Research Paper

Volume : 2 | Issue : 11 | November 2013 • ISSN No 2277 - 8179

Economic Status of Tribal Women: A Case Study

Economics

KEYWORDS : Economic status, PRIs, Tribal Women.

Dr. Pallavi. S. Kusugal — Assistant Professor, Department of Studies & Research in Economics, Tumkur University, Tumkur-572103, Karnataka

Dr.Nagaraja.S — Assistant Professor, Department of Studies & Research in Sociology, Tumkur University, Tumkur-572103, Karnataka

ABSTRACT

Economic status is an important role in characterize the life and behavior of an individual. It is, therefore, essential to analyze the economic status of the Tribal women and to understand the pattern of relationship between Tribal women and local environment. In Indian society, caste and kinship has been influencing on the social life and acute disparity in terms of standard of living and sub-culture among various groups and regions exist, a study of the economic conditions of a leader would help to reveal the sociological significance. Hence, this paper is based on primary data and survey conducted in Chitradurga district of Karnataka state, to study the economic status of tribal women; especially they are representatives of Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the study area.

INTRODUCTION:

Empowerment enables women to take control over their lives and builds self-confidence and self- reliance. In order to build self-confidence and to evolve a female agenda, besides education, formation of coalitions to have a united strong voice is equally important. Economic profile is an important role in characterize the social life and behavior of an individual. It is, therefore, essential to analyze the economic background of the Tribal women and to understand the pattern of relationship between Tribal women and local environment. In Indian society, caste and kinship has been influencing on the social life and acute disparity in terms of standard of living and sub-culture among various groups and regions exist, a study of the economic conditions of a leader would help to reveal the sociological significance. At the same time, socio-economic stratification determines the structure of political power.

The nature of leadership is, however, greatly determined by variables such as age, caste, sex, religion, and occupation, education, rural-urban background, family size, and holdings, etc. These variables besides giving us an insight into their personality makeup also enable us to look into their social basis in terms of the dominant class and caste to which they belong. The economic profile, educational and political background of the leaders would also enable us to anticipate as to the capacity of Tribal women to discharge the responsibilities which are assigned to them.

The extensive reach of women's agency is one of the more neglected areas of development studies, and most urgently in need of correction. Nothing, arguing, is as important today in the political economy of development as an adequate recognition of political, economic and social participation and leadership of women. This is indeed a crucial aspect of 'development as freedom' (Sen,2006:203).

The main objective of this paper is to study the Influence of Economic factors on elected representatives of panchayat raj institutions (PRIs) in the study area. This paper is based on primary data and survey conducted in Chitradurga district of Karnataka state.

ECONOMIC STATUS OF TRIBAL WOMEN:

In this paper, we attempted to understand the different aspects of social and economic conditions of respondents. The main features of the socio-economic profile are age-composition, religion, caste composition, occupation composition, age at marriage, income, saving pattern and family background of respondents. Nevertheless, these variables could help us to know the socio-economic status of tribal women in the selected study area in the paper.

Educational Status

Education is the key indication of the development of the society. Education is an important dimension in an individual's life. It empowers one with the capacity to take rational decisions and analyze what is good and bad in a more realistic and pragmatic manner along with job opportunities and livelihood. In India, a woman in general and scheduled tribe women in particular has been denied even elementary education. The situation is much more critical among scheduled tribes. Since times immemorial they have been denied access to education and this continuous more or less even today.

Table No 1: Educational status

Sl.No.	Education	Frequency	Percentage
1	Illiterate	27	9
2	Primary	68	23
3	Middle	44	15
4	High School	85	28
5	P.U.C	59	20
6	U.G	13	4
7	P.G	1	0
8	Literate	3	1
Total		300	100

Source: Field survey

Table No 1 shows that 9%(27) respondents are illiterate, 23%(68) respondents have primary education, 15%(44) respondents have middle school education, 28%(85) respondents have high school education, 20 %(59) respondents have pre university education, 4%(13) have graduated, only one respondent have Post-Graduate degree and 3 respondent are literates. Data indicates that majority of the respondents are having high school and Pre-University education. Only 5% of the respondents have higher education. This shows that educational backwardness of tribal people. In spite of the efforts of the popularizing literacy among the tribal women, tribal women are lagging very much behind in education. Those who have higher education are significant in number in the present paper.

Occupational Status

Occupation is an important indicator of the economic status of the individual. The nature of occupational structure determines the individual, personality and standard of living.

In the present paper information was collected about the occupational status of respondents. The study shows that a significant proportion of respondents are engaged in agriculture (36.6%), and remaining respondents are working in all kinds of occupations this has given in table No 2.

