Socio Economic Status of Tribal Women in Kashmir

Saveela Salam* & Dr. Muzamil Jan

*Research Scholar, Institute of Home Science, University of Kashmir (J&K), India. Email: saveela.thoker@gmail.com

Senior Assistant Professor, Institute of Home Science, University of Kashmir (J&K), India.

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ABSTRACT

Socio-Economic Status (SES) is an obscure perception of two diverse phases, the sociological phase and the economic phase. The sociological phase includes class or place surrounded by a communal stratification and the financial phase includes assets such as, livelihood, earnings as well as possessions. Tribal women contain multidimensional roles and household tasks in their families but she is still lagging behind. The present study was carried out in Kashmir valley to analyze the Socio Economic Status of tribal women in respective to their categories, educational status and marital status. Out of 2, 19,774 tribal women in Kashmir valley, 1031 tribal women were taken by applying proportionate stratified random sampling technique. To collect information, a standardized scale “Socio Economic Scale” constructed by Kalia and Sahu was administered during the data collection. The results of the present study reveal that tribal women in Kashmir have low socio cultural, economic, health and educational status.

Keywords: Tribal women, Kashmir, Role, Participation, Socio economic status, Health status, Educational status, Cultural status.

1. Introduction

Jammu and Kashmir is a living space to moderately various tribal groups, who have settled down in each specialty and hoodlum of this rugged scene [7]. Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) have 12 booked tribes Balti, Beda, Boti, Boto, Brokpa, Drokpa, Dard, and shin. Changpa, Garra, mon, Purigpa, Gujjar, Bakerwal, Gaddi, and Sippi spread more than three areas Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh. These tribes got ancestral status during the residency of the Chandra Shekhar government in 1991. All the 12 scheduled tribes were counted authoritatively just because during the 2001 census recording a populace of 1,105,979. The scheduled tribes represent 10.9 percent of the all-out populace of the state and 1.3 percent of the absolute ancestral populace of the nation [17]. Out of twelve ancestral of J&K Gujjar has a most noteworthy populace of 763,806 followed by Bot (96,698), Bakerwal (60,724), and Brokpa (51,957) though Balti, Purigpa and Gaddi have populace running from 38,188 down to 35,765. Staying five clans, Sippi, Changpa, Mon, Garra, and Beda comprise 1.9 percent. Beda 128 among all the clans. Gujjar is occupied in Punch and Rajouri locale, trailed by Anantnag, Udhampur, and Doda areas. Bot, Bakerwal, and Brokpa clans are possessed in Leh, Anantnag and Baramulla locale individually. Balti and Purigpa live in the Kargil area; Gaddi is in the Kathua region [2]. The status of women in a society is a significant reflection of the level of social justice in that society. Women’s status is often described in terms of their level of income employment, education, and health, roles within the family, the community and society. In tribal communities, the role of women is substantial and crucial because they work harder and the family economy and management depends on them [5]. Tribal women in Jammu and Kashmir are more diligent than tribal men and contribute a lot to the ancestor’s earnings; however their sources of earnings are restricted. Low incomes require further labor, so they are unwilling to propel their children to formal schools. Furthermore, due to the low rank of learning in common, their level of consciousness is too low and they are liable to overlook basic health conditions. The status of tribal women in education, employment as well as health is not only low than that of tribal men, but also compared to women in the general population [16].

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2. Review of Related Literature

Tribal women work with their male counterparts in most of the economic activities. Moreover, the Gaddi women also help their male counterparts in farming activities which is the main source of their income and they also engage themselves in spinning and weaving activities to boost their economy that have given them a special economic power in their society. However, the freedom of mobility varies with the age groups and status of families. Women belonging to families with higher status are allowed to go out whereas women of lower status families face bunch of restrictions in going out [13]. Women in tribal society plays an important role in improving the economic conditions of their families by participating in various economic activities but still their status is found to be very low. Also the results show that lack of education; infant mortality rate, poor health status, leadership qualities and low level of wage work are becoming major obstacles to the socio-economic empowerment of tribal women in the study area [14]. Sex ratio among tribal is advanced in all districts of Jammu and Kashmir except district Srinagar and Baramulla. The female literacy rate among tribal is very low in Jammu and Kashmir as compared to non tribes. Furthermore the work participation rate of women is higher in both rural as well as urban areas. Moreover the practice of dowry seems to be absent in most of the districts of Jammu and Kashmir, but the practice of child marriage is still on peak [9]. Most of the tribal women were illiterate and the reasons behind their illiteracy were; long distance from home to school, poor socio-economic status, medium of language and transport difficulty. However, the Buddhist women were working as laborer in constructing buildings and roads while low percent of Muslim women were working as labour because they are often not permitted to go outside their home and were restricted to do such kind of work [8]. Positive changes are taking place in the socio, economic, political and educational lives of the tribal women. However, the tribal women remain to a large extent out-of-the-way and out of reach of the helping hand due to ignorance and illiteracy to bring real changes expected in their lives [15].

