

EMPOWERMENT OF TRIBAL WOMEN

(A Study in Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh, India)

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In the Women approach the person(s) during the time of problems, it is observed that in rural area respondents 39.3 percent. Whereas from the urban area respondents 44.0 percent approach by police.

8.8 Conclusion

Any developmental process is the expansion of assets and capabilities of rural women to participate in, negotiate with, influence, control, and hold the institution accountable that affect their lives. Skill development among rural women is the need of the hour so as to make them confident, self-reliant and to develop in them the ability to be a part of decision-making process at home and outside. Indeed it may not be wrong to say that tribals and rural women still suffer being the most disadvantaged and neglected sections of the society for they are economically backward, socially sidelined and culturally unrecognised. Therefore, there is an urgent need on the part of the government and the civil society to enable improvement in the quality of life of such vulnerable and marginalised sections of the Indian society. More importantly the developmental process in India should give priority to welfare schemes and programmes meant for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes including women. These are the people who are economically backward therefore, there is a need for sincere efforts on the part of the government to help improve the quality of their life by making sure that policies, laws and schemes are implemented properly. The Social Assessment for the training and skill development clearly reflect that rural landless (mostly SCs and STs) form an integral part of poverty-ridden and marginalised groups. Empowering rural woman through education can thus enable them to live with dignity and self-reliance cutting across the barriers of customary biases and prejudices, social barriers of caste, class, gender, occupation and institutional barriers that prevent them from taking actions to improve their state both at the individual and at the collective level. Therefore, free education and necessary and employable skill development programmes must be launched for tribal students and women so as to make them self-reliant and economically independent. Furthermore, right to vote is meaningless unless rural women are made aware of their rights. Tribal women need to be educated and imparted skills to understand the order of the day and it can bring change in their lives, in the family. Lastly we can transform the holistic tribal

landscape of India, only through education, legal awareness, and socio economic independence for the tribal women.

8.9 Suggestions for policy measures

- The government should focus empowerment of scheduled tribe women and allocate separate funds throughout the five-year plans. Health, education and nourishment should be selected as the key focus areas. Besides women should be provided with ample opportunities for economic development, based upon the traditional skills. Women should also be provided additional skills to add value to the produces.
- The government should ensure 100% literacy among the tribal women by the welfare programmes and through the programmes under the five-years plan. The adivasi girls, who are desirous of higher education should be provided subsidy for education in technical areas. The state should provide the hostel facilities for motivating the tribal girl child.
- The tribal women workers, who are engaged in agriculture, construction and labour works, are unorganised; the government should protect their labour rights. And the government should make special allocation for implementation of labour laws for the scheduled areas to prevent the exploitation of the workers.
- The tribal forest land cultivators, who have been given the land entitlements, should be assisted by enhancing the yield by soil and water development process. The farmers should be provided the high-yielding seed varieties along with training to improve their agriculture. Such farmers should be provided the loan assistance for improving their agricultural productivity.

8.10 Limitations of the study

1. The study is confined to Krishna district, where the population is limited to three Mandals i.e., Jaggayyapeta, A.Konduru, and Vijayawada (urban).
2. Even though there are 50 Mandals in the study district, only three Mandals are with the tribal population more than 10,000. Therefore, the sample study area also restricted to those three Mandals.
3. While the study is restricted to tribal women of working group, selecting a large number of sample size will not be possible. Therefore, it will be a purposive study on a small sample with 483 respondents.
4. The researcher needs to contact tribal women from both urban and rural areas, which will be a difficult and an expensive task. The researcher, therefore, will be concentrating only on three Mandals where large numbers of ethnic class people are available.