



A Study on Gender Participation and Types of Bamboo Products Prepared by Artisans in Northern Karnataka

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

Aim: To study the gender participation in bamboo making products and to know the products prepared by the bamboo artisans.

Study Design: Exploratory design was used.

Place and Duration of Study: Study was conducted in Northern Karnataka districts of Dharwad, Belgavi and Uttar Kannada in the year 2019-2020.

Methodology: Random sampling method was applied to select a sample size of 120 bamboo artisans' family (Forty respondents from each district). The respondents were interviewed personally to elicit the primary information by using self structured interview schedule.

Results: Bamboo enterprise activities were mainly dominated by women (66.66%). In Dharwad district, majority of the respondents prepared bamboo articles like rotti basket (87.50%), chibla

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(75.00%) and hand fan (60.00%) and as far as Belagavi district is concerned, all most all the respondent's prepared religious basket (yellaman butti) followed by yellaman jaga (religious basket) (90.00%), further in Uttar Kannada district, all the respondents prepared mara followed by sieve (57.50%).

Conclusion: Bamboo products making is lead by women in Northern Karnataka districts. Each district has its own dominating product i.e., Rotti basket, Chibla and Religious basket in Dharwad, Belgavi and Uttar Kannada districts respectively.

Keywords: Bamboo artisans; stripping; weaving; Chibla and Kunni.

1. INTRODUCTION

The history of this origin started from the beginning of the civilization when man started food crops thousands of years back. A man born in a bamboo cradle and goes to eternal rest in a bamboo coffin. Baskets have been revealed in the Middle East of 7000 years old and then people started using bamboo for various purposes viz., house construction, agricultural tools and implements, as food material (bamboo shoots which is good source of nutrition), furniture, mats, baskets, hats, traditional toys, musical instruments, weapons, and other handicrafts etc. Bamboo is used in household level, farm level, industry level, cultural level, medicinal level.

During the Industrial Revolution, baskets were used in the factories, for packing and deliveries of the products. During world war messenger pigeons were transported through thousands bamboo baskets. There were also observational balloon baskets, baskets for shell cases and airborne pannier baskets used for dropping supplies of ammunition and food to the troops.

Bamboo is a great protector of earth's health and wealth. It maintains the balance of oxygen and CO₂ in the atmosphere [1]. Thus bamboos are environment friendly and can solve many problems related to environment. Bamboo leaf has a medicinal value and is listed by the ministry of health. Bamboo products are eco friendly, germ free and bamboo products can be maintained and should be prevented by water contact to the products like furniture and handicraft.

In Karnataka bamboo artisans import raw materials mostly from Maharashtra the gender involvement in the bamboo enterprise may vary from state to state and in Karnataka participation in bamboo products making is high among female compare to men. In the activities like purchasing of raw material, bamboo cutting,

bamboo stripping and marketing is done by both male and female but anyhow the involvement is more by female. In weaving of bamboo products it is mainly dominated by women.

In India about 85.00 per cent (400 million) of the workers are working in unorganized sector and in which 120 million are female stated by Chandrashekar Hajra. The ministry of Labor and Employment, Government of India has classified the unorganized labor force into four groups based on the occupation, nature of job, especially distressed categories and service categories. The presence of a vast multitude of women as workers and producers in the unorganized sector, where earnings are low, seasonal employment and insecure employment, supportive services miserably inadequate or even non-existent, fewer growth opportunities and weak collective organization has brought into sharp focus the failure of mainstream to alleviate their difficulties [2].

1.1 Objectives of the Study

1. To study the gender participation in bamboo enterprise
2. To know the type of bamboo products prepared by bamboo artisans

1.2 Review of Literature

Sosala and Johnsen [3] revealed that the men's involvement in the bamboo handicrafts and furniture was more. Seasonal problem was the main problem faced by the bamboo handicraft entrepreneurs.

Jha and Yadava [4] observed that men were more involved in the crafts making and less involvement of women was seen in the bamboo enterprise.

Mathura [5] revealed that women's involvement in bamboo weaving was less compare to men. The involvements of males were 66.00 per cent

and females involvements were 44.00 per cent. The families were having better livelihood by the bamboo activity.

Nwaihu et al. [6] depicted that majority male were involved in work (78.00%) followed by 22.00 per cent of female were involved.

