

# A Study of Change in Occupational Mobility of Bhil Tribe through Modernization

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**Abstract:** Occupational mobility is a process by which people move from one occupation to another in society. Wherever occupation used to be hereditary in stable societies, now occupational mobility is being seen. At present, caste-based occupations are not determined, although some people are doing their respective professions on a traditional basis. The main reason for business mobility in India is that most of the people are based on agriculture activities. As the number of people doing agricultural work increases, the division of land becomes natural, and the social and economic status of the people declines. As a result of this people try to adopt other occupations due to which business mobility is born. In the present study, by studying the Occupational mobility of the respondents of the Bhil tribe, an attempt has been made to highlight the contributing and discouraging factors in their modernization.

**Keyword:** Occupational Mobility, Bhil Tribe, Modernization, Habitation, Livelihood.

## 1. INTRODUCTION:

Change is a continuous process, which is constantly present in every system. Change is a sign of continuity and vibrancy of any society. As changes in the resources for life are possible, the standard of living is affected accordingly. When the basis of livelihood of an individual or caste community changes, then its status and condition also change. The person who chooses the advanced basis of livelihood according to the possible changes in the present and future can maintain his existence and develop better, change is necessary and necessary to keep the social life moving in the changing environment (Nikunj 1995).

The culture of the tribes has always been a center of attraction for the world. Bhil tribe is the third largest tribe in India and the first largest tribe in Madhya Pradesh. Apart from Jhabua, this tribe also resides in Dhar, West and East Nimar, Mandasaur, Ratlam, and Neemuch districts of Madhya Pradesh. According to the 2011 Indian census, the Jhabua district has a scheduled tribe population of 891,818 (87 percent). From this point of view, Jhabua is the most tribal-dominated district. Apart from the state of Madhya Pradesh, the Bhil tribe is found in Rajasthan, Maharashtra, and Gujarat.

Due to foreign invasions, tribal groups were forced to live in remote mountains and uninhabited forests. Establishing harmony and adaptation with nature, they started earning their living by using limited resources, as well as doing agriculture and animal husbandry. As a result of the Zamindari system during British rule, their independent social system was adversely affected. After independence, constitutional efforts were made for the development of Scheduled Tribes.

Special efforts for their development were taken by the welfare state. Became landowners working on the land in the country. With becoming landowners, the process of taking government land pattas in their names started, due to which the tribal people had to go to the government office to get the agricultural land in their name. With the joining of the government, they established contacts with cities and developed villages. Due to this the tribal groups came to the cities and got acquainted with the process of modernization.

## 2. CONCEPT OF MODERNIZATION: -

In the modern era, there have been epoch-making changes in the field of science and technology, due to which countless changes have been observed in social and economic life and this change is happening globally. To explain this change, social scientists have used the concept of modernization. Some consider modernization as a process and

some as a reward. Eisenstadt considered it a process, stating, "Historically, modernization is a process of change towards a type of social, economic and political system that existed in Western Europe and North America from the seventeenth to the nineteenth centuries, and in South America by the twentieth." Developed in Asian and African countries.

**Vanedix** pointed out that modernization flourished during the Industrial Revolution of England in 1760-1830 and the French Revolution of 1784-1794. **A. R. Desai** has considered modernization as a process of change in human beings in all fields, like thoughts and actions. Whereas **Saxena** considers it a suffix associated with values. **Srinivas** said that modernization is a popular term for the changes that take place in a non-Western country due to direct or indirect contact with a Western country. **Shyamcharan Dubey** has described modernization as the process that explains the changes in technology from the traditional or semi-traditional stage to any desired forms and the associated forms of social structure, motivations, values, and rules of social ideals.

If we look at the Indian environment, various scholars have explained modernization in the form of definition. **M. N. Srinivas** has given three main areas of modernization such as (I) the field of material culture (II) the area of social institutions (III) the area of knowledge, values, and attitudes. In all three of the above areas, changes occurring in one area affect the other area as well. According to **S. C. Dubey**, tradition and modernity exist in contradiction in India. According to **Dubey**, even today Indian people live in villages, they are traditionalists and on the other hand, they are not untouched by modernity. Transport, communication, rail, motor, newspaper, radio, education, community planning, administration, etc. have promoted the process of modernization here.

As a result of modernization, changes like family, the importance of women in the family, marriage, business, stratification, rituals, and notions of purity are reflected. In this way, we can say that due to modernization, changes are being reflected in social, economic, cultural, educational, and political fields in Bhil tribal-dominated areas. Due to the effect of modernization in social areas, their mobility is increasing, in place of old traditions, new values of life are emerging. In the political field, power is not considered to be a gift of supernatural power, but the power has been decentralized among the people. With the increase in the use of machines in the economic field, production has increased.

