

Chapter- 6

Conclusion and Findings

6.1 Conclusion

Changes in culture and society are one of the major theoretical pre-occupations of sociology. Social change is any alteration in the cultural, structural, population or ecological characteristics of a social system such as a society. In a basic sense attention to social change is inherent in all sociological work simply social systems are always in the process of change. Man and his social institutions have evolved through time. Women in particular constitute about 50 percent of India's total population and their role in nation building is vital. The process of development would be incomplete and top sided unless women are not fully involved in it therefore development of women has been one of the important concerns of our five year plan. The basic objective of these five year plan has been to empower women to the self reliant and be able to realize their self strength. Traditionally the status and role of women and rural women in particular in the Indian society have been considered lower than that of men, this is closely related to the Indian kinship and economic system which assigns a subordinate and secondary role to women in family and consequently in the society.

Modernization is the process of social transition, which includes not only modernization of social objects but also that of social subjects. The modernization of social objects – which means democratization in politics, industrialization in agriculture, multiplicity in culture and internationalization in education and so on – reflects an overall transformation of social politics, economy, culture, education, and so on. The modernization of social subjects – which means the modernization of people's thoughts, opinions, attitudes and behavior – reflects the individual modernization or individual modernity. Each complements another, as there is an interaction between them.

In social sphere the rural woman seems to be more religious, traditional bound and custom oriented. Sometimes they become more fanatic and superstitious which finds manifestation in their conservative attitude towards life. Scientific temper has not yet shattered their religious temperament. For each happening they try to trace out

some religious causes. On the other hand in the same vein it cannot be denied that modern education, communication network, technological development and exposure to mass media have exerted their influence on this religious attitude of rural women and somehow changed their attitude towards life.

So modernization does not mean that the pleasure achieved from scientific inventions and high technology but it refers to the continuous existence of an approach and attitude based on scientific world view and reasoning. Regarding a nation, individual modernization begins from the people in a certain class and then extends gradually to all social strata. However, the modernization of ordinary people's attitudes and behavior needs to be accelerated by reform of the social system. After the systems of politics, economy, culture and education are reformed in a certain society, individual modernization will be necessarily accelerated by the outside world.

Various studies regarding women and modernization its impact on the beneficiaries has been conducted by many social scientists in India. In this very context the studies conducted by Harsingh Chouhan(2007), Subbarao and Raney (1995), Murthi, Guio and Dreze (1997), V. Rama Chandran (1998), Jha & Jhingran's (2002), Saurabh Shukla and J. N. Gautam (2008), L. Reddeppa (2004), D. C. Shah, Amita Shah and Kate Bird (2003), B. N. Prasad (2008), C S C. Shekar (2007), J.P.Dubey (2006), Harsingh Chouhan & Ram Rajesh Mishra (2004), R. Prasad and R. Rai (1990), Angira (1992), Ashraf (1989), Holsinger (1973), Ministry of Rural Development, New Delhi are of great importance.

So far as the sociological study of rural women in the era of modernization in Uttarakhand State is concerned no study of this sort has been done so far by any social scientist. Therefore the need of the hour is to make an intensive and extensive study of rural women in the era of modernization to evaluate its implementing pattern, success ratio, achievement, constraints and the relevance. In this background the researcher has made an attempt to undertake the study for finding the impact of the modernization on rural women beneficiaries. The study has been focused on the following objectives.

Objective of the study

The main objectives of the study are:

- to find out the socio-economic status of the rural women
- to find out the role and status of the rural women in decision making process,
- to ascertain the changing attitude, awareness and expectation with reference to career and women rights
- to assess the awareness level of women towards government development schemes

Research Design and Methodology

The present research “Kumauni Rural Women in the Era of Modernization” (A Sociological study with Special reference to the Women of Tarikhet Block of District Almora) was based on exploratory research design. The research focus on gender development within the garnet of human development which lays emphasis on women as individuals, human beings and citizens with equal rights and opportunities, while recognizing the need for enhancing their capabilities so as to ensure their equal participation and benefit sharing in development.

The age was considered as an independent variable and based on age factor respondents were divided into two groups –

(i) Young Group (18 – 35 years)

(ii) Senior Group (above 36 years)

Apart from age factor education was also considered as an independent variable and was utilized for comparative analysis while assessing economic and awareness towards developmental programmes.

Indicators used in research

The indicators utilized for the analysis of socio-economic, socio cultural condition of Kumauni rural women were

- Education
- Participation in decision making

- Safety and security-social and economic
- Participation in economic and developmental programmes

Universe of the Study

All the villages located in Tarikhet Development Block of Almora district constitute the universe of the present work. When the researchers deliberately or purposively select certain units for study from the universe it is known as purposive selection. Purposive Sampling is also known as deliberate or non-probability sampling. This sampling method involves purposive or deliberate selection of particular units of the universe for constituting a sample which represents the universe. When population elements are selected for inclusion in the sample based on the ease of access, it can be called convenience sampling. In this type of sample selection the choice of the selection is supreme and nothing is left to chance. According to Adolph Jenson “a purposive selection denotes the method of selecting a number of groups of units in such a way that selected groups yield as nearly as possible the same averages or proportion as the totality with respect of those characteristics which are already a matter of statistical knowledge”.

