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A Study Of Family Balance And Financial Status Of Scheduled Caste Working Women

(With special reference to Godda District of Jharkhand)

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Abstract:- The problems of working women are continuously increasing day by day. When facts were collected from the Scheduled Caste women of Teachers Colony locality, it was revealed that these women want to work in the private sector but they are not fortunate enough to get the work. There are 100 houses of Scheduled Caste people in Teachers Colony in which 150 women are working. They are somehow managing to live their life. Most of the women here work in other people's houses doing household chores like washing utensils, cooking food, sweeping and cleaning the house due to which they get very little income. As a result , it becomes very difficult to run the house, educate the children and fulfill the needs like treatment in case of illness with that meagre income. These women are surrounded by financial problems and hence it becomes very difficult for them to maintain family balance. Therefore these women suffer physically as well as mentally. They do not even have their own plot of land. They have constructed their temporary houses on government land and are living in the scarcity of water and electricity. Most of them said that due to lack of income, they are not able to fulfill even their basic needs.

Keywords:- Working women, physical problems, mental problems, land not their own, family disintegration

It is a very difficult task for the women of Teachers Colony area to run their families as they are unemployed and when they get the work, it is always petty jobs like cooking, washing clothes and utensils and such others. Even such petty job is very rarely found. They said that despite working hard, they are not able to earn even Rs 3000 in a month. With such a low income they are not able to do all the important work related to there family. In such circumstances, they are unable to provide basic things like children's school fees, proper clothes and food items to their family. As a result, they are very less educated and their economic condition is also substandard. Almost all the Dalit women here are illiterate. Most of them said that they left their studies during childhood after studying till one or two classes and the same situation still persists as neither they are able to give proper education to their children nor are they able to fulfil the basic needs of

their family. Their temporarily built houses are similar to the type of houses found in slums, where at first glance it appears that this street belongs to the Dalit community.

Literature Review:- Indian society is based on a hierarchical system and has varying economic backgrounds. In this hierarchy, people of Scheduled Caste are at the lowest position and their economic system is also at the lowest. These Scheduled Caste people are at a low position in every sphere of life be it social, economic, educational, religious and political. Scheduled caste people are an integral part of the village life, even today they provide some minor services to other caste people and most of them are living below the poverty line (Kumari, 2021). India is a country of ethnicity and diversity. In this complex country, there is inequality in socio-economic status. A large part of the population lives in rural areas. Where they are trying to become self-reliant by doing various works ranging from making clay pots to agricultural labour. This work is done by both men and women from weaker sections so that they can continue their livelihood. Scheduled caste women also do many jobs and are trying to empower themselves (K, & Kumar, 2022). Indian society is a male dominated society, where women have less dominance than men. Scheduled caste women have to work very hard to support their families. One has to protect oneself from the people working with oneself and also fight against all kinds of exploitation. Scheduled caste women have to fight many similar battles. One is inside the home and the other is outside the home. In this situation. economic independence is especially important for Scheduled Caste women. Agriculture is the most common occupation for rural women, with Scheduled Caste women having the highest number of agricultural labourers. Their main source of income is farming and it is the primary source of income for the family. They fulfill the daily needs of their family by working on the landowner's farm at wages lower than the minimum payment set by the government (Kumar & Kate, 2022). The number of women living in absolute poverty has increased by 50 per cent in the last two decades compared to 30 per cent for rural men. Women are facing these problems of poverty and unemployment. Scheduled caste girls have certainly got some benefits through reservation in schools, colleges and vocational technical institutes, yet the situation is still pathetic. Efforts to promote economic growth and reduce inequalities in India have produced modest gains in economic growth but have led to further increase in inequalities (Amutha & Suresh, 2018). Most of the Scheduled Caste population lives in rural areas and works there in agriculture or as laborers. Only 11 percent of Scheduled Caste members live in urban areas, most of whom somehow manage to survive in slums. These people have the lowest prestige and economic status in the society. Nevertheless, efforts are being made to focus on the education of Scheduled Castes to improve their condition. So that the gap in the society can be eliminated and balance can be brought. This society has had to struggle a lot to improve on social and political basis, yet a large part of the Scheduled Caste society is still disappointed today (Kumar & Singh, 2022). Dalit women are one of the largest socially segregated groups across the world, and these women are extremely economically vulnerable. Almost every social, economic and cultural fact shows that the condition of scheduled caste families is very poor. 35.4 percent of Scheduled Caste population is living below the poverty line. Most Dalit women suffer from low literacy rates, high dependence on wage labour, discrimination in employment and wages, and high concentration in skilled, low-paid and hazardous physical jobs, violence, etc. due to which Dalit women somehow earn their living by doing hard labour (Thaiyalnayaki, 2015). Scheduled Caste women are the labour force and the backbone of Indian agriculture. A large number of

Scheduled Caste women are working as organised workers in the urban areas. The growing shortage of labour and poverty is highest among the Scheduled Castes. Apart from this, Scheduled Caste women are also oppressed among the exploited. Along with this, they also fall prey to social, economic, religious and cultural discrimination. Dalit women have to work hard to earn a living for their families (Ghosh, 2019). Some of the many barriers to the growth of women entrepreneurs include inability to balance family and career, social, cultural constraints, male-dominated society, illiteracy and low level of education, lack of financial support, etc. due to which women are not able to maintain balance in their family and society. Still some women are getting educated and their number is also increasing. There has been a great deal of awareness among women about self-employment and gradually the role of women in society is changing (Mandal & Hearnwal, 2024).

