

A Co-relational Study of Age and Political Participation of Tribal Women in Udaipur District of Rajasthan

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Abstract

The status of women in various ages has gone through changes. We find that from the beginning of civilization where society was patriarchal even then women had an important role in family and society. Almost half of the mankind is really a womankind. This half, in every age and every land, has coexisted with men in a relationship which has varied between complete submission and complete equality. But, in the current era women need an overall empowerment. Though women now-a-days are rising their voice for equal rights and life with dignity but still there is a huge gap. Women participation in decision making bodies is an issue of empowerment and equality and when especially we focus on tribal women, they have been subjected to worst forms of exploitation. They are forced to adhere certain norms which may even take away her freedom, rights and even her dignity. The present study "Age correlates to political participation among tribal women of Udaipur district of Rajasthan" is aimed to find out the level of political participation among tribal women of Udaipur district which is being inhibited by dominantly by the local tribal families. The paper is basically based on empirical study which will bring out significant sociological aspects of tribal society of Rajasthan.

Key Words: Age, Tribal women, Rajasthan.

The issue of the status of women in society has been a matter of intense scrutiny and debate all over the world. They have lived as isolated entities for centuries, largely upraised by the male-dominated society around them. This seclusion has been responsible for the slower growth, dissimilar pattern of their socio-economic status and inability to negotiate

and cope with the consequences of their involuntary integration with the man-centered society and economy. The status of Indian women has undergone change with more and more women, particularly in urban India becoming economically independent. This has made them more practical in various occupations. But the question of gender inequality is still the main concern in India as majority of the rural Indian women remain uneducated or less educated and also economically dependent on their male family members. They are very poor and victims of domestic and social violence.

In almost all societies in almost all periods of history women have been treated as men's inferiors. Typically, women have been barred from owning property, from employment in any but menial service jobs, from holding public offices and even from voting. This discrimination has often been embodied in laws and even more often enforced by rigid social customs. As India is essentially a patriarchal and a multifaceted society, here the goal of equality between men and women is guaranteed by the country's constitution. The worth of a civilization can be judged from the position that it gives to its women. Of the several factors that justify the greatness of India's ancient culture, one of the greatest is the honored place ascribed to women. Despite this, there remains a great deal to be done to secure women's equal status in Indian society, especially when it comes to deprived or neglected groups such as tribal communities. These groups are judged unfairly and maltreated in the society. Their culture, languages and manners are regarded as 'jungalies' by the educated elites who assess them from the colonial perspectives.

In India tribals constitute a major portion of its population. The tribal population of the country, as per census 2011, i.e. 10.43 Crore constituting 8.6 percent of the tribal population which is 12.44 percent in Rajasthan. This tribal population lives in various ecological and geo climatic conditions ranging from plains and forests to hills and inaccessible areas. Although being an integral part of our society they are regarded as the most deprived section of the society. The situation of migrated tribals living in cities is very poor. The tribal women are more at risk of exploitation and have been kept isolated. They occupy an important share in the socio-economic structure of her society but her status has deteriorated from bad to worse and the crucial issues facing tribal women have not been pointedly discussed.

Around 41.83 lacs or say about 12.21 percent of entire population of Rajasthan belongs to scheduled tribes. The highest concentration is noticed in Banswara and Dungarpur districts, where their population compared to the total population of the districts, comes to 72.635, 64.44% respectively. Other districts with higher proportion are Udaipur (34.33%), Sirohi (23.11%), Sawai Madhopur (22.67%), Bundi (22.11%), Chittorgarh (18.16%) and Kota (14.83%). The tribals in the state are varied in ethnic composition and cultural pattern. Bhil, Meena, Garasia, Damor, and Saharia are the main tribes of the state. It is interesting to note that though formerly the tribal districts were showing low population growth, now they have become very high population growth, now they have become very high population growth regions.

Objectives of the Study

The present paper discusses political participation of tribal women of Udaipur district:-

- To find out the level of political participation among tribal women in Udaipur district.
- To analyze the political status of tribal women in the samples area
- To look into the social obstacles in the political participation of tribal women in Udaipur district.
- To find out the correlation between age and political participation of tribal women in the sampled area.

