SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF THE HILL KORWAS IN SARGUJA DISTRICT, CHHATTISGARH: AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Present study has been carried out with aim to know the Socio-economic and demographic profile of Hill Korwas, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) of Chhattisgarh. A total of 307 families from Sarguja district were randomly selected and head of households were interviewed for data collection. The Sex ratio of studied people is 844 which are below national average and it is not a good sign. It was found from the study that 50.79% are married and 45.85% are un-married. There is more number of non-literates (57.9%) than literates (42.1%),and only 35.18% females are literates in the studied villages. It is observed that, 21.8% households are getting Rs.2000/- to Rs.2500/- per month. About 16.0% households have the monthly income between Rs 2500/- to Rs 3000/-. The average family size among the studied population is 3.51. The majority of the studied households (66.8%) have Kuccha houses. 45.9% households are consuming poor quality water. It was found that 70.7% households are landless and 29.3% households are having land. In conclusion, the study revealed that Hill Korwas' Socio-economic status is very poor. They need opportunities to develop their socio-economic status.

Key Words: Socio-economic status, Demographic Profile, Hill Korwa Tribe, Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups.

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INTRODUCTION:

The socio-economic statuses of the tribe amuse an important role in differentiating the individuals from each other. Although in a tribal society, socio-economic status among individuals had relatively less differentiation, a few acclaimed spiritually, and mystically superiors were considered as important persons. However, subsequently the socio-economic status gained special importance for several socio-economic developmental reasons and hence distinguishing on the tribal's socio-economic parameters which gained importance for their development purposes.

Scheduled Tribes (STs) are indigenous, have their own distinctive culture, are geographically isolated and are low in socio-economic conditions. For centuries, the tribal groups have remained outside the realm of the general development process due to their habitation in forests and hilly tracts. After independence, Government of India has scheduled the tribal groups in the Constitution and provided special provisions for their welfare and developments. There are 75 most backward STs who are termed as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). Most of the tribal areas are hilly, inaccessible undulating plateau lands in the forest areas of the country resulting in the by passing of general developmental programmes. Due to this, there is dearth of infrastructure and development facilities, i.e. education, roads, healthcare, communication, drinking water, sanitation etc, in tribal areas.

The tribal population of Chhattisgarh is 30.6% of state's total population and 8.6% of India total population (census of India, 2011). With respect to Scheduled population, Chhattisgarh states on 7th position after Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Jharkhand. There are five special backward Tribes in Chhattisgarh namely Kamar, Abhujmariya, Birhor, Baiga, and Hill Korwa. Even today, they are backward on the basis of development. The present work was undertaken to identify the current socio-economic and demographic profile of the Hill Korwa people of Sarguja district, Chhattisgarh.

OBJECTIVES
- To study the socio-economic condition of the Hill Korwas.
- To study the educational status of the Hill Korwas.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study has been carried out among Hill Korwas of three blocks namely Lundra, Batauli, and Sitapur of Sarguja district of Chhattisgarh. 16 gram Panchayats comprising of 26 villages from Sarguja district were randomly selected from above three blocks. A total of 307 families (total population-1073) were randomly selected and head of households were interviewed for data collection. Data pertaining to population characteristics, viz. population composition and their size, age, sex, education, occupation, marital status, economic status, expenditure in various heads etc., were collected. Focus group discussion has been conducted among elder members of Hill Korwas for verification of data.
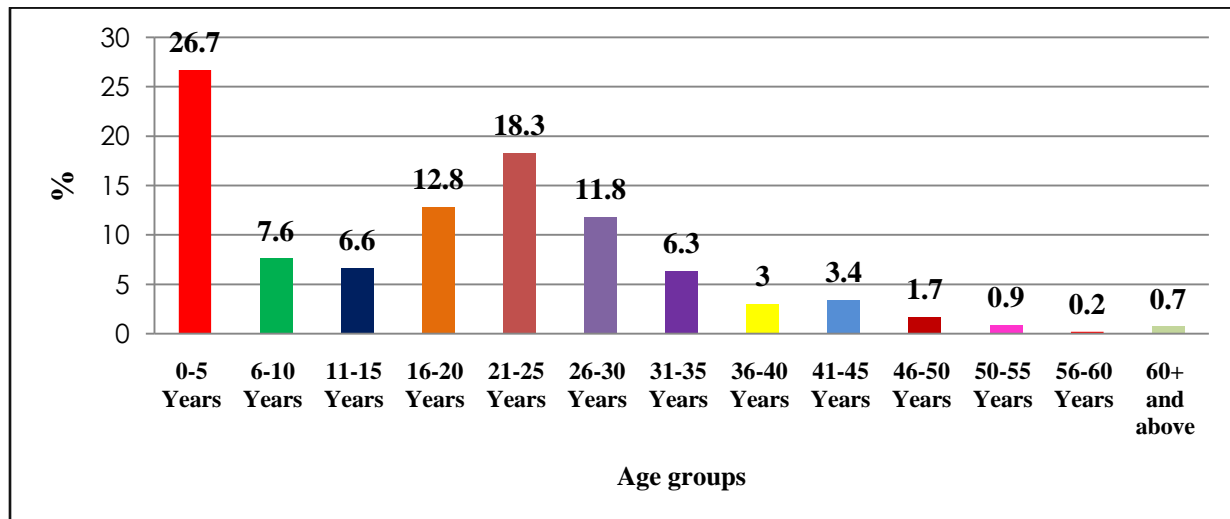
AREA AND PEOPLE

