

ROLE OF SCHEDULED TRIBE WOMEN'S IN WORK PARTICIPATION RATE OF RAJASTHAN

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ABSTRACT

The present paper is an attempt to discuss the role of tribal women in work participation of Rajasthan. The entire study is based on secondary sources of data collected from census of Rajasthan. The findings suggest that the participation rate of women is much higher in tribal area of Rajasthan than the other part but the correlation between female work participation and scheduled tribe women is insignificant positive. Growth of agriculture and industry in Rajasthan are the most important factors affecting tribal women's participation rates hence there is need to provide work opportunities and better wages to tribal women workers and builds the case for improving the education, information and skill level of women workers. The finding scan be beneficial for policymakers to implementing programs for tribal women that can increase their work participation rate.

Keywords: *Female Work Participation Rate (FWPR), Scheduled Tribe, Tribal Women.*

Introduction

Rajasthan a prominent state of nation better known as 'Desert State' is situated in north east of India. Rajasthan is the largest state of country and the seventh largest by the population. According to Census 2011, the population of Rajasthan is over 6.85 crore out of which 79.2% is male and 52.1% is female population. According to the census of 2011 the Scheduled Tribe population in Rajasthan state is 92.4 lakhs that is 13.5 percent of the total population out of which 13.3 percent is male population and 13.6 percent is female population. Rajasthan is the fourth largest state in terms of tribal population after Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Orissa. Amongst the Scheduled Tribes the highest concentration is noticeable in Banswara and Dungarpur districts were their proportions to total population of the district comes to 76.4 and 70.8 percent respectively. The other districts with higher proportions are Pratapgarh (63.42percent), Udaipur (49.71 percent), Sirohi (28.22 percent) and Dausa (26.5 percent).

Looking to the dispersal of tribal population of the state in the various districts in terms of absolute population we observe the highest proportion of 16.5% of the total tribal population resides in Udaipur district followed by 14.9 % in Banswara, 10.6 % in Dungarpur and 6 % in Pratapgarh. Twenty eight tribes in all have been scheduled in Rajasthan, while there are six major tribes in the state. These are Minas, Bhils, Garasias, Sehriyas, Damors and Bhil-Minas.

There have been several studies done on the tribal women in India but there have been few studies done on tribal women in Rajasthan and their work participation. Tribal women in Rajasthan are hard working, they contribute significantly in economic activities and generate the income sources. Today tribal women are playing an important role in economic development. They contribute significant proportion in gross domestic product through actively participating in industrial services and in agricultural activities. Tribal women participation in economic activity provides faster and more sustainable development. It is also felt that the problem of poverty cannot be tackled without providing opportunities of productive employment to tribal women.

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Review of Literature

Dr. Saba Anjum (2011) examined the socio-economic conditions of informal women workers in Aligarh city. She had examined the different types of work in which they are involved. She further observed their living and working conditions, economic conditions, their problems both at home and their workplace and their health problems. Her work was mainly based on primary sources of data. This work suggested affirmative action is the only solution right from homes to work places.

Dr. S.K Thakur (2010) showed that women workers face serious problems and constraints related to work such as lack of continuity, insecurity, wage discrimination, unhealthy job relationship, absence of medical and accident care etc. Health, Education, Domestic Violence is some of the major issues that challenge the survival of Indian rural women. The study analyzed the initiatives, policies and programmes undertaken in regard to develop the condition of rural women through substantial policy and action oriented programmes.

M.I Siddiqui (2004) focused on the issue of inequality between male and female workers and discrimination against women in the world of work. He presented a detailed account of working women in Eritrea. The study showed an inverse relation between the level of education and number of women workers. Thus work, suggests measures of fight against discrimination, injustice and other evils of society.

Kaur K., Dhindsa P. (2002) examined the effect of some economic and social factors which influenced female participation rates on the basis of data from 1981 and 1991 census. Major statistical technique used for the analysis is Factor Analysis. FWFPR is negatively correlated with the variables like per capita state domestic and positive with life expectancy, literacy rate, share of industry in NSDP, non-farm employment share of agriculture in NSDP. The study pointed out that growth of agriculture and industry are the most important factors affecting women's participation rates.

T. Sudha (2011) conducted the study to interlink empowerment not only with gender equality in decision making but also with power of autonomy over resources and mobility. For this he carried out a pilot study during 2004-2005 by using well-structured interview schedule and has adopted proportionate random sampling. The study is mainly based on primary data. He took two districts Salem and Tiruvarur in Tamil Nadu for study. The study revealed that women's income plays a significant role in women empowerment. The analysis showed that higher level of women's income results in an increase in women empowerment. The study had found that education and employment are the main sources of women empowerment.

Objectives

- To identify and analyze the role of Scheduled Tribe women's in work participation rate of Rajasthan during the year 2011.
- To make suitable suggestions and recommendations based on the findings of the study.

Research Hypothesis

Based on the review of literature and in the light of specific objectives of the study, the following hypothesis was developed for the present study:

H₀:1 There is no significant relationship between FWPR and Scheduled tribe females in Rajasthan during 2011.

