



The Socio-Economic, Socio-Psychological and Socio-Communication Characteristics of Tribal Farm Women of Kabirdham District of Chhattisgarh

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Abstract

Women's empowerment is very important to the country's growth and it could not be ignored that women are capable of changing a country's fate. In the residential and socio-economic front women give their contributions in two areas. It began to be highlighted that participation by women is necessary for socio-economic growth, and they have the capacity to shape the fate of the nation. The study was conducted in Kabirdham district of Chhattisgarh state. For this research study Kabirdham district selected because baiga and gond tribal farmers are living in this district profoundly. Out of total 4 blocks in Kabirdham district, 3 blocks namely Bodla, Pandariya, S. Lohara were selected for research study and from each block two villages were selected randomly. From each village 25 tribal farm women were selected as respondents in this way total 150 tribal women farmers were selected for the research study. The results showed that majority of the tribal farm women were of middle age and most of them were married, with most of the farm women having education upto middle school and approximately half of household's ownership by male and most of them possesses kachcha household structure. Most of the women status were depending on only labour works for their living and having medium family size (5-7 members). Maximum of the tribal farm women for credit accessed to their relatives and having saving bank account, while maximum of the household saving investment by women in bank deposit. The annual income of most of women was between Rs. 70,001 to Rs. 1,00,000, and for most of house assets ownership taken by man of family.

Key words : *socio-economic, socio-psychological, socio-communication, tribal farm women.*

Introduction

The tribes in India are described by oppressed cultures as unique by their generally more remote habitation in hilly and forest areas and their distinct physical, economic and cultural existence. The context of 'tribe' applied to other indigenous groups in India is the influence of British colonial rule. The term continues to be used in dealing with Indian exotic indigenous people living outside of the cities and townships. Today, tribes live in forests, hills, and forest lands, which are the repository of mineral, hydraulic and forest resources with their exotic culture, which is unique to modern-day people. Thus the outsiders identify them with different names. The anthropological literature shows that the word tribe was used for those groups of human beings whose place of residence is found in remote areas such as hills, forests, coasts of the sea and islands, and whose lifestyle is very distinctive from the civilized people of today. In these places of the world, local indigenous people are named as a tribe or tribal, to differentiate them from other people of the world. It is disheartening to note that the advances of growth have not yet attained to the degree desired by the expected classes including the tribes. The media organizations have a corporate citizenship obligation to promote the empowerment of marginalized tribal's excluded sections of Indian society.

The current investigation was conducted to determine the role of the media in empowering tribal women in Chhattisgarh state's Kabirdham district. In a selected area are identified the tribal situation in India, constitutional amendments, reservation advantages, empowerment of women in India, media involvement for empowerment of women, the role of media in empowering tribal women, the study's contextual relevance, description of the study's challenge and objectives.

Women's empowerment is very important to the country's growth and it could not be ignored that women are capable of changing a country's fate (1). In the residential and socio-economic front women give their contributions in two areas. It began to be highlighted that participation by women is necessary for socio-economic growth, and they have the capacity to shape the fate of the nation.

The depiction of women who are media negative to their identity is indicative of lack of consideration to gender and has called for them to be transparent for such female representation. For most societies, women's knowledge of media and access to and control of the various types of traditional and digital media is still minimal. Through women's engagement and accessibility to conscience-expression and decision-making through

Table-1 : Distribution of the respondents according to their age of tribal farm women, matrimonial position, family size, household's ownership, household structure, education of women, work status of women, annual income, access to credit, availability of bank accounts. (n=150)

