

Socio-Economic Empowerment of Santal Women through Education at Patharghata Village of Birbhum

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ABSTRACT

Empowering women has always been the major priorities throughout the globe. Women empowerment is the development of mental and physical capacity, power and skills in women for them to operate meaningful in social milieu; there by experiencing a more favourable level of social recognition and subsequent enhance their socio-economic status. Education is one of the most important determinants of empowering women. Without being education a women will have a hard time empowering herself, both due to lack of awareness that comes through illiteracy but a educated leaders get lot of respect which being them empowered. Education brings positive change in the life of women by changing the attitude and the ideology of the society. Women in a tribal society play a vital role in their social, cultural, economic and religious ways of life and are considered as an economic asset in their society. But they are still lagging far behind for lack of education. This study focused on the Santal community of Patharghata village of Birbhum where seen that how socio-economic empowerment of women comes through education.

Keywords: Socio-Economic Empowerment, Santal Women, Education

INTRODUCTION

Women empowerment is defined as a process in which woman gain control over their own lives by knowing and claiming their own rights at all levels. When researcher come to the point of socio-economic empowerment then it is important to describe that what is the status of santal's women in their society. The term status means position of a person in a society. The status of a person or a group in a society is determined mainly by the educational status, health status, and decision making ability. All these factors are closely related to one another. The higher level of education will generate health awareness and decision making ability among the groups. The status of women in a society depends to a large extent on the social structure and the type of society. In the santal community the women are working very harder than man and their family economy depend on her but they have high infant mortality rate,

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higher fertility rate, lack of awareness regarding diseases and health care, drinking water provisions, hygiene.

Empowering women has always been the major priorities throughout the globe. Women empowerment is the development of mental and physical capacity, power and skills in women for them to operate meaningful in social milieu; there by experiencing a more favourable level of social recognition and subsequent enhance their socio-economic status. Education is one of the most important determinants of empowering women. Without being education a women will have a hard time empowering herself, both due to lack of awareness that comes through illiteracy but a educated leaders get lot of respect which being them empowered. Education brings positive change in the life of women by changing the attitude and the ideology of the society. Women in a tribal society play a vital role in their social, cultural, economic and religious ways of life and are considered as an economic asset in their society. But they are still lagging far behind for lack of education. This study focused on the Santal community of Patharghata village of Birbhum where seen that how socio-economic empowerment of women comes through education.

OBJECTIVES

1. To analyze the factors influencing the socio-economic empowerment of santal women.
2. How education is related with socio-economic empowerment of santal women.

METHODOLOGY

The research methodology adopted for the present study includes both primary and secondary sources of data. For collecting primary data 87 tribal households of Patharghata village living in Birbhum district has been chosen. This region is located in western part of West Bengal state. The primary data was collected of the santal group during 1 year (2014-2015). The required primary data was collected through an interview schedule. The primary data was collected about agriculture, education, health, asset ownership, wage, employment, health and nutrition, decision- making, and economic organization of tribal women.

Approximately, the total number of 194 women and girls are included in 87 tribal households of the study region. Out of which 60 samples are selected, within them 30 are literate and 30 are non-literate. The secondary data was collected from the various published documents. Statistical tables and the simple average methods are used to analyse the economic empowerment of tribal women

FINDINGS

EDUCATION- To determine the status of female, education is taken a great part in every society. In the table-1, showing the educational status of the village where seen that in total santal male population of the Patharghata village 34.57% are non-literate and 25.53% are literate. In that case when researcher come to the women side seen that 49.48% women are non-literate and only 17.53% women are literate. Here also seen that 4.79% male child and

7.73% female child are going to the anganwadi centre. In that village 16.49% male and 7.73% female are primary educated where 16.49% male and also 16.49% female are secondary educated. There only two male are higher secondary pass and only two are college student out of which one is male and one is female and two people who are completed their higher study in their one is male and another is female.

Table-1: Educational Status of the Villagers

Sex	Male		Female	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Literacy Rate				
Non-Literate	65	34.57	96	49.48
Literate	48	25.53	34	17.53
Anganwadi	9	4.79	15	7.73
Primary	31	16.49	15	7.73
Secondary	31	16.49	32	16.49
Higher Secondary Pass	2	1.06		
College Student	1	0.53	1	0.52
Graduate				
Higher Study	1	0.53	1	0.52
Total	188	100	194	100

MARITAL STATUS- From the table-2, seen that in the Patharghata village 43.81% female are married where 39.18% are unmarried and 11.86% are widow and 4.64% are separated and only 1(0.51%) are divorcee. In the case of male found that 46.81% are married and 50% are unmarried and 1.06% is widower where 2.13% are separated but there is not present any divorcee man in the village.

