



Socio-Economic Status of Tribal Women: A Case Study in Karnataka

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ABSTRACT

Socio-economic profile is an important role in characterize the social life and behavior of an individual. It is, therefore, essential to analyze the socio-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 socio-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 socio-economic status of tribal women; especially they are representatives of Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the study area.

KEYWORDS : PRIs, Socio-economic status, Tribal Women

INTRODUCTION:

Socio-economic profile is an important role in characterize the social life and behavior of an individual. It is, therefore, essential to analyze the socio-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 socio-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 socio-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 (Ambedkar.S.N,2005:90-91).

OBJECTIVES:

- To study the socio-economic status of Tribal Women.
- Influencing socio-economic factors on elected representatives of panchayat raj institutions (PRIs) in creating leadership qualities among Tribal women in the study area.

DATABASE:

This paper is based on primary data and survey conducted in Chitradurga district of Karnataka state.

SOCIO-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.

Type of family

Family is the basic unit of society, which assigns social status, roles and social responsibilities to every individual. Family is the most powerful medium through which value system can develop over the period of time and Individual behavior and attitude are determined by the family which he/she belongs to. In the sense, whether the family is joint or nuclear family and it also determines the status and role of Tribal women.

Table No 1: Type of Family

Sl.No	Type of Family	Frequency	Percentage
1	Joint Family	109	36
2	Nuclear Family	186	62
3	Single Unit Family	5	2
Total		300	100

Source: Field Survey

Table No 1 shows that 36% (109 respondents) of the respondents belongs to joint families and 62%(186 respondents) of the respondents belongs to the Nuclear family and remaining only 2%(5 respondents) of the respondents are living in the single family. Thus, the data indicate that the nuclear families more than the Joint families.

Place of Living

Place of living is an influencing factor on people to change their lives. Living place is the most powerful thing through which value system develops and which wields a profound influence on the growth of attitudes and interests of the individual. Here an attempt has been made to analyze of place of living which the respondents on their socio-economic development. This has been analyzed in table No 2.

Table No 2: Place of Living

Sl.No.	Place	Frequency	Percentage
1	Tribal settlements	32	11
2	Village	254	85
3	Taluk	10	3
4	District	4	1
Total		300	100

Source: Field survey

Table No 2 reveals that the 11 % (32) of the respondents live in Tribal settlements, 85%(254) respondents resided at village level, 3%(10) are in taluk and only 4 respondents residing at district level. This shows that the majority of respondents residing at the village level because of Hinduisation of tribal's and influence of neighboring castes people.

Marital Status

Marriage is an institution, which exists in every part of society. Marriage is not only a biological need but, also a social contract and a bond contributing towards happiness and contentment in one's life. Marriage bond between male and female in Indian society is considered sacred and significant for the individual.

Table No 3: Marital Status

Sl.No.	Status	Frequency	Percentage
1	Married	280	93.34
2	Unmarried	6	2
3	Separated	1	0.33
4	Divorced	3	1
5	Widow	10	3.33
Total		300	100

Source: Field survey

Table No 3 shows that majority of that is 93.4% (280) respondents are married, 2% (6) respondents are unmarried, one respondent separated, 1%(3) respondents divorced and 3.33%(10) respondents are widow. This data reveals that more number of respondents is married.

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 4: 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 4 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 5.

Table No 5: 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 5 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 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.6, in a detailed manner.

Table No 6: 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 6 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 7: 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 7, 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 par-

icipation 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 do-

mains of social and economic life. (Vijayalaxmi.V,2001:3)

CONCLUSION:

The socio-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.

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