

Exploration of Socio-Economic and Education Condition of the Handi Jogi Community of Karnataka State

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Abstract: This paper discusses the socio-economic and literacy of the “Handi Jogi” community which is one among the least concerned and at extinction all over India. The main occupation of these people from their origin of the community was swine farm and was nomadic. However, this community people started to become civilized gradually in such a way by settling in one place. The total population is very small; there are 11,429 men and 11,246 women. The total literacy rate in this community is 58.2%, consisting of 65.9% of the men and 50.4% of the women. According to recent studies in Karnataka, there are about 30,828 populations living there. The main occupation of this community was Swine farming and begging, with very few being in agricultural and daily wage work, as most of the people were without land. The government has brought many schemes to develop this community but there is a lack of progress.

Keywords: Handi Jogi; Socio-economic and literacy rate; Nomadic; Swine farming

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1. Introduction

India is a nation that consists of a vast diversity in caste, religion, and community-based on regional language, lifestyle, and other aspects, which has created a history and traditional practices. Even after 77 years of independence, they are not being recognized and explored in any media. As people of the Handi Jogi community are found only in the southern part of India. In 1871, the British government added this community under criminal tribes, later in 1952 after the independence of India, the government canceled (De-notified) the criminal act, and recognized and declared them as nomadic tribes.

The name, “Handi Jogi” has been derived from the Sanskrit word “Yogins.” Yogi has different meanings like devotee, saint, beggar, and so on based on the main occupation of this community. In Andhra Pradesh, in certain regions of Chitoor, Palavemanu, Madanapalle, Hindu Pura, and Tirupati, this community is addressed

as Pandi jogi, and they belong to backward tribes. In the state of Tamil Nadu in the districts of Darmpuri, Krishnagiri, Madurai, Salem, and some other places they are called Paniyandaligichud. In Maharashtra, Solapur, Akkalakoti, Sitara, Miraj, Sangli, Pune, and Mumbai, this community is called Golla and is recognized as a nomadic tribe and is issued the caste certificate.

In the state of Karnataka, they are recognized under scheduled caste and called Handi Jogis. However, this community is being addressed in different ways in different districts, such as Handi Jogi in north Karnataka, and Handi Jogigalu in south Karnataka. They are also called Handi Chikkru, Pakanathi Jogi, and Mandala Jogi in some places. In this state, most of the populations are found in the urban and rural districts of Bangalore, Hassan, Chikmagalur, Kolar, Tumkur, Chikballapur, Mysore, Madikeri, Mandya, Chamarajanagara, and Ramanagara. People of this particular community are leading their lives in pathetic conditions due to the negligence of the state government

2. Literature review

In the literature stated by Thurston, in the cast and tribe of southern India, this community has been called swine farming people. There are two sub-communities under this such as Jogi and Pakanathi and their main occupation was buffalo farming from the beginning. Later on, they started pig farming hence the name they got are Handi Jogi and Handi Chikka^[1]. Ananthkrishan in his literature of Mysore tribes and castes describes, that the community belongs to Telugu beggars and there are some other sub-community peoples like Monduru, Jogi, and Gorava belong to the same. It has been stated that Handi and Paakandi Jogi are different from each other^[2]. Kumar in his book, "People of India: Karnataka", mentioned this community originated from Andhra Pradesh and then traveled to Karnataka. In 1981 population studies of this community were about 9,631 and 81.91% of them were from rural areas. They commonly speak Telugu while those located in Karnataka speak Kannada^[3]. Chandrappa has studied the economy, society, culture, and worship of these communities, and the evidence based on the folk culture states that they originated from the era of the middle Pandavas^[4]. According to the Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy (CSSEIP, 2012-13) the University of Mysore, a socio-economic survey of the Handi Jogi in Mysore district reports this community of Chitija Handi Chikka, Handi Golla, Pandalu Jogi, Rama Jogi, and Rama Jogula people seen in Mysore district, Piriapatna Taluk is backward economically, socially and literally^[5]. Based on the documentation done by Dinesh Kumar on Handi Jogi Kulashastrya and social studies. This community was nomadic, and they traveled from Andhra Pradesh but there is a lack of evidence of which particular part of the state^[6]. Doddamani Lokaraja states that Handi Jogi's life is a fight and a struggle. They are still sustained with their usual baptism and dedicate their whole life to a square meal a day. It is a paradox that even after 76 years of freedom, the Indian government has failed to provide basic amenities for this community^[7].

