

EDUCATION AND LEVEL OF AWARENESS OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS OF TRIBAL WOMEN IN SOUTHERN RAJASTHAN

¹Abha Sharma, ²Dr. M. L. Pitaliya & ³Dr. K. K. Dave

*Research Scholar, Pacific University, Udaipur, Rajasthan

*Professor, Pacific University, Udaipur, Udaipur, Rajasthan

*Director Academic, Pacific University, Udaipur

Abstract:

This sizable presence of tribal community requires a specific strategy to ensure their inclusion in the main stream of the society. This research has been done on the basis of the learning from the Social Assessment study, and through an inclusive and participatory consultative process in the tribal districts. The objective of this study is to ensure prioritized and targeted identification, inclusion, mobilization, capacity and institution building of the tribal communities throughout this research. It supports informed and continuous consultations; tribal representation and participation in the community institutions supported by the project; targeting of credit and livelihood assistance to the tribal SHGs; tribal focused prioritization, development and financing of microcredit and livelihood plans; and building of skills and capacities of the tribal for livelihood development and employment. The State Government has adopted a multi-pronged approach for socio-economic development of scheduled tribes in the state. Key initiations for social empowerment through educational development, economic empowerment through income and employment enhancing avenues have been taken. The State Government is further keen to take innovative policy interventions to enable Tribal people to share the benefit of growth in more equitable manner.

[Key words: Women empowerment, constitutional right, education, development and tribal women]

Introduction:

Rajasthan has 92.38 lakh scheduled tribe (ST) population (12%) as per the 2011 census, of which nearly 86.93 lacs (94.18%) reside in rural areas while as only 5.45 Lacs(5.82%) (Source: http://www.rajcensus.gov.in/PCA_2011_FINAL_DATA/PCA_ chapter 2.pdf). Though the tribal population is scattered throughout the state, a major portion is concentrated in southern part of the state viz., entire districts of Banswara and Dungarpur, the tehsils of Kherwara, Jhadol, Kotra, Salumber, Sarada, Dhariyawad and 81 villages of Girwapanchayatsamiti of Udaipur district, Partapgarh and Arnod tehsils of Chittorgarh district and Abu Road block of Sirohi district. Five districts viz., Udaipur, Banswara, Dungarpur, Jaipur and Chittorgarh account for more than half

(54.50%) of the total ST population in Rajasthan. The major tribes residing in these areas are Bhil, Meena, Damor, Patelias, Saharaiyas, and Gharasia. Sahariya, a primitive tribal group, residing in part of Baran, Kota, Dungarpur and SawaiMadhopur districts, is among the most backward tribal groups. The economy of tribal continues to be predominately agriculture with small landholding and irrigated area. These communities have higher incidence of illiteracy, malnourishment and poverty, and face social and geographic isolation. The region lacks productive land, irrigation facilities, industrialization and skill building opportunities.

This sizable presence of tribal community requires a specific strategy to ensure their inclusion in the main stream of the society. This research has been done on the basis of the learning from the Social Assessment study, and through an inclusive and participatory consultative process in the tribal districts. The objective of this study is to ensure prioritized and targeted identification, inclusion, mobilization, capacity and institution building of the tribal communities throughout this research. It supports informed and continuous consultations; tribal representation and participation in the community institutions supported by the project; targeting of credit and livelihood assistance to the tribal SHGs; tribal focused prioritization, development and financing of microcredit and livelihood plans; and building of skills and capacities of the tribal for livelihood development and employment. The State Government has adopted a multi-pronged approach for socio-economic development of scheduled tribes in the state. Key initiations for social empowerment through educational development, economic empowerment through income and employment enhancing avenues have been taken. The State Government is further keen to take innovative policy interventions to enable Tribal people to share the benefit of growth in more equitable manner. In spite of running special programmes and providing adequate funds for various Tribal and Area Development Programmes, it is observed that socio-economic conditions of some Tribal Groups and families of Scheduled and Saharia areas are still poor and require more attention. State Government has taken following policy decisions to provide more opportunities to the Tribal Youth of these groups and families living in these areas. Special 45% reservation provision for tribal of scheduled area has been made for all posts other than state services in scheduled area. Similarly 25% reservation has been made for Saharia's in Saharia Project area. In pursuance of the special reservation provisions for Tribals of Scheduled & Saharia area, 45% & 25% reservation has been provided for Scheduled & Saharia area respectively for STC & NTT Training. 45% reservation provisions for Tribals of Scheduled area has been provided for admission in B.Ed. colleges of Scheduled area. The Government has spent crores of rupees on various schemes of tribal development during last five decades. This massive fund flow has helped in building up infrastructure facilities like irrigation dams, road network, electrification, health and education in the tribal areas of Rajasthan. All these have affected the living standards and quality of life of the people. The focus of this research is on improving the economic status of tribals and providing basic infrastructure facilities in the tribal areas. The strategy also specifically aimed

