

A Study on Problems of Baiga Women of Sonbhadra

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Abstract: Baiga Community has been declared as tribe in Sonbhadra district, State of Uttar Pradesh in 2002. Baiga tribe constitute only 2.6 percent of total STs population of state as per 2011 census. Baiga people are called 'Son of Nature'. The Baiga women, as women in all social groups, are more illiterate than men. Like others social groups, the Baiga women share problems related to reproductive health. Role of women is not only of importance in economic activities, but her role in non-economic activities is equally important. The Baiga women work very hard. In Baiga community, mainly women are burdened by everyday water provision facility. This hard work can have bad effects on their health. Baiga women are facing many problems like poor literacy and mobility, low employment and income generating opportunities, poor reproductive health choices and preferences. They are also facing malnutrition problem, domestic violence problem. Baiga women are married at very young age and they become mother in early age due to which they are facing many health problems. There were no hospitals in Baiga community so delivery use to be done in home only.

Keywords: Baiga, community, Women, Health problems, Poor literacy

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I. INTRODUCTION

Baiga women faces a number of challenges which they need to overcome in order to improve their status in the society. Here are some issues faced by Baiga women in particular.

- **Absence of any fix livelihood:** Baiga people are very poor. So women of Baiga tribe also work with their husband to fulfil their basic needs. They do not have any fixed occupation. So what work they get they do it. Their main occupation is Agriculture and their secondary occupation is daily wage labour. Apart from that, they are engaged in handicrafts making. Economic conditions of households are related to other aspects of their life.
- **Lack of access to education:** Most of the Baiga women work outside their homes and are engaged in various activities. They work in order to earn money for their family. The Women's work involves daily labour, agricultural work. Even young girls go for work along with their mothers. Most of the time they do not go to school regularly or become drop outs from school. Even the parents of poor families do not always want to send their daughters to school because then their helping hands in work would be reduced. Effect of patriarchy could be seen in most Baiga tribe people and so whatever money women get from their work they give it to their husband and the husband very often spends the money on activities like drinking. And at a time when girl child attains teenage the parents stop sending them to schools.
- **Poor condition of health:** Lack of awareness about nutritional requirements mostly leaves the Baiga women weak, anaemic and they suffer from various diseases. During pregnancy, special attention is required to be given to women otherwise that will affect the health of both the mother and child. Educational level, employment status, health status and decision making ability helps to measure the status of women in society.

Objectives:

- To know the Socio-Economic Conditions of Baiga women of Sonbhadra.
- To find out the problems of Baiga tribe women of Sonbhadra.
- To give suggestive measures to overcome from the problem.

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Selection of District:

Sonbhadra district which is 2nd largest district of Uttar Pradesh, India has been selected for present study.

Selection of the Block:

There are 8 blocks in Sonbhadra district, Uttar Pradesh. Out of which we have selected Dudhi block for the present study because there are larger number of Baiga tribe.

Selection of Village:

There are 279 villages in Dudhi block. Out of which we have selected three villages purposively i.e., Dighul, Dhanaura and Garadarwa.

Selection of Respondents:

In this present study we have selected purposively 100 respondents of Baiga tribe.

TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES OF DATA COLLECTION

For data collection various techniques has been used which are described below:

- 1. Development of interview schedule:** To collect the data from respondents, an interview schedule was prepared as given in the appendix, covering the various independent and dependent variables of the study keeping in view the various defined objectives of the present investigation.
- 2. Observation:** "Observation method is such a method in which only primary data is to be collected. Each observer collect the data which is related to his/her study."

In this present study the observation was done by "participant observation" and "non-participant observation".

a. Participant observation: According to this method we have participated in the daily life of the respondents and observed their behaviour relevant to the study topic.

b. Non-participant observation: According to this method we have observed everything from a distance. We have to be passive and do not try influence the activities of the respondent in any manner.

3.