Sl. No.	Category	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
A.	Age		
1	Young age (<30 years)	34	22.67
2	Middle age (31-50 years)	94	62.67
3	Old age (>51 years)	22	14.67
B.	Matrimonial Position		
1	Unmarried	18	12.00
2	Married	124	82.67
3	Widow	8	5.33
C.	Family Size		
1	Small Family (up to 4 members)	63	42.00
2	Medium Family (5-7 members)	67	44.70
3	Large Family (>7 members)	20	13.30
D.	Household's Ownership		
1	Male	16	17.78
2	Female	74	82.22
E.	Household structure		
1.	Hut	3	2.00
2.	Kachcha house	119	79.34
3.	Pakka house	17	11.33
4.	Mixed (kachcha and paaka house)	11	7.33
F.	Education of women		
1	Illiterate	10	6.67
2	Primary school	55	36.67
3	Middle school	61	40.67
4	High school	21	14.00
5	Highersecondary/ graduation	03	2.00
G.	Work status of women		
1	Agriculture	56	37.34
2	Animal husbandry	47	31.33
3	Labour	45	30.00
4	Business	2	1.33
5	Job	0	0.00
H.	Annual income		
1	Up to Rs. 20,000	00	00
2	Rs. 20,001 to Rs.70,000	35	23.34
3	Rs. 70,001 to Rs. 1,00,000	86	57.33
4	Above Rs. 1,00,000	29	19.33
I.	Access to credit		
1.	Nationalized Bank	21	22.34
2.	Service cooperative society	15	15.96
3.	Friends	19	20.20
4.	Relatives	25	26.60
5.	Money lender	14	14.80
J.	Availability of bank accounts		
1	Yes	117	78.00
2	No	33	22.00

the media and modern communication technologies is empowering women in a way. The significant and fundamental role that media can play in empowering women and equality between men and women should be encouraged and further discussed.

Empowerment is a process of a complex two-sided authentication method for both individual and society as well. These power associations work in various fields of life i.e. economic, social and political, and at diverse stage

i.e. personal, household, society market place and organization (2). The total population of Chhattisgarh state is 2.55 crores out of which 72.2 % of people live in the rural area (2004-05 to 2013-14). Woman are participating in decision making, economic decision making, household decision making, and political participation is the key issue of the empowerment of socio-economic status of the tribal farm woman.

Table-2 : Distribution of the respondents according to their household's assets and household's investments in different saving institutes. (n=150)

Availability (No. of availability)		Household assets ownership	
		Man	Women
(A) Household assets			
Land	150	30 (20%)	120 (80%)
House	90	16 (17.78%)	74 (82.22%)
Car	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Bike	22	22 (100%)	0 (0%)
Cycle	73	73 (100%)	0 (0%)
TV	150	97 (64.67%)	53 (35.33%)
Frizz	16	7 (43.75%)	9 (56.25%)
Cooler	27	19 (70.38%)	8 (29.62%)
Almirah	34	0 (0%)	34 (100%)
(B) Household investments in different saving institutes			
	Name of Deposit Institutes	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	Bank deposit	67	44.67
2.	Post office scheme	75	50.00
3.	Company FD	08	5.33

Materials and Methods

The study was conducted in Kabirdham district of Chhattisgarh state. For this research study Kabirdham district selected because baiga and gond tribal farmers are living in this district profoundly. Out of total 4 blocks in Kabirdham district, 3 blocks namely Bodla, Pandariya, S. Lohara were selected for research study and from each block two villages were selected randomly. From each village 25 tribal farm women were selected as respondents in this way total 150 tribal women farmers were selected for the research study. The response was taken out with the help of well developed structured interview schedule. The data was analysed using descriptive statistics like frequency, percentage and Multiple regression analysis.

Results and Discussion

This section constitutes the essence of this report. In this section, the data collected in the previous chapter with the help of research methodology were classified, tabulated and then handled with scientific methods to obtain the results.

Age of tribal farm women refers to chronological years completed by the respondent on the date of interview rounded up to the nearest year. It is understood that young respondents is more active and undergoes often changes, while middle age respondents is stable in ideas and behaviour. An old aged respondent is reluctant towards changes and slow in acceptance. The data presented in Table-1 revealed that, majority 62.67 percent of the tribal farm women's belong to middle age category followed by young age 22.67 percent and old age 14.67 percent categories.

Marital status indicates whether a person is married, unmarried or widow and this is one important factor that

determines the level of autonomy among females in any community. The majority of figures obtained were of married women 82.67 percent followed by unmarried 12.00 percent and widow 5.33 percent.

Based on the data received, the number of family members in the family was divided into the following parts and based on the calculation; Majority of tribal farm women 44.7 percent were having medium family size followed by 42 percent of women were having small family and 13.3 percent were having large family.

Women's participation and ownership is an important role in the family. On the basis of the findings of the study, from total 150 respondents only 90 respondents had household ownership, it was known that the majority of household's ownership by female 82.22 percent and by male 17.78 percent.