Table-2: Marital Status of the Villagers

Sex	Male		Female	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Marital Status				
Married	88	46.81	85	43.81
Unmarried	94	50	76	39.18
Widow			23	11.86
Widower	2	1.06		
Separated	4	2.13	9	4.64
Divorcee			1	0.51
Total	188	100	194	100

FAMILY SIZE- Family size is a most important part in the social status because it belongs under the family planning which creates good, neutral and better family. Researcher classified the family size in 4 category 1st is small family where lived 1-3 members then 2nd is medium family where lived 4-6 members after that 3rd is large family where lived 7-9 member. Finally 4th and last category is very large family where lived 10-12 members within one family. From the table 3, researcher seen that in Patharghata village 24.14% are small family and 64.37% are medium family only 11.49% are large family but there is no very large family.

Table-3: Distribution of Family Size

Category	Frequency	Percent
Small Family	21	24.14
Medium Family	56	64.37
Large Family	10	11.49
Very Large Family	0	0
Total	87	100

OCCUPATION- Occupation is the valuable key for showing the economy status. From the table-4, researcher found that in the Patharghata village 12.37% female are practiced agricultural labour but in the case of daily labour 4.12% women are practiced. Here also seen that only one woman is engaged in govt. Job in anganwadi centre otherwise maximum women are mainly house maker.

Table-4, Occupational Status of the Villagers

Sex Occupations	Male		Female	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Agricultural Labour	31	16.49	24	12.37
Daily Labour	53	28.19	8	4.12
Driver	5	2.66		
Electronic Mistry	1	0.53		
Farmer	34	18.09	1	0.52
Fish Monger	1	0.53		
Govt. Employee			1	0.52
Handicraft Work				
House Maker			95	48.97
Mason				
Private Job	1	0.53		
Rickshaw Puller				
Shop Keeper				
Toto Driver				
Tube well Mistry				
Not Working	62	32.98	65	33.51
Total	188	100	194	100

MONTHLY EARNING OF FAMILY- Table 5, showing that in the Patharghata village 35.63% family's monthly income is below RS-3000 where 40.23% family also monthly earning is RS-3000-4500. In this village 17.24% family's monthly income is RS-4600-6000 where 3.45% families' monthly income is RS-6100-8000. Here also seen that 3.45% family's monthly income is above 8000.

Table-5: Monthly Family Income

Category (in Rs)	Patharghata Village	
	Frequency	Percent
Below 3000	31	35.63
3000-4500	35	40.23
4600-6000	15	17.24
6100-8000	3	3.45
Above 8000	3	3.45
Total	87	100

MONTHLY EXPENDITURE OF FAMILY- Table 6, showing that 44.83% family's monthly expenditure is below 2000 in Patharghata village where 26.44%% family's monthly expenditure is RS-2500-3500. This table showing that 17.24% family's monthly expenditure is RS-3600-4500. It also found that 11.49% family's monthly expenditure is above 5000 in the village.

Table-6: Monthly Family Expenditure

Category (in Rs)	Patharghata Village	
	Frequency	Percent
Below 2000	39	44.83
2500-3500	23	26.44
3600-4500	15	17.24
Above 5000	10	11.49
Total	87	100

INFORMATION SEEKING BEHAVIOUR- Information sources are the predominant communication tools in the present day situation. Each individual have their own information networks, where they continuously interact to get the information to solve their problems. An individual relies on a few information sources and rejects many others. Therefore, it is necessary to identify different sources of information available to the respondents and to locate the most utilized sources so as to have a effective communication. For this point researcher select 30 literate and 30 non-literate santal women from each village and collect the information about this point.

From the table 7, seen that 66.67% literate female are get information from friends or relatives where 50% non-literate women are get information from that way in the Patharghata village. There also found that 33.33% literate women and 10% non-literate women are get

information from village leaders. Here also seen that in both cases literate and non-literate 83.33% are get information from neighbours and 40 % literate and 16.67% non-literate women get information through post. master of that village. There also found those 73.33% literate women and 66.67% non-literate women are getting some information from the family head.

Table-7: Information Seeking Behaviour of Informant

Category	Patharghata Village	
	Literate	Non-Literate
Friends/Relatives	20(66.67%)	15(50%)
Village Leaders	10(33.33%)	3(10%)
Neighbours	25(83.33%)	25(83.33%)
Post Master	12(40%)	5(16.67%)
Family Head	22(73.33%)	20(66.67%)

EXTENSION CONTACT- Extension contact followed that the respondent how much joint in community meeting or group discussion or joining any training programmes or go to outside of the village for different purpose and through all those contacts they gather knowledge and improved herself. From the table 8, researcher showing that 33.33% literate and 23.33% non-literate respondent of Patharghata are regular join in community meeting or group discussion. There also showing that 26.67% literate and 6.67% non-literate respondent join in training programmes where researcher also found that in the Patharghata village 16.67% literate and 6.67% non-literate respondent go to outside of the village for tour. Their also 23.33% literate and 20% non-literate respondent go to the outside for playing purpose. In the case of go to outside for festival/fair, in the three village's respondent both literate and non-literate are 100% participate.