at improving the living environment of the tribals by giving them better social and civic amenities and facilities.

The desired goal of tribal development is still ahead. The literacy rate among the tribals is lower than other group of society. Brightest boys and girls' remains satisfied with the peripheral opportunities like teacher, patwari, panchayat secretary, nurse/ male-nurse etc. These students can get better opportunity by appearing in various competitive examinations. Benefits of health services are yet to be discernible on infant mortality & birth rates or on the problem of malnutrition.

Objective:

- To understand correlation between education and level of awareness of constitutional and political rights of tribal women.

Time and space:

- Period: May 2017 to May 2019

Location:

- Women located in Udaipur, Bhilwara, Pratapgarh, Sirohi, Dungarpur and Banswara [100 numbers from each district]

Research Design:

- Exploratory and Descriptive studies-sample survey

Source of data:

Primary source:

- Women located in Udaipur, Bhilwara, Pratapgarh, Sirohi, Dungarpur and Banswara [100 numbers from each district]

Secondary data

- These are also used and it is collected from books periodicals, reports and websites, for the collection of secondary data are taken from reports of Government and annual development reports of Government and from newspapers, NGO of districts

Questionnaire:

A structured-non-disguised questionnaire

Sampling:

Non-probability, Quota sampling

Sample Size:

600 women of Udaipur division [Rajasthan]

Hypothesis to be tested:

H01(a): There is no significant linear relation between education and level of awareness of constitutional and political rights of women.

H02: There is no significant linear relation between working & nonworking and level of awareness of constitutional and political rights of women.

MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY**Profile of women in Southern Rajasthan**

Out of 600 women, each district belongs to 16.67% women from Udaipur, Sirohi, Dungarpur, Banswara, Pratapgarh and Bhilwara of Southern Rajasthan, group of General, Other Backward Caste (OBC), Schedule Tribe and Schedule Cast belongs to 25% women from each group. 36% of the women are in the age group of 25 to 30 years, 32% of the women are having age above 31 to 40 years, 21% of the women are having age between 41 to 50 years and 11 % of the women are in the age group of above 50 years. It is observed that most of the women (36%) are in the age group of 25 to 30 years in this survey. 76% of the women are working women and rest 24% are nonworking women. 23% of the selected women were having family income less than Rs, 6,000, whereas 29 % of the women were having family income of Rs. 6,001 to 8,000, 31% the selected women were having family income of Rs. 8,001 to 10,000 and 17 % of the selected women were having monthly income more than Rs. 10,001. It is observed that most of the women (31%) were having monthly family income Rs. 8,001 to 10,000. 4.67% are widows, 14.17% are divorcee and 81.16% are married and living together with husband. 12.67 % of the selected women are having no child, 27.67% of the women have one child, 40% of the selected women are having two children, 19.66% are

having more than two children. It is observed that 40% women are having two children. There are 27.67% women are having age of children less than 2 years, 25.69% women are having age of children between 3 to 8 years, 32.80% of women are having children of the age between 9-15 years and 13.84% women are having the children the age of more than 15 years. It is noticed that 32.80% women are having children of the age between 9 to 15 years. 11.06 % of the selected women are having no dependent, 30.56 % of the women are having one dependent, 38.57% of the selected women are having two dependents and 19.81% of the selected women are having more than two dependents. It is observed that most of women (38.57%) are having more than two dependents. 72% women live in nuclear family while as 26% lives in joint family.

