

## **CONCLUSION, FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS**

This chapter presented overview of the findings of the study and examines their implications for social policy formulation.

The present study on the Status of Dalit Women in Andhra Pradesh – A Case Study in Guntur District is take up in Six Villages in Tenali Mandal. The major objectives of the study are:

- 1.** To study the Socio-Economic and Political conditions of the Dalit Women in Rural Areas.
- 2.** To study the Educational and Health aspects of the Dalit Women in Rural Areas.
- 3.** To study the Impact of Developmental Programmes on the Dalit Women in Rural Areas.
- 4.** To make necessary suggestions for effective implementation of developmental programmes for the Empowerment of Dalit Women in Rural Areas.

### **Sample of the Study**

The sample of the study consists of the socio-economic and political status, education, health aspects and impact of development programmes of the Dalit women. A sample of 300 Dalit women from six villages in Tenali Mandal; Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh had been selected by using simple random sampling method. In this present study an interview scheduled was used to conduct this study.

## **FINDINGS OF THE STUDY**

### **Social status of dalit women**

- According to this study majority respondents have found from Madiga Dalit sub-section and very few respondents are from other community of Dalit sub-section. In this study area majority of Dalit population are residing in this study area are belongs to Madiga Dalits sub-section.
- Age is an important factor in understanding the role and status of an individual in the society (Persons- 1942, Benedier - 1938). Society differentiates human beings into children, adults and old on the basis of their age. Age composition of the respondents reveals whether the sample is young, adult or old through interview schedule by drawing the information on their age composition. The study also revealed that most of them have found in between 31-40 years of age group and very meager had found from less than 20 years of age group of the respondents.
- In this study it is noticed that the most of them are belongs to Hindu religion and 0.7 per cent respondents belongs to Christian as of the their religion.
- Marriage is an important event in the life of an individual. This is more so in the case of women. It redefines one's role and status in the society. In India married women have been respected and honoured. Marital status also indicates whether one is settled in life or not. It shows one's desire for family and kinship. It provides for a bigger and a broader vision of life. It also indicates a will power to know face life. It enables a broader view. The majority of respondents were married, 7.7 per cent have Unmarried and 1.7 per cent was Widows.

- Education as an important in schools and collages has came to be accepted as an agent of social change and modernization. It develops the skill of reading, writing, and numeracy. It also develops the capacity of reasoning, thinking and comprehension. It introduces dynamic elements of one's personality. Education in the form of degrees, is intimately linked with modern occupation. The educated find better Employment opportunities. According to this study majority have found the illiterate there by there is a need to create facilities to educate all the Dalit-Women both by Govt. programmes and through also encouraging Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO).
- The study revealed that 66.3 per cent of the respondents had awareness of reservation of the seats in educational institutions, majority 99.0 per cent of the respondents are encouraging for education to their family members, relatives and neighbours.
- Majority percentages of the respondents have noticed that their status is increased, equal status of dalit women with other women and personality development through education.
- Majority per cent of the respondents reported that they did not get jobs through education because majority of them are illiterates. Only 6.0 per cent of the respondents had got job through reservation facilities
- The study revealed that 12.6 per cent of the respondents noticed that they had been taken free coaching for i.e. APPSC, DSC, SSC, RRB and Other exams of the sample respondents.

### **Economic status of Dalit women**

- The study also revealed that most of them earning more than above Rs.20,000/- of annual income.

- In this study noticed, majority of the Heads of the family annual income is in between Rs.20,000-30,000.
- In this study it is expressed that they have earning less income and residing in RCC and Thatched houses. Though Government is constructing houses for weaker sections, it is not sufficient to all Dalits and segregating them by constructing faraway places of the village. It may be possible to bring them into the main stream by construction of an integrated housing scheme, so that they can establish relations with other caste groups and to some extent they can improve their social status.
- The study revealed that majority did not have sanitary facilities and most of them have reported their family consists of nuclear family. Around 90 per cent of the respondents had their own houses, 92.0 per cent of the respondents houses have had electrification facility and majority of sample respondents are having television.
- Occupation interms of gainful employment is a crucial factor in deciding one's position and status in the society. A study of occupational status of the respondents explains their power position and income. According to this study majority have found agricultural labour. The majority of the respondents have revealed that they did not have milk animals.