Table-8: Extension Contact of the Selected Subjects

Category	Patharghata Village	
	Literate	Non-Literate
Regular Join in Community Meeting or Group Discussion	10(33.33%)	7(23.33%)
Join in Training Programmes	8(26.67%)	2(6.67%)
Go to Outside of Village for Tour	5(16.67%)	2(6.67%)
Go to Outside of Village for Playing	7(23.33%)	6(20%)
Go to Outside of Village for Fair/Festival	30(100%)	30(100%)

MASS MEDIA EXPOSURE- Communication is a basic need of all human beings and it is a continuing process throughout one's life. It is very difficult to provide latest information and farm technologies in shortest time. Communication can play an important role in empowering women and increasing their participation in decision making. The strength of mass media is of great help to extension workers for providing cost effective and efficient service.

Table 9 showing that 50% literate and 26.67% non-literate women watching TV in Patharghata village where 60% literate and 33.33% non-literate respondent are using mobile. In the case of using facebook/whatsapp only 13.33% literate respondent use it. There also seen that 10% non-literate respondent are lessening radio and 13.33% literate respondent are reading news paper where 3.33% literate sample are using android mobile.

Table-9: Mass Media Exposure of Selected Subjects

Category	Patharghata Village	
	Literate	Non-Literate
Watching TV	15(50%)	8(26.67%)
Using Mobile	18(60%)	10(33.33%)
Using Facebook/Whatsapp	4(13.33%)	0
Listening Radio	0	3(10%)
Reading Newspaper	4(13.33%)	0
Using Computer	0	0
Using Android Mobile	1(3.33%)	0

ACHIEVEMENT MOTIVATION-Motivation is a result of literacy or knowledge skill of respondent. The researcher classified the motivation in three categories –high, medium and low. Table 10, shows the achievement motivation on the literacy rate of the respondent. There seen that mainly non-literate respondent are achieve low motivation like 43.33% where literate respondent are mainly achieve medium and high motivation in both villages where seen that in the case of literate respondent 60% are highly motivated.

Table-10: Achievement Motivation of Selected Subjects

Category	Patharghata Village	
	Literate	Non-Literate
Low	5(16.67%)	13(43.33%)
Medium	7(23.33%)	9(30%)
High	18(60%)	8(26.67%)

CRADIT ORIENTATION- The respondents were getting the credit from the local money lenders by paying high rates of interest. They expressed that the bank personnel were not helping them in knowing the procedures of institutionalized credit. They articulated that the procedure for getting credit from the Government agencies was cumbersome and they do not know the process of getting loans of such agencies completely.

Here table 11, showing that in Patharghata village 66.67% literate respondent get money from local money lenders where 90 % non-literate respondent get money from local money lenders. There seen that 83.33%literate and 33.33% non-literate respondent are taken money from private bank and only 16.67% literate and 6.67% non-literate respondent are taken money from Govt. Bank.

Table-11: Credit Orientation of the Selected Subjects

Category	Patharghata Village	
	Literate	Non-Literate
Get Money from Money Lenders	20(66.67%)	27(90%)
Get Money from Private Bank	25(83.33%)	10(33.33%)
Get Money from Govt. Bank	5(16.67%)	2(6.67%)

WOMEN HEALTH AND NUTRITION - Empowerment is also examined by their awareness about health and hygiene conditions. Health and nutrition are two important basic needs to be met for the empowerment of Santal women. The tribal groups irrespective of male or female, health status are lower compared to that of the general population. They have high infant mortality rate, higher fertility rate, lack of awareness regarding diseases and health care, nutritional requirements, quality of drinking water, hygiene. In this area, the santal population suffers from chronic infections and water-borne diseases. The incidence of infant mortality was found to be very high among the santal population. The maternal malnutrition is quite common among the santal women. Table 12, showing that the infant mortality rate and child mortality rate of the tribal women is also high compared to the literate and non-literate women.

Table 12 shows that among the respondent 46.67% literate and 70% non-literate get married under 18 year's age. That table also found that in this village 23.33% literate and 33.33 non-literate are higher fertility rate and 60% literate and 73.33% non-literate respondent are suffer from malnutrition and 33.33% literate and 66.67% non-literate respondent are belonging in infant mortality rate.