Education is found to be positively related to active participation in decision making in the family.

1. To understand correlation between education and awareness building

Education v/s Level of Awareness:

Particulars		Level of Awareness			Total
Education		Low	Medium	High	
Graduate	N	19	29	61	109
	%	17%	27%	57%	100%
12 th	N	102	71	64	217
	%	43%	30%	27%	100%
8 th	N	110	58	25	193
	%	57%	30%	13%	100%
Illiterate	N	45	14	2	61
	%	73%	23%	3%	100%
Total	N	276	172	152	600
	%	46%	29%	25%	100%

Highly educated women i.e. graduate and above qualified women(57%) have more awareness and understanding of constitutional rights than the women with no education (3%). It is evident in this study that knowledge and awareness of women is highly correlated to their level of education and nature of occupation.

Particulars		Level of Awareness			Total
Group		Low	Medium	High	
Non working	N	88	36	20	144
	%	61%	25%	14%	100%
Working	N	174	158	124	456
	%	38%	35%	27%	100%
Total	N	262	194	144	600
	%	44%	32%	24%	68%

Highly educated working women (35%) were found to have medium awareness and understanding of the condition, sense of self-worth than the non-working women (61%) with low level of education. This study also revealed positive correlation between education and active participation of women in decision making in the family.

The nature of occupation is also found to be positively related with this matter. Educated women are found to be more conscious about their rights and opportunities whereas less educated women do not have any awareness. They fail to realise the significance of empowerment and do not want to move upwards. They remain economically dependent, educationally backward and socially discriminated against. Education is the most powerful instrument for ensuring women empowerment. It provides important knowledge and information necessary for transforming socio-economic status of women particularly in positive direction. In this study the non-working groups of women belonging to high economic and middle class are found to be more or less aware of various constitutional and legal rights. But it is not sufficient to improve their condition. Awareness should lead these women towards upward direction, capable of planning, make decisions, organize, manage and carryout activities, to deal effectively with people. It is truly said that empowerment is a process of awareness and capacity building leading to greater participation, to greater decision making power, control and to transformative action. Therefore, various welfare programmes meant for women should aim at creating awareness as well as development of skill and attitude. The mind-set of the women folk needs to be changed for creating a conducive environment essential for their empowerment. Because majority of the women is

not ready for action. In the name of destiny they remain as victims of exploitation. So, it is necessary to organise these women against any kind of exploitation.

H01: There is no significant linear relation between education and level of awareness of constitutional and political rights of women.

Education v/s Level of Awareness:

Particulars		Level of Awareness			Total
Education		Low	Medium	High	
Graduate	N	19	29	61	109
	%	17%	27%	57%	100%
12 th	N	102	71	64	217
	%	43%	30%	27%	100%
8 th	N	110	58	25	193
	%	57%	30%	13%	100%
Illiterate	N	45	14	2	61
	%	73%	23%	3%	100%
Total	N	276	172	152	600
	%	46%	29%	25%	100%

Highly educated women i.e. graduate and above qualified women(57%) have more awareness and understanding of constitutional rights than the women with no education (3%).It is evident in this study that knowledge and awareness of women is highly correlated to their level of education and nature of occupation. Highly educated women i.e. graduate and above qualified women(57%) have more awareness and understanding of constitutional rights than the women with no education (3%).It is evident in this study that knowledge and awareness of women is highly correlated to their level of education and nature of occupation.

Correlations

Descriptive Statistics			
	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
Education	1.3500	0.97120	600
Awareness	1.0500	0.34074	600

Correlations			
		Education	Awareness
Education	Pearson Correlation	1	0.561
	Sig. (2-tailed)		0.000
	Sum of Squares and Cross-products	55.650	10.950
	Covariance	0.943	0.186
	N	600	600
Awareness	Pearson Correlation	.561	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	Sum of Squares and Cross-products	10.950	6.850
	Covariance	.186	.116
	N	600	600

Result: Here is sufficient statistical evidence at the ($\alpha = 0.01$) level to conclude that there is a significant linear relationship between education and awareness of constitutional and political rights of women.

H02: There is no significant linear relation between working & nonworking and level of awareness of constitutional and political rights of women.

