

# **Use of Forest Resources by Kathodi Tribe of Udaipur District and its Impact on the Environment**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Use of forest resources in various tribal communities of India has been an integral part of their life. One is not only the source of their livelihood, but also a significant part of their cultural identity and social structure. Kathi tribe residing in Udaipur district of Rajasthan is also a tribal community, which is highly dependent on forests for its daily life and survival. The forest-based lifestyle of the Kathodi tribe reflects dependence on their traditional knowledge and local resources. They meet various needs like food, fuel, medicinal plants, and construction materials. However, this use of forest resources is not limited to only livelihood, but also there is also cultural and religious significance. The forest is the center point of the tribal traditions, customs and festivals. But, as time is passing and the effect of modernity is increasing, excessive use and uncontrolled tapping of forest resources is also increasing. It is not only impact on the lifestyle of Kathi tribe, but its environmental consequences are also becoming serious. Problems like forest resources are causing high tapping, harvesting of forests, decrease of biodiversity, and climate change. The Kathodi tribe of Udaipur district, which resides in the wild and mountainous areas of Rajasthan, is an ancient and distinctive tribal community. The life of this tribe is dependent on forest resources depth, and has a significant role of forest resources in their traditional lifestyle. People of a little tribe get different types of resources from the forests, such as wood, fruits, medicines, and other forest products, which are important in different aspects of their daily life. The use of forest resources of Kathodi tribe is not only necessary for their physical life, but it is also an integral part of their cultural identity and social structure. These tribe forest trees, herbs, herbs, and other natural resources use to create traditional medicine, food content, and tools. Thus, forests are not only a physical resource but also a cultural and spiritual source. However, in modern times, significant changes are being seen in the use of traditional forest resources of this community. Pressure is increasing on forests due to factors such as increasing population, industrialization, and environmental crisis. Issues such as forest harvesting, changes in land use, and climate change are adverse effects on the traditional resources of this community and their lives. The use of forest resources of the Kathi tribe is to make an intense analysis of impacts on their environment. In this analysis, it is necessary to see what kind of changes are coming in their traditional forest resource practices due to modern environmental challenges and what these changes are affecting their cultural and social life. Kathodi tribe has adopted the customization strategies towards environmental changes and how they are protecting their cultural heritage. Under this, it will be tried to understand how these tribes are facing environmental challenges by using their traditional knowledge and experience and what measures are taking to maintain their stability. Thus, this introduction provides a comprehensive approach to the use of the forest resources and their environmental impacts, which is important for their cultural heritage and environmental stability. In this research paper, the use of forest resources and the use of forest resources and their environmental impact will be studied by the Kathodi tribe of Udaipur district. Additionally, it will also be analyzed how reconciliation can be established between traditional knowledge and modern challenges, so that both forest protection and the livelihood of the tribal community can be kept safe. The purpose of this research is to analyze the methods of using the forest resources of the Kathodi tribe, assess the environmental impact, and suggest potential solutions for permanent

resource management. Thus, this study will not only try to understand the life of the Kathodi tribe, but will also provide guidance to establish a balance between forest protection and community development. Distribution and introduction of Kathodi tribe

**Keywords:** Use of Forest Resources, Kathodi Tribe, Effects on Environment

## INTRODUCTION

Kathodi tribe, which is sometimes known as “Kathodi” or “Kaathod”, is a major tribal tribe residing in Udaipur district of Rajasthan. This tribe holds a special place in social and culturally tribal communities. People of the Kathodi tribe traditionally reside in forest areas and their lifestyle is highly dependent on forest resources.

### Geographical distribution:

The Kathodi tribe is mainly in the southern part of the residence Udaipur district, where the forest areas are more. In addition to Udaipur district, the distribution of this tribe gets to see other districts of Rajasthan like Dungarpur, Banswara, and Sirohi. In particular, there is a major presence of Kathi tribe in comprehensions such as Kotra, Khadol, and Gogunda of Udaipur. Due to the abundance of forest resources in these areas, these people have settled here and have maintained their traditional lifestyle (Saxena, 2020; Maurya, 2014; Sharma, 2023).

