

Vol III Issue VIII May 2014

ISSN No : 2249-894X

*Monthly Multidisciplinary
Research Journal*

*Review Of
Research Journal*

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RNI MAHMUL/2011/38595

ISSN No.2249-894X

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ATTITUDE OF TRIBAL PEOPLE TOWARDS WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Namita Dash and Rama chandra Dhir

Ph.D. Research Scholar, Utkal University, Vani Vihar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
M.A. (Pol. Science), M.Ed.(Education), Ph.D. (Utkal) Associate Professor,
Baji Rout Memorial College, bhuban, dhenkanal, Odisha.

Abstract:

Empowerment is a process of equal access to opportunities for using society's resources. The present study states that the attitude of tribal people towards awareness on women empowerment and find out the relationship between male, female, rural, urban tribal people.

KEY WORDS:

Empowerment, attitude, tribal people.

INTRODUCTION

Empowerment is generally considered as development of skills to make an individual more confident, self-reliant and to develop ability to make self decision. Besides this empowerment is a process of enhancing the authority or autonomy by providing information, handling responsibility and offering share in decision making, so that the activities in various sections of life develops, to make an individual capable organizer, worker, worker in a work setting,. However, empowerment not only refers to the expansion of freedom of choice and action to build up one's life but also it controls over resources and decisions. But in actual life women freedom is curtailed by their voicelessness and powerlessness related to gender inequalities, illiteracy, ignorance, poverty, unemployment and dehumanization.

The dictionary meaning of the term empowerment is to give power, to give them capacity to perform some physical and mental activities, to delegate authority to give legal rights, to enable to entitle, to endow (invest with power).

Carolarine Mosers's definition focuses on individuals empowerment and it considers control of resources the main means to achieve empowerment. According to her empowerment is the capacity of women to increase their own self reliance and internal strength. This is identified as the right to determine the choices in life and to influence the direction of change through the ability to gain control over material and non-material resources. The present study states that the attitude of tribal people towards awareness on women empowerment and find out the relationship between male and female, rural and urban tribal people.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE:

Coger, j. (1988) made an analytic study on empowerment process integrating theory & practice where Gokhole (1991) highlighted that migrant women played an active part in decision making at home and showed greater health and political awareness. Mutalik Swati (1991) studied on education and social empowerment among the women. Padmabati, A.S. (1992) studied social empowerment on India's population policies vis-à-vis women's reproductive rights.

The study of Sen (1992) revealed that women empowerment is deeply influenced by age, gender,

Title: "ATTITUDE OF TRIBAL PEOPLE TOWARDS WOMEN EMPOWERMENT", Source: Review of Research [2249-894X] Namita Dash and Rama chandra Dhir yr:2014 | vol:3 | iss:8

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talents, ownership of assets, social background, environmental predicaments and so on. Gulati (1993) in his study stressed that if empowerment awareness is properly created through different courses or things then women will be more capable than that of men in handling all power as well as decision making. Geetha (1993) explained in his study that women in India were sub missing and sub-serviette to men. Sheth (1994) emphasized on women empowerment in rural organized labour market a case study of Maharashtra. Warren & Gielnick (1995) examined in his study that creating empowerment among women is very difficult task because they are always encouraged not to take responsibility in the society. Mrillee Karl (1995) also studied on women empowerment and their participation in decision making. Smith (1996) had reported from his study that awareness on women empowerment would be developed if the women could be encouraged to involve in decisions and different activities of the society. Gupta (1997) expressed in her study that empowerment does not work well in case of the wives and daughters of departed family. Stefen, F. (1997) studied on women's empowerment a process of restricting power relations. Purusothaman (1998) studied on marginalized poor women who were not aware on women empowerment. Dawson (1998) analyzed in assessing the impact of N.G.Os on empowerment. Naduthoty 1999 studied on gender equality and empowerment of women as a step in human development. Narayan Usha (1999) had taken a research study on women's political empowerment imperatives and challenges where women should be educated. Pant, Mandakini (2000) studied on intra-household allocation patterns in female autonomy. Kalpana Sinha (2000) discusses the experience from Bangladesh, Sri-Lanka, India, Canada and Australia on women's empowerment, women in leadership and women entrepreneurship. The study of Agarwala (2001) stated that empowerment of women can be effectively achieved if adequately represented or accommodated in different structures of power –political and social. Analil Stefen (2002) investigated on role of education in economic development improved whenever they will participate in economic activities. Borain M.P. (2003) studied on empowerment of rural women towards reversal of gender relations. Behura & Mohanty (2005) in their study have proved that women empowerment among the females belonging to Santal community have not developed due to illiteracy and drop outs.