3. Objectives

(1) To study the Socio Economic Status of tribal women in Kashmir.

(2) To analyze various components of Socio Economic Status among tribal women in Kashmir.

4. Material and Methods

The present study is carried out in tribal areas of Kashmir. The sample size for the study was extracted by using proportionate stratified random sampling technique at the confidence level of 99 per cent at Error (Marginal error) 0.04, p (population proportion) 0.05, and Z² 2.576. The sample size thus obtained was 1031 tribal women. Both primary and secondary data was utilized to obtain relevant information.

5. Results and Discussion

Table 1 depicts 84.1 per cent (f=651) Gujjar, 82.4 per cent (f=42) Bakerwal tribal women and 80.1 per cent (f=165) Other Generic tribe women have low level of socio-cultural status. While as, only 9.9 per cent (f=77) Gujjar, 5.9 per cent (f=3) Bakerwal and 12.1 per cent (f=25) other generic tribe women enjoy high socio-cultural status. Moreover, 83.6 per cent (f=808) ever married tribal women have low socio-cultural status, followed by 76.9 per cent, (f=50) never married women. While as, only 9.8 per cent (f=95) ever married women and 15.4 per cent (f=10) never
married women enjoy high socio cultural status. About 83.0 per cent (f= 665) illiterate tribal women, followed by 83.9 per cent (f=193) literate women enjoy low level of socio-cultural status. Only, 10.2 per cent (f=82) illiterate women, followed by 10.0 per cent (f=23) literate women enjoy high socio cultural status. Tribal women lack control of material and social resources. However, environment and ecological factors have given tribal women a special economic power but still, the community is in the hands of men and they continue to dominate in public, social and religious affairs [3].

Table 1. Socio-Cultural Status of Tribal Women

| Variables                  | High | Moderate | Low  | \( \chi^2 \) Analysis |
|---------------------------|------|---------|------|------------------------|
|                           | F    | %      | F    | %                      |                           |
| **Category**              |      |        |      |                        |                           |
| Gujjar                    | 77   | 9.9    | 46   | 5.9                    | \( \chi^2=5.053, \text{ df}=4, \ p =.282 \) |
| Bakerwal                  | 3    | 5.9    | 6    | 11.8                   | 82.4                     |
| Other Generic Tribes      | 25   | 12.1   | 16   | 7.8                    | 80.1                     |
| **Marital Status**        |      |        |      |                        |                           |
| Ever Married              | 95   | 9.8    | 63   | 6.5                    | \( \chi^2=2.299, \text{ df}=2, \ p =.317 \) |
| Never Married             | 10   | 15.4   | 5    | 7.6                    | 76.9                     |
| **Educational Status**    |      |        |      |                        |                           |
| Illiterate                | 82   | 10.2   | 54   | 6.7                    | \( \chi^2=.143, \text{ df}=2, \ p =.931 \) |
| Literate                  | 23   | 10.0   | 14   | 6.1                    | 83.9                     |

*Based on field survey, n=1031, Column % age, \( \chi^2 \) denotes chi square, df denotes degree of freedom and \( p \) denotes level of significance.*

Table 2 reveal that most of tribal women i.e. 93.3 per cent (f= 722) Gujjar, 94.1 per cent (f=48) Bakerwal and 93.2 per cent (f=192) other generic tribe women have low level of economic status. While as, only 0.3 per cent (f=2) Gujjar women enjoy high economic status. Furthermore, it is noted that majority i.e. 93.7 per cent (f= 905) ever married tribal women, followed by 87.7 per cent (f=57) never married women enjoy low level of economic status. About 93.8 per cent (f=751) illiterate tribal women and 91.7 per cent (f=211) literate women have low economic status. While as, only 0.1 percent (f=1) illiterate women and 0.4 per cent (f=1) literate women enjoy high economic
status. Tribal people are considerably poorer in contrast with the general population as they are lagging behind in terms of the social, economic and political fields [11]. Condition of tribal women is still far behind due to unhealthy surroundings, early marriage, and negligence of health and lack of medication during pregnancy as well as post delivery care [12].

