

PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES FACED BY JAUNSARI WOMEN OF UTTARAKHAND: A STUDY OF KALSI BLOCK IN DEHRADUN DISTRICT

Radhika Bahuguna,
Research Scholar (NET-JRF),
Department of Economics,
(DAV (PG) COLLEGE, DEHRADUN)

ABSTRACT

In India tribal women are more hardworking than tribal men and play a major role in assisting their counterparts. To strengthen up the situation of tribal communities the Government has launched various development programmes and schemes, but in reality the benefits have not reached the needy. Numerous reasons have been observed for the backwardness and slow growth of tribal regions. Just like other social groups, about half of the total population of tribal section is composed of women.

The present study is based on primary and secondary data and efforts have been put to highlight various issues and challenges faced by Jaunsari Women. Primary data was collected from the Kalsi Block of Dehradun district of Uttarakhand in 2019. The aim of the present study is to list out numerous problems faced by the tribal women of different age groups of this tribe. Along with this the performance of various government programmes has been examined that are run to uplift the condition of Jaunsaris and suitable strategies have been suggested to bring about holistic development.

Keywords: Tribal Women, Issues, Challenges, Status, Jaunsari.

INTRODUCTION

The advent of economic reforms has given way to a deeper focus towards development and planning for the vulnerable and deprived groups in the society. After Africa, India ranks second in the number of tribal communities that are found in its soil. Tribal people are also called as 'Adivasis' which means original inhabitants. Numerous researches and studies have shown that for many years they were kept socially and geographically aloof from the mainstream society. This community in India is marked as the one which is subject to exploitation

and face uncountable challenges. As per the Article 366(25) of the Constitution of India Scheduled Tribes are the communities who are scheduled in accordance with Article 342 of the Constitution. Article 342 provides for specification of tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within tribes or tribal communities which are deemed to be for the purpose of the Constitution the Scheduled Tribes in relation to that State or Union Territory(**Source: Statistical Profile of STs 2011**). India has a total population of more than 10.2 crores with this 8.6 per cent of the total population of the country is

composed of Scheduled Tribes (**Census of India, 2011**).

Being the backbone of any society it's the woman who has to deliver multiple roles every single day. The situation remains grim when it comes to examining the status of tribal women. Poverty, poor health and sanitation, illiteracy, low income levels and other socio-economic problems among the tribes are exerting a dragging effect on the economy (**Beniwal, A 2014**). The tribes of India are facing numerous issues as this community is suffering from social and economic backwardness. The literacy rate that has been recorded among the tribals is only 59% (**Census of 2011**). The need of the hour suggests it is time to focus systematically on women's awakening. The capability to accelerate the economic growth of the country lies within the women force.

Uttarakhand was carved out of Uttar Pradesh on 9th November 2000 with the sole purpose of development. Since the formation of a separate state many areas have witnessed the fruits of development but there has been sluggish growth in tribal areas. There are 5 notified tribes in this region namely Tharu, Jaunsaris, Buksas, Bhotias and Rajis.

The Jaunsari tribe of Uttarakhand is mostly found in the Jaunsar-Bawar area that covers the Chakrata and Kalsi blocks of Dehradun district. Jaunsar-Bawar comprises the hilly region that lies within the latitudes 30 31' and 31 3' 30"N and

longitudes 77 45' and 78 7'20"E and with an area of 343.5 squares miles. It was in 1967 that the Government declared this tribe a Scheduled tribe. The Jaunsaris claim themselves to be the descendants of the 'khasas'. Their physical features comprise fair complexion, tall stature, curved nose and well defined features of the face that distinguishes them from their neighbours, the Garhwalis (**Saksena, 1955**).

The current study revolves around following objectives:

- It explores various problems and challenges faced by Jaunsari Women of different age groups.
- It examines the level of satisfaction of the respondents for various Government programmes running in the study area.
- Suitable suggestions and strategies have been made to enhance the current status of Jaunsari Women.

HISTORY OF TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA POST 1951

As visualized by our first Prime Minister Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, various programmes were started after Independence in order to benefit the tribal population. The outline of the tribal development policies was framed into successive Five Year plans starting from 1951 onwards.

Sl. No.	Year	Five Year Plans	Women's Welfare Measures
1	1951-56	First Five Year Plan	Setting up of Central Social Welfare
2	1956-61	Second Five Year Plan	Formation of Mahila Mandals.
3	1961-66	Third Five Year Plan	Emphasis was given to Women Education.
4	1969-74	Fourth Five Year Plan	Plans focused on family planning, immunization and supplementary nutrition for children.