As it was not possible for the individual investigator due to time limitation to carry out the study in entire Tarikhet block of Almora District, hence sample selection was done.

The sample selection was based on multistage sampling. In first stage of sample selection 10 percent villages were selected by lottery method using random sampling and accordingly 26 villages were selected.

In second stage purposive sampling method was applied and 200 respondents were selected from 26 villages on the basis of age, education, marital status, income, education, occupation, family size.

The list of selected villages are shown in the table below

List of selected Villages

S No.	Village Name	Total no. of Families	Selected families as sample
1.	Tuniyasuyal (Kunelakhet)	34	3
2.	Ghingari	8	2
3.	Pakhura	135	12
4.	Siyun	16	2
5.	Malona	53	5
6.	Bajeena	71	7
7.	Tipola	84	8
8 .	Tipola Sera	32	3
9.	Daurab	39	4
10.	Chapar	134	12
11.	Khusalkot	173	15
12.	Bamsiyun	66	5
13.	Bajol	29	3
14.	Pipalkhand	147	14
15.	Uprari	104	10
16.	Soni	4	1
17.	Pilkholi	245	24
18.	Janoli	173	17
19.	Billekh	147	14
20.	Bohragaon	63	6
21.	Chamoli	58	5
22.	Chaukuni	125	12
23.	Mandalkot	54	5
24.	Pajina	22	2
25.	Naugaon	42	4
26.	Lachhina	57	5
		2115	200

The respondent units of the study during investigation were all women of the age 18 years and above divided in Young and Senior age group. The total respondents selected were 200. Out of total respondents selected 150 belonged to young group whereas 50 belonged to senior group. The young age group included women between 18-35 years and senior age group included women of 36 and above.

Tools and Technique of Data Collection

The respondents were personally interviewed through structured interview schedule for the collection of primary data. An interview schedule was developed and administered for the purpose of data collection as the respondent for the study were both educated and uneducated in character as well as the study was also exploratory in nature hence interview method was found best for data collection. The interview schedule was administered personally to the respondents of the selected villages.

A pilot survey was done as a preliminary step to the formulation of interview schedule as well as to give final form to the interview schedule. For this purpose prior study was done on 25 women of young and senior group respondents. The data obtained was actually tabulated in order to see the weakness present in the interview schedule. This included the proportion of answers for difficult, ambiguous or poor worded questions, the proportion of questions which respondent refused to answer as well as marginal comment of respondents or interviewer.

In order to provide interview schedule its final form all the deductions of pilot survey were considered and suitable changes were made.

All the data collected was primary in nature in addition to intensive field work, secondary sources like records, survey reports, related studies and other findings were utilized as a source of secondary information. In this way the findings of the study are based both on primary and secondary information collected through respective sources.

6.2 Findings of the Study:-

- The development of women from social-cultural perspective reveal that still respondents were victims of early marriage as they considered women as social responsibility and need to be delegated as early as possible. However, with the increase in educational status, attitudinal change was observed where respondents express their views of continuing education on receiving opportunity as well as do job owing to which instances of late marriage was observed.
- Inter caste, Inter religion marriage was not favored by all respondents which reflect the strong prevalence of class and caste endogamy in the study area. However, favour of widow remarriage by few respondents reflect bleak ray of hope in development of women who lose their husband at early age and revolutionary step in changing the mindset of the rural masses.
- Respondents were severely affected by Dowry System and Child Marriage. Situation was more shocking when respondents reported cases of bride burning in their village on account of less dowry. It was observed that although respondents were aware about legal age of marriage i.e 18 yrs but still they practiced early marriage on account of getting suitable life partner and considering women as social responsibility. Purdah system slightly influenced the life of senior respondents as they were compelled to put Purdah in front of in laws and seniors. Hence all these social evils acted as a negative agent in women development process.
- Gender biasness was highly reflected in the area in terms of education. All respondents considered education of boy much important as they considered boys were bread earners of family as well as the entire responsibility of household in future lays in their shoulder hence their education as average important. They considered that girl had to only fulfill family responsibility and was considered other's property "Paraya Dhan". Hence, inspite of education they should be well versed in household activities. The preference of male over female has been a major factor for hindering women development in various spheres.
- Children's dropping out from school was the matter of urgent concern in rural areas. It was observed that boys left school because of poor economic

condition. However, girls left school due to excess work load, economic reason and taking care of siblings. It was also reported that respondents had to leave school as their mother had expired during delivery so the respondents had to act as mother for family and younger siblings. However, in total it was observed that the lack of economy was the main hindrance for the rural development, but respondent choice of raising their education on receiving opportunity may be regarded as golden step towards their development.

