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## AN ANALYTICAL PERSPECTIVE OF EMPOWERMENT OF TRIBAL WOMEN IN KARNATAKA

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### Abstract

*Tribal women play a significant role in the economic development of tribals as they contribute in various economic activities and education is one of them. The non-recognition of the consumption needs of tribals and the non-availability of institutional consumption credit makes tribal people fall easy victim to money lenders and leads to dependence on them. The study entitled "Empowerment of tribal women through livelihood development" aimed to study the profile characteristics of tribal women, to analyse the relationship of socio-personal and socio-psychological characteristics with the level of participation of tribal women, to find out the empowerment level of tribal women to explore the constraints faced by the tribal women in participating in the cultural practices and to get suggestions to overcome the constraints. The government and non-governmental organisations should prepare suitable plans and programmes for the economic empowerment of tribal women. The present paper seeks to analyse the various dimensions of social, economic and political empowerment of tribal women of in Karnataka. The paper has been concluded with an optimistic note that tribal women of Karnataka have made tremendous progress in the socio-economic and political fabric of Karnataka.*

**Key Words:** Rural Employment, Participation, Development, Empowerment, livelihood, Tribal women.

### Introduction

Women empowerment in India is heavily dependent on many different variables that includes geographical location, social status, economic status and educational status. One key factor for the gap in implementation of laws and policies to address discrimination, economic disadvantages and violence against women at the community level is the largely patriarchal structure that governs the community and households in much of India. As such women and girls have restricted mobility access to health

facilities, and lower decision making power, and experience higher rates of violence. The tribal population is an integral part of India's social fabric and has the second largest concentration after that of the African continent. Women in a tribal society play a vital role in their social cultural economic and religions ways of life and re considered as an economic asset in their society. The status of women in a society is a significant reflection of the level of social justice in that society. Women's status is often described in terms of their level of income, employment, education,

health and fertility as well as their roles within the family, the community and the society. 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 different walks of life like education, employment, good health and economic empowerment etc. Though they are industrious, they have limited control over resources and economic activities. Therefore, there is a need for economic empowerment of tribal women in order to overcome inequality, discrimination and exploitation and to achieve their all-round development in the society.

The tribal societies in India are considered as the weakest sections of the population in terms of common socio-economic and demographic factors such as poverty, illiteracy, lack of developmental facilities and adequate primary health facilities. For many decades, 'growth with equity and social justice' has remained on the development agenda of developing countries, but from the historical point of view Indian society suffers from substantial disparity in education, employment, and income based on caste and ethnicity. According to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, over 84 million people belonging to 698 communities are identified as members of Scheduled Tribes (ST) in India.

#### **Concept of Empowerment**

Broadly, empowerment means individual acquiring the power to think and act, freely exercise choice, and to fulfill their potential as full and equal member of society. The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNDFW) includes two factors in its definition

- ✓ Acquiring Knowledge and understanding of gender relation and the way in which these relations may be changed;
- ✓ Developing a sense of self-worth a belief in one's ability to secure desired changes and the right to control one's life.

Philosophers and social activists have defined women empowerment in diverse perspectives. Swami Vivekananda has put forth his view in the following words "There is no chance for the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved; It is not possible for a bird to fly on only one wing." Therefore, the inclusion of "Women Empowerment' as one of the prime goals in the

eight Millennium Development Goals underscores the relevance of this fact. Thus, in order to achieve the status of a developed country, India needs to transform its colossal women force into an effective human resource and this is possible only through the empowerment of women. Empowering women to participate fully in economic life across all sectors is essential to building stronger economies, achieve internationally agreed goals for development and sustainability, and improve the quality of life for women, men, families, and communities. Malala Yousafzai has commented "We cannot all succeed if half of this is held back." There is no denying the fact that women in India have made a considerable progress in almost seven decades of Independence, but they still have to struggle against many handicaps and social evils in the male-dominated society. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (India's first Prime Minister) said "when women move forward the family moves, the villages moves, and the nation moves." of women."

#### **Importance of the Study**

The main problem in the society is that there are no proper basic amenities, awareness and facilities. In government point of view even the government has undertaken lot of schemes benefiting to them; the whole benefits not reached them properly. The study aims to identify to what extent the tribal women empowered in Kolar and Pavagada districts.

#### **Objectives of the Study**

1. To investigate the variety of programmes promoting socioeconomic empowerment of tribal women in Karnataka.
2. To explore the role of tribal women in the decision making progression of the state.
3. To analyse the constraints to empowerment of tribal women and to make recommendations for effectual participation of tribal women in every sphere of society.

#### **Research Methodology**

This study is based on both primary and secondary sources of data. Primary data for the study have been collected from the members of self help groups supported by various schemes. For the primary information 300 respondents have been selected from the two taluks. One taluk (Malur) in Kolar district and another taluk (Pavagada) in Tumkur district on simple random sampling basis.

**Constitutional Provisions of Tribal**

The constitution has given more than 20 articles on the redressed and upliftment of underprivileged with policies on positive discrimination and affirmative action with reference to S.T.

