribes physical traits freely hair.

Regional Distribution of Tribes

North Eastern region: This region comprises the states of Arunachalpradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Tripura.

Eastern Region: It is region includes the states of Bihar, Orissa, Sikkim and West Bengal.

Northern Region: The region belongs to states of Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

Central Region: It consists of only Madhya Pradesh.

Western Region: This region is Part of the states of Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Dodar & Nagar haveli, Goa, Daman and Diu.

Southern Region: This region comprises a state of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamilnadu and Kerala.

Island: It constitutes Andhman and Nicobar, Island and Lakshadweep.

Different Tribes in Tamilnadu

According to census 2001, tribal population in Tamilnadu is 6, 51,321. There are around 38 tribes and sub-tribes in Tamilnadu, and Literacy rate is 27.9% of the population. The tribal people are predominantly farmers and cultivators and they are much dependant on the forest lands. Tribes of Tamil Nadu are concern treated mainly in the district of Nilgiris.

Todas

Badagas

Kotas

Kurumbas

Irulas

Tribal Food

Rice, Rice bear, Wheat, Maize, Edible roots, Maida, Tubers, Leaves, Fruits, Vegetables, Pork & Goat meat.

Tribal Dress

Man and women simple prohibit cloth which is often attached to the waste card in front and passes between the needs and handover the card at one slide this type of dress the elderly people wear when they or in agricultural field or at home but most of the going people wear nowadays that but of reason days most of the people we youth how started use in longer the elderly people don't wear any shirt unless and until the go get of the village and attend any function but almost the elderly people is the use urban on the head.

Female Dress

The dress of a female mainly consists of a petticoat. Kapada and the saree the petticoat made of the red coloured kadhi with a number of plates of hands from the waist to the anklets its circumference is large it us many folds and required cloth from eight to ten meters long. The colour either red, blue, or black, the dress often unmarried girl consists of gogari, the petticoat which is made of three to four meters of cloth. the shari-odani is the long piece of the cloth of the length of two to three meters with printed designs.

Paliyan Tribes

The Paliyan, or Palaiyar or Pazhaiyarare are Adivasi Dravidian people living in the South Western Ghats mountain rain forests in South India, especially in Tamil Nadu and Kerala. They are traditional Nomadic hunter-gatherers, honey hunters and foragers. Yams are their major food source. In the early part of the 20th century the Paliyans dressed scantily and lived in rock crevices and caves. Most have now have transformed to traders of forest products, food cultivators and beekeepers.

Life Style of Pliyan Tribes

Paliyans used to lives in small caves are in hut like structure between two rocks still now some paliyans live in rocky caves while roaming in interior forest. Some who are living in the interior forest build huts with the minimum of wood and grass. Their houses do not have electricity. Average family has seven people sharing one or two rooms. "Our cattle and hens live in the same house to ensure the security of animal." They used to

live by rich biodiversity, Collecting wild yarn, tubers, honey, bamboo, jujube, jackfruit, mango etc. Complemented with shifting Cultivation of minor millets like samai, thinai and Ragi They had free access to Crystal Clear drinking water from the Streams.

There are around 6000 families scattered over the hills of Tamilnadu as most exploited and voiceless people, who have a history of being oppressed and driven out from place to another by outsiders in wide area paliyans "traditional forest right were denied and neglected They have been forbidden to collect minor forest produce for their livelihood in their own ancestral lands but they are allowed to collect it only to the middlemen, forcing their life in their ancestral land to become dependent on outside traders and middlemen paliyans, whose hunter – gatherer cultural heritage has its peculiar wide distance from the mainstream culture, need that attention to be targeted more according to their culture and right to live according to their own indigenous livelihoods dappled to their environment. Paliyans wish to read their struggle for the survival of their sustainable indigenous life heritage in such a way which they feel to be most just.

Review of Literature

Soundarapandian (2002)

Conducted a study on Tribal development in India with special reference to Paliyan tribe of Tamilnadu. Many problems of tribals in south India have been highlighted in his work. The study offers a comprehensive analysis of the profiles of Paliyan tribal community in Western Ghats. It deals with the understanding of the socio-economic functioning of families, life cycle stage, ethnic and religious backgrounds, occupation and income status. The silent feature of this study is the critical 47 evaluation of the development programmes and policy implications for the development of Paliyan tribe of Kamraj and Tirunelveli Kattabomman district of Tamilnadu. The tribal situation in south India and tribal development policies followed in general and programmes for Paliyans in particular are discussed. Socio-economic conditions of Paliyans, their life problems, developmental activities etc. are also systematically analysed in this study.

Area of the Study

A Study on Culture and Lifestyle of Paliyan Tribes At Palani Hill, Dindigul District.

Significance of the Study

A tribal is a person who engages in the activity of Hunting gatherer, Honey collecting, Medicinal herbs. The term Palliyan of Paliyan has been derived from the word palaniyan, which in Tamil language means a men from Palani. They are distributed in the districts of Madurai, Tanjavur, Pudukkotai Tirunelveli and Coimbatore. They speak Tamil and use the Tamil script for both inter-group and intra-group communication. These people are non-vegetarians, but do not take beef and pork. Their staple food grains are rice and ragi. They consume all kinds of pulses and use groundnut oil and palm oil as cooking media. They also eat tubers, vegetables, fruits, milk and milk products, and drink black tea and black coffee. The men and women of this community consume alcoholic drinks regularly. They smoke beedis, cigarettes, chew betel leaves and tobacco and use snuff. so the researcher has gathered information about their culture and life style of paliyan tribes at Dindigul district.