### **Health conditions of Dalit women**

- Regarding awareness of the health facilities in the village, high percentage of the respondents reported that their villages have a primary health center but did not have a qualified MBBS doctors.
- Majority percentages of the respondents have revealed that they have satisfied with the medical services rendering in their villages provided by the Government. In the study,

majority percentages of the respondents have noticed the awareness about the help rendering by Government to pregnant women until the delivery in the Government hospitals. Majority of the respondents have expressed that they have undergone family planning, most of the respondents had aware about the nutritious food and cent percentage of the respondents have reported that they had knowledge about 108 medical services, 104 medical mobile services of their villages. 99.0 per cent of the respondents got awareness about the HIV/AIDS.

- The study noticed that the high per cent of the respondents have reported that they had awareness about the Rajeev Arogyasree Scheme, 88.7 per cent of the respondents families had been Rajeev Arogyasree Cards. Only 9.0 per cent of the respondents have got treated under the Rajeev Arogyasree Scheme.
- In this study 90.0 per cent of the respondents informed that they did not have agri-land holding. Majority 83.7 per cent of the respondents have revealed that the husband and wife are taking care of financial responsibility in their family.
- The majority of the sample 47.3 per cent of the respondents reported wages have been paying them for their per day work is in between Rs.50-100 rupees. Whereas 27.0 per cent of the respondents informed that the wages in their village are in between Rs.101-150 rupees per day. As regards 17.0 per cent of the respondents revealed that the wages are in their village in between Rs.151-200 per day work. According to this study it is found that the wages paying for them are not uniform among the sample respondents. It varies from Rs.50 to Rs.200/-.

## **Political status of dalit women**

Of the total sample of respondents exercising their right to vote for local body elections (Gram Panchayat, MPTC, ZPTC) and Assemble and Parliamentary elections a majority 89.7 per cent of the respondents have exercised their right to vote for local body elections and also very insignificant i.e. 10.3 percent have not exercise their right to in the local body elections. Another important finding is that 71.7 percent of the respondents have exercised their right to vote and 28.3 percent have informed that they could not able to use their vote for both Assemble and Parliamentary elections.

- According to this study very meager i.e. 2.3 per cent of the respondents informed that they had been elected in the local body elections (Gram Panchayat, MPTC and ZPTC).
- The majority 88.3 per cent of the respondents could not take membership of any political party, followed by 9.7 per cent, 2.0 per cent of the sample respondents informed that they had taken membership like Congress party, Telugu Desam party.
- Regarding awareness about reservation of seats for SCs, STs according to the 73<sup>rd</sup> constitutional amendment Act. Out of the total sample 80.3 percent of the Dalit women revealed that they did not have awareness on 73<sup>rd</sup> constitutional amendment Act, remaining 19.6 percent of the respondents noticed that they had awareness on 73<sup>rd</sup> constitutional amendment Act.
- The majority sample 85.7 per cent said that they got knowledge on Gram Panchayat activities for development of village, 14.3 per cent informed that they did not have knowledge on Gram Panchayat activities for the development of village.

- According to the study 82.0 percent revealed that they had a knowledge about ward members role in development of village, 18.0 percent reported that they could not have knowledge on ward members role in development village.
- Majority i.e. 97.3 percent of sample respondents have informed that they had utilized the right to vote, where as 2.7 per cent reported that they could not utilized their of right to vote.
- In this study 98.5 percent could not participation in co-operative society elections, only 1.7 percent have participated in co-operative society elections.

### **Impact of development programmes**

- The majority 82.6 percent have joined in S.H.Gs (Self Help Groups) and 17.3 percent respondents reported that they could not joined in SHGs. In this study, majority i.e. 47.2 per cent of the respondents are in the age groups in between 31-40 years of their age. Calculated the chi-square table value i.e. was found to be significant, because it is more than table value. The results reveal that a significant association was found in between the age and joining in self help groups (SHGs).
- Of the total sample 96.3 per cent of groups have confined to one caste and 3.6 per cent of groups have confined all castes. 52.8 per cent of the respondents are monthly saving in (SHGs) members Rs.50/-, 99.1 percent respondents are maintaining group meetings regularly, 0.8 per cent could not maintaining group meetings regularly.
- According to this study 33.8 per cent are taking revolving fund, 66.1 percent did not take revolving fund.
- In this study 82.3 percent have taken loan from SHGs, 17.3 per cent did not take loan from SHGs.

