

PARTICIPATION OF TRIBAL WOMEN IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES: A STUDY ON JAUNSARI WOMEN OF DEHRADUN DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

Since independence, women are considered as a vital force as they contribute equally to human infrastructure. The Central and State Government along with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, and the Planning Commission are exercising continuous efforts to integrate tribal women with other members of the society. They are working to improve upon the living standards, education, health care and existing skills which is found inappropriate among the women of tribal society. The present study was conducted among 360 Jaunsari women of Kalsi and Chakrata blocks of Dehradun district. Proportionate random sampling technique was used for the selection of respondents. For analysis of data, statistical tools like mean, percentage and frequency were used. From the results, the conclusions drawn suggest that there is a need to harmonize the government machinery and the respondents together in order to ensure maximum women participation and reap the benefits of development programmes that are launched specifically for the welfare of Jaunsari women.

Keywords: Tribal, Women, Jaunsari, Participation, Motivation.

INTRODUCTION

The concept of tribal development gives importance to the upliftment of tribal communities by focusing on their overall socio-economic status. It also includes the formulation of different policies and programmes along with their execution and fostering the quality of life of tribal communities. In the Indian scenario, several Constitutional provisions have been made and numerous development programmes have come up, to improve the overall living standard of tribals. Continuous efforts have been put to establish this society equivalent to national life. It was the Fifth Five-year plan which had given special focus to the development of tribals and that too 'tribal women'. Since the time of

Independence, women are considered as a vital force and they contribute towards human infrastructure. The best way to achieve economic growth in tribal society along with women development is by investing in women's capabilities and to empower them.

Development planners and practitioners focus on 'participatory development' as a holistic approach for smooth implementation of development programmes as it is taken both as a means and as an objective for attaining overall development. Participation is a sensitive issue and it becomes more sensitive in the context of tribal women is being discussed about. There is some confusion that prevails with policy makers and government officials with respect to the meaning

and implications of the term 'participation'. So, it gets very essential to explicitly express the correct and exact meaning of this term in the context in which it is used. In simple words 'participation' is defined as a support from the beneficiary for a programme that is launched by the government or that is run by some voluntary organization. For the programmes launched by the government it is important to secure confidence and support among the beneficiaries. It also includes proper channelization of resources which further helps in creating awareness. Participation is a voluntary involvement and it improves the decision-making skills which further gives way to women empowerment. Prior studies have shown, that real and effective participation prevails only from the need-based people's organization. Participation of women is further divided into three categories. Firstly, it is on the basis of the extent or degree of participation. Secondly it is the nature of participation and thirdly it is on the basis of the stages and method of participation.

The sole responsibility to organise the development programmes for tribal and non- people is given to government and non-government organizations. Government organisations are further classified into central, state and local self-government. Central government has autonomous rights to function independently and, in some cases, it works in collaboration with the state government. While the local self-government includes corporations and the panchayats. Under NGOs, samities and voluntary group participation is included. In some cases, the BDOs also work in collaboration with NGOs to assist the working of these organisations so that maximum women beneficiaries can be reached out.

MATERIALS AND METHOD USED

The facts and information were collected through primary data.

Primary data: Primary data was collected from Jaunsari women of age 13 and above using Interview

Schedule and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). The interviews conducted were semi-structured and structured in nature and were useful in identifying the in-depth problems and challenges faced by Jaunsari Women. Some primary data was also collected from BDOs, Gram Pradhan and other government officials who are associated with the welfare and development of the Jaunsari Tribe.

The field work was started in December 2019 and was completed in October 2020. To collect the data the sampling design that was used is **proportionate multi-stage random sampling**. The universe for the present study is the entire Jaunsari women population present in Kalsi and Chakrata blocks. 10% of the villages were selected from both the blocks using random sampling. In that way 15 villages were selected from Chakrata block and 20 villages from Kalsi block through **random sampling technique**. 5 villages from Chakrata and 7 from Kalsi were selected using proportionate sampling. Using **random selection** 10 households were chosen from each village. This makes a total of 120 households, **three female respondents per household were interviewed** making it a total of 360 respondents. Thus, the sampling used is **proportionate multi-stage random sampling**.

The main aim of this paper is to highlight the participation of women in the process of implementation of development programmes in Kalsi and Chakrata blocks of Jaunsar region. For smooth analysis the respondents were categorized into three age groups. Group A (Age 13 and above-21 years), group B (age 22 years – below 60 years) and group C (60 and above). And the statistical tools that were used were mean, percentage and frequency to analyse the data.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

The response that was given by the respondents on their participation rate in development programmes running in their area was collected from the survey that was done and is listed below. The results give a gloomy picture.

Table 1

As a women have you ever participated in the implementation process of development programmes?

Age	Response	Frequency	Percentage
Age (13-21)	NO	120	0%
Age (22-60)	NO	120	0%
Age > 60	NO	120	0%

Source: field work conducted in 2019-2020.

