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## WOMEN DEVELOPMENT IN GEOGRAPHICAL PERSPECTIVE: A CASE STUDY OF TRIBAL WOMEN IN DHULE TEHSIL (DIST.DHULE, MAHARASHTRA)

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### Abstract:

*In the present paper attempt is made to look towards the relationship between education and work of Tribal women. Women education and work is an important socio-economic variable having strong implication for human development and status of Tribal women. Hence, society and government have paid increasing attention to the Tribal Women education. This study is part of social and Population Geography. The study examines household Tribal women education attainment and disparity mainly based on primary data collected through intensive fieldwork conducted in September 2011. Education or literacy rate has increased compared with non Tribal women, Tribal-non tribal women disparity have increased as per census. Respondent Tribal women reported that educated or literate has only 29.23 percent. Hence, their standard of living does not have more change. House or domestic work is routine work of women in Indian society. Women were completed house or domestic work and thereafter do not essential any other work in outside as a paid work, but it does not happen with the Tribal women. They have to go outside work as a daily wage labours. Illiteracy is serious issue found in the Tribal women, therefore their work skill, quality does not improved, hence, overall human development has affected.*

### INTRODUCTION:

Education or literacy is one of the most important indicators of socio-economic development or population which gives information on human development. The level of education is directly related to higher/lower capability of a person to support himself and his family. Education/literacy increases labour quality, job and productivity opportunities and induces flexibility in it. Female education /literacy is lower as compared to males, but the gap between their two is shrinking down in every census. Tribal female/women education level is very low as compared to non-tribal women, tribal women having the traditional work or jobs.

Women are generally allocated domestic servants and often work for others as paid labours. Life of most of the women is as not as bed of roses. They have to bear the exclusive burden of managing all the activities at the home, like cooking, washing utensils and clothes, sweeping and mudding the floor, caring for elders and children, caring for animals, fetching fuels and water drudgeries. Outside their homes they work side by side with the men in fields (Singh, A.L. and Md.Surfaraz Asher, 2007).

Women, in rural areas perform two types of work (i) Unpaidwork – household work, agricultural work in own field and work in animal husbandry. (ii) Paid work – Includes work as agricultural labours, in other fields, non-agricultural work inside and outside of villages (Singh, A.L., et al 2005).

The study attempts to examine the Tribal women household, education and work.

### METHODOLOGY:

This case study is mainly based on primary data, which is collected from various following ways

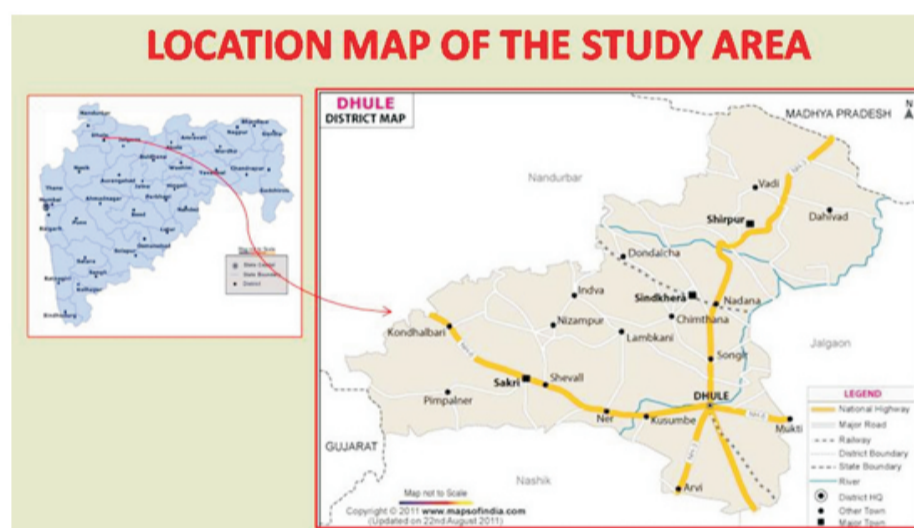
(i) Survey of selected village of Dhule tehsil, (ii) Survey of sample tribal women belong to 18 to 60 years age group.

Primary data was collected through questionnaires which was filled by interviews. Fieldwork was carried out during the middles of September, 2011 for getting information of the sample villages.

(i)Sampling: In this case study, for the purpose of select random sample, sample design consisted selection of villages from Dhule tehsil. The entire sample village consisted near about 45 in strength, which were available accessibly. Ten tribal women respondents belonging to 18-60 years age group were selected as an average for the point of view of education and work. Total sample size is 450 tribal women consider for the study.

