

## THE TRIBAL WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN THE PACHAMALAI AREA OF TAMILNADU

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### ABSTRACT

Empowerment has become one of the most widely used development terms. The Pachamalai people are living in other hills areas. Such as Kollimalai, Kalrayan Malai, Shervarayan hills, Pothamalai and Aranooth', Irular', 'Paniyan' and ' Kattunayakkan' are living in Nilgris and other parts of Tamilnadu. The society of tribal woman, socially, culturally, economically, educationally and politically backwards. They are a Tamil speaking people who migrated from the plains to the hills in recent times. The status of tribal women are following aspects. Basic amenities, health welfare, economic status, educational development, political development utilising tribal welfare scheme and development self-help, employment, family welfare and women right. The tribal women know about health welfare and nutrition foods and to have knowledge of gender awareness about their bodies and sexuality. The political status is a concern in the tribal women participation in political affairs. The self-help group was running in the village area for women development. The tribal women understand his employment conditions and opportunities to improve their employment status. Several societies are working for their advancement of tribal development.

**Keywords:** empowerment, Pachamalai, tribal women

Empowerment has become one of the most widely used development terms. Women's groups, non-governmental development organizations activities, Politicians, government and international agencies refer to empowerment as one of their goal. Women and men are equal in every human concern in this world. The international conference on population and development (1994 Cairo) point out. Empowering women and improving their status. Women acquire the same status, opportunities and social, economic and legal rights as men, as they acquire the right to reproductive health and right to Governmental and non-Governmental organization pushed for women's development.

The tribes of Pachamalai are called The 'Malayalis'. They are living in Trichy and Salem districts of Tamilnadu. The Malayalis people are living in other hills areas, Such as Kollimalai, Kalrayan Malai, Shervarayan hills, pothamalai and Aranooth', Irular', 'Paniyan' and ' Kattunaikan' are living in Nilgris and other parts of Tamilnadu. They are 36 Scheduled tribes living in

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Tamilnadu. The Malayali tribes are found in the hill areas of Salem, Attur, Namakkal, Gangavalli, Rasipuram, Harur and Thuraiyur taluks and of Tamilnadu.

The Malayalis (hill tribes) are socially economically and culturally backward. They are living in remote hills area. They followed their own traditional customs and habits.

In this era, the women marching towards top of the world. Although the society of tribal woman, socially, culturally, economically, educationally and politically backward. Government and announced number of tribal welfare schemes for Tribal development. Basic Amenities, Family Welfare, Agricultural Loan, economic assistance educational assistance and other welfare schemes to implied Tribal areas. Government and non government organizations to help Tribal people to uplift their life development. In this paper purpose to identify the level or status of Tribal women development (Empowerment) in Pachamalai area of Tamilnadu.

The paper describe in the level of Tribal women Empowerment in Pachamalai areas. It is also to explain status of Tribal women in various aspects in Family welfare, Basic Amenities, Health development, Agricultural condition, cultural, development, economic development educational development, political development and job oriented development in present scenario.

The hill tribes of Pachamalai is namely called the Malayalai. They are living hills and hills surrounding area. The Malayalis peoples followed old traditional customs and habits. They are socially, economically, educationally backward people. The man was dominated in Tribal society. They woman status is not equal as men and women position is finding out low level. So the tribal women understanding of their condition and improve they status. They should be get development, Economic development, educational development and political development and job oriented development. The government assists to Tribal welfare for upliftfair life. So the investigator intended to the study Tribal women Development (Empowerment) in Pachamalai area in trichy district.

## **MALAYALI TRIBES**

The tribes of Pachamalai hills are called *Malayali*, the word *Malai* denotes inhabitant of the hills. They are a Tamil speaking people who migrated from the plains to the hills in recent times. According to Thurston, the term *Malayali* has been derived from the words *Malai* meaning *hill* and *al-* meaning *person* and is used to denote people who lived on the hills. Etymologically

the word is derived from *Malai-* Hills and *ali-* inhabitants. The Government of India accorded the status of scheduled tribes to the *Malayali*.

The Malayali community predominantly lives in the hills of Tamil Nadu. The Malayali settlements are formed in the districts of South Arcot, North Arcot, Salem, Namakkal, Tiruchirappalli and Dharmapuri.

### **TRIBAL WOMEN**

Those people who are living in hills area and Hills surrounding area. They are called Tribal. They followed old traditional customs and habits.

### **WOMEN EMPOWERMENT**

Empowerment means, a process to change this distribution of power both in interpersonal relationship.

Women empowerment means, the women acquiring the same status, opportunities and social, economically and legal rights as men. The study traces position of Tribal women in Pachamalai area. It is also explain the traditional way of life of tribal women. To find out the level of development in Basic amenities, Family welfare. Health, educational, employment, economic, political, women rights and self help group in Tribal area. The study aims to explain the present status of Tribal women.

The Malayali's Tribal women followed old own traditional customs and habits. They were belief in old legends and myths. The men position was dominated in the tribal society. The women position was second level. The most of the women are working in agriculture field. Agriculture lands are often far away from house and men and women must leave for work early in the morning usually without having eaten. Women as well as men may work as agricultural day labourers. The women go to forest as a group to collect forest products.

Tribal women improving their status are essential to realizing the full potential of economic, political and social development. They were acquire the same status opportunities in social economic and legal rights as men as they acquire the right to reproductive health and the right to protection against gender based violence human well being will be enhanced. The status is essential for tribal women are following aspects. Basic amenities, health welfare, economic status, educational development, political development utilizing tribal welfare scheme and development self help, employment, family welfare and women right.

### **Basic Amnities**

The status of basic amenities concern to the tribal people about basic development of family and surrounding development of drinking water

facilities, concert roof house, free house built by the government, free lighting facilities, radio, television, gas cylinder, two wheeler vehicles. Concrete road and street near by primary school, shops and medical hospital for children care.

### **Health**

The tribal women is knows about on health welfare and nutrition foods and to have knowledge of gender awareness about their bodies and sexuality. HIV/AIDS prevention activity to know prevention measures about decease, then at the time of pregnancy to consult to the doctor and to aware child care development.

### **Economic Status**

The economic status is understand the village of tribal women makes them aware of themselves and improves their lot. The tribal women have particularly played a dominant role in not only agricultural operations but also in the field of crafts and forest based economy. Women have important position more or less equal of men.

### **Political Status**

The political status is concern in the tribal women participate in political affairs. To knowing her political rights to selecting good leaders our nation. Tribal women know her political contribution, Panchayat President, Member of Legislative Assembly, Member of Parliament of India etc as she was selected.

### **Tribal Welfare Scheme**

Our State Government announced number of tribal welfare scheme to uplift for the tribal people in the economic development. The tribal welfare schemes THADCO, HUDCO, LAMP, agriculture loan to gave the tribal people, the tribal women utilized about the tribal welfare scheme for his future development.

### **Self help Groups**

Our state government introduced self help group scheme for rural development. The self help group was running in village area for women development. The all family tribal women joined self help group and saving money. The tribal women got loan from bank through the self help group. The loan is utilizing in her family welfare. Most of the tribal women involved in self help group and improve their economic and social status.

### **Employment**

The majority of the tribal women was illiterate and employed domestic and agricultural work. Literate tribal women were working in private sector as a

school teacher, nurse and working in shop centre. Some of the women engaged in tailoring, very few women got government job. So the tribal women understand his employment conditions and opportunities improve their employment status.

### **Family**

The women sharing his house hold duties with men for his family welfare development. Men and women share house hold work including cooking , house cleaning and child care. The women also allow to participate in crucial decision making process in family maintenance and development.

### **