

# Impact of Literacy and Education on Earning Capacity of Tribal People with Special Reference to Kodaikanal District - Tamil Nadu

R. Srinivasulu<sup>1</sup>, Dr. S. N. Sugumar<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Economics, VISTAS (VELS UNIVERSITY), Pallavaram, Chennai, India.

<sup>2</sup>Head, Department of Economics, VISTAS (VELS UNIVERSITY), Pallavaram, Chennai, India.

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## Abstract

Tribal communities face unique challenges due to their heterogeneous population and their isolation from mainstream of the society. Tribal peoples are dispersed over the nation. Prior to gaining independence, not much was done to improve their living conditions. The objective aims to measure the impacts of literacy and education on earning capacity of tribal people in Kodaikanal district. Empirical research seeks, in a casual setting, to get accurate information regarding the study aim. It is possible that insightful data regarding the subject of research might be gleaned via formal interactions with the target respondents. Most researchers depend on prior works to identify research variables, however due to differences in economic and geographical contexts, this might lead to inaccuracies. The study is done in the area of Kodaikanal district which has significant presence of primitive tribal group in comparison to other areas of Tamil Nadu. The data will be collected based on the interview method which will help to find the reality in the study area. The sample size of the study is fixed to be 190 which is determined based on tribal presence in the area. The sample is selected based on the simple random sampling which is based on the finite population base in the study area. The collected data will be analysed using the SPSS -20. The statistical tools of ANOVA and factor analysis will be used for the study. The literacy of the tribal people has improved with the various tribal welfare programme and it's revealed by the tribal opinions. The earning capacity and economic status of the tribal people can be enhanced with the imparting of education to the tribal people.

**Keywords:** Tribal People, Behavior Economics, Socio-Psychological, Earning Capacity, Education, Literacy Level and Kodaikanal.

## INTRODUCTION

The inner life of India's enormous tribal community is the most at-risk facet of the country's rich cultural legacy. Regardless of how numerous they may be, each of these communities is a fiercely independent group that is actively engaged in national life. Tribes, in the abstract, are distinct unique units with their own identities and customs. Each tribe has its own system for running its community. Standard unwritten norms exist and are scrupulously upheld. It's true that India is home to a wide variety of indigenous peoples from all over the world. There are still indigenous tribal people in India that make their homes in the woods and other isolated locations. India is a primitive country with a sizable population of natives. This group of individuals is a live representation of India's old culture. Many parts of the United States are home to these vast tribes who have not yet been brought into the modern world.

Education's ultimate goal is to help each student reach his or her greatest potential by revealing dormant talents and skills. Consequently, it has been defined as the process of fostering an individual's full potential by strengthening their innate abilities in areas such as health, intelligence, creativity, and morality. The effects of education on human civilization are far-reaching. Until a person has an education, it's reasonable to presume he is not in the right mind. It teaches one to deliberate and make the best choice. If we want to put it another way, education transforms human being into a logical being. Education is widely acknowledged as a means through which individuals may realize their full potential as human beings, foster a deeper appreciation for and adherence to fundamental human rights, and work toward ending oppression based on social status, gender, or other arbitrary categories. The tribal people of India are among the country's most economically and educationally marginalized communities. The indigenous peoples' backgrounds in economic and social disadvantage, as well as the root reasons of their educational marginalization, are quite diverse from one another.

Fundamentals of right to education is something other than education itself, and this is the right's content. Humanity as a whole has a right to an education, and when that right is exercised, it should lead to a life-changing and effective learning experience. The claim to its essence, the potential for asserting one's right to education in a reasonable manner, lies at the heart of this right. Education is a tool for eradicating economic and social disparities and a catalyst for progress and development. Education is the medium through which information and knowledge are acquired and disseminated globally. Right now, what's most important is giving people access to learning, health care, and ways to make money. Education and skill development for the indigenous population have been prioritized in order to increase their employability. These actions were taken in an effort to ensure that the tribal development initiatives were carried out effectively. However, it is evident that much work has to be done, since the vast majority of indigenous peoples continue to live on or below the poverty line, lack access to formalized financial services, and lack the necessary education and training to be integrated into mainstream of the society. They were often compelled to leave their tribal homes in search of employment in distant cities and industrial centers. However, most of them are unable to deal with the problem because of cultural differences. Since then, they've been forced to return to their home societies knowing as little or as little as they did before.

