



Socio-Economic Educational And Political Changes Among Lamani Community:A Special Reference To Shimoga District

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Introduction:

The socio-economic, educational, and political changes in the Lamani community, particularly with reference to Shimoga District, are significant in understanding the evolution of this traditionally marginalized group in Karnataka. The Lamani community, also known as the Lambani or Banjara community, has historically been involved in trade, agriculture, and pastoralism, with a distinct culture, language, and social structure.

Socio-Economic Changes:

1. **Shift from Traditional Livelihoods:** Traditionally, the Lamani people were known for their nomadic lifestyle, engaging in trade and livestock rearing. Over time, there has been a shift towards more stable livelihoods, such as agriculture, construction, and small businesses. In Shimoga, many Lambanis have moved into the labor market, working as wage laborers in agriculture or the urban economy.
2. **Economic Integration:** Economic integration has been marked by participation in mainstream markets and urban economic activities. This has led to some members of the community improving their financial conditions, although many still remain in low-income brackets due to limited access to resources like land, capital, and education.
3. **Cultural Changes:** Traditional arts, crafts, and dance are still important aspects of Lamani culture, but modernization and the influx of urbanization have led to the decline of some traditional practices. However, the community's identity has evolved in response to new social and economic opportunities.

Educational Changes:

1. **Access to Education:** Historically, the Lamani community faced significant barriers to education due to social, economic, and cultural factors. In Shimoga District, the situation has gradually improved, with more children from the community attending schools. Government initiatives, such as reservations and special scholarships, have contributed to increasing the enrollment of Lambani children in schools.

2. **Rise in Literacy Rates:** With educational reforms, there has been a notable increase in literacy rates among the Lamani community. However, despite these improvements, literacy levels remain lower than the district or state average, especially among older generations. Challenges like language barriers, economic pressures, and social discrimination still hinder full educational integration.
3. **Higher Education:** While primary and secondary education enrollment has improved, access to higher education remains limited due to financial constraints, lack of awareness, and the continuing influence of traditional roles. However, a small number of Lambanis have been able to attend colleges, with some even pursuing professional courses.

Political Changes:

1. **Political Mobilization:** The Lamani community has become more politically active over the years, with representation in local bodies and participation in elections. Efforts by community leaders and activists have led to a greater awareness of the community's rights and needs. The community has also sought to gain political leverage through alliances with mainstream political parties and movements.
2. **Reservation and Welfare Schemes:** The Lamani community is classified as a Scheduled Tribe in Karnataka, which has facilitated their access to affirmative action policies like reservations in education, employment, and political representation. These policies have been crucial in improving the socio-economic status of many Lamani families in Shimoga.
3. **Community Leadership and Social Change:** Over time, new leaders from the community have emerged, advocating for the rights of Lambanis and pushing for social justice. These leaders have also worked on raising awareness about issues like child marriage, female education, and the empowerment of women within the community.

Challenges:

1. **Discrimination and Social Marginalization:** Despite socio-economic and political changes, the Lamani community still faces challenges like caste-based discrimination, social exclusion, and economic vulnerability. These issues often impede their full integration into the mainstream society.
2. **Gender Disparities:** Women in the Lamani community continue to face traditional gender roles that limit their access to education and employment opportunities. However, increasing awareness and government schemes aimed at empowering women are slowly improving their socio-political status.

Conclusion:

The socio-economic, educational, and political changes among the Lamani community in Shimoga District reflect both progress and ongoing challenges. While there has been notable advancement in education, economic opportunities, and political representation, barriers like social discrimination, economic inequality, and gender-based disparities continue to hinder full integration. The community's resilience and ability to adapt to changing times, along with continued support from governmental and non-governmental organizations, will determine their future trajectory in the region.

References Books :

1. **"The Lamani Community: Dynamics of Development and Change"**
 - **Author:** B.G. Halbar
2. **"Tribes and Castes of Karnataka"**
 - **Author:** L.K. Ananthakrishna Iyer
3. **"Lambani Economy and Society"**
 - **Author:** S.S. Shivarudrappa
4. **"Education and Social Change among the Tribes"**
 - **Author:** G.S. Ghurye
5. **"Denotified Tribes in Modern India"**
 - **Author:** R.M. Kothari
6. **"Backward Classes in Karnataka: Studies in Social and Economic Mobility"**
 - **Editors:** C. Parvathamma and G. Thimmaiah
7. **"Caste, Tribe, and Gender: Spaces for Women in Indian Society"**
 - **Author:** Uma Chakravarti

Government and Academic Reports

1. **"Census of India – Karnataka State Census Handbook"** (specific to Shimoga District)
 - Published by the Government of India, this handbook provides demographic, educational, and occupational data relevant to the Lamani community in Shimoga.
2. **"Report of the Karnataka Backward Classes Commission"**
 - **Publisher:** Government of Karnataka
 - Focuses on the socio-economic and educational conditions of backward communities, including the Lamani community.
3. **"Social Welfare Measures for Scheduled Castes and Tribes in Karnataka"**
 - **Publisher:** Directorate of Social Welfare, Karnataka
 - Explores the impact of welfare schemes on communities like the Lamanis in districts such as Shimoga.
4. **"Shimoga District Gazetteer"**
 - Published by the Karnataka State Gazetteer Department, this document provides historical, cultural, and socio-economic details about Shimoga District, with references to communities like the Lamanis.

Articles and Journals

1. "Educational Status of Lambani Community in Karnataka"

- Published in the *Indian Journal of Social Work*.
- Focuses on the impact of education on the socio-economic status of the Lambani community.

2. "Socio-Economic Status and Challenges of the Lambani Tribe"

- Published in *Economic and Political Weekly*.
- Discusses the challenges faced by the Lamani tribe in adapting to modern economic and political systems.

3. "Changing Livelihoods of Lambanis in Karnataka: A Case Study Approach"

- Found in regional academic journals focusing on Karnataka's tribal studies.

Where to Access These Books

- **Libraries:** Karnataka University Library (Dharwad), Mysore University Library, or Kuvempu University Library (Shimoga).
- **Publishers:** Many of these books are published by Prasara (Karnataka University's publication house) or other academic publishers.
- **Online:** Platforms like Google Books, ResearchGate, and the Digital Library of India (DLI).