Objective of the Study

- To study the socio demographic details of the respondents
- To study the psychological, Health problems of the respondents.
- To study the culture and lifestyle of the respondents.

Conceptual Definition

Paliyan Tribes

The paliyan tribes are adivasi Dravidian people. Living in the forest and mountain areas. They are traditional nomadic hunting gatherers, economically is very poor and mostly illiterate people. They are the scheduled tribes.

Research Design

The researcher has used descriptive research design for the study. The main aim for having used this design was to analysis the culture and lifestyle. More precisely as well as to increase the knowledge of the research about the magnitude of the culture & lifestyle hence descriptive research design was adopted for the present study.

Universe & Sampling

Universe of the study constitute are the Paliyan tribes at Palanihill, Dindigul District. As there were 120 household, among three hamlets (kadaisikadu, Pachalur, Karadiparai). The researcher selected all the house hold for data collection, through census method.

Pre - Test

The test the suitability of the interview schedule the researcher selected 5 samples to modify the question.

Tools of Data Collection

The researcher collected the data through self – prepared interview schedule which was framed to elicit necessary data. The interview schedule elaborately covered various aspects like housing condition, economic conditions, occupation, psychological, health, social conditions, and culture and lifestyle of the respondents.

Analysis and Interpretation

Distribution of the Respondents by Their Income Level per Month

Sl. No	Particulars	Number Of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Rs. 1000-2000	24	20
2.	Rs. 2000-3000	26	21.67
3.	Above Rs. 3000	70	58.33
	Total	120	100

The above table shows the distribution of the respondents by their income level. (58.33%) of the respondents earn above Rs.3000, (21.67%) of the respondents earn between Rs. 2000 to 3000 and (20%) of the respondents earn between Rs. 1000 to 2000 per month.

According To Cultural Songs and Dances in Their Community

Sl. No	Particulars	Number Of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Only husband	75	62.5
2.	Only wife	0	0
3.	Children	0	0
4.	Both husband and wife	45	37.5
	Total	120	100

The above table shows the distribution of the respondents by their cultural songs and dances. Majority of the respondents (62.5%) cultural dances performed by male members and remaining (37.5%) some dances being performed by both male and female members.

Findings

- 30% were 41 to 50 years of age
- Majority of the respondents 62.5% were female
- Vast majority of the respondents 91.67% of illiterate
- Majority of the respondents 75% were married.
- Vast majority of the respondents 81.67% live in Nuclear family
- 40% were above five members of family
- 41.67% have three children
- Majority of the respondents 63.33% live in thatched hut.
- Vast majority of the respondents 80% have own vehicle
- Vast majority of the respondents 88.33% do not have basic facility.
- 58.33% were earn above Rs. 3000
- Half of the respondents 50% working in medicinal herbs.
- Majority of the respondent's 63.33% marketing technique were whole selling.
- Vast majority of the respondents 81.67% involved in working of 4 to 6 days per week.

- Majority of the respondents 62.5% were 10 to 15 kilometres travelled inside the forest.
- Vast majority of the respondents 85% gets medium profit.
- Majority of the respondents 66.67% have chronic health problem.
- Half of the respondents 50% goes to government hospital
- Vast majority of the respondents 82.5% feel depressed.
- Majority of the respondents 71.67% are staying 5 to 7 kilometres away from the primary health care centres.
- 58.33% of the respondents are living 5 to 10 kilometres away from the school.
- 58.33% of the respondents have to go one kilometre for the bus stop from their house.
- 58.33% of the respondents above 15kms distance to available in the market facilities.
- Vast majority of the respondents 83.33% get bore water.
- Vast majority of the respondents 86.67% worshipped in only mother earth.
- Majority of the respondents 62.5% cultural dances performed by male members.
- Vast majority of the respondents 90.33% said they Ragi and thinai is traditional food.
- Majority of the respondents 78.33% celebrated only in mazhaipongal festival

- Vast majority of the respondents 80% do their marriage in their belief of mountain god.
- Majority of the respondents 75% said they accept love marriage
- Majority of the respondent 76.67% were 20 to 25 ages are married.
- Majority of the respondents 75.33% strictly their follow the culture.

Suggestions

- Government and NGO may improve the standard of primary health centre in tribal area.
- Increased more number of Self-help group should be formed
- Government schools and adult and Non – formal educational system can help in their development.
- Government and private organization can give more opportunity for tribal people in their concern (Like industries, Firm).
- Awareness training programmes should be given for drunken men who are addicted for alcohols.
- Based on their occupation and new technology instruments can be given for them to get honey in easy way and more.

Conclusion

Culture and life style of paliyan tribes has been interrupted by many of the other communities. It has changed their life style; Most of them are economically backward and not aware of government facilities and recruitments. In future the development will be more because of education.

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