5	1974-79	Fifth Five Year Plan	Trainings were given to women and literacy programmes were launched.
6	1980-85	Sixth Five Year Plan	Multi disciplinary approach was adopted and importance was laid on health, education and employment.
7	1985-90	Seventh Five Year Plan	Under the Human Resource Ministry a separate department for women and children was set up
8	1992-97	Eight Five Year Plan	Empowerment of Women was given importance.
9	1997-2002	Ninth Five Year Plan	In 2001 a National Policy on Empowerment of Women was adopted. Self-Help Groups were more active for creating awareness and confidence and giving training for women.
10	2002-2007	Tenth Five Year Plan	The Plan has focused on the welfare and development of all the vulnerable sections of society especially women.
11	2007-2012	Eleventh Five Year Plan	Introduction of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (MGNREGP).
12	2012-2017	Twelfth Five Year Plan	Continuous efforts are being made by the Government and many new schemes have come up to uplift the women i.e. UJJWALA, STAND UP INDIA etc.

Source: Five Year Plans

From the efforts taken up by the Government we can say that such programmes have helped the tribal women participants to cope up with their financial constraints thereby improving their standard of living. At the family level participation of women in SHGs has led to strong decision making in some tribal zones. Not only this other patterns observed among the women participants is increased cumulative savings per month, involvement in politics and alleviation of poverty. Among such success stories there are certain tribal areas like Jaunsar Bawar where the benefits have not reached the needy. Thus this study is one of a kind that focuses on the problems and challenges faced by these Jaunsari Women.

PRIOR STUDIES

- i. **(Sindhi S, 2012)** highlights the situation of tribal women and the various atrocities faced by them through her research paper. As per major studies the tribal people are kept away from modern facilities like proper drinking water, electricity, transportation and health care. They are a subject to domestic violence, physical and mental torture sexual abuse and so on. Due to a vast array of responsibilities at family level they are reluctant to participate in training programmes and lag behind in the process of development.
- ii. **(Joy J et.al, 2014)** has focused upon the reasons behind increasing school dropouts

- among scheduled tribe students. In spite of government taking various initiatives the reasons accounted for this fall has been lack of parental support and interest, lack of schools nearby and the attitude of absenteeism in girls. Towards the end certain measures to improve school enrolment through awareness programmes and the use of internet (ICT) in providing better education base has been suggested to reduce the rate of dropouts among students.
- iii. **(Puhan RR and Malla L, 2015)** in their paper have made an attempt to show the impact of micro finance in dealing with numerous problems faced by tribal women. Results have shown SHGs is a platform for tribal women that spurts their social and economic development.
- iv. **(Das A et.al, 2016)** in their research articles have pointed out that around 50% of the beneficiaries did not have their job cards under MGNREGA and another shocking fact drawn was that around 42% of the tribal groups were unskilled labour without job security. Thus it is the need of an hour to strengthen schemes and programmes especially the anganwadi centres, pension schemes and policies towards maternity benefits.
- v. **(Naik.B R, 2016)** in his paper has analyzed about the socio, economic and education status of tribal women. Major hurdles are poor education system, improper medical facilities, lack of awareness among females towards health and hygiene and irregular livelihood opportunities. Government should also keep a check on the functioning and status of development in the tribal areas to ensure desired results.
- vi. **(P Mahadevappa, 2016)** in his research paper deals with the opportunities and challenges faced by tribal women in attaining education. The main reason accounted for poor education system is negligence of importance of education and lack of motivation to study further. Thus it is much needed to start awareness camps and literacy programmes for tribal people because education has shown positive correlation with health and this would scale up the development status of women.
- vii. **(Kishku S, 2016)** in his paper on the role of tribal women in development has listed out tribal women in this region have shown political participation but the male dominance has led to a distorted functioning. There are certain government programmes being run in this area like NREGA and SHGs but the mechanism and working of such schemes is not well explained to the tribal women which further leads to dispassionate participation. Thus Government should ensure that such development programmes should add to a notable improvement in the area as well as to the lives of tribal women.
- viii. **(Lal B S, 2019)** the paper revolves around tribal development the overall condition and status of development of tribal women is still pathetic. The current policies should be aimed at reducing the poverty, coming up with brighter livelihood opportunities and imparting health education to all households. Along with this need based programmes should be started and the locals should be motivated to participate in the programmes.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Study Design

Research design that was used for the present study was both descriptive and exploratory in nature. Along with the primary and secondary data, quantitative and qualitative data was also used. Interview schedule and focus group discussions were

used to collect primary data with the aim to get in depth answers to the problems faced by the Jaunsari Women. The sampling that was used was multistage stratified random sampling.

Study Location

The study was conducted in six villages selected from Kalsi Block; in order to cover maximum Jaunsari Women along with their problems three were on road and three were off road (100kms outside the ambit of main highway).