Methodology

For the purpose study, Udaipur district of Rajasthan have been selected because it is one which is a combination of tribal as well as non tribal population. The study is based on the reliable source of literature for the theoretical analysis and also secondary data is used for the preparation of this paper. Through purposive random sampling three Gram Panchayats from Kherwara tehsil were selected. All these Gram Panchayats : Kanpur, Theekwas, Navadra are in distance of 15-30 kilometers from their tehsil. Finally 100 sample

size was selected. The interview schedule was prepared for this study in which total 10 questions were included consisting closed, open ended and mixed type of questions. The study is based on primary data and age as a variable is used in it. Age plays a significant role in the process of development, awareness and participation in all societies. Age is very closely related to experiences and maturity. Which has an important impact on decision making in almost every sphere of life. Age as a major variable of this study, is further categorized in four groups; below 25, 25-40, 40-55, above 55. The collection of the data, classification, tabulation and indication were used to analyze the data systematically. While doing analysis, the percentage method has been used.

Age wise Analysis

Q. Do you give vote?

Table - 1

Age Group	Yes	No	Total
Below 25	10 (17.1%)	4 (10%)	14
25-40	33 (55.8%)	16 (38%)	49
40-55	10 (17.1%)	12 (27%)	22
55 & Above	6 (10.3%)	9 (21.7%)	15
Total	59 (100%)	41 (100%)	100

Table - 1 reveals that out of total sample of 100 tribal women, 58.5% that is 59 women give their vote according to their view and knowledge while 41.5% (83) tribal women give vote according to the will of the head of their family.

The data in the table also shows that majority of the tribal women who give their vote according to their knowledge and view belongs to the age-group of 25-40 years, that is, 55.5%, followed by the 17.1% in each of the age-group of below 25 and of 40-55 years. While the age-group of the above 55 & above had least percentage, that is 10.3% who give their votes according to their own view and knowledge respectively. Thus it is clear that tribal women belonging to the age-group of 25-40 years take their own decision and they have good decision power rather than the respondents of other age-group.

Table - 2**Knowledge regarding the Election held by Vidhan Sabha**

Age Level	Yes	No	Total
Below 25	0 (0.0%)	15 (14.6%)	15
25-40	1 (100.0%)	48 (48.5%)	49
40-55	0 (0.0%)	21 (21.7%)	21
Above 55	0 (0.0%)	15 (15.2%)	15
Total	1 (100%)	99 (100%)	100

Table - 2 shows the data about the elections of Vidhan Sabha which are held for the time duration of every five years and the answer in favour of this was given by large number of respondents, that is, 99 which is 99% of the total surveyed 100 respondents. As against this only 1 of the respondents had given answer of 3 years instead of 5 years and these two respondents belong to the 25-40 age-group of the tribal women. It is also surprised to see that out of 99 respondents, the highest share was of 25-40 age-group that is of 48.5% followed by 21.7% of 40-55 age-groups, 15.2% of above 55 years and 14.6% is of below 25 years respectively.

Table - 3 depicts that out of 100 surveyed tribal women, 68% (136) women know the name of Vidhayak, that is Member of Legislative Assembly of their relevant area while remaining 32% (64) doesn't know the name of their Vidhayak. This is well reflected below:-

Table - 3**Responses regarding the name of MLA in their Area by different Age-Group of Respondents**

Age Level	Yes	No	Total
Below 25	12 (18.4%)	2 (6.3%)	14
25-40	37 (54.4%)	12 (37.5%)	49
40-55	13 (18.4%)	9 (28.1%)	22
Above 55	6 (8.8%)	9 (28.1%)	15
Total	68 (100%)	64 (100%)	100

Table also reveals that out of 68 tribal women (who know the name of Vidhayak, that is Member of Legislative Assembly of their relevant area), 54.4% of the respondents belong to the 25-40 age-group which is highest while lowest share was of age-group of above 45 years.

Table - 4 The survey also indicates that 41 tribal women, i.e. 40.5% out of total 100, know the fact that there is 50% reservation of women in politics while around 60% of the respondents do not have any idea for the same. This is well reflected in the table - 4 as given below.

Table - 4
Awareness about 50% Reservation of Women in Politics

Age Level	Yes	No	Total
Below 25	7 (17.3%)	7 (12.6%)	14
25-40	25 (61.7%)	24 (40.3%)	49
40-55	6 (14.8%)	15 (26.1%)	21
Above 55	3 (6.2%)	13 (21.0%)	16
Total	41 (100%)	59 (100%)	100

Table also shows that out of 41 tribal women who have an idea about the reservation of the women in the politics, 25 comes under the category of 25-40 age-groups, which is 61.7% of the total 41 respondents followed by 7 (17.3%) of the below 25, 6 (14.8%) of the 40-55 age-groups and only 3 (6.2%) of the above 55 age-groups respectively. Thus it is clear that 25-40 age-group of respondents have more idea regarding to the 50% of reservation.