Hill Korwa, a sub group of Korwa tribe, was identified as PVTGs during the fifth five year plan based on their pre-agriculture technology, low literacy, and stagnant population. According to Anthropological description of family they belong to Austro-Asiatic family. They are medium to short height have a dark brown or black skin in physical appearances (Shrivashtav, 2001). Generally most of the Hill Korwas were having nuclear families. Hill Korwa are divided into five totemistic endogamous clan, such as Hansadwar, Samar, Edigwar, Ginnur, and Renla (Daltan, 1872). The religion of the Hill-Korwa is confined to ancestral worship and to the worship of a few Gods and Deities. The name of their important Gods are Sigri Dev, Gauria Dev, Mahadev, and Parvati; and main deity is Khudia Rani (Vashnav, 2008). Hill-Korwas are distributed in Sarguja, Jashpur, Balraampur, Shankargarh, and Korba districts of Chhattisgarh and their total population is 34,122 (TRTI, 2006).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table-1: Demographic Profile of the Studied Population

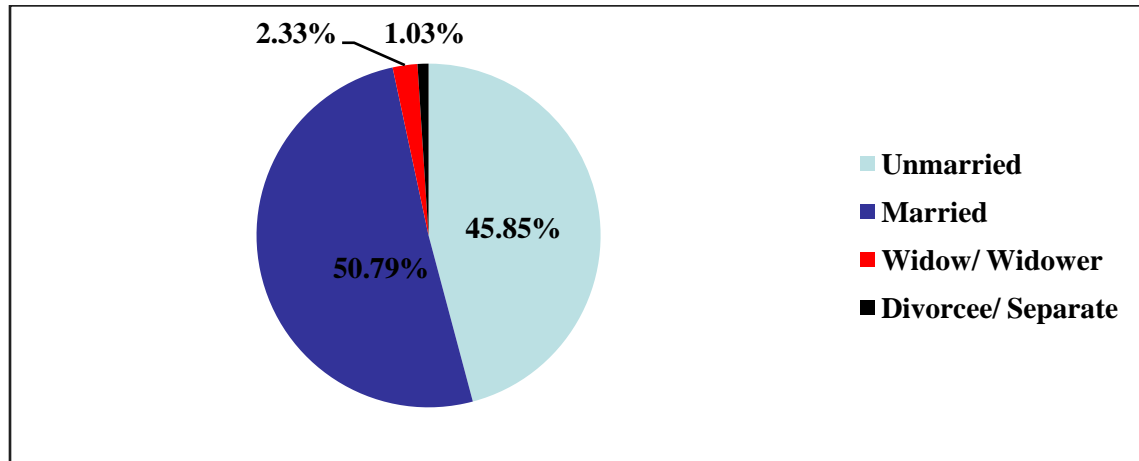|	
Total Male	582
Total Female	491
Total Population	1073
Sex Ratio	844
Male (0-6 years)	171
Female (0-6 years)	130
Total Population (0-6 years)	301
Sex Ratio (0-6 years)	760

This table-1 depicts about the demographic profile of Hill Korwas of studied area. As per the census study, the total population is 1073 out of them 582 (54.24%) are male and 491 (45.76%) are female. Sex ratio is an important marker for population study and is also a burning problem in present context. The Sex ratio of Hill Korwas in the studied area is 844 (844 female per 1000 male), which is not up to mark. When the population comes to children (0-6 years), the total population is 301. Out of which 171 (56.81%) are male and 130 (43.19%) are female. Again the sex ratio of 0-6 years population is 760 (760 female per 1000 male) which is unsatisfying. The sex ratio of 0-6 year's population is very less as compared to above 6 years population.