Particulars		Level of Awareness			Total
Group		Low	Medium	High	
Nonworking	N	88	36	20	144
	%	61%	25%	14%	100%
Working	N	174	158	124	456
	%	38%	35%	27%	100%
Total	N	262	194	144	600
	%	44%	32%	24%	68%

Highly educated working women (35%) were found to have medium awareness and understanding of the condition, sense of self-worth than the non-working women (61%) with low level of education. This study also revealed positive correlation between education and active participation of women in decision making in the family.

The nature of occupation is also found to be positively related with this matter. Educated women are found to be more conscious about their rights and opportunities whereas less educated women do not have any awareness. They fail to realise the significance of empowerment and do not want to move upwards. They remain economically dependent, educationally backward and socially discriminated against. Education is the most powerful instrument for ensuring women empowerment. It provides important knowledge and information necessary for transforming socio-economic status of women particularly in positive direction. In this study the non-working groups of women belonging to high economic and middle class are found to be more or less aware of various constitutional and legal rights. But it is not sufficient to improve their condition. Awareness should lead these women towards upward direction, capable of planning, make decisions, organize, manage and carryout activities, to deal effectively with people. It is truly said that empowerment is a process of awareness and capacity building leading to greater participation, to greater decision making power, control and to transformative action. Therefore, various welfare programmes meant for women should aim at creating awareness as well as development of skill and attitude. The mind-set of the women folk needs to be changed for creating a conducive environment essential for their empowerment. Because majority of the women is not ready for action. In the name of destiny they remain as victims of exploitation. So, it is necessary to organise these women against any kind of exploitation.

Correlations

Descriptive Statistics			
	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
Working and nonworking	1.2500	0.43667	600
Awareness	1.2500	0.43667	600

Correlations

	Working and nonworking	Awareness

Working and nonworking	Pearson Correlation	1	0.660
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	Sum of Squares and Cross-products	22.250	22.250
	Covariance	.191	.191
	N	600	600
Awareness	Pearson Correlation	1.000	0.660
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	Sum of Squares and Cross-products	22.250	22.250
	Covariance	.191	.191
	N	600	600

Result: Here is sufficient statistical evidence at the ($\alpha = 0.01$) level to conclude that there is a significant linear relationship between working & nonworking and awareness of constitutional and political rights of women.

Discussion:

Majority of the respondents recognize economic insufficiency as one of the important barriers of empowerment. Already various plans and programmes have been launched for improving socio-economic status of women in our country. But all of these are found to be confined to the statute books. Proper implementation of these programmes in the practical field is really very urgent at present. In order to implicate the policies, policy and programme frames, implementation and development agencies, law enforcement machinery and the judiciary as well as non-governmental organization should come forward to shoulder their responsibility. There must be a close link among Government, NGOs and general public as well as other organization to make all these programmes fruitful.

References:

- Ojha, G.H., History of Rajasthan, Vol - I pp. 95,102,113,137 & 147.
- Tod: Annals and Antiquities of Rajasthan, Vol - I pp 247.
- http://www.rajcensus.gov.in/PCA_2011_FINAL_DATA/PCA_chapter 2.pdf
- History of Udaipur, Vol. I pp. 102.
- Ojha, Dr. G.H.; History of Rajputana Vol. II. pp 623,625 & 626
- Chouhan Smt. Lata; Women Education in Southern Rajasthan (1901-2000 A.D.) Unpublished Research Thesis.
- Erskine, Major K. D., Rajputana Gazeteers The Mewar Residency Pg 5-10
- A. Rajputana Agency, Political Bramah. Dungarpur, File No. 56 Vol. Raj. State Eng. New Delhi.
- C-Erskine, Major K. D. Rajputana Gazeteer, Dungarpur State – Pg 127-129.
- Ibid Page 159-161. (A) Ibid page 195-196(B) Pratapgarh Official website.
- Indian Princely States : Genealogy of the ruling chiefs of Sirohi.
- Falling Rain Genomics – Pindwara.
- Meena Siyaram, Rajasthan Zila Gazeteer, Sirohi Published by Janshakh and Gazeteers Nidesalay, Rajasthan, Jaipur.
- Erskine, Major K. D., Rajputana Gazeteers, The Mewar Residency Pg. 127
- Ibid Pg. 11, 129, 160, 196
- Falling Rain Genomics. Inc-Abu Road.
- <http://www.census2011.co.in/date/town/800.558.aburoad.html>
- Agarwal Deepesh, “How to reach Mount Abu by Road, Air or Rail”.
- Bhandari, Vimla, “Salumber kaltihas”. Anupam Prakashan, Bhandari Sadan, Palace Road, Salumber.
- Salumber population census 2011.
- Erskine, Major K. D., Rajputana Gazeteers – The Bhils, Published by Scottish Mission Industries Co. Ltd. 1908, Ajmer. Pg 227-242.

