

SOCIO –FISCAL LOCUS OF TRIBAL WOMEN IN SUNDARBAN

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ABSTRACT

The Scheduled tribes constitute a small fraction of the overall residents of the country and they are ostracized from the society in many salutations. Comestibles made in the Composition have brought about variations in their position but still they are antagonized with a number of challenges. Tribal women in Sundarban are hardworking than tribal men and they contribute considerably towards their family income but their income engendering sources are limited. Low income imposes more hands in labor as a result they are hesitant to send their children to formal schools. Moreover due to general low level of education their awareness level is also low and so they tend to ignore the basic conditions of health. Status of tribal women in terms of education, employment and health is low not just compared to tribal men but also in comparison to women belonging to the general population. The purpose of this theoretical paper is to find out the challenges faced by tribal women, and to discuss the strategies that they can consider for handling these challenges successfully. The findings can be beneficial for effecting projects that can help in improving their situation of backwardness.

Keywords: Scheduled Tribes, Challenges, Tribal women in India, Status of tribal women.

1. INTRODUCTION

The tribal population in Sundarban statistically establishes a small fragment of the total population of the country but is a major part of the population. According to 2001 census data total population of Scheduled Tribes constitutes 8.2% of the total population of the country. Most of the Scheduled tribe people lives in rural areas and their population comprise 10.4 % of the total rural population of the country. The term ‘scheduled tribes’ first appeared in the Constitution of India, to convene certain constitutional civil authorities and shield to a group of people who are measured underprivileged and backward. In the Constitution of India, Article 366 (25) defines Scheduled Tribes as "such tribes or tribal communities or part of or groups within such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under Article 342 to the scheduled Tribes (STs) for the purposes of this Constitution" The Scheduled Tribes, who are also referred to as ‘Adivasis’, meant original inhabitants. For long periods of history, they were always socially and geographically out-of-the-way. They are in the right place to altered races with diverse traditional characteristics, talking varied languages, following a variety of beliefs and spread across various organic zones. Process of Sanskritization has pretentious them ethnically, and other processes of displacement have made them a marginalized segment of the society. Since independence, various procedures have been taken up at the national level for defending the securities of the scheduled tribes of the country and particular attention has been given to tribal development in the different plan periods. Out of the total tribal population, tribal women add up to almost half. Like all other communities, development of status of tribal communities also to a large extent depends on the up liftmen of the status of ancestral women. The popular perception of the tribal women indicates two differing interpretations .Some researchers are of the opinion that the tribal women enjoy higher social eminence compared to their non-tribal counterparts and some other studies indicate a low status for the tribal women. In fact, provisions made by the Constitution over the years have not made much transformation to the grade of ethnic women. Their status is found to be lower than that of women belonging to the general population, Scheduled caste women and also lower than that of the status of Tribal men.

2. OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of this paper are -

1. To find out the social and economic status of tribal women in sundarban .
2. To analyze the challenges faced by tribal women.
3. To suggest some strategies for handling the challenges faced by tribal women in sundarban.

Collective and monetary eminence of tribal women in Sundarban

The term Eminence means position of a person in a society. The term role is closely linked to the notion of status. It refers to the comportment estimated of people in a status. The status of a person or a group in a society is resolute mainly by the educational status, health status, employment status and decision making ability. All these factors are closely related to one another. The higher level of tutoring will spawn health consciousness, occupation occasions and verdict making capability among these groups.

The position of women in a society is influenced by to a large extent on the social structure and the type of society. In Indian social context, there is a preponderance of patriarchal family assembly where males predominate in all settings and social contexts. However, among many tribal communities, predominance of matriarchal families could be found. Contrary to patriarchal societies, status of women is found to be higher in matriarchal families. This specifies that the status of tribal women are not same in all places, rather they vary according to the ethnic group and the social construction. However, in tribal societies, tribal women are more essential than women in any other social groups because tribal women are very hard working and in almost all the tribal communities they participate in economic activities almost equally with men or work harder than men and the family economy and income also depend on women. Status is also determined by health conditions. The tribal groups' health status is lower compared to that of the general population. They have high infant mortality rate, higher fertility rate, privation of responsiveness regarding diseases and health care, drinking water provisions, hygiene. In many parts of India tribal population suffers from prolonged toxicities and water borne syndromes, insufficiency maladies. Incidence of infant mortality was found to be very high among some of the tribes. Underfeeding is common among them and it has affected the general health of the tribal children. It raises openness to infection, and leads to enduring illness which sometimes may affect brain. Their health rank is also associated to economic and educational aspects. Their lack of capability to participate in the industrial economic activities of modern societies has worsened their living conditions. The tribal are mostly engaged in occupations which do not generate much income such as hunting, crafts making, and agriculture. Industrialization and urbanization has brought about a change in the life and living of the tribal by uprooting them from their day to day activities and making them dependent on the vagaries of non tribals.