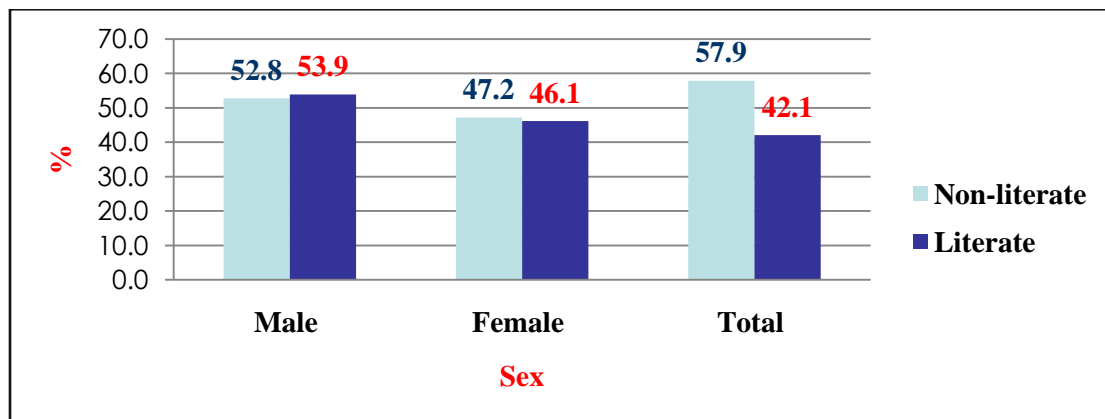**Figure-1: Age wise population distribution**

Figure-1 reveals age wise distribution of population in the study area. Whole population is categorized into 13 age groups which are 0-5 years, 6-10 years, 11-15 years, 16-20 years, 21-25 years, 26-30 years, 31-35 years, 36-40 years, 41-45 years, 46-50 years, 50-55 years, 56-60 years and 60+ and above. From the above bar diagram, it is clearly seen that 26.7 % people are in the age group of 0-5 years which is also highest in the population followed by 18.3% (21-25 years), 12.8% (16-20 years) and 11.8% (26-30 years). Again there is a marked decreased seen in the population percentage which are 7.6% (6-10 years), 6.6% (11-15 years), and 6.3% (31-35 years). The age groups, 41-45 years, 36-40 years, 46- 50 years, 50-55 years, 60+ and above and 56-60 years shows very less amount of population percentage which are 3.4%, 3%, 1.7%, 0.9%, 0.7%, and 0.2% respectively. Among which 0.2% (56-60 years) is the lowest percentage of people. However, in the study area the teen agers and early adults (16-35 years) are in optimum numbers succeeded by children of school going age (6-15 years). The mid aged adults (36-50 years) are in

less in percentage while the aged people (50 and above) are in very less percentage even below 1 percent.

Figure -2: Marital Status of the population

The above pie chart (fig. 2) demonstrates the marital status of Hill Korwas in the studied area. There are four important markers (unmarried, married, widow/widower, and divorcee/separate) used in the analysis and illustrates the different marital status percentages. Out of total population, 50.79% individuals are married and 45.85% of them are single (unmarried). 2.33% individuals are in the widow/widower category, while the rest 1.03% are in the divorcee/separate category.

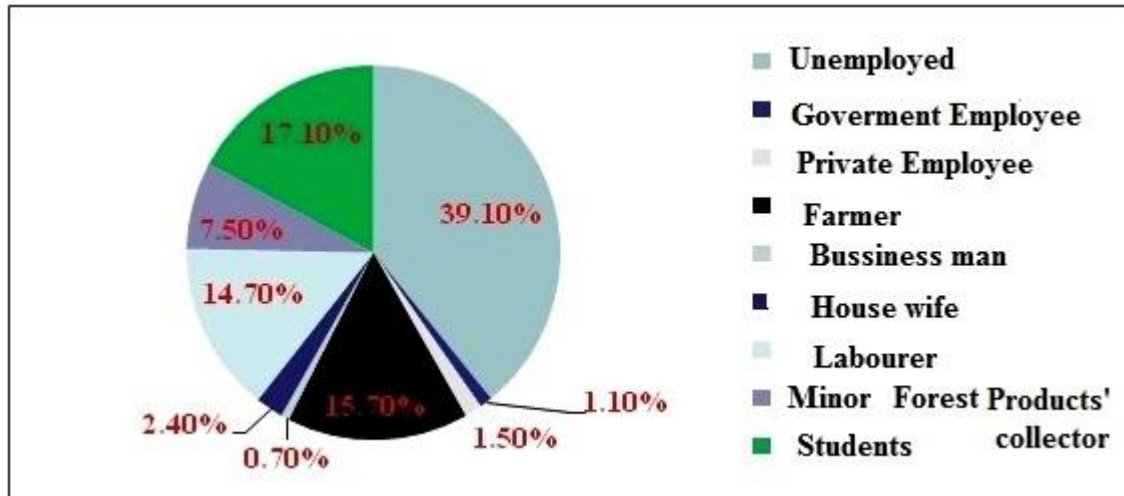**Figure -3: Educational status of the opulation**