Sample Size

Samples of 180 female respondents (60 respondents from each group) were selected for the present study. These Jaunsari Women were classified into

three groups; Group A (age 13-21), Group B (age 22-59) and Group C (age 60 and above).

Data Analysis

The data collected was systematically organized and classified into various age groups of female respondents; tabulated, interpreted and the findings were represented through graphs and charts. Likert Scale was also used to measure respondent’s response for various Government schemes and programmes.

VARIOUS PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES FACED BY JAUNSARI WOMEN OF DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS

a) Being a woman can you take your own decisions independently at home?

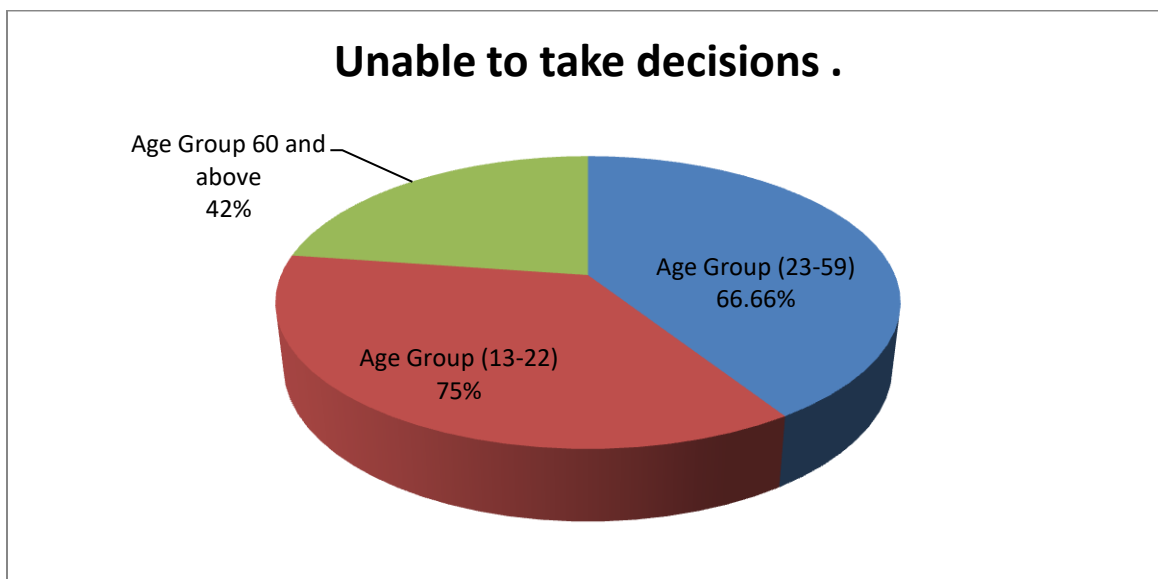


Fig 1: Inability to take decisions. Source: field work.

Findings: The ability and freedom of women to take decision differs in each age group. Group A (Age 13-22) had the least privilege in taking their own decisions. It

was observed that Jaunsari Women on a whole faced difficulty in taking their own choice.

b) As a female can you express your opinions freely in your family or in the society?

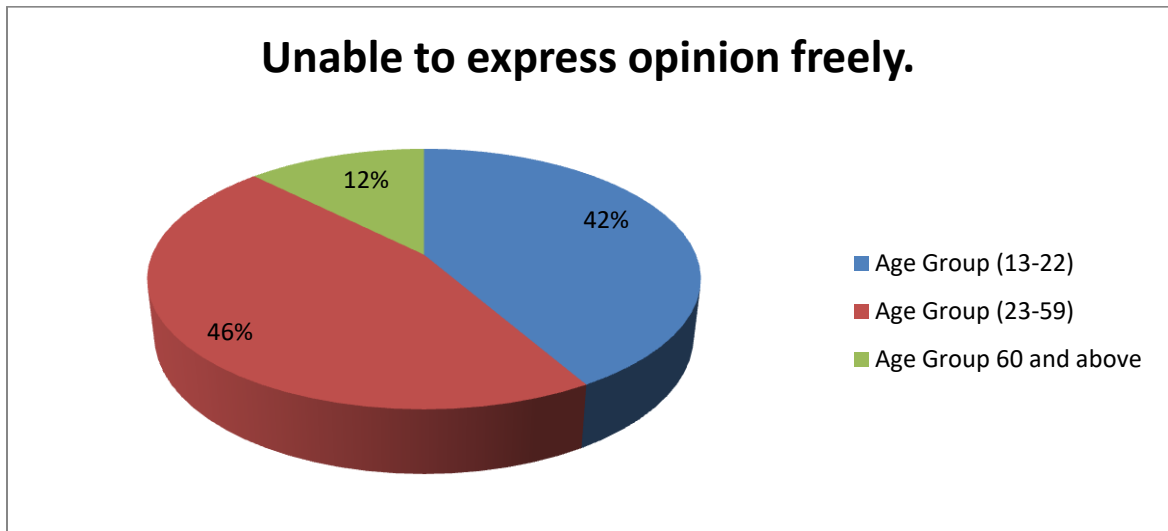


Fig 2: Inability to express opinions freely. Source: field work.

