Volume-3 | Issue-6 | June - 2025 | Page 133-150

An Empirical Insight into Socio-Economic Conditions of Selected Tribal Villages in Chhattisgarh

Aminu Muhammad Musa

Post Graduate Student

Department of Geography, Faculty of Arts & Humanities,
Kalinga University, Naya Raipur, Chhattisgarh
musaaminumuhammad777@gmail.com

Abstract

The socio-economic conditions of Palaud, Kotni, Seoni, and Lakholi in Arang Block, Raipur Chhattisgarh, highlight significant disparities influenced marginalization, agricultural dependence, and infrastructural deficiencies. Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Scheduled Castes (SCs) constitute a major portion of the population, often facing exclusion from land ownership, credit access, and education. The housing conditions indicate economic constraints, with 55-65% of homes being kutcha, while access to electricity and clean drinking water remains limited. Landholding patterns show that 50% of households own less than one hectare, and 20% are landless, similar trends also observed in other villages under studies. Agriculture with 70% is the predominant occupation, supplemented by daily wage labor and minor forest produce (MFP) collection. Low agricultural productivity and reliance on traditional methods make these communities vulnerable to erratic rainfall and market fluctuations. Income levels are low, with most earning ₹5,000-₹10,000 per month, while 30% of households fall below ₹5,000. Access to basic amenities is uneven. Although electricity coverage is high among pucca houses, only 60% of households in Palaud have access to clean water. Sanitation infrastructure is lacking, with just 30% of homes having toilets. Healthcare services are inadequate, with one Primary Health Center (PHC) for the entire block, leading villagers to rely on private practitioners and traditional remedies. This study emphasizes the urgent need for land reforms, economic diversification, improved education, healthcare, and infrastructure development to uplift marginalized communities and promote Sustainable Rural Development in Chhattisgarh.

Keywords: Minor Forest produce, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Scheduled Tribes, Sustainable Rural Development

Introduction



Volume-3 | Issue-6 | June - 2025 | Page 133-150

In many parts of the world especially in rural settings, housing types, family structure and caste compositions are all intricately linked to the socio-economic circumstances of a communities so also in rural villages of India. These elements affect social mobility, resource accessibility and general quality of life (Shah, A., & Guru, B., 2004). Despite the numerous government programs designed to enhance rural livelihoods, there are still large gaps in their efficacy and execution. For instance, in the Arang Block of Raipur District, Chhattisgarh, the villages of Palaud, Kotni, Seoni-1, and Lakholi face a number of socio-economic difficulties such as substandard housing, small and marginal land-holdings, low-income levels, a lack of occupational diversity and insufficient access to basic necessities (Indian Statistical Institute, 2021).

Academic and policy-oriented research has focused on the socio-economic circumstances of rural villages in India, especially in areas like Chhattisgarh that are dominated by tribal communities, traditional agricultural methods and differing levels of access to modern-day facilities and infrastructure that define India's rural areas. A significant segment of the state's population lives in rural areas, where agriculture is the main source of income, according to the (2011) Census of India. However, the socio-economic circumstances in these regions are frequently characterized by difficulties such as limited access to economic opportunities, healthcare and education which are made worse by the lack of infrastructure and geographic isolation (Planning Commission, 2013). Additionally, the tribal groups in these villages frequently face with difficulties such as limited access to resources and cultural marginalization.

The productivity and revenue generation in agriculture are limited to small and marginal land holdings. Daily wage labor and the collection of marginal forest produce (MFP) are the main sources of income for landless households, especially those who are members of scheduled tribes and scheduled castes (Xaxa, 2011). These difficulties are made worse by the dependence on rain-fed agriculture, since crop failures are frequently caused by unpredictable rainfall and an inadequate or lack of irrigation facilities. One major barrier to socioeconomic growth is low-income levels. Therefore, a multifaceted strategy is needed to address this problem that encompasses expanding access to healthcare and education, encouraging alternative livelihoods, and increasing agricultural output. Lack of occupational diversity also hinders resilience and economic progress. Additionally, encouraging non-farm source of



Volume-3 | Issue-6 | June - 2025 | Page 133-150

revenue, such handicrafts and small-scale industries, can reduce reliance on agriculture and offer alternate sources of income. Despite all the challenges face by these communities, there is little or no studies conducted concerning the socio-economic conditions of these communities. (Masudkar, D. D., Kamble, V. B., & Anarase, M. S., 2017).