Research gaps:- In the state of Jharkhand, enthusiasm has been seen among Scheduled Caste women in the field of labour. But the women of this community do not get work. These people are landless, they do not have their own plot of land and they are living in temporary houses built on government land. They have many problems; very little research has been done on this subject. Therefore, this study is required for working women to know the status of daily life and family balance.

Problems of working women:- When facts were collected from working women of Scheduled Caste, many problems faced by them came to light. Being a part of nuclear family, the responsibility to run the house is primarily taken care of by the men but in case of lack of any support from men, women are bound to look for works. This brings responsibility of running the house on the shoulders of these scheduled cast women. Rising inflation is also one of the many major problems because they are not able to earn enough income to fulfill their basic needs. Working women fulfill dual responsibilities; first, the responsibility towards their family and the second is to arrange need based material to maintain balance in the family. They do not even have enough time to do everything properly, as working women spend their entire day working. But the women here do not get much work; they have to go to someone's house and do petty jobs such as washing utensils, cooking food, cleaning clothes etc. One does not earn enough money from these jobs to fulfil one's basic needs. These working women have many problems due to which they experience mental stress as well as physical stress and face problems like discrimination and exploitation at the workplace. One of the many problems faced by working women is the problem of housing, as these women do not have their own land and they are living in slums built on government land.

Objective:- Understanding the economic condition of working women and their problems

Methodology :- The present research is based on working women of scheduled castes. Qualitative and quantitative research methods were chosen to obtain data from working women regarding their economic status and wage-related work. Qualitative research methodology involves the collection of data through personal accounts, interviews, and participatory data to gain an understanding of people's attitudes, preferences, and reasons for their behaviour and motivation. Under quantitative research technique, facts related to working women have been obtained through survey, structured interview, observation records and review etc.

In the study, field work was conducted in which data were collected by interviewing 50 women of Teachers Colony under Mahagama Tehsil of Godda District of Jharkhand. This locality falls under urban area. There is a government college situated near this locality. There is also a government hospital about 1.5 km away from teachers colony where primary treatment is provided.

Structured Interview Schedule:- In the present research a protected interview schedule was used to collect data from working women. Under the protected interview, facts have been obtained regarding the problems of working women and whether they get wage work in their daily life or not.

Analysis:- Women of Scheduled Caste reside in the Teachers Colony of Godda district of Jharkhand. All these women are working women. There has not been much improvement in their lifestyle as these women search for work but do not get any wage-work at the right time. They only get to do petty jobs like cooking food at someone's house, cleaning utensils, washing clothes, cleaning the house etc. Apart from this, some women get agricultural work in someone's fields, after this women do not get any work. These women are somehow managing to live their lives in unemployment. When seen from the ground reality, they do not even have their own permanent houses; these women are landless and have somehow managed temporary settlements on government land. Neither these women are educated nor is there any firm possibility of education for their children as they keep on thinking only about food in order to save themselves from starvation. Infact, sometimes they have to spend the whole night without food. In such circumstances, these women are not able to think about education.

Importance of research:-

- For the real development of the society it is necessary that the problems and challenges of Scheduled Caste women be considered.
- The central axis of working women between family and society should be preserved and the deteriorating condition of women should be protected and safeguarded.
- Scheduled caste women should be encouraged towards education, medical care, employment and awareness to improve their condition.

Conclusion:- The Scheduled Caste women of Teachers Colony do not own land. These women live in temporary houses built on government land. These women are very diligent and hard working but they are not able to get good works. Even if they get the work, it is almost always the job of washing utensils, washing clothes, cooking food, cleaning the house and such others. There are some women who sometimes work in building construction, along with this they sometimes get work related to agriculture as per the demand of the season. After this, these women do not get work anywhere. The income received is minimal due to which these women are unable to fulfill any of their needs. They are neither able to provide proper education to their children nor are they able to get proper treatment in case of illness. Their families are also uneducated and due to lack of income these women are not able to think much about their families. Their financial condition is so weak that they are not able to think of anything except food. During the interview some women said that they always have shortage of food items. These Dalit women do not have their own

land due to which these women can not do agriculture. Their small children also start searching for labour work because their families are not capable enough to do everything themselves. Due to all these problems, women are unable to maintain family balance and the family also appears scattered. Their financial condition is very weak because there is no proper and regular source of income. These dalit women are bound to suffer in this pathetic circumstances.

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