### Population:

The population of the Kathodi tribe is a small part of Rajasthan’s total tribal population, but this community is important for its cultural and traditional lifestyle. According to the 2011 census, the population of the Kathodi tribe is between about 20,000 to 25,000 in Udaipur district. However, in the population, this number changes uniquely, and its accurate estimate can be imposed on the basis of new census data.

### Social and Cultural Life:

Social structure of the Kathodi tribe is based on traditional and community elements. These people are known as a closed society, which maintain their cultural heritage and traditions. The importance of community life in the Kathodi tribe is more, and they follow the process of collective decision making.

### Religious beliefs:

The religious beliefs of the Kathodi tribe are nature worship. These people worship various natural elements, such as trees, mountains, rivers etc. Their goddesses are

local, and they consider forests and natural places sacred.

### Language:

The language of the Kathodi tribe is an integral part of their daily life. These people mainly speak “Wagadi” language, which is one of the languages spoken in the southern parts of Rajasthan. Apart from this, some kathadi people are also skilled in local Hindi colloquial, especially when they come in contact with external communities.

### Economic Life:

The economic life of the Kathodi tribe is mainly dependent on agriculture, forest storage, and fishing. Due to living in forest areas, these people collect forests, wood, herbs, and other natural resources. Along with this, their agricultural activities are also traditional and low production. Due to the lack of modern economic tools, these people still depend on traditional means for their livelihood.

### Education and Health:

The backwardness of the Kathodi tribe is seen in the field of education and health. Due to limited resources and remote locations, access to their education is limited. The level of primary education is very low, and reaching higher education is almost negligible. Health services also decrease, and traditional treatment methods are still popular. Regardless of the government efforts, these areas need improvement.

### Challenges:

The Kathodi tribe has to face different types of social and economic challenges. Some of them are prominent: Lack of education: Access to their education is limited, and the level of primary education is also very low. Economic backwardness: - Due to the lack of limited resources and modern economic tools, these people still depend on traditional means. Lack of health services: There is a shortage of health services in these areas, and traditional treatment methods are still popular. The effect of modernity: Due to the effect of modernity and urbanization, their traditional lifestyle and cultural beliefs are changing, which is causing their identity.

**Government initiatives and schemes:**

Rajasthan Government and the Central Government have implemented various schemes for the welfare of Kathodi tribe. Many efforts have been made in the field of education, health, and economic development. Under tribal development schemes, steps are being taken to improve their social and economic conditions. Apart from this, under the Forest Rights Act, they have been given the rights of forest resources so that they can keep their traditional lifestyle safe. Use of Forest Resources of Kathodi Tribe (Use of Forest Resources of Kathi Tribe): The Kathi tribe of Udaipur district is one of the tribal communities of Rajasthan, which depth on life forest resources Depend from. Their lifestyle, livelihood, and cultural practices revolve around the resources received from the forest.

Detailed description of the use of forest resources of Kathodi tribe is being presented:

**Use of dietary resources:**

People of Kathodi tribe depend on food items. They collect foods such as wild fruits, roots, tubers, leaves and honey. These materials are part of their daily diet and ensure their food security. Apart from this, they also use the seeds received from the forests to remove edible oil. Collection of fruits and herbs: - From forests, Gava, Jamun, Tendu Fruit, Plum, Mahua's flowers and other wild fruits are collected. The flowers of Mahua are also used to make alcohol. Honey: - Collection of honey produced by bees is also an important part of forest resources. This is not only a nutritious food, but the income is also earned by selling it. Tuber and original: - Various types of tubers and roots such as sun, potatoes are also received from the forests and they are used as food.

**Fuel and Construction Materials:**

The people of Kathodi tribe collect materials like wood and bamboo, which are used in fuel, home making, and other construction works. Wood is used in the form of fuel for cooking, while the bamboo and other wooden products work in the construction and repair of houses. Fuel wood: - The bright wood is collected from forests, which is used as fuel to burn. It is still a major energy source in rural areas. Construction Material: - Bans, grass, and various types of wood obtained from forests are made in building homes, creating roasters, and other construction works.