RATIONALE OF THE STUDY:

Considering the findings of the studies reviewed above it was inferred adequate related researches were conducted on attitude of tribal people towards awareness on women empowerment. So the title of the present study as follows.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

The present problem is titled as “Attitude Of Tribal People Towards Awareness On Women Empowerment”.

OBJECTIVES:

This study has the following objectives:

1. To study the awareness of tribal people about women empowerment.
2. To study the attitude of tribal people towards women empowerment.

HYPOTHESIS:

The hypothesis of the study as stated below.

1. There is no significant difference between the attitude of male & female tribal people towards awareness on women empowerment.
2. There is no significant difference between the attitude of urban male and female tribal people towards women empowerment.
3. There is no significance difference between the rural male & female tribal people towards women empowerment.
4. There is no significant difference between the attitude of rural tribal female & urban tribal female towards awareness on women empowerment,

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METHODOLOGY:

A descriptive survey method was adopted for this study.

a. SAMPLE:

The present study comprises sample of 500 tribal people (250 tribal male & 250 tribal female) of 3 districts namely Dhenkanal, Jajpur & Keonjhar of Odisha.

b. TOOLS FOR COLLECTING DATA:

A questionnaire was prepared in order to collect relevant data on awareness on women empowerment of tribal people of 3 districts namely Dhenkanal, Jajpur and Keonjhar. The questionnaire was prepared containing 60 items relating to meaning, concept, sources, types of women empowerment (social, economic, political & cultural).

Secondly one attitude scale was developed for tribal people consisted of 46 items in which 29 items are favourable & 17 items are unfavourable. The opinion of the people were collected on a five point scale consisting of Strongly Agree (S.A.), Agree(A), Uncertain (U), Dis-Agree (D.A.), Strongly Dis-Agree (S.D.A.). The scores assigned to these points were 5,4,3,2,1 for favourable items, 1,2,3,4,5 for unfavourable items respectively.

c. STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES USED:

The collected data for this study were analyzed and interpreted by using statistical techniques like mean, standard deviation and "t" test.

d. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:

TABLE- 1: TEST OF SIGNIFICANCE OF ATTITUDE OF TRIBAL PEOPLE TOWARDS AWARENESS ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT.

SL.NO.	CATEGORY	GROUP	NUMBER	MEAN	S.D.	t value	Significance
1.	Tribal people	Male	250	122.54	32.726	2.74	Sig.
		Female	250	130.14	29.19		
2.	Urban tribal people	Male	125	156.6	28.709	3.107	Sig.
		Female	125	145.06	30.00		
3.	Rural tribal people	Male	125	88.28	13.759	13.409	Sig.
		Female	125	115.76	19.104		

It is understood from the above table that the mean score of attitude of the tribal male is 122.54 & tribal female is 130.14 and standard deviation is 32.726 & 29.19 respectively. The obtained t value is 2.74 which is more than the tabled value (i.e.2.59 at 0.05 level & 1.96 at 0.01 level) at df 498 which is significant at both the levels. Therefore the hypothesis (H1) is "there is no significant difference between the attitude of tribal male & female towards awareness on women empowerment" is not retained. The mean score of the attitude of tribal female is more than the tribal male, so that tribal female are more aware than tribal male on empowerment.