Survey shows none of the respondent had ever participated in the implementation of development programmes. Different groups have given different reasons for this. The respondents of group A were students. So being mostly occupied with their studies and assisting their mothers with domestic work they had no time left at the end of the day to participate in government programmes or attend panchayat meetings. Respondents of group B were more occupied with domestic work, being a member of SHGs had not added to any significant difference to their lives. Through SHGs social awareness is enhanced and the respondents show a sense of responsibility by participating in panchayat meetings and awareness camps. Such features were not observed in the area under study. Respondents of group C were a bit hesitant to participate in carrying

forward government's programmes because of illiteracy and lack of confidence. Thus, this poor response on participation is due to inefficient functioning of the NGOs and other voluntary organizations along with the absence of awareness camps for women. No importance has ever been given to the participation of women in the process of implementation of development programmes.

Besides personal reasons there are some factors which are beyond the control of the participants. There are some institutional factors and reasons that create non-participation of the respondents. The following response was recorded of the respondents when they were interviewed on, "whether they were involved by the government agents/organization in the process of implementation".

Table 2

Did government officials and Gram panchayats involve you in the process of implementation?

Age	Response	Frequency	Percentage
Age (13-21)	NO	120	0%
Age (22-60)	NO	120	0%
Age > 60	NO	120	0%

Source: field work conducted in 2019-2020.

From this data, it is clearly seen that besides personal reasons there are some reasons for automatic non-participation of the respondents. Government officials do not incorporate women respondents of the study area in the planning and implementation process. The reason identified for this is Jaunsari women lack in decision making skills and do not participate willingly.

Besides this there is another parameter that was identified as a deciding factor for participation of the women. Participation and awareness about the nature of programmes are both inter-dependent. During survey, it was found that the level of awareness among respondents of all age groups was less than average. As the beneficiaries have insufficient awareness about the nature of

programmes, they are not aware about the objectives and the targets of the schemes. Thereby the purpose of introducing welfare schemes gets defeated. This leads to poor participation among women as they lack interest in participation.

SUGGESTIONS TO IMPROVE TRIBAL WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Through the above findings, some tentative suggestions have been put forward to enhance the participation of Jaunsari women. It is very essential to involve women in the implementation phase for overall development. Thus, the following measures are suggested.

- The government being the most powerful organisation has all the rights to implement programmes for the welfare of this tribe. But it is important to implement specific need-based and target oriented programmes. This will enhance enthusiasm among the beneficiaries and will push them towards participation as their needs will be fulfilled.
- Secondly, there should be efficient monitoring and follow up of the programmes running for the welfare of the women in this region. Due to difficult geographical conditions and patterns some of the schemes are only active on papers but not on ground level. This pattern is observed for MGNREGA and Aajeevika schemes that are launched by the state government but are not fulfilling the desired target.
- State government should be given autonomous powers to start some projects like handloom, tribal crafts, pickle making, woollen garments and tribal jewellery making with mandatory women participation to increase participation. This will bring women forward in participation and will also solve the problem of unemployment.

- Tribal women should be given a chance to participate in the meetings of Gram Sabha and their inputs/suggestions should be considered which would improve the decision-making skills of women and will advance these tribal women towards empowerment.
- It was found that BDOs and NGOs do not work in a synchronized manner because of which the desired output is not met. Thus, Government agents are needed to work in partnership in order to get the desired results of the programmes at the grassroot level.
- Specific skill-based training along with awareness camps should be started in this region. This will give confidence to women beneficiaries and will also give government officials a chance to involve women in the implementation process as the gaps will be fulfilled.
- Counselling programmes and awareness camps for males and women of this tribe should be launched which will act as a catalyst to address the factors that cause hinderance in complete efficacy of programmes.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

As seen from the above discussions, we conclude that the participation of women in the implementation of development programmes across all age groups was found to be disappointing as none of the respondent was a participant. Besides personal reasons some non-wilful (automatic) reasons were also identified which led to non-participation. They are discussed below: -

- As examined through field work, some parameters in the local economy of Jaunsari were found unsatisfactory. Jaunsari women lag behind in the areas of literacy, awareness and are not digitally advanced.

This has kept the participation rate very low in this area.

- Lack of employment opportunities for women reduces the chance of interacting with the outside world and low-participation in different social activities persists.
- Another reason accounted for unsatisfactory performance of women in participation and implementation process of development programmes is lack of adequate skills. Government officials find it difficult to integrate such members as it lowers the efficiency of the system.
- Excessive burden of work at home and various commitments are also one of the main reasons in Jaunsari community for poor women participation and contribution towards implementation of welfare programmes.

Participation is taken not just as an ideology but studies have proved that it has developed as a technology to promote development in the society. Hence this detailed work on the participation of women in the process of implementation gives a glimpse of the overall situation in both the blocks. Efforts at increasing participation rate of beneficiaries in implementation of programmes has been found unsatisfactory from both the beneficiaries' and government's end. Jaunsari women do not come forward willingly to participate and the government organisations also do not involve women of this region during implementation of development programmes. This reduces the chance of active participation and the situation in tribal area remains the same.

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