Therefore, this study aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the socioeconomic conditions in Palaud, Kotni, Seoni-1, and Lakholi villages, focusing on key indicators such as income levels, employment patterns, education, health, housing types and access to basic amenities.

By doing so, it seeks to contribute to the broader discourse on rural development in Chhattisgarh and inform policy interventions aimed at improving the quality of life in these communities.

Literature Review

Examining income levels, employment, land ownership, infrastructure, and government actions is necessary to comprehend the socioeconomic environment of rural India. The socioeconomic difficulties that India's rural populations face have been the subject of numerous studies.

For instance, Islam and Mustaquim (2014) conducted a study in Udaipur Village, Malda District, West Bengal, indicating that 44.8% of the population had a monthly per capita income below Rs. 500, with only 4.34% earning above Rs. 2000. To improve the socioeconomic circumstances of rural inhabitants, the study underlined the necessity of better educational possibilities, primary healthcare facilities, and work chances (Islam & Mustaquim, 2014).

In similar vein, the socioeconomic status of rural women in Udaipur, Rajasthan, was also examined by Dangi and Bansal (2023), who discovered that 83.34% of respondents had a medium socio-economic status and 16.67% were in the low socioeconomic group. The study emphasized how crucial economic engagement and education are important in raising rural women's status (Dangi & Bansal, 2023). Pandey & Dwivedi (2016) also state that low purchasing power, low quality housing, restricted access to education, and inadequate transportation infrastructure are characteristics of rural India. The report emphasizes how scheduled tribes (STs) and scheduled castes (SCs) suffer disproportionately from economic



Volume-3 | Issue-6 | June - 2025 | Page 133-150

hardship, mostly as a result of their reliance on subsistence wage labor and lack of ownership of irrigated land. Although they frequently encounter major socio-economic obstacles, women are vital to rural economies.

According to a 2017 study on rural empowerment in India, women-led self-help groups (SHGs) have played a significant role in enhancing social mobility and financial independence. SHGs have played a key role in Chhattisgarh's development of alternate sources of income through small-scale businesses and microfinance (Journal of Rural Development, 2017).

In a case study in Arepalli Rangampet, Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh, Yasaswini et al. (2017) brought attention to the lack of education and gender discrimination faced by rural women. According to the survey, the majority of women worked in low-paying occupations such vegetable sales, tailoring, and agricultural labor had little access to healthcare and education (Yasaswini et al., 2017).

Khan (2016) in his study noted that although agriculture employs more than 70% of the rural workforce, their income is constrained by antiquated farming practices and inadequate irrigation infrastructure. Furthermore, research conducted in Maharashtra emphasizes how scientific orientation, risk tolerance, and economic motivation affect agriculture output.

Caste-based inequalities impact agricultural land ownership, causing many marginalized communities to depend on daily-wage labor rather than autonomous farming (Garg & Karan, 2009). These results apply to Seoni and Lakholi, where comparable socio-economic trends are prevalent.

According to a study by Reddy et al., (2017) on the socio-economic standing of livestock producers in Ibrahimpur Village, North Goa, cattle made up 69% of the livestock population, with buffaloes coming in second at 27% and goats at 4%. In order to keep young people in farming, the study emphasized the difficulties posed by poor agricultural profitability and the necessity of having access to markets, loans, and extension services (Reddy et al., 2017).

Several government schemes were designed with the aim to enhance rural economic conditions, but their effectiveness is questionable. The socio-economic and caste census (2011) revealed that a significant proportion of rural households remain deprived of government benefits due to exclusion and inclusion errors in policy implementation. This has direct implications for Chhattisgarh, where access to schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Awas



Volume-3 | Issue-6 | June - 2025 | Page 133-150

Yojana (PMAY) and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) remains inconsistent (Ministry of Rural Development, India, 2023).