Table 2. Economic Status of Tribal Women

| Variables        | High   | Moderate | Low     | \( \chi^2 \) Analysis  |
|------------------|--------|----------|---------|-------------------------|
| Category         |        |          |         |                         |
| Gujar            | 2 | 0.3 | 50 | 6.5 | 722 | 93.3 | \( \chi^2 = .728, \text{ df}=4, \text{ p} = .948 \) |
| Bakerwal         | 0 | 0.0 | 3 | 5.9 | 48 | 94.1 | \( \chi^2 = .128, \text{ df}=4, \text{ p} = .948 \) |
| Other Generic Tribes | 0 | 0.0 | 14 | 6.8 | 192 | 93.2 |
| Marital Status   |        |          |         |                         |
| Ever Married     | 2 | 0.2 | 59 | 6.1 | 905 | 93.7 | \( \chi^2 = 3.971, \text{ df}=2, \text{ p} = .137 \) |
| Never Married    | 0 | 0.0 | 8 | 12.3 | 57 | 87.7 | \( \chi^2 = 1.766, \text{ df}=2, \text{ p} = .414 \) |
| Educational Status |        |          |         |                         |
| Illiterate       | 1 | 0.1 | 49 | 6.1 | 751 | 93.8 | \( \chi^2 = .128, \text{ df}=4, \text{ p} = .948 \) |
| Literate         | 1 | 0.4 | 18 | 7.8 | 211 | 91.7 | \( \chi^2 = 1.766, \text{ df}=2, \text{ p} = .414 \) |

Based on field survey, n=1031, Column % age, \( \chi^2 \) denotes chi square, df denotes degree of freedom, p denotes level of significance.

Table 3 reveals that 99.4 per cent (f=769) Gujar, 100 per cent (f=51) Bakerwal and 98.1 per cent (f=202) other generic tribe women have low health status. Moreover, 99.1 per cent (f=957) ever married and 100 per cent (f=65) never married tribal women have low health status. Similarly, 99.3 per cent, (f=795) illiterate and 98.7 per cent (f=227) literate tribal women have low health status. Lack of proper health education, ignorance, poor maternal and child health services, absence of sanitary and living conditions are responsible factors for poor health status of tribal’s [6]. Mostly tribal women rely on home remedy for the treatment of any sickness, most of the tribal women suffered from a number of diseases such as anemia, gynecological disease, goiter, etc [10].
Table 3. Health Status of Tribal Women

| Variables | Low | Moderate | \( \chi^2 \) Analysis |
|-----------|-----|----------|----------------------|
|           | F   | %    | F | % |
| **Category** |       |       |    |    |       |       |       |       |
| Gujar | 769 | 99.4 | 5  | 0.6 | \( \chi^2=3.629, df=2, p =.163 \) |
| Bakerwal | 51  | 100.0 | 0  | 0.0 |       |       |       |       |
| Other Generic Tribes | 202 | 98.1 | 4  | 1.9 |       |       |       |       |
| **Marital Status** |       |       |    |    |       |       |       |       |
| Ever Married | 957 | 99.1 | 9  | 0.9 | \( \chi^2=611, df=1, p =.434 \) |
| Never Married | 65  | 100.0 | 0  | 0.0 |       |       |       |       |
| **Educational Status** |       |       |    |    |       |       |       |       |
| Illiterate | 795 | 99.3 | 6  | 0.7 | \( \chi^2=637, df=1, p =.425 \) |
| Literate | 227 | 98.7 | 3  | 1.3 |       |       |       |       |

*Based on field survey, n=1031, Column % age, \( \chi^2 \) denotes chi square, df denotes degree of freedom, p denotes level of significance.*