Tribal communities face unique challenges due to their heterogeneous population and their isolation from mainstream of the society. Tribal peoples are dispersed over the nation. Prior to gaining independence, not much was done to improve their living conditions. Because they were not seen as a part of the society, no attempts were made to help them grow. However, after achieving independence, progress slowed down. It's clear the administration was worried about the indigenous people's lack of development. When compared to the rest of the population, tribe members remained economically, educationally, and medically underdeveloped. As the economy had already begun to improve, it was not a simple task. Integrating them into normal social life was the primary objective.

## Review of Literature

Desai, S., & Kulkarni, V. (2008)

Large disparities exist in India's education, workforce, and wealth on the basis of caste and ethnicity. Those from the lowest caste, the Scheduled Caste, are guaranteed a 15% quota in universities and state and federal government positions thanks to compensatory or positive discrimination regulations; those from the lowest caste, the Scheduled Tribe, are guaranteed a 7.5% quota. Improvements in enforcement and additional money in the 1990s bolstered these initiatives. There has been a public pushback against positive discrimination and acts of sabotage against these initiatives on the ground. To determine whether educational disparities have narrowed over the last two decades, this article looks at how the educational levels of different demographic groups have changed. We analyze data from four waves of a nationally representative sample survey (1983, 1987–1988, 1993–1994, and 1999–2000) to examine trends in educational attainment among Americans aged 6–29. Our findings indicate that the difference in the probability of completing elementary education between dalits, adivasis, and others is narrowing. Muslims, a minority population that does not get any affirmative action benefits, have not witnessed any of these positive changes. Neither income nor wealth disparities seem to have decreased while we were in college. We also find no evidence that the upper-income groups, the so-called creamy layer of dalits and adivasis, profit more than the lower-income groups from the affirmative action initiatives.

Keya, P. (2011)

Despite the widespread recognition, observation, and dread of times of impurity in the monthly cycles, the position of women is scarcely diminished by any crippling stigma or inferiority linked to women in tribal India. Women's status within the caste system, however, becomes submissive, servile, and occasionally hopeless as one ascends to higher ranks. Ecological and environmental circumstances in Bharmour, it has been discovered, have endowed Gaddi women with unique economic power, an elevated social standing, and authority almost on par with males. Culture dictates that males must maintain dominance in certain spheres even now. To add insult to injury, males continue to hold positions of power in most communities. An apparent

dualism may be seen. Despite men's dominance in politics and communities and their continued roles as heads of households and primary providers for their families, women now have more influence in the home, more social freedom, and many of their behaviors are accepted.

Ray, S. K., & Das, T. (2016)

The goal of this study was to find out what is going on with adult education and tribal neo-literate education in Odisha so that the different skills of neo-literate can be improved. For the above reason, three goals and the same number of research questions were taken into account. Along with personal observations, many reports, articles, and government documents were looked at to back up what was said above. It was found that the government and non-government organizations use a variety of methods to help people in rural tribal areas improve their skills. The present study also suggests some measures that will be useful in the future, such as: Try to keep good eye contact with all the learners and interact with them, Do everything you can to keep people from dropping out of literacy classes, and keep reinforcing what they've learned so that they don't forget.