As far as the adoption of modernization in the tribal areas is concerned, they are still facing various problems adopting modernization. Among these problems, lack of means of transport, economic backwardness and lack of means of irrigation, lack of education and awareness, and removal of agricultural produce markets and markets are prominent. At the same time, due to the conservative and traditional view of the tribes, the reason for not making full use of the local resources can be considered. As a result of the efforts made at the government level, it is necessary to adopt modernization especially to meet the needs of the people. The condition of those people who have adopted modernization in the tribal areas has necessarily improved. However, due to the lack of local market facilities, the expected improvement in the economic condition of tribal people is not happening.

It has been known from various research studies that a great change is visible in the Indian tribes over the last several decades, such as the means of communication, means of transport, industrialization, and education. Tribal people who were away from the contact of modern civilization are coming closer to civilized society due to being tied in the communication chain. How modernization is affecting them are different forms of modernization. The promotion and spread of education have enabled the tribal people to do various professions like doctors, teachers, and engineers who have started doing other government services today.

**3. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:** - To study the change in occupational mobility of the Bhil tribe through modernization.

**HYPOTHESIS:** - There is no relationship between modernization and occupational mobility of the Bhil Tribe.

**STUDY AREA:** - Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh has been selected as a study area for the present study.

**4. THE UNIVERSE OF THE STUDY:** - All Bhil population lives in the rural area of the study area Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh considered the universe of the Study.

**UNIT OF THE STUDY:** - A selected Bhil tribe member lives in rural areas of the study area Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh considered as the unit of the Study.

**SAMPLING:** - Stratified Sampling has been adopted for selecting respondents of Bhil Tribes who live in the Rural area.

**Table 1**  
**Selection of the Respondents based on the Sampling Method**

Tahsil	Thandla	Petlabad	Meghnagar	Jhabua	Ranapur	Total
<b>Total Village</b>	112	240	110	256	95	<b>813</b>

Selected village	8	8	8	8	8	40
Selected Respondents	80	80	80	80	80	400

For the present study 40 villages from all five Tahsils (8 villages from each Tahsil) have been selected by using random sampling. After that, 10 respondents were selected from each village by using purposive sampling so that a total of 400 respondents have been selected from 40 villages.

**DATA COLLECTION:** - Primary, as well as secondary data, has been collected, used, and analyzed for drawing inferences. Primary data was collected by constructed interview scheduled and secondary data was collected from various departments, journals, and the internet.

**5. ANALYSIS OF DATA:** - The collected data has been scrutinized, coded processed, tabulated, and analyzed by using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) which is designed for the analysis of data of research work in social sciences.

**Table 2**  
**Gender of the Respondents (n=400)**

S. No.	Characteristics	Profile	Frequency	Percentage
1	Gender	Man	269	67.25
		Women	131	32.75
2	Educational Status	Primary	85	21.25
		Middle	60	15.0
		Alphabetical Knowledge	99	24.75
		Illiterate	156	39.0

It is quite clear from table 2 that among all the respondents, 67.25 percent are male and 32.75 percent are female respondents.

It is clear from the details related to the level of education in the above table that 21.25 percent of the respondents are educated up to the primary level while 15 percent of the respondents have got education up to the secondary level. 24.75 percent of the respondents are those who have only alphabetical knowledge, while 39 percent of the respondents are illiterate.

Based on the above facts, it is known that the most illiterate respondents are in the study area, followed by the respondents having alphabetical knowledge and the percentage of primary and secondary levels is minimum. On discussion in the study area, it was told that during the time of the ancients, school education was not given attention. As a result, the head of the household is illiterate. They are entrusted with the responsibility of the house at an early age, due to which they are not able to continue their studies and apart from this there is no option but to do labour, agricultural work, and animal husbandry work.

**Table 3**  
**Place of Habitation of the respondent's Houses (n=400)**

S. No.	Place of Habitation	At the time of the Ancestors		At present	
		Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
1	In the Field	160	40.0	51	12.75
2	In the Village	143	35.75	233	58.25
3	In Falya	97	24.25	116	29.00
	Labour	177	44.25	167	41.75

**Degree of Freedom 2**

**The difference is significant at a 5 percent level**

**chi-square  $\chi^2 = 100.629$**

**Table Value = 5.991**

Analysis of the location-based facts of house settlement in the above table, it would have been known that at the time of the ancestors, the house of the highest 40 percent of the respondents was said to be situated in the field while the house of the lowest 24.25 percent of the respondents was said to be in the fruit. The houses of 35.75 percent of respondents were located in the village.

