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EMANCIPATION OF TRIBAL WOMEN WITH SELF HELP GROUP ACTIVITIES: *A Case study of Jamathanda Village in Mahabubabad District of Telangana State*



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Abstract: *Empowerment of tribal women is a challenging issue in the present scenario. Without empowerment growth of the tribal women is not possible. Emancipation of tribal women can be measured through the power they have over economic resources to earn income and their per capita income, access to education, access and availability of professional opportunities and participation in economic decision making and their access to political opportunities.*

Keywords: *Emancipation of Tribal Women, Status of Tribal Women, SHG Activities*

Introduction

While women of India share many of their disabilities with women in the developed countries their experience of discrimination is more extensive because of the sex-segregated character of the society, the condition of poverty and the traditional value system. It becomes obvious that women's education in India has also not received proper attention. Their education was limited to learning domestic skills and they had no access to a position of power. Marriage was almost a necessity as a means of support or protection. The pressure was constant to produce many children. A married woman usually took her husband's status and lived with his family with little recourse in case of ill-treatment and non-support. As such, a woman had no legal control over her person, her land and money or her children.

The report of the committee on the status of women in India ("Towards Equality" Dec. 1974) finds that the disabilities and constraints on women indicate that the majority of women are still very far from enjoying the rights and opportunities guaranteed to them by the constitution. Society has not yet succeeded in forming the required norms or institutions to enable women to fulfill the multiple roles that they are expected to play in India. Gender disparity manifests in various forms, the most obvious being the continuously declining female ratio in the population in the last few decades.

A Note on Emancipation of Women

Emancipation is the process of enabling or authorizing an individual to think, behave autonomously take action and central work. It is the process, by which one can gain control over one's destiny and the circumstances of their life. Employment includes control over the resources (Physical, human, intellectual and financial over ideology beliefs values and attitude). It is not merely a feeling of greater extrinsic control but also grows intrinsic capacity, greater self-confidence and an internal transformation of one's consciousness that enables one to overcome external barriers to accessing resources or changing traditional ideology.

Participation of women in the rural and tribal areas in the major activities can be viewed as means of creating a social environment in which one can make decisions and make choices either individually or collectively for social transformation. It strengthens the innate ability by way of acquiring knowledge, power and experience.

Tribal women's empowerment enables autonomy and control over their lives. The empowerment of women becomes agents of their development, able to exercise choices to set their agenda and be strong enough to challenge and change their subordinate position in the society. To achieve this, emphasis should be on the formulation of appropriate organizations for women to facilitate communication, learning and organized action. Empowerment is individual self-esteem and collective mobilization for challenging basic power relations like social injustice and mobilization of resources. Empowerment is self-governance self-sufficiency and self-maintenance. Empowerment in the Indian context means the development of tribal women's capacity to make informed choices and expansion of their capacity to manage their domestic and economic environment efficiently. It is needless to say that India's economic development is also intertwined with the process of women's oppression. Unless it is removed, it is not possible to achieve the expected target.

This has to be taken note of by all policies and actions intended to bring about the advertisement, development and women empowerment.

Undoubtedly, the government had taken actions both at the awareness levels by organizing programs and activities like seminars, workshops and symposiums to raise the awareness level and to inform the women group about their rights and opportunities. The government had also brought out many schemes and programs for the empowerment of women. These schemes and programs included mostly income-

generation schemes to improve their economic conditions, literacy, health, nutrition and allied areas for the empowerment of women.

Women comprise half of the country's population yet they remain the most disadvantaged sector among the poor. Women disadvantaged sector among the poor. Women have always been marginalized and related to the status of subjugated class in Indian society. Due to the lack of specific implementation of plans, local communities especially women have remained outside the scope and benefit of government schemes and programs. Women have not actively participated in their emancipation due to their lack of economic independence and illiteracy; they are bounded by customs, castes, religion. They have little and no access to resources. They are exploited abused and their rights are often violated by the powerful elements in society. According to several research studies, including national family survey were conducted which revealed that were many issues related to women who named attention some of these are as follows:

- Women had no access to political participation. They are included from public spheres like Panchayat and Cast Committees and so are unable to discuss their problems with the forum.
- They had no access to credit or resources, as they don't have the right to inheritance or manage their family enterprise, they can't use the income earned.
- They lacked organization in groups and were consequently isolated.