Table 4 observes that 87.6 per cent (f=678) Gujjar, 82.4 per cent (f=42) Bakerwal and 83.5 percent (f=172) other generic tribe women have low educational status. While as, only 1.0 per cent (f=8) Gujjar and 1.0 per cent (f=2) other generic tribe women have high educational status. Furthermore, 86.3 per cent (f=834) ever married women and 89.2 per cent (f=58) never married women have low educational status. Due to the non availability of schools in tribal areas, parental attitude, medium of language, parental attitude and migration, the education level of tribal’s in Jammu and Kashmir is meaningless and insufficient[4]. Very less number of girls goes to the school, as their parents are not interested in sending their daughters to the school. Most of the parents, were of the opinion that their daughters are only for household chores so, if they will send them to the school then who will do the household chores and take care of their cattle’s [18]. Tribal women need to provide education so that they can change their way of life and they can play a leading role in the betterment of society [19].
Table 4. Educational Status of Tribal Women

| Variables               | High |          | Moderate |          | Low |          | \( \chi^2 \) Analysis |
|-------------------------|------|----------|----------|----------|-----|----------|------------------------|
|                         | F    | %        | F        | %        | F   | %        | \( \chi^2 \) = 4.537, df=4, p=.338 |
| **Category**            |      |          |          |          |     |          |                        |
| Gujjar                  | 8    | 1.0      | 88       | 11.4     | 678 | 87.6     |                        |
| Bakerwal                | 0    | 0.0      | 9        | 17.6     | 42  | 82.4     |                        |
| Other Generic Tribes    | 2    | 1.0      | 32       | 15.5     | 172 | 83.5     |                        |
| **Marital Status**      |      |          |          |          |     |          | \( \chi^2 \) = 1.913, df=2, p=.384 |
| Ever Married            | 10   | 1.0      | 122      | 12.6     | 834 | 86.3     |                        |
| Never Married           | 0    | 0.0      | 7        | 10.8     | 58  | 89.2     |                        |
| **Educational Status**  |      |          |          |          |     |          | \( \chi^2 \) = .368, df=2, p=.832 |
| Illiterate              | 7    | 0.9      | 101      | 12.6     | 693 | 86.5     |                        |
| Literate                | 3    | 1.3      | 28       | 12.2     | 199 | 86.5     |                        |

Based on field survey, \( n=1031 \), Column \% age, \( \chi^2 \) denotes chi square, df denotes degree of freedom, p denotes level of significance.

Table 5 reveals that 88.0 per cent (f=681) Gujjar, 82.4 per cent (f=42) Bakerwal and 85.0 per cent (f=175) other generic tribe women have low socio-economic status. Whereas, only 4.8 per cent (f=37) Gujjar, 5.9 percent (f= 3) Bakerwal and 4.4 percent (f=9) other generic tribe women enjoy high socio-economic status. Moreover, 87.3 per cent (f=843) ever married women, followed by 86.6 per cent (f=55) never married tribal women have low socio-economic status. About, 87.4 per cent (f=700) illiterate, followed by 84.1 per cent (f=198) literate tribal women enjoy low socio-economic status. Mostly Gujjar and Bakerwal of Jammu and Kashmir depend on their agriculture and cattle for their livelihood.

There is a wide spread poverty, illiteracy, and backwardness among tribal’s due to which their socio-economic and educational status doesn’t remain satisfactory [1].
**Table 5. Socio-Economic Status of Tribal women**

| Variables                  | High | Moderate | Low | \( \chi^2 \) Analysis |
|----------------------------|------|----------|-----|------------------------|
| **Category**               |      |          |     |                        |
| Gujjar                     | 37   | 56       | 681 | \( \chi^2=3.744, df=4, p =.442 \) |
| Bakerwal                   | 3    | 6        | 42  |                        |
| Other Generic Tribes       | 9    | 22       | 175 |                        |
| **Educational Status**     |      |          |     |                        |
| Illiterate                 | 38   | 63       | 700 | \( \chi^2=.387 \) df=2, p=.824 |
| Literate                   | 11   | 21       | 198 |                        |
| **Marital Status**         |      |          |     |                        |
| Ever Married               | 45   | 78       | 843 | \( \chi^2=.436 \) df=2, p=.804 |
| Never Married              | 4    | 6        | 55  |                        |

Based on Field Survey. \( n=1031 \), Column % age, \( \chi^2 \) denotes chi square, df denotes degree of freedom, \( p \) denotes level of significance.