- (A) Tribal Rajasthan, Sunshine on the Aravali Udaipur, Himanshu publistiers, 1992.
- (B) Dave P.C. (1960). The Grasias also called Kshatriya Grasias Delhi Bharatiya Adimjati Seva Sangh.
- (C) Mann (1993) pg 103
- (D) Mann & Mann (1989) Pg 81-82.
- (A) Mann, Rann Singh (1993) Culture and Integration of Indian Tribes, M.D. Publication Pvt. Ltd. ISBN 978-8-18588-003-7
- (B) Mann Rann Singh, Mann, K. (1989). Tribal cultures and change, Mittal publications.
- Erskine, Major K. D., RajputanaGazeteers, The Mewar Residency; Published by Scottish Mission Industries Co. Ltd. 1908, Ajmer. Katala B. L. pg. 101.
- (A) Jain Dr. Anita & Katewa Dr. S.S. , Use of Compounds Ethomedicines of Tribal Areas of Rajasthan. Pg-35.
- (B) Patidar Dr. Savitree and Sankhala Vimil; Ethomedicinal plants of Dungarpur district. A case study. Pg. 55-61.
- Kothara (Shri) B. L., Tribe, Janjatiswasthya Evam Aushadhiya Paude Visheshank clause-47, No. 1-4 (Jan-Dec) 2015. ISSN: 0041-2651.
- Published by M.L. verma Tribal Research & Training institute, Ashok Nagar, Udaipur-313001.
- Dave P.C,(1960), The Garasiyas, also called kshatriya Garasias. Delhi Bhartiya, Adimjatisevaksangh
- Meena, Jagdish Chandra, “Bheel Janjati kasans kritikevumarthik jeevan” p-14, Himanshu publications, Udaipur-New Delhi(Ed. 2003)
- Garasia, Rajput at Etnologue(18th.Ed) 2015.
- Unnithan – Kumar, Maya (1997), Identity, Gender and poverty;new perspectives on Caste and tribe in Rajasthan. Berghahn Books, ISBN 978-1-57181-918-5
- Mann Rann Singh (1993) Culture & Integration Tribal cultures & change. Mittal Publications

- (A)Katariya, Surendra “Mautanae kaadimpratha” National Publishing House, Jaipur and Delhi.
- (B)Mautana- Decision of Jati Panchayat village Badli-Kotda Rajasthan Patrika Saturday November10,2018.
- Interviewed tribal women of Siyawa near AburoadDist.Sirohi taken on 06.11.2018
- Interviewed Tribal women of Surpagla village near Aburoad Dist.Sirohi taken on 07.11.2018
- Mrs.Mevli w/o Jetha age 39 years Surpagla
- Mrs. Delki w/o Wala age 24 years Surpagla
- Mrs. Moogli w/o Mova age 65 years Surpagla.
- Jain Dinesh chandra (Ed.) Tribe Vol. 49-50 (1) page 10-16 Manikya Lal Verma aadimjati shodhe vam prashikshan sansthan Ashok Nagar Udaipur (Rajasthan).
- Bhatt (Dr.)Nirja, “18th aur 19th shatabdi me Rajasthan ka Bheel Samaj”p-(xi), Himanshu Publication, Udaipur- New Delhi
- lawmin.nic.in
- Pandey, J.N, The Constitution of India.
- (A)The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities)Act 1989
- (B)The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act,2015(Act. No. 1,2016