**Usage of medicinal plants:**

The Kathodi tribe has knowledge of traditional medicine, in which they use medicinal plants received from forests to treat various diseases. These medicinal plants are part of their cultural heritage and are an integral part of their traditional knowledge. Collection of medicinal plants: - Various herbs and medicinal plants found in Jungal are used in the treatment of various diseases using Arjun's bark, neem, basil, giloya, amla, and Bhrigaraj. Traditional Medical Method: - The Vaidya of the Kathi tribe do these drugs under traditional medical practices to treat fever, winter, cough, injury, and other diseases

**Agriculture and Animal Husbandry:**

Forest resources are also used for agriculture and animal husbandry by Kathi tribe. Agricultural land is cultivated near forest areas, in which they also cultivate cash crops along with food crops. Apart from this, the use of forests is used for animal husbandry. Resources for agriculture: - The use of leaves, grasses, and other organic materials obtained from the forests, which remains fertility of the soil. This is part of the traditional agricultural method, in which chemical fertilizers are not required. Animal Husbandry: - For the fodder and grass for the people. Apart from this, animals are left to characterize in the forest area, which ensure their food requirements are met.

**Intipulation and Economic Activities:**

People of Kathodi tribe also use different materials from forests to make handicrafts. These handicrafts products are part of their economic activities and they earn income by doing business. Bamboo and Wood Products: - Bamboo and wooden baskets, mat, and other handicrafts products received from forests are created. These products are sold in markets, which receives an important source of income. Dyeing and knitting: The natural colors obtained from the vehicles are used for the dyeing of clothing and other garments. Apart from this, weaving work is also done with leaves and fibers.

**Hypocrisy and cultural importance:**

The Kathodi tribe is an important place of forests in religious and cultural life. Located in the forests, waterfalls, and other natural sites are considered sacred and there are various religious rituals. This tribe uses clothes, flowers, and other materials obtained from forests for worshipping their gods. Worship of forest gods: - Kathi

tribe worships forest gods and trees. For this, the collection of flowers, fruits, and leaves are made. Cultural Festival: - During different cultural festivals and festivals, the materials received from the forest are used in rituals.

### **System based forest management:**

Dependence on the forest resources of the Kathodi tribe has inspired them to adopt traditional methods of forest protection. These people manage forests community and maintain rules for their continuous use.

#### **Community Forest Management:**

- The Kathi tribe controls the use of forests through community decisions. They ensure that the resources received from the forests are balanced and continuous use.

### **Forest Protection:**

For the protection of the forests, worship and other religious activities are worshiped by the Kathodi tribe, which makes them sensitive to forests. The life of Kathi tribe is highly dependent on forest resources, and has been helpful in ensuring the continuous use of traditional knowledge and lifestyle forests. However, excessive tapping of forest resources in modern times and environmental imbalance is putting negative impact on their lives. In such a way, the forest resources should be protected by adding their traditional knowledge and forest protection methods with modern management practices.

### **Effect on Environment (Effect on Environment):**

**Positive Effects (Positive Effects) :** Continuous Management: Traditional knowledge of the Kathodi tribe is helpful in continuous management of the forests. They promote the conservation and recycled of forests through traditional rules. Protection of Variety: Traditional Agriculture and Forest Management Methods are helpful in maintaining biodiversity. These methods contribute to keeping the ecological mechanism of the forests. The Kathi tribe of Udaipur district is one of the main tribal tribes of Rajasthan, which has dependent on forests for its traditional lifestyle. Their life and culture are deeply connected with the forests. Continuous use of forest resources is an integral part of their life, and they use these resources in different ways. Below the use of their forest resources has been described below:

### **Wood for fuel:**

People of Kathodi tribe cut wood from forests,

which is the main fuel source for them. They use wood for cooking and summer. Apart from this, they also use wood to build and repair your homes. However, it is done in a controlled manner, which is not highly tapping.

### **Krishi and livelihood:**

The Kathodi tribe depends on the forests for its livelihood. They collect tubes and herbs in the forests, which they sell in local markets. Apart from this, land is used for farming in forest areas. They cultivate small scale, which grow crops like tide, corn, and millet. Due to traditional farming methods, they maintain environmental balance.