The above bar diagram (fig. 3) elucidates the total educational status of studied Hill Korwas. The educational status (literate/non-literate) is clarified through percentage followed by male and female category. As per census analysis, 53.9% male, and 46.2% female are educated while 52.8% male, and 47.2% female are uneducated. In whole population, 57.9% people are non-

literate, where as 42.1% people are literate. The literacy rate of Hill Korwas is very low. This is a barrier for their individual as well as community development.

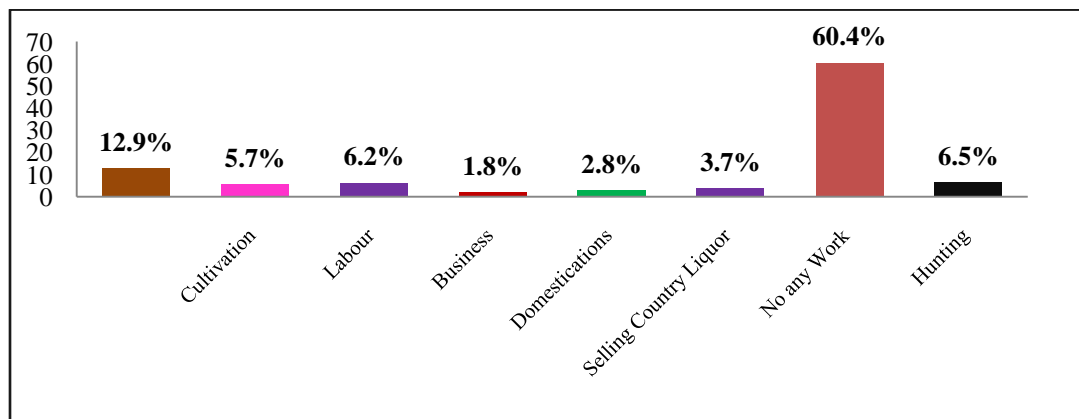**Table-2: Distribution of educational level of the studied population**

Educational status	Male		Female		Total	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Non-literate	236	57.42	211	58.45	447	57.90
Primary	139	33.82	127	35.18	266	34.46
Middle Class	22	5.35	18	4.99	40	5.18
Matriculation	10	2.43	3	0.83	13	1.68
Intermediate	4	0.97	2	0.55	6	0.78
Total	411	100.0	361	100.0	772	100.0

This table-2 illustrates the level of education of Hill Korwas in the studied area. Here, the level of education is divided into five categories. Out of 411 males, 236 (57.42%) are non-literate due to unawareness on importance of education. Only 139 (33.82%) males are educated up to primary level followed by 22 (5.35%) males who are educated up to middle class. Only 10 (2.43%) males are literate up to matriculation level and, just 4 (0.97%) males up to intermediate level. When it comes to female category, 211 (58.45%) females are non-lliterate due to unawareness and other social factors. 127 (35.18%) females are literate up to primary level whereas 18 (4.99%) females up to middle class. Only 3 (0.83%) females reach to matriculation and 2 (0.55%) females are educated up to intermediate level. Among studied Hill Korwas, males are more educated than females. Household works, domestication of cattle, child rearing, and minor forest produce collection are main reason behind low female education. In most cases, education and certificates are in pen and paper, people even do not possess any knowledge except their signature and name. They are still educated in uneducated way.

Figure -4: Details of Primary Occupational status of the studied population

This Pie chart (fig. 4) gives details about the primary occupation of the studied Hill Korwas. As per analysis, the whole population is divided into nine categories which are unemployed, govt employee, private employee, farmers, business man, housewife, labourer, minor forest products collection, and students. From the above pie chart it can be concluded that nearly 39% of the studied population is unemployed followed by students (17.10%), farmers (15.70%), labourers (14.70%), Minor Forest products' collator (7.50%), housewife (2.40%), private employee (1.50%), government employee (1.10%), and business men (0.70%).

