

**AN STUDY OF ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF KAMAR TRIBE IN  
CHHATTISGARH STATE**

**Dr. Ranu Agrawal**, Post Doctoral fellow, Indian Council for Social Science Research, New Delhi

**Prof. Shikha Agrawal**, Professor & Head, Department of Economics, Govt.V.Y.T.P.G. College, Durg (C.G.)

**Abstract:** The presented research paper is based on the study of economic and educational status of special backward tribe "Kamar" of Chhattisgarh. Five tribes of Chhattisgarh – Abujhmadia, Baiga, Pahadi Korwa, Birhor and Kamar have been declared special backward by the Central Government. More recently (Sept. 2022) Chhattisgarh's Bhunjia tribe has also been declared as special backward tribe by the Central Government. The Kamar tribe mainly resides in the Gariaband district of Chhattisgarh. The population of Gariaband district is 14385. In total 3350 Kamar families reside in five development blocks (Gariaband, Mainpur, Chhura, Devbhog, Fingeshwar). The purpose of the presented research is to study the economic and educational status of Kamar families living in Gariaband development block. The study is mainly divided into four parts. Introduction in the first part, collection of data and research methodology in the second part. In the third part of the study the data has been analysed. In the last or fourth part of the study, the conclusions and suggestions have been given. Primary and secondary data has been compiled for the study. Schedule has been used for the compilation of primary data and various government reports have been used for the compilation of secondary data. After the compilation of the data, the conclusion has been drawn by analyzing them using the percentage method. Certainly, the findings and suggestions obtained from the research will prove helpful in planning for the development of the Kamar tribe by the Chhattisgarh Government and the Central Government.

**Keywords:** Kamar Tribe, Level of income, Education, Economic Condition

## **I. Introduction**

About one-third of the population of Chhattisgarh State is of tribes. The tribes of Chhattisgarh each have a distinct culture, music, dress, dance and history. The tribes of Chhattisgarh are known for their unique lifestyle, customs and traditional beliefs. There are many types of tribals in India and Chhattisgarh is one of them tribal majority state. It is believed that India's oldest tribal community has been living in Bastar since 1000 years or more than it in the state of Chhattisgarh. According to the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution, a total of 42 scheduled tribes are found in Chhattisgarh. In Chhattisgarh, 5 Special Backward Tribes declared by the Central Government, Abujhmadia, Baiga, Pahadi Korwa, Birhor and Kamar have been declared special backward by the Central Government. More recently (Sept. 2022) Chhattisgarh's Bhunjia tribe has also been declared as special backward tribe by the central government.

According to the data presented by the National Sample Survey for the year 2004-05, there is not much difference between tribal and non-tribal people in terms of social characteristics like getting married, but there is a significant difference between tribal and non-tribal people in terms of literacy and attainment of education. This difference is visible between them.

One of the primitive backward tribes, 'Kamar' mainly resides in Gariaband, Chhura, Mainpur of Gariaband district and Nagri and Magarlod development block of Dhamtari district. A small number of these families are also living in Mahasamund and Bagbahra development blocks of Mahasamund district. The Kamar tribe traces its origin from Dev Dongar village of

Mainpur development block. Their biggest deity "Vaman Dev" is situated in Devdongar's Vaman Dongri.

Kamar tribe has been selected for the present research study, which is one of the five primitive backward tribes of India. The Kamar tribe is concentrated in 13 blocks of 6 districts in the eastern part of Chhattisgarh. Out of which more than 60% Kamar resides in Gariaband, Mainpur and Chhura blocks of Gariaband district. Gariaband district has been selected for the present research. The total population of Kamar's in Gariaband district is 14386 and the number of Kamar families are 3350 (survey 2005-06). "Mainly the Kamar tribe is divided into the following two parts on the basis of residence area – Bandharjia and Paharpatia. Bandharjia mainly live in the plains, their social and economic condition has seen a lot of improvement. The level of education is in better condition than Paharpatia. Paharpatia mainly likes to live in dense forests and mountains. Being reclusive, they do less conversation with outsiders. Even today these communities are socio-economically backward. There are very few Kamar families who do agriculture work, so their livelihood is focused on forest produce, hunting, traditional business (making bamboo articles) and wages.

## **II Data Collection and Research Methodology**

The present study is based on primary data. Data has been collected through interview, personal study, participant observation and method. Data has been collected from the teachers, public representatives, non-cooperative organizations, educated citizens who are in contact with the Kamar families and information related to their status and development and security.

Apart from this Secondary data has also been given special importance in the research presented to support the conclusions obtained from the research study. Compilation of secondary data published papers - magazines, books, survey reports received by Tribal Development Office of India and Chhattisgarh, conclusions and figures obtained from literature have been included when necessary. After collection of data their classification and analysis has been made with the use of general statistical methods.