- Majority i.e. 35.0 percent of the respondents informed that they had taken loan amount i.e. Rs.5000/-, 25.8 percent of the respondents said that they had taken loan amount i.e. Rs.20000/- and above.
- Of the total sample 48.38 percent of the respondents have revealed that they had taken loan from the SHGs for the purpose of the children's education, 18.14 per cent have reported they have taken loan for house construction, 14.11 per cent have informed that they have invested on agriculture
- In this study majority 35.4 percent of the respondents have informed that their group had been taken loan amount Rs.50000/- from bank and 25.8 percent of the respondents informed that their group had been barrowing loan amount above Rs.2,00,000.
- According to this study 92.6 percent respondents reported that they had knowledge on the DWCRA/MGNREGS programmes. 73.0 percent of the Dalit women informed that they had MGNREGS job cards. About 27.0 percent did not have MGNREGS job cards. The majority i.e. 26.4 percent of respondents revealed that they have done work in one year for 26-50 days, 65.7 percent of the respondents stated that they have been earning through MGNREGS works is in between Rs.75-100 per day.

The socio-economic and cultural forces of the market came into operation in the early Nineties and have produced adverse effects on the weaker communities including Scheduled Castes. The problem has been compounded by the fact that the agrarian economy has not turned as under the feudal relationships and the market is dumping consumer goods and commodities on the social sector that are tied up with caste and feudal structure. The market is tearing apart the lives of the laboring Scheduled Caste as they are unable to cope up with the growing aspirations, on one hand and the increasing deprivation on other. Moreover, agrarian

relations have not shown market changes in terms of land, human relationship and the wages system. A vast majority of Scheduled Castes, who come under the agrarian labour economy, live below poverty line. The imposed cash crop, fish, prawn and owner production to feed the global markets is showing a trend of labour displacement which has a tremendous impact on the living conditions of these people. The problem is getting complicated with the state's withdrawal from welfare sector and contrarily, emphasizing on liberalization and privatization. The economy is geared to meet the consumerist aspirations of the employed, the business and other class, and the poor are getting popularized more and more.

The government have in the past taken several intervention programmes in rural as well as urban areas including stimulation of commodity production to meet urban needs and exports, education and training of peasants, absorption of labour and reduce dissatisfaction as well as migration creation of infrastructure such as roads, water supply and sanitary systems provision of health, family planning and welfare services. Government intervention has affected rural societies both positively and negatively. Earlier SC household was attached to a particular land owning high caste household under jajmani system and used to get a fixed quantity of cereals at each harvest in lieu of the services rendered to the satisfaction of jajman (i.e. land owning household) throughout the year. Besides, the SC household also used to have benefits like free collection of grass for domestic animals, vegetable leaves grown in the field, collection of fire woods etc. The cereals and other benefits so received were quite adequate to sustain the SC household's nutritional needs. But with the coming of money economy in the villages, the system has now almost broken down and the life of a SC household in rural setting, particularly in terms of nutritional needs. But with the coming of money economy in the villages the system has now almost broken down and the life of a SC household in rural

setting, particularly in terms of nutritional needs has got adversely affected. Secondly, the SC workers formally in exchange of their manual and also artisanal services had been remunerated in kind. Due to the fact that the well to do families in the village now prefer to buy goods and services in the nearby towns, many of the SC artisan families had to look for other jobs or fall back on their small land holdings. Several SC families have left the villages in the past several years and migrated to the cities. In the absence of working men the responsibilities of maintaining the household have in majority cases fallen largely on the shoulders of women. Development and empowerment of women is one of the most crucial issues of today. It is universally accepted that notwithstanding considerable governmental efforts, one of the sections of women, namely Scheduled Caste women lag woefully behind others in development and they continue to be among the weakest and the exploited. Moreover, women in transition economies are finding that their specific skills are becoming absolute. In weaker sections, women play a major role, especially in economic field. In spite of the development taking place all around, it has to be conceded that bulk of the Scheduled Caste women will continue to live and earn livelihood on their own environment. Women empowerment focuses on:

1. Recognizing women's contribution, women's knowledge.
2. Women fighting their own fears and feelings of inadequacy and inferiority.
3. Women enhancing their self respect and self dignity.
4. Women becoming their self reliant and autonomous.
5. Women controlling own bodies.
6. Women controlling resources like land and property.
7. Reducing women's burden of work specially with in the home.

8. Women participation in decision making within the family and in the society.
9. Women sharing responsibilities and rights equally.

### **Recommendations for the Better Implementation of the Schemes of Dalit Women**

1. Selection and identification of the talented Dalit girls needs to be done scientifically.
2. Competitive spirit should be instilled in the Dalit girls.
3. Selection of candidate to be done at college level itself for coaching.
4. Result oriented, teaching is essential.
5. Activities oriented towards confidence building needs to be chosen.
6. Loan facilities needs to be made available.
7. Financial aid to be given to the meritorious Dalit girl to compete for UPSC, SPSC.
8. Hostel facilities for dalit girls at all levels of education should be provided.
9. Reservation policy for Dalit girls should be made available in both admission and employment along with other girls but not as separately created.
10. Government has to be increased awareness among dalit women about their rights and privileges. This should be augmented by information technology, which should reach even to the remote rural citizen who form the large majority of Dalit women population in our country.

