

PRACTICES REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION, AMONGST THE TRIBAL COMMUNITIES OF GUJARAT

ANJALI PAHAD¹ & AMENA SAIYED²

¹Professor and Guide, Department of Extension and Communication, Faculty of Family and Community Sciences the
Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara, Gujarat, India.

²Research Scholar, Department of Extension and Communication, Faculty of Family and Community Sciences the
Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara, Gujarat, India

ABSTRACT

The World Health Organization (WHO), defines 'Environmental Sanitation', as "the control of all those factors in man's physical environment, which may exercise a deleterious effect on his physical development, health and survival." Indian Tribal people form very important part of our total population. It shows the heart of our traditions and civilization. Ethnic tribal people in India live close to the areas of forests, since many years. They have managed and conserved it since long time. Tribal people extremely depend on the nature as their day to day life practices are closely associated with the environment. Thus, the present study puts stress between Environmental Sanitation and Tribal people. The present study was undertaken to understand the **Overall Practices of selected men and Women of selected four Tribal Villages of Jambughoda Block, Panchmahal District, and Gujarat.** The study had **Descriptive survey design** and it was conducted in four selected tribal villages, namely Dhanpuri, Sadada, Katkoi and Kharedivav of Jambughoda Block, Panchmahal District, Gujarat. 120 tribal men and women were selected, by using purposive sampling technique. Data was collected by structured Interview Scheduled. The major finding of the Study was that, nearly majority of the respondent's tribal men and women followed practices of environmental sanitation to the lower extent.

KEY WORDS: Tribal, Environmental Sanitation & Practices

INTRODUCTION

According to the Census 2011, tribal people constitute 8.61% of the total population of India, numbering 104.28 million and cover about 15% of the country's area. There are a number of tribes in India, spread over different parts at different levels of socio economic development. There are over 5 million tribal communities existing in Gujarat. The population of Gujarat in 2011 Census of India was 6, 04, 39,692 of this 8,917,174 persons belong to one of the Scheduled Tribes (STs) constituting 14.75 per cent of the total population of the state. There is no huge difference is seen in the occupation patterns of Gujarat's tribal people, as most of the tribal group is highly dependent on the environment. They largely follow the occupation of farming and animal husbandry. In Gujarat, Tribal people live close to the forests and they have played great role to manage and conserve it since long time. Hence, environment has close relationship with the tribal people and their day to day life is closely associated with the environmental practices like, maintaining the hygiene and sanitation of their families and communities, practices related to the waste disposal, conservation and management of water, personal hygiene and sanitation.

Environmental sanitation and its Importance: Environmental sanitation includes all the activities aim to

improve or maintain the standard of basic environmental conditions affecting the wellbeing of people. These conditions include Clean and safe water, Clean and safe air, Effective and safe animal, human, and industrial waste disposal, Security of food from biological and chemical contaminants, and proper housing in clean and safe surroundings. Safe drinking water, hygiene, and sanitation play very important part in maintaining health of human beings. **Health, air and water** are basic necessity, and important resources for maintaining life. Polluted water causes many dangerous water-borne diseases. Open defecation is similar to no sanitation. It degrades the environment, and spreads diseases. Because of the explosion of industries, the level of pollution in environment is increasing day by day. Pollution spoils the quality of environment as well as it is responsible for many dangerous diseases. Extreme poverty and lack of sanitation are two sides of a coin. Absence of environmental sanitation, directly affects to the health. Environmental sanitation is very major issue. It needs to be solved thoroughly. The health and sanitation status of India's tribal communities is in need of special attention. Because of many reasons tribal people suffer from the environmental sanitation problems. **Main factors affecting to the Environmental Sanitation in tribal areas are such as, illiteracy, less employment, social taboos, poverty, health issues and many other.**

Rationale of the Study: It is the most difficult task to provide safe environmental sanitation in a developing country like India. Though India has developed very much by new technologies and other facilities, but still when we are thinking about environmental sanitation of India, there is a big question mark. India stands second amongst the worst places in the world for sanitation (India water portal). People cannot enjoy a healthy life without hygienic environment. Tribal live close to the areas of forests and they have managed and conserved it since long time. Hence, environment has close relationship with the tribal people. Their day to day life is closely associated with the practices of environment. Through this study researcher wants to study that whether the tribal people can teach the world and world should learn from them, that how to handle the environment? As they have best knowledge and practices. Or the world should teach them for handling environment effectively.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To prepare the profile of the four selected Tribal villages and selected Tribal men and women of selected four villages of Jambughoda Block, Panchmahal District, Gujarat,
- To study the overall practices regarding Environmental Sanitation of selected Tribal men and women,
- To study the overall practices regarding environmental sanitation of selected Tribal men and women, in relation to the variables namely, Age, sex, Marital status, Type of family, Income, Educational Qualification and Occupation,
- To study the practices regarding Environmental Sanitation of selected Tribal men and women, in relation to the following aspects namely, selected infectious diseases, food safety and household sanitation and personal hygiene.
- To study the differences in the aspect wise practices of Environmental Sanitation of selected Tribal men and women, in relation to the selected variables.

Null Hypotheses of the Study

There will be no significant differences in practices regarding Environmental Sanitation of Tribal Men and Women of four selected villages in relation to the selected Variables.