Additionally, Singh et al. (2017) stress that, local governance, involvement in social groups, and transparency in funding distribution are critical to the effectiveness of programs aimed at reducing poverty. The results imply that improved policy implementation and community involvement in local administration could be advantageous for villages such as Palaud, Kotni, Seoni-1 and Lakholi. Yasaswini et al. (2017) talked about a number of government programs, including Swayam Sidha, Swadhar, and Stree Shakti, that aim to empower rural women by providing them with financial support, job possibilities, and skill development. But the study also made clear that these programs need to be better implemented and that rural women need to be more aware of them (Yasaswini et al., 2017).

According to Islam and Mustaquim (2014), socio-economic development in rural areas was significantly hampered by low literacy rates and limited access to healthcare services. The study suggested establishing additional elementary and secondary schools, offering primary healthcare, and raising people' understanding of health issues (Islam & Mustaquim, 2014).

The Study Area

The villages of Palaud, Kotni, Seoni-1 and Lakholi in the Arang Block of Raipur District, Chhattisgarh, each have unique geographical and socio-economic traits that influence the lives of their residents. The study area is located between latitude 21.15°N to 21.25°N and longitude 81.65°E to 81.75°E (Behera et al., 2023).

The topography of the study area is relatively flat, with gentle undulations, typical of the Chhattisgarh Plains with the elevation ranging between 250 to 300 meters above sea level. The landforms include flat to gently sloping agricultural lands, minor erosional features along seasonal streams, occasional low hillocks of lateritic origin, floodplains along the Mahanadi tributaries (Yasaswini et al., 2017). The region forms part of the Deccan Plateau's eastern fringe, with sedimentary rock formations underlying the fertile alluvial deposits (Behera et al., 2023).

The study area is also part of the Mahanadi River basin, which influences its drainage and landforms. The presence of small streams and seasonal rivulets contributes to the agricultural productivity of the area.



Volume-3 | Issue-6 | June - 2025 | Page 133-150

The study area experiences a tropical monsoon climate with three distinct seasons. The summer season start around (March to June) which is characterized by hot and dry climate, and sometimes temperature reaches 40-45°c. The Monsoon season start between (July to September) and is characterized by heavy rainfall (1200-1400 mm annually), which accounts about 85% of annual precipitation and is crucial for kharif crops cultivation like paddy. Winter which makes up the third season in the study area falls between (October to February) it's characterized by mild and pleasant environmental conditions and in some cases, temperature dropped to 10-15°c, suitable for rabi crops cultivation (Behera et al., 2023).

The natural vegetation in these villages consists of tropical dry deciduous forests, with species However, due to agricultural expansion, much of the forest cover has been replaced by croplands. The predominant soil types include, alluvial soils, black cotton soils and red and yellow soils (Behera et al., 2023).

These soil support diverse cropping patterns such as rice, wheat as the dominant crop in lowlands, pulse, and oilseeds in upland areas, which are the mainstay of the local economy (Yasaswini et al., 2017). These villages are well-connected by rural roads, facilitating transportation and access to nearby markets and administrative centers. Consequently, the study area is faced with soil degradation, deforestation, and water scarcity.

Materials and Method

Data on important socioeconomic variables, such as housing, land holdings, income levels, occupational distribution, caste composition, access to basic amenities etc., are gathered, analyzed, and interpreted. To achieve a thorough grasp of the socio-economic dynamics in the area, the study uses a mixed-methods approach, integrating quantitative and qualitative research approaches. Before the commencement of main study, a reconnaissance survey was conducted in the study area by a Survey student. This was done in order to be acquainted and familiar with the study area and secondly, observed areas for conducting interview, personal observation and questionnaire administration.



Volume-3 | Issue-6 | June - 2025 | Page 133-150

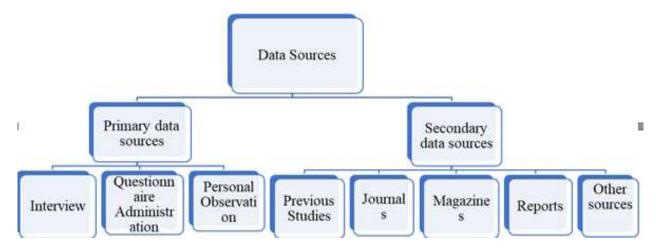


Figure 1: Chart Outlining Soures of Data Used for the Study

Figure 1 shows that both primary and secondary data were used for the study. To ensure representation of various social categories (STs, SCs, OBCs, and general category) and economic strata (landless, marginal, small, and large landholders), a sample of 200 respondents were selected (50 each from 4 villages) as sample size for the study using a stratified random sampling technique. The primary data was therefore, collected through personal interview, personal observation, in-depth interview and focus group discussion using convenience sampling technique. The respondents were selected and interviewed based on their convenience.