Khanum, R., Mahadi, M. S. A., & Islam, M. S. (2022)

Women's economic independence is promoted via entrepreneurship, which gives them more control over family finances. For the sake of women's empowerment, this study will examine how entrepreneurship affects many spheres of female authority over decision-making. It also analyzes a potential route to learn whether or whether tribal women in Bangladesh's increasing access to entrepreneurial opportunities leads to more autonomy in making decisions inside their own households. Using predetermined interview schedules and Focus Group Discussion, researchers spoke with 180 successful tribal women business owners from two districts in Sylhet division. Across the board, the findings suggest that four economic factors—level of education, personal income, formal training, and involvement with non-governmental organizations—play a significant role in an individual's likelihood of becoming an entrepreneur. Sometimes the husband gets all the credit for the choices they make, sometimes the woman gets all the credit, and sometimes the husband and wife split the credit evenly. After venturing into business on their own, tribal women found greater independence and raised their share of household decision-making from 0.71 to 1.30. Moreover, it discovered that women's economic participation in nascent tribal economies was significantly boosted by women's entrepreneurialism. Thus, it was proposed that the government and other relevant organizations take some measures, such as facilitating the creation of specialized enterprise-related infrastructure, providing easy access to loans, educating citizens about the importance of entrepreneurship, and establishing specialized markets.

Puhan, R. R. (2016)

This research aims to provide light on how government problems and policies affect tribal adolescents and their families in terms of bettering their economic and educational prospects. At the same time, the research aims to identify the causes of their unemployment and provide solutions to help them find work. There are four main goals and four sub-goals, plus four sub-questions, to investigate all these concepts. An evaluation of current government policies and problems reveals that they are commendable, but their execution has not had any positive results at the grassroots level. There should be reservations for scheduled tribes in the private sector as well, and we have made a number of recommendations to improve the current situation for tribal people. These include the strict implementation of reservations for public sector employment, the careful investigation of reservations for institutions of higher education, the careful development of welfare schemes for the prosperity of tribal people based on factual data, and so on. Current government service reservation rates of 7.5% should be raised wherever possible.

Eswarappa, K. (2017)

It's important to keep in mind that the phrases 'livelihoods,' 'poverty,' and 'progress' all have nuanced connotations that vary from culture to culture and from person to person. The Adivasis, women, and other disadvantaged groups stand to benefit the most from development since it will improve their quality of life and increase their access to resources and services. This essay uses the current literature on the topic as a basis for its theoretical framework, and it contends that the dominant factional politics and the government's indifference are preventing the excluded groups from receiving the full benefits of the developmental efforts. In light of the above reasoning, a field study was done in a South Indian tribal village to learn more about the results of several state and NGO-led development projects aimed at helping the poor. Using this rationale, this article has aimed to ask policy questions on the effectiveness of programs pertaining to vulnerable groups, issues that are relevant to both policymakers and practitioners.

Das, G. (2012)

The study's primary goals were to determine whether or not indigenous women had sufficient independence and decision-making authority. Women have traditionally been seen as second class citizens in society. If half of a country's population is overlooked or treated poorly, progress will be stunted. As a result, the Indian people enjoy several protections and benefits thanks to the Constitution of India. The purpose of this research is to investigate the influence of tribal women's socioeconomic situation on the decisions they make. First-hand information was gathered from three Santoshpur village tribal hamlets for this research. According to the major findings, tribal women have a high degree of autonomy within their homes, especially in social matters, and are on equal footing with their husbands in economic matters. However, their level of autonomy within the community is low, and they do not actively participate in decision-making. Unemployment and illiteracy are two of the primary causes of this problem.