The tutelage level of the ethnic population is low and formal education has made very little impact on tribal groups. The level of knowledge among the tribals in most states in India is very low. Registration strategy of the Government has made some changes in the enlightening prestige. One of the main reasons for low level of literacy is their conveying moderately less consequence on formal schooling. The school syllabus and education system do not create much attention in them, rather a much more practical based syllabus would be helpful for them. Moreover, since the tribes live in poverty they do not like to send their children to schools as they are considered to be extra helping hands for affecting income. This level was quite low as related to the overall rate of females who are knowledgeable. This study was mainly based on the data collected from Census office and from diverse studies steered by the Cultural Research Institute, Calcutta. Various reasons have been attributed for low level of literacy among the scheduled tribe girls. Work contribution rate among scheduled tribe women were higher in ratio as matched to others. Poor economic condition has a direct bearing on the degree of involvement. Scheduled tribe workers are engaged in agrarian sector and in non-gainful livelihoods. Considering the education, economic and health of the tribal women, their positions were not at all satisfactory. Since independence, various protections have been given to the tribal population by the Constitution of India. The study highlighted some aspects of tribal work; tribal women work correspondingly with their male counterparts with lower pay, sexual manipulation. Tribal women don't have property rights, they have lower literacy rate than scheduled caste and general population. Tribal women are not healthy and agonize from malnutrition and various diseases. The study highlighted the need to improve the status of tribal girl, to bring about change in the status of tribal woman.

Difficulties challenged by tribal women

Most tribal faces a number of challenges which they need to overcome in order to progress their position in society. The researcher intends to converse here the issues faced by tribal women in particular. Absence of any fix maintenance: Various literature studies reveal that although work participation among tribal women is higher compared to scheduled caste and general population but the maintenances of the tribal people are neither everlasting nor fixed. Most of them do not have a systematic cradle of income, and they live below the poverty level. Ancestral people be vested in the rural areas pursue diverse low level activities for fulfilling their basic needs. Mostly they are involved in cultivated goings-on. Apart from that, they are spoken for in pastoral, handicrafts and at times as industrial workhands. Ancestral women are mainly not engaged in any kind of constant work and much like their male corresponding item are found to work in gardening. A meager number of tribal men and women are promised in régime services. Economic environments of households are related to other characteristics of their life.

Deficiency of contact to tutelage

Most of the familial women work outside their homes and are tangled in several deeds. They work in order to earn money for their family. The women's work comprises daily labor, unindustrialized work. Even young children and girls go for work along with their mothers. Most of the time they do not go to school regularly or become drop outs from school. Even the parents in very poor families don't always want to send the children to school because then

their helping hands in work would be reduced. Conclusion of patriarchy could be strongly seen in most tribal groups and so whatever money women get from their work they give it to their husband and the husband very often spends the money on activities like drinking. Household works are done by the female members of the family. Household work comprises cooking, cleaning, washing utensils and clothes, assembling fuel for cooking. The young girls who are studying in primary level in schools hardly learn anything in school and they don't study at home also. The government has announced free and compulsory education to all children up to the age of 14 years, which nowadays encourage parents to send their children to schools with the hope that if their children receive proper education, then their conditions will improve. The children are given free school uniforms, books and mid day meals. However, the girls don't continue school at a stretch. Sometimes they go to school, some other times they do not go to school and stay at home and go to work with their mothers and help their mothers at household work. As a result, they tend to forget what they have learned in school. After the girl child attains teenage the parents stop conveyance them to schools.

