

Levels of Malnutrition and Socio-economic Conditions Among Maria Gonds

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ABSTRACT Socio-economic conditions like agriculture pattern and occupation structure are different among the tribals and are determined by the ecosystem in which they live. A comparative study was made between Maria Gonds of Bhamragad area of Maharashtra and Bastar of Madhya Pradesh which are adjacent to each other. The average monthly per capita income was Rs. 50/- among Maria Gonds of Bhamragad and it was only Rs. 28/- among Maria Gonds of Bastar. Labour (66.2%) was major source of income in Bhamragad as against agriculture (69.9%) in case of Bastar. Both by extent and type of malnutrition, Maira Gonds of Bhamragad were comparatively better than those of Bastar. The dependency of the Maira Gonds of Bastar entirely on primitive form of agriculture with very low yields of food grains and lack of income generating activities in the area resulted in low per capita income which ultimately reflected in their poor nutritional status.