Findings: Less than 50% of the Jaunsari females in each group get a chance to

freely express their opinions and views at home.

c) Do you get support from your family if you wish to plan for an independent living?

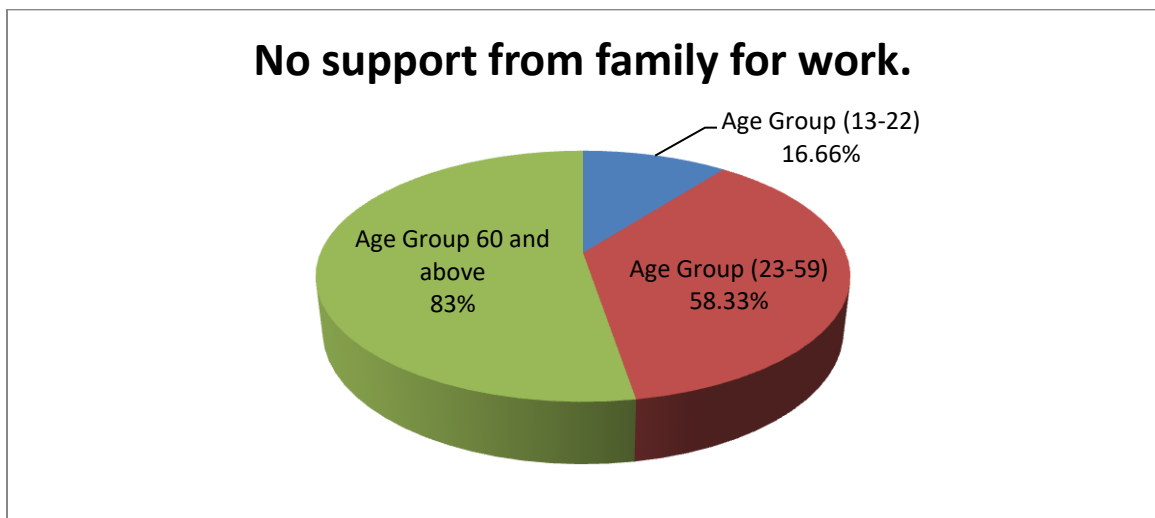


Fig 3: No support from family for work. Source: field work.

Findings: Women of Group C (Age 60 and above) have reported they got minimum support from their family for independent living due to the

primitive practices and culture that was followed in this region since ages.

d) What are the hurdles present in the education institutes in your area?

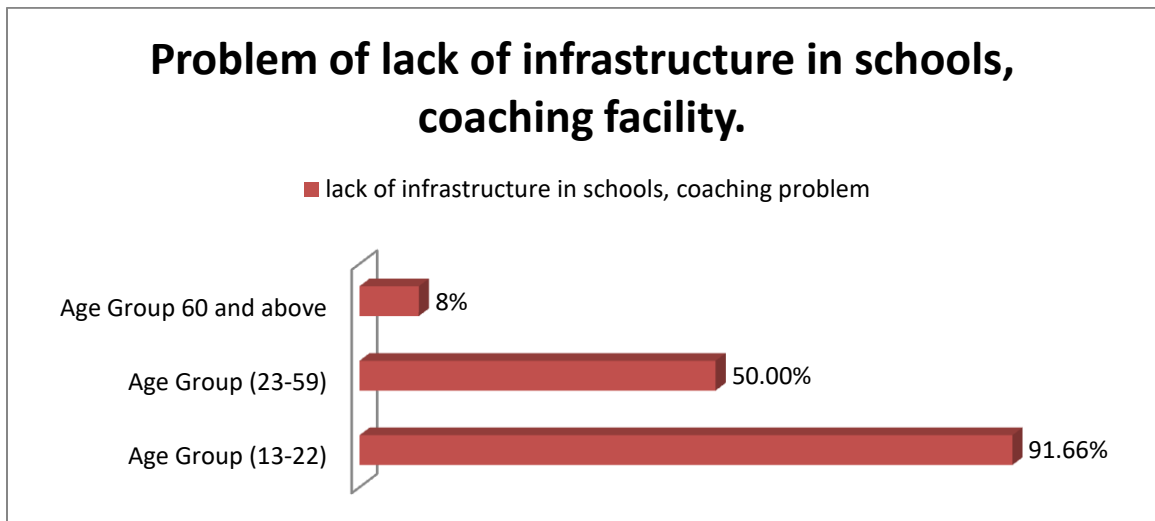


Fig 4: Problems faced at various education institutes. Source: field work.