Paik [7] showed that major per cent of (88.00%) male involved in bamboo enterprise followed by 12.00 per cent was involved by female in bamboo enterprise.

Tayyaba et al. [8] revealed that women started working due to lack of money and joblessness of the men in the family. Women played an important role in the contributing to economic development.

Kalanzi et al. [9] resulted that the processing of bamboo product making was dominated by men and marketing was followed by the women. In some bamboo product activities like weaving baskets were not generally acceptable for women.

Martin et al. [10] depicted that majority of the females were more engaged in the bamboo harvesting (40.0% vs 14.5%) followed by male were engaged in the bamboo products making and marketing (50.7% vs 11.4%).

Preetika and Amita [11] depicted that majority of the women (70.60%) were involved in work whereas 29.40 per cent men were involved in work.

Taiebur and Dhanonjoy [12] resulted that more than half of the respondents were male involved in work (58.00%) followed by 42.00 per cent of women were involved in bamboo work.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Type of Research

The research design adopted for the present investigation was exploratory type.

‘A research design is the arrangement of conditions for collection and analysis of data in a manner that aims to combine relevance to research purpose with economy in procedure’ (Joshi et al. 2013). Research design facilitates the smooth sailing of the various research operations in systematic manner.

Exploratory Research: It is the research design for exploring, recording, analyzing and interpreting situations that exist in a selected environment. An exploratory study aims at

gaining familiarity with phenomenon in order to understand it or achieve new insight into it.

2.2 Data Collection

2.2.1 Locale of the study

The study was conducted in three districts of Northern Karnataka viz., Dharwad, Uttara Kannada and Belagavi districts.

2.2.2 Selection of taluks and villages

Selection of taluk: One taluk from each district was selected.

Selection of villages: Two villages were randomly selected from each selected taluk in the study area.

2.2.3 Selection of respondents

Representative sample of 20 bamboo artisans were randomly selected from six selected villages of the study area. Thus the total sample comprises of 120 bamboo artisans including both women and men. The sampling design for selection of sample for the study.

2.3 Sampling Procedure

Keeping in view of the objectives of the study, random sampling technique was adopted. Totally 120 bamboo artisans families were selected for the study.

In order to identify the activities performed by the artisans and their participation level, a list of various activities was prepared by consulting the experts. The responses from each of the respondents were obtained on the activities performed by the respondents on a five point scale according to AICRP Home Science annual report FRM, 2014-2015 as detailed below:

Category	Score
WE- Women Exclusive	1
WD- Women Dominated	2
ME- Men Exclusive	3
MD- Men Dominated	4
EP- Equal Participation	5

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The details of gender participation in bamboo enterprise are presented in Table 1. Bamboo enterprise involves the activities like purchase of

bamboo raw materials, cutting, stripping and marketing. All the bamboo activities except marketing was women dominated activities, wherein majority (91.67%) of the women participated in weaving followed by cutting (62.50%), stripping (58.34%) and purchasing of raw materials (50.00%) and only 23.33 per cent were involved in marketing activity.

Marketing as men dominated activity according to majority (68.34%) of the respondents followed by cutting (25.00%), stripping (20.83%) and purchasing (16.66%) activities.

Thirty three per cent respondents were considered purchasing of bamboo raw materials as equal participation activity wherein both men and women were involved. And 20.83 per cent of the respondents considered stripping and cutting (12.50%) activities followed by equal and least (8.33%) per cent participated in weaving and marketing activities.

Comparable study by Preetika and Amita [13] resulted that majority of the women were involved in work whereas 29.40 per cent men involved in work. And are also in line with Ramswamy and Jyoti [14] revealed that maximum (98.00%) women involved in weaving activity (98.00%) followed by men (2.00%). Data et al. [15] resulted that majority of the respondents of women belonged to the medium entrepreneurial behavior category (53.75%) followed by 16.25 per cent of the respondents belonged to high level entrepreneurial behavior category. Krishna and Premangshu [16] showed that most of the women in crafts played a role of just a helper and it was male dominance which may be said a hindrance to women empowerment.