Methodology

The present study will be based on secondary data. The data for the study purpose has been taken mainly from Census Reports of India 2011, Some Facts about Rajasthan, Statistical Abstracts of Rajasthan and Reports of Directorate of Economics and Statistics of Rajasthan of different Years. The research methodology for this study is a descriptive and exploratory. It is analyzed thorough quantitative methods. Various statistical tools like correlation have been used to check the authenticity of the work.

Table 1: FWPR and Female Scheduled Tribe Population (2011)

S.No	Name of District	Female Work Participation Rate	Female ST Population
1	Ajmer	29.2	31074
2	Alwar	41.2	135852
3	Banswara	48.8	682523
4	Baran	37.8	133763
5	Barmer	41	83647
6	Bharatpur	35.5	25385

7	Bhilwara	39.9	112247
8	Bikaner	30.8	3572
9	Bundi	39.6	109095
10	Chittaurgarh	45.5	99653
11	Churu	36.6	5342
12	Dausa	36.9	204790
13	Dhaulpur	33.3	26792
14	Dungarpur	42.6	491806
15	Ganganagar	34.2	6317
16	Hanumangarh	38.2	6711
17	Jaipur	23.7	251328
18	Jaisalmer	34.5	19932
19	Jalor	45	85429
20	Jhalawar	41.3	88044
21	Jhunjhunu	33.9	20249
22	Jodhpur	29.8	56955
23	Karauli	38.2	148760
24	Kota	23	87388
25	Nagaur	35.3	4943
26	Pali	31.5	70209
27	Pratapgarh	53.4	273685
28	Rajsamand	40.2	79636
29	Sawai Madhopur	37.1	133103
30	Sikar	26.8	36251
31	Sirohi	29.4	143504
32	Tonk	40	85530
33	Udaipur	35.3	752076

Source: Some Facts About Rajasthan 2017

Table 2

Correlation		Female Work Participation Rate
ST Females	Pearson Correlation	.325
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.065
	N	33

Analysis and Interpretation

Women in Rajasthan constitute nearly 52.1 per cent of the total population with almost 35.1 per cent of the total female population working according to 2011 census. Majority of the women population are contribute immensely to agriculture and allied activities. The agricultural labourers are mainly drawn from the poorest class of society viz. landless classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Table 1.1 gives the information about the FWPR and Female Scheduled Tribe Population in the various districts of Rajasthan for the year 2011. According to census 2011, the FWPR is lowest for districts like Kota, Jaipur, Sikar, Ajmer and Sirohi. It is highest for the districts Pratapgarh, Banswara, Chittaurgarh, Jalor and Dungarpur.. It is apparent from the same table that Scheduled Tribe female population is highest for the districts Udaipur, Banswara, Dungarpur and Pratapgarh.

The correlation coefficient between FWPR and ST females are +.325 at 0.05 level of significance ($p = .06 > .05$). Hence, null hypothesis "There is no significant relationship between FWPR and ST female population" was accepted. It shows that ST female population has insignificant positive correlation with FWPR.

So the tribal women of Rajasthan do not have a significant impact on work participation rate. This is alarming condition for Rajasthan. This is because tribal women of Udaipur, Dungarpur, Banswara are engaged in seasonal agricultural work. When agricultural work is over they generally migrated to near state like Gujrat. Besides this they also work in NAREGA.

Tribal women of these districts have remained economically backward and poor largely due to their exploitation and inadequate control over the means of production. Illiteracy and unawareness about the operations of development schemes are the other reasons of their backwardness.

Conclusion and Suggestions

It has been found that female work participation was found to be very high in the districts where the Schedule tribe (ST) population was also high and it was found to be insignificantly positively correlated with it. So the Rajasthan Government should make separate plans and policies for Schedule Tribe women. In order to make the participation of women in work force the following recommendations are made based upon the research data and personal experience of the author:

- Tribal women must be educated as slogan is "Beti bacchao, Beti Padhao". They require skill in different jobs like- dastkari, handloom, pottery, carpentry, cottage and industries, animal rearing (like sheep, goat poultry), preparing milk products, post harvest techniques and preservation techniques. So they will be trained in different activities. These activities make women self sufficient and make them self confident
- Government should make separate plans and policies for tribal women. They should be trained according to their need and interest.
- "Make in India" program will be popularized. It will provide employment to the people and increase our Indian goods and services.
- People should aware about swadeshi goods and services. So the demand of swadeshi goods will be increase and it will give employment to lots of women and empower them.
- Education should be job oriented. Self- employment for tribal women should be encouraged.
- There should be no gender in equality. "Equal work, equal wages" principle should be followed. In many sectors women will get low wages in comparison with men. So government should make policy for all sectors that women get equal wages without any gender discrimination.
- Many women workers are working in unregulated and unorganized sector and their income are not included in national accounting, there are no laws and rules governing their nature and terms of work. So this work of women will also consider as economic activity and all these activities will be included in work participation rate.

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