Findings: Majority of the Jaunsari females going to school have reported about improper infrastructure (furniture, proper class rooms, drinking water

facility and sanitation facilities) and unavailability of coaching facility/remedial classes in this area.

e) What is the situation of literacy among women of different age groups in your area?

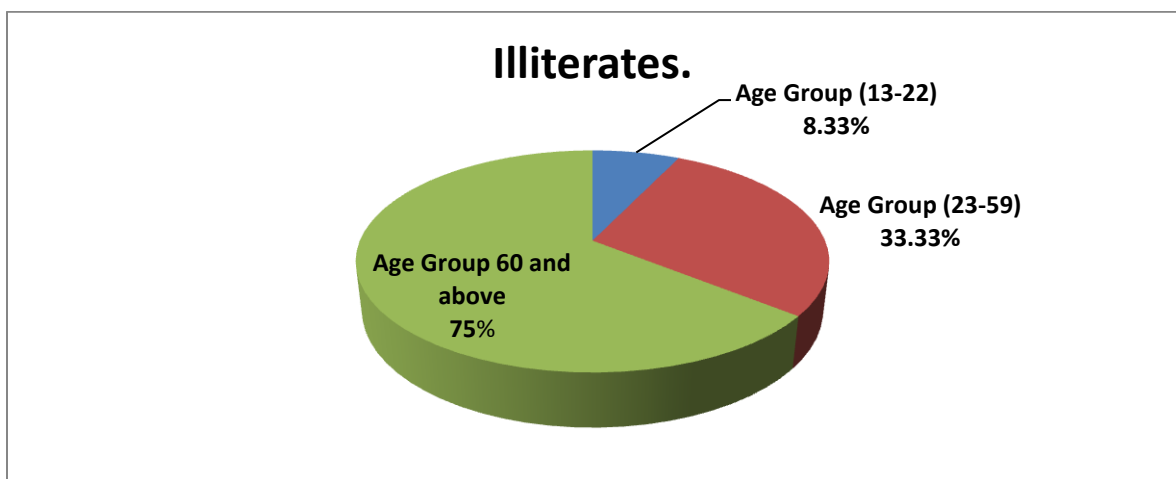


Fig 5: Education status among females. Source: field work.

Findings: Majority of the respondents of the age groups 60 and above were illiterates this clearly

shows that imparting education to women was not given priority.

f) Do women face some problem in getting a job in your region?

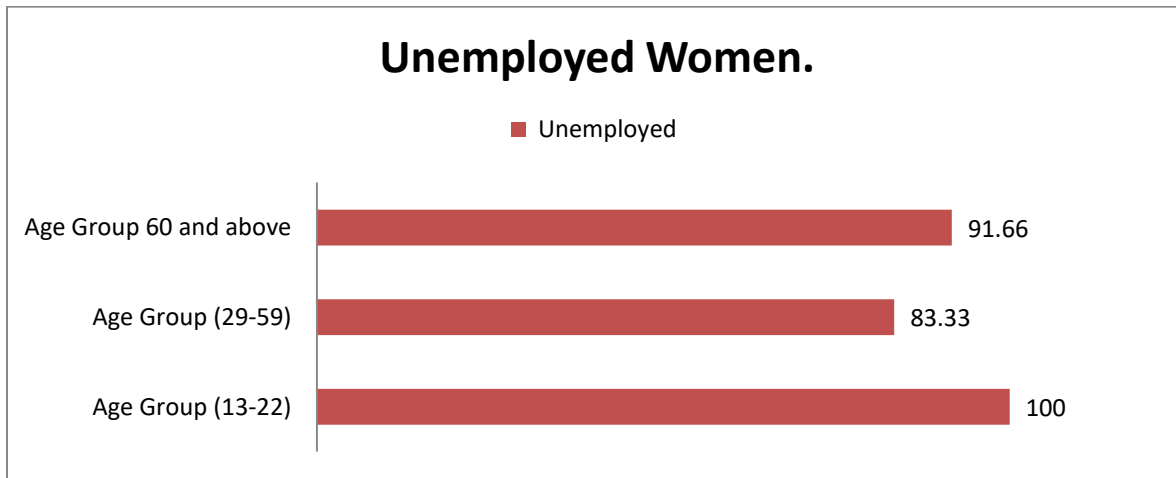


Fig 6: Unemployed women. Source: field work.

Findings: Only 25% of the Jaunsari womenfolk were employed due to limited job opportunities for woman in this area. Those employed were either

'bhojan- matas' in schools, ASHA or Anganwadi worker or some were occupied with informal activities.

g) Are you satisfied with the medical services provided to you in your locality?