### **Poor plants and herbs:**

The use of medicinal plants and herbs found in Kathodi tribe forests in traditional medical practices. His traditional knowledge provides information to use flora to treat various diseases. These medicinal plants are not only important for the health of the tribe, but also keep special places in their cultural and religious life

### **Hunting and Fishing:**

Kathodi tribe also hunts wildlife, which is a major source of their food. They hunt small animals, birds and fishes. Using a traditional way of hunting, using a trap and arrow-command, they hunt in a balanced way, which does not have excessive pressure on the population of wildlife.

### **Construction Material:**

Bamboo, grass, and wood access from forests, the Kathi tribe does in the construction of its homes, huts, and luxuries. Use of materials like bamboo and grass is used for environmentally friendly, which does not require excessive tapping of forests. These materials are used in continuous and natural way.

### **Religious and cultural use:**

The Kathodi tribe is an important place for forests in religious and cultural life. They worship trees and natural sites and use the resources of forests for their religious activities. Their religious beliefs motivate them for the conservation and continuous use of the forests. For example, before cutting the trees, they follow traditional customs, causing the loss to the vegetation.

**Soil Protection and Water Management:**

Kathodi tribe is also used for water management and soil conservation. They collect water in the forests in traditional ways, which protects water sources and the problem of soil erosion can be reduced. They produce small ponds and canals to protect the water, which are important for their agricultural actions and livelihood

**Bins and Handicrafts:**

Kathodi tribe makes use of bamboo and other forest products to make handicrafts. They make bamboo baskets, mat, and other household use items, which they sell in local markets. This is not only a means of their economic livelihood, but also symbols of their cultural identity.

**Practical Social Structure:**

There is a collective use of forest resources in the social life of the Kathodi tribe. They collectively manage forests and share the use of resources. This social structure helps them to use continuous and controlled forests. In the process of making the community decision, they determine the methods and quantities of use of forest resources.

**Economy and self-reliance:**

The use of products received from Kathodi tribe forests to run their economy. They sell raw materials from the forests in the market, so that they get income. It makes them financially self-reliant and maintains their relationship with the forests. Relation with the forest resources of Kathodi tribe is not limited to only the livelihood, but their life, culture, and traditions are also based on forests. They strive to maintain their environmental balance while continuously using the forests. However, due to modernization and external influences, some changes have changed in the use of their forest resources, yet their traditional knowledge and community approach has played an important role in conservation of forests.

**Negative Effect (Negative Effect) :**

**Forest Damage:** Utility can cause excessive wood and bamboo harvesting forests and damage. This forest affects the ecosystem and can cause climate change. The lack of securities: Excessive resources from the forest can put negative impact on local life and ecosystem. It can cause the lack of resources and the imbalance of

the ecological mechanism. Seemary imbalance: Due to modern development and urbanization, environmental imbalance may arise, which can cause climate change, soil erosion, and other environmental Problems give birth. Kathodi tribe is a major tribal tribe of Udaipur district, which has dependent on forests for its traditional lifestyle. However, there are many negative impact on the environment with excessive and unbalanced use of forest resources at the present time. The description of these negative effects has been done below:

1. **High harvesting and erosion of the accounts:** Kathodi tribe harvest forests for wood, fuel, and agricultural land for their daily life. However, due to the growing need and pressure of the population, forests are being harvested. Because of this, the area of the forest is rapidly declining, due to which the reduction in the vegetation cover and environmental imbalance is occurring.
2. **Damage of Variety:** Destroying the habitat of excessive tapping and harvesting, wildlife and flora. This is decreasing the number of different wildlife species and plants. Due to this lack of biodiversity, the balance of the ecosystem is deteriorating and many species are on the verge of extinction.
3. **Soil eronce and land erosion:** Due to activities such as forest cutting and zoom farming, erosion of the upper layer of the soil is increasingly happening. The problem of land erosion is occurring due to the removal of the vegetation cover, which is decreasing the fertility of the soil and the quality of agricultural land is negative.
4. **Pressure on water resources:** The direct impact of harvesting and land erosion falls on water resources. Due to the decrease of the forest, the water is being destroyed, which is decreasing the number of water sources. As a result, the water level is declining in rivers, lakes, and reservoirs, which is decreasing the availability of water for drinking water and irrigation.
5. **Change the change and impact on the local weather:** The absorption of carbon dioxide is declining from the harvesting, which is increasing the amount of greenhouse gases. This is a major factor to speed up climate change. Also, there is a change in the weather at the local level, such

as inequality, the condition of dryness, and temperature increase in the rain pattern, which has negative impact on the life of the environment and tribes.