Secondly the mean of the attitude of the urban tribal male is 156.6 & urban tribal female is 145.06 and standard deviation is 28.709 & 30.00 respectively. The obtained "t" value is 3.107 which is significantly higher than the tabled value (i.e.2.59 at 0.05 level & 1.97 at 0.01 level) at df 248 which is significant at both the levels. So the hypothesis (H2) is "There is no significant difference between the attitude of urban tribal male & female towards awareness on women empowerment" is not retained. The mean score of the attitude of urban tribal male is significantly higher than the mean score of the attitude of the urban tribal female, so that the urban tribal male are more aware than urban tribal female on women

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empowerment.

Thirdly the mean score of the attitude of the rural tribal male is 88.28 & rural tribal female is 115.76 and standard deviation is 13.759 & 19.104 respectively. The obtained "t" value is 13.049 which is much more than the tabled value (2.59 at 0.05 level & 1.97 at 0.01 level) at df 248 which is significant at both the levels, so that the hypothesis (H4) is there is no significant difference between the attitude of rural tribal male & female towards awareness on women empowerment" is not retained. Therefore, it is concluded that the mean score of the attitude of the rural tribal male is significantly higher than the mean score of the rural tribal female, so that rural tribal female are more aware than rural tribal female on women empowerment.

TABLE-2: TEST OF SIGNIFICANCE OF ATTITUDE OF TRIBAL WOMEN TOWARDS AWARENESS ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT.

SL.NO.	CATEGORY	NUMBER	MEAN	S.D.	t value	SIGNIFICANCE
1.	Rural tribal female	125	115.76	19.104	9.21	Sig.
2.	urban tribal female	125	145.06	30.00		

From the above table it reveals that mean of the attitude of the rural tribal female is 115.76 & urban tribal female is 145.6 and standard deviation is 19.104 & 30 respectively. The obtained "t" value is 9.21 which is much more than the tabled value (i.e. 2.59 at 0.05 level & 1.97 at 0.01 level) at df 248 which is significant at both the levels. The hypothesis is "there is no significant difference between the attitude of urban tribal female & rural tribal female towards awareness on women empowerment" is not retained. It concludes that the mean score of the attitude of urban tribal female is significantly higher than the urban tribal female, so that urban tribal female are more aware than rural tribal female about women empowerment.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:

The findings of the study on the basis of analysis and interpretation are stated below. Here the investigator has highlighted the findings of objective-1 & 2 respectively in the foregoing lines.

OBJECTIVE-1:

This study finds that 65.06% of tribal female & 58.61% of tribal male are of views that they are aware about the meaning of social empowerment as they are participating in social activities. Further this study reveals that almost all tribal people do not know about political empowerment. As per the views of 52.19% tribal respondents (from which 46.12% female & 58.63% male) economic empowerment means to be self dependant by earning bread & butter because women are the earner of the family in tribal society. But they are ignorant about the other meaning of economic empowerment such as: to take decisions in economic activities, to be aware about Government facilities and to contribute for the economic development of the family. Regarding the cultural empowerment almost all women are participating in cultural activities. But their culture is guided by the supernatural element in which women are compelled to obey the decision of village pujari named as Dishari. But they have no capacity to take decisions about it every thing is decided by male members & Dishari.

OBJECTIVE-2:

This study reveals that there is significant difference between the attitude of tribal male & female and tribal female are more aware than that of male. In case of urban tribal male & female, urban tribal male are more aware than that of female on women empowerment. Regarding the rural tribal male & female, rural tribal female are more aware than that of male where as in comparison to rural & urban tribal female, urban tribal female are more aware than rural tribal female.

Lastly it is shown that in comparison to total mean score of the attitude non of them are fully aware

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on women empowerment.

CONCLUSION:

Education is a mile stone for women empowerment not for tribal people but for general people which enables them to respond to opportunities in challenging socio-economic, political and cultural roles in society. But the tribal people are far away from the educational opportunities due to lack of consciousness. Though education is an important instrument of empowering women with the knowledge, skills & self-confidence necessary to participate fully in the development process. In this context the attitude of tribal people towards women empowerment can be developed optimum level by creating self confidence & self-reliant so as to empower the women.

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