The special programmes for Scheduled Caste have been taken up from the very beginning in terms of their special situation – disabilities of caste on them by nefarious traditions. However, in retrospect it is clear that these programmes are notional and continued to be defunct with low level of participation and achievements of the objectives.

**The Following Suggestions for Overall Empowerment of Dalit Women  
May Be Considered**

1. Removal of traditional disabilities suffered by different sections of population of various counts.
2. Elimination of exploitation in all forms and protection of women's rights and interests, with formulation of gender sensitization programmes.
3. Equity for and protection of those engaged in the traditional sectors of economy including artisans and traditional services.
4. The present inequity in the statutory wages should be removed. The minimum Wages Act should contain a provision to the effect that the daily wages of ordinary labourers in all economic activities shall be so determined the following principle that the earnings of one person in a family should be sufficient for the maintenance of the entire standard of the family.
5. Specific training programmes should be conducted and their recruitment of SC/ST women as an Extension Worker in agriculture, animal husbandry, technology transfer, environment, forestry, waste land development, horticulture, sericulture, herbiculture, small scale industries, electronics' should be ensured.
6. Credit should be made available to SC and ST in all credit schemes. A certain percentage of SC/ST quotas should be earmarked for the women.
7. Raw materials for sustaining economic activities should be made available on concessional rates through effective and efficient distribution channel.
8. Women's cooperations should be strengthened through extending them monetary incentives and sustained monitoring.

9. Skill upgradation programmes especially entrepreneurship development programmes for women should be further extended to the SC/ST women. In this connection the local NGO's, should be encouraged to cater and initiatives gaining skills through training.
10. Social Security schemes of crèches, health care, maternity benefits for SC/ST women who engaged in unorganized sector should be extended.
11. A group insurance scheme should be considered for the health insurance of women, particularly those employed in hazardous and difficult occupations. Group insurance can also be considered in the context of natural calamities.
12. The economic role of SC/ST women should be highlighted. They should be mobilized for taking initiatives for formation of 'Self Help Group' and socio-economically viable project.
13. Special schemes should be formulated for eliminating scavenging and dry latrines, thus freeing SC women from the dirty and demeaning work. They should be provided with special health care coverage and hygiene education to make them aware of their occupational hazards. The women and children of this group should be trained in other occupational areas to encourage diversification of their occupation and encourage social mobility. Training programmes for the children of persons engaged in cleaning/scavenging operations should be started in all major urban and rural centres to facilitate occupational diversification amongst this class.
14. The long term objectives of development programmes for SC/ST women would be to raise their economic and social status in order to bring them into the mainstream of national development. In the process, due recognition should be accorded to the

role and contributions of women in various socio-economic, political and cultural activities.

15. There is a need for evolving a responsive personnel policy in the sphere of welfare and development of weaker sections. In all matters relating to the welfare of weaker sections reputed NGO's are needed to render yeomen services. A system of social justice clearance for all personnel responsible for welfare and development of weaker sections, women, SC's ST's and OBC's etc. is suggested. The organisations leadership should also control within them
16. Women's organizations working among weaker sections should be encouraged more. There should be a system of reorganizing even men working for women of weaker sections and conferring honours on those who work for the development of women.
17. Socio-economic empowerment has been considered instrumental for holistic development. Women's empowerment is obviously essential for raising their socio-economic status in the society. Recently, women's empowerment has acquired an important place in government policy, non-government advocacy and academic research.
18. There has been a paradigm shift in development and governance. Democratic decentralization, partnership with NGO's, is empowering community based organizations, participatory development, sustainable in people participation in development and governance as well as their empowerment.
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organizations; participatory development, sustainable growth and equity etc. have proved to be instrumental in people participation in development and governance as well as their empowerment.

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21. The models of micro-finance were evolved in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Philippines and Sri Lanka etc. and were adopted in India too. Financing through SHG's has been considered instrumental in people's empowerment, mobilizing thrift and extending credit. The concept of micro-finance in India was introduced sometimes in 1985, however, since 1996 it was widely accepted and implemented.
22. The main factor of motivation for savings is mainly securing future. The SHG's face problem regarding income generation activities. They have also initiated community development. However, only 48 per cent of them have initiated income generating activities. Further, only some members of the SHG's initiated income generation activities.
23. Most of the beneficiaries are belonging to the age group of 31-40 years. They were found either illiterate or educationally backward. They are mostly married and belongs to nuclear families. Their housing conditions are not so good where they face problems of electricity, safe drinking water and sanitation.

