



## Research Article

# CONSTRAINTS FACED BY TRIBAL WOMEN IN THE PARTICIPATION OF DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMMES

MAREESWARAN P.<sup>\*1</sup>, JANSIRANI R.<sup>2</sup>, ASOKHAN M.<sup>3</sup> AND MANI K.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1,3</sup>Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, 641003, India

<sup>2</sup>Department of Sustainable Organic Agriculture, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, 641 003, India

<sup>4</sup>Department of Agricultural Economics, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, 641 003, India

\*Corresponding Author: Email-mareesagri@gmail.com

Received: April 18, 2017; Revised: April 24, 2017; Accepted: April 25, 2017; Published: May 12, 2017

**Abstract-** The present study aims to analyze the constraints faced by tribal women in participation of developmental programmes for their livelihood security and seek solution to overcome the constraints. The study was carried out in Salem, Namakkal and Coimbatore districts of Tamil Nadu. Four villages were selected purposively from four identified blocks where tribal women population residing more. *Ex-post facto* research design was used for this study. A sample size of 200 tribal women members were selected by using Proportionate Random Sampling (PRS) method. The data was collected through personal interview method. The results show that about half of the tribal women reported that less job opportunities (45.00%) followed by lack of periodical trainings (40.00%) and lack of awareness about developmental programmes (35.00%). And major suggestions are create awareness about developmental programmes (58.50%) and create job opportunity for jobless tribal women (54.50%) respectively.

**Keywords-** Constraints, Participation, Tribal Women, Developmental Programmes.

**Citation:** Mareeswaran P., et al., (2017) Constraints Faced by Tribal Women in the Participation of Developmental Programmes. International Journal of Agriculture Sciences, ISSN: 0975-3710 & E-ISSN: 0975-9107, Volume 9, Issue 22, pp.-4257-4258.

**Copyright:** Copyright©2017 Mareeswaran P., et al., This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

**Academic Editor / Reviewer:** P. Sivaraj

## Introduction

A social group is usually identified by a common territory, dialect, and cultural homogeneity, social and political organization. It may include several sub groups. Generally tribe becomes Scheduled Tribe only when it is notified as Scheduled Tribe under Article 342 of Constitution of India. Empowerment is an active and multidimensional process, which enables women to realize their identity and power in all aspects of life. The need for empowerment of tribal women hardly needs justification. Their primitive way of life, economic and social backwardness, low level of literacy, out dated system of production, absence of value systems, sparse physical infrastructure in backward tribal areas and demographic quality of tribal areas make the development of tribals and tribal areas essential. Even after industrialization and the resultant commercialization swamped the tribal economy, women continued to play a significant role. Collection of minor forests produce is done mostly by women and children. Majority of the tribal women members are work as labourers in industries, households and construction, contributing to their family income. However, tribal women face problems and challenges in getting a sustainable livelihood and a decent life due to environmental degradation and the interference of outsiders by Awais *et al.* [1]. The major constraints reported by Rath *et al.* [4] regarding participation of tribal women in agriculture and allied activities and in other sectors are wage discrimination, gender-based technology, lack of training and non-availability credit and low exposure levels. The strategy for tribal development, and specially women, needs improvement, betterment, development and upliftment to effect their empowerment. In this paper an effort is taken to access the constraints faced by tribal women in the participation of tribal developmental programmes.

## Materials and Methods

The study was conducted in Salem, Namakkal and Coimbatore districts of Tamil

Nadu were purposively selected based on the percentage of tribal population and available more number of beneficiaries in the study areas. Each district, one block was purposively selected based on maximum availability of Malayali and Irular tribes. *Ex-post facto* research design was used for the study. Totally 200 respondents of tribal women were interviewed for the study. The number of respondents from each of the selected block was fixed based on the Proportionate Random Sampling (PRS) method. The data were collected with well structured pretested interview schedule. The collected data were analyzed and interpreted with percentage analysis and rank order.

## Findings and Discussion

### Constraints faced by the tribal women in participation of developmental programmes

The following were the constraints encountered and reported to the researcher by the tribal women during the survey. The results have been displayed in [Table-1].

### Multiple responses

From [Table-1] revealed that about half of the tribal women were expressed less job opportunity for tribal women other than their occupation forest produce collection (45.00%), followed by lack of periodical skill oriented training (40.50%), less awareness on developmental programmes (35.50%), inadequate motivation from family members due to unfavorable perception towards societal awareness (30.50%), lack of training facility like infrastructure and equipments (21.50%). This finding is supported by Sujeetha and Indhumathi [2,5]. These constraints required immediate attention of the implementing agency so as to make the programmes needy and beneficiary oriented. The percentage and rank order of each constraint indicates the degree of seriousness that caused poor participation of tribal women

in developmental programmes.

