

## **A Study on Tribal People's Perception towards Resource Management**

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**Abstract:** The lifestyle and culture practices of tribal population and risks form in the environment. The necessity to protect forests as a valuable heritage and preserve its innumerable resources to the present as well as future generations may be undisputed. But there are some tribal villages in the area where their inhabitants have been maintaining several links with forests. The major problem faced by the tribal population at present is the lack of knowledge of their own rights. Tribal people have been worshipping the environment considering it as god from time immemorial and this is one of the main reason, they protect it from any hazards as their moral obligation. Therefore there is the need of the hour to specify the rights and enact a status to support the tribal people to secure their rights. The reason behind securing the rights of the tribal people is just not limited to them but it comes to the protection of the environment and this is well understood from the research. The data was collected through a structured interview schedule from 100 respondents by using the convenience sampling method. In the first stage, Nilgiris district was selected. From the district two taluks namely coonoor and kotagiri are selected. From the coonoor taluk two villages namely Nedimandhu and Kelkotagiri are selected. 50 respondents from each village are randomly selected as sample respondent.

**Keywords:** Renewable and Non Renewable, Tree Planting and Joint Forest Management Practice.

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### **I. INTRODUCTION**

The term 'natural resources' includes 'all resources' that exist in a natural state and all systems that are or can be useful to the man in the actual technological, economic and social circumstances (Flavin, 2002). Frequently used in the economic specialty literature, the term 'resources' was associated with the one of the 'reserves' that indicate well-defined resources that is known to exist. Nevertheless, the data concerning the reserves are sub due to frequent changes and, supplementary; seem to support a high level of uncertainty. Therefore, the term of 'reserves' is the most frequently mentioned in connection with non-renewable reserves (for example, fossil fuels, iron and non-iron ores, deposits of stones, marbles, uranium). The most used classification of natural resources is that which divides them into renewable resources (that is, solar energy, wind energy, tidal energy, agricultural lands, forests, air and waters) and non-renewable resources (that is, mineral substances and fossil fuels). The renewable attribute of the natural resources depends more on the proper use of some unrestrictive administrative methods, as in the case of agricultural lands and proper storage of wastes, because some changes in the system of natural resources can be proven to be irreversible. The supplementation of stocks of natural resources is generated as a result of discoveries by explorations. For this reason, the process of exploration is highly linked with the administration of natural resources. The renewable resources possess proper rate of increasing or regeneration.

### **II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The main objective of the study is to find out the status of local people participation on forest resources management.

### **III. METHODOLOGY**

A systematic and careful analysis of information is of primary Importance in any research. The data was collected through a structured interview schedule from 100 respondents by using the convenience sampling method. In the first stage, Nilgiris district was selected. From the district two taluks namely coonoor and kotagiri are selected. From the coonoor taluk two villages namely Nedimandhu and Kelkotagiri are selected. 50

respondent from each village are randomly selected as sample respondent. Totally, for this study the selected sample size was 100. The required data for the study is mainly of primary nature. The detailed structured interview schedule was prepared containing questions on the role of tribal people on forest conservation. To analyze the primary data the researcher has used different statistical tools like percentage method, frequency analysis and Spearman Correlation analysis.

#### IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**Table No: 1** Name of the Tribe

Tribe	Frequency	Percent
Kurumbar	50	50.0
Todas	50	50.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Computed values

The Table.1 reveals that the selected Tribal group of the respondent. Among this 50 percentage are belongs to Kurumbar tribe and the remaining 50 percentage are Todas. Totally there are 100 percentage of respondent which shows equal percentage of members in both Tribal group.

**Table No: 2** Age of the Respondent

Respondent	Frequency	Percent
18-40	29	29.0
40-50	61	61.0
Above 50	10	10.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Computed values

The Table.2 reveals that Age of the sample respondent. Among the 100 respondents, 18-40 are 29 percentage, 40-50 are 61 percentage and the remaining 10 samples are belong to above 50 age group. So majority of the age group are 40-50.

