NEEDS ASSESSMENT | KURUBA COMMUNITY | BY RASI SURANA

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: AMIT JAISSWAL + NAGARAJ PATTAR
Map of Karnataka
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>15%</th>
<th>25%</th>
<th>60%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sedentary</strong></td>
<td>10–50 animals</td>
<td>3–10 km radius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Semi Nomadic</strong></td>
<td>1,000–3,000 animals</td>
<td>50 - 100 km radius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nomadic</strong></td>
<td>50–1,000 animals</td>
<td>300-500 km radius</td>
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</tbody>
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Data by Follow Sheep
MALAPPA
Semi Nomadic Kuruba

BASAPPA
Nomadic Kuruba
About Their Life

The Beginning
Permanent Residence
Migration
Living Environment
Community Interactions
Sheep Management
Finance
The Beginning
Representation of his evolution as a shepherd
PERMANENT RESIDENCE
Permanent Residence: Semi Nomadic

Thatched roof houses in the village
Electricity Supply
Elders, women, children stay here
PERMANENT RESIDENCE: NOMADIC

Mud Houses in the village

Electricity Supply

Elders and pregnant women stay here
Migration
Migration

Group migrates after confirmation of deal/safety from lead shepherd
Away from disease/rain
Avoid main roads in fear of accidents
Avoid cultivated farmlands
June - December: Jowar farms
December - March: Rice Paddy farms
March - June: Hilly Regions

**SEMI NOMADIC**
Men migrate with their belongings carried on horseback/two wheeler

**NOMADIC**
Women go ahead in tempos with the lambs and men walk with the sheep
Living Environment
He lives alone with a collection of basic essentials required to survive.
deaths due to lightning/snake bites/rabid dog bites

Sleep on the farmland under the open sky

Vulnerable to changes in weather

Deaths due to lightning/snake bites/rabid dog bites
Sleepless nights, kambli and tarpaulin are their only protection from the rain and cold

**RAIN/LIGHTNING**
- Pitch tent only in heavy rain
- Tents are blown off in the wind
- Deaths due to lightning are frequent
**Storage Items**

For penning, iron rods and nets or mesh costing Rs. 700-1,200 (based on size)

Tarpaulin and kambli for protection from rain and cold

Torch/ Head Lamps, recharged at village homes

Injection/Medicines for the sheep
Water is collected from any lake/pond/river nearby. Carry water in used PET bottles which are covered in muck.
Fuel wood collected while grazing the sheep
Grains provided by farmers/purchased from village ration stores
Cook before sunset
Cooking in Rains

Fuelwood is covered with tarpaulin in case of rain

Wet firewood is used despite the incomplete combustion

Drink sheep milk if they are unable to light the chulha
SHANTAMMA
Organizes her nomadic lifestyle into a stable household setup
**Nomadic: Living Environment**

Women pitch tent close to grazing area and water source.

Families pitch tents near each other in a manner that all the sheep are penned in the centre of the settlement.
Shelter

Transported along with other belongings

Pre-stitched

Lasts for 2-3 years

Cost Rs. 1,100

Locally repaired by the shepherds
Leaves act as a barrier against the wind
Bamboo shafts and iron pegs used for anchoring
Turmeric powder sprinkled around tent wards off insects/snakes
Mosquitoes breed inside the tent

CONSTRUCTION
Bamboo shafts and iron pegs used for anchoring
Leaves act as a barrier against the wind
Turmeric powder sprinkled around tent wards off insects/snakes
Mosquitoes breed inside the tent
Women use the light from the chulha to identify masalas. Torch/Head Lamp is rarely used despite the darkness in order to conserve power.

At Night
Required belongings organised before sunset.
Women sleep inside the tents with children and newborn lambs. Men sleep outside the tent/near the pens to guard their family and sheep. Tent closed and mound of mud created on all 4 sides in case of rain. Deaths due to lightning.
Water is sourced from nearby bore well. Drinking water has a metallic taste and contains floating sediments/insects. The same vessel is used for drinking and sanitation purposes.
Soot mixes with water altering the taste

Women collect firewood from surrounding grasslands/forests

Soot is deposited on the interiors of the tent

Soot mixes with water altering the taste
COOKING

Vessels organised as per usage  Animals’ medicine boxes used to store masalas  Cooking oil stored in used PET bottles  Children are prone to scalding while the mother is cooking
Cleaning

Food packed to keep away from lambs/children

Leaves or bricks used to scrub utensils with a mix of detergent and ashes

Leaves laid out prevents utensils from sticking to the soil
Belongings packed in gunny bags in order of use

Food to be cooked is determined by the order in which utensils were packed
Travel with family from the age of 7 months. Vaccinated periodically. If no help is available, mother carries the baby along when she goes to collect firewood.
Livelihood centric schooling in native

Start assisting parents in shepherding from an early age

Aspirations for Children

Often drop out after 4th std.