24. The land holding size of respondent's families has been reported to be small and one third of them were landless. The beneficiaries were mainly self-employed and housewives. The respondent's husbands were mostly either unemployed or self-employed. The household income of majority of respondents families has been reported to be low, however, the contribution of beneficiaries of the family income has been recorded to be significant
25. Women groups with bondage of true sisterhood and the spirit of global kinship should yoke together and battle against these corroding evils of caste system which might, otherwise, dangerously weaken them if they stand divided into Dalit and Non-Dalit women. This will enable women to challenge sexual determinism and biological essentialism simultaneously.
26. Education plays a crucial role in the empowerment process, Education facilities should be geared to special needs like the employment oriented education and diversified vocational training. They can be trained in small-scale and cottage industries, village crafts and other occupations.
27. Educational facilities should keep in view the specific needs of the Dalits. Special measures should be taken to improve the enrolment/retention rates as school drop-outs continue to be high. The poor students of Dalit families should continue to be assisted through scholarships, financial assistance, free books, free uniforms.
28. Education should evolve a rationalistic attitude that all human beings are born free and equal and that the caste system is man made hierarchy to facilitate his own well-being. Untouchability as a social norm should be completely eradicated. The

Dalit children in schools and colleges should be treated on equal footings as the other children.

29. Their income earning should be raised by providing access to crucial inputs like land and credit.
30. The rural Dalit women working on land should have right to claim equal facilities available to all other workers.
31. Women can be mobilized by promoting ‘Self Help Women’s Groups’, which help them to gain self-esteem and self-worth.
32. Informal education should be imparted to Dalit women.
33. Women should be trained in learning to organize themselves into groups, so that a platform for voicing out their grievances and to demand better utility services and inputs can be established.
34. Considering the number and magnitude of the problems of Dalit women, voluntary agencies must be encouraged in the spheres.
35. Right values and ethics have to be inculcated in the minds of young Dalit children. Human Rights education should be a compulsory component of the school and college curriculum that is respecting every human, whatever be the caste, race, creed or sex, each belong to.
36. An Integrative Approach should be followed in developing housing schemes for Dalit. It gives scope to all the different caste people living at one place will have an interaction with other caste people and also exchange their socio-economic and political development among them. The present system of construction of rehabilitation colonies to weaker sections on the name of SC/ST and BC colonies

will be more widening the relationships among them and creating a long gap within them. So Integrative Approach to all the schemes may properly be suitable for equal development to all caste groups and to create a casteless society through Integrative Housing Approach. It also gives good scope for the people those who are interested to looking for casteless society.

37. The Government and N.G.Os should take initiatives to forming of Dalit Women Forums which can deal the problems and solutions especially for Dalit Women. So that the N.G.Os and Government can work effectively for their problems. The forums can also interact among themselves and can find the solutions of their own for their empowerment and development.
38. One of the most important observation through interacting with the Dalit women may not included in the schedule that majority of them reported that their husbands used to spend more money everyday for taking alcohol drinking which leads to so many problems in their development and unhappiness in the family. Dalit women informed that their husbands some time may forcibly taking money from their savings and earnings for drinking of alcohol. In this context the scholar would like to suggest that those N.G.O who are working for De-addiction should be encouraged by providing financial supports to establish De-Addiction centres at Dalit colonies.
39. It is also Observed while interacting with the Dalit women that they have to struggle to lead the family everyday by putting lot of efforts and they reported that they could not get support from their partners in procuring fire-wood, all food items and at least to fetching of drinking water for their domestic needs. Women has to

put all the efforts in all aspects of the development and daily maintains of their family. Women organisations working for women empowerment should arrange meetings with the Dalit women partners and involve them in the development activities of the family. If the women collective approach is there automatically the patriarchic ideology will be dissolve in the mind of men.

40. It is also noticed that they have less freedom when comparing with the general women, Dalit men, inspite of all their bad habits, they will not allow women in decision making and at least they do not have a control over the money they are earning. Still today there is a pathetic situation among the Dalit women. Women groups working for Dalits and women should initiate dialague with them which gives support to the Dalit women at least to question their partners.

41. Dalit-Women Forums along with S.H.G group should be promoted and encouraged which gives them space for discussing their problems, getting support to overcome for their individual problems and helps them in development of their families, socially, economically, and politically.