

STATUS OF WOMEN IN RURAL AREA: A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO CHHUR VILLAGE IN SHAMLI DISTRICT OF UTTAR PRADESH

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Abstract

The gender discrimination is age old phenomenon in our society. The gender discrimination is the main reason that affected the socio-economic development of women in India. It is known that women in rural areas are not having proper facilities and education for their development. Most of the rural women have less access to health care. Women in villages are mostly house wives and work in farm field for their livelihood. This study has taken in rural area of Uttar Pradesh. The researcher has studied the status of women in rural area which is comparatively low as men. The researcher has found the socio- economic and educational status of women is little empowered last few years. The women are more aware about the government scheme to empower the women. But still, there are more work do in this field.

Keywords:- Development, empowerment, women, rural, government.

Introduction

Women constitute an integral part of socio-economic life of the India and more than 50.0 per cent women are living in rural area. The numerical strength of women in India lives in rural areas. But this numerical strength does not signify equal status of female with that of the male members. For centuries, they have been deliberately denied opportunities of growth in the name of religion and socio-cultural practices. Before independence, women were prey to many abhorrent customs, traditional rigidities and vices due to which their status in the society. They were victims of widespread illiteracy, segregation in the dark and dingy rooms in the name of purdah, forced child marriage, indeterminable widowhood, rigidity of fidelity and opposition to remarriage of widows turning many of them into prostitutes, polygamy, female infanticide, violence and force to follow Sati, and the complete denial of individuality (Zameer Ahmad Bhat, 2014).

Since independence India has made strong strides in the path of its development and also achieved remarkable success in various fields. The changing status of women is directly linked to the social development of the society. The state has achieved rapid growth in social and economic indicators, even after that there exist disparities in status of women. The position of women in Uttar Pradesh is no better than their counter parts in rest of the country. World Development Report 2012: '*Gender Equality and Development*' revealed that "The ratio of female to male child mortality in Uttar Pradesh is worse than any country in the world". Change in sex ratio largely reflects the socio-economic and cultural pattern of a society in different ways. The declining sex ratio is a matter of great concern as it will lead to serious demographic imbalance and adverse social consequences in near future. In the state unequal share of power and benefits indicated the disparities in sex ratio, literacy rate and labour work participation in favour of male relative to female.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF WOMEN IN RURAL AREAS IN INDIA

The condition of women is more miserable in the rural India with respect to various socio-economic aspects.

a) *Poverty*: Rural poverty is one of the important characteristics of India and nearly 45 percent of rural people are below poverty line. Most of them are just surviving with day to day earnings. Under such circumstances, within the family, the worst sufferers are needless to say women and girl children.

b) *Violence* Indian society has been bound by culture and tradition since ancient times. The patriarchal system and the gender stereotypes in the family and society have always showed a preference for the male child.

c) *Economic Exploitation*: On the world level, women and girls together carry two-third of the burden of the world's work yet receive only a tenth of the world's income. They form 40 percent of the paid labour force. Though women constitute half of the world's population yet they own less than one percentage of the world's property. The condition of women in India is more miserable in every field of social life. They are paid half of three-quarters of the money while their male counterparts earn for the same job. In India a predominantly agricultural country, women do more than half of the total agricultural work. But their work is not valued. On an average, a woman works 15 to 16 hours a day unpaid at home and underpaid outside. Women in India earn 25% less than men, proving that gender continues to be a significant parameter in determining salaries in India, according to the Monster Salary Index (MSI) on gender for 2016. While men earned a median gross hourly salary of Rs. 345.8, women earned Rs. 259.8 in 2016 Educational Deprivation: In India the literacy rate of women is much lower than men because boys receive more schooling than girls. T.P. Sechan says that there are parts of India where the literacy rate of women today is as low as 3 percent (Nalini Ghatge and Anuradha Dubey, 2014).

Review of Literature

H. Subrahmanyam (2011) compares women education in India at present and Past. Author highlighted that there has a good progress in overall enrolment of girl students in schools. The term empower mean to give lawful power or authority to act. It is the process of acquiring some activities of women.

M. Bhavani Sankara Rao (2011) has highlighted that health of women members of SHG have certainly taken a turn to better. It clearly shows that health of women members discuss among themselves about health relate problems of other members and their children and make them aware of various Government provisions specially meant for them.

Doepke M. Tertilt M. (2011) Does Female Empowerment Promote Economic Development? This study is an empirical analysis suggesting that money in the hands of mothers benefits children. This study developed a series of non-cooperative family bargaining models to understand what kind of frictions can give rise to the observed empirical relationship.

Objective of the study

The objective of the study is given below

- 1 To study the socio- economic status of the respondents.
- 2 To find out the educational status of the respondents.
- 3 Examine the awareness level about the government scheme to improve the status of women.

Research Methodology

The present study was carried out in the village Chhur in Shamli district of Uttar Pradesh. This study is a descriptive in its research design. The main purpose of this study is to explain the social, economic and educational status of the women in rural area. The total population of village is 1395 out of which 730 male and 665 female. Out of total women 50 respondents are selected through random sampling.

Result:- Table:-1 Category wise Distribution of the Respondents

Category	Respondents	Percentage
General	4	4.00%
OBC	76	76.00%
SC	20	20.00%
TOTAL	100	100%

The above table shows that OBC category (76%) respondents are belong to backword category followed by SC category (20%) respondents in this. There are very little amount have General Category (4%) respondents which are belong to the different caste in the village.

Table:-2 Source of Income of the Respondents

Source of Income	Respondents	Percentage
Involving Agriculture	64	64%
Govt. Job	12	12%
Private Job	14	14%
Shopkeeper	10	10%
Total	100	100%

The above table shows that most of the women(64%) involve in the Agriculture practices (as a agriculture labourer), followed by 12% women have govt. job, 14% women have private jobs, followed by 10% women have done various shops i.e. maniyari, beauty parlors.

Table:-3 Educational level of the respondents

<u>Educational Level</u>	<u>No. of Respondents</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Illiterate	08	8%
Below Middle Class	24	24%
Middle Class	16	16%
Matric	20	20%
12th	24	24%
Graduate and above	08	8%
Total	100	100%

The above table shows that the literacy rate of women. Total 24% respondents are below middle class, 8% respondents are illiterate, 16% respondents are middle class, followed by 20% and 24% respondents are secondary and senior secondary, followed by 8% respondents are graduate and above.

Table:-4 Awareness level of the respondents about the government scheme to improve the status i.e. social, economic and educational status of women

Awareness level of respondent	Respondents	Percentage
Yes	88	88%
No	12	12%
Total	50	100%

The above table shows that awareness level of the women about the government scheme i.e. beti bachao beti pdao etc. to improve the status of women. In this table 88% respondents are aware about mostly government scheme to improve the status of women followed by 12% respondents haven't any knowledge about these schemes.

Conclusion

This paper tells about the status of the women. The above review of literature shows that the women are little empower last few years. But still, the status of women are low in the rural society. This study conclude that the socio- economic status in the rural area a little empower but still their status is low. There are low involvement in the decision making work as compared to women. Women are worked in the agriculture as the agricultural laborers. Their educational level are still low in the higher

education. So the involvement in government and private job is low. But rather than, there is happy to see that maximum women are aware about the government schemes to improve the status of women. But still, government have to take steps to implement these schemes strictly to see better result through the empowered women.

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