Individual interview: In this we meet on single respondent/person at one time and interviewed him. Then collect all the information from the respondent. It is believed that such a person/respondent possesses the required information and that was serving our purpose. The advantage in this method is that the respondent is not under group influences and all views expressed by respondent are his own and spontaneous.

4. Case Study Method: Case study is the method of exploring and analysing the life of a social unit may be of a person, a family, an institution or a community. In this method various aspects of the respondents unit were deeply and thoroughly studied, taking into account its past, present and future.

5. Secondary data: Secondary data has been collected from the block offices and previous researches in the same were also used to analyse the primary data status.

6. Audio and Visual Aids: Tape recorder, camera and mobile has been used to collect the views of the respondents and photographs related to the present study.

7. P.R.A. Technique: By this method we have got the quick information about the whole village. The method we used in this study is transect walk, social map etc.

III. RESULTS & DISCUSSION

TABLE-4.1 Marital status of the respondents

N=100

Sr. No.	Marital status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	Married	70	70
2.	Unmarried	30	30
	Total	100	100

The above table shows that 70 per cent respondents were married and 30 per cent were unmarried.

TABLE-4.2 Caste of the respondents

N=100

Sr. No.	Caste of respondents	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	General	0	0
2.	Backward	0	0
3.	SC	0	0
4.	ST	100	100
	Total	100	100

The above table shows that 100 per cent respondents were ST and no other caste was found among Baiga tribe.

TABLE-4.3 Educational status of the respondents N=100

Sr. No.	Educational status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	Literate	12	12
2.	Illiterate	88	88
	Total	100	100

The above table shows that 12 per cent respondents were literate and other 88 per cent respondents were illiterate.

TABLE-4.4 Occupation of respondents N=100

Sr. No.	Occupation of respondents	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	Agriculturist	66	66
2.	Labour work	30	30
3.	Other	4	4
	Total	100	100

The above table reveals that 66 per cent respondents were Agriculturist, 30 per cent respondents were engaged in Labour work and other 4 per cent respondents were engaged in other work. So Agriculture is the main occupation of Baiga tribe.

TABLE-4.5 Age of respondents during marriage N=100

Sr. No.	Age of women	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	Below 18	17	17
2.	18	83	83
3.	30	0	0
4.	Other	0	0
	Total	100	100

The above table shows that 17 per cent women marries at the age of below 18 years and 83 per cent women marries at the age of 18 years.

TABLE-4.6 Secondary occupation of respondents N=100

Sr. No.	Secondary occupation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	Labourer	37	37
2.	Daily wages labourers	63	63
3.	Industrial labourers	0	0
4.	Agricultural labourer	0	0
	Total	100	100

The above table shows that secondary occupation of 37 per cent respondents was labour work and 63 per cent respondents were engaged in daily wages labour.

TABLE-4.7 Type of water used by respondents N=100

Sr. No.	Type of water	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	Hand pump	100	100
2.	Tube well	0	0
3.	Tap water	0	0
	Total	100	100

The above table shows that 100 per cent respondents use hand pump water for drinking and other purposes.

IV. CONCLUSION

On the basis of the study it is concluded that Baiga women low level of economic activities, social backwardness, low level of literacy, poor health conditions makes it vital for a systematic process of Baiga tribe development. Baigas women work very hard to improve their economic condition, but they are still in poverty because no proper efforts are oriented towards them. The families need to have a sufficient income to enable them to cross the poverty levels. Education for Baiga women is an essential aspect of development.

Education is very important to bring about a change in the cultural norms and patterns of life of the Baiga women and to change their outlook and made them economically independent. The health status of the Baiga women is explored to assess their awareness regarding their health. Sometimes they lack the essential nutrients. Many times they suffer from various diseases as there is a lack of health and hygiene awareness. Thus increasing the literacy rate and providing opportunities for gainful employment for Baiga women will be instrumental in bringing about a change in the status of Baiga women in India and to handle to challenges successfully.

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