## **III Data Analysis**

The Percentage method have been used for the analysis of data collected (primary and secondary) in the present research as per

Percentage = (obtained value/total value) × 100

There are five development blocks in Gariaband district, in which the expansion of Kamar tribe is mainly in Gariaband, Mainpur and Chhura development blocks. Apart from this, the expansion of Kamar tribe is also found in Dhamtari and Mahasamund districts. The social system of Kamar tribe is somewhat different from the civilized society, here marriage is considered the most important ritual of the society, it can also be considered as the pillar of the religious faith of the society. The family has a special place in this tribe, the form of joint family is seen in the families selected for the study. The women of the Kamar tribe act as the main working unit of the family and have been given a special place in the family. From arranging food to making bamboo utensils and collecting forest produce, the responsibility rests on the shoulders of women.

In the present study, an attempt has been made to study income and education in Kamar tribe, for which special attention has been given to age and gender in the selection of respondents.

150 male respondents and 120 female respondents have been selected for the study, in which the inclusion of respondents of each category has been ensured. Respondents of selected age 20-30 years, 30-40 years and 40-50 years have been selected for the study.

The number of respondents in the age group of 20-30 years is 68 which is 25% of the total respondents. In this, the number of male respondents is 32 (47.5%) and the number of female respondents is 26 (37.23%).

The number of respondents in the age range of 30-40 years is 122 which is 45% of the total respondents. In this, the number of male respondents is 70 (57.37%) and the number of female respondents is 52 (42.62%).

The number of respondents in the age range of 40-50 years is 81 which is 30% of the total respondents.

The primitive tribes of Chhattisgarh have been deprived of education since time immemorial due to the ancient social system, as a result of which these classes have always been exploited. Lack of awareness in education is the main reason for their exploitation and plight. Lack of education in Kamar tribe remains the main problem even today. The scenario of educational level achieved by kamar tribe according to distance are shown in the Table 1.

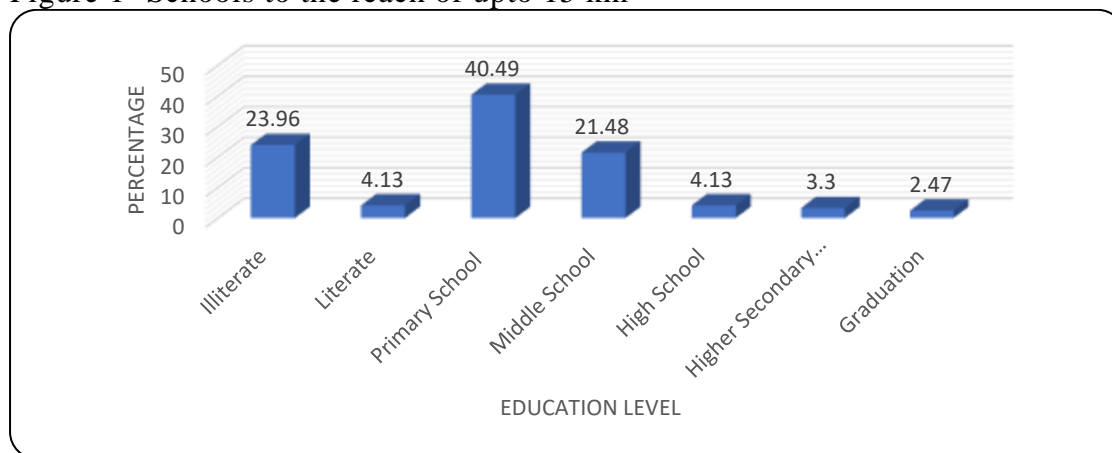
According to Table 1, out of 270 respondents selected for the research study, These selected respondents are further divided on the basis of the distance of their residence, availability of any kind of education facilities within 15 kms, 15 to 20 kms and more than 20 kms. 92 out of 270 respondents have received education up to primary school.

Table 1: Distance wise literacy level in Kamar tribe in Gariaband district

| S.No. | Education               | Till 15 KM |             | 15-20 KM |             | More than 20 KM |             | Sum |             |
|-------|-------------------------|------------|-------------|----------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|-----|-------------|
|       |                         | No.        | Percent (%) | No.      | Percent (%) | No.             | Percent (%) | No. | Percent (%) |
| 1     | Illiterate              | 29         | 23.96       | 35       | 39.77       | 28              | 45.90       | 92  | 34.07       |
| 2     | Literate                | 5          | 4.13        | 7        | 7.95        | 1               | 1.63        | 16  | 4.81        |
| 3     | Primary School          | 49         | 40.49       | 31       | 35.22       | 27              | 44.26       | 107 | 39.62       |
| 4     | Middle School           | 26         | 21.48       | 10       | 11.36       | 4               | 4.91        | 40  | 14.81       |
| 5     | High School             | 5          | 4.13        | 3        | 3.40        | 1               | 1.63        | 9   | 3.33        |
| 6     | Higher Secondary School | 4          | 3.30        | 2        | 2.27        | 0               | 0           | 6   | 2.22        |
| 7     | Graduation              | 3          | 2.47        | 0        | 0           | 0               | 0           | 3   | 1.11        |
|       | Summation               | 121        | 100%        | 88       | 100%        | 61              | 100%        | 270 | 100%        |