On the other hand, secondary data was sourced from previous studies, journals, magazines, newspapers, pamphlets, reports etc. For purpose of data analysis, data was coded and entered into MS-Excel and then interpreted using tables, frequency distribution charts (bar, pie charts etc.) and verbal explanations. In order to examine qualitative data from interviews and FGDs, thematic analysis was employed to find recurrent themes and patterns pertaining to socioeconomic opportunities and problems. Finally, the study complied with ethical research guidelines, which include, participants informed consent, confidentiality and all social groups are equally represented in the study, and biased in data collection and analysis is minimized.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The villages Palaud, Kotni, Seoni-1, and Lakholi are four villages situated in Arang block of Raipur district, Chhattisgarh which provide a representative insight into the socio-economic

Innovation Innovation and Integrative Research Center Journal

ISSN: 2584-1491 | www.iircj.org

Volume-3 | Issue-6 | June - 2025 | Page 133-150

conditions of rural Chhattisgarh, reflecting the state's diverse demographic composition, literacy levels, occupational patterns, gender dynamics etc.

Sex composition	Palaud		Kotni		Seoni-1		Lakholi	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Male	35	70	40	80	38	76	30	60
Female	15	30	10	20	12	24	20	40
Total	50	100	50	100	50	100	50	100
Age Group (Year)								
Below 30	09	18	10	20	10	20	08	16
31-40	20	40	22	44	10	20	16	32
41-50	16	32	08	16	23	46	20	40
51-Above	05	10	10	20	07	14	06	12
Total	50	100	50	100	50	100	50	100
Marital Status								
Single	15	30	10	20	10	20	05	10
Married	30	60	30	60	40	80	45	90
Widowed	05	10	10	20	00	00	00	00
Divorced	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
Total	50	100	50	100	50	100	50	100
	Sino	l Into	aretiva	Dace	sarch Co	entor	lourna	1
Educational Status	EIII IX.		9/41/0	11000	oaron oe	JIIICI	оошна	
Non-Formal	10	20	15	30	14	28	10	20
Primary	05	10	10	20	15	30	05	10
Secondary	12	24	08	16	05	10	08	16
Higher Secondary	10	20	10	20	07	14	10	20
Graduated	13	26	07	14	09	18	17	34
Total	50	100	50	100	50	100	50	100
Landholding Types								
Self-Owned	15	30	10	20	10	20	18	36
Family Land	20	40	35	70	30	60	25	50
Community Land	+		00	00	00	00	05	10
Commission Dans	05	10	00	00	00	UU	03	10
Rent Land	05	20	05	10	10	20	03	4

Table 1: Demographic Profile of the Study Area (Field Survey, 2025).

From the above table of socio-demographic characteristics of respondents of the survey area it shows that, the majority of the respondents in the villages of Palaud, Kotni, Seoni-1 and

Volume-3 | Issue-6 | June - 2025 | Page 133-150

Lakholi were male with 70%, 80%, 76% and 60% respectively, in terms of age group, the majority of the respondents were between the age group of 31-40 years with 40%, 44%, 20% and 32% respectively. Moreover, the majority of respondents in Palaud, Kotni, Seoni-1 and Lakholi village was married with 60%, 60%, 80% and 90% while the highest educational attainment of the respondents was secondary school certificate and higher secondary school certificate.

Literacy Rate by Gender



Figure 2: Literacy Rate of Respondents (Field Survey, 2025).

From the above figure, Palaud has highest literacy rate according to the data collected with 72% Male and 58% Female literacy rate.

Seoni has 70% of Male and 54% Female literacy rate, Kotni has the 68% Male and 52% Female literacy rate Lakholi with a literacy rate of 65% Male and 51% Female literacy rate has low literacy rate among the four villages according to the data collected.