Satapathy, C. (2020)

The purpose of this study was to take a comprehensive look at the situation of tribal women in India from several perspectives, including their economic and educational standing. Secondary information from the 2011 Indian Census was used for the study. Although they only make up a tiny percentage of the population, members of the Scheduled Tribes are mostly denied access to opportunities like higher education and gainful work. The Constitution has changed their legal standing, but they still have to overcome substantial barriers. Tribal women in India work longer hours than men and contribute significantly to their families' income, yet they have less economic prospects than men do. They have to hire extra hands to make ends meet, which makes it tough for them to put their kids through school. In addition, they tend to ignore the most basic health issues since their awareness level is poor, which is a direct effect of their relatively low level of education. When compared not just to the condition of tribal males but also to the status of women in the wider public, tribal women do not do well in terms of education, employment, or health. Equal to the case in any other social group, the tribal women constitute around half of the total population. Gender roles in tribal groups are often seen as complimentary rather than competitive. Indigenous women in particular have fewer opportunities to benefit from their communities' natural resources and land because of integration and assimilation efforts by dominant culture, capitalist institutions, and the notion of private ownership.

Kanagawa, M., & Nakata, T. (2008)

The research aims to provide light on the connections between rural electrification and improved economic and social conditions in emerging nations. Access to modern energy such as electricity is one potential solution to the complex problem of poverty, which affects many different spheres of society. We used the scenario of India's Assam state, which has many rural regions without access to electricity, to illustrate this point. We used multiple regression analysis to evaluate the socioeconomic status of the regions, namely the literacy rate for those above the age of six, and we constructed an energy-economic model to examine the viability of electrification through the diffusion of electric lighting equipment. The case study led researchers to choose the rate of home electricity, the density of roads per square kilometer of land, and the sex ratio as potential explanations for the literacy rate. In addition, the model study predicts that 100% of homes will be wired for electricity by 2012. Using model analysis and multiple regression, the literacy rate in Assam might rise from its current 63.3% to as high as 74.4%.

Lal, B. S. (2021)

Indigenous communities throughout the globe have seen dramatic upheaval as a result of globalization. However, the extent to which different governments and different ethnic groups are exploited and marginalized varies widely. In this article, we take a look at the illiteracy rates of different age groups among Adivasis and find that the proportion of young people who are illiterate is more than 40 percent. Seventy or more percent of the people in these samples are men, and almost all of them are part of nuclear families. Fifty-three percent of Adivasis live in tiny huts; they are mostly Hindu and communicate in Telugu. Sixty percent of those surveyed work as farmers, but their yearly income is less than fourteen thousand rupees since they only have less than three acres of land. This data demonstrates that most Adivasis live in extreme poverty. Twenty-three percent of respondents had anemia, followed by nineteen percent who have high blood pressure, fifteen percent with diabetes, thirteen percent with tuberculosis, and nine percent with gynecological issues. Adivasis in the study region of Telangana State, India, have seen negative effects of globalization on many facets of their social and economic lives, including marriage, clothing styles, and diet.

### Research Gap

The research found that the diverse Behavior Economic viewpoints of tribal groups reflect the fact that they are marginalized from the mainstream development process of any society. The challenges that various indigenous communities experience have been documented in the literature, with solutions proposed to help them catch up to the rest of the country's development. However, most of the research did not examine how the current impact of the education and literacy level on earning capacity of the tribals. Tamil Nadu has a higher proportion of tribal people, and it is clear that they are economically disadvantaged as a result. It won't be enough to just adopt certain government-funded programs, since it could just be a band-aid. It's crucial to include indigenous communities in among various literacy efforts if we're going to find long-term answers to the issues they confront. Such a sluggish process might end up being lethal. In light of this, the goal of the current research is to establish what the most vital impacts of the education and literacy level on earning capacity which will improve the lives of tribal people economically and psychologically well being, because the good mind set only lead the good earning capacity.