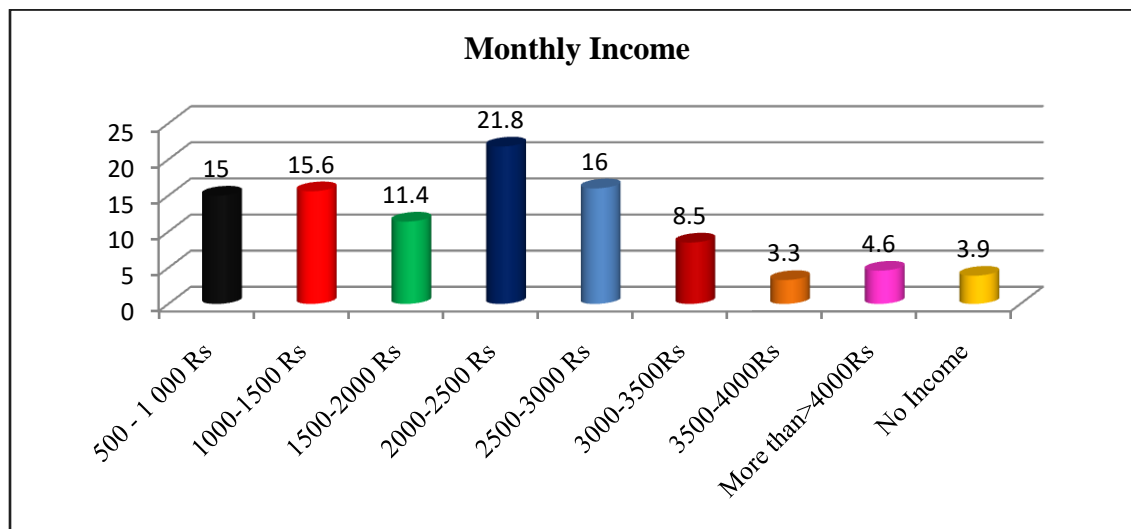**Figure -5: Details of Secondary Occupational status of the population**

The above bar diagram (fig. 5) depicts about the secondary occupation of the people of the studied area. Prior to primary occupation, secondary occupations are followed by the people to fulfil their family needs. Here, 12.9% of individuals are involved in minor forest products collection, whereas 6.2% do labour as secondary occupation; out of which 5.7% are doing cultivation, while 2.8% are domesticating animals; 3.7% of the studied population especially

women are indulge in making and selling liquor as home based livelihood, and 1.8% of people are doing small scale business as secondary occupation. Hunting and gathering is the base of tribal economy. As per data, only 6.6% of the population are hunting animals as secondary means of livelihood. 60.4% people are maintaining their livelihood only by preferring primary occupation because of busy schedule of work and long distance to their working area.

Table-3: Main Hunting Animals in Hill Korwas

Main Hunting Animal	Frequency	Percent
Pig/Rate/Fish	50	16.3
Beer/Deer	5	1.6
Birds (Pigeon/Shuttlecock/Crane/Forest Hen)	16	5.2
Not Hunting	236	76.9
Total	**307**	**100.0**

As we know hunting is a major aspect of tribal economy, that's why this table-3 puts light into the social as well as environmental relationship of Hill Korwa people through nature-nurture concept. The so studied twenty-six villages are not uniformly distributed and the geographic features also differ by means of reaching and study purpose. Some villages are full of woods and hunting of wild animals is a crucial part of fetching livelihood easily. As per data, out of 307 households, 50 households (16.3%) are hunting pigs, rats and fishes. Only five households (1.6%) are hunting big animals like bear, and deer; while 16 households (5.2%) are hunting birds like pigeon, forest hen, crane, and cocks etc. Due to new forest rules and new work settlements, 236(76.9%) households gave up hunting from their livelihood option.

