

# A Study on the Socio-Economic Status of the Handi Jogi Nomadic Community in Karnataka

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## ABSTRACT

Nomadic tribal communities in Karnataka, such as Sindolu, Helavaru, Sudugadu Siddha, BudagaJangama, and other communities, traditionally perform religious begging. Similarly, the Handijogi nomadic tribal community in Karnataka also begs by playing Kinnari. Due to the influence of modernity, his traditional profession is still alive. Migrating from one area to another to beg and live in tents is painful. It is exciting that the Handi Jogi community has preserved its art in the process of social transformation. In the background of their religiosity, they have inherited a sect. The present article is a social and economic study.

**Keywords:** Nomadic, Community, Folklore, Caste, Religion, Locals

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## INTRODUCTION

Indian social system is adorned with various religions like Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhism, etc. It is a fact that all these religions have adopted and practiced various cultures of their own. For many years, very few communities of higher order have been in the mainstream of society. It was believed that those cultures were superior. In the changed scenario, various scholars (thinkers) of anthropology, sociology, and folklore have made intensive studies of the lower castes and communities and introduced them to society.

The Handi jogi nomadic tribal community in Karnataka performs ritual begging by playing Kinnari. In modernity and social transformation, the nomad handi jogi community has changed, but they have not left their original craft. Along with this, a social and economic study of the Handi jogi nomadic tribal community has been done in this paper by conducting agriculture and small business transactions.

### Objective of the Study

- 1) Study of the Handi Jogi Community's historical background
- 2) Study of the of Handi Jogi community social and Economic life
- 3) Studying the Handi Jogi community's problems and solutions

### Research Methods

Data were obtained about Handi Jogi Community Kudligi Talk by fieldwork. A questionnaire, interview, observation, and sampling procedures were used for the collection of information. Information has been collected from secondary sources. Pardhi Nomadic texts, published books, and other sources

### Meaning of the Nomadic Tribes

- 1) According to the imperial gazetteer, tribe means a group of people living in a particular place. Speaking the same language as their peer's community.
- 2) According to sociologist Dr. K. M. Metry, the hunting and livestock tribes were originally nomadic tribes. Even today, the Chancy, Chenchawars, Pardis, and Rajgond tribes in the Karantka Region of Hyderabad continue to live the life of a nomadic Rajgond who used to travel the states of Goa, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Andhra Pradesh for the Ayurvedic medicine trade.

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

- 1) In the Mysore Tribe and Caste (1905), the Jogis belong to the Telugu bikshuka class. This includes Mondaru, Jogi, Gorava, etc. Handi or PakandiJogis are said to be different from the above-mentioned community. Handi Jogis have

been called before Pandijoga in Telugu. The word yogi comes from the Sanskrit word yoga." He has mentioned marriage relations, bedagu, etc. Telugu is also spoken on the Andhra border.

2) Handi Jogies were notified as a criminal tribe in the districts of Bangalore and Kolar in Mysore State. Handi jogies do not seem to be one caste but are composed of the outcasts of various Hindu castes. They are also known as Handichikkas. This caste is traced to the Pakanati sub-section of the Jogis. Which name it bore some five generations ago when the traditional calling was buffalo breeding.

The majority engage in begging. They also hawk medicines and supply herbs to druhists. Their women sell needles and glass beads in the country. Handi Jogis are classified as Scheduled Castes in Mysore State (Ayyangar, A: 1949–50:22).

3) Nanduram's Encyclopaedia of Scheduled Caste in India covers the origin of Handi jogis, cult deities, idols, population from 1901 to 2001, economic, social, and educational status. Probably not a single work has been published in Kannada on Handi jogis. But articles have been published in some newspapers about Kinnarijogi and NarasannaJogi.

4) Stories about Kinnari and KinnariJogis are available in the Kosha of Karnataka Folk Arts, edited by Prof. Hi Chi Boralingaiah. The Pandavas, who were in exile for fourteen years, meet the Jogis in the forest during their sojourn. Then they will not have Kinnari. Arjuna then cut off the skull and nerves of the demon he had killed and gave them as an offering to the Jogis. Since then, there is a popular story that Jogis started singing the story of the Pandavas.

### Historical Background

The Handi Jogi community has many alternative names and is known to have settled in different states of the country.

Handi jogi, Dabbajogi, and Balegara Jogi are known in North Karnataka. These are Jogipurusha and Narasanna Jogis, who live in Dakshina Kannada district and Kasaragod district of Kerala state. It is not known where Handijogi or Narasanna Jogi originally came from. When the elders of the community are asked, they say that they have been living in Karnataka for two or three generations, and Handi Badiganath Mutt in Ramanagara, Belagavi district, Karnataka, is their original mutt. After that, Nunkamale Math near Molakalkuru in Chitradurga and Kadri Math in Dakshina Kannada district were established, but it is known that there are many more Jogi Maths in Karnataka. As the language of HandiJogi or NarasannaJogi is Marathi, it seems that they must have migrated to Karnataka from Maharashtra.