Table No 2: Occupational structure

Sl.No.	Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
1	Agriculture	110	36.6
2	Trade	10	3.3
3	Social Work	32	10.6
4	Contractor	23	7.6
5	Agriculture Labour	80	26.6
6	Full time Politician	04	1.3
7	Cooli	41	13.6
8	Any Other	1	0.4
Total		300	100

Source: Field survey

Table No 2 indicates that 36.6% of the respondents are working in agriculture sector. And 3.3 respondents working in trading, 10.6% of the respondents are in social work, 7.6% of the in contractors, 26.6% of the respondents are as agriculture labour, 1.3% are full time politics and 13.6% are engaged in cooli, remaining one respondent is engaged in other occupation. The study shows that majority of respondents are from agriculture background other respondents have different kind of Jobs.

Income of the respondents

The income of a person in general, is an indicator of his/her economic status. The economic status of a person will impact on his/her attitude. Therefore, the study assumes that, the attitude of women belonging to the families with higher income differs from that of the attitude of women who are in middle or lower level of the income group. The economic status of the family also plays an important role in the attitude, ideas and values of family members and their decision-making.

In this paper, the annual income of the respondents is divided into four categories, from less than Rs. 5000/- to Rs.20,000 and above. The respondent's annual income is indicated below in the table No.3, in a detailed manner.

Table No 3: Annual Income of the respondents

Sl.No.	Income in Rs.	Frequency	Percentage
1	Upto 5000	23	7.7
2	5001-10000	57	19
3	10001-20000	150	50
4	Above 20000	68	22.7
5	Not applicable	2	0.6
Total		300	100

Source: Field survey

Table No 3 indicates that 7.7%(23) of the respondents have annual income of upto Rs. 5000, 19%(57) respondents annual income is from Rs.5001-10000, 50%(150) of the respondents annual earning is Rs.10001-20000, 22.7%(68) of the respondents are earning annual income of above Rs.20,000, and remaining 0.6% (2) of the respondents are not included to this above income group. The average annual income of the respondents is Rs.10,000-15000.

Savings pattern of the respondents:

Savings is also indicator of the respondent's economic status. The saving in this study represents income of the family and their saving habit. It is very important determinant of the condition of the respondent's family.

Table No 4: Savings pattern

Sl.No.	Savings	Frequency	Percentage
1	L.I.C	57	19
2	Chit Fund	23	7.6
3	Bank Savings	150	50
4	Other form	2	0.6
5	No Savings	68	22.7
Total		300	100

Source: Field survey

Table No 4, reveals the savings of the respondents also the awareness of the savings. Data indicates 19% (57) of the respondent's savings are in L.I.C, 7.6 % (23) of them saved their money in chit fund, 50% (150) of the respondents have savings in banks, 0.6%(02) of the respondents saved money in other credit institutions and 22.7%(68) of the respondents don't have any kind of savings for their future. The study signifies that women respondents are of savings due to political empowerment. It clearly shows that tribal women are being empowered economically.

There are certain issues that need to be understood regarding the political participation of scheduled Tribe women. First, their participation in governance is related to their level of social and economic development and their access to various resources, second, to facilitate the participation of Tribal women an understanding of the significance of the diversity and differences among women representatives is important, third the consequences of ethnic and social divisions in a society on women's role in governance cannot be ignored while planning interventions. Finally, if women are to be effectively involved in governances there should be corresponding changes in their access to various domains of social and economic life.

CONCLUSION:

If women are economically strong it creates leadership and decision making power. Constitutions safeguards to Tribal women provided opportunity to enjoy more freedom and power than ever before. Still rural women require awareness in all aspects. Women are deprived of equal access to education, health care, capital. There is a strong need of economic empowerment through education, employment. Then she will get decision making powers in the political, social, and in other sectors.

REFERENCE

• Ajit Singh Tomar (2008): "Emerging rural Leadership among scheduled castes", Mohit Publications, New Delhi. | • Ambedkar. S.N & Nagendra. S. (2005): "Women Empowerment and Panchayat Raj", ABD publishers, Jaipur. | • Chaudhary.S.N.(2004): "Dalit and tribal leadership in Panchayats", Concept publishing company, New Delhi. | • Chitrasen,Pasayat,(2006):"Development of Tribal Women Problems and Potential",Anmol Publications, New Delhi. | • Dhaka.Sunitha.et,al(2005):"Behind the veil: Dalit Women in Panchayat Raj", Abhijeet Publications, Delhi. | • Sen,Amartya(2006): "Development as freedom", Oxford University press, New Delhi | • Vijayalaxmi,V(2001): "Politics of Inclusion and scheduled Tribe women in Local Governance", Working Paper 88, The Institute for Social and Economic Change(ISEAC), Bangalore