3. Collection of dates

The source of information in the present study has been collected from different sources such as media, libraries, research articles, government and non-government organization brochures, daily paper articles, and the internet.

According to Havanur's report in 1975, 6746 survey responses were recorded. The analysis of the total population carried out during 2011 shown in **Figure 1** states that there are 22,675 people in the state of

Karnataka. The highest number is found in Bangalore with 2617 people (Bangalore urban and rural), Tumkur with 2310 people, and Bellary with 2184 people respectively when compared to other districts. In 2017, there were 30,828 populations, among them, 26,447 were Handi Jogi and 4381 were Handi Golla [6].

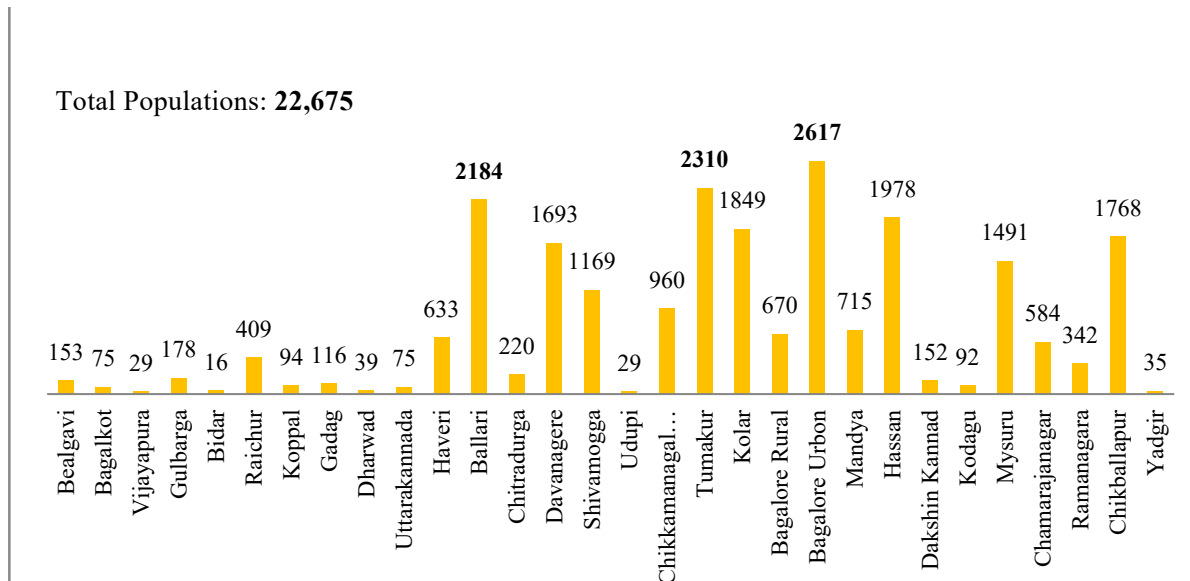


Figure 1. Population status of Handi Jogi community in Karnataka state based on district

Figure 2 represents the details of demographic studies of the year 2011, regarding the nomadic people and their distributed residence. The total count was 22,675, among them 14,740 are rural, and 7935 are urban. The total number of men is 11,429, and among them, 7402 are from rural areas while 4027 are from urban areas. Whereas the total number of women is 11,246, among them, 7338 are from rural areas while 3908 are from urban areas.