Monthly Income chart showing: 500 - 1000 Rs: 15, 1000-1500 Rs: 15.6, 1500-2000 Rs: 11.4, 2000-2500 Rs: 21.8, 2500-3000 Rs: 16, 3000-3500Rs: 8.5, 3500-4000Rs: 3.3, More than>4000Rs: 4.6, No Income: 3.9

Figure-6: Status of monthly income among the studied population

The above bar diagram (fig. 6) reveals the status of monthly income of Hill Korwas in the studied area. In this study, the monthly income is grouped into nine income levels. As seen, those are Rs. 500-1000, Rs. 1000-1500, Rs. 1500-2000, Rs. 2000-2500, Rs. 2500-3000, Rs. 3000-3500, Rs. 3500-4000, more than 4000, and no income. It is observed that, out of 307 households, 67 (21.8%) households are getting 2000-2500 rupees in a month. About 49 (16.0%) households have the monthly income between 2500-3000 rupees. Again, 48 (15.6%) households are getting 1000-1500 rupees in a month, followed by 46 (15.0%) households are getting 500-1000 rupees, and 35 (11.4%) households are getting 1500-2000 rupees. Though tribal economy is not so monetary, 26 (8.5%) households are earning 3000-3500 rupees followed by 14 (4.6%) households earning more than 4000 rupees, where as 10 (3.3%) households have the monthly income of 3000-3500 rupees. Most significantly, 12 (3.9%) households have no income because the members of these households are non-literate and have stigma towards the self centred job.

Table-4: Family Types found among Hill Korwas

Types of Family	Frequency	Percent
Nuclear Family	265	86.3
Joint Family	6	2.0
Minimal/Broken Family	13	4.2
Single Member Family	23	7.5
Total	**307**	**100.0**

This table-4 illustrates about the family type of Hill Korwas in the studied area. As per analysis it is found that, out of 307 households, 265 (86.3%) households are nuclear type as tribal people lives separately after marriage. Again 23 (7.5%) households are single member family mostly resided by old and widow/widower. 13 (4.2%) households are minimal/ broken type. Joint families are rarely seen among the tribal. As per the data, only 6 (2.0%) households are joint family.

Table-5: Family Size of the Hill Korwas

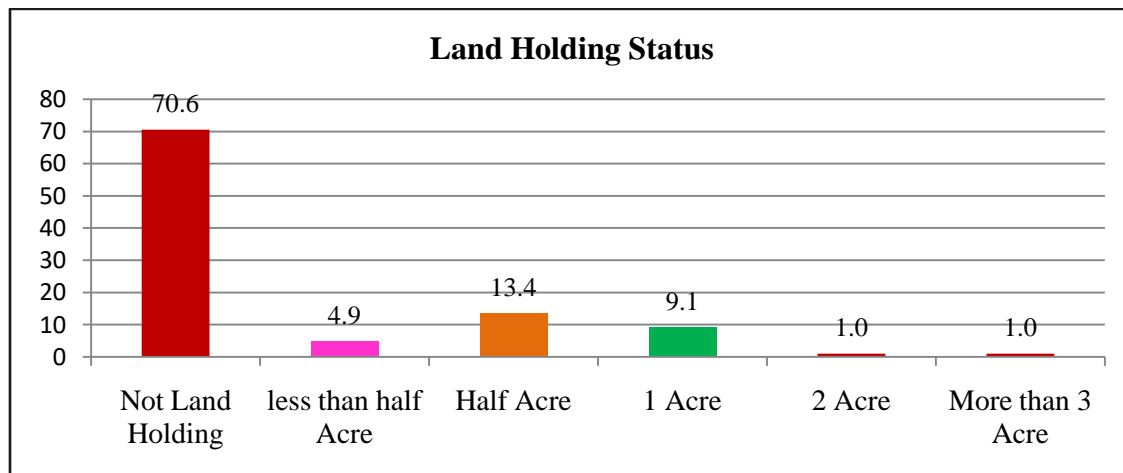|	
Total Household studied	307
Total Population	1073
Minimum Family Size	1
Maximum Family Size	8

Average Family Size	3.51

Table-5 depicts the number of persons living in the family. Total 307 households include 1073 persons in both male and female category. The minimum family size consist one member where as the maximum family size consist 8 members. In an average 3 (3.51 mean value) persons are residing in a family.

Table-6: Land Holding Status of the studied households

Land Holding Status	Frequency	Percent
Yes	90	29.3
No	217	70.7
Total	**307**	**100.0**

The above table-6 shows the land holding status of studied Hill Korwas. Very clearly, 217 (70.7%) households out of 307 households have no land and only 90 (29.3%) households have land.

