

The Status of the Human Rights among Tribal Women Workers: A Case Study of Vadodara District in Gujarat State

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Abstract

Human rights are prime condition for human dignity. As per law of nature this is the fundamental right to enjoy it for betterment of life. But in present era, it has become violated concern with targeted tribal women group in the study area. They become discriminated and exploited in various ways at side during work or searching the employment. Thus this significant segment of the society has gone too far and far day by day from main stream of development. They are unable to get what they deserve and the whole family life cycle adversely effected since long.

Key words- Human rights, tribal women workers, vadodara, gujarat

Introduction

Gujarat is one of the tribal dominant states in the country. The whole family of the tribal engaged in labor work in the marble factory, construction work and agriculture labor. According to annual report of Tribal department 2001, female tribal workers are 47.8% and among them 49.7% belong to marginal workers category. Due to destitution of the resources for livelihood they are going to be migrated outside. There all family members have been engaged in earning process try to survive the living. Unfortunately they are losing their natural family life or the ground to enjoy the fundamental rights. They are victims of vulnerability; their children are not getting proper education and developmental caring as desired. Among the tribal women workers the literacy rate is very low. They don't have any social life and suffer from human made violation at work place. Mostly it becomes in hidden situation due to some socio-economic force but ultimately their human rights are being disturbed on the ground of equity and equality.

This Scenario scratches the need to search reality and sustainability of the present situation regarding human rights among the target group of tribal society. It is essential to save dignity beyond gender base. Thus the study focus on equity issues in the light of Gandhian vision. So, this deprived group

could secure proper place in main stream of nation's development without losing their dignity. The study opens the most practicable space as a part of solution. Such ray of hope in this darkness has an academic significance in future relevance. It's likely to contribute as-

- It will contribute to bring awareness and help to improve the livelihood among women worker segment of tribal community.
- It will be able to sensitize and aware the tribal women to carry and enjoy their Human Rights towards better living.
- This may also open the way to facilitate the healthier environment and protect life with human dignity.

Objectives of the study are-

- a. To identify and define the indications of exploitation of the tribal women
- b. Analysis the causes responsible for exploitation
- c. It's impact on their socio-economic and cultural development
- d. Ultimately define the status of Human Rights among above group

Experimental

Hypothesis

1. Human Rights of tribal women workers are violated at their work place such as right to life, right to livelihood, right to property and right to education or welfare etc
2. They are unorganized; therefore they can't enjoy Human Right.

Research area and respondents

Geographically it covers tribal region of Vadodara district in Gujarat State. Subjectively it is concern or limit with tribal women worker towards their dignity and empowerment as enjoying the human rights. 50 female workers, belongs to tribal society from research area are our respondents. They have been selected according to opinion of local people by using the PRA technique.



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Details of methods and tools

Survey method has been applied to prove the hypothesis by using the schedules, interview, participatory observation and open individual as well as group discussion also along with exercised during research work. SPSS (Statistical Programme for Social Sciences) and relevant statistical tools have been practiced to manage the collected data.

Result and Discussion

Indicators of exploitation faced by the tribal women workers:-

The researcher has taken following measures to analysis the situation of exploitation of tribal women at work place. This are-

1. It is clear that most of the women get lower wages than male workers. Because it is the assumption that women worker can't work hard as a man.
2. The women worker actually carry more load physically as well as mental stress than male workers at work place.
3. It shows vary worst situation regarding regular wages payment. Only 30% are able to get daily wage while it is hard and fast need to assure day to day remuneration for their food or other essential fundamental needs. So they exploited at work place under pressure.
4. Respondent mentioned that they become sexually harassed at work place by the contractor or Dalal who provide them the work opportunity to them.
5. The tribal women worker said that they don't have even pure water at work place while the basic conditions that are essential like leave wages during pregnancy, time for feeding to children as well as Doll house (palana ghar) for them are under question mark.
6. The situation is very poor regarding in the practices specified for facilities and welfare scheme as well as legal provisions for the same. They become discriminated in the men dominant work culture.
7. The women workers express the views that mostly men pass abuse and vulgar comments or teasing in various ways. It become due to poor economic conditions and helpless situation due to migration.