### (ii)Study Area:

Present case study was conducted in rural areas (villages) of Dhule tehsil. Dhule tehsil is located between 20°38'N to 20°16'N latitude and 73°51'E to 75°11'E longitude. Dhule tehsil lies to the east and north east Jalgaon District, to South Nashik district to the west in Sakri tehsil, north and northwest lies Shirpur and Shindkheda tehsil. Dhule tehsil is blessed with three national highways. Which is most important place for transportation and industries. It is located on the bank of river Panzara, tributary of the river Tapi.



### (iii)Objectives :

1. To study the educational level of the Tribal women.
2. To study the work nature of Tribal women.
3. To study the relationship between education level and work.

### RESULT AND DISCUSSION:

In this case study, all the respondent Tribal women were Hindu, they belonged to backward and lower strata of the society in India. In age of most Tribal women respondent varies between 18 to 60 years. In this case study women were selected for the sample survey, out of them 97.00 percent were married and only 03.00 percent unmarried upto 18 years. Because of early marriage they become premature mother and in the forthcoming year, because of shaping and caring children. They have to faces various problems like childlessness and decreasing of youthhood.

Respondent tribal women family occupation pattern shows that 98 percent engaged as agricultural

labours, animal husbandry, janitors etc. Tribal women show that all of them were involved in household work as well as they were involved in paid work as a labours in agriculture or non agricultural fields. Their families comprising near about 4 or 6 members and only 9.13 percent having land. About 98 percent respondent women families lived in clays houses having no facilities of bathrooms and latrine. Defecating in the open air has become common practice for them. They used water from public water supply taps or hand pumps, there were kuchha open drains, for disposal of water.

**Table No.1 : Educational Level**

Total No. of Villages	Total no. of Respondent	Household education level						
		IV	X	XII	Tech. Edu.	UG	PG	Un- educated
45	450	88	37	09	--	--	--	316

Source: Field Survey Sept. 2011.

Education is milestone for women empowerment, because it enables them to respond the challenges, to confront their traditional role as well as change their life, so that we cannot neglect the importance of education in reference to women empowerment. In this case study 450 respondent were selected getting information about education level, out of them 70.67 percent were illiterate, only 19 percent were literate upto 4th class, 08 percent upto Xth class and 02 percent were upto XII class, did not found any graduate or other technical educated tribal women. This data shows low level education of selected Tribal women. Hence, tribal women could not increased their labour qualities, productivities and job opportunities.

**Table No.2: Household Work**

Total No. of Villages	Total of Respondents	Cooking	Washing Utensils	Washing Clothes	Sewing Floor	Mudding Sweeping	Tending	Fetching Water
45	450	450	450	450	450	450	450	450

Source: Field Survey Sept. 2011.

In this field survey Table No.2 shows that almost all tribal women who respond to survey were involved in household work. Tribal women in the villages are involved in routine task series of household cooking, washing utensil clothes, sweeping and mudding, tending children, fetching water and fuel etc. There household work they have to complete in time, because after that they have to attend for outside work as labours. Since, they spend outside 3-4 hours for purely household work or domestic purpose. Then after they are ready for the outside work as labours and spend 8 hours minimum for it. "In India 63 percent of all married women are engaged in household work, which starts from roughly 8 years of their average life span of 50 years within kitchen alone" [Chatterjee, 1988].

Indian women kitchen work includes other processes that before and after cooking such as cleaning of pulses, rice, wheat, bajara, beside sewing food and feeding the younger and so on. "Indian women spend about 3,041 days of her life or 8.33 years in the kitchen and if one assumes that average life's span of an Indian women are 50 years, than it amount to 16.66 percent of her entire life and 04 hours per day" [Parikh, et al. 2002]. According to Parikh (2002), Indian women spend about 4 hours per day or 16.66

percent of her entire life in kitchen work/ household work, if it is consider in particular to Tribal women, then they are spend into triple time of more than non-tribal women in the kitchen/household and paid work. They are about twelve hours per day or 49.98 percent of her entire life spend in household and paid work.

In India, even today more than 90 percent of household in the villages depend on bio-fuels. The types of fuels are used like fuel wood (79 percent), Animal dung (77 percent), crop residues (47 percent) to get their daily cooking fuel requirement [Parikh et al., 2002]. Which is emission of carbon dioxide, monoxide during the long time cooking work, the result exposure are very high. Indoor polluted air actually processes great risk and impact on their health.

**Table No.3: Household work place and types of fuel used in cooking.**

Total No. of Villages	Cooking	No. of Times		Sep. Kitchen	MP Room	Vranda	Open Angan	Firewood and Cow dung	Crop residues	Kerosene	LPG
		2	3								
45	450	445	05	08	71	157	214	214	201	25	10

Source : Field Survey Sept. 2011

Table No.3 shows the use of different types of fuel used by the tribal women. About 47.42 percent were using fuel wood and animal dung, crop residues 44.66 percent, Kerosene 5.55 percent and only 2.22 percent of the population used LPG. This data shows that almost all the tribal women depending on the bio-fuel (92.08 percent).