**Table No: 3** Village wise Occupation of the Respondent

Village Name	Occupation of the Respondent					Total
	Agriculture	Labour	Govt.job	Self employees	Govt.job Agriculture	
Nedimandhu	20	15	8	5	2	50
	20.0%	15.0%	8.0%	5.0%	2.0%	50.0%
Kelkotagiri	24	11	2	9	4	50
	24.0%	11.0%	2.0%	9.0%	4.0%	50.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100</b>
	<b>44.0%</b>	<b>26.0%</b>	<b>10.0%</b>	<b>14.0%</b>	<b>6.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Computed values

Table .3 shows the village wise occupation of the respondent in coonoor and Kotagiri taluk. Totally 44 percentage are involved in agriculture within this 24 percentage belong to kelkotagiri village, 26 percentage of the respondents are labours, 10 percentage are government job, 14 percentage are self employees and remaining 6 percentage are in both government job and agriculture.

**Table No: 4** Indigenous Practice for Protecting Forest Resources

Protecting the forest resources	Frequency	Percent
Yes	34	34.0
No	66	66.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Computed values

Table .4 shows the sample respondent indigenous practice for protecting forest resources. Within 100 respondent 34 percentage are interested to follow their indigenous practice and remaining 66 percentage are not interested to follow their indigenous practice to protect forest resources.

**Table No: 5** Encroachment to the Forest Resources

<b>Encroachment to the forest</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	66	66.0
No	34	34.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Computed values

Table .5 shows opinion about the encroachment of forest resources. Among the 100 respondent 66 percentage are reported as having encroachment in the forest area and remaining 34 percentage are not having any idea about forest encroachment.

**Table No: 6** Reasons for Encroachment of the Forest Resources

<b>Reason for Encroachment</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Poor soil fertility outside	16	16.0
Land scarcity	66	66.0
Any other	18	18.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Computed values

Table 6 shows the reasons for encroachment of forest resources. Among the 100 respondent, 16 percentage are reported as poor soil fertility outside, 66 percentage are reported as land scarcity and remaining 18 percentage are having few other reasons for encroaching forest resources.

**Table No: 7** Traditionally Trees are Protected

<b>Traditionally protected</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	65	65.0
No	35	35.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Computed values

Table 7 shows the sample respondent opinion about protecting traditional trees. Within the 100 respondents, 65 percentage are showing interest on protecting traditional trees and remaining 35 percentage are not interested to protect their traditional trees.

**Table No: 8** Joint Forest Management Practice

<b>Joint forest Management</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	65	65.0
No	35	35.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Computed values

Table 8 shows the sample respondent opinion about joint forest management practice. Within the 100 respondents, 65 percentage are showing interest and remaining 35 percentage are not interested on joint forest management practice.

**Table No: 9** Relationship between Tree Planting and Joint Forest Management Practice

<b>Plant trees in your own land</b>	<b>Is joint forest management practiced in the forest reserve?</b>		<b>Total</b>
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	
Yes	40	16	56
	40.0%	16.0%	56.0%
No	25	19	44
	25.0%	19.0%	44.0%

<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100</b>
	<b>65.0%</b>	<b>35.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Symmetric Measures**

Symmetric Measures		Value	Asymp. Std. Error <sup>a</sup>	Approx. T <sup>b</sup>	Approx. Sig.
Interval by Interval	Pearson's R	.152	.100	1.523	.131
Ordinal by Ordinal	Spearman Correlation	.152	.100	1.523	.131
<b>N of Valid Cases</b>		<b>100</b>			

Source: Computed values

In order to find out the relationship between tree planting and joint forest management practice followed by the respondent, Spearman correlation analysis is performed. The significant p value .131 indicates that there is no significant relationship between tree planting and joint forest management practice followed by the respondent. It is concluded that tree planting and joint forest management are not interdependent with each other. So there is a need to create awareness about the importance of tree planting and joint forest management practice among the sample respondent.

**V. CONCLUSION**

The tribal people are popularly known as the 'guardians' of the forest and its resources. The major problem faced by the tribal population at present is the lack of knowledge of their own rights. Tribal people have been worshipping the environment considering it as god from time immemorial and this is one of the main reason, they protect it from any hazards as their moral obligation. Therefore there is the need of the hour to specify the rights and enact a status to support the tribal people to secure their rights. The reason behind securing the rights of the tribal people is just not limited to them but it comes to the protection of the environment and this is well understood from the research. Now the tribal people are the best protectors of the environment, who serves the environment without serving much of their own selfish interest. Thus awareness must be created among the tribal people about their own rights to use and conserve forest resources.

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