Household structure is another communal aspect that decides women's empowerment. Generally, the result revealed that majority of respondents that is 79.34 percent of the respondent possessed kacha house followed by 11.33 percent pakka house, then mixed (kacha and pakka house) of 9.17 percent and then hut 5.83 percent.

Education is the process of bringing desirable changes in the behaviour of an individual. It plays an important role in the life of every human being. Education improves the standard of living of the respondents and provides opportunities for improving their socio-economic position in society. Table-1 revealed that 40.67 percent of the women were having education middle school followed by primary school 36.67 percent high school 14.00 percent illiterate 6.67 percent and higher secondary/graduation 2.00 percent.

Working status is an important indicator of

socioeconomic position of an individual through income status in a society. The distribution of respondents according to their work status has been depicted in Table-1. Majority 37.34 percent of the respondents main work was belongs to agriculture, followed by 31.33 percent of the respondents were belonged to animal husbandry category, 30.00 percent of the respondents were doing labour works, and only 1.33 percent of the respondents were belonged to business category.

Operationally it is expressed as the sum annual revenue derived by the family of the respondent during the operational year through all sources. Income is a big determinant of an individual's economic status. The way of life of each person is largely decided by his income. The distribution of respondents according to their annual income has been depicted in Table-1. It was cleared from Table-1 that, majority 57.33 percent of respondents were in Rs. 70,001 to Rs. 1,00,000 annual income categories, followed by Rs. 20,001 to Rs. 70,000 in these category 23.34 percent respondents, above Rs. 1,00, 000 in these category 19.33 percent respondents and up to Rs. 20,000 in this category 0.00 percent respondents were coming.

Access to economic credit is an effectual instrument to assist women by providing monetary service. Any financial institution improves women socio-economic and political position which leads to a high level of empowerment. The study revealed that most of the women had access to credit facility, out of which 62.67 percent women had credit facility and from these women majority of them that is 26.60 percent were taken credit from their relatives followed by 22.34 percent from nationalized bank, then 20.20 percent taken from friends followed by 15.96 percent from service cooperative society and 14.80 taken credit from money lender. From total 37.33 percent women respondents did not have this facility. The complete details of whether the credit facility is available with respondents' women are given in Table-1.

Household's assets perform very important role for empowerment of tribal farm women. Household assets provide financial support in adverse conditions and are helpful in increasing the empowerment of women. The study revealed that the highest number of land 80 percent was in the name of women and 20 percent was nearby men, followed by house 79.33 percent was in the name of women and 20.6 percent was nearby man, cycle 48.67 percent was in the name of man and 0.00 percent nearby women, almirah 22.67 percent nearby women and 0.00 per cent was men, bike 14.67 percent nearby man and 0.00 percent was women, cooler 12.67 percent nearby women and 5.33 percent was man, TV 8.00 percent was

in the name of women and 6.67 percent was nearby man, frizz 6.00 percent was in the name of women and 4.67 percent was nearby man and both cars had 0.00 percent. The result is shown in Table-2.

Investments by households in various saving institutes raise the investment portfolio of women in profit making schemes and assist them in developing the social ties. Investments by the household in various saving institutes are required to provide the proof for higher empowerment rates. After data analysis, it was known that in different saving institutes women have highest investments in post office scheme (50.00%) followed by bank deposit (44.67%) and company FD (5.33%). Its details shown in Table-2.

Conclusions

The socio-economic, socio-psychological and socio-communication profile of the respondents reveals that majority 62.67 percent of the tribal farm women were of middle age (31-50 years) and most 82.67 per cent of them were married, with most 40.67 percent of the women having education up to middle school. More than one third 82.22 percent of household owned by female and mostly 79.34 percent were having kachcha household structure. Most 88.00 percent of the respondents were depending on only Labour work for their living and having medium family size (5-7 members). Maximum of the tribal farm women were access the required credit from their relatives and maximum of the respondents 78.00 percent have saving accounts, while maximum 44.67 percent of them for saving were doing bank deposit. The annual income of most of women 57.33 percent was between Rs. 70,001 to Rs. 1,00,000 and household assets mostly owned by man of the family than woman.

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