Respondent tribal women take in account of cooking location is survey and put in Table No.3. Where they reported that 34.88 percent women used varanda as the cooking place, 15.77 percent used multipurpose room, 1.77 percent used separate kitchen and nearly 47.42 percent used on open place as angan for cooking place.

**Table No.4: Source and Method of Fuel Collection**

Total No. of Villages	Total No. of Respondent	Fuel Collection	Own Land	Other Land	Road Side	Forest of Agri.	Head Loaded	Others	1-2 Hours	> 2 hours
45	450	446	41	127	72	209	443	07	229	21

Source: Field Survey Sept. 2011.

Tribal women always do several task simultaneous. They pick up agricultural residues, wood or animal dung on their way back as labour work. Table No.4 shows that about 51 percent tribal women spend their time 1-2 hours and 49 percent more than 2 hours for the fuel collection. All the respondent tribal women collected fuel material as possible, the fuel mainly firewood, crop residues, cow dung, roadside twig etc.

The collection of fuel were reported they near about 9.13 percent from the own field, 28.8 percent

from the other fields, 16 percent from the roadside. 6.45 percent cow dung and 40 percent from the agricultural residues / waste and forest. While bringing the collected fuel on their head it leads to various types of diseases for them.

**Table No.5: Mode and Method of Water Fetching**

Total No. of Villages	Total No. of Respondents	Fetch Water			Mode of fetching water			Mode of bring water		
		50 Mtr.	50-100 Mtr.	>100 Mtr	Bucket	Pitch	Others	Head loaded	Hand loaded	others
45	450	265	132	53	135	252	63	246	108	96

Water is important need of human being it is used for drinking, cooking, bathing, washing utensils, clothes and animals etc. All the tribal women fetches water from the Gram Panchayat taps or hand pumps or wells. Water fetching through bucket and pitch, it carrying on head or hand loaded. Table No.5 shows that about 58.48 percent women fetch water from the distance less than 50 meters, 19.33 percent from 51-100 meters and 22.22 percent from more than 100 meters distance. They were bringing water through bucket is near about 30 percent, 56 percent through pitch and 14 percent with other pots. Tribal women reported that 54.66 percent water was brought with head loaded and 24 percent of hand loaded, 21 percent by other ways.

#### CONCLUSION:

Education/literacy rate has increased compared with non-tribal women, tribal-non tribal women disparity have increased as per census. Respondent tribal women were reported that educated or literate has only 29.23 percent. Hence, their standard of living does not have more change. Illiteracy is serious issue found in the tribal women, therefore their work skill quality does not improved, hence, overall human development has affected. About 70.77 percent illiterate population in Tribal women is at the opposite side of the non-tribal women literacy rate. Measures to improve the status, role and participation of Tribal women must be given high priority both because Tribal women have fundamental rights to enjoy equality with non. Tribal women and men. In all the aspects of life she must fully participate in the development process or regarding reservation of seats for tribals in Panchayat, Assembly, Parliament. However, it is first step to ensure that certain number of tribal women will involved in decision making process, policies, schemes of Government. The very next task and challenge will be to develop their capacity, so that they can perform to make difference. Expanded policy intervention with effective implementation awareness building at family and better follow up intensified efforts for integrating are needed to improve education level of Tribal women and to facilitate the participation of mainstream of every societal affairs.

Tribal women were cooking their food in the varanda and angan, they reported about 82.30 percent. Varanda or Angan it is a open place cooking the exposure is less because of polluted air dispersion vastly more than indoor (kitchen) cooking place. Hence, no more effect of polluted air on Tribal women, compare with non-tribal women who have indoor cooking place.

Tribal women bringing collected fuel and water pots on their head it leads to various types of diseases for them. It is a one of the leading problem make in particular tribal women because they has not any stored facilities.

Tribal women education level and household work/labourwork are very strong relationship. It is accompanied by inadequate nutrition, domestic unhygienic condition takes a heavy toll on women health. Tribal women who were live in rural areas in reported suffering from common illness such as fever, cough, diarrhea/ dysentery, worms, respiratory diseases, malaria, jaundice, typhoid, anemia, abortion, infant mortality etc. Hence priorities for the development of tribal women's education, employment and health.

It concluded have that there are not more changes in literacy, education level and types of nature of works among the tribal women in Dhule tehsil. All this made effect on the human development. It has not raised the status of tribal women in the Indian society, they live such as early life of man. It has been done and need master plan and it implement sincerely in particular to make entire tribal community development and prosperous.

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