Figure-7: Details of Land Holding Status of the studied households

The details of land holding status of Hill Korwas in the studied area is shown in the figure-7. The amount of land according to data is divided into six categories. These are as follows: no land holding, less than half acre, half acre, one acre, two acres, and more than two acres. It is observed that, 217 (70.7%) households have no land. They are mainly dependent upon the daily wages given by the contractor's job and forest products collection. Total 41 (13.4%) households have half acre of land, 15 (4.9%) households have less than half acre of land, 28 (9.1%) households have one acre of land followed by 3 (1.0%) households having one acre of land, and also 3 (1.0%) households have more than 2 acres of land.

Table-7: Details of house types among the studied households

House Types	Frequency	Percent
Kachha	205	66.8
Semi-Kachcha	81	26.4
Semi-Pakka	21	6.8
Total	**307**	**100.0**

This table-7 shows the pattern of houses resided by Hill Korwas in the studied area. As per data, 205 (66.8%) houses are kachha which are made up of mud and palm leafs/ grasses. 81 (26.4%) houses are semi kachha in nature made up of mud and tiles, where 21 (6.8%) houses are semi pakka which have cement floor or cement walls and tiles/asbestos roof.

Table-8: Number of rooms available in the studied houses

Number of Rooms	Frequency	Percent
1 room only	217	70.7
2 room	70	22.8
3 room	20	6.5
Total	**307**	**100.0**

This table-8 shows the availability of rooms in the houses of the studied area. Out of 307 households, 217 (70.7%) households have only single room, while 70 (22.8%) households have two rooms. Only 20 (6.5%) households have three rooms in the house.

Table-9: Details of source of light in the studied houses

Source of Light	Yes		No	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Electricity	62	20.2	245	79.8
Wood/Kerosene	299	97.4	8	2.6
Solar Light	122	39.7	185	60.3
Candle/Lalten/Dhibri	307	100.0	-	-

This table-9 represents the sources of light used by Hill Korwas in the studied area. Light sources are divided into four categories such as electricity, wood/kerosene, solar light, and candle/lantern/dhibri. From analysis, it is found that 62 households (20.2%) are using electricity as a source of light, while 245 (79.8%) households have no electricity. Again 299 (97.4%)

households are dependent upon wood/kerosene for light, whereas 8 (2.6%) households are avoiding use of wood/kerosene. 122 (39.75%) households have solar light as a source of light, while 185 (60.3%) households are not using the solar light as these are not given by government or those having solar system are out of order. All the households are using candle/lantern/dhibri as movable light source.

Table-10: Status of domesticated animals in the studied houses

Domesticated animal	Frequency	Percent
Yes	173	56.4
No	134	43.6
Total	**307**	**100.0**

Domestication is a part of tribal livelihood. Table-10 reveals the status of domestication in the studied area. Out of 307 households, 173 (56.4%) households are domesticating animals, while 134 (43.6%) households are not domesticating because they are not able to fulfil their basic needs due to low economy.

Table-11: Type of domesticated animals in the studied houses

Domesticated animal	Frequency	Percent (out of Total Studied Households)	Percent (out of Households having domestic animals)
Cow/Bull	29	9.4	16.8
Pig	74	24.1	42.8
Goat/Hen/Duck	70	22.8	40.5
Total	173	56.4	100.0

In the above table-11, the domesticating animals are categorised and distributed in number as well as percentage wise as per household data. Out of 173 households, 29 (9.4%) households are domesticating cattle like cow and bull. 74 (24.1%) households rearing pigs for food as well as rituals and ceremonies. 70 (22.8%) households are also rearing hen/goats/ducks for personal as well as ritualistic purposes.

Table-12: Details of source of Drinking water

Source of Drinking water	Frequency	Percent
Well	82	26.7
Hand Pump	69	22.5
Dhodi (Small temporary well)(depth upto maximum 3 feet)	99	32.2
Others (Rivers/Stream/Pond)	57	18.6
Total	**307**	**100.0**