The type of bamboo articles prepared by the respondents is presented in Table 2. In Dharwad district, majority of the respondents prepared bamboo articles like rotti basket (87.50%), chibla (75.00%) and hand fan (60.00%) followed by religious basket (yellaman butti) (50.00%), Jelly butti (47.50%), ice cream stick (42.50%), flower basket (27.50%), mara (15.00%) and ladder (12.50%). However none of the respondents in this district prepared sieve and kunni (fishing equipment) product [17,18].

As far as Belagavi district is concerned, all most all the respondent's prepared religious basket (yellaman butti) followed by yellaman jaga (religious basket) (90.00%). Fifty per cent of the respondents prepared chibla and 40.00 per cent prepared sieve followed by rotti basket (37.50%), flower basket (20.00%), and only 5.00 per cent of the respondents involved in hand fan and ladder preparation. None of the respondents prepared handicraft, mara, jelly and kunni products.

In Uttar Kannada district, all the respondents prepared mara followed by sieve (57.50%), flower basket (12.50%) rotti basket (10.00%) and least per cent of the respondents prepared religious basket (yellaman butti) (5.00%), kunni small and large fishing equipment (2.50%). None of the respondents were involved in preparation of bamboo articles like hand fan, ice cream stick, ladder, flower basket, handicraft, jelly butti and religious basket (yellaman jaga).

The reasons maybe that respondents from all three districts were used to prepare the articles which have more demand in their respective area, they might have skills of preparing specific articles and they prepare articles based on regional demand.

Table 1. Gender participation in bamboo enterprise

Sl. No.	Type of activity	Gender participation				
		WE	WD	ME	MD	EP
1	Purchasing of bamboo raw materials	-	60 (50.00)	-	20 (16.66)	40 (33.34)
2	Cutting	-	75 (62.50)	-	30 (25.00)	15 (12.50)
3	Stripping	-	70 (58.34)	-	25 (20.83)	25 (20.83)
4	Weaving	-	110 (91.67)	-	-	10 (8.33)
5	Marketing	-	28 (23.33)	-	82(68.34)	10 (8.33)

Note- Figures in the parenthesis indicates percentage

WE- Women exclusive
 WD- Women dominated
 ME- Men exclusive
 MD- Men dominated
 EP- Equal participation

Table 2. Type of bamboo products prepared by the respondents in the study area

Sl. No.	Bamboo articles	N=120			
		n₁=40	n₂=40	n₃=40	N=120
		Frequency (%)	Frequency (%)	Frequency (%)	Frequency (%)
1	Rotti basket	35 (87.50)	15 (37.50)	4 (10.00)	54 (45)
2	Chibla (small plate)	30 (75.00)	20 (50.00)	-	50 (41.66)
3	Hand fan	24 (60.00)	2 (5.00)	-	26 (21.66)
4	Ice cream stick	17 (42.50)	10 (25.00)	-	27 (22.50)
5	Ladder	5 (12.50)	2 (5.00)	-	7 (5.83)
6	Flower basket	11 (27.50)	8 (20.00)	5 (12.50)	24 (20.00)
7	Handicrafts	2 (5.00)	-	-	2 (1.66)
8	Mara (Grain cleaner)	6 (15.00)	-	40 (100)	46 (38.33)
9	Jelly butti (Big basket)	19 (47.50)	-	-	19 (15.83)
10	Sieve	-	16 (40.00)	23 (57.50)	39 (32.50)
11	Yellaman butti (Local word) religious basket	20 (50.00)	40 (100)	2 (5.00)	62 (51.66)
12	Yellaman jaga (Local word) religious basket	11 (27.50)	36 (90.00)	-	47 (39.16)
13	Kunni(fishing equipment)small	-	-	1 (2.50)	1 (2.50)
14	Kunni (Large)	-	-	1 (2.50)	1 (2.50)

Note- Figures in the parenthesis indicate percentages

Multiple responses

n_1 = Dharwad district n_2 = Belagavi district n_3 = Uttar Kannada district

4. CONCLUSION

All the activities except marketing were considered as women dominated hence proved that bamboo artisans occupation is an women dominated activity in which they were indulge in the activities like cutting, stripping and weaving the bamboo. The selected district has its own importance and has its own unique products prepared by bamboo. Cent per cent of the respondents prepared religious basket (Yellaman butti) and mara in Belagavi and Uttar Kannada district respectively, whereas majority of respondents prepared rotti basket and chibla in Dharwad district.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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