

Chapter 6

Summary Concluding Observations

The final chapter is organized in three sections. Section 6.1 summaries the main findings. The conclusions that can be drawn in answer to the questions addressed in the study are formulated in section 6.2. The Policy recommendations which emerged from our analyses have been discussed in Section 6.3. Section 6.4 deals with the limitations of the study. Finally the scope for future research has been discussed in section 6.5.

6.1 Summary

It is a fact that the tribal livelihoods have been leading an isolated life which is much different from the mainstream population in that area. Researchers and policy makers have revealed that the tribal have their own unique ways to managing their daily means of livelihood activities of which consumption is an vital perspective. We have pointed out the major findings from our social economic study on the tribal of West Bengal into four categories. These are Trend and Pattern of tribal and non tribal consumption, Dependency of Market Sources of Tribes, Pattern of Consumption across tribes across districts and impact of Social Protection Programmes and Common Property Resource on tribal food security. Let us consider one by one.

6.1.1 Trend and Pattern of Tribal and Non Tribal Consumption

We have seen from our study that the Monthly Percapita Consumption (MPCE) of tribes is increasing overtime as well as the consumption expenditure of non-tribes also increasing at the same period. Though, the MPCE of non-tribes is more than that of tribes over time. If we see the consumption expenditure on the constant price the result give the same trend for both the categories. On the other hand tribes consume more non food products than food products whose growth rate is more than that of non tribes and consequently the gaps are also reducing over time. Consumption of the items like Egg, Fish, Meat, Spices, Fuel and Light, Clothing, Durable goods and miscellaneous goods has been increased for both tribes and non-tribes over the studied time period. That means both the categories are trending towards the high value product. The study also reveals that over time the tribes are converging towards the non-tribes in terms of consumption. Though a major portion of tribes and non-tribes lies in below poverty zone and food insecurity zone, the percentage has been diminishing overtime. Study revels that in case of tribes there has been a significant impact of public distribution system on food security which results the poverty reduction also. The existence of tribal as well as non-tribal poverty in an economy is abysmal. Over the years consumption o food inequality between tribes and non tribes are also diminishing . Yet the application of gap analysis clearly shows an existence of increasing convergence between the two categories. So finally this study gives concluding remarks that tribes are converging towards the non tribes in terms of consumption expenditure and the level of tribal consumption increased during the reform periods and it also diversified towards high value products.

6.1.2 Dependency of Market Sources of Tribes

Data reveals that over time tribes become dependent on marketed consumption over non-marketed consumption across different items for both non food and food. Finally

we can say that the dependency of forest on tribes has been decreasing slowly but steadily over time; as a result tribes are tending towards marketed consumption. The above scenario has been same both in case of current and constant price also. Pooled Regression estimates that over time tribal households are tending towards marketed consumption due to improvement in the occupation scenario of the tribals as well as they are acquiring more food assistance from the Public Distribution System at a minimal price.

6.1.3 Pattern of Consumption across Tribes across Districts

Study has been dealt with the southernmost backward tribal dominated districts of West Bengal viz. Puruliya, Bankura and Paschim Midnapur and concentration has been given to the major tribal communities of these three districts, that is, Santals, Mundas, Bhumijis and Lodhas. The MPCE of the tribes are differs across tribes across district. Data reveals that MPCE of Santals in Puruliya and Paschim Midnapur district has give the same values, whereas Santals of Bankura have the highest MPCE than the other districts and across tribes also. The Mundas of Paschim Midnapur districts have lowest MPCE across tribe's vis-à-vis across districts. Data reveals that the Mundas of Puruliya and Bankura districts have higher MPCE than the Paschim Midnapur districts. Lodhas have a same range of MPCE across districts. Now the Bhumijis of Bankura have higher MPCE than the Bhumijis of Paschim Midnapur and Puruliya. Analysis reveals that Bhumijis of Puruliya and Mundas of Paschim Midnapur district have significant difference over MPCE than the other tribes of the area. Econometric analysis also reveals that the Bhumijis of Puruliya and Mundas of Paschim Midnapur district are getting less significant benefit from the social security program of the region. Again percapita income and common property resource

income have significant positive impact across tribes across district over the region. Through the main objective of our study has been to point out the consumption pattern of the tribes' communities across three backward districts of West Bengal. So we can conclude that the variation of consumption pattern among tribes across region is not significant different except Bhumijis of Puruliya and Mundas of Paschim Midnapur district.

6.1.4 Impact of Social Protection Programmes and Common Property Resource on Tribal Food Security

It is crucial that governments explicitly recognize the role of social protection reducing inequality and poverty and commit resources towards building systems of social protection. Though the main objective of our study has been to point out the impact of SPPs and Common Property Resources for food security of the tribes. The Path analysis model has been estimated the variables using the intra relationship between the variables and interrelationship between the dependent variable and them. The regression analysis has been done to find the impact of factors on the Monthly Percapita Consumption of tribes. This regression result also gives the same result as the path analysis. The empirical results relating to the effect of Social Security Programs and Common Property Resources over food security on tribes has been estimated by Probit regression model. The results indicate that in poverty and food insecurity is significantly influenced by the Social Security programs like Public Distribution Systems, Mid day meal, ICDS and consumption as well as income from CPR.

6.2 Concluding Observations

Tribes are converging to non tribes in terms of consumption over time, though the Monthly Percapita Consumption Expenditure of tribes are less than that of non tribes. Over time tribes become marketed dependent due to upliftment in their occupation and increase in government food security programs. Variations of Consumption over tribes across districts are not significantly varied except Bhumijis of Puruliya and Mundas of Paschim Midnapur district. Tribal food security has been dependent on Public Distribution System, Mid day Meal, ICDS and Common Property Resource consumption as well as income. In our economy lots of money has been spent for the tribal in the name of Social Security Programs, but yet most of the tribal communities are lagging behind. Various types of social assistance programs are interconnected to each other. The success of one programme is very much dependent to the success of other social protection programme. To avail a certain type of social protection one has to spend an amount of money whatever it is minimal, so all types of social protection programs are to be introducing simultaneously to support different type of programme for the betterment of vulnerable people.

