Journal of Agriculture and Rural Research

COMPARATIVE STUDY OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF THE RESPONDENTS OF *JHUMIAS* AND NON-*JHUMIAS* IN DHALAI DISTRICT OF TRIPURA

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Received: 30th March, 2017
Accepted: 27th April, 2017
Published: 1st May, 2017

ABSTRACTS

The study was conducted to evaluate difference between the socio-economic profiles of two groups of farmers in Dhalai district of Tripura. The study reveals that majority of the respondents belonged to middle age group. The respondents of non-*Jhumias* were educated up to primary school level where as in *Jhumias* most of the respondents could read and write only. On an average, a large percentage of the respondents had medium family size with five and above members. Majority of the respondents of *Jhumias* farming as primary occupation possessing less land holding size (< 0.2 *ha*).Whereas most of the respondents of non-*Jhumias* farming as secondary occupation having medium land holding (0.3-0.4 *ha*). Majority of the respondents of non-*Jhumias* had high extension contact, whereas the respondents of *Jhumias* had low extension contact and there was highly significant difference between the respondents of *Jhumias* and non-*Jhumias* respondents. From t-test it was evident that there was significant difference between the respondents of *Jhumias* and non-*Jhumias* in respect to age, number of family member involved, family type, land size, occupation, mass media contact, income and crop yields.

Keywords: *Jhumias*; yield; mass media; t-test

INTRODUCTION

Shifting cultivation or slash and burn agriculture (locally called as Jhum) is the main form of agriculture in the hilly parts (locally called as Tilla) of Tripura in the north-eastern region of India by the indigenous people. In Tripura over 10,039 hectares of land are under jhum cultivation a decade ago. Over the years the jhum economy has undergone many changes-land available for jhumming has decreased; leading to a shortening of the jhum cycle and a fall in incomes. Shifting cultivation facilitates the tribal people to preserve their rich cultural traditions and diversity as jhum cultivation is interwoven into the cultural and tradition of near about 19 tribes those inhabit basically in the hilly parts of Tripura especially in Dhalai and North Tripura district. Shifting cultivation is a labor intensive and low subsidy based farming system, provides an assured source of food production and security to the nourishment level of the *Jhumias* in the hilly parts of Tripura. Although practices under shifting vary widely in different hilly parts of Tripura basically in the deep forested areas and the variability in practices are largely tribe-specific, the shifting cultivation in its any form invariably involves clearing of vegetation, and then slashing and burning the plant parts including debris (Tripathi and Barik, 2003). Most of the tribal people, who are commonly called *Jhumias*, are not purely so. A number of tribal people have taken to settle plough cultivation. Some are in the processes of becoming sedentary farmers. But both of these categories of people do some amount of jhumming. Different classes of shifting cultivation in the area may be classified into three categories namely '*Jhumias* by choice' (the tribal those who have permanent land to do jhum), 'initial *Jhumias*' (the tribal people those who have reclaimed some amount of land for partially doing jhum) and 'Pure *Jhumias*' (tribal people who entirely depend on jhumming for production of their food and do not have any plain land for settled cultivation. Jhum cultivation to the tribes of Tripura has over the years been not just an economic activity; rather it is a way of life. The present study was conducted to compare socio-economic profile of the respondents of *Jhumias* and non-*Jhumias* in Dhalai district of Tripura.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted at Dhalai District of Tripura. The purposive as well as simple random sampling techniques were adopted for the study. The district, block and villages were purposively selected for the study. A total 120 respondents were interviewed (60 *Jhumias* and 60 non-*Jhumias*) from 300 respondents. The data were collected in the month of October and November 2015-16 by personal interview method with the help of structured interview schedule. For analysis of data frequency, percentage and t-test were used.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The finding on the socio-economic characteristic of *Jhumias* and Non-*Jhumias* farmers in Tripura were presented and discussed in terms of age, education, family size, family member involved, family type, operation land holding, mass media exposure, income and crop yields. The results of the investigation are presented and discussed below with separate tables with frequency and percentage.

Table: 1.Distribution of respondents according to age

Age	*Jhumias*		*Non-Jhumias*	
	Frequency	*%*	*Frequency*	*%*
Young (up to 35 year)	20	50	15	37.5
Middle age (36-50 year)	17	42.5	20	50
Old (51 year and above)	3	7.5	5	12.5

Table1 shows that majority of the respondents (50 %) of *Jhumias* belonged to young age group (up to 35 years) and rest (42.5 %) to middle g age group (36-50 years) followed by old age group (> 51 years).Whereas, in non-*Jhumias*, 50 per cent respondents were from middle age group, 37.5 percent from young age group and only 12.5 percent from old age group.

Table: 2. Distribution of respondents according to education

Education	*Jhumias*		*Non-Jhumias*	
	Frequency	*%*	*Frequency*	*%*
Illiterate	4	10	0	0
Can read only	4	10	2	5
Can read and write	15	37.5	4	10
Primary school	14	35	16	40
Middle school	3	7.5	8	20
High school	0	0	8	20
Graduate	0	0	2	5

Table 2 revealed that majority of the respondents (37.5 %) of *Jhumias* were educated up to can read and write followed by primary school (35 %), (16%). 10 per cent respondents were in read and write category while only 7.5 per cent respondents were up to middle school. No respondents were graduate and above. Whereas, in case non-*Jhumias* majority of the respondents (40 %) were of primary school category followed by 5 per cent high school and equal number (20%) of middle and high school category. No respondents were illiterate.