### Statement of the Problem

In accordance with the historical development of their unique socio- psychological cultural characteristics, all groups and communities have developed their own distinct social structures. In the same way that these cultural traits are universal, they may be found in a wide range of geographical settings and ethnic groups. Structures of society are formed by these groups, and these groups are categorized and tiered according to their inherent differences. Those at the top of the economic food chains have an unfair advantage in politics and may easily exploit scarce resources. Some people benefit more than others from this system. The nature of political power in a society with numerous faiths depends on the prevailing religion. The importance of this research lies in the fact that it attempted to critically assess the general and educational tribal developmental policies. It also made some recommendations that policymakers would find useful as they evaluate the current state of affairs and work to come up with new ways of thinking about tribal development. The subject of tribal education may also be examined in order to develop a new and flexible pedagogy that better responds to the needs of students and the challenges of the modern world. It should be noted that succeeding national and state administrations have implemented progressive programs and policies to better the lives of the aboriginal people, mostly via investments in education. A cursory literature study, however, reveals that material and psychological circumstances persist in their backward status in comparison to other socio- psychological economic groupings. The reach of these policies in improving the education and literacy level has not been examined by the research studies and these has to ascertain to improve to reach of the policies.

### Significance of the Study

Since they are out of the general population's way, tribal people are seldom included in development efforts. Exclusion may be economic, and political in character. A member of a scheduled tribe has the same difficulties as the general population. However, tribal people have a low level of education and cultural sophistication, and they tend to reside in underdeveloped areas. There's no denying that one of the key factors in improving people's level of life is the income they bring in. This is why it's crucial to shed awareness on the potential for income for indigenous people. Developing a constructive approach that might benefit all parties involved is essential. The impacts of the literacy level on the earning capacity will further strengthen the needs of these tribal policies.

### Objectives of the Study

- To measure the impact of literacy and education on earning capacity of tribal people in Kodaikanal district – Tamilnadu.

### Research Methodology

A research methodology is a set of procedures meant to serve as a guide for future studies. Every study has a unique trajectory that must be determined by the researcher in advance to ensure that future steps do not compromise the integrity of the data. Research that relies on empirical methods may help researchers get a feel for their topic before diving headfirst into a more rigorous study design. Empirical research seeks, in a casual setting, to get accurate information regarding the study aim. It is possible that insightful data regarding the subject of research might be gleaned via formal interactions with the target respondents. Most researchers depend on prior works to identify research variables, however due to differences in economic and geographical contexts, this might lead to inaccuracies. The study is done in the Korakombu tribal hamlet in Kodaikanal district – Tamilnadu, which has significant presence of primitive tribal group in comparison to other areas of Tamil Nadu. The data will be collected based on the interview method which will help to find the reality in the study area. The sample size of the study is fixed to be 190 which is determined based on tribal presence in the area. The sample is selected based on the simple random sampling which is based on the finite population base in the study area. The collected data will be analysed using the SPSS -20. The statistical tools of ANOVA and factor analysis will be used for the study.

### Analysis and Interpretations

The primary data collected were segregated and analysed based on the objectives of the study. The various impacts caused by the literacy and educational level on the earning capacity of the tribal people. The following part explains the analysis in relation with the objectives.

#### Relationship between Literacy Level, Age and Income Group on Variables of Earning Capacity of Tribal People in Study Area

The impact of the literacy level, age and income group on variables of earning capacity of the tribal people in tested with the variance analysis. The variance analysis examines the differential impact on the diverse groups of these variables on income capacity of the tribal people.

H0 There is no significant relationship between Literacy Level, Age and Income Group on Variables of Earning Capacity of Tribal People in Study Area

H1: There is significant relationship between Literacy Level, Age and Income Group on Variables of Earning Capacity of Tribal People in Study Area

Table – 1 One Way ANOVA- Relationship between Literacy Level, Age and Income Group on Variables of Earning Capacity of Tribal People in Study Area