8. In the four walls at home these women experienced or suffered with general community's customs which are the violation of existing related laws.
9. Sexual harassment at the workplace against the notice of Supreme Court of India is found which constitutes a serious violation of women's fundamental rights to freedom and equality.

Analysis of causes responsible for exploitation

1. Need of work or income
In the tribe community mostly whole family involved to get remuneration or wage. Otherwise they can't survive in the present era. Thus they tolerate unfair behavior of the employer or manager at site.
2. Unemployment pressure
Due to low agriculture and other income generation means they become under pressure of unemployment.
3. Speedy lose of natural resource
Tribal depends on nature for their living. But due to human greed the forest cut blindly. So like orphan they become out of home for the purpose of survive.
4. Migration effect
The adjoining cause is migration. Due to hand to mouth situation they have helpless against any type of violation
5. Economic discrimination
Due to lack of implementation of labor law and protection assurance these respondents are getting lower wages in comparison of male candidates. Besides of this living protection near residential place in city or work site is very poor and discriminate.
6. Addiction
Mostly male members in the family are addicted of drink and smoking etc. So the major portion of the income expense on it and this is the prime cause of the poverty. Ultimately the respondents suffer for survival of themselves.
7. Lack of moral system in the society
Due to effect of westernization (blindly follow up) their moral system going to be break. In this direction the high level of unsatisfied physical desires of respondents raised but lastly they were being cheated by so called civilized society.



8. Illiteracy

Innocence behaves and lowers level of understanding this world with in time.

It's impact on their socio-economic and cultural development

Due to violation of human right of this target group it is hard to safe and survives their cultural wealth. They hardly spare the time to enjoy their traditional system, customs. The respondents treat them as an animal. It seems that they are living only to get bread and to satisfy the hunger.

Conclusion

In the part of conclusion the researchers would like to state that the status of human rights among the target group in present era has required prompted legal reforms, new legislation, beefing up of instituting policies that seek to address women's vulnerability in various arenas. There are some identifiable approaches to human rights as a development issue.

Towards future

It is important to educate women and girls about their rights and actualizing them. They have the right to their dignity. Health and decision making in all the important issues like marriage, child bearing, choice of works etc. In India there are some of most intensive laws and large machinery to protect the rights of women. The government of India adopted number of approaches to address various dimensions of violence against women.

The 80s witnessed an increase in the number of women's organizations that were formed largely through campaigns against dowry and rape. The main trust of the women's movement was strategizing for legal reforms through public mobilization and protest. Legal reforms and support services instituted by the government were a result of protest and press is by women's groups and civil society. Women's groups and NGOs have instituted a number of support services for victims of domestic counseling centers, model shelter home, legal aid centers and income generation programmers. Measures which can be conducive at the government level can include- linking economic and livelihood aspects with birth/education of child. Positive economic benefits/facilities are compulsory to parents for upbringing the girl child. The sex ratio may balance through facilitating the

village Panchayats. At last but not least, some suggestive measures are to be considered to improve the situations.

- Legal awareness should be provided to women family members and other community members about the right of women and girls.
- Information about health consequences of the practice of the per birth, sex selection and elimination of girl child, link up with human and child right should be provided to all workers.
- Awareness about gender equity should be created through various communication system including print audio visual media as well as it should be made aware of the fact that a husband is a human being and not god.
- They can also assist women victims in various ways to bring an end to the pre penetration of negative socio cultural practices.
- Strong networking among all the workers the government bodies, medical fraternity, media and civil society is required.
- Some more legislation/ laws and amendments are required to strengthen the position of women in the society. Along with the legislation, it is also very important to ensure the strict implementation.
- Sensitizing the religious fraternity which can influence the community towards positivism related to birth/upbringing the social status of girl child.