He must have entered Karnataka through Belgaum, a border region of Maharashtra. There are more than 15 Bedags in Handi jogi, and not all of them can be found in any region of Karnataka. Because they are nomads, it is impossible for all the people to migrate together. This is possible because different groups of people have gone to different places.

Handi Jogis started from Handi Badganath Mutt and went to every nook and cranny of the state as suffragettes across Karnataka and propagated the religion holding Kindari or Handi Bhiksha pots.

### DISCUSSION

The Handi Jogi nomadic community in Karnataka has its own social and economic status. This community is known by the names Handi jogi, Handi Jogi, and DabbaJogi. (Narasanna Jog), Balagara Jogi, Ravala Jogi, and Shiva Jogi Vijayanagar district in Karnataka is known as Handi Jogi. He is also known as NarasannaJogi of Belgaum district. He must have originally migrated from the Handi jogi community of Maharashtra. Their maths come to be known as Badganath Math at Ramnagar in Belgaum district, Nunkemale Kalabhairava Math near Molakalkur in Chitradurga district, and Kadri Jogi Math in Dakshina Kannada district, as the origin of Marathi Handi jogis is said to have originally migrated to Karnataka from Maharashtra. There is a possibility that Karnataka migrated from North India through Maharashtra to promote the Nath cult. The nomadic Handi jogi community in Karnataka, some of whom perform religious begging by playing Kinnari, Even now, they can be seen traveling as nomads. They usually live outside the town, in temples, school and college grounds, Santa grounds, theaters, etc.

The Handi Jogis are divided into a large number of clans Such are Bintavallu, Chirukunvallu, Dasaripurivallu, Godivallu, Indukuri vallu, Jalivallu, Mopurivall, origantavallu, Siruparavallu, Somatavallu, Sappadivallu, Vagitavallu, Taravallu, Vadipillavallu and ulavalavallu. The Handi Jogis are Hindus. The worship yellamma who is their main deity. They also worship Maramma, Majoramma and Dradamma. Thirupathi Venkateshwara, Nandishwara and Najundeshwara.

Their food style is very simple they use Rice, Rotti, Chapati, Mudde ( Balls) Fish, Chicken, Mutton and some other things for their daily menu. Handi Jogis people also involved themselves in Hunting activity. It is also one kind of earring for them they involve themselves in fishing hunting of Rabbit, some types of Birds.

In the Handi Jogi community in Karnataka, there are castes such as Chauhan, Kotwal, Sindhi, etc. They celebrate Gaurihabba, Dussehra, and Diwali festivals. Every year they go to Nunkemale Kalabhairava Math, which is near

Molakalkur in Chitradurga district. Nunkimale will participate in the Siddheshwar fair there. Also, in math, the small children of this community will be put in their ears. Mandatory earmuffs are a tradition. Only those who follow this tradition are eligible for the next day's celebrations.

The Handi Jogi community in Karnataka makes Nyaya Panchayat decisions through elders. As this community is always nomadic, they go from one town to another in search of food. Some traditionally beg by playing kinneri and singing songs. So locals call him Kinnari Jogi. Men also tell fortunes through palm leaves. Sometimes predictions are also made by looking at facial features. Women carry mats made by men to villages and sell them. Also, women sell needles, pinna, dabban, jadabooti, and other goods. Sometimes they sell plastic cups.

#### **Population of the Families of the Handi Jogi Nomadic Community (2007)**

Sl no	Dist	Taluk	Place	No. Of family	No. Of male	No of female	Total
1	Vijayanagara	Kudligi	Kudligi	30	67	68	138
			Bishnahalli	205	463	466	929
			Hosahalli	15	34	35	69
			Chikka jogahalli	30	67	68	135
			Ujjini	05	11	12	23
			Alur	05	11	12	23
			Gudekote	05	11	12	23
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>1327</b>

Kannada PustakaPradhikara, Government of Karanataka, published a book written by Chandrappa and M. Dushyantha titled Nomad Tribes Study Series. There is information in these books that there are 1327 Hand Jogi Community People, out of whom 664 are male and 673 are female. Approximately 295 families were living

#### **Problems with Handi Jogi:**

- 1) The Handi Jogi community in Karnataka lives in tents, huts, and tin houses; the government must provide them with a shelter.
- 2) The Handi Jogi community lives in poverty.
- 3) Aged people, physically challenged people, and widows must be provided with a monthly pension.
- 4) The government must provide basic facilities like roads, water, and electricity to handi Jogi community colonies
- 5) The government must provide a monthly pension to Handi Jogi community artists.
- 6) The government must provide Samudaya Bhavana, schools, Anganavadi facilities, etc.
- 7) Credit facilities to Handi Jogi communities in nationalized banks should be given.
- 8) Recognition for their clan crafts.
- 9) The government must provide special packages to improve the socio-economic and political conditions of the Handi Jogi community.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Handi Jogi's life is a struggle. Struggle is life. They are still continuing with their traditional baptism. And dedicate their whole life to a square meal a day. It's a paradox that even after 76 years of freedom, the Indian government has failed to provide basic amenities for this community. At least from now on, the government has to open its eyes and provide basic necessities to these neglected communities and give them a chance to join the mainstream.

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