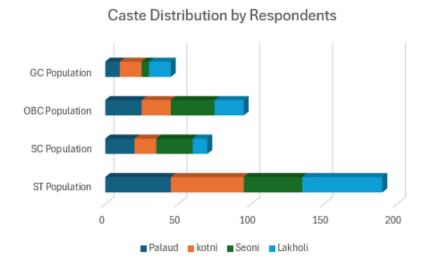


Figure 3: Caste distribution of the respondents (Field Survey, 2025).



Volume-3 | Issue-6 | June - 2025 | Page 133-150

From the above chart, In Palaud scheduled caste constitute 45%, scheduled tribe 20%, general caste 10% and other backward caste constitute 25% of the population, Kotni has a proportion of scheduled caste residents at 15%, with scheduled tribes at 50%, general caste at 15% and other backward caste constitute 20% of the total population for the study. Lakholi, scheduled castes constitute 10% of the population, while scheduled tribes account for 55%, general caste 15% and other backward caste constitute 20% of the total population of the study. Seoni-1's demographic includes 25% scheduled caste, 40% scheduled tribe, 5% general caste and 30% other backward caste populations for the study.

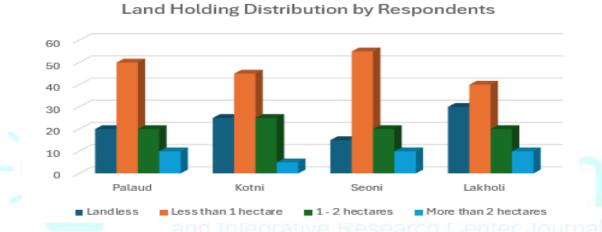


Figure 4: Landholding size by respondents (Field Survey, 2025).

From the data collected, landholding varies from one village to another and based on this study respondents were classified into landless, less than 1 hectare, 1-2 hectares and more than 2 hectares.

In Palaud, Kotni, Seoni-1 and Lakholi landless constitute 20%, 25%, 15% and 30% respectively. Less than 1-hectare landholders constitute 50%, 45, 55% and 40% respectively. 1-2 hectares landholders constitute 20%, 25%, 20% and 20% respectively while the more than 2 hectares landholders constitute 10%, 5%, 10% and 10% respectively. It clearly shows that 1-hectare landholders which according to national classification falls under marginal holders have the largest percentage among the study population.

Volume-3 | Issue-6 | June - 2025 | Page 133-150

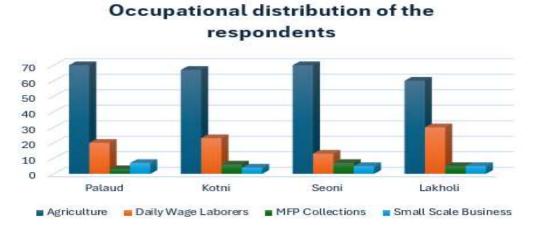


Figure 5: Occupational distribution of the respondents (Field Survey, 2025).

From the data collected among the four villages Palaud, 70% of the population is engaged in agricultural activities, daily wage laborers constitute 20% while small-scale businesses and other workers constitute 10%. Kotni has 65% individuals engaged in agricultural activities, daily wage laborers constitute 25% while small-scale businesses constitute 10%. In Seoni-1 also from the data collected 75% of the population is engaged in agricultural activities, daily wage laborers 15% while remaining also constitute 10%.

In Lakholi, 60% of the total population of the study engaged in agricultural activities, 30% engaged in daily wage laborers and 10% engaged in small-scale businesses and other workers. Based on the data interpretation, it clearly shows that majority of the respondents engaged in primary economic activities which is agriculture and agriculture-related activities.



Figure 6: Monthly income distribution of the respondents (Field Survey, 2025).

Volume-3 | Issue-6 | June - 2025 | Page 133-150

Based on the above sources, the average monthly income of households in Palaud, Kotni, Seoni, and Lakholi villages can be estimated as follows, average monthly income from agriculture and daily wage labour ₹3,000 to ₹8,000 per month, Small scale businesses ₹2,000 to ₹5,000 per month and earning from government scheme ₹5,000 to ₹8,500 per month. Lower-income households relying solely on agriculture or daily wage labor may earn ₹3,000 to ₹8,000 per month. Middle-income households with diversified income sources (e.g., agriculture + livestock + non-farm activities) may earn ₹15,000 to ₹20,000 per month. While higher-income households with larger landholdings, successful small-scale industries, or migrant workers may earn ₹20,000 to ₹25,000 per month.