- Majority Senior respondents considered girls education less important owing to their mature age and narrow mind set of girls not moving out of their threshold whereas Young respondents have adopted a bit modern approach and have considered girl education average importance as they consider for taking care of family, children and herself education was important. The attitudinal change of reproductive respondents towards girl education may be considered as stepping stone in their development.
- The traditional role of women was considered as house makers “Queen of house and kitchen” whereas a man role was bread earners has changed. With increased educational status, initiation of industrialization and westernization process the role of women which was clearly reflected by findings when majority respondents preferred to do job along with being house wife which was considered as a progressive step in the direction of gender development. It was good to recognize respondents themselves wanted to change their traditional role set by being economic independent.
- In matters of financial saving respondents mainly the young respondents were active members of their village SHGs (Self Help Group) and do participate in activities organized by SHGs. It was good to observe that in financial matters SHGs do help their members when and where needed as per their memorandum. It was observed that SHGs are milestone in financial freedom of women if members of SHGs are intact and have faith in it and may be considered as an effective step towards women empowerment thus aiding in their development.
- Majority considered women being economic independent important which was considered as a progressive step in development of women. Respondents reported that by being economic independent they would be able to resolve

problem of their families which were resultant of financial crisis. Apart from this factor economic independency would be helpful in increasing the status as well as they would be aware about their rights. All the factors clearly indicate that women themselves want to progress in the direction of being economic independent which is one of the most important indicator of development.

- Political awareness is one of the main attribute for making women self dependent. It was observed that majority respondents knew about the minimum age of voting. The voting figure reflects increased participation of women in political activities which is a golden step towards political empowerment and development.
- Majority of the young respondent use cell phone as a communication instrument, basically they use it to talk with their family members occasionally. But in this study a major finding was that some young literate respondent and members of SHG groups are using cell phone as information device. RML a market linkage company has provided some special vouchers free of cost to SHG members through a local NGO working in the field of agri-business. The vouchers are related to mobile based message service and provide a series of information i.e. agri-produce *mandi rate*, local weather information etc. Women SHGs have taken most out of the facility in gaining profits in one hand as they are not cheated by the middlemen anymore and weather information on the other.
- Majority respondents had no information regarding laws for women protection whereas even if some had information, it was of no use because of society fear they thought that by saying something against their husband and family would be considered negative by the society. However such laws although formulated never turned into real practice and never aided in women development.
- Gender discrimination was also a base for domestic violence where respondents reported that bearing a girl child and not able to give birth to male child to the family was also the reason for violence, second marriage and excess pregnancies which proved fatal for women a number of times. Respondents suffered from violence (physical as well as inertial torture) by their dunked husband without any reason and also due to fewer dowries. Respondents also reported cases of bride burning in their villages on account

of getting fewer dowries. Such, statistics definitely indicate lower status of women and stringent steps are required from government for preventing women from such violence and for their real empowerment.

- Education played an important role and act as a major tool for creating awareness about the various medical facilities. Literate respondents from young group preferred treatment from government hospital and were not ready to take any risk which may be considered positive approach towards concern for their health. However senior group being illiterate had blind faith on Vaidhyas and were not ready to go to hospital for their treatment even during emergency. Thus there is an urgent need for educating rural masses regarding benefits of new techniques in medical field.
- Maximum death was caused during delivery because the birth of the child was carried under the supervision of dais and even under the matters of complication the respondents were not taken to the hospital. This definitely reflects that lack of education may lead to serious hazards.
- It was observed that number of frequent pregnancies and unable to keep parity due to lack of education was one of the bitter results for not adopting family planning. Respondents considered children as gift of god therefore they never adopted such practices. They still believed in the notion that more the male child more helping hand in the economy. Hence, for preference of male child they never adopted any measure of family planning. Thus, there arises an urgent need to make rural masses aware about such practices which are necessary for good health as well as for overall development of nation.
- Discrimination against women is observed in all walks of life in Kumaun Hills. Their status in family and society is low and are denied from equal opportunities for education, employment and other economic activities; the magnitude however varies from family to family. Even then, it's interesting to observe that women themselves are biased for their Male children. Under pressure and force of traditional, cultural and historical factors, women have been ignored and denied opportunities for participating in the process of development and sharing its benefits.

6.3 Suggestions

On the basis of the findings of the research work following suggestion can be made:

- For improvement in the condition of women in terms of social status, gender based equality, and opportunities in education, employment and economic activities, it must be ensured that women should be educated. Not only the regular schooling of girls but also the adult education for married women and drop outs.
- Education should not be considered as literacy rather it should be more vocational and tuned up to their socio-economic environment.
- Economic liberty is second important factor. In place of non-economic traditional agriculture, rural women have to switch over to cash crops like horticulture, floriculture, cultivation of aromatic Plants etc. which could generate some cash.
- Another important aspect in this factor is that woman must have control on the cash she generates. It is more a problem of society than economy, and so the answer also lies with the society.
- Son is the heir of family and daughter is others property is a thought deeply rooted in the mind of rural women. Mass scale awareness is required to change the males' perception towards their counterparts as well as the same is required for female to change their perception about their female children.
- Women education, economic liberty and mass scale social awareness may break down the traditional barriers of gender biasness, and will lead to the overall upliftment of the rural women in Kumaun Hills.