

TRIBAL WOMEN IN SOUTHERN RAJASTHAN: AWARENESS OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

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Abstract:

Till now various strategies have been made for upliftment of tribal women. Indian constitution provides legal equality for men and women but in reality social and economic equality is yet to be achieved. Women in India still continue to be discriminated and their current status still causes concern. Even today majority of our women are being identified not as independent individuals but only as daughters, wives and mothers or as family members. In our society women are still regarded as belonging to the “weaker section”. Therefore it is necessary to empower women so that they can participate fully in the development process and transform them into resourceful members of our society. Since independence, a great variety of researches have been undertaken on various issues related to women. In order to find out the path towards women empowerment such kind of studies may be considered essential.

[Key words: Women empowerment, constitutional right, awareness, development and tribal women]

Introduction

The present study is conducted to know whether the women folk of our society is aware of their constitutional and legal rights. Again it is necessary to know whether they realise the significance of empowerment for their benefit. Even after 70 years from the commencement of Indian constitution the plight of women is still very pitiable. As a democratic country India gives priority on the principles of liberty, fraternity, equality and justice. Indian constitution provides various rights necessary for securing women’s empowerment. In this regard some constitutional and legal provisions for women may be mentioned below:

- Article 14- Equal rights and opportunities for men and women in political, economic and social spheres.

- Article 15(1) - Prohibits discrimination against any citizen on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex etc.
- Article 15(3) – Empowers the state to make affirmative discrimination in favour of women
- Article 16 – Provides equality of opportunity for all citizen in matters relating to employment or appointment to any office under the state
- Article 39 (a) – The state shall direct its policy towards securing all citizens men and women equally the right to means of livelihood
- Article 39 (d) – Equal pay for equal work for both men and women
- Article 42 – Directs the state to ensure provisions for just and humane condition of work and maternity relief.
- Article 46 – The state to promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people and to protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation
- Article 47 – The state to raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people and the improvement of public health
- Article 51 (A) (e) – Mandates every citizen to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women
- Article 243D (3) – Not less than one third (including the number of seats reserved for women belonging to the schedule castes and the schedule tribes) of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in every Panchayat to be reserved for women and such seats to be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in a Panchayat
- Article 243D (4) – Not less than one third of the total number of offices of Chairpersons in the Panchayats at each level to be reserved for women. At the same time Government of India has also been provided legal rights for women in order to achieve gender equality. Among the major legislations- the Hindu Succession Act was enacted to give daughters equal rights as sons in ancestral property. In order to stop human trafficking, the Immoral Traffic Prevention act has been launched to take stringent action against the traffickers. Various laws and legislations have been implemented for women including Sati Prevention Act, Dowry Prohibition Act, and the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act in the year 2005. To ensure equal rights to counter social discrimination and various forms of violence, atrocities

and to provide support services especially for women, following legal provisions have been made:

- The Employees State Insurance Act 1948
- The Plantation Labour Act 1951
- The Family Courts Act 1954
- The Special Marriage Act 1954
- The Hindu Marriage Act 1955
- The Maternity Benefit Act
- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act 1971
- The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act 1976
- The Equal Remuneration Act 1976
- The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 1983
- The Factories (Amendment) Act 1986
- Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act 1986

Objectives:

- To highlight the importance of awareness and building skills development necessary for the women empowerment
- To find out its awareness level of women about their constitutional and legal right

Time and space:

- Period: May 2017 to May 2019

Locaion:

- Women located in Udaipur, Bhilwara, Pratapgarh, Sirohi, Dungarpur and Banswara [100 numbers from each district]

Research Design:

- Exploratory and Descriptive studies-sample survey

Source of data:

Primary source:

- Women located in Udaipur, Bhilwara, Pratapgarh, Sirohi, Dungarpur and Banswara [100 numbers from each district]

Secondary data

- These are also used and it is collected from books periodicals, reports and websites, for the collection of secondary data are taken from reports of Government and annual development reports of Government and from newspapers, NGO of districts

Questionnaire:

A structured-non-disguised questionnaire

Sampling:

Non-probability, Quota sampling

Sample Size:

600 women of Udaipur division [Rajasthan]

Research Methodology and Data analysis:**Hypothesis to be tested:**

H01: There is no significant influence of women (a) Group (b) Education (c) Age (d) Working and Nonworking (e) Family Income (f) Marital status (g) Number of children (h) Age of Children (i) Number of dependents (j) Nature of job and (k) family status on attitude towards importance of empowering women.