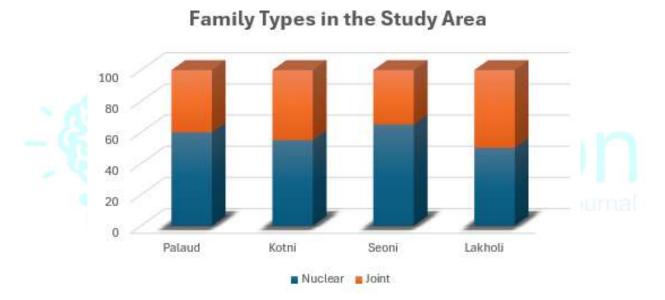


Figure 7: Family structure in the study area (Field Survey, 2025).

From the data obtained among the four villages of Palaud, Kotni, Seoni-1 and Lakholi two (2) family structures were identified joint or compound and single or nuclear families. In Palaud, Kotni, Seoni-1 and Lakholi the Joint families constitute about 40%, 45%, 35% and 50% of the study population while single or nuclear families constitute about 60%, 55%, 65% and 50% of the study population. In the setting of the study area, father is the of the family affairs. He allots specific duties and responsibilities to member in consultation the eldest male and female members of the family. If the father dies, either the eldest son or widowed mother in case the children are dependent, round the affairs.

Volume-3 | Issue-6 | June - 2025 | Page 133-150

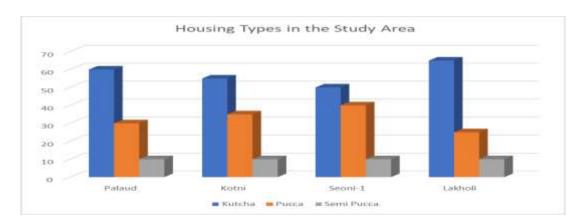


Figure 8: Housing types and quality in the study area (Field Survey, 2025).

In the study three (3) different housing structures was identified as pucca, semi-pucca and kutcha respectively. Among these four villages Palaud, Kotni, Seoni-1 and Lakholi pucca house constitute 30%, 35%, 40% and 25% respectively, semi-pucca constitute about 15%, 12%, 11% and 10% while kutcha house type constitutes about 55%, 53%, 49% and 65% respectively. From this information kutcha housing types forms the predominant housing types settled by respondents in the study area.

MAJOR FINDINGS

The socio-economic conditions of rural villages in India, particularly in tribal-dominated regions like Chhattisgarh, have been a focal point of academic and policy-oriented research. Based on the above interpreted data, the study come up with the following findings:

1. Caste compositions of the respondents

The caste composition of the villages reflects the broader social hierarchy in rural Chhattisgarh. Based on the field survey data sourced, scheduled tribes and scheduled castes constitute a significant proportion of the population, with other backward castes and general category families forming the remainder. Similarly, Caste composition has a significant impact on access to resources, education, and employment opportunities. Scheduled tribe and scheduled castes communities often face socio-economic marginalization, with limited access to land, credit, and government scheme. This marginalization is reflected in lower literacy rates and higher poverty levels among these communities.



Volume-3 | Issue-6 | June - 2025 | Page 133-150

2. Housing conditions and types of the respondents

The housing conditions in Palaud, Kotni, Seoni, and Lakholi reflect the economic status of the villagers. According to the data collected during the field surveys conducted in 2025, reveal that 60% of houses in Palaud are kutcha, while 10% are pucca.

Similar trends are observed in Kotni, Seoni, and Lakholi, with kutcha constituting 55%, 50%, and 65% of the housing stock respectively. The predominance of kutcha and semi-pucca houses highlights the economic constraints faced by the villagers. Poor housing conditions are closely linked to limited access to basic amenities such as electricity and clean water. But due to the introduction of Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (PMAY-G) some Kutcha houses are now converted into Pucca houses.

3.Land holding patterns of the respondents

Land holdings in the four villages are predominantly small and marginal, with a significant proportion of the population being landless or owning less than 1 hectare of land. According to field surveys (2025), 50% on average of households in Palaud own less than 1 hectare of land, while 20% on average are landless. Similar patterns are observed in Kotni, Seoni, and Lakholi, with landlessness household's ranging from 15% to 30% on average. Small and marginal land holdings limit agricultural productivity and income generation.

