



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

AWARENESS ON PROPERTY RIGHTS OF TRIBAL WOMEN IN KATTUNAYAKANS

CHITRA .S, Dr.ESTHER BUVANA.C

Government Arts College (Autonomous), Bharathiar University Coimbatore, Tamilnadu, India.

Abstract

When women thrive, all of society benefits, and succeeding generations are given a better start in life, the aim of the paper is to understand the awareness level; of Toda tribal women about their property rights and identify the level of use legal acts on property rights of women in Tamil Nadu. Women's right to property has been recognized as an important development issue. Property rights for women can have an impact on decision making. Income pooling, acquisition, and women's overall role and position in the community. With this background an attempt was made with the objectives, to study the property rights of women in Tamil Nadu in, identify the types of barriers related to women's economic and property rights. The study was based on the primary data that was collected with the help of well-structured and pre-tested interview schedule, administered to 80 respondents in the Coimbatore. Convenient sampling method was adopted in data collection. The present paper is an attempt to highlight the legal status of tribal women in Coimbatore district.

Keywords: Property Rights, Income Pooling, Acquisition, Types of Barriers, Legal Awareness and Tribal Women

Introduction

India has the largest concentration of tribal people. In the entire State of Tamil Nadu, 36 scheduled Tribes are identified by the Government of India. They are spread over into different districts of the State. The Coimbatore is situated in the North Western corner of Tamil Nadu in Southern India. According to the 2011 census the total population of the Coimbatore District was 735,394 lakhs. Out of which the total primitive tribal group population is 20,373. Todas, Kotas, Kurumbas, Irulas, Paniyas, Mullukurumbas and Kattunaickas are the main tribal communities found in the Coimbatore District. The present paper is an attempt to highlight the legal status of Tribal women in Coimbatore district.

Women's right to property has been recognized as an important development issue. Property rights for women can have an impact on decision making, income pooling, acquisition, and women's overall role and position in the community. Moreover, land is a critical resource for a woman when the household breaks down; for example, in the event of desertion by husband, abandonments, divorce, polygamous relationships, illness or death. Women's right, to access and control over property, is determined through women's overall living conditions, economic security, and physical safety. Gender discrimination is related to lower per capita income, life expectancy, and literacy. The problem of gender inequity is due to the deep cultural bias against women.

The government of India has provided specific institutions like the National Commission for Women, Department of Women and child Development etc., In addition to this, India follows the guidelines recognized in a variety of International Legal Instruments such as:

- International Covenants on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights and on Civil and Political Rights.
- United Nations Commission on Human Rights Resolution 2002/49.
- International Conventions like the Convention On Elimination of the All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)1965,
- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) 1979, is often described as an International Bill of Rights for Women.

Property Rights of Tribal Women

Property rights of the Tribal women are concerned, they continue to be ruled by even more old system of customary law under which they totally lack rights of series. In fact, the Tribal women does not even have any rights of gender have been resisted in the name of preservation of tribal culture.

The Property right of a Tribal women also depends upon the type of family and marriage. In monogamous family, the property rights enjoyed by a women are different from polygamous and polyandrous type of family. Again, the property right of a widow is different from the property right enjoyed by a women whose husband is alive, the property rights of a barren women who is blessed by children. The Supreme Court of India has laid down some important principles to uphold the rights of inheritance of the tribal women, based on the broad philosophy of the Indian Constitution and said, “ The Constitutional philosophy envisaged under Articles 38, 39, 46 and 15(1) & broad philosophy of the Indian Constitution and said, “ The Constitutional philosophy envisaged under Articles 38, 39, 46 and 15(1) & (3) and 14 is to accords social and economic democracy to women as assured in the preamble of the Constitution. They constitute core foundation for economic empowerment and social justice to women for stability of political democracy. In other words, they frown upon gender discrimination and aim at elimination of obstacles to enjoy social, economic, political and cultural rights on equal footing.”

Objectives

- To study the property rights of women in Tamil Nadu,
- To find out their awareness on the legal status of Kattunayakans Tribal women of the Coimbatore district of Tamil Nadu ,
- To identify the types of barriers related to women’s economic and property rights.

Methodology

The current study is related to Coimbatore district due to the fact that Coimbatore district occupies 8th rank in scheduled tribe population of Tamil Nadu constituting about 4:36 percent of tribal population of Tamil Nadu. The study adopted convenient sampling method. The required information for the study was collected by administering an interview schedule to head of the household. The study is both descriptive and analytical in nature the study based on both primary and secondary data. The primary data collected through interview scheduled from 80 respondents. Secondary data collected through various books, journals and websites.