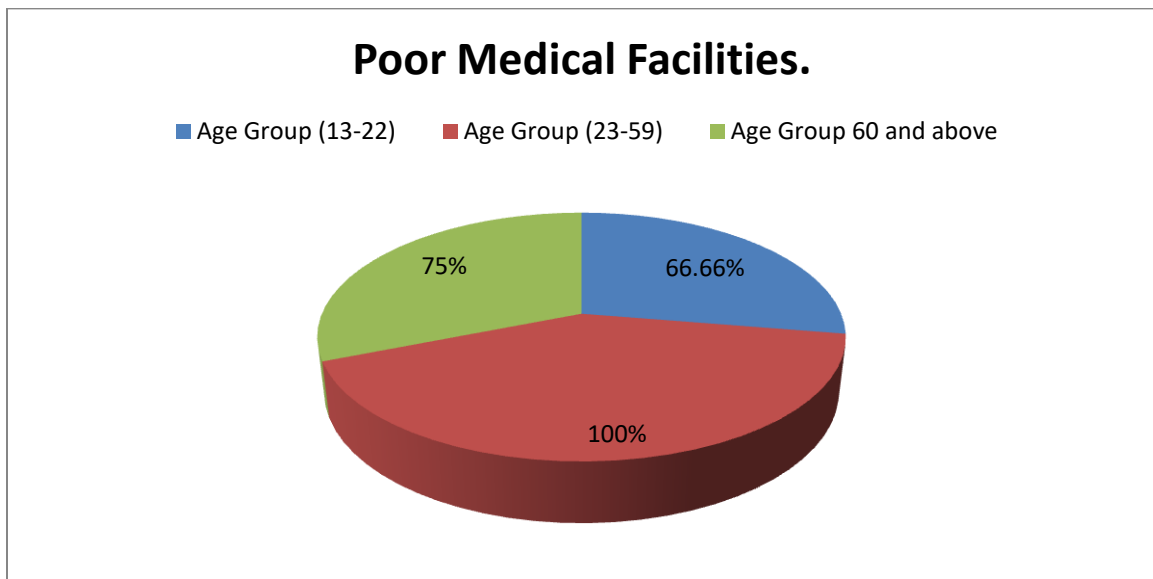


Fig 7: Poor medical facilities. Source: field work.

Findings: Nearly all of the respondents were dissatisfied with the medical facility available to them in their region. Women belonging to age group 23-59 were the

ones who were most distressed as all of them have reported about the disastrous health services provided to them in their respective villages.

h) Are you satisfied with the treatment provided to you in the health centers?

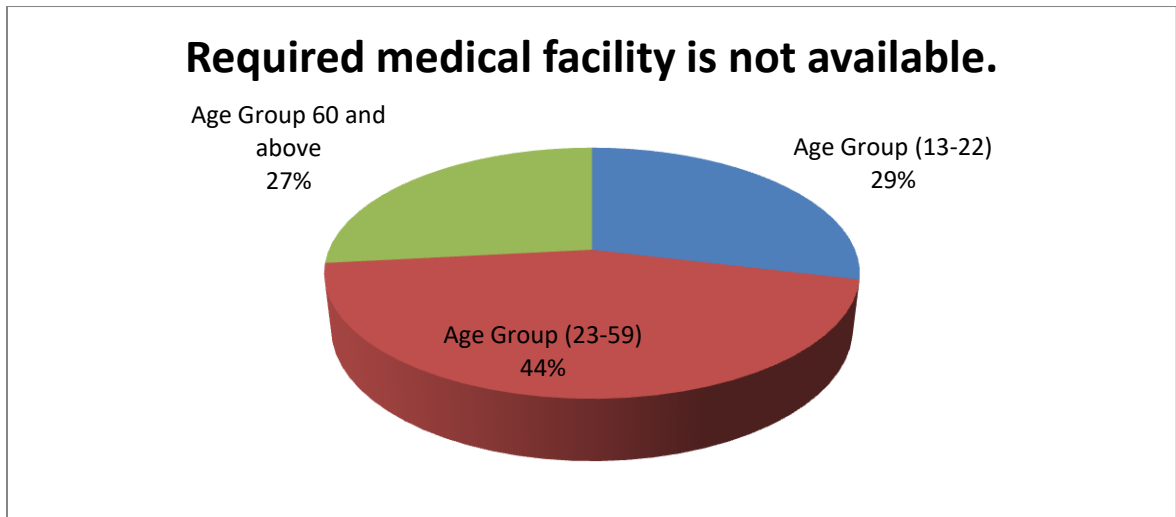


Fig 8: Required medical facility is not available. Source: field work.