4. Monthly income distribution of the respondents

Monthly income levels in the four villages are low, with majority of households earning between ₹5,000 and ₹10,000 per month. Field surveys (2023) reveal that on average 50% of households in Palaud fall within this income range, while 30% on average earn less than ₹5,000. Similar trends are observed in Kotni, Seoni, and Lakholi, with 40% of households in Lakholi earning less than ₹5,000 per month. Low-income levels are closely linked to limited access to education and skills, healthcare and basic amenities, landholding size, gender dynamics, access to irrigation, seasonal unemployment, lack of diversification, low productivity, market access and government support.

5. Occupational distribution of the respondents

Agriculture is the primary occupation in all four villages, with 70% of households in Palaud engaged in farming. Other occupations include daily wage labor (20%), MFP collection (5%), and small-scale businesses (5%). The lack of occupational diversity limits income generation



Volume-3 | Issue-6 | June - 2025 | Page 133-150

and economic stability, particularly during periods of drought or low agricultural productivity. The same pattern was also observed in the remaining villages under study.

6.Access to Basic Amenities in the study area

Access to basic amenities such as electricity and clean water is uneven across the four villages. While electricity coverage is relatively high, with 80% on average of household's in Palaud, Kotni, Seoni-1 and Lakholi but water supply remains a challenge, particularly during the summer months. Field surveys (2025) reveal that only 60% on average of household's in Palaud, Kotni, Seoni-1 and Lakholi have access to clean drinking water.

7. Sanitation and healthcare facilities in the study area

Sanitation coverage is limited, with only 30% on average of households in the survey area having access to toilets.

Healthcare facilities are inadequate, with only one primary healthcare center (PHC) serving the entire communities. Villagers often rely on traditional remedies and private practitioners, which further exacerbates health disparities.

8. Irrigation Facilities in the study Area

Irrigation facilities in Palaud, Kotni, Seoni-1, and Lakholi remain underdeveloped, with a heavy reliance on rain-fed agriculture. The availability of irrigation infrastructure is limited, with only a small percentage of agricultural land having access to canals, borewells, or other artificial irrigation sources. Field surveys indicate that less than 30% of farmland in these villages benefits from any form of irrigation, making agriculture highly vulnerable to erratic rainfall patterns. The lack of government-supported irrigation projects and the high cost of private borewells further restricts farmers' ability to improve agricultural productivity. Enhancing irrigation facilities through well-planned schemes could significantly boost crop yields and rural incomes.

6.2 Future suggestions

Based on the both primary and secondary data collected, analyzed and interpreted, the study come up with the following suggestions.

1. Implement skill development and vocational training programs to create employment opportunities beyond agriculture, support small-scale enterprises, cooperative

- Innovation Innovation and Integrative Research Center Journal

ISSN: 2584-1491 | www.iircj.org

Volume-3 | Issue-6 | June - 2025 | Page 133-150

societies, and self-help groups to boost entrepreneurship and income levels and improve the collection, processing, and market access for Minor Forest Produce (MFP) to benefit tribal communities.

- 2. Upgrade roads and expand public transport services for better connectivity.
- 3. Enhance sanitation facilities by expanding toilet coverage and promoting hygiene awareness and strengthen housing schemes to increase the standard of housing condition.
- 4. Strengthen healthcare infrastructure by establishing additional primary health centers (PHCs) and mobile medical units.
- 5. Establish higher secondary schools to reduce dropout rates, particularly in remote areas and provide scholarships and financial incentives for marginalized groups, especially girls, ST, and SC communities.
- 6. Promote agricultural diversification through better irrigation, high-yield seeds, and sustainable farming practices.
- 7. Increase investments in clean drinking water supply, including borewells and water purification systems.
- 8. Increase awareness about government schemes for financial assistance, employment, and social security and promote awareness on social inclusion and rights to bridge caste-based disparities.
- 9. Strengthen community participation in development initiatives to ensure effective implementation.

