

## DEVELOPMENT OF TRIBAL WOMEN

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### **Abstract**

*In the current article, an attempt has been made to evaluate the roles of educational attainment, economic participation, social capital, knowledge and wealth in women empowerment, and their links to health outcomes with special reference to tribal population in India. Present study is based on published articles and reports on women empowerment. It was found that the health status was poor among the primitive tribal women due to their low proxy empowerment indices, i.e., illiteracy, low exposure to media and impoverished living. Consequently, female empowerment bears a positive influence on the health outcomes. The researchers, government and voluntary agencies, NGOs, social reformers and social activists to take appropriate measures to improve the health outcomes of the tribal population.*

**Key words:** *Economic growth, socio-economic development, women empowerment, health outcomes*

### **Introduction**

The concept of development is multidimensional, and both qualitative and quantitative in nature that involves economic, political, social, material, legal, administrative, psychological and cultural values on which the full development of human personality and dignity of man in the society depends. The term development is a slow process of civilization. The purpose of development is to provide increasing opportunities to all the people for a better life empowerment. Past three decades have witnessed a steady increase in the awareness regarding need to empower women through increasing the social, economic and political equity, and broader accessibility to fundamental human rights along with improvements in nutrition, basic health and education. The National Nutrition Policy, 1993 recognizes the problem of malnutrition and undernutrition prevalent amongst tribal women and children and strongly advocates the need for controlling the same. In pursuance of the commitments of the Policy, the Department of Women and Child Development through its nationwide programs of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) continued to provide the much needed nutritional and health inputs/services for the benefit of tribal children, adolescent girls and expectant and nursing mothers living in the remote tribal areas with relaxed norms. Of the total 4,608 ICDS projects in action by the end of the Ninth Plan, 758 (13.4 per cent) were Tribal Projects through which a package of 6 services viz. health check-ups; immunization, supplementary feeding; referral services; non-formal pre-school education and health and nutrition education were being extended to 4.77 million children and 0.96 million mothers. The concept of Mini-Anganwadis introduced in the tribal areas was only to ensure that ICDS services reach the tribal women and children even in the remotest tribal areas. More details are available under the on 'Women and Children') The tribal women 103 have always played a dominant role in all agricultural operations as well as crafts and forest based economy.

There is no denying the fact that tribal women contributed to the economic development in a more substantial way than tribal men. The economic contribution of tribal women has assumed significant role due to various reasons. The growing industrialization, growth of education and opportunities of diversification of occupation as well as social mobility have multiplied. The building up of roads and development of fast communication has led to a large number of tribal women taking to petty trading and other income generating activities like casual labor and other construction work. Tribal women of today share abundant responsibilities and perform multiple duties in running the family, maintaining the household and so on.

Nowadays their life style is changing according to the changes in their social and physical environment. A tribal woman occupies an important place in the socio-economic structure of her society. Modernizations and economic development are pushing the tribal women more and more towards a wage economy. Different industrial and capitalist forces have entered tribal areas in search for raw materials and resources and the tribal are forced to adapt to the totally alien culture, leading to disturbances and derangement in their habits and life patterns. Commercialization and modernization of agriculture and other field of occupation has forced the women to low wages and unpleasant jobs. The new technologies demand the presence of more permanent, trained and skilled labor force. Men have monopolized the skills and occupied these jobs. Thus women have been displaced into the low paid, and unskilled casual labor force. Manipulations of land records, leasing in and mortgaging of land encroachment, 104 and illegal marital relations have been undertaken by the outsiders among the tribal women are more influenced

Since independence, the governments have been working out strategies to emancipate and empower the tribal and thereby, to improve their socio-economic conditions with a view to bring them on par with the more advanced sections of the society.

Several programs entailing vast resources are being implemented by both the central and state governments so as to enable these people to catch up with the general population. With the advent of the Five Year Plan, various development programs, policies and schemes have been implemented to ameliorate the pathetic conditions of these people, the lowest rung of the society. From the Sixth Five Year Plan more importance was given to the empowerment of women implemented to ameliorate the pathetic conditions of these people, the lowest rung of the society. From the Sixth Five Year Plan more importance was given to the empowerment of women.

### **Development Programs**

Any programs undertaken for the improvement in the quality of life of the people can be termed as developmental programs. Development programs undertaken (both by the Government and Non-government agencies) for the economic and social development of the women are treated as development programs in this study.

### **Voluntary Organization**

A unique feature of voluntary organization is that it stimulates voluntary action among the served community and progressively involves enlightened individuals belonging to the served

community in the higher echelons of its decision making machinery. According to Lord Beveridge, “a voluntary organization, properly speaking is an organization which, whether its workers are paid or unpaid, is initiated and governed by its own members without external control” (Lawani, 1999). In the context of the present study, the Voluntary Organizations play a vital role to improve the socio-economic conditions of the women through various programs and schemes, in order to empower the women community among like other programs government organization.

### **Impact**

The word impact means ‘effect’. It was the impact of some force exerted by one object striking against another. In this study it refers to the effect of development programs including both government and non-government programs on tribal women.

### **Variables**

Independent variables of this study are development programs implemented by government, impact of forest policy and role of voluntary organizations. Dependent variables are the various changes due to the influence of different government and non-government welfare programs among the women.

### **Health**

The health considered as sensitive one because health developmental programs very important for tribal women those who are settled in hills Hygiene is very important thing for good health followed by 26.50 per cent of the respondents expressed in hygiene and sanitation programs. The rest of the respondents participated in maternal malnutrition and awareness on sickle cell anemia 26.00 per cent and 21.00 per cent due to aware of nutritional

### **Employment**

The employment which is most powerful upliftment of living standard of the people, hence half of the respondents 34.50 per cent participated in income generation programs for self-employment and their livelihood security, followed by 28.50 per cent of the respondents expressed in skilled training programs for tribal women to conserve the traditional handicrafts. Meager 19.50 per cent of the respondents participated in offered local specific training programs implemented by government and Nongovernmental organization for improving their living standard through self-employment. Value and importance of medicines

## **Conclusion**

- The government should focus empowerment of schedule tribe women and allocate separate Funds throughout the five years plan. Health, education and nourishment should be selected Key focus areas, besides; women should be provided ample opportunities for economic development, based upon the traditional skills, women should also be provided additional skills for value additions to the produces
- The government should ensure 100% literacy among the tribal women through welfare programs and through the five years plan, the adivasi girls, who are desirous of higher education should be provided subsidy for education like technical, the state should provide the hostel facilities for motivation.

- The government should protect their labor rights. And the government should make special allocation for implementation of labor laws for the schedule area to prevent the exploitation of the workers.
- The land entitlements should be assisted by enhancing the yield by soil and water development process. The farmers should be provided the high yielding seeds varieties along with training to improve their agriculture. Such farmers should be provided the loan assistance for improving their agricultural productivity.

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