At present, it is known from the facts based on the status of the house of the respondents that the houses of the majority 58 percent of the respondents are located in the village and the houses of the lowest 12.75 percent of the respondents are situated in the farm. 29 percent of the respondents are those whose houses are located in Falya.

It is clear from the table that the table value of chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) for the degree of freedom at a 5 percent significance level is 5.991, which is much less than the calculated value of 100.629, so it can be said that chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) is significant. Therefore, both the facts are related to the condition of the house of the respondents at the time of their forefathers and the condition of the house of the respondents at present is not independent. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected.

Analysis of the above facts, it would have been known that there has been a lot of change in the time of the ancestors and in the present time because during the time of the ancestors most of the houses were located in the field, mainly because of taking care of agriculture, availability of food and related food items, getting wood for fuel. etc. Respondents told that due to modernization, means of transport, infrastructure facilities in villages like roads, primary health centers, etc. the people of the Bhil tribe have started living by building their houses in the village.

**Table 4**  
**Classification based on the main occupation of the family (n=400)**

S. No.	Occupation	At the time of the Ancestors		At present	
		Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
1	Agriculture	192	48.00	134	33.50
2	Business	12	3.00	53	13.25
3	Job	19	4.75	46	11.50
	Labour	177	44.25	167	41.75

**Degree of Freedom 3**

**The difference is significant at a 5 percent level**

**chi-square  $\chi^2 = 84.701$**

**Table Value = 7.815**

It is known from the facts based on the main occupation of the respondents in the above table that the main occupation of the highest 48 percent of the respondents at the time of the ancestors was agriculture, while the lowest 3 percent of the respondents were doing business. 44.25 percent of the respondents were those whose main occupation was wages while 4.75 percent of the respondents were employed.

From the analysis of the facts in the above table, it is known that at present, 44.75 percent of the respondents in the study area are those whose main occupation is wages, while the lowest 11.5 percent of the respondents are employed as the main occupation. Agriculture work is the main occupation of 33.50 percent of the respondents, while 13.25 percent of the respondents do business in which the respondents said that they are engaged in the work of grocery shop, sewing machine, flour mill, cycle puncture, etc.

It is clear from the table that the table value of chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) for 3 degrees of freedom at a 5 percent significance level is 7.815, which is much less than the calculated value of 84.701, so it can be said that chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) is significant. Therefore, both the facts are related to the main occupation of the respondent families at the time of ancestors and the main occupation of the respondent families in the present time is not independent. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected.

Therefore, it is clear from the table that there has been a decrease in agricultural work and wage work in the present time as compared to the time of the ancestors, but their condition is not satisfactory. At the same time, there has been an increase in the percentage of occupation and employment. The main reason for this change is that due to the promotion and spread of education, coming in contact with non-culture, the interest of the people of the Bhil tribe in business and jobs is increasing. Wage work is done the most in the business structure. Due to a lack of adequate means of livelihood, the situation of unemployment, unemployment persists. Due to this, the tribal group migrates to other places. Agriculture is not a profitable business for them due to geographical location and lack of agricultural means and modern agricultural technology.

**Table 5**  
**Details related to the secondary occupation of the family (n=400)**

S. No.	Occupation	At the time of the Ancestors		At present	
		Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
1	Animal Husbandry	53	13.25	126	31.50
2	Collection of Forest Produce	270	67.50	221	55.25
3	Handicrafts	77	19.25	53	13.25

**Degree of Freedom 2**

**The difference is significant at a 5 percent level**

**chi-square  $\chi^2 = 49.823$  ; Table Value = 5.991**

From the analysis of the data given in the table, it is clear that in the study area, majority 67.50 percent of the respondents were found whose secondary occupation of forest produce such as Mahua, Timber, Toddy, and seasonal fruits such as Sitaphal, Ber, Jamun, etc. have started selling in the markets. Whereas the main business of 19.25 percent of the respondents was to prepare handicraft items and sell them in the market. 13.25 percent of the respondents were found to be doing animal husbandry as a second occupation.

Even at present, the main occupation of the highest 55.25 percent of the respondents is forest produce such as Mahua, Timber, Firewood, Gum and Toddy, etc. while the secondary occupation of the lowest 13.25 percent of the respondents is handicraft items like bamboo baskets, pottery, toys, etc. Ready to sell in the market. At present, there has been an increase in animal husbandry as 31.50 percent of the respondents do animal husbandry as a secondary occupation.