The Jamathanda village is situated in Nellikudur Mandal, Mahabubabad District of Telangana state. This village 25 kms from district headquarters. The total area of the village is 200 acres.

Only the Lambada community lives in the village. There are 14 small Thandas in this Gram Panchayat. The total population of the village is 6200 in which the male population is 3050 and the female population is 3150. The total no of families in Jamathanda is 100.

In Jamathanda village the families are classified into landless, marginal farmers (0-3 acres), small farmers (3-6 acres). Out of 100 families in Jamathanda, 20 families are landless. 35 are marginal farmers and 32 families are of small farmers, only 13 families having more than 6 acres.

Table-1
Education level of the respondents:-

Total no.of respondents	Illiterate	Literate	Primary	SSC	Inter	Graduate
50 (100.00)	17 (34.00)	13 (26.00)	11 (22.00)	5 (10.00)	3 (6.00)	1 (2.00)

Source-Filed Study:

This table reflects that out of 50 respondents, 34% of respondents are illiterate, 26% are literate in which 22% are educated up to primary level 10% are educated up to Matric level and 6% respondent in intermediate and 2% are Graduates belonging to NGO. This table indicates that the illiterate are still in this village. Attempts should be made to educate women as education is the most important way to empower women and only educated women can empower her family in many ways.

Table-2
Particulars of Average Income sources of the Respondents:

Total No.of respondents	Agriculture	Business	Labouer	Service	Others
50 (100.00)	19 (38.00)	00 (00.00)	26 (52.00)	5 (10.00)	00 (00.00)

Source-Filed Study:

This table reflects that out of 50 respondents, 38% of families are engaged in agriculture, 52% of families are engaged in wage-earning and 10% of families are engaged in service. This table indicates that the main source of income of the respondent's family is farming and wage-earning and very few are engaged in services.s

Table-3
Income Particulars of the respondent's

Total No.of respondents	In Rs. Below 50,000/-	In Rs. Above 50,000/-
50 (100.00)	41 (82.00)	9 (18.00)

Source-Filed Study

This table reflects that out of 50 respondents, 82% respondents family has an average income below 50,000/- and only 18% have above Rs. 50,000/-. This indicates that all the SHG respondents' families are below the poverty line.

Table-4
Particulars of SHGS

Total No.of respondents	Jagadamba Group	Saraswathi Group	Sri Anjanna Group	Chaitanya Group
50 (100.00)	20 (40.00)	10 (20.00)	11 (22.00)	9 (18.00)

Source-Filed Study:

This table reflects that out of 50 respondents, 40% of respondents are belonging to the SHG named as Jagadmaba group, 20% as Saraswathi group 22% as Sri Anjana group 18% as Chaitanya group.

Table-5
Particulars of borrowing of Loans

Total No.of respondents	Yes	No
50	50	00.00
(100.00)	(100.00)	(00.00)

Source-Filed Study

This table reflects that out of 50 respondents, overall respondents have taken the loan from SHG.

Table-6
Bank Linkage Particulars of the Respondents

Total No.of respondents	Yes	No
50	50	00.00
(100.00)	(100.00)	(00.00)

Source-Filed Study

This table reflects that out of 50 respondents, overall respondents having the bank linkage. This indicates that all the SHG members have bank linkage for their income generation activities through SHG.

Conclusion

The findings of the study “On Emancipation of Tribal Women with SHG activity” serve as an indicator of the reliance of the SHG and its importance in all rural development plans especially for the empowerment of women. Tribal women are fully satisfied with the performance of SHG. More women had joined SHG for income generation activities and it has benefited all beneficiaries. They learn to save and then again use them for another productive purpose. SHG is a good means for development and saving habits have been encouraged among the poor.

The formation of SHG and activities started by these groups which included animal husbandry and tree plantation has helped them considerably.

SHG has created lots of thoughts and dreams in the eyes of women. They do not hesitate for outdoor work. Tribal women are not concentrated only on productive purposes but also on their full-fledged development.

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