



ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR EMPOWERING BIRHOR OF CHHATTISGARH.

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ABSTRACT:

In India, there are 75 PVTGs; the government is trying to empower women through various programs. Due to a lack of literacy, infrastructure, and poor economic conditions, they are unable to be empowered. The Chhattisgarh government is also trying to empower women through various programs; one of the most recent is the Mahtari Vandana Yojana. The Chhattisgarh state has five PVTGs; Birhor is one of them. The Birhor tribe is very small in population and has a unique folk culture. The paper mainly examines the socio-demographic profile, economic opportunities, and challenges of Birhor tribal women concerning the study area. In the study, a descriptive research design was used, and the data was collected from both primary and secondary resources, such as the primary data collected from Bagicha and Duldula Blocks of Jashpur District from the villages Peta, Janakpur, Shivrinarayan, Dumartoli, and Jhargaon, respectively. The secondary data from different government reports, etc. A sample of size 148 was selected according to the Krejice-Morgan table, and a random sampling method was used for data collection. The findings of the study are that the sociodemographic conditions are very poor, and there are different opportunities and challenges for the economic development of Birhor women.

KEYWORDS:

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT, CHHATTISGARH PVTGS, BIRHOR TRIBE.

1. INTRODUCTION

In India, women's empowerment has increased in the past two decades in terms of the social, economic, political, and legal strength of women to ensure equal rights as men. Women's empowerment is very necessary to achieve sustainable development in the country. Women can also contribute to the economy of a country very effectively. Overall, women in the world are facing the same problems, such as health issues, threats to their lives, an overburden of work, a lack of influence and power, etc. The current situation of women is very imbalanced across society. Literacy plays a crucial role in the empowerment of women. Now, internationally and nationally, there are so many laws, and support is given to women to empower them. But still, there is a big gap to fill to achieve their full empowerment (Jain, 2022). The status of tribal women varies according to the different societies. The tribal women work very hard than men in some cases. They are very important, both economically and non-economically. The Indian social culture plays a crucial role in the empowerment of women; it creates gender inequalities. Male supremacy dominates women's development in society (Bhasin, 2007)

The Chhattisgarh tribal women are facing problems in the economic, social, and political sectors. The study

conducted by Dr. Suman Panigrahi in 2017 recommends that economic empowerment is essential for tribal women. (Panigrahi, 2007). There are 75 PVTGs in India, where the government runs a number of initiatives aimed at empowering women. They are not able to be empowered because of inadequate infrastructure, low economic status, and illiteracy. Through a number of initiatives, including the most recent Mahtari Vandana Yojana, the Chhattisgarh government is also attempting to empower women. Birhor is one of five PVTGs in the state of Chhattisgarh. The Birhor tribe has a unique folk culture and a very small population.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY ARE:

1. To know the socio-demographic profile of households.
2. To identify the economic opportunities in the study area for Birhor women.
3. To examine the economic challenges faced by Birhor women in the study area.

METHODOLOGY

In the study, a descriptive research design was used, and the data was collected from both primary and secondary resources, such as the primary data collected from Bagicha and Duldula Blocks of Jashpur District from the villages

Peta, Janakpur, Shivrinarayan, Dumartoli, and Jhargaon, respectively. The secondary data from different government reports, etc. A sample of size 148 was selected

according to the Krejice-Morgan table, and a random sampling method was used for data collection.

TABLE OF CLASSIFICATION OF THE SAMPLE CORRESPONDING TO THE TOTAL POPULATION.

SL. No	District	Block	Village	Total Population	Sample Population
1.	Jashpur	Bagiche	Peta	1	1
2.	Jashpur	Bagiche	Janakpur	80	43
3.	Jashpur	Bagiche	Shivrinarayan	87	49
4.	Jashpur	Bagiche	Dumartoli	14	14
5.	Jashpur	Duldula	Jhargaon	56	41
Total				238	148

Source: TRTI Chhattisgarh

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The analysis of the sample collected from the study area and the interpretation of the data. The results and the discussions reveal information about the sociodemographic profile, such as the identity education of the households and their families, especially female members, the infrastructure facilities, the source of income, etc. It also helps us to know the economic opportunities in the Birhor villages for the economic empowerment of women. Then it also brings out the challenges faced by Birhor women's empowerment economically.

1. SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

All 100% of the households live in nuclear families. It's a notable thing that after marriage, the children must live in a nuclear family and should live independently.

The majority of the 89 (60.14%) households are in the family size range of 1-4. The rest of the households, 59 (39.86%), are of size 5-7. No family has a size above 7. It's because, as per above, we have seen that all of the households live in nuclear families.

Most of the households, 123 (83.11%), are illiterate, and a small portion of the households, 16 (10.81%), have primary education. Then the minute portion of 9 (6.08%) are middle school educated. It's because most of the households are not very aware of the value of education.

Most of the respondents are unemployed, 129 (87.16%). The rest of the short portion is divided into 11 (7.43%) and 11 (5.41%), which are agriculture workers and craft workers, respectively. The unemployed households live by the works such as labor and some small jobs for their living; they have no regular jobs. They cultivate the vegetables in the surroundings and collect them from the jungle, and they get support from PSDS services from the government. Some of them involve craft work such as rope making, wooden craft work, etc. The rest of them are regular agricultural products such as rice, wheat, vegetables, mauwa, etc.

All of the households have an income of less than Rs. 5,000 per month. There is no one above 5,000 in the study area because they do not have any proper sources of income. They are all not very educated, and they are not very aware of their daily income.

All of the households have kaccha houses; there are no semi-pucca or pucca houses in the villages. They are living in a single room. The government-provided houses are not suitable for staying. All of the houses have electricity, but there are only one or two bulbs in them. There are no other electric objects in the house. None of the houses have separate rooms for cooking. There is no cooking fuel such as LPG gas or biogas; they are using traditional methods such as wood and kerosene for cooking. The source of drinking is traditional methods such as rivers, small streams, wells, etc. There are some hand pumps in the villages, but they do not work properly. They are all not aware of technological advancements in the world.

Overall, the sociodemographic of the households and their family members are very poor. They are not very educated, unemployable, low-income, and have poor infrastructure. They require adequate attention and programs aimed at improving their socioeconomic status.

2. ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES OF BIRHOR WOMEN FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT.

All 100% of the women in the households can do handicrafts, such as making rope, mats, Donapathal, Household things, etc. Most of these works are done by the women in the villages, apart from their home duties, and without any age difference. One of the major things seen in Birhor Villages is that both men and women work hard in their daily lives; there is no gender discrimination in the field of work. Such handicrafts can be sold in the market and earn better revenue.

In the Birhor tribe, there is no cultural or other prohibition against doing work; they are allowed to work. This is a big opportunity for Birhor women to work. The work is

equally distributed in the village; sometimes the women are doing more work than the men in the village. They are experts in making rope and other handicrafts in the village.

The Chhattisgarh government initiated a new scheme, the Mahtari Vandana Yojana, to empower women in Chhattisgarh. The Birhor tribe women also get benefits from the scheme, but some of them don't because of bank issues.

3. ECONOMIC CHALLENGES OF BIRHOR WOMEN FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT.

All 100% of the female members in the household are dropouts from school; only they have primary education. The main issue is the unavailability of schools in the villages. Also, they do not know the value of education. One of the main drawbacks that is seen in the village is the early marriage of the girls in the village, which leads to the responsibility of home at a young age because they are living in a nuclear family system.

Also, they make rope, handicrafts, etc., but the males are the ones who go out of the village and sell them. The females don't know what the market is or what the price and value of the things they are making are. Even if they get something from the work done by them, it is all given to the husband. There is no saving tendency in the village among women. The females very rarely go out of the village.

The females are very demotivated. You can see that the women are not ready to go outside of the village for

education, work, etc.; they are living in the village and taking care of the house. They are not thinking about the outside of the village, and they also do not have any technological knowledge.

Overall, the poor infrastructure facilities, lack of education, and poor economic conditions push them to remain vulnerable. The women have opportunities, but they are not much aware of that.

CONCLUSION

From the study, it was found that the sociodemographic profile of the Birhor tribe is very poor; their infrastructure facilities are very poor; there is a lack of education and low income, etc. Also, their female member's condition is poor in socio-economic terms. They also have poor education, are demotivated, and are unaware of the opportunities in the village.

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