



ATTITUDE OF SCHEDULE TRIBES WOMEN TOWARDS WOMEN EMPWERMMENT

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Abstract: The present study is centred around attitude of schedule tribe's women towards women empowerment. The main objective of the study was to compare the mean scores in attitude of educated and uneducated schedule tribe towards women empowerment. Descriptive survey method was employed for the present study. A sample of 100 women, out which 50 educated schedule tribe women and 50 uneducated schedule tribe women were selected through stratified random sampling from Jharsuguda district, Odisha. For the data collection purpose, a standardized Women Empowerment Scale developed by Malini and K. Yashodhara, was used and data are analyzed through applying t' test. From which, it is found that there is a significance difference in attitude of educated and uneducated women belonging to schedule tribe towards women empowerment. That means education has a significance influence on attitude of schedule tribe women towards women empowerment.

Keywords: *attitude, schedule tribe, educated and uneducated women, women empowerment.*

Introduction

Education is the first and foremost weapon to change the universe, as it is the acquisition, exploration and application of knowledge in all sphere of life, which directly modify the behavior of every individual. It plays a very significant role in our day-to-day life, which provides a basis for molding our personality in a right direction. Because it not only confined with acquiring knowledge or a degree (narrow meaning of education) which is end with in the four walls of a classroom, rather it includes acquiring knowledge developing skill, values, constructing habits shaping ideas, belief, attitude etc. Education is the greatest wealth which makes all the individual as world's richest and topes' person. So, there should be equality in educational opportunities for each and every person in the country and it is the key instrument for developing a nation in a holistic way. But due to some hindrances and several issues all persons with respect to caste, religion and gender are not getting all sorts of opportunities to pursue education.

Mostly in our country if we take an overview then, there are some tribal people who are still educationally and socially backward. India is a tribal populated country for which some state like Odisha is declared as tribal state under schedule 5th of the Indian Constitution. Although Odisha is not enlisted under this, still it is a tribal populated state. A greater part our state is covered by scheduled tribes' community. So, for their development and improvement there are some provisions provided by Government of India which is mentioned in our constitution, such as Article 46 promotion of educational and economic interest of scheduled Tribes, Article 17 abolition of untouchability, Article 244 - administration of scheduled areas and travels area, Article 330 - reservation related provisions to scheduled tribes in in house of people, Article 332- reservation of seats in legislative assemblies, Article 334- reservation of seats and special representation to cease after 10 years and all others. Although various provisions are enlisted in our constitution for scheduled tribes, but these are not actually enforced for its proper implementation by which scheduled Tribe's people are backward right now. Especially women section of this scheduled Tribes caste are still not developed, they are also considered under second position in the society. Its only because of blind belief on traditional culture, traditional attitude towards women and unacceptance of women empowerment. As women empowerment is the process of empowering women in all sphere of life, i.e social economic educational and political, for their self-development. Women empowerment always based on the right choices and right decisions of women for their self-improvement and development. So, empowerment it of women belonging to scheduled tribes is a current issue which can only possible through equality of educational opportunities and it is the foremost suggestive major for equality through equity for the advancement of this women section. The construction of a healthy nation depends up on the development of education of its citizens and education of all citizens can only be developed only when women are being educated. Educating the women is the key instrument of women empowerment, which make them equal with man in social, political and economics field. As, it helps them to realize their independent right, which makes them competent, confident, independent and responsible citizen and this leads to form a shaped destiny of a society or of a country. It is also the means of creating a social environment based on equalization of women with man in various aspects. Then only they can able to take their decisions and choices independently in individuality or collective forms for national development. Empowerment of women is very much essential for the development of a society. It enhances the quality and quantity of human resource, which are necessary for the overall development of the nation or a state. "Educating women" is the key tool for empowerment of women and equalize them with man in all field. But as compare to the other state, women are more backward than man in Odisha. As it is a tribal state, most of the people belong to rural and backward classes, who are still living with blind beliefs and old custom and traditions which mostly affect the women in all sector. So, for the empowerment and development of women a number of research were conducted in abroad and in India also, but only few studies were conducted in Odisha, which are mainly concern with problem, challenges and impact of education in relation to women empowerment. But it is very much important to know the attitude and thinking of people towards women empowerment, their development and education. Then only necessary steps would be taken for shaping of their positive attitude towards women empowerment. So, the present study is taken on attitude of scheduled tribe people towards women empowerment.

Justification of the study

A number of studies were conducted on women empowerment in India as well as in abroad. Among which, a study conducted in Pakistan, from which it reveals that there exists positive attitude of male and female towards women empowerment (Naz et al., 2010). One of the studies also depicts that self-help group has a greater impact on acceleration of women empowerment (Chakrabarty et al, 2013). Most of the study were conducted on problems, issues and challenges regarding women empowerment and they found that there are a number of distractors in the path way to women empowerment, for which liberty in all field with power of choices and quality education should be provided to achieve holistic development and empowerment of women (Sarangi and Mishra, 2013, Shettar, 2015 and Singhal, 2015). Besides these all-other studies were conducted on role of education in women empowerment. They found that education is one of the best keys to unlock the door of empowerment of women in each and every field (Sundaram, 2014, Bhattachrjee, 2015, Shetty and Hans 2015, Hossain 2017 and Yousuf, 2019). Although most of the studies were conducted on women empowerment relating to its various aspect. But after analyzing the review the research gap was found out, that specifically women empowerment of schedule tribe women is not taken into consideration under the study. So, to bridge the gap, there was a need of conducting a study on impact of education on women empowerment with special focus on attitude of schedule tribes, for which present was carried out.

Research questions

1. What is attitude of educated women belonging to schedule tribes towards women's empowerment?
2. What is attitude of uneducated women belonging schedule tribes towards women's empowerment?
3. Is there any significance of differences between attitude of educated and uneducated women 's' belonging to schedule tribes towards women empowerment?