Table - 5 reveals that only 7 respondents out of the 100 meet with their administrator or leader for their problems while majority of the respondents, that is 93 (93.5%) have not discussed their problems with leader or administrator.

Table - 5**Responses related to the Discussions made with the Leader or An Administrator by different Age-Group**

Age Level	Yes	No	Total
Below 25	4 (53.8%)	11 (11.76%)	15
25-40	3 (46.15%)	46 (49.19%)	49
40-55	0 (0.0%)	21 (22.9%)	21
Above 55	0 (0.0%)	15 (16.04%)	15
Total	7 (100%)	93 (100%)	100

Table also clears that out of 7 respondents, the highest percentage is of age-group of below 25, that is 53.8% followed by 46.15% in age-group of 25-40 and nil was in remaining age-group. This shows that young tribal women do not hesitate in meeting their administrator or leader regarding their problems instead of those who belong to other age-groups.

Table - 6 shows that out of 100 respondents only 13, that is 6.5% have contested for the election while 93 that are 93.5% do not contested the election.

Table - 6**Responses of respondents related to the contest for Election**

Age Level	Yes	No	Total
Below 25	2 (30.79%)	12 (13.36%)	14
25-40	3 (38.46%)	46 (49.73%)	49
40-55	1 (23.07%)	20 (21.39%)	21
Above 55	1 (7.69%)	15 (15.50%)	16
Total	7 (100%)	93 (100%)	100

Table also depicts that the majority of 38.46% of the respondents of 25-40 age-group have participated in the election out of 7 followed by 30.79% of below 25, 23.09% of 40-55 age-group and 7.69% of the above 55 years respectively. This concludes that young generation also has keen interest in politics and contesting.

The data in the table - 7 indicates that out of 100 tribal women, 53.5% (53) women have participated in political activities and played active role. While 46.5% (47) of women respondents have not participated in any type of the political activity.

Table - 7
Share of Respondents in Political Activities

Age Level	Yes	No	Total
Below 25	9 (16.82%)	6 (11.82%)	15
25-40	28 (53.27%)	22 (44.08%)	50
40-55	10 (17.75%)	12 (25.80%)	22
Above 55	6 (12.14%)	7 (18.27%)	13
Total	53 (100%)	47 (100%)	100

Table also depicts that in the participation in political activities, the highest share was of 25-40 age-group of tribal women that is 53.27% followed by 25-40 age-group of tribal women (17.75%), 16.8% was of below 25 and lowest share was of above 55 age-group which was of 12.14% respectively. Thus this table shows that adult tribal women are more active in participating in political activities than the youngsters.

Table - 8 depicts that 78 are those respondents whose family or family members do not give any cooperation or promoted them for participating in political activities. While 22 are those respondents, whose family members promoted them in participating for the same as shown in the table given below-

Table - 8
Responses related to the Cooperation and Support by Family Members of various Age-Group of Respondents

Age Level	Yes	No	Total
Below 25	6 (27.9%)	8 (10.8%)	14
25-40	12 (55.8%)	37 (47.1%)	39
40-55	3 (13.9%)	18 (23.6%)	21
Above 55	1 (2.3%)	15 (18.5%)	16

Total	22 (100%)	78 (100%)	100
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The table also depicts that the highest cooperation from the family was received by 25-40 age-group of the respondents that is of 55.8% followed by 29.9% in below 25 age-group of respondents, 13.9% by 40-55 age-groups and least cooperation received is by above 55 years of age-group. This shows that in the changing atmosphere young generation is becoming more comfortable and liberal with their families.

Table - 9 indicates that out of total surveyed 100 respondents, only 23 (23%) are given importance in their family in making important decisions and rest of the respondents 77 (77%) do not receive any importance in making any opinion or consent on important decisions of the family.

Table - 9

Importance received by Family Members in making consent on important Decisions

Age Level	Yes	No	Total
Below 25	4 (19.6%)	10 (12.9%)	14
25-40	14 (60.8%)	35 (45.5%)	49
40-55	3 (13.0%)	18 (24.0%)	21
Above 55	2 (6.5%)	14 (17.5%)	16
Total	23 (100%)	77 (100%)	100

Table also shows that the 25-40 age-groups of tribal women has received more importance while taking any decision related to the family and their percentage was more than 60%. Second importance was received by the age-group of below 25 with 19.6% followed by the age-group of 40-55 with 13% and rest of 6.5% are from the age-group of above 55 years respectively. The reason may be that they are more informative and have good understanding on the issues compared to the others.