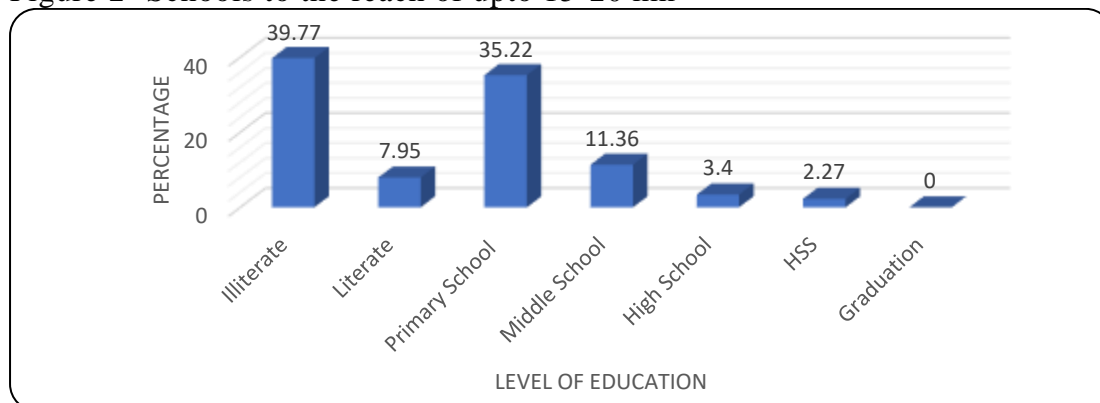
for the respondents for whom the availability of schools is within 15 km. It is seen in the Table 1 and clearly visible in the Figure 1 that the literacy rate is 23.96%, while 4.13% people know how to write their name. 40.49% of the population has received education up to primary school. 31.48% people are middle school pass. 4.13% of the population has completed high school education. 3.30% people have attained higher secondary school education. Only 2.47% people are graduate.

**Figure 1- Schools to the reach of upto 15 km**



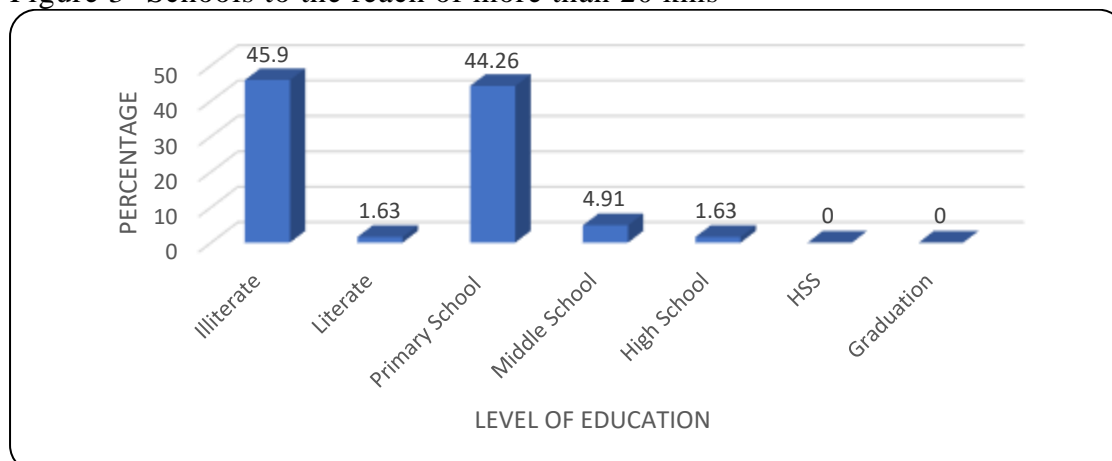
For whom the school is at a distance of 15 to 20 kms, among them 39.77% people are illiterate. 7.9% people are literate who only know how to write their name. 35.22% have completed primary school, while 11.36% have passed secondary school. 3.40% of the population is high school pass and 2.27% are Higher secondary school(HSS) pass. While no person living at a distance of 15 to 20 kilometers has received graduation degree.

**Figure 2- Schools to the reach of upto 15-20 km**



45% of those whose homes are more than 20 kilometers away from school or any educational institution are illiterate. Only 1.63% people are educated can write their name. The percentage of people who have received primary school education is 44.26, while secondary education is received by 4.91% of the people. There are 1.63% people who have completed high school education. None of them have passed the Higher Secondary School and Graduation examination.