**Table 6(a). Descriptive analysis of Socio-Economic Status of Tribal Women**

| Variables                  | N    | M    | SD  |
|----------------------------|------|------|-----|
| **Socio-Cultural Status**  |      |      |     |
| Gujjar                     | 774  | 9.14 | 2.378 |
| Bakerwal                   | 51   | 8.80 | 2.676 |
| Other Generic Tribes       | 206  | 9.12 | 2.640 |
| **Economic Status**        |      |      |     |
| Gujjar                     | 774  | 2.38 | 1.007 |
| Bakerwal                   | 51   | 2.25 | 0.956 |
### Table 6(b). Analysis of Socio-Economic Status of Tribal Women

| Variables                      | Sum of Squares | df | Mean Square | F    | p-value |
|--------------------------------|----------------|----|-------------|------|---------|
| **Socio-cultural Status**      |                |    |             |      |         |
| Between Groups                 | 5.476          | 2  | 2.738       | .457 | .633    |
| Within Groups                  | 6157.610       | 1028| 5.990       |      |         |
| Total                          | 6163.086       | 1030|             |      |         |
| **Economic Status**            |                |    |             |      |         |
| Between Groups                 | .795           | 2  | .397        | .401 | .670    |
| Within Groups                  | 1019.808       | 1028| .992        |      |         |

*Source: Field survey, M = Mean, SD = Standard Deviation*
| Health Status          | Total | 1020.603 | 1030 |
|------------------------|-------|----------|------|
|                        | Between Groups | 1.073 | 2 | .537 | 1.839 | .159 |
|                        | Within Groups   | 299.947 | 1028 | .292 |
| Total                  | 301.020 | 1030 |

| Educational Status     | Total | 2300.846 | 1030 |
|------------------------|-------|----------|------|
|                        | Between Groups | 6.832 | 2 | 3.416 | 3.531 | .027 |
|                        | Within Groups   | 2294.013 | 1028 | 2.232 |
| Total                  | 2300.846 | 1030 |

| Socio Economic Status  | Total | 30145.653 | 1030 |
|------------------------|-------|----------|------|
|                        | Between Groups | 75.533 | 2 | 37.767 | 4.291 | .025 |
|                        | Within Groups   | 30070.119 | 1028 | 29.251 |
| Total                  | 30145.653 | 1030 |

Source: Field Survey, df = Degree of freedom, p – value = significance level

Table 6(b) shows the differences in the mean scores of socio-economic status. There are insignificant differences in the mean score of socio cultural status $f (2, 1028) .457, p=.633$ and economic status $f (2, 1028) .401, p=.670$ among the categories of tribal women. However, significant differences are found in the mean scores of educational status $f (2, 1028) 3.531, p=.027$ and socio economic status $f (2, 1028) 4.291, p=.025$, among the categories of tribal women.

6. Conclusion

Tribal women are more important than any social group because they work harder and the family capital and execution depend on them. Women in ethnic community face problems and challenges in getting a sustainable life due to environmental degradation and the interference of outsiders. Economically poor and socially backward tribal women live with a low standard of quality of life. As a result, tribal women often face food insecurity, malnutrition, lack of access to healthcare and education services, and become victims of domestic violence. Unlike well-organized modern communities, tribal women and indigenous people lag far behind in terms of social media and other facilities in almost every field. Kashmiri tribal women lag behind socially, economically and educationally. Although, they work hard, but their socio cultural status, educational status and health status remains low. After the detailed discussion and interpretation of socio-economic status of tribal women in Kashmir some suggestions can be proposed to carry further research on tribal women to improve their situation: (i) The Government, civil
societies, research scholars, NGO’s should come forward to highlight the tribal women issues, so that their pathetic situation could be improved. (ii) More research is needed in the field of education, health and employment to provide more attention to raise the socio economic status of tribal women.

Declarations

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Competing Interests Statement

The authors declare no competing financial, professional and personal interests.

Ethical Approval

The participants completed a socio economic status interview schedule and gave their consent before enrolling in the study. The study was approved by the University of Kashmir, Jammu and Kashmir, Srinagar.

Consent for publication

Authors declare that they consented for the publication of this research work.

Availability of data and material

Authors are willing to share the data and material according to relevant needs.

Authors’ Contributions

All authors equally contributed in data analysis and paper drafting.

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