Table-12: Health and Nutrition of the Respondents

Category	Patharghata Village	
	Literate	Non-Literate
Under 18 Year Age of Marriage	14(46.67%)	21(70%)
Undernutrition	18(60%)	22(73.33%)
Higher Fertility Rate	7(23.33%)	10(33.33%)
Infant Mortality	10(33.33%)	20(66.67%)
Child Mortality	8(26.67%)	18(60%)

DECISION MAKING POWER- Data from the field survey on tribal women's decision-making power shows that only about 30 percent of the women interviewed took decisions on their own (for both literate and non-literate) regarding household issues. Decision-making power about their family health among literate women is higher than uneducated women. The survey also found that decision-making power about their daily expenditure among literate women is higher than the non-literate woman.

Table-13: Decision making power of the Subjects

Category	Patharghata village	
	literate	non-literate
Take decision of daily household expenditure	10(33.33%)	5(16.67%)
Take decision about how to spend income	12(40%)	9(30%)
Take decision for going to market	8(26.67%)	2(6.67%)
Take decision about family health	10(33.33%)	7(23.33%)
Take decision for buying jewellery	10(33.33%)	4(13.33%)

EMPOWERMENT STATUS- From the table 14, researcher found that 20% literate and only 6.67% non-literate respondent are get leadership role in their community in Patharghata. In the case of gender equality, literate percentage is 66.67% and non-literate percentage is 33.33% respectively. There also seen that 100% literate respondent of the village is member of SHG where 63.33% non-literate women are the member of SHG. This table also reveal that 73.33% literate respondent and 66.67% non-literate respondent are engaged herself in deferent work. Here only 7 respondents are enjoying assert ownership and in the case of micro saving 50% literate and below 23.33% non-literate respondent are done it and 73.33% literate and 66.67% non-literate women provide money in their family. Table 14 also reveal that non-literate respondent is much exploited than literate respondent at the work places. Here also found that in the case of literate respondent above of 40% are aware about own health only 23.33% non-literate women are known about modern technology.

Table-14: Empowerment Status of Selected Subjects

Category	Patharghata Village	
	Literate	Non-Literate
Leadership Role	6(20%)	2(6.67%)
Decision On Gender Equality	20(66.67%)	10(33.33%)
SHG Members	30(100%)	19(63.33%)
Employment	22(73.33%)	20(66.67%)
Asset Ownership	7(23.33%)	0
Micro Saving	15(50%)	7(23.33%)
Provide Money in the Family	22(73.33%)	20(66.67%)
Exploited at Work Place	10(33.33%)	15(50%)
Migration for Work	8(26.67%)	3(10%)
Awareness about own Health	14(46.67%)	10(33.33%)
Knowing about Modern Technology	15(50%)	7(23.33%)

FINDINGS

The study as socio-economic Empowerment of santal women through Education is undertaken with the aims of identifying the status of santal women to analyse the performance of sample women through education in the study area. Here also examine how far the santal women help in promoting socio-economic condition of members through education. To comprise with literate and non-literate respondent from the Patharghata villages of Birbhum get that in the maximum cases literate women are getting better position in the santal community. Literate women are also taken their own decision, they are more employer, also migrate with own interest and aware about own health. From the above tables and analysis it also finds that literate women are more active and knowledgeable than non-literate women. Literate respondent are much comfort with mass media but in the case of percentage of non-literate respondent, their frequency is too much low level and when researcher come to the point of achievement motivation seen that there also same result that literate respondent are mainly highly motivated and non-literate respondent are mainly low motivated in nature. Literate respondent are get respective job which develop their economic condition but in the case of non-literate respondent, their frequency is too much low level and when researcher come to the point of asset ownership seen that there also same result that literate respondent have different type of ownership than non-literate respondent. Maximum literate women contribute money in their family expenditure. From all the tables it finds that the literate respondent are in better economically developed than non-literate respondent and which showing that how much santal women are empowered through education.

CONCLUSION

Santal women play a major role in the management of their social development but they still remain backward due to traditional values, illiteracy, dominant roles are decision making, social evils and many other cultural factors. The participatory role of tribal in improving their living conditions by fully exploring natural endowments and alternative uses must find an appropriate place in the strategic approach. Economic independence and education of santal women will go a long way in attaining self-reliance for women. So development/empowerment awareness, education, competitiveness, willingness, confidence, self-motivation, mind set, encouragement from family and society better hygiene, caring for family health, utilization of their leisure time to develop their vocational skill, to fight against exploitation is essential for the socio-economic empowerment of santal women. In the study area seen that few literate women are socio-economically empowered than non-literate women. So it concluded that socio-economic empowerment can be possible through education.

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