To find out the answer of the above questions, the investigator was specified the topic entitled as – **“Attitude schedule tribe women towards women empowerment”**.

Operational definitions of the key terms used

- Attitude - It is the mental feelings and disposition of the scheduled tribe women towards women empowerment reflected through their self-opinion.
- Scheduled tribe - As per the present study, schedule tribe women are defined as the indigenous natives of Jharsuguda district, Odisha, who are constitutionally declared groups of historically disadvantaged people belonging from tribal communities. Furthermore, those schedule tribe women who were attended formal education as educated and those were not, as uneducated women groups under this study.
- Women empowerment- It refers to the process of strengthening the capacity of the scheduled tribe women individually and collectively to make the decisions independently for their development.

Objectives of the present study

- 1.To study, attitude of educated women belonging to schedule tribes towards women empowerment.
- 2.To study attitude of uneducated women belonging to schedule tribes towards women empowerment.
- 3.To compare the mean score of attitudes of educated and uneducated women belonging to schedule tribes towards women empowerment.

Hypothesis of the present study

- 1.There is no significance of difference in mean score of attitudes of educated and uneducated women belonging to schedule tribes towards women empowerment.

Methodology

As per the objectives of the present study, Descriptive survey method was used to conduct the research study. All the schedule tribe women belonging to district Jharsuguda, Odisha which is constituted as population the study, from which 50 educated and 50 uneducated schedule tribe women were selected through stratified random sampling from three villages. For the collection of data, Women Empowerment scale developed by Malini and K. Yashodhara, was adopted to study the attitude towards women empowerment. This scale is consisting of 50 items and it has content validity and Cronbach Alpha reliability coefficient 0.898.

Procedure of data collection

With the prior permission of the authority, investigator personally visited to the selected field and collected the data by using the tool i.e women empowerment scale.

Statistical techniques used

By taking into consideration to the objectives of the present study, t' test was used to analyze and interpret the obtained data.

Results

Analysis of cutoff score of educated women belonging to schedule tribe

Table No-1.1

SL No.	Cutoff score	No. of responses	Percentage	Results
1.	50*3=150 (101-150)	50	100%	Above average Strong positive
2.	50*2=100 (51-100)	--	--	Average positive
3.	50*1=50 (1-50)	--	--	Below average Negligeable

For the first objective of the study, the cutoff score was used to interpret the calculated raw score of educated schedule tribe women. From the above Table no. 1, it shows that cutoff score of attitudes of educated women, all respondents (50) were having strong positive attitude towards women empowerment.

Analysis of cutoff score of uneducated women

Table No- 1.2

SL No.	Cutoff score	No. of respondents	Percentage	Results
1.	50*3=150 (101-150)	35	70%	Strong positive attitude
2.	50*2=100 (51-100)	15	30%	Average positive attitude
3.	50*1=50 (1-50)	--	--	Below average Negligeable

The above Table shows the cutoff scores of attitudes of uneducated women belonging to schedule tribe towards women empowerment. From this tabulated data, it is very cleared that out of 50 women 75% (35 in number) were having strong positive attitude towards women empowerment whereas rest of 30% respondent were having average score with positive attitude.

Analysis of significance of difference between mean scores of educated and uneducated schedule tribe women

Table No-1.3

SL No.	Total No. of cases	Mean score	SD	t' value	Result
1.	50	119.78	8.29	7.87	Ho rejected
2.	50	106.9	9.12		

Through this table, the comparative value (mean scores) of educated and uneducated schedule tribe women are presented. Which reveals that the calculated t' value is 7.87, which is greater than the table value 2.65 at 0.01 level of significance with the df 98. Therefore, null hypothesis is rejected, it means there exist a significance of difference between attitude of educated and uneducated women belonging to schedule tribe towards women empowerment.

Discussion

From the above analysis, it is cleared that education has an impact on attitude of schedule tribe women towards women empowerment, which is similar with the findings of different studies, which is already explained in the review part. Education has a positive influence on women empowerment (Vidyashri, Shivangamma & Danappagoudra, 2015). The level of economic empowerment of women is closely depend on educational level of women (Patil,2019). The results of the study are supported with the finding, that education plays a greater role in maximizing women empowerment (Sarangi & Mishra, 2013 and Nandini, 2017). In few studies it was also found that family members were not support women for being economically self-dependent (Naz et al. 2010 and Chakravarty et al. 2013). As most of the studies also reveal that there are lots of threats or challenges relating to women empowerment like violence, lack of education, gender inequality, early marriage of girls, rigid culture, family's restriction and so on (Naz et al. 2010, Sundaram, 2014, Shettar, 2015, Shetty and Hans, 2015) The findings of the study are supported by previous studies that, education has a greater impact on attitude, issues, challenges and all others factor relating to women empowerment. It is a key to strengthening women empowerment in each and every aspect of life and world (Sundaram, 2014, Bhattacharya, 2015, Singhal, 2015). The results of the study is a prerequisite for future decision making specifically for women empowerment and for their healthy development.t

Suggestions for further research

- Survey research can be conducted on women empowerment in different localities, such as rural, urban, slum areas etc.
- Correlational research may also be undertaken women education and empowerment.
- Studies can also be conducted on different aspects of women empowerment and related factors which influence it, like socio-economic status, level of education, locality, gender etc.
- Similar study might be conducted on perception of educated and uneducated people about women empowerment with reference to different demographic variables.

Conclusion

From the above study, it can be concluded that education is a significant factor which mainly associated with women empowerment. It has future implication for the state that, steps should be taken for stabilizing and upgrading the empowerment of women. As this a demanding issue, more and more studies should be conducted to eradicate the problems concern with it.

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