6.3 Policy Recommendations

On of the basics of our findings we have point out few remarks. According to our remarks it will be appropriate for the processes of the tribal development. Let us inspect one by one.

I. Only Programs like Public Distribution System, Mid day Meal and ICDS cannot enforce their consumption standard. To avail a certain type of social protection one has to spend an amount of money whatever it is minimal, so all types of social protection programs are to be introducing simultaneously to support different type

of programme for the betterment of vulnerable people. Social security programmes like nutritional programmes and health programmes create a working capability to a destitute which helps him to drive to the economic security. On the other hand the programmes of economic security like employment guarantee schemes will provide him a minimum amount of earnings to avail the other kind of social securities.

II. Since the agricultural activities having limited scope, can not be expected to solve the present burning problems of unemployment, poverty etc. so, there is a need to introduce an integrated farm and non-farm sector development planning approach together with development of a common nature of basic necessities and infrastructure facilities promoting development of both the sectors simultaneously.

III. The objective focus of initiating tribal development plans and programmes should by and large be confined in favours of the expansion of self employment opportunities rather than wage paid casual employment. The tribes may be encouraged towards various non-farm activities which offer area specific comparative advantages, though awaking the tribal about the different sustainability nature of particular areas, providing subsidized financing assistance to meet the establishment costs, technical know-how to be used in the of production processes and related assistance. The government may provide proper training; financial assistance, etc. for tribes to inspire the tribal youth to set up themselves in the non-farm sector.

IV. Undeniable basic needs of tribal groups have to be provide the solid foundation for sensible utilization of the forest resources. The socio and economic condition of the tribal groups have to be accepted as a foremost condition for measuring the level of technology and the intensity of operation in a tribal zone. The objectivity of the tribal development has to take forest resources as the based on which the tribal livelihood can progress with more confidence.

V. Though the government has launch various health care programmes for the tribal communities, but they are not significant enough. So the awareness regarding health and hygiene can be increased among them.

VI. The government plans and programmes should be reached to the all tribal communities. The special advantage should be given (during the time of the tribal upliftment programmes) to the backward tribal communities, so that they can increase their standard of living.

VII. We have to remember that the tribal survival and development depend upon a system of self-development based on their own creativity force, corporate productivity resources and cognitive structures, where the terms of dynamics are defined by the concerned people themselves. Most of the government plans and projects become unsuccessful just because these are prepared by the non-experienced person about the tribal life. From our experienced we have seen that the Panchayat have constructed only a few houses in our sample village for the poor tribals under the scheme of Indira Awas Yojona, Gitanjali Awas Prokolpo. Most of the residents transformed the airy bed rooms into a store rooms. Therefore, it is necessary for success of the government plans and programmes

that they should be build up by the experience persons who know the tribal's culture and their lifestyle very well.

VIII. The different tribal development plans and programmes should reach to the poor and poorest tribal families expect those who are in summit. The government has to take necessary steps in this regards.

IX. Education of tribal cannot be left to short-term plan strategies. In the tribal context, it is essential that the school schedule be prepared as per local requirement rather than following a directive from the state. It has been found that vacations. Affairs on Tribal Welfare are planned without taking into reflection of local contexts, as a result unnecessarily antagonize tribal groups and keep them deprived.

X. Environment has been of immense importance in the context of educational empowerment among tribal groups. Community awareness and community mobilization, which are its core elements, should receive adequate importance and attention. Decentralization of educational management is a feature that needs special deliberation in the context of tribal zones. Though considering the geographical terrain and communication problems of tribes, it has been crucial to reconstruct the on going system of educational management.

XI. Lastly, the adjustment of the tribal mentality with other social groups does not materialize. Since their livelihood, culture and temperament are not properly realized; there is a big gap between the tribals' and the greater Indian society. Till

now the tribals' lifestyle and culture is unknown to the non-tribals. A dearth of temperament unity is the reason that they are standing apart in fear and mistrust. The separatist powers are playing political games taking this weakness. We have to remember that in spite of the different of language, religion and other factors, we are always under the same banner. We are the descendants of an undivided Indian legacy and history, which is our biggest identity.

6.4 Limitations of the Study

The present methodology adopted for the research and analysis have its own limitations. Some of which are listed below:

1. Consumption pattern varies from one region to another region and even from one form one village to another village it also varies from time to time. Therefore the analyses of the change in consumption pattern across blocks and villages over time are important. NSSO unit level data does not provide the block and/or village level data, that is why the inter block or village comparison of consumption of tribes vis-a-vis non tribes have not been done.
2. The study is only analyse the consumption pattern of the tribes in the backward region only and it is limited to compare the consumption pattern between backward region with other regions.
3. The consumption pattern of the tribes also depends on the location of the villages. It may vary from the villages located nearby town/urban centre with the interior villages.
4. Overtime the impact of Social Protection Programs and Common Property Resources on tribal consumption have not been studied.

6.5 Scope of Future Research

The future research on consumption of tribes may be conducted. The following are some of the areas in which future research needs to be conducted.

1. To study the Consumption pattern across blocks and villages over time of other tribal dominated districts.
2. To explore the Consumption pattern of tribes in backward region with other regions.
3. To analyse the Consumption pattern of tribes in the villages located nearby town/urban centre with the interior villages.
4. To study the impact of Social Protection Programs and Common Property Resources on tribal consumption.