H02: There is no significant difference among women (a) Social group (b) Education (c) Age (d) Working and Nonworking (e) Family Income (f) Marital status (g) Number of children (h) Age of Children (i) Number of dependents (j) Nature of job and (k) family status towards feeling of relegation in their life.

1. To find out its awareness level of women about their constitutional and legal right**MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY****Profile of women in Southern Rajasthan**

Out of 600 women, each district belongs to 16.67% women from Udaipur, Sirohi, Dungarpur, Banswara, Pratapgarh and Bhilwara of Southern Rajasthan, group of General, Other Backward Caste (OBC), Schedule Tribe and Schedule Cast belongs to 25% women from each group. 36% of the women are in the age group of 25 to 30 years, 32% of the women are

having age above 31 to 40 years, 21% of the women are having age between 41 to 50 years and 11 % of the women are in the age group of above 50 years. It is observed that most of the women (36%) are in the age group of 25 to 30 years in this survey. 76% of the women are working women and rest 24% are nonworking women. 23% of the selected women were having family income less than Rs, 6,000, whereas 29 % of the women were having family income of Rs. 6,001 to 8,000, 31% the selected women were having family income of Rs. 8,001 to 10,000 and 17 % of the selected women were having monthly income more than Rs. 10,001. It is observed that most of the women (31%) were having monthly family income Rs. 8,001 to 10,000. 4.67% are widows, 14.17% are divorcee and 81.16% are married and living together with husband. 12.67 % of the selected women are having no child, 27.67% of the women have one child, 40% of the selected women are having two children, 19.66% are having more than two children. It is observed that 40% women are having two children. There are 27.67% women are having age of children less than 2 years, 25.69% women are having age of children between 3 to 8 years, 32.80% of women are having children of the age between 9-15 years and 13.84% women are having the children the age of more than 15 years. It is noticed that 32.80% women are having children of the age between 9 to 15 years. 11.06 % of the selected women are having no dependent, 30.56 % of the women are having one dependent, 38.57% of the selected women are having two dependents and 19.81% of the selected women are having more than two dependents. It is observed that most of women (38.57%) are having more than two dependents. 72% women live in nuclear family while as 26% lives in joint family.

Attitude towards importance of empowering women:

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Very High	180	30
High	240	40
Neither high nor low	84	14
Low	60	10
Very low	36	6
Total	600	100
Source: primary data		

Out of 600 women, 70% of working and non-working women have positive attitude towards the importance of empowering women. They are in favour of women empowerment for extermination of violence against women. 30% of women, they belong to lower economic status had no awareness in this connection.

Relegation in their lives:

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Very High	150	25
High	240	40
Neither high nor low	66	11
Low	90	15
Very low	54	9
Total	600	100
Source: primary data		

Out of 600 respondents, 65% feels relegation in their lives. Another 11% respondents say that they have no idea about it. There are only 24% respondents who say that they do not feel any relegation.

Birth of Girl Child:

Particulars		Reaction About birth of Girl Child		Total
Group		Happy	Unhappy	
General	N	130	20	150
	%	87%	13%	100%
OBC	N	95	55	150
	%	63%	37%	100%
SC	N	72	78	150
	%	48%	52%	100%
ST	N	78	78	150

	%	52%	48%	100%
Total	N	375	225	600
	%	63%	37%	100%

The feeling of “parents becoming unhappy at the birth of girl child“ is higher among the respondents of SC and ST than the respondents of General and OBC groups. It is observed that women from general class are feeling happy while as other class somehow unhappy on birth of girl child.