Table - 10 is related to the free schemes which were presently started by the state government in favour of women. This table shows that only 20% of the total 100 respondents have given answer in favour of this question while 80% do not have any idea related to it.

Table - 10

Awareness regarding the free Schemes started for Women

Age Level	Yes	No	Total
Below 25	3 (17.5%)	11 (13.8%)	14
25-40	13 (62.5%)	36 (45.6%)	49
40-55	2 (12.5%)	19 (23.8%)	21
Above 55	2 (7.5%)	14 (16.9%)	16
Total	20 (100%)	80 (100%)	100

Table also shows that out of these 20 respondents which was 20% of the total, the highest proportion was of 25-40 age-group (62.5) followed by the age-group of below 25 (17.5), 40-55 (12.5) and above 55 (7.5) respectively. Thus the table concludes that 25-40 age-group of respondents are more active, more aware and knowledgeable as compared to the other respondents.

Conclusion & Suggestions

It is clear from the above analysis that age plays a significant role in the perception of social behaviour and political understanding of the respondents. Age has a major impact on different social groups. Age is directly correlated to experience and maturity. The responses of the surveyed tribal women shows that although younger generation (age groups belong to 25-40) is more aware about political activities and their rights which results into their increase in political participation. They are more energetic, more participatory and more keen towards the issues of local politics but as compared to the respondents of senior age groups (40-55 and above 55), we can say that the respondents belonging to these age groups have maturity in decision making. They are more free to think as their experiences and observations have inculcated self confidence among them. It makes them more participatory towards political issues. The new developments in technology, powerful role of media and voluntary services have also contributed positively for the betterment of tribal women in Udaipur district. Still, a lot is to be done efforts such as proper implementation of plans and policies, attitudinal change in society, strong role of civil society, development of proper communication are required to ensure that women's political participation go ahead which

will help to foster new image of women who enters into politics at their own with self confidence and perform independently.

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साक्षात्कार सूची

व्यक्तिगत जानकारी

1. नाम
2. पिता/पति का नाम
3. आयु
4. जाति
5. धर्म
6. शिक्षा
7. व्यवसाय
8. परिवार की वार्षिक आय रु.
9. विवाहित/अविवाहित
10. एकल/संयुक्त परिवार

उत्तरदाता की राजनीतिक जागरूकता एवं भागीदारी

1. आप वोट देने जाती है?
 - (अ) हाँ
 - (ब) नहीं
2. आप जानती है कि इस समय राजस्थान में कौन से दल की सरकार है?
 - (अ) कांग्रेस
 - (ब) बी.जे.पी.
3. क्या आप आपके क्षेत्र के विधायक का नाम जानती है?
 - (अ) हाँ
 - (ब) नहीं
 यदि हाँ, तो क्या नाम है?
4. क्या आप जानती है कि स्थानीय स्तर पर राजनीति में महिलाओं को 50 प्रतिशत आरक्षण प्राप्त है?
 - (अ) हाँ
 - (ब) नहीं
5. क्या आप अपनी किसी समस्या को लेकर किसी नेता या प्रशासक से मिली है?
 - (अ) हाँ
 - (ब) नहीं
6. आपने कभी चुनाव लड़ा है?
 - (अ) हाँ
 - (ब) नहीं
 यदि हाँ, तो किस पद के लिए
7. क्या आपने किसी राजनीतिक गतिविधि में सक्रिय भाग लिया है?

(अ) हाँ

(ब) नहीं

8. क्या आपका परिवार और उसके सदस्य आपको राजनीति में भागीदारी के लिए समर्थन और सहयोग देते हैं?

(अ) हाँ

(ब) नहीं

9. क्या आपके परिवार में लिये जाने वाले महत्वपूर्ण निर्णयों में आपकी राय या सहमति ली जाती है?

(अ) हाँ

(ब) नहीं

10. क्या आपको वर्तमान राज्य सरकार द्वारा महिलाओं के हित में चलायी जाने वाली निःशुल्क योजनाओं की जानकारी है?

(अ) हाँ

(ब) नहीं

यदि हाँ, तो कौनसी योजनाओं के बारे में आप जानती है?