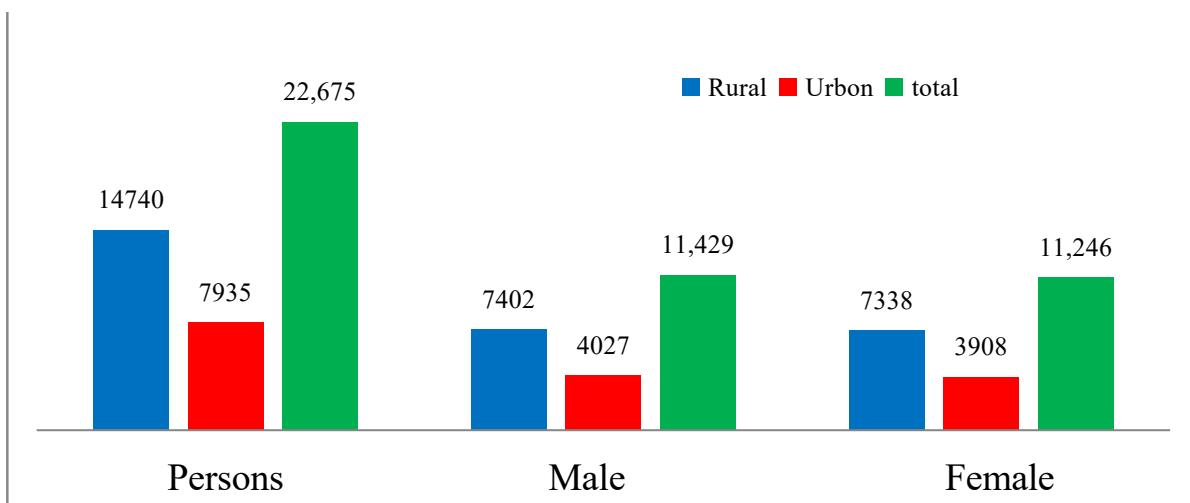


Figure 2. Population status of the Handi Jogi community in Karnataka based on whether they are living in rural or urban areas, and their gender

3.1. Social status

In the Handi Jogi community, men and women are equal, without any discrimination or inequality. They do not follow the dowry system. Previously, Handi Jogi was only one community but later was grouped into Pakanati Jogi and Pamulla Jogi based on their occupation. There is no contract of marriage between these two communities, but they have social interaction. They follow the Indian Hindu eternal religion system and celebrate Gowri Ganesh Chaturthi, Mahanavi, Deepavali, Shivaratri, and Rama Navami. They believe in black magic as with the other folks. They occasionally eat meat such as pork and beef along with rice and ragi. The community is sometimes named based on animals. In society, the occupation of this community is pig farming, where pigs are treated as the least domesticated animals because of their behavior. Due to this reason, this community has been treated poorly. Hence, instead of Handi Jogi, they are addressed as Varaha Jogi. However, they are called different names such as Kinnara Jogi, Dabba Jogi, and Narasanna Jogi. They use pumpkin and bottle caps to make an instrument called *Handi*. These people were using these as instruments for singing and begging, which was also one of their occupations. Hence, this has become their birthmark and the origin of the community.

3.2. Economic status

The Handi Jogi is one of the most neglected and backward communities where only very few of them have small land and are practicing farming, whereas the rest of the landless people are occupied with swine farming and begging. However, in a few places in southern Karnataka, they are working as daily wage workers. In north Karnataka, Handi Gollas work with feces manure, and as daily wage workers throughout their lives. In the present days, people of this community are interested in farming but due to lack of land, are not able to depend on agricultural farming. Most of the backward communities, especially the nomadic ones are still stuck on moving from one place to another due to a lack of support from the government. This community has been recognized as a scheduled caste, people are illiterate, and not aware of the facilities given by the government, hence they are lagging. In the case of reservation quota of jobs, very few members have utilized the facility. From North Karnataka, Handi Golla are placed in the scheduled caste, they are lagging in taking the government facilities. Even today, some members do not have their identity card, Aadhaar, or voter ID. Even with the Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana scheme, they failed to open an account and use the facilities provided by the bank due to a lack of relevant documents.