Animal husbandry is done by a maximum of 56.75 percent of the respondents, in which 42.29 percent of people keep buffalo, goats, and roosters while 24.67 percent of people follow all types of animals like buffalo, goats, roosters, etc. After this 22.46 percent of people keep cows. At the same time, 10.51 percent of people keep bullocks.

From the analysis of the facts in the above table, it is known that as a result of modernization, tribal people have started reducing animal husbandry due to more means of transport, migration, and occupation. Kadaknath cock in Jhabua which is important from a health point of view is found in the climate there. These are being followed by the state government by providing financial assistance to the tribal families. Along with this, the non-availability of land for grazing is also the main reason for changes in the rules related to rights over forests.

A maximum of 31.11 percent of the respondents are engaged in making bamboo baskets. At the same time, 23.71 percent make clay toys, while the lowest is 17.03 percent of people make earthen and bamboo Kothi. After this 28.15 percent of people make all kinds of handicraft items.

From the analysis of the above facts, it is known that during the time of our ancestor handicraft items were manufactured. These were manufactured for their use. Due to the marketization, these people used to sell these items at market rates and buy utilitarian items, but with time, the items of these handicrafts started declining. But even today handicraft items have become a means of earning a living for the Bhil families.

It is clear from the table that at a 5 percent significance level, the table value of chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) for the degree of freedom is 5.991, which is much less than the calculated value of 49.823, so it can be said that chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) is significant. Therefore, both the facts are related to the second occupation of the family at the time of the ancestors and the second occupation of the family at present, not independent. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected.

It is clear from the above description that as a result of the process of modernization, due to marketism and individualistic approach, tribal groups are selling forest produce, handicraft items, animal husbandry, and products produced at market price as other sources of income. In the Jhabua district, there has been an increase in animal husbandry due to various schemes run by the Animal Husbandry Department like the Nandishala scheme, supply of goat unit, supply of goat on a grant basis, a scheme for poultry unit, supply of Kadaknath chick on the grant, etc. The original breed of Jhabua district is Kadaknath chicken which is completely black and has more protein, vitamins, carbohydrates, and less fat the cost of each piece ranges from 1500 to 3000. Kadaknath Murga is one of the sources of income for the Bhil tribe. All the above facts show the social and economic change in the Jhabua district.

**6. CONCLUSION:** Two types of mobility are found in every society; the first mobility is that under which migration-related changes take place in the life of an individual or group. We call this geographical mobility, longitude, or migration. The second mobility is that under which a person changes his place on the social plane. The individual and his activities are the product of social and economic interaction. Socio-economic structure plays an important role in the formation of human personality. Theoretical differences are found among many scholars regarding whether social and economic factors depend on each other or not. Some scholars consider them related to each other, while some consider them separately. In this aspect, Karl Marx says that "the base structure and upper structure of society are based on economic elements." Parsons, while analyzing the social system based on social action, has said that there is a system between individuals, culture, and society. It is found under which the behaviour of each person conforms to a certain pattern.

It is clear that society dictates each individual according to its norms, aspirations, and expected behaviours. When there is interpersonal interaction with social and economic activities, then a cultural system emerges. In this way, socio-economic and cultural activities are interrelated and affect each other. The individual has an important role in this process. A person constantly tries to establish his identity in the social and economic system that is maintained by his physical, mental, ideological, and intellectual potential. He can move towards success in his endeavors only when he gets a positive, cooperative, motivating, social and economic environment.

**7. SUGGESTIONS:** Based on the findings obtained in the present study, the following suggestions are as follows: There is a need to promote education for development in Bhil tribal areas, as well as to make women aware of the importance of education by forming committees at the village level to improve the level of education of women. There is a need to establish modern small-scale industries and cottage industries to strengthen the economic condition in Bhil tribal areas. There is an urgent need to provide subsidies to the tribal group for training and industry. Training should be provided to enhance the modern technical knowledge for the development of agriculture. To increase production by using improved farming methods, improved seeds, and fertilizers. For the training of the mixed cropping method, cruise work should be done at other places. Considering the geographical location of the Jhabua district, it should be encouraged to plant more and more trees. Ponds should be constructed for agricultural irrigation. Plastic drums (grain boxes) should be provided instead of tin distribution for grain storage. To reduce migration, employment generation programs for tribal people should be started on a large scale. Training in communication and technical knowledge should be provided to the Bhil tribe people.

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