



Social Status of SC Women in Rural Community : A Sociological Study

(With special reference to weaver women of Lali Village of Kheda District)

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ABSTRACT

While observing towards social status of Indian women, it is seen that, status of women was approximately equal to men in ancient age, but after vadic age disparity between men and women was developed. Tries have been started to improve social condition of women during British rule and they became more comprehensive in independent India. So process of man-woman equalization started. Social status of women is very low in traditional Indian Society. In rural community SC women work with her husband in farming and farm labour. She helps in increasing income of her family by doing labour in farming work changes have been occurred in social status of women due to new chances in employment and due to increase in education. But this change can not be seen in life of rural women as one can see clearly in life of urban women. Try has been made to examine what is the status of SC women in rural community in the present study.

KEYWORDS : Status, Scheduled Cast, Women, Weaver.

Introduction :

While observing towards social status of Indian women, it is seen that, status of women was approximately equal to men in ancient age, but after vedic age disparity between men and women was developed. It became lower than man in post-vedic age. Disparity became very acute in mogul era in medeveal age and there was no independent status of woman during that time. Tries have been started to improve social status of women during British rule and they became more comprehensive in independent India So process of man-woman equalization started.

Social status of women is very low in traditional India Society. Their work-field is limited to four walls of home. She passes her life under the attention of her father as a daughter, attention of her husband as a wife and attention of her son as a mother in family. Illiteracy, child marriage, prohibition against divorce, prohibiton against widow-remarriage, no right on parents' properly, and so many customs and beliefs and prohibitions have made her status subsidiary. Her main works are child caring and domestic work. In rural community SC women work with her husband in farming and farm labour. She helps in increasing income of her family by doing labour in farming work. Changes have been occurred in social status of women due to never chances in employment and due to increase in education. But this change can not be seen in life of rural women as one can see clearly in life of urban women. Try has been made to examine what is the status/position of SC women in rural community in the present study.

Objectives of the study :

The object of the present study is not to check any hypothesis but to examine to get information about social position / status of SC woman in rural community. Like-curtaining of elder gents of family, seating of the women in the presence of gents, to take meal with gents, separate space for women in home, girl education, work of women in family, entry of women in service etc.

• Selection of sample and collection of Data :

The present study aims at to examine social status / position of SC women in rural community. 100 weaver women of SC were randomly selected of age group of 20-50 of lali village of Kheda District. Data were collected by personal interview with the use of questionnaire from these women.

• Primary Information of Sample :

In the primary information of sample, 40% women were of 20-25 age group while 60% women were living in joint family while 40% women were living in joint family while 40% women were living in nuclear family. Accroding literary, 40% women were illiterate while 60% women were literate. 90% women were married while 10% women were unmarried.

Analysis of Data and Findings :

1. Curtaining of elder gents of family :

Tradition of curtaining is followed under the impression of Islam in Indi-

an society. It can be seen as one or another form of politeness. Married women follow rules/traditions of politeness who are elder to them like to talk with in laws or elder brother of husband under curtaining their face, not to talk, not to seat against them, not to go with elder gents of family etc. when it was asked to sample women whether they were curtaining of gents, 90% women told that they were curtaining of inlaws.

2. Seating of women against gents :

There are several traditions/customs of politeness for women in family life. One of the tradition is not to seat against gents of family. Daughter-in-law, daughter and other women of family should keep stand against elder persons of family is considered fair. To seat against them is considered unpolite for women. When asked regarding this tradition, 85% women do not seat against elder gents of the family. While 15% women seat sometimes against elder gents.

3. Eating of women with gents :

Eating of men and women separately is considered fair traditionally. When it was asked to women whether they eat with gents, 74% women do not eat with gents while 26% women eat with gents.

4. Separate place for women in home :

Separate place for gents and women in home is an important aspect of differential in family life. Families which wealthy and to whom facility of separate space (place) for men and women is available. Men and women stay independently in specious homes. But families who have not sufficient space of specious home, there is no separate place for sleeping for men and women. When It was asked to women weather there was separate place for men and women, 74% women do not get separate place for them while 26% women told that they had sufficient place for separate sleeping.

5. Education on Girls in family :

Spread of education is an important criteria for changing position and family position. As the women will get education, so will be the family become developed. Proportion of education is less among weaver girls, 55% girls are not getting education while 45% girls have taken education.

6. Work of Women in Family :

Work of men is to maintain family life and to administer it in traditional joint family. While work of women is child rearing and domestic work (Elin Rose : 1973:54) But in traditional rural communities, women have to co-operate in farming.

One special peculiarity of rural community is to join hand by women in farming work. In majority of the families women work farming work at home or go to farm. When it was asked how they spent their time, 90% of wever women whose economic position is low, they are engaged with farm work and help their family economically by doing farm labour.

7. Entry of Women in Service :

When it was asked to women whether women should enter in service

or not? Then 20% women told that women should enter in job service.

Findings :

Following findings are exploited in the present study regarding social status/position of SC women in rural community

1. Curtaining of women clearly shows that women curtain of elder persons of their family like in laws and elder brother of her husband.
2. Tradition of seating of women against elder gents of family has not been seen among majority (85%) families.
3. Eating of women with gents was seen only in 26% women.
4. Separate place for sleeping in home was seen for 74% women.
5. Primary education was seen in 45% girls.
6. Women are giving their contribution in increasing income of family by working form labourers.

Tradition of curtaining is more seen among rural women. To go and come, to talk or to eat against elder persons of family is not considered fair. To seat of women in present of gents is considered unfair and unlimited dealings.

Suggestions :

1. Comprehensive tries should be made to increase proportion of education among SC women in rural community.
2. Many new rights are given to women by laws SC women of rural community should aware of regarding marriage life, divorce, inneritance to women from their parents property, so that their social position could be improved.

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