Table-12 highlights the sources of drinking water utilised by the Hill Korwas. There are four different water sources in the studied area. As per data, 82 (26.7%) households are using well as a source of drinking water. Again 69 (22.5%) households are using hand pump for water, followed by 99 (32.2%) households utilising Dhodi (Small temporary well depth up to maximum 3 feet) as a source of water. 57 (18.6%) households depend upon rivers/stream/pond water to overcome the water scarcity in the hilly area.
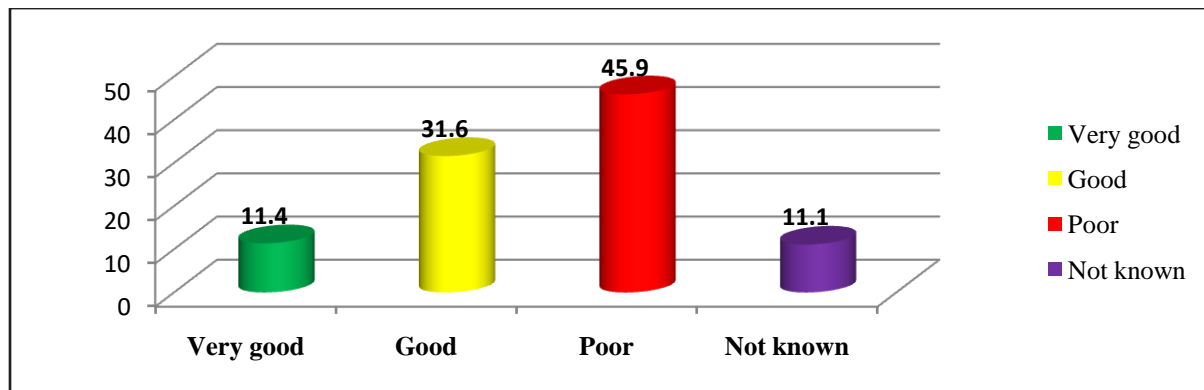

Figure-8: Quality of drinking water as per respondents view

Figure-8 depicts about the quality of drinking water consumed by Hill Korwas through different sources of water. As per informants' information, the quality of water segregated into four types such as; very good, good, poor, and not known. Out of 307 households, 35 (11.4%) households consume very good quality water, whereas 97 (31.6%) households consuming only good quality water. About 141 (45.9%) households are consuming poor quality water, and 34 (11.1%) households having no knowledge regarding quality of drinking water.

Table-13: Adequacy status of monthly income to manage household expenditures

Status	Frequency	Percent
Yes	163	53.1
No	144	46.9
Total	**307**	**100.0**

Table-13 highlights the adequacy status of monthly income to manage household expenditure among Hill Korwas. As per data, 163 (53.1%) households are managing their household expenditure but they remain still poor, whereas 144 (46.9%) households are not able to manage it.

Table-14: Ways of managing family expenditure in the houses having less monthly income

Ways	Frequency	Percent
Taking loan/ credit from friends and relatives	73	50.69
Taking loan from money Landers	53	36.81
Others (purchasing goods in credit/moving to relatives house/selling animals)	18	12.50
Total	**144**	100.00

Those who are not able to manage by monthly income, they are taking help of other sources. As per analysis (Table-15), 73 (50.69%) households take loan/ credits from their friends and relatives. 53 (36.81%) households are taking help from money Landers, and rest 18 (12.50%) households are managing by credit/moving to relatives house/selling domesticated animals.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Thus it can be concluded that the socio-economic and demographic profile of the Hill Korwas calls for concern. The Sex ratio of studied people is 844 which are below national average and it is not a good sign. It was found from the study that 50.79% are married and 45.85% are un-married. There is more number of non-literates (57.9%) than literates (42.1%) and only 35.18% females are literates in the studied villages. It is observed that, 21.8% households are getting Rs.2000/- to Rs.2500/- per month. About 16.0% households have the monthly income between Rs 2500/- to Rs 3000/-. The majority of the studied households (66.8%) have Kuccha houses. It

was found that 70.7% households are landless, and 29.3% having land. As per data, 26.7% households are using well as a source of drinking water. Again 22.5% households are using hand pump for drinking water followed by 32.2% households utilising Dhodi (Small temporary well depth up to maximum 3 feet) water, and 18.6% households depend upon rivers/stream/pond water. 53.1% households are managing their household expenditure but they remain still poor. 50.69% households take loan/ credits from their friends and relatives. The following strategies if actively pursued could go a long way towards improving the socio-economic status of the Hill Korwas.

Strategies for the Improvement of Socio-Economic Condition

• Formulation and proper implementation of sustainable integrated livelihood programme taking into account the ecological, social, and cultural resources of the people.

• Up gradation of traditional skill, knowledge with a motto to maximize high economic returns.

• Greater participation of people in all kinds development programmes.

• Provision of deep tube-well in each village to ensure safe drinking water.

• Motivating the people for use of modern technology compatible with social and cultural norms.

• Safeguarding of traditional rights over forest for collection and selling of non-timber forest produce (NTFP).

• Proper enforcement of land rights to the people.

• Compulsory primary, vocational, and adult education.

• Involvement of NGOs in implementation of different developmental projects for proper implementation and to ensure the sustainability.

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