Expressing Desire:

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Very High	85	14
High	160	27
Neither high nor low	45	8
Low	210	35
Very low	100	17
Total	600	100
Source: primary data		

The larger segment of the respondents out of 600 women, 52% does not feel freedom in expressing her desire. 41% respondents feel freedom in this matter. There are 8% respondents who have no response.

Awareness and Understanding of Constitutional rights:

Group v/s Level of Awareness:

Particulars		Level of Awareness			Total
Group		Low	Medium	High	
General	N	55	50	45	150
	%	37%	33%	30%	100%
OBC	N	82	55	13	150

	%	55%	37%	9%	91%
SC	N	110	30	10	150
	%	73%	20%	7%	93%
ST	N	115	30	5	150
	%	77%	20%	3%	97%
Total	N	362	165	73	600
	%	60%	28%	12%	100%

Women from general group have high awareness (30%) as compared to Tribe women who have 3% level of awareness and understanding of constitutional rights.

Women should be treated equally as men:

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Very High	210	35
High	225	38
Neither high nor low	7	1
Low	110	18
Very low	48	8
Total	600	100
Source: primary data		

Out of 600 women, majority of respondents 73% women said that they should be treated equally as men while as 26% women do not agree that women should be treated equally as men. Another 1% women remained unanswered.

Knowledge of Domestic Violence:

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Very High	55	9
High	70	12

Neither high nor low	25	4
Low	255	43
Very low	195	33
Total	600	100
Source: primary data		

Out of 600 women, 76% of women do not have any idea about domestic violence act. Only 21% respondents have knowledge and understanding of this act. There are 4% respondents who have no response.

Awareness about government schemes for the development of children and women:

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Very High	45	8
High	78	13
Neither high nor low	28	5
Low	235	39
Very low	214	36
Total	600	100
Source: primary data		

Out of 600 women, 36% of the respondents have very low awareness about government schemes for the development of children and women, 39% have low awareness about government schemes for the development of children and women. Only 21% respondents are aware of these schemes.

Membership of various women's organization:

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Very High	28	5
High	65	11

Neither high nor low	22	4
Low	255	43
Very low	230	38
Total	600	100
Source: primary data		

Out of 600 women, only 16% women have knowledge of membership of various women's organizations. 81% of women have no knowledge of membership of various women's organization. Others 4% do not have any opinion.

Rape criminal should be hanged:

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Highly Agree	255	43
Agree	255	43
Neither agree nor disagree	15	3
Disagree	25	4
Highly Disagree	50	8
Total	600	100
Source: primary data		

Hypothesis Testing:

H01: There is no significant influence of women (a) Group (b) Education (c) Age (d) Working and Nonworking (e) Family Income (f) Marital status (g) Number of children (h) Age of Children (i) Number of dependents (j) Nature of job and (k) family status on attitude towards importance of empowering women.

Influence of demographics opinion off women's attitude towards importance of empowering women

Particulars	Classification	Number of women	Mean	S D	t/ F values

Social Group	General	150	4.20	1.292	F=15.670 P=.002
	OBC	150	4.05	0.987	
	SC	150	3.70	1.265	
	ST	150	3.55	1.332	
Education	Graduation	109	4.70	0.665	F=14.27 P=.025
	12 th	237	3.85	1.235	
	8 th	193	3.78	1.224	
	Illiterate	61	3.40	0.756	
Age	25-30 years	218	3.88	1.050	F=6.866 P=0.060
	31-40 years	192	4.05	1.225	
	41-50 years	126	3.95	0.972	
	Above 50 years	64	3.85	0.652	
Working and nonworking	Working	456	4.29	1.200	F=8.709 P=.001
	Nonworking/House wife	144	3.45	1.236	
Family Income	<Rs. 6,000	136	3.80	1.058	F=3.670 P=.045
	Rs.6,001-8,000	176	4.18	1.220	
	Rs. 8,001-10,000	184	3.36	0.960	
	Above Rs. 10,001	104	3.75	1.010	
Marital Status	Widow	28	3.80	1.230	F=4.050 P=.0222
	Divorcee	85	3.94	1.140	
	Married	487	4.12	1.220	