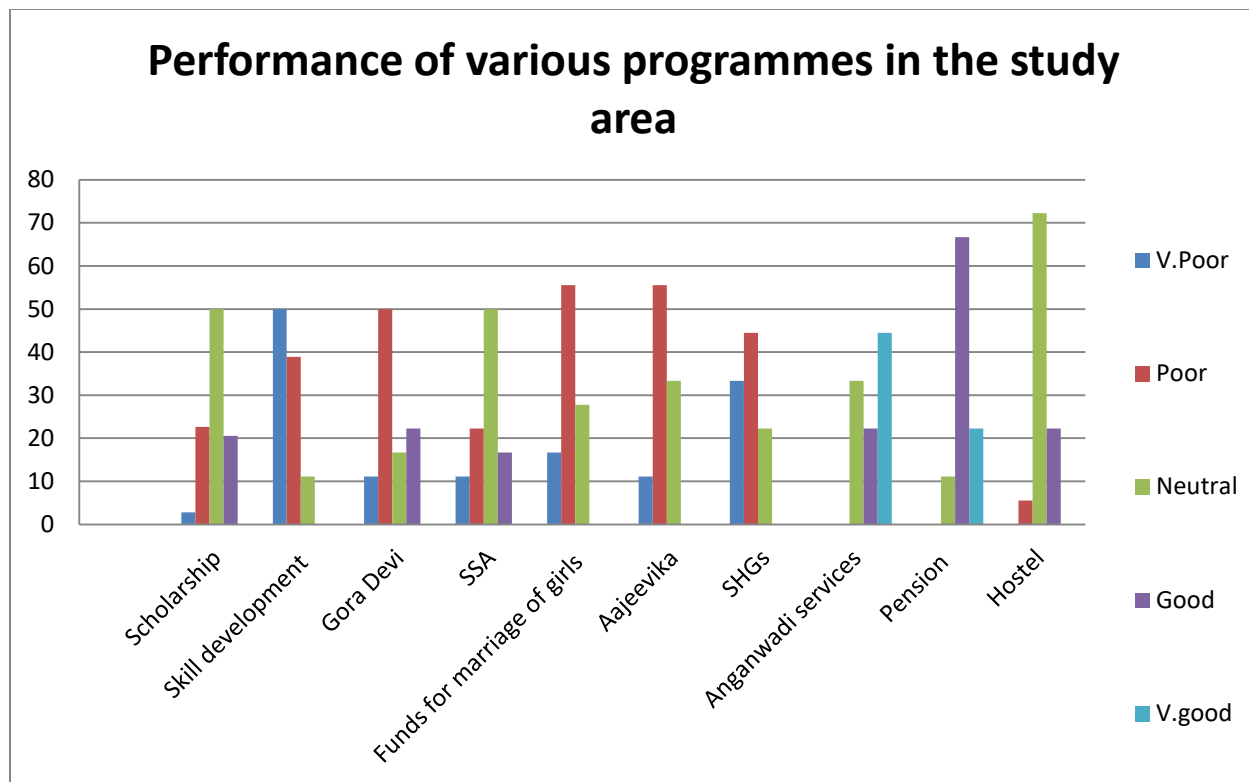
Findings: The respondents were not much satisfied with the type of medical services that was available because in most of the cases the required medical

aid was unavailable. Larger part of the women who were dissatisfied with the health services were from Group B (Age 23-59).

RESPONSE OF RESPONDENTS TOWARDS VARIOUS GOVERNMENT SCHEMES.

To uplift the situation of tribal women the Central and State Government has launched various

schemes with the aim to bring scheduled tribes of the nation to a common platform with the non tribals and to protect their interests by giving them due attention. There are a number of Government Programmes that are launched for the development of Jaunsari Women. Thus the various responses of the respondents was classified into different categories and interpreted.



Source: field work.

Findings:

- The response for ‘Skill Development’ programme has been recorded as very poor in all the villages that were under observation.
- For programmes such as ‘Gora Devi Kanya Dhan Yojana’, ‘Funds for Marriage of Girls’, ‘Ajeevika Mission’ and ‘SHGs’ running in the selected zones most of the respondents have given their response as poor working.
- The feedback that was given for schemes such as the scholarship and the hostel

facilities specifically issued for tribal girls was recorded as ‘neutral’.

- The only programmes with which the respondents were satisfied and have ranked as good in terms of its functioning are the old age pension scheme and the Anganwadi services

SUITABLE STRATEGIES AND UPCOMING SUGGESTIONS

Literacy Trends of Tribals in India

Year	Male	Female	Total
1971	17.63	4.85	11.39
1981	24.52	8.05	16.35
1991	40.65	18.19	29.60
2001	59.17	34.76	47.10
2011	71.70	54.4	63.1

Source: National Commission for SCs & STs, Fifth Report & Census, 2011

1. The above data shows the percentage of female literates in tribal society has improved but the attitude of some parents still remains the same. Due to financial constraints and work pressure at home it has been observed that tribal people prefer women should stay at home and contribute towards family income.

