Impact of Education on Women Empowerment – With Special Reference to Toda Tribes in Nilgiris District

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ABSTRACT: Women's status in general is described in terms of their education, employment and income level and also the role played by them within the family, the community and society. The role of women in tribal communities is no exception to this. In tribal community, women are considered worthier than any other communities, because they are very much hard workers and thus their entire family depends on them. The tribal women are engaged in minor forest produce. They are more sincere and hardworking labourers with minimum wages. But however, tribal women face many problems and challenges in getting a sustainable living. The tribal development strategy, especially tribal women development needs more attention, improvement and betterment to make tribal women empowered.
Keywords: Women empowerment, Educational status, Tribal development schemes.

I. INTRODUCTION

Most of the tribal communities in Tamilnadu are cultivators, agricultural labourers or dependent on forest for their livelihood. The tribal male and female population in Tamil nadu as per census 2011 is 4,01,068 and 3,93,629 respectively. It could be seen that the sex-ratio is relatively high and there is less social bias among women in tribal communities. The need of the hour for tribal development is to reduce the gap between the tribal and non- tribal population with respect to economic, educational and social status, the objective is to integrate the tribals in to the main stream of economic and social development. Out of the 36 scheduled tribe communities in the state, 6 tribal communities (i.e) Toda, Kota, Kurumbas, Irular, Paniyan and Kattunayakan have been identified as particularly vulnerable tribe. Women's status in general is described in terms of their education, employment and income level and also the role played by them within the family, the community and society. The role of women in tribal communities is no exception to this. In tribal community, women are considered worthier than any other communities, because they are very much hard workers and thus their entire family depends on them. The tribal women are engaged in minor forest produce. They are more sincere and hardworking labourers with minimum wages. But however, tribal women face many problems and challenges in getting a sustainable living. The tribal development strategy, especially tribal women development needs more attention, improvement and betterment to make tribal women empowered.

II. OBJECTIVES

1. To find out the Educational and occupational status of the respondents
2. To inculcate the savings habit of the respondents
3. To assess the respondent's level of awareness about various tribal development schemes

III. METHODOLOGY

Multistage random sampling technique was followed in the selection of the sample households. In the first stage Nilgiris district was selected. In the second stage toda tribe was selected. The source of data is primary which has been collected from the Toda tribal women through structured questionnaire method. The sample size is restricted to 100 comprising of four taluks of the Nilgiri district.

SAMPLE SIZE IN THE SELECTED TALUK

Name of the Taluk	Number of respondents
Coonoor	25
Kotagiri	25
Ooty	25
Gudalur	25

To analyze the primary data the researcher has used different statistical tools like percentage method, frequency analysis and Regression analysis.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS
Table 1: Age and Education wise classification

Age wise classification	Number of respondents
18-25	0
26-35	14
36-45	83
45& above	3
Total	100
Education wise classification	**Number of respondents**
Illiterate	54
Primary Level	34
Middle Level	9
High School	3
Higher Secondary	0
Graduation & above	0
Total	100

Source: Computed values

Majority of the respondent belong to the age category of 36-45 years, followed by 26-35 years. It was found from the survey that majority of the respondents nearly 54 percent are illiterates. Among the sample literates, majority has completed only the primary level of education and only 9 percent completed middle school level.

Table 2: Occupational classification and Nature of Employment

Occupational Status	Number of respondents
Employed	10
Unemployed	37
Self Employed	53
Total	100
Type of Occupation	**Number of respondents**
Agriculture	29
Business	51
Coolie	20
Total	100

Source: Computed values

The above table makes it clear that 10 percent are employed, 37 percent of the respondents are unemployed and 63 percent are self employed. Within this 51 are engaged in business, 29 are farm labourers and 20 are coolie workers.

Table 3: Marital Status and Family Size of the Respondent

Marital Status	Number of respondents
Married	97
Widow	3
Total	100
Family size	**Number of respondents**
4 members & Below	74
Above 4 members	26
Total	100

Source: Computed values

Table 3 gives a clear picture about the marital status and family size of the respondents. It was observed that 97 percent were married, 74 percent of the sample respondents stated that they had a small family of four and below.

Table 4: Saving behavior and Mode of Saving of the Respondent

Saving behavior	Number of respondents
Yes	60
No	40
Total	100
Saving Mode	**Number of respondents**
Bank	45
Post Office	15
Total	60

Source: Computed values

The above table shows the general savings behavior and mode of saving of the respondents. Majority 60 percent of the respondents have the habit of saving. Within this 45 percent stated that they save with the bank irrespective of post office saving.

Table 5: Reasons for Saving

Reason	Number of respondents
Social Security	19
Food Security	5
Children education	17
Medical	5
Marriage	5
Festivals	14
Emergencies	5
Asset Building	5
Agriculture/ Livestock	10
Others	15
Total	100

Source: Computed values

Majority of the respondents (19 percent) stated that they save mainly for the social security purpose followed by children education (17 percent) and for the festivals (14 percent).