3.3. Education status

People of this community are nomadic and economically backward and are recognized as lower caste because they lack knowledge of education. In recent days, the first-generation people of this community have been educated by attending school. The overall status of education in this community is tabulated in **Figure 3**^[8].

The graphical status mentioned in the chart represents the total literacy of the Handi Jogi community, where 58.2% are from rural areas and 62.9% are from urban areas. Among them, about 50.4% are women, of which 47.4% are from rural areas and 56.1% are from urban areas. However, the overall literacy rate of men was 65.9%, of which 69.6% are from urban areas and 63.9% are from rural areas. In the present day, people are being educated about the importance of education in this community for illiterate women with the Ramakka Bikshatanna organization educating nomadic children in the tent house. Children who were scavengers and roaming around were educated and made aware of the value of education. On behalf of this, the struggle taken by Ramakka from the Karnataka state women's tribes' organization has a significant impact on the state.

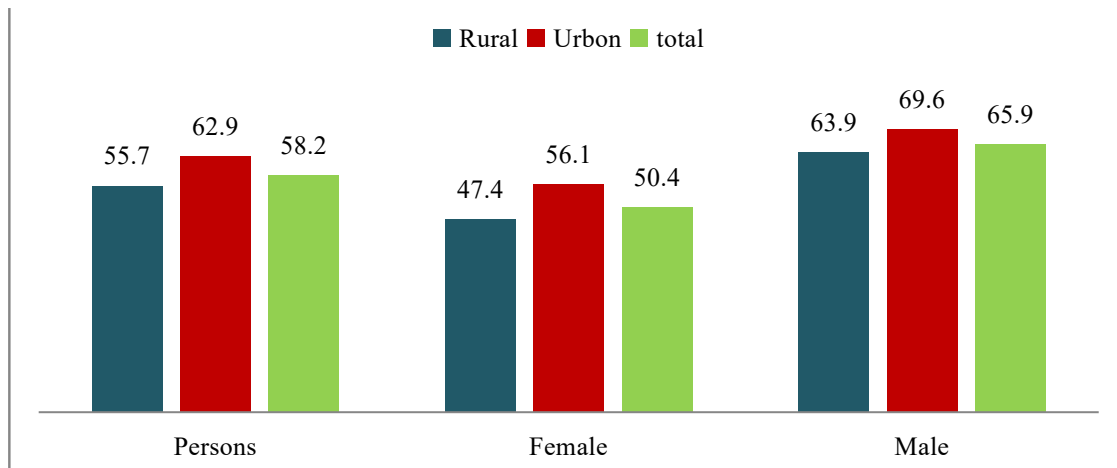


Figure 3. Education status of Handi Jogi community

4. Summary and conclusion

The Handi Jogi community is still backward in social, economic, and educational aspects due to a lack of recognition where they lead a life without knowing the difference between swine and humans. They do not have proper shelter hence are still living in the place where the pig lives. There is no one to ask them when they face any natural calamities. The place where they live does not have proper roads, sewage, and drinking water facilities. Due to a lack of hygiene, they are affected by different diseases and malnutrition.

Although the government has been releasing many funds to develop scheduled caste and nomadic people, none has been improved properly due to the negligence of higher authority. Hence, these people are living their lives as animals which is shameful for society. As this community people are lagging in education, they are not civilized. As they lack general knowledge, people are suffering to obtain facilities from the government. This should be the duty of higher authority people but they are not serving their duties properly. The main agenda of this paper is that all the organizations such as the government, non-governmental organizations, and media all together have to join their hands to help this community to grow.

Disclosure statement

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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