6. **Disruption in the balance of theology mechanism:** - The excessive hunting of wildlife and unchecked use of forest resources by the Kathari tribe is spoiling the balance of the ecosystem. Due to the decrease in the number of wildlife, interruption in the food chain is causing adverse effects on the population of different species and the ecosystem is unbalanced.
7. **Accumulation of Victor Substances:** In some areas, the excessive and unbalanced use of forest resources by the Kathi tribe, such as high tapping of medicinal plants and herbs, is causing the accumulation of toxic substances in the environment. It is not only harmful to the environment, but also put a negative impact on the health of the tribes.
8. **Economic and Social Pressure Impact:** Many people of Kathi tribe have started tapping highly forests due to penditive and economic pressure. Due to the increasing demand of forest products in the market, the unchanged use of the forests is being decreased by the forest resources and environmental problems are occurring.
9. **Virtual harvesting and forest destruction:** Some groups of Kathodi tribe are being made illegal cutting of wood, which they sell in the market. This illegal activity is causing the intense destruction of the forests, which has a serious negative impact on the environment. Illegal harvesting is decreasing, due to the problems of climate change and soil erosion are increasing.
10. **Cultural Change and Environmental Impact:** The traditional knowledge of the Kathodi tribe is decreasing in respect to the environment, which is due to modernization and external effects. This change has influenced the approach to their forest resources, which is generating environmental imbalance. The excessive and unbalanced use of forest resources by Kathuri tribe of Udaipur district is putting a serious negative impact on the environment. Problems like deficiency of forests, lack of biodiversity, erosion of soil and water resources, climate

change, and interruption in ecosystem are prominent. For the solution to these problems, continuous forest management, conservation of traditional knowledge of tribes, and environmental awareness is needed, so that the balance of forest and environment can be maintained (Maurya, 2020; Kumar, 2023; [www.swachh.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.swachh.rajasthan.gov.in)).

### **Recommendations and Solutions:**

#### ***Continuous Forest Management:***

Continuous management policies are required to use the resources of the forests. It includes recycled, limited use, and community rules in the forests.

#### ***Disposal and reinvestment:***

To balance the damage of the forest, plantation and reinvesting programs should be promoted. It will help to maintain the availability of forest resources.

#### ***The education and awareness:***

Education and awareness should increase the importance of forest protection and continuous use between Kathuri tribe and other local communities. This will be encouraged to use the balanced use of resources.

### **Conclusion :**

Dependence on Forest Resources of Kathi tribe is essential for their life, but both of its positive and negative impact on the environment. Protection and appropriate use is possible through traditional knowledge and continuous management. For this, community partnerships, continuous practices, and environmental awareness are necessary, so that long-term protection of forest resources can be ensured and reduce environmental imbalance. Udaur District's Kathi tribe's forest resources is extremely important for their life and culture. People of this tribe provide resources from the forests, such as wood, herbs, and fruit-use for their daily life requirements, such as food materials, medicinal treatment, and building materials. The use of these resources is an integral part of their cultural identity and social structures, which is deeply linked to their traditional knowledge and cultural traditions. However, pressure on forests has increased due to environmental change and human activities in modern times. Industrialization, illegal forest harvesting, and land use changes have reduced the area of forests and it has decreased the availability

of forest resources of the Kathi tribe. These changes are affecting their traditional lifestyle and are adverse effect on their cultural practices. This study has concluded that Kathi tribe has adopted various customization measures to face environmental crisis, such as a change in community forest management and traditional farming methods. Although these measures are helpful, they can not meet the lack of long term solution. Therefore, there is a need to take concrete steps towards continuous development and conservation in terms of Kathi tribe forest resources and their environmental impact. Under this, it is important to include the participation of local communities and their traditional knowledge in forest management schemes. This type of measure will not only protect the cultural heritage of the Kathi tribe but also

ensure the long-term stability of the forests.

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