Less thrust on girls’ education
Health

Perennial Cold
Disturbed Sleep
COMMUNITY INTERACTIONS
Connectivity/Leisure

Robust keypad phone, not touch screen
Long battery life required as they can charge only in the village
Can only make/receive calls, Cannot save contacts
Listen to songs/watch movies downloaded from the village; Re.1/song
Return to village for Ugadi/Diwali/Dusshera/Shivratri

Shepherds congregate for counsel, cure and prasad at the travelling temple of Balu Mama

Travelling Temple attracts a lot of followers on all the days it is set up
Sheep Management
Semi Nomadic
**On Field Equipment**

- Drinking water is stored in used PET bottles
- Rechargeable torches, charged at nearby villages
- Kambli to protect from rain and cold on the field
Sheep are grazed on farmlands/ arid grasslands. Dogs act as guards for the lambs and direct the sheep. One shepherd stays back to take care of lambs penned near their belongings.
One man holds the torch, the other milks the sheep. Since the sheep are stationary, prone to predation from wolves and mosquitoes, shepherds get bitten by snakes. Treatment is not given in time.
Shepherds shear the sheep to ward off diseases. Do not sell the wool. Katri: Rs. 150-200
**Health: Medication**

- Chicken Gunia/Cold/Heart Attack/Blood Pressure
- Vaccinations/Medications cost Rs. 30,000 p.a.
- Medicines are coded based on colour/number/shape of bottle
- Prone to administering medicines not meant for sheep
Vulnerable in monsoons due to moist wool

Call/Consult VET, follow instructions if VET is unable to reach

Diseased sheep are sold

Dead sheep left in the field
Sheep and lambs are let out of the pen for milking. Children milk the sheep for the family’s consumption, not enough to sell.
Nomadic: Night Time

Shepherds and dogs sleep around the pen to guard against foxes/wolves/thieves.

Dogs are drugged by thieves.

Use torches to navigate their way in case of predators.
Health

- Carry diseased lamb on shoulders to tent
- Vaccinate before rains
- Medicate by experience
- Learn about new medicines from chemists
- Expenses: Rs. 1 lakh p.a.
Butcher

Farmers

Family Farmland

Contractors

SEMI NOMADIC INCOME

Lambs
Half of the births in 1 year

Sheep  ₹6-8k
Lamb   ₹4k
Ram    ₹11-25k

Manure
₹2/night/sheep grains

Price depends on appearance, perceived weight, strength of limbs, diseases

Shepherd

Middle Man

Butcher

Shepherd

Middle Man
Selling Sheep

Multiple weekly animal markets at Sindhnoor/Bagewadi/Kokkanapalli/Amingarh may sell at a loss to avoid added expenses of transporting sheep to the next market.
Emergency Family Groceries Health Emergency

Family (village) Groceries Health Emergency

Family Farmland Sheep

Village Home Bank Accounts

Assets

Loan
Relatives
2% per month interest
No notice period for return
Sell sheep to pay back
Banking:
1% p.a. interest
Documents Required

EXPENSES
Sheep are their chief asset

Nomadic
Either shepherds seek farmlands or are invited.

Payment in grains or cash or both Re. 1/sheep/night

MANURE
Sell lambs every 2 months

Sell Tagrus when old or/and in emergency

Transportation Charges: Rs. 25/sheep
Katrigars charge Rs. 5 per sheep

300 - 500g wool from 1 sheep

Sold at Rs. 5/kg
**NOMADIC INCOME**

- **Sheep**: ₹4,000
  - 4/5 every 2 months
- **Lamb**: ₹3,000
  - 10-15/kg
- **Ram**: ₹15-20k
  - Emergency

**Market**
- **Wool**: ₹5/kg

**Farms**
- **Manure**: ₹1/night/sheep grains

**Shepherd**
- **Butcher**
EXPENSES

Groceries  Health  Bike  Emergency

SHEEP
White Metal  Village Home

ASSETS

LOAN
Relatives
2% per month interest
Banking:
Tedious process
IN THE END

Nomadism is their choice
Sheep are their chief asset
Live in constant peril of predation
Vulnerable to changes in weather
Acceptance of absence of basic necessities: protection from cold and light at night
Basic health and hygiene of oneself is not given importance in their life.
A financial model that works on a balance of cash and kind (sheep).
POSSIBLE AREAS OF INTERVENTION

- Clean Cooking
- Shelter/Protection
- Water/Hygiene
- Light
- Lightning