Table 6: Debt Position of the Respondent and Reasons for Debt Position

Debt Position	Number of respondents
Yes	54
No	46

Total	100
Reason	**Number of respondents**
Agriculture	5
Children Education	20
Emergencies	10
Family Expenses	10
House Repair	5
Children Marriage	2
Others	2
Total	54

Source: Computed values

The above table shows the debt position and reasons for debt of the respondents. Majority 54 percent of the respondents have debt. Within this 20 percent stated that they borrowed debt for their children education.

Table 7: Family Expenditure Pattern

Family Expenditure	Respondents	
	N0	**Mean**
Food	35	2401.42
Clothing	7	1314.28
Shelter	0	0
Education	1	1000
Medical	1	500
Any Other	16	946.87

Source: Computed values

The above table shows the clear picture of the monthly average expenditure pattern of the respondents. For food consumption 35 percent of respondents spend around Rs.2401 and for clothing 7 percent spend around Rs.1314. and for the education and medical they spend Rs.1000 and Rs.500 respectively.

Table 8: Family Details of the Respondent

Particulars	Number of respondents
Young Dependants (0-14 Yrs)	29
Working Population (15-64 Yrs) (including population)	116
Old Dependents (Above 64)	9
Total Dependency ratio	32.7
Young Dependency ratio	25
Old Dependency ratio	7.7
Male	72
Female	68
Sex ratio (includes respondents)	940
Illiterates	54
Primary School	26
Middle School	30
High School	42
Hr.Sec School	24
Graduation & Above	28
Average Annual Income	188738
Average Annual Savings	2813
Average Annual Debt	575000

Source: Computed values

The above table indicates the family details of the respondents. The total dependency ratio is 32.7 and sex ratio is 940. Illiterates are high and their average annual income is Rs. 1,88,738.

Table 9: Respondent's Awareness about various Tribal Development Schemes

S.no	Schemes	Highly Aware	Aware	Neutral	Not Aware	Highly Not Aware
1.	Free education, text books, uniform, chapel, noon meal etc	63	37	-	-	-
2.	Provision for free house patta	77	23	-	-	-
3.	Assistance related to Agriculture and allied activities	63	37	-	-	-
4.	Economic assistance to marriage, maternity, family planning	77	23	-	-	-
5.	Assistance for funeral rites	-	46	54	-	-
6.	Free medical assistance	71	29	-	-	-
7.	Scholarship till Ph.D	-	-	23	26	51
8.	Economic assistance for entrepreneurial activities	-	63	17	-	-

Source: Computed values

RESPONDENT'S LEVEL OF AWARENESS ABOUT VARIOUS TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES – MULTIPLE REGRESSION ANALYSIS

Regression analysis has been carried out to know the impact of the independent variables on the respondent's level of awareness on the various tribal development schemes in Nilgiris district. The independent variables taken for the study are Age, Educational qualification, occupation, Marital status, Income, Size of Family and type of family.

Hypothesis: "There is no significant relationship/ impact of the independent variables over the respondent's level of awareness on the various tribal development schemes in Nilgiris district"

Table 14: MODEL SUMMARY – REGRESSION ANALYSIS

Model	R	R square	Adjusted R square	Std Error of the Estimate
1	.687	.427	.287	1.25254

ANOVA

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	28.052	7	4.007	2.554	0.047[a]
Residual	31.377	20	1.569		
Total	59.429	27			

a. Predictors: (Constant), Income Status, employment status, age, educational status, marital status, size of family, type of family.

CO-EFFICIENT

	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
	B	Std.Error	Beta		
(Constant)	21.497	2.846		7.554	.000
Age	-.271	.652	-.076	-.416	.682
Educational Status	1.944	.588	.548	3.306	.004
Employment Status	.532	.359	.296	1.484	.153
Marital Status	.350	.839	.084	.417	.681
Size of Family	.390	.531	.187	.734	.471
Type of Family	-1.642	1.084	-.432	-1.515	.145

Income Status	.014	.541	.005	.026	.979

a.   Dependent Variable: Respondent's level of awareness on the various tribal development Schemes in Nilgiris District.

The significant value of education status is .004. As the significant value is less than 0.5 the null hypothesis is rejected. It is clear that the independent variables i.e., the education status of the Todas have influenced the dependent variable i.e., repondent's level of awareness on the various tribal development schemes in Nilgiris district at 5% level of significance.

V. CONCLUSION

Women empowerment aims at realizing their identities, power and potentiality in all spheres of lives. It should be noted that the real empowerment of women is possible only when a women has increased access to economic resources, more confidence and self motivation, more strength, more recognition and say in the family matters and more involvement through participation. Although it is a gradual and consistent process, but women should build their mindset for taking additional effort willingly for their overall development. Tribal development has been conceptualized as increased income, increased saving, decreased saving, decreased debt and increased respect in family it is mainly through the group process and participation in decision making that empowerment of tribal people occurs. Hence Education places a vital role for the women empowerment.

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