**Table-1** Distribution of respondents according to their constraints faced ( $n = 200$ )

S. No.	Constraints	Respondents	Per cent	Rank
1.	Less job opportunity	90	45.00	I
2.	Lack of periodical training	81	40.50	II
3.	Less awareness on developmental programmes	71	35.50	III
4.	Inadequate motivation from family members	61	30.50	IV
5.	Lack of training facility	43	21.50	V
6.	Insufficient credit facility	37	18.50	VI
7.	Gender bias	33	16.50	VII
8.	Lack of affordable price for agricultural produce	29	14.50	VIII
9.	Lack of primary health centre	24	12.00	IX
10.	Low participation of members	18	9.00	X
11.	Lack of school facility	16	8.00	XI
12.	Lack of self motivation	12	6.00	XII

### Suggestions offered by tribal women in participation of developmental programmes

The respondents were further enquired to offered suggestions for effective participation of developmental programmes. The following were the suggestions emerged during the investigation and were presented in [Table-2].

**Table-2** Distribution of respondents according to their suggestions offered ( $n = 200$ )

S. No.	Suggestions	Respondents	Per cent	Rank
1.	Create awareness about developmental programmes and its importance	117	58.50	I
2.	Create job opportunity for jobless tribal women	109	54.50	II
3.	Offered frequently vocational training	67	33.50	III
4.	Provide adequate loan facility on timely	49	24.50	IV
5.	Simplifying the loan procedures	34	17.00	V
6.	Fix affordable price for agricultural produce	31	15.50	VI
7.	Provide primary health centre facility	29	14.50	VII
8.	Increase the number of participation through adequate communication skills	22	11.00	VIII
9.	Provide free educational programmes	16	8.00	IX
10.	Frequent contact between officials	8	4.00	X

### Multiple responses

From [Table-2] revealed that suggestions given by tribal women as a result of their experience and exposures due to their participation in developmental programmes. Above half of the tribal women expressed create awareness about developmental programmes and its importance for empowerment of tribal women (58.50%), followed by create job opportunity for jobless tribal women for their livelihood security (54.50%), offered frequently vocational training for self employment oriented programme for tribal women (33.50%), provide timely adequate loan facility for improvement of agricultural and entrepreneurial activities (24.50%), simplifying the loan procedures for tribal women liberalized from collateral security and surety for betterment of their life (17.00%), were suggestions made by tribal women in participation of developmental programmes. This result coincides with the findings derived by Jayakumar [3].

### Conclusion

Tribal women plays a major role in the co-management of their natural, social, economic resources and agricultural development including crop production, livestock production, livestock production etc but they remain backward due to traditional values, illiteracy, superstition and many other social and cultural factors. The participatory role of tribal's in improving their living conditions by fully exploring natural endowments and alternative uses must find an appropriate place

in the strategic approach. This study reported that constraints and suggestions encountered from the tribal women. In general it requires that the support of family members to women in their family life. Such as taking care of children, helps in household work and opportunities for more exposure in every sphere of life free of expression. The women under the study wanted to create more job opportunity for jobless tribal women. Provide adequate information to increase the participation of tribal women in developmental programmes and education to the girls should be provided free of cost and more educational institutions should be established in nearby areas. Training to tribal women about income generating enterprises so as to engage them in self-employment needs to be ensured. The developmental programmes are implemented by Government and Non-governmental organization for empowering the tribal women, both economically as well as socially. As a whole the following suggestions are forwarded here to overcome the constraints faced by tribal women in participation of developmental programmes for their livelihood security.

### Acknowledgement

With a deep sense of gratitude and sincerely thank to University Grants Commission, India for their perpetual guidance and financial support provided through "Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for Disability Students" for the period of this research work.

**Author Contributions:** All author equally contributed

**Abbreviations:** PRS - Proportionate Random Sampling

**Conflict of Interest:** None declared

### References

- [1] Awais M., Alam T. and Asif M. (2009) *Inter. J. of Rural Studies*, 16(1), 1-11.
- [2] Indumathi K. (2013) *Impact of development programmes on Livelihood Security of Tribes. Unpub. Ph.D. Thesis, TNAU, Coimbatore.*
- [3] Jayakumar A. and Palaniyammal P. (2016) *Socio-Economic status of scheduled tribes in kalrayan hills*. 4 (13:SE), March, 2016.
- [4] Rath N.C., Das L., Mishra S.K. and Lwenka S. (2007) *Kurukshetra*, 55, 23-34.
- [5] Sujeetha T.N. (2012) *Empowerment of tribal women through SHGs- An analysis. Unpub. M.Sc. (Ag.) Thesis, AC & RI, TNAU, Coimbatore.*