

## **CONSTRAINTS OF TRIBAL WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN UTTAR DINAJPUR DISTRICT OF WEST BENGAL**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*This paper studied on the constraints of women of Uttar Dinajpur district in West Bengal with special respect to one of the backward group of our society i.e. Tribal. In India tribals have lived in isolation for many of years and untouched by the modern life developed around them. This isolation is cause of the constraints of tribal women empowerment of Indian society. For women development as well as women empowerment, education is most vital because educating women brings societal changes which bring many benefits for society. And women's education will increase the financial gain of their families additionally that may be a part of economic process of society. This study is qualitative in nature and semi-structured interview schedule was use to gather the information. Main objective of the study is to look at the barriers of tribal women empowerment in Uttar Dinajpur District of West Bengal. This paper founds that in Uttar Dinajpur District of West Bengal the tribal women literacy rate is incredibly low. For women empowerment literacy is an important part but in this region girls are generally not given adequate chance to accumulate formal education which is important condition for women empowerment. So special attention should be given to the tribal girls of Uttar Dinajpur in different section like health, education, security, job etc. This study concludes that only correct care will bring tribal women empowerment in Uttar Dinajpur District of West Bengal. Education and additional encouragement will give them urge to think big and which will lead to women empowerment.*

**KEYWORDS:** Tribal, Women Education, Women Empowerment, Decision Making

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Women represent nearly half of the world's total population. In India the female population is 48.27 percent of total population according to 2011 census. Women education and development are the burning issue of Indian society since independence. Several policies and plans are created by government to empower women. However still due to paternal structure of Indian society goal of achieving women empowerment is much apart. Women facing many difficulties in their life, like female foeticide, child marriage, molestation etc. due to lacking of proper education. Female literacy rate is low as per the male literacy rate, and incase of tribal women, their literacy rate is very low who are representing 8.9 percent of the overall population of India. The tribal population are the ancient group of this country whose culture is indigenous in nature. Due to not given proper opportunity to these ancient group of peoples and their isolated nature make them backward part of Indian society. They lived in isolation for many years and untouched by the modern culture and detached from the modern society developed around them. This isolation has caused the obstacle to their empowerment. There are

so many tribal group are lived in India. Santal is one of the most populous tribe of Uttar Dinajpur District in West Bengal. Their development is minimal in nature specially the girls are in the backward part of the society. In this area Tribal Women are act as secondary staff whereas in society major decisions are taken by men. For their development which leads women empowerment, education is most vital because educating women brings societal changes which bring many benefits for society. And women's education will increase the financial gain of their families additionally that may be a part of economic process of society. Women empowerment will solely be achieved through correct education, proper health care, giving proper security etc. This paper studied on the constraints of women of Uttar Dinajpur district in West Bengal with special respect to one of the backward group of our society i.e. Tribal.

## OBJECTIVES

Objectives of the study are as follows:

To examine the status of tribal women in Uttar Dinajpur District of West Bengal.

To examine the barriers of tribal women empowerment in Uttar Dinajpur District of West Bengal.

## METHODOLOGY

The present information of the study are collected from forty tribal women of Uttar Dinajpur District. Interview schedules were administered to understand the status of tribal women. Qualitative methodology of data analysis are used for analyzing the information.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

### Constraints of Tribal Women Empowerment

In Uttar Dinajpur District of West Bengal, tribal women lack instructional, socio-economic and political status to get their power.

**Education:** Education is a powerful tool for social transformation. But in this region the women literacy rate is very low. Not knowing the proper reading, writing and arithmetic is the major obstacle to women's empowerment. Girls child are usually not given proper chance to accumulate formal education that is important condition for women empowerment. Education for tribal women has to be paid special attention. Now generally they enrolled in elementary education but most of them not continue secondary or higher education in Uttar Dinajpur.

**Health:** Tribal women of Uttar Dinajpur face risk of deficiency in nutrition therefore focus ought to be paid on their nutritional need.

**Economy:** In Uttar Dinajpur tribal women are economically weak, mostly they do household work. Because of illiteracy, they lack opportunities to empower themselves economically.

**Political Empowerment:** In Uttar Dinajpur female politician is very less. Applicable education and training will prepare tribal women to mobilize politically and to own larger involvement in affairs of state.

**Environment:** Tribal Women's are very close to environment, generally they get food, fuel, timber, wood, and make their medicine from environment also.

**Decision-Making:** Decision making ability is an important factor for women empowerment. In Uttar Dinajpur, decision making ability of tribal women is very less in and outside the family.

**Gender Equality:** Gender equality is not seen in the tribal family of Uttar Dinajpur, women are not given equal opportunities. Gender sensitivity must be developed for betterment of the society.

## **SUGGESTIONS FOR TRIBAL WOMEN EMPOWERMENT**

Suggestions for empowering the tribal women of Uttar Dinajpur District in West Bengal are as follows :

- Empowerment of tribal women of Uttar Dinajpur might be achieved if their economic and social status is improved.
- Only correct care will bring tribal women empowerment of Uttar Dinajpur. Education and additional encouragement will give them urge to think big and which will lead to women empowerment.
- Tribal women of Uttar Dinajpur should be trained in different vocational courses like handloom and textile, poultry farm, dairy farm, food and nutrition, Sports etc. which will help them to earn money which is another cause of women empowerment
- Early marriage should be stopped in tribal community of Uttar Dinajpur by taking attainable measures.
- Steps ought to be taken to enhance the health of tribal women of Uttar Dinajpur, by taking care of pregnant women which will reduce women mortality rate.
- Adult school ought to be opened with facilities of agriculture, sewing, handicrafts etc. and basic data of Nutrition, health care, sanitation etc.
- Decision making is a very important part of women empowerment, it ought to be inspired by tribal women of Uttar Dinajpur.
- Tribal Women's are very close to environment, more knowledge on environment and environment protection should be given to them.
- Political participation of tribal women of Uttar Dinajpur ought to be inflated at block level and higher level also.
- Tribal Women of Uttar Dinajpur facing problem on malnutrition so attention should be given on nutritional needs of women.
- Establishment of more educational institution (schools, colleges, universities) for girl students specially for tribal students.
- Supporting the tribal girl students with special scholarships, fellowships, hostel facilities, remedial coaching etc.
- Many schemes and scholarships are provided by government or non-governmental organization for tribal students but these are unknown by them. Proper awareness programme on various schemes and scholarships should be done.
- Alongside the government, non-governmental organization ought to offer coaching to tribal women on sports, tailoring, art and crafts, painting, nursing etc.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

Women empowerment will solely be achieved through correct education, reducing impoverishment, increasing role of higher cognitive process, rising health and nutrition level. Women in each society ought to be offer equal importance and

will be revered in each facet. Education is that the most powerful instrument for empowering women. From this study, it is found that proper education and facilities have influenced a lot of in Women empowerment. There is continued difference and vulnerability of women altogether sectors - economic, social, political, instructional, health-care, nutrition, right and legal etc. Meaning of empowerment is conceding of the power to perform various act. Focus ought to run specifically for education and health for tribal women. There is an urgent need for giving proper focus on education for tribal women of Uttar Dinajpur. So that these tribal women achieve their success in their life and their status will improve therefore on offer them the ability to come to a decision their own destiny and the destinies of their families.

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