

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF KALVARAYAN HILLS TRIBAL WOMEN

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Abstract

This study to find out the socio-economic status of Kalvarayan Hills tribal women and to suggest the way and means for overall development of the same. This Community has rich and cultural heritage, eternal traditions, but lacking Socio-economic empowerment. Could not create wealth; they could not hold land and properties and so on. Anyhow, governments offered constitutional relieves in the form of reservation. However, it is yet to reach the needy people. Therefore, a detailed research study has been carried out on socio-economic status of women in this community. Here several strategic suggestions, policy guidelines have been suggested.

Keywords: *Kalvarayan Hills, Socio-Economic Status and Tribal Women*

Introduction

Socioeconomic status is a construct that reflects one's access to collectively desired resources, be they material goods, money, power, friendship networks, healthcare, leisure time, or educational opportunities. (Oakes and Rossi, 2003). Furthermore, it has been defined as the position that an individual or family occupies with reference to the prevailing average standards of cultural possessions, effective income, material possessions and participation in the group activities of the community (Chaphin, 1928). Very often it is measured as a combination of various factors such as education, income and occupation. Therefore, it can be said that socioeconomic status is not a unitary concept and with this concept in mind, for the present study socio-economic status is measured by using some of the prominent factors such as social factors, demographic factors and economic factors. Women in a tribal society play a vital role in their social, cultural, economic and religious ways of life and are considered as an economic asset in their society. But they are still lagging far behind in the various walks of life like education, employment, good health and economic empowerment etc. Empowering may be understood as enabling weaker sections like poor women, especially tribal women to acquire and to possess power and resources, in order to make decisions on their own After the analysis of the data and field observation, it is revealed that lack of education, poor health status and infant mortality rate, low level of wage work, lack of self employment opportunity, organising capacity and leadership quality are the main obstacles to the economic empowerment of tribal women (Puttaraju and O. D. Heggade, 2012). Franzmen, (2000) and (Scott, 1988) in them study, the religious sphere is most dominating among tribes it constitutes a major field for male domination. The women are deprived of public authority. Religion legitimizes gender hierarchy. The subordination of women in religious activities and their denial of access to positions of religious leadership has been a powerful tool in most world religions in supporting the patriarchal order and the exclusion of women, from the public form. The religious sphere is a major field for male dominance, and a strategy to deprive women of public authority.

Veena Basin explained in his article India as a whole is characterised by sharp gender disparities, although women's status varies considerably by region. On virtually all frontiers of human societal pursuits economic, educational, scientific, legal, political, official, political and religious sphere Indian women suffer profoundly. For all time there are socio-cultural factors, which validate for the status of women in particular society. And he explained about tribal girls education, education is a fundamental right that provides opportunities for socioeconomic uplift. In India reasons associated with not educating girl child are financial constraints, early marriages, submissiveness, motherhood, and parental perception of education on women's worldview. The girl child is deliberately denied education and the future opportunity of the total development.

Justification of the study

Tribal women are more isolated in term of education, employment and health facilities from the mainland. So, it may be that they are more deprived when compare with male counterpart as well as the women from other communities. This study highlights the socio-economic status of Kalvarayan hill women in a district called Kallakurichi. The Kalvarayan hills are the tribal group who are the original inhabitant of hilly region consequently they are bound to be isolated from the mainland as well as development. So, in such a case, it is of utmost important to find out the socio and economical condition in which they are living in order to bring them towards the stream of development.

Objectives of the study

- To study the socioeconomic status of Kalvarayan Hills women in Kallakurichi district.
- To find out the educational Level of Tribal women in the study area.
- To examine the factor influencing on the socioeconomic status of Tribal women study area.

Methods and Materials

The present study is based on primary data collected from 50 sample respondents from 5 Tribal settlements of Kalvarayan Hills taluk of Kallakurichi district and following the purposive sampling method. A schedule is used to collect the demography, social and economic status of the Kalvarayan Hills women and also used Interview, observation, group discussion, case study methods.

Data analysis and interpretation

Particulars	No.of respondents (n=50)	Percentage (100%)
Age		
Below 20yrs	06	12
21 to 30yrs	21	42
31 to 40yrs	16	32
41yrs & above	07	14
Gender		
Male	29	58
Female	21	42
Martial status		
Married	37	74
Unmarried	13	26
Family monthly Income		
Below Rs.3000	19	38
Above Rs.3000	31	62
Level of Socio-economic Status		
Low	31	62
High	19	38

Source: Primary data

Percentage analysis indicates that more than one third (42 per cent) of tribes between 21 to 30yrs of age group, 32 per cent were 31 to 40yrs, 14 per cent were 41yrs & above and remaining 12 per cent were below 20yrs. More than half (58 per cent) of the respondents were male and remaining 42 per cent were female. Majority (74 per cent) of the respondents were married and remaining 26 per cent were unmarried. Majority (62 per cent) of tribe family monthly income above Rs.3000 and remaining 38 per cent were below Rs.3000. More than half (62 per cent) of the respondents were low level of scheme knowledge and remaining 38 per cent were high level.

The researcher asked some questions to know opinion of the respondents about the main reason of Kalvarayan Hills women's backwardness of their status. In the study area, the higher percentage of respondents reported that the main cause of backwardness of Kalvarayan Hills women's low socio-economic status, lack of education, patriarchal system is the cause of their low status, and also inferiority complex, culture constraints, lack of awareness are the causes of their low socio-economic status.

Conclusion

In this study, it is known that Kalvarayan Hills women have multidimensional role and responsibilities in their families. Their work burden is higher but most of the time spent in their household

activities. The literacy rate of Kalvarayan Hills women is low. They are deprived from acquiring the education due to the various social, personal, economic factors which are directly related them is not getting outside job. Only few Kalvarayan Hills women have land ownership house ownership. Most of the tribal women have to work more in agriculture but have a comparatively less decision making power than the male counterparts. But the decision making role of men is superior in most of the variables. Only few activities have equal contribution of men and women in household decision making.

Thus, it can be concluded that the socio-economic status of Kalvarayan Hills women is low. So policy makers and local development practitioners to design appropriate and effective policies and programmes in this regard. Informal education classes should be extended for the illiterate women with some incentives. Efforts are necessary to be made to develop women's social prestige, self-confidence and feeling of equalities by educating them. Poverty is the most threatening constraint on the improvement of women's socio-economic status. Various programmes such as vegetable farming, goat farming etc. should launch to increase the living standard of community, for, this government should make female base programs such as education, free health, and incentives for higher and employment based programs etc.

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