Delimitations of the Study

This study is delimited to the practices regarding Environmental Sanitation of selected men and women of the four selected Tribal Villages of Jambughoda Block, Panchmahal District, Gujarat.

Assumptions of the Study

Selected tribal men and women will have practices regarding Environmental Sanitation, and the same will vary according to the selected variables.

Operational Definition

In the present Study, Environmental Sanitation refers to the aspects namely; Selected Infectious Diseases, Food Safety, Household Sanitation and Personal Hygiene to maintain the hygiene and sanitary conditions of Tribal People.

METHODOLOGY

The population of the study consisted of the Selected Tribal Men and Women from selected Tribal People residing in the four Tribal Villages of Jambughoda Block, Panchmahal District, Gujarat. The sample of the study consisted of total hundred and twenty Tribal Men and Women from the selected four Tribal villages i.e., Dhanpuri, Katkoi, Kharedivav and Sadada of Jambughoda Block, Panchmahal District, Gujarat, in the academic year 2016-17. Sample selection technique was purposive and data was collected through structured interview schedule.

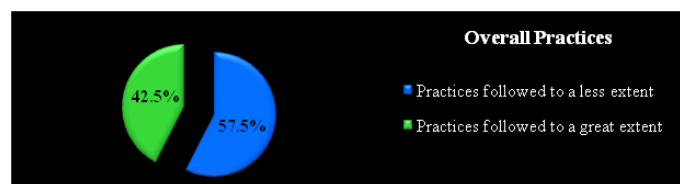
FINDINGS

Overall Practices of the Respondents Regarding Environmental Sanitation (N=120)

Table 1: Overall Practices of the Respondents Regarding Environmental Sanitation (N=120)

Sr. No.	Practices	Percentages
1	Practices followed to a less extent	57.5
2	Practices followed to a great extent	42.5

(N=120)



Nearly majority (57.5%) of respondents, followed practices to a less extent whereas less than half (42.5%) of the respondents followed practices to a great extent regarding Environmental Sanitation.

Overall Practices of the Respondents regarding Environmental Sanitation in relation to the selected variables (N=120)

Table 2: Overall Practices of the Respondents Regarding Environmental Sanitation in Relation to the Selected Variables (N=120)

Sr. No.	Variable	Category	Practices followed to A Less Extent	Practices followed to a Great Extent
1	Age	Young	47.0	53.0
		Old	52.0	48.0

2	Gender	Male	52.2	47.1
		Female	47.8	52.9
3	Marital status	Married	8.7	86.3
		Unmarried	91.3	13.7
4	Educational qualification	Literate	43.1	43.7
		Illiterate	56.9	56.3
5	Income	>=5000	31.3	62.7
		<5000	68.7	37.3
6	Occupation	House wives	23.2	31.4
		Labourers	76.8	68.6
7	Type of family	Extended	25.0	28.0
		Joint	7.4	4.0
		Nuclear	67.6	68.0

More than half i.e. (53%) of old aged respondents followed practices to a less extent, whereas more than half i.e. (52%) of young aged respondents followed practices to a great extent. More than half i.e. (52.2%) of male respondents followed practices to a less extent whereas; more than half i.e. (52.9%) of female respondents followed practices to a great extent. Very high majority i.e. (91.3%) of married respondents followed practices to a great extent, whereas more than tenth i.e. (13.7%) of unmarried respondents followed practices to a less extent. Majority i.e. (68.7%) of the respondents whose family income was less than five thousand followed practices to a less extent whereas, less than half i.e. (62.7%) of the respondents followed practices to a great extent, whose family income was more than five thousand. 56.3% of the illiterate respondents, followed practices to a less extent. A higher majority i.e. (76.8%) laborers followed practices to a less extent, and respondents belonged to nuclear families followed practices to a great extent.

Practices of the Respondents Regarding Environmental Sanitation in Relation to the Selected Aspects (N=120)

Table 3: Practices of the Respondents Regarding Environmental Sanitation in Relation to the Selected Aspects (N=120)

Sr. No.	Aspects	Practices followed to a Less Extent	Practices followed to a Great Extent
1	Selected infectious diseases	59.2	40.8
2	Food safety and household Sanitation	43.3	56.7
3	Personal hygiene	66.7	33.3

Majority of the respondents followed practices to less extent regarding toilet and sanitation i.e. (73.3%) personal hygiene i.e. (66.7%) as well as selected infectious diseases i.e. (59.2%). Whereas, more than half of the respondents followed practices to great extent regarding food safety and household sanitation i.e. (56.7%).

Aspect Wise Differences in the Practices of the Respondents Regarding Environmental Sanitation in Relation to the Selected Variables

There were significant differences in the practices of the respondents regarding Food and Safety as one of the aspects of Environmental Sanitation in relation to Occupation and also regarding Personal Hygiene in relation to income as well as related to water and sanitation in relation to the marital status. There were no significant differences in the practices of the respondents regarding selected Infectious Diseases.

CONCLUSIONS

From the findings of the present study, it can be concluded that despite of having Environment as their habitat, tribal people followed practices of environmental sanitation to lower extent. Thus, the present study may help in further implementation of awareness generating projects on various aspects of Environmental Sanitation for the Tribal Men and Women.

REFERENCES

1. <http://www.yourarticlelibrary.com/tribes/essay-on-tribes-in-india-researched-essay/4416/>
2. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Scheduled_Tribes_in_Gujarat
3. <http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/environmental-sanitation.html>