Suggestion: Importance of education along with its role in development should be introduced to tribal parents and at regular intervals counseling and guidance sessions should be arranged.

2. Respondents have reported that there is lack of awareness towards various government programmes running in the study area.

Suggestion: Advertisement of various Government programmes should be done through awareness camps, Panchayat meetings and through frequent visits of officials to ensure that the benefits are reaching the grassroot level.

3. On field visit it was found that 63.88% of the women have reported lack of employment opportunities, while 75% of them have complained that there are no training and skill development programmes for them.

Suggestion: Schools and colleges should start skill development courses for tribal students that would give them instant livelihood opportunities. Women of Group B have also requested that there should be some alternate sources of living that would give them recognition and confidence to face the outside world.

4. Health situation in tribal areas remains grim and requires more investment in infrastructure, staff and equipments.

Suggestion: Health camps should be organized within a gap of every 2-3 months. Dispensaries, PHCs and CHCs should be opened up in areas where there is no medical service at all. Existing PHCs/CHCs should have latest equipments, doctors and nurses and higher official should constantly monitor their working.

5. Tribal women should be involved in the implementation stage of various Government Programmes and should be asked to participate in connecting the remaining needy women.

Suggestion: The beneficiaries of various programmes should connect other women this would help in solving the problem of unawareness among women and will also give women a chance to step out of their current zones and work for the betterment of their area.

CONCLUSION

During field visit and on interacting with women respondents it was found that Jaunsari Women continue to follow the pattern of primitive living and lack empowerment. Through this study the existing problems of tribal women in Kalsi block has been highlighted. The observations, results and studies have shown that to cross the line of development a lot needs to be done. Education and health are two vital indices of human development and the quality of both the indicators is disappointing. Through various researches it has been noted that the only tool that can be used to transform the society and bring out economic and social transformation is education. Education is an input that helps tribal women in identifying their inner strengths and meeting out numerous challenges that they face. Thus the primary concern of block development officers, VDOs, Pradhans and all other people administering development of Kalsi should be to

ensure women are getting access to proper education and the hurdles in attaining education are being addressed.

The hard reality that needs to be accepted is that tribal women in many aspects still lag behind and face numerous challenges. In order to make this region grow government intervention with strict monitoring is needed and sincere efforts should be put to resolve the issues that cause hindrance.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Beniwal, A. (2014). Women in Indian Society, *Partridge Publishing*, India.
- Das, A et.al. (2016). Status of Food Security Entitlements Across Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (Pvtg) Pockets In Jharkhand, *Bmj Glob Health*,1(Suppl 1):A2–A43.
- Joy, J et al. (2014). A Case Study on the School Dropout Scheduled Tribal Students of Wayanad District Kerala, *Research Journal of Educational Sciences*, Vol. 2(3), ISSN- 2321-0508.
- Naik, B.R. (2016). Social, Economic and Educational Status of Tribal Women in India: Some Issues, *IJSR - INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH*, Volume 5, Issue 7, ISSN: 2277-8179
- Puhan, RR and Malla, L. (2015). Socio Economic and Educational Development of People in Tribal Areas, *American Research Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, Volume 1, Issue1, ISSN 2378-7031.
- P, Mahadevappa. (2016). Tribal Women Education in India: Opportunities And

Challenges, *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ADVANCE RESEARCH-IJAR*, Vol 4(9) ISSN: 2320-5407

BOOKS

- ❖ Chaudhary SN, (2015) – Tribal Women Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow, Rawat Publications, ISBN 9788131606650.
- ❖ Gogoi B, (2019) – Tribal Women and Development: A Study of Man Tai of Northeast India. ISBN 9788183245265.
- ❖ Kisku, S 2012. The Role of Tribal Women in Development: A Preliminary Appraisal in a Rural Situation of West Bengal, P 133-161, ISBN 81- 903866-4-6.
- ❖ Lal, B S.(2019). Tribal Development in India: Some Observations, pp.1-16, *Serials Publications*, New Delhi.
- ❖ Talmaki R, 2012 – Socio-Economic Development of Tribal Women: Changes and Challenges: The Women Press, Delhi.
- ❖ Tripathi SN, (2002) – Tribal Women in India, Mohit Publications, India. ISBN:- 978-8174451699.

REPORTS

- ❖ Human Development Report -2018, Department of Planning, Government of Uttarakhand.
- ❖ Census Report 2011.
- ❖ National Commission for SCs & STs, Fifth Report & Census, 2011.