S.No	Variables of Earning Capacity	Literacy Level	Age	Income Group
1.	Improved job opportunities	0.518	0.450	<b>0.010*</b>
2.	Enhanced knowledge on markets	0.808	0.571	0.064
3.	Knowledge of college education	0.241	0.572	0.205
4.	Ways to improve income	0.051	0.881	0.544
5.	Improved Marketing of products	0.168	0.719	0.999
6.	Knowledge on modern agricultural practices	0.097	0.091	0.549
7.	Values of forest produces	0.439	0.550	0.644
8.	Becoming a Member of tribal community or financial groups	0.120	0.612	0.084
9.	Knowledge of tribal welfare programmes	0.846	0.526	0.658
10.	Improved savings habit	0.653	0.895	0.154
11.	More reach to main land jobs	0.630	0.620	0.109
12.	Cultural Exchanges among tourists	0.224	0.703	0.256

(\*\*- implies significant pair @ 1 percent Level & \*- implies significant pair @ 5 percent level)

a. Literacy Level and Earning Capacity of Tribal People

The literacy level of the tribal people is not having any impact on the earning capacity of the tribal people and it's not different among various groups of literacy level. The education of the tribal people is not having any significant relationship with the earning capacity of tribal. The table explains the relationship is invalid based on the p-values of ANOVA analysis.

b. Age and Earning Capacity of Tribal People

The age of the tribal people is not having any relationship with the earning

Capacity of the tribal people which is clear from the opinions of the people involved in the study. The p-values of the ANOVA testing are insignificant which is given above table. The insignificance explains the lack of relationship based on different age groups.

c. Income Group and Earning Capacity of Tribal People

The income of the tribal people is having influence on the variable of improved job opportunities and other variables are having insignificant relationship with the income group which is clearly explained by the p-values of the test.

Factor analysis – Dimensions of Enhanced Earning Capacity based Literacy Level

The dimensions of the enhanced earning capacity of the tribal are measured with the help of different variables which is grouped based on the factor analysis. The analysis helps to group the variables based on the opinions of the tribal people and measure the differences in the opinions of the tribal people. The following explains the results of the factor analysis

Table – 2 KMO and Bartlett's Test

KMO test of sampling adequacy		0.894
Bartlett's Test	Approx. Chi-Square	522.631
	df	66
	Sig.	<0.001**

Validity of the distribution on which the factor analysis is performed is shown by the above table. Opinions from the tribal participants follow a normal distribution, which strengthens the credibility of the study's findings. As the p-value indicates a normal distribution, the findings show that the factors developed based on the study are credible.

Table – 3 Variance Analysis

Component	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings			Rotation Sums of Squared Loadings		
	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %
<b>1</b>	<b>2.513</b>	<b>20.938</b>	<b>20.938</b>	<b>2.513</b>	<b>20.938</b>	<b>20.938</b>	<b>2.245</b>	<b>18.710</b>	<b>18.710</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>1.823</b>	<b>15.193</b>	<b>36.131</b>	<b>1.823</b>	<b>15.193</b>	<b>36.131</b>	<b>1.901</b>	<b>15.845</b>	<b>34.556</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>1.631</b>	<b>13.594</b>	<b>49.725</b>	<b>1.631</b>	<b>13.594</b>	<b>49.725</b>	<b>1.820</b>	<b>15.169</b>	<b>49.725</b>
<b>4</b>	1.257	10.474	60.199						
<b>5</b>	1.167	9.727	69.926						
<b>6</b>	0.803	6.688	76.614						
<b>7</b>	0.737	6.146	82.759						
<b>8</b>	0.616	5.134	87.893						
<b>9</b>	0.503	4.190	92.084						
<b>10</b>	0.394	3.285	95.368						
<b>11</b>	0.336	2.796	98.165						
<b>12</b>	0.220	1.835	100.000						

The variance table summarizes the responses of the tribe members who took part in the survey to determine how the participants felt about the study's basic premise that a person's degree of education has an effect on their ability to make a living. The analyzed variables and determinants are known to have a substantial impact on earnings potential due to the large differences in their variances. According to the variance, the variance analysis has captured the views of around half of the tribe participants involves in the study.

