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Social Stigma Among Tribal Women as A Gender Problem

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

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

ABSTRACT *Stigma is a set of negative and often unfair beliefs that a society or group of people have about something, especially about women. In society we such type of stigma or beliefs which hindered the progress of women and that is a social stigma it may be in the form of gender discrimination. Here this paper based on primary data and collected information from Chitradurga District of Karnataka State. Selected respondents are 300 Tribal Women, elected members of PRIs. The study observed the Social Stigma among Tribal Women as Gender Problem.*

KEYWORDS : Social Stigma, Tribal Women.

Introduction:

Social **stigma** is defined as a strong social disapproval of characteristics or beliefs seen as being against the cultural norms. Stigma is a set of negative and often unfair beliefs that a society or group of people have about something, especially women. Most scholars regard stigma as a social construction—a label attached by society—and point to variability across time and cultures in what attributes, behaviors, or groups are stigmatized (Crocker et al. 1998, Jones et al. 1984).

Objectives:

To study the Social Stigma among Tribal women as Gender Problem, a case study in Chitradurga District of Karnataka.

Database and methods:

Here this paper based on primary data and collected information from Chitradurga District of Karnataka State. Selected respondents are 300 Tribal Women, elected members of PRIs. The study observed the Social Stigma among Tribal Women as Gender Problem.

Any social stigma faced in political carrier:

Here we can also trace out the problem faced by the women respondents that is mainly of social stigma, which means still there is a discrimination of caste and gender. In this respect below table shows the stigmas faced by the respondents in study area.

Table No1:Any social stigma faced in political carrier

	Opinion	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	62	21
2	No	238	79
	Total	300	100

Source: Field Survey

Above table No.1 shows that the social stigma faced in political carrier in study area, out of 300 respondents 21%(62) respondents faced this problem and 79%(238) respondents not faced this problem. Here majority of the respondents were not faced the problem of social stigma that means there is change in the society with introduction of new policies and programmes, modern education, legal system and so on.

Gender problem of women

Like any other social problem gender is also has a problem of a women, to work in the development activities. Gender sensitiveness is affected the nature of work, commitment etc. even scientifically gender have some sort of limitations. Here researcher wanted to know that whether gender is a problem to do their rights and duties in the panchayat work. The table Table No/2 shows that the opinion by the respondents regarding gender problem.

Table No 2: Is respondent feel that gender as problem of women

Sl.No.	Response	Frequency	Percentage
1	Itself not a problem	86	29
2	Yes, it's a problem	97	32
3	One should find out solution	4	1
4	Not a problem	95	32
5	With this problem Women are backward	18	6
	Total	300	100

Source: Field Survey

Above table 2 shows the Gender problem of women participation in politics. Out of 300 respondents 29%(86) respondents are they think that gender itself not a problem, 32%(97) respondents are felt that it's a problem, 1%(4) respondents have feeling that we have solution for this problem, 32%(95) respondents were think that not at all its treated as a problem, 6%(18) respondents were think that they backward because gender discrimination. The whole data reveals that we get both positive and negative response to this. Some women are not think that they don't have gender problem, but in other case women are think that gender problem is a main problem to achieve in life.

Problems faced by tribal women in politics

Tribal women have faced so many problems with respect to the economic, social, political and cultural. Here tribal women have faced any political problem in panchayat raj system, different opinion collected by the respondents and analyzed below.

Table No 3: Main problems faced by tribal women in politics.

Sl.No.	Problems	Frequency	Percentage
1	Political, social, economic and educational	137	46
2	Social disabilities	24	8
3	All type of traditional problems	96	32
4	Illiteracy, ignorance,& other problems	43	14
	Total	300	

Source: Field Survey

Above table No.3 shows that the Problems faced by tribal women in politics. Out of 300 respondents, here 46%(137) respondents were having political, social, economical and educational problem, 8%(24) respondents were having problem of social disabilities, 32%(96) respondents were having all type of traditional problem, and 14%(43) respondents were having problem of illiteracy, ignorance and other problems. This data reveals that the maximum number of respondents are having problem of political, social, economic and educational in politics in this paper.

Problems pertaining to political participation than that of other women

At present women reservation policy provided opportunities to tribal women to enter politics than other women. But also some kind of problems faced by the tribal women than other general women; it may be cultural, religious, or social stigma, tribal social status and patriarchy among tribal society. Here researcher collected information pertaining to problems of tribal women compare other general women.

Table No.4: problem pertaining to political participation than that of other women

Sl. No.	Opinion	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	143	48
2	No	157	52
	Total	300	100

Source: Field Survey

The above table No.4, interpret the opinion regarding Problems pertaining to political participation than that of other women. Out of 300 respondents 48%(143) respondents have faced the such problem and 52%(157) respondents have faced this problem. In general women comes from the dominant caste they enjoyed the privileges in all respect but whereas in the case of tribal society women were most neglected and disadvantaged groups and they have suffered from many problems compared to the general women. The above data reveals that relatively problems faced by the tribal women have been considerably decreased. Because of new policies and programmes for upliftment of tribal women.