Number of Children	Nil	76	4.11	1.300	F=2.709 P=0.125
	One	166	3.89	1.025	
	Two	240	4.00	1.225	
	More than two	118	3.90	1.028	
Age of Children	Less than 2 years	280	3.56	1.451	F=1.250 P=0.220
	3-8 years	260	3.82	0.968	
	9-15 years	332	3.44	1.002	
	More than 15 years	140	3.32	1.008	
Number of Dependent	Nil	76	3.81	1.251	F=0.820 P=0.202
	One	210	3.82	1.233	
	Two	265	3.79	1.028	
	Above two	136	3.90	0.985	
Nature of Job	Farming	112	3.55	0.088	F=6.298 P=0.015
	Daily Wages	200	3.22	0.266	
	Regular	110	4.29	1.250	
	Part time/ Business	34	3.93	0.698	
Family status	Nuclear Family	432	3.55	0.652	F=6.200 P=0.028
	Joint Family	168	3.02	0.778	

** significant at 5% level

Social Group:

The obtained 'F' value is 15.670 with “P” value is 0.002, it is significant at 5% level. The value indicates that there is significant influence of women among social groupson opinion towards importance of empowering women.

Further, the mean table indicates that attitude of women from general social group have scored higher mean value of 4.20 and the lowest mean was scored by the women from Schedule tribe (3.55). This shows that the women from general social group are highly agreed towards attitude on importance of empowering women and the women from ST group are not fully agreed attitude on importance of empowering women.

Therefore, the formulated hypothesis $H_{01(a)}$ that “there is no significant influence of women from various social groupstowards attitudeon importance of empowering women” is rejected.

Education:

The obtained 'F' value is 14.270 with “P” value is 0.025, it is significant at 5% level. The value indicates that there is significant influence of women among various level of education on opinion towards importance of empowering women.

Further, the mean table indicates that attitude of women from educational level (graduate, 12th , 8th and illiterate)who are graduate scored higher mean value of 4.70 and the lowest mean was scored 3.40 by the women who are illiterate. This shows that the women who have higher education level are highly agreed towards attitude on importance of empowering women and the women who are illiterate not fully agreed attitude on importance of empowering women.

Therefore, the formulated hypothesis $H_{01(b)}$ that “there is no significant influence of women from various education standardstowardsattitudeon importance of empowering women ” is rejected.

Age:

The obtained 'F' value is 6.866 with “P” value is 0.060, it is insignificant at 5% level. The value indicates that there is not significant influence of women among various level of age groups (25-30 years age group to above 50 years) on attitude towards importance of empowering women.

Further, the mean table indicates that attitude of women from age groups (25-30 years, 31-40 years, 41-50 years and above 50 yearsage)who are in age group of 31-40 yearsscored higher mean value of 4.05 and the lowest mean was scored 3.85 by the women who are in age above 50 years. This shows that the women who comes in lower ae group are highly agreed towards attitude on importance of empowering women and the women who are above age of 50 years not fully agreed towards attitude on importance of empowering women.

Therefore, the formulated hypothesis $H_{01(c)}$ that “there is no significant influence of women from various agegroups towards attitudeon importance of empowering women” is accepted.

Working and Nonworking

The obtained 'F' value is 8.709 with “P” value is 0.001, it is significant at 5% level. The value indicates that there is significant influence on women among various working and nonworking groupson attitude towards importance of empowering women.

Further, the mean table indicates that attitude of women from working and nonworking groups who are in working groupscored higher mean value of 4.29 and the lowest mean was scored 3.45 by the women who are in nonworking group. This shows that the women who come in working group are highly agreed towards attitude on importance of empowering women and the women who are nonworking not fully agreed towards attitude on importance of empowering women.

Therefore, the formulated hypothesis $H_{01(d)}$ that “there is no significant influence of women from working and nonworking groupstowardsattitudeon importance of empowering women” is rejected.

Family Income:

The obtained 'F' value is 3.670 with “P” value is 0.045, it is significant at 5% level. The value indicates that there is significant influence of women among various family income groups (<Rs. 6000 per month, Rs. 6001 to 8000, Rs.8001 to Rs.10000 and more than Rs. 10,000) on attitude towards importance of empowering women.