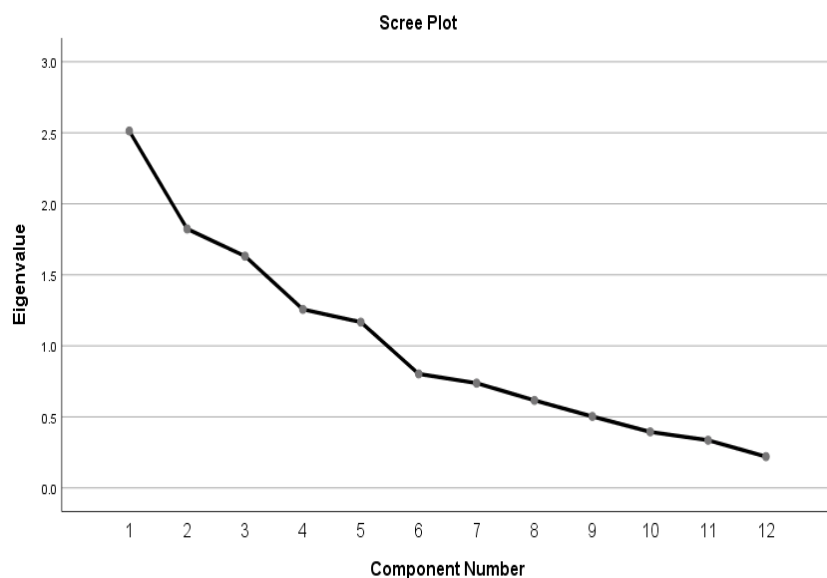


Chart – 1 - Dimensions of Enhanced Earning Capacity based Literacy Level

Table – 4 Rotated Factor Matrix

	Component		
	1	2	3
Improved job opportunities	0.723		
More reach to main land jobs	0.715		
Improved savings habit	0.672		
Knowledge of college education	0.648		
Values of forest produces		0.773	
Becoming a Member of tribal community or financial groups		0.624	
Knowledge on modern agricultural practices		0.543	
Ways to improve income		0.390	
Enhanced knowledge on markets			0.856
Knowledge of tribal welfare programmes			0.643
Improved Marketing of products			0.560
Cultural Exchanges among tourists			0.369

The factor analysis reveals the major factors that are contributing for the earning capacity of tribal people based on the literacy level. The major factors involved in the assessment and ensuring of the earning capacity are

Impact Area – I - Greater Job Opportunities

The greater job opportunities is derived from the variables of Improved job opportunities (0.723), More reach to main land jobs (0.715), Improved savings habit (0.672) and Knowledge of college education (0.648). The job opportunities for the tribal people have been improved based on the literacy level which is explained by the factor that is formed. The various variables vital in the first factor has been grouped based on the tribal opinions

#### Impact Area –II – Values to Enhance Income

The second factor is elucidated from the variables of Values of forest produce (0.773), Becoming a Member of tribal community or financial groups (0.624), Knowledge on modern agricultural practices (0.543) and Ways to improve income (0.390). The factor reveals that literacy level has improved the income earning capacity of the tribal people.

#### Impact Area –III - Enhanced Marketing and Cultural Habits

The factor of greater job opportunities was accounted by the variables of Enhanced knowledge on markets (0.856), Knowledge of tribal welfare programmes (0.643), Improved Marketing of products (0.560) and Cultural Exchanges among tourists (0.369).

## Discussions

The tribal people are having significant impacts on the earning capacity with the improvement of the education and literacy level. The impacts of the earning capacity are significantly improved by literacy level which is explained by the factor analysis. The earning capacities of the people are enhanced with the opportunities of education. The education level of the tribal people are playing vital role in improving the earning capacity which is the ground level reality at the study area of korakumbu village, kodaikanal district. The literacy of the tribal people has improved with the various tribal welfare programme and it's revealed by the tribal opinions. The earning capacity and socio- psychological economic status of the tribal people can be enhanced with the imparting of education to the tribal people.

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