6.3 Conclusion

The socio-economic conditions of Palaud, Kotni, Seoni-1, and Lakholi reflect the broader challenges faced by rural communities in Chhattisgarh. While agriculture remains the primary occupation, low-income levels, land fragmentation, and lack of diversification hinder economic progress. Educational attainment remains below state averages due to high dropout rates and inadequate infrastructure. The caste composition influences social and economic interactions, with Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes forming a significant portion of the population.

- Innovation Innovation and Integrative Research Center Journal

ISSN: 2584-1491 | www.iircj.org

Volume-3 | Issue-6 | June - 2025 | Page 133-150

Basic amenities such as housing, water supply, and transportation require substantial improvement. While electricity access is relatively high, water availability remains inconsistent. Poor transportation facilities impact livelihoods and access to essential services, limiting opportunities for economic growth. Despite government interventions, the villages still struggle with socio-economic vulnerabilities, requiring targeted developmental strategies. Overall, the findings suggest that targeted interventions are necessary to improve living conditions, diversify income opportunities, and enhance access to basic amenities.

Addressing these issues through government policies and local initiatives can contribute to long-term socio-economic improvements in these villages.

REFERENCES

- 1. Behera, R. K., et, al., (2023). Socio-economic status of Chhatabar village of Odisha: A
- 2. Census of India. (2011). Primary Census Abstract Data Tables. Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India. Retrieved from https://censusindia.gov.in
- 3. Dangi, S., & Bansal, V. (2023). Socio-Economic Status of Women in Rural Udaipur, India. International Journal of Environment and Climate Change, 13(8), 2242-2248.
- 4. Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare. (2023). PM-KISAN Scheme. Retrieved from https://pmkisan.gov.in
- 5. Desai, S., & Dubey, A. (2012). Caste in 21st Century India: Competing Narratives. Economic and Political Weekly, 47(11), 40-49.
- 6. Field Survey. (2023). Primary Data Collected from Palaud, Kotni, Seoni, and Lakholi Villages.
- 7. Garg, C. C., & Karan, A. K. (2009). Health and Millennium Development Goal 1: Reducing Out-of-Pocket Expenditures to Reduce Income Poverty. The Lancet, 373(9670), 1196-1208.
- 8. Indian Statistical Institute. (2021). Developing an Appropriate Methodology for Estimating Proportion of Villages with Specific Infrastructural Facility.
- 9. Islam, M. M., & Mustaquim, M. (2014). Socio-Economic Status of Rural Population: An Income Level Analysis. Asian Academic Research Journal of Multidisciplinary, 1(24), 98-106.
- 10. Journal of Rural Development. (2017). Socio-Economic Profile of Rural India. NIRD&PR, Hyderabad, 36(2), 283-285.
- 11. Khan, A. (2016). Socio-Economic Conditions of Rural India: An Overview. International Journal of Research in Social Sciences, 6(10).

- Innovation Innovation and Integrative Research Center Journal

ISSN: 2584-1491 | www.iircj.org

Volume-3 | Issue-6 | June - 2025 | Page 133-150

- 12. Masudkar, D. D., Kamble, V. B., & Anarase, M. S. (2017). Socio-Economic Status of Farmers in Adopted Village. Journal of Pharmacognosy and Phytochemistry, SP1: 1117-1119.
- 13. Ministry of Education, Government of India. (2023). Mid-Day Meal Scheme. Retrieved from https://education.gov.in
- 14. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. (2023). National Health Mission. Retrieved from https://nhm.gov.in
- 15. Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India. (2023). Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin. Retrieved from https://swachhbharatmission.gov.in
- 16. Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India. (2023). Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana NRLM. Retrieved from https://aajeevika.gov.in
- 17. Pandey, M. K., & Dwivedi, A. B. (2016). Understanding Socio-Economic Conditions of Rural Households. Journal of Rural Development, 35(4), 599-619.
- 18. Planning Commission. (2013). Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012–2017): Social Sectors. Government of India. Retrieved from http://planningcommission.gov.in
- 19. Shah, A., & Guru, B. (2004). Poverty in Remote Rural Areas in India: A Review of Evidence and Issues. GIDR Working Paper No. 139. Gujarat Institute of Development Research.
- 20. Virginius Xaxa (2011). The status of Tribal Children in India: A historical Perspective. IHD-UNICEF Working Paper Series Children of India: Right and Opportunities Working Paper No.7