- ❖ Article 14 confers equal rights and opportunities to all
- ❖ Article 15 prohibits discrimination against any citizen on the grounds of sex, religion, race, caste etc;
- ❖ Article 15 (4) States to make special provisions for advancement of any socially educationally backward classes;
- ❖ Article 16 (4) empowers the state to make provisions for reservation in appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens, which in the opinion of state, is not adequately represented.
- ❖ Article 46 state to promote with special cares the educational and economic interests of the weaker section, especially the ST and protects the social injustice and all form of exploitation.
- ❖ Article 275 grant-in aid for promoting the welfare of ST and raising the level of administration

- ❖ Article 330 - Seats shall be reserved in the House of the People for -Article 332 Reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assemblies of the States 332,335 stipulates the claims that the members of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes shall be taken into consideration, consistently with the maintenance of efficiency of administration, in the making of appointments to services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or of a State.
- ❖ Article 244(1) tribal welfare communities to be setup for the welfare of the tribes.
- ❖ Article 22(2) 73rd and 74th amendments - to ensure effective participation of tribal in the process of planning and decision making.
- ❖ Extension to scheduled Areas Act 1996. Amendments of Constitution are extended to the Scheduled Areas through Panchayats.
- ❖ These constitutional provisions of the Government of India helped in the development of the tribes and their education.

**Various Income Generation Activities by Swa-Shakti SHG members**

Sl. No.	Activities	Pavagada (n=150)				Malur (n=150)				Total (n=300)			
		Aware		Not aware		Aware		Not aware		Aware		Not aware	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>A</b>	<b>Livestock</b>												
1	Dairy	60	100.0	-	-	60	100.0	-	-	120	100.0	-	-
2	Sheep rearing	60	100.0	-	-	60	100.0	-	-	120	100.0	-	-
3	Goat rearing	60	100.0	-	-	60	100.0	-	-	120	100.0	-	-
4	Poultry	18	30.0	42	70.0	8	13.34	52	86.6	6 26	20.67	94	78.35
<b>B</b>	<b>Home made products</b>												
1	Pickle making	58	96.6	7	3.33	60	100.0	-	-	118	98.33	2	1.67
2	Papad making	60	100.0	-	-	60	100.0	-	-	120	100.0	-	-
3	Bakery	57	95.00	3	5.00	60	100.0	-	-	117	97.50	3	2.50
4	Roti	56	93.33	4	6.67	60	100.0	-	-	116	96.67	4	3.33
5	Chutney	30	50.00	30	50.00	33	55.0	27	45.00	63	52.5	57	47.50
6	Vermicelli	47	78.33	13	21.67	60	100.0	-	-	107	89.17	13	10.83
7	Masala powder	8	13.33	52	86.67	19	31.67	41	68.33	27	22.5	93	77.50

C													
Service activities													
	Radio & TV repair, shamiyana, catering service	-	-	60	100.0	-	-	60	100.0	-	-	120	100.0
D													
Other IGAs													
1.	Broom stick making	8	13.33	52	87.67	10	16.67	50	83.33	18	15.00	102	85.00
2.	Leaf plate making	21	35.00	39	65.00	42	70.00	18	30.00	63	52.5	57	47.50
3.	Rope making	2	3.33	58	96.67	-	-	60	100.0	2	1.67	118	98.33
4.	Weaving	10	16.67	50	83.33	-	-	60	100.0	10	8.33	110	91.67
5.	Embroidery	1	1.67	59	98.33	-	-	60	100.0	1	0.83	119	99.17
6.	Tailoring	15	25.0	45	75.00	32	53.33	28	46.67	47	39.1	$\frac{7}{72}$	60.83
7.	Decorative items	1	1.67	59	98.33	2	3.33	58	96.67	3	2.50	117	97.50
E													
Collection of forest products													
1.	Honey	43	71.6	$\frac{6}{17}$	28.34	13	21.67	47	78.33	56	46.67	64	53.33
2.	Fruits	19	31.67	41	68.33	28	46.67	32	53.33	47	39.16	73	60.84
3.	Gum	16	26.67	44	73.33	23	38.33	37	61.67	39	32.5	81	67.5
4.	Fuel	41	68.33	19	31.67	39	65.00	21	35.00	80	66.67	40	33.33
F.													
Others (specify)													
	Vegetable vending	7	11.6	$\frac{7}{53}$	88.33	17	28.33	43	71.67	24	20.00	96	80.0

The ancestor occupation of the tribal community in Pavagada, and Malur taluks was the leaf plate making. Majority of the tribal community especially Kadu Golla, Beda, and Bestha communities were mainly depends upon leaf plate making activity. In Pavagada taluk, it was observed that majority of SHGs members were aware of leaf plate making (35.00%) enterprise followed by tailoring (25.0%), weaver (16.67%), broomstick making (13.33%), rope making (3.33%) and embroidery, decorative items (1.67%). In Malur taluk, it was observed that majority of SHGs members were aware of leaf plate making (70.0%) enterprises, followed by tailoring (53.33%), broomstick making (16.67%) and decorative items (3.33%) respectively.

### Conclusion

Education is an important determinant of status of women in society. The government should promote free higher education and technical education with scholarship for all tribal women. Tribal women's practices like witch-hunting which includes extreme violence and deep rooted beliefs have led to the torture and murder of alleged witches, for which government should take strong action in this regard how to tackle the social evil. The network of distance education should be developed in tribal area. Women self-help groups should be organized to promote economic emancipation of tribal women. New skill development training and entrepreneurship training with scholarship should be imparted to tribal women. Proper health facility especially the facility of medical

deliveries should be provided to all tribal pregnant women through government policy. Civil society groups should arrange awareness programmes for tribal people to fight against blind beliefs and evil practices like witch hunting. Tribal women and girls should be guaranteed equal rights at the social, political and economic sphere. Tribal women should be provided safe and secured working place with proper privacy. The success achieved in this regard is helpful for bringing tribal women into the mainstream of inclusive growth process in India. Reducing poverty and unemployment of the tribes would pave the way towards their empowerment.

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