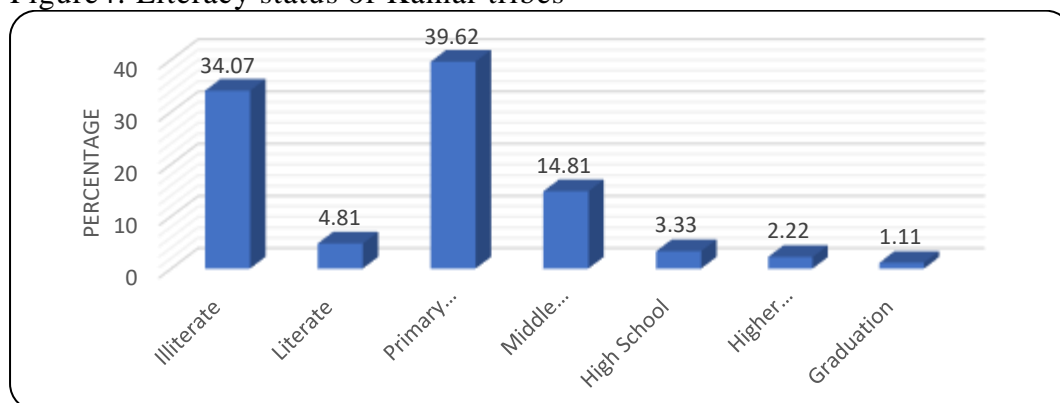
**Figure 3- Schools to the reach of more than 20 kms**



According to Table1, out of 270 respondents selected for the research study, 92 of the respondents have received education up to primary school, 14.81 percent of the respondents have received education up to middle school, 3.33 percent of the respondents have studied high school and 2.22 percent of the respondents have studied higher secondary school. Received education up to Analysing the data in this way, it is known that as the level of education moves upwards, their percentage decline is visible. The percentage of illiterates in the district is about 34.07 percent, along with it the literate is 4.81 percent. The distance of the school and economic poverty is the main reason for illiteracy. The long distance from the village to the high school and higher secondary school is also a big reason. Hostels have been established by the government and they are being made available. Research has found that their prejudice because of the mentality of the poor, parents do not want to send their children out of the village for higher education. Even if the distance of the school is more, they prefer to keep them illiterate instead of sending them to study. Whereas families for whom schools are more than 20 Km away from their home 45.90% population are illiterate. Out of 61, 27 (44.26%) people are educated upto primary school.

In Figure4 we summarise the picture of literacy status of Kamar's. we can say that in Kamar Tribe 34.07% population is illiterate. 4.81% of the population only knows how to write their own name. 39.2% of the total population is educated up to primary school. 14.81% of the population is educated up to middle school. 3.33% of the population is educated upto high school. 2.22% of the population has achieved higher secondary education while only 1.1% of the population is graduate.

**Figure4: Literacy status of Kamar tribes**



For the analysis of income status of Kamar tribe in Gariaband district, details of their income were taken from 270 respondents whose informational details are displayed in Table 2. From the analysis of the table it is known that the income of 52.22 percent of the rooms in the district is Rs.2000 per month or less. The income of 30.37% persons is Rs.2000-3000 per month. About 8 percent of the people have an income of Rs.3000-5000 and only about 1 percent of the people have an income of more than Rs.5000 per month.

**Table 2: Income level in Kamar tribe in Gariaband District**

| S.No. | Monthly Income (Rs.) | No. of Respondents | Percentage (%) |
|-------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 1.    | Till 2000            | 141                | 52.22          |
| 2.    | 2000-3000            | 82                 | 30.37          |
| 3.    | 3000-4000            | 23                 | 8.51           |
| 4.    | 4000-5000            | 21                 | 7.77           |
| 5.    | More than 5000       | 03                 | 1.11           |
|       | Sum                  | 270                | 100%           |

#### **IV Conclusion and Suggestions:**

The presented research study has been done to find out the economic and educational status of the Kamar tribe, in which it was found that the Kamar family is not much aware of education. The distance of the schools from the village seems to be one of the reasons for the non attainment of education in the Kamar families. Along with this, there is a lack of awareness in the Kamar tribe towards education. Their traditional occupation is making bamboo utensils in which most of the Kamar families are engaged. Women are playing an important role in the families as executive members. In Kamar families, the monthly income was seen up to a maximum of Rs 5000, which is earned by only one percent of the families, maximum families are earning their livelihood in a monthly income of up to Rs 2000. In this way, it can be said as the conclusion of the study that the educational and economic condition of Kamar families are very pathetic, these tribes are still backward, it is very important to lead them on the path of development, for which different programmes are being run by the government. It is important to make them aware of these various schemes run by the government and add them in it so that they can get benefitted by all these beneficial programmes.

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