Further, the mean table indicates that attitude of women from family income groups of Rs. 6001 to Rs. 8000 scored higher mean value of 4.18 and the lowest mean was scored 3.18 by the women who have family income of Rs. Rs. 8001-10000 permonth. This shows that the

women those family income is higher, they have high attitude on importance of empowering women

Therefore, the formulated hypothesis $H_{01(e)}$ that “there is no significant influence of women from various family income groups towards attitude on importance of empowering women” is rejected.

Marital status

The obtained 'F' value is 4.050 with “P” value is 0.022, it is significant at 5% level. The value indicates that there is significant influence of women marital status towards their attitude on importance of empowering women. Therefore, the formulated hypothesis $H_{01(f)}$ that “there is no significant influence of women marital status towards their attitude on importance of empowering women” is rejected.

Number of children

The obtained 'F' value is 2.709 with “P” value is 0.125, it is insignificant at 5% level. The value indicates that there is no significant influence of women who have number of children (nil, one, two and more than two) towards their attitude on importance of empowering women. Therefore, the formulated hypothesis $H_{01(g)}$ that “there is no significant influence of women marital status towards their attitude on importance of empowering women” is accepted.

Age of Children

The obtained 'F' value is 1.250 with “P” value is 0.222, it is insignificant at 5% level. The value indicates that there is no significant influence of women who have different age group of children towards their attitude on importance of empowering women. Therefore, the formulated hypothesis $H_{01(h)}$ that “there is no significant influence of women who have different age group of children towards their attitude on importance of empowering women” is accepted.

Number of dependents

The obtained 'F' value is 0.820 with “P” value is 0.202, it is insignificant at 5% level. The value indicates that there is no significant influence of women who have numbers of

dependents (nil, one, two and more than two) towards their attitude on importance of empowering women. Therefore, the formulated hypothesis $H_{01(i)}$ that “there is no significant influence of women who have number of dependents (nil, one, two and more than two) on them towards their attitude on importance of empowering women” is accepted.

Nature of Job

The obtained 'F' value is 6.298 with “P” value is 0.015, it is significant at 5% level. The value indicates that there is significant influence of women nature of job (farming/ daily wages/Regular/ Business) towards their attitude on importance of empowering women. Therefore, the formulated hypothesis $H_{01(j)}$ that “there is no significant influence of women nature of job towards their attitude on importance of empowering women” is rejected.

Family Status

The obtained 'F' value is 6.200 with “P” value is 0.028, it is significant at 5% level. The value indicates that there is significant influence of women family status (Nuclear or Joint family) towards their attitude on importance of empowering women. Therefore, the formulated hypothesis $H_{01(k)}$ that “there is no significant influence of women family status towards their attitude on importance of empowering women” is rejected.

Result and discussion:

There is significant influence of women among social groups on opinion towards importance of empowering women, there is significant influence of women among various level of education on opinion towards importance of empowering women, there is significant influence of women from various education standards towards attitude on importance of empowering women. There is no significant influence of women from various age groups towards attitude on importance of empowering women, there is significant influence on women among various working and nonworking groups on attitude towards importance of empowering women, there is significant influence of women among various family income groups (<Rs. 6000 per month, Rs. 6001 to 8000, Rs.8001 to Rs.10000 and more than Rs. 10,000) on attitude towards importance of empowering women. The result shows that the women those family income is higher, they have high attitude on importance of empowering women. There is significant influence of women marital status towards their attitude on importance of empowering women. There is no significant influence of women who have

number of children (nil, one, two and more than two) towards their attitude on importance of empowering women. There is no significant influence of women who have different age group of children towards their attitude on importance of empowering women. There is no significant influence of women who have numbers of dependents (nil, one, two and more than two) towards their attitude on importance of empowering women. There is significant influence of women nature of job (farming/ daily wages/Regular/ Business) towards their attitude on importance of empowering women. There is significant influence of women family status (Nuclear or Joint family) towards their attitude on importance of empowering women.