Underprivileged situation of health:

Absence of awareness about nutritional supplies mostly leaves the ancestral women weak, anemic and they suffer from various diseases. During pregnancy, special attention is required to be given to women otherwise that will affect the health of both the mother and child. Didactic level, employment status, health status and decision making ability helps to quantify the standing of women in society. Women's education has to be channelized to employment prospects. This in turn, will increase the decision making ability of women. Women's ability to communicate with other family members and to be able to convince them indicates a decision making ability of women. When the decision making ability is higher, women can have a higher status in the household.

Strategies for promoting a change in the status of tribal women in Sundarban

As it has been pointed out, low levels of economic activity and living conditions below the poverty level is a major problem faced by the tribal women. A practical way of solving this problem can be to afford skills and training to women which will help them in building up of self-help groups. Awareness can be created through effort to empower these women. Various NGO's can come forward to provide necessary trainings which will help them in becoming permitted and generate means of support. Bridge trust an NGO has been working with tribal women in areas near Sundarban for creating consent for them. In an article the role of Self-help groups in Sundarban in vesting women have been accentuated where women worked to bring about a change in their character at the local level and also beyond the local level. If the economic aspect is taken care off and awareness created, then the tribal children can attend school which will help them to develop a strong base for their future. Preparing themselves for future lives will be possible through adequate education. It is essential to aware and motivates the tribal children the reasons why it is important to have education. It is not just for acquiring money but to progress their decision making ability. The health of the tribal women is another aspect which needs consideration because the ancestral women work very hard and the income of the family is subject to on pains of the ethnic women. Among the ancestral women, infant humanity rate is found to be sophisticated as paralleled to national typical, which is mainly due to their lack of consciousness and amenities of child care. Ethnic women suffer from nourishing shortage. They have lower life-expectancy than the national average because they do not take the compulsory amount of food and rest. From various reports it has been found out that, illiteracy is a source of absence of mindfulness about health. If economic, educational and health features are given satisfactory courtesy, then these inspirations may donate to an upsurge in the result assembly skills of the ethnic women. If they are persuaded about the implication of economic institutions and if the banks extend their co-operation to these women then their safekeeping about pecuniary matters will be improved. Moreover, if efforts are given to make women literate then that may help them to face the outside world in a poised manner, which in turn will develop their lives.

3. CONCLUSION

In spite of numerous legitimate necessities and policies for the tribals, it is a hard authenticity that the ethnic women still are covering overdue in many greetings and they have to face many trials. The study stressed the requirement for ethnic expansion in India. Their low level of economic happenings, social backwardness, low level of literacy, poor health conditions makes it vital for a methodical procedure of ancestral enlargement. They work very hard and donate meaningfully towards the economic complaint of the family, but they are still in deficiency mostly because no proper exertions are focused on towards them. During the plan periods, various programmers are taken up for the increase of the Scheduled Tribe population and a lot of furtherance has been previously done, but motionless, a lot more involves to be done. The families need to have a sufficient income to enable them to cross the poverty levels. Since economic status regulates other parts of life and living circumstances, it is of utmost prominence. Education for ethnic women is

an essential aspect of development. Education is a vital instrument to bring about a change in the cultural norms and patterns of life of the ancestral women and to change their outlook and made them economically autonomous. It would assist them to establish themselves to scrutinize their situations and living conditions and be aware of their rights and responsibilities. Education will enable them to take up jobs so that they can improve their situation. Social and economic status of the scheduled tribe to a large extent depends on the educational attainment. Educated women will be able to face the present day society better than earlier times. In the present context, no one can remain completely isolated, but they are influenced by the growth of modern society and culture. Government is providing a lot of support and grant for the education of Tribal students. This will help to increase the literacy rate and it will lead to the right way to development. The health status of the tribals is explored to assess their awareness regarding their health. Sometimes they lack the essential nutrients. Many times they suffer from numerous ailments as there is a lack of health and cleanliness attentiveness. Thus accumulative the learning rate and providing prospects for profitable engagement for ethnic women will be contributory in bringing about a change in the status of tribal women in India and to handle to challenges effectively.

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