Findings and Conclusion**General Details of Selected Tribal Women**

General Details	N	%
Age		
Below 18	-	-
18-35 Year	8	10
36-45 Year	12	15
45-60 Year	33	41.25
Above 60	27	33.75
Marital Status		
Married	54	67.5
Single	1	1.25
Widow	19	23.75
Divorced	3	3.75
Separated	3	3.75
Educational Qualification		
Illiterate	18	22.5
Elementary	28	35
High School	11	13.75
Higher Secondary	16	20
Graduate	4	5
Post Graduate	-	-
Others	3	3.75

Source: Primary Data N* Number of Respondents

The above table states that, about 41 percent of the respondents belonged to the age group between 45-60 years and 33.75 percent belonged to the age bracket of above 60 years, while 15 percent belonged to 16-45 age bracket and only ten percent of the women were between 18-25 years age. Around 67 percent of the tribal women were married and 24 percent were widows. A large number of tribal women (68.75%) were school educated and only 22.5 percent of them were uneducated. Eight percent had done their college studies.

Social Status of Selected Tribal Women

Type of House	N	%
Owned	80	100
Rented	-	-
Children Attending School Regularly		
Yes	64	80
No	26	32.5
Practice the Tradition of Polyandry/Polygamy		
Yes	12	15
No	68	85

Source: Primary Data N* Number of Respondents

The above table denotes social status of the selected tribal women in Tamil Nadu. From the table 100 percent of the women live in their children going to houses with 80 percent of their children going to school regularly. Almost 85 percent of the tribal women do not practice Polyandry/Polygamy.

Property Details of Selected Tribes

Property Details	N	%
Hold any Assets		
Yes	59	73.75
No	21	26.25
If Yes		
Earned Self	13	16.25
Earned Husband	58	72.5
Given Parents	9	1.25
Inherited Property		
Yes	63	78.75
No	17	21.25
If Yes Equal Share		
Yes	67	83.75
No	16	20
Property owned by whom		
Own Name	8	10
Husband Name	64	80
Any Male Member in the Family	8	10

Source: Primary Data N* Number of Respondents

Table highlights the property details of the selected women in Tamil Nadu. It was noticed that 73.75% of women reported to have property while the others said that they had no assets. About 72 percent of the women said that their property was not an inherited property 67 percent of women said that they had equal share in the property. While 64 percent of women said their properties are owned in the name of their husband.

Awareness on Legal Information among the Women

Knowledge	N	%
Dowry giving/accepting is prohibited	51	63.75
Widows and divorced women are entitled to remarry	33	41.25
Women also have rights to divorce on same grounds as admissible for men	23	28.75
Rights to education is a right for the child	44	55
Financial assistance for the marriage of the widow's daughter	12	15
Old age pensions	33	41.25

Source: Primary Data N* Number of Respondents

Table highlights about the awareness on legal information of selected women in Tamil Nadu. It was noticed that 63.75% of women reported they are aware about rights to child education and 41.25 are aware about widow remarriage system and old age were aware about the scheme of financial assistance given by the government for the marriage of the widow's daughter.

Awareness of Property Rights of the Selected Tribal Women

Awareness about the Property Rights	N	%
Yes	66	82.5
No	14	17.5
Women knew about Property Rights through		
Family	18	22.5
Literacy	24	30
Awareness	23	28.75
Spouse	12	15
other	3	3.75

Source: Primary Data N* Number of Respondents

Table shows that only 66 percent of them were aware about the property rights for women. 30 percent of the respondent's state that they are knew about the property rights through education.

Awareness on the program and policies on property rights

Feel women should become equal heirs in Inheritance	N	%
Yes	66	82.5
No	14	17.5
Heard of government programs and policies		
Yes	-	-
No	80	100
If yes, How did they know		
Community leader	66	82.5
Elected Representatives	-	-
Educational Institution	14	17.5
Media	-	-

Source: Primary Data N* Number of Respondents

From the above Table, it can be inferred that Tribal women strongly felt that they should be made as equal heirs in Inheritance of property. Surprisingly, all the Tribal women are not aware of government programs and policies, some of them had awareness gathered from the community leader 88 Percent and educational Institution 11 percent.

Conclusion

An overwhelming proportion of Tribal women had a very strong gender favorable approach and they emphasized that girls were as good as boys. Respondents were found to be quite aware of the legal change in inheritance rights. However, the respondents were not aware of the Government schemes. A sizeable proportion of respondents also had a fair knowledge that the equal inheritance right was applicable.

Reference

1. Benschop, Marjoline (2004). Women rights to land and Property. Commission of Sustainable development.
2. Dashora, R. and Sharma, A. (2003), "Role of Tribal Women in Education", Yojana, Vol-47, No.6, June, Pp.40-43.

3. Ram Krishna Mandal (2008) "Role of Tribal Women in Socio-Economic development", Southern Economist, Vol.47, No.8, August, Pp.9-14.

4. Sharma (2007), The Status of Women in India Socio Economic Condition an Over View. India: Pearl Books.