Women's personal and self decision are appreciated by male members

Here researcher observed that whether male members are appreciated the women respondents personal and self decision. Different opinion has been collected here is explained in below table No.5.

Table No. 5: Appreciated by male members

Sl. No.	Opinion	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	259	86
2	No	41	14
	Total	300	100

Source: Field Survey

Sl.No.	Obstacles	Frequency	Percentage
1	Corruption	23	8
2	Illiteracy and ignorance of women	48	16
3	Sexual harassment	57	19
4	The low status of women in the society	110	37
5	Lack of money	11	3.67
6	No problem at all	02	0.33
	Total	300	100

Above table No. 5 data examined the women's personal and self decision is appreciated by male members. Out of 300 respondents, 86%(259) respondents told that their personal and self decision were appreciated by the male members and 14%(41) respondents told that there is no appreciation for personal and self decision by male members. This data reveals that most of the respondents got appreciation by the male members but small portion of the respondents are not getting the appreciation by the male members.

Male dominance in politics

Gender bias is not confined to homes alone. Women today face gender discrimination even at workplace. Gender inequality is reflected even in political field also. Constitutionally women are declared equal and given equal opportunities to achieve equal status but in practice, women are not treated as being equal with men in politics. Against this background the present study attempts to find out the male dominance in politics. Table No. 6 interprets this.

Table 6 : Is male dominate in politics

Sl. No.	Opinion	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	293	98
2	No	7	2
	Total	300	100

Source: Field Survey

The table No. 6, interprets the data related to Male dominance in politics. 98%(293) respondents are said that there is male dominance in politics and 2%(7) respondents said there no dominance of male member in politics. This data reveals that most of the women are thinking still there is a male dominancy in politics. And men always suspects efficiency of women in panchayats. In case of women belonging to lower caste she is further ill treated by the male dominance section.

Greatest obstacles that women have to face while discharging their duties

Women in any field face so many obstacles, so here collected information related to what are great obstacles that women have to face while discharging the duties.

Table No 7: Greatest obstacles while discharging their duties

Sl.No.	Obstacles	Frequency	Percentage
1	Corruption	23	8
2	Illiteracy and ignorance of women	48	16
3	Sexual harassment	57	19
4	The low status of women in the society	110	37
5	Lack of money	11	3.67
6	No problem at all	02	0.33
	Total	300	100

Source: Field Survey

Above table No. 7 data regarding the greatest obstacles that women have to face while discharging their duties. In the table out of 300 respondents,8%(23) respondents were think that main obstacle is corruption, 19%(48) respondents have felt that obstacle in illiteracy and ignorance of women, 19%(57) respondents have think that obstacle in discharging their duties is sexual harassment, 37%(110) respondents felt that main obstacle is the low status of women in the society, 3.67%(11) respondents have felt that lack of money and 0.33%(02) respondents think that no problem in obstacles in discharging the duties. The data reveals that major obstacle is lowere strata of the women in society and other factors like corruption, illiteracy, ignorance and so on.

Women representative are backward than male representative

The paper focused with a view of finding out of the women members are backward than the male representatives. Table No.8 interprets on the basis of responses provided the samples interviews and the table highlights the level of women representatives are backward than the male representatives. In all 300 respondents were interviewed for this assessment.

Table no 8: women's representative are backward than male

Sl. No.	Opinion	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	274	91
2	No	26	9
	Total	300	100

Source: Field Survey

Above table No.8 examines data about women representative are backward than male representative. Out of 300 respondents, 91%(274) respondents are backward and 9%(26) respondents are not backward than male representatives. This data reveals that when compare to male, the women respondents were backward because many years' women were deprived in all respect that to in politics with the implementation of constitution and equal rights women are coming forward in the political arena. When it comes to male ratio the female in politics is backward.

Majority of male persons encourage women to participate in local administration and politics

Here study examines the majority of male persons encourage women to participate in local administration and politics. In this case different opinions collected by the respondents that are analyses in below table No.9.

Table No 9: male's encourage women to participate in local administration and politics

Sl. No.	Opinion	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	215	72
2	No	85	28
	Total	300	100

Source: Field Survey

Above table No.9 shows that the majority of male persons encourage participating in local administration and politics. Out of 300 respondents, 72% (215) respondents were told that they have more encouragement by male to participate in local administration and politics, and 28% (85) respondents were not have any encouragement by male to participate in local administration. The whole data reveals that the majority of women respondents were have got encouragement by male and rest of the respondents were not have any encouragement by male in participating in local administration and politics.

Conclusion:

In the conclusion we can say that political participation by the Tribal women increases their status and removing the traditional beliefs or social stigma.

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