

TRADITIONALISM CHALLENGED DUE TO ACCELERATION OF MODERNIZATION AMONG TRIBAL WOMEN IN INDIA

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Abstract: Now a days, Empowerment of Women has become a fashionable concept. Especially in India the concept of empowerment has assumed different dimension, which is commonly used in two ways: empowerment of Scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and women. Of course, the Panchayath Raj has given new powers to women at different levels. Inequality is the mark of society. In almost all societies, there are differences in power between persons. Power has become relevant today in the context of the upliftment of women. The present day women empowerment is largely based on biological and natural qualities. The beauty contests as we find today all over India promote the natural gist of women and carry the ideology of dominant class. The women all over the world have been fighting against inequality between men and women, male and female. Fundamental rights of freedom, justice, dignity and equality for women are considered as essential prerequisites for national building. Indeed, in India during the middle of eighties the women were put between tradition and modernity. In the tribal society there is no problem of dowry. Instead, they have pride price a system. Traditionalism in Hindu society is a great force. She has to be a chaste as fire. An analysis of women studies brings about the fact that the grass-root women are vibrant with power.

Keywords: Concept of empowerment, Gender discrimination between male and female, need of women's studies. The empowerment of women in panchayath Raj.

Introduction: Now a days, Empowerment of Women has become a fashionable concept. Especially in our country the concept of empowerment has assumed different dimensions, which is commonly used in two ways: Empowerment of scheduled castes, Empowerment of scheduled tribes and women. The empowerment of women in the panchayath Raj in India has the basic objective to involve women in developmental action. Three types of programmes have been initiated in the interest of the tribal women. In the first category of the programme the central Government has the total responsibility of spending money on tribal women empowerment. The second category of programmes are called as individual beneficiaries programmes, which are categorised under three heads: Education, Irrigation, and Training, and the third category of developmental programmes are known as self-employment schemes. Indeed, the tribal society is not an hierarchical society. On the other hand it is a society which largely runs on tribal traditions and customary laws. If the tribal women have to improve their life style on par with men, some of the social evils have to be reformed.

In India during the middle of eighties the women were put between tradition and modernity. There have been efforts by traditional forces to keep the women restricted to home. This kind of traditionalism was challenged due to the spread of education and acceleration of modernization. The change of wind is not restricted to urban India only. It has gone also to villages. In the tribal society there is no problem of dowry, instead they have bride price a system. A male gets his wife in lieu of the wealth

paid by him to the parents of wife. As a matter of fact widowhood is no problem among tribals. It would not be wrong to say that widows are exception in this society. Soon after the death of husband, the wife enters into alliance with another husband, and therefore she does not remain widow. Only in the advanced age when the old wife does not find an old husband, she remains a widow. Traditionalism in Hindu society is a great force in India. A woman at least theoretically has a value of virginity. She has to be as chaste as fire. Any premarital or extramarital relations of women are looked with condemnation. A little suspicion can render the life of Hindu women to hell. The family structure among the Hindus and Tribals is also different. In Hindu society there is male domination, women are inferior in the family, but the situation has been improved now a days, and they are being equal opportunities like male in all fields of the society. It is hoped that the birth of a son gives a salvation to the parents. But no such values are attached to the birth of a son in tribal family. On the other hand, the birth of a daughter in a tribal family is an occasion of joy. When she grows up and is married; she brings bride wealth. So more the birth of daughters in a family more there is pumping of money in the tribal family. The tribal society like any other society is not homogeneous. There are divisions in tribal society. Even during medieval periods there were tribal rulers and the masses of tribals. While living in the hilly region the tribals either depended on hunting and game or lived a pastoral and food gatherer status. In such a society the status of women was quite ordinary. All the arduous and risk involving

work was done by the male-folk. In this society women were treated softly.

Tribal women are able to perform several other activities like cooking, washing, fishing, dairying, spinning and weaving, making pickles and pappads for home use as well as sale, childcare, collection of fuel, fodder and water. But still their work is not considered economically productive. The governments should consider them as workers in society. Considering the status of tribals through different stages of historical development it could be said that the tribals have lived in isolation right from ancient Indian history to Independence. In the changing circumstances the tribal women who have been taken to Government jobs, accepted political

life, and have settled in urban areas and encounter a degree of discrimination. Yet, those who have not yet been introduced economy, education, politics etc, should be empowered.

Conclusion: Thus, it is very necessary to implement some reformative laws and procedures in the interest of the tribal women in India. In modern days the dress pattern of tribal women has witnessed changes, the tribal men also have come on par with the non-tribal men in the dress pattern. The changes brought about by force of modernization including education, urbanization, have made changes which overwhelmed the changes brought about by empowerment of tribal women in India.

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