Table: 3. **Distribution of respondents according to their family size**

Family size	*Jhumias*		*Non-Jhumias*	
	Frequency	*%*	*Frequency*	*%*
Small (< 4 member)	0	0	20	50
Medium (Up to 5 members)	10	25	15	37.5
Large (> 5 members)	30	75	5	12.5

Table 3 revealed that majority of the respondents (75 %) of *Jhumias* had 5 and above family members and fell in the category of large sized family. The table further depicts that 25 per cent respondents had medium sized family. Whereas, in case of non-*Jhumias*, majority (50 %) of the respondents belonged to small sized family, 37.5 per cent had medium sized family and only 12.5 per cent had large sized family.

Table: 4. Distribution of respondents according to number of family member involved

Number of family member involved	*Jhumias*		*Non-Jhumias*	
	Frequency	*%*	*Frequency*	*%*
Up to 3 members	5	12.5	23	57.5
3-5 members	5	12.5	7	17.5
Above 5 members	30	75	3	7.5

Table 4 shows that among the respondents Jhum cultivation required large number of lobour starting from sowing of seeds to harvesting of crops. It was found that *Jhumias* family member involvement above 5 members was 75 %, where as only 7.5 % for non-*Jhumias*

Table: 5. Distribution of respondents according to according to occupation

Occupation	*Jhumias*		*Non-Jhumias*	
	Frequency	***%***	***Frequency***	***%***
Primary	30	75	10	25
Secondary	10	25	30	75

Table 8 revealed that majority of the respondents (75 %) of *Jhumias* practiced farming as a primary occupation and rest of them (25%) as a secondary occupation. Whereas, majority of the respondents (75%) of non-*Jhumias* practiced farming as secondary occupation and rest 25 percents as primary occupation.

Table: 6.Distribution of respondents according to size of crop land

Size of crop land		***Jhumias***		***Non-Jhumias***	
		Frequency	***%***	***Frequency***	***%***
Less than 0.2 ha	Small	34	85	10	25
0.2-0.3 ha	Medium	4	10	22	55
More than 0.4 ha	Large	2	5	8	20

The size of land holding has an important role in deciding the family status in the village. In present study, majority of the respondents (85%) of *Jhumias* size of cropped land were small (< 0.2 ha) followed by medium (10 %) and big (5 %). Whereas, majority of the respondents (55 %) of non-*Jhumias* hold medium size crop land(0.2-0.3 ha) followed by small (25%) and 20 percents big farmers (Table 6).

Table 7.Distribution of respondents according to mass media exposure

Mass media exposure	***Jhumias***		***Non-Jhumias***	
	Frequency	***%***	***Frequency***	***%***
Most often(4)	4	10	10	25
Often(3)	5	12.5	13	32.5
Sometimes(2)	9	22.5	12	30
Never(1)	22	55	5	12.5

From Table 7 on mass media exposure indicates that the majority of the *Jhumias* (55%) never contact with mass media followed by (22.5%) meet sometimes and only 10 percents were more often exposure to mass media. Whereas majority of non-*Jhumias* often contact with mass media (32.5 %), followed by 30 percents sometimes and 25 percents most often. Only 12.5 percents non-*Jhumias* never contact with mass media. The low or no extension contact in tribal area also lighted high by Srivastava (1982), Verma (2003) and Vidyarthi (2003).

Table: 8.Distributionof respondents according to income per yearly

Income per year(Rs.)	***Jhumias***		***Non-Jhumias***	
	Frequency	***%***	***Frequency***	***%***
Low (<20000)	26	65	4	10
Medium (20000-30000)	10	25	8	20
High (>30000)	4	10	28	70

It was found that majority of *Jhumias* income were low (65 %) followed by 25 percents medium income and only 10 percents of *Jhumias* fall under high income categories. Whereas 70 percents of non-*Jhumias* were fall under high income and only 10 percents were under low income (Table8).

Table: 9.Distributionof respondents according to crop yield

Crop yields	***Jhumias***		***Non-Jhumias***	
	Frequency	***%***	***Frequency***	***%***
Low (Up to 1 quintal)	15	37.5	2	5
Medium 1-2	20	50	8	20
high (>2 quintal)	5	12.5	30	75

Table 9 shows that majority of *Jhumias* yield was low (37.5 %) followed by medium (50%) and only 12.5 percents fall under high (>2quintal). Whereas 75 percents of non-*Jhumias* crop yield were high (>2quintal) and only 5 percents are low yield.From Table 10 it is clear that there is significant (1% level of significance, t=2.576)

difference between *Jhumias* and non-*Jhumias* farmers on their age, number of family member involved, family type, land size, occupation, mass media contact, income and crop yields.

Table10. Test-statistics for determining significant difference between *Jhumias* and non-*Jhumias* farmers

Variables	***t-value***
Age	**2.145****
Education level	**5.433****
Family size	**-4.936****
No. of family member involved	**3.823****
Occupations	**4.108****
Land size	**-3.787****
Mass media contact	**6.4****
Income	**-4.182****
Yield	**6.648****

* 5% level of significance. (t=1.960) and ** 1% level of significance. (t=2.576)

CONCLUSIONS

The study reveals that majority of the respondents belonged to middle age group. The respondents of non-*Jhumias* were educated up to primary school level where as in *Jhumias* most of the respondents could read and write only. On an average, a large percentage of the respondents had medium family size with 5 and above members. Majority of the respondents of *Jhumias* farming as primary occupation possessing less land holding size (< 0.2 *ha*).Whereas most of the respondents of non-*Jhumias* farming as secondary occupation having medium land holding (0.2-0.3 *ha*). Majority of the respondents of non-*Jhumias* had high extension contact, whereas the respondents of *Jhumias* had low extension contact and there was highly significant difference between the respondents of *Jhumias* and non-*Jhumias* respondents. From t-test it was evident that there was significant difference between the respondents of *Jhumias* and non-*Jhumias* in respect to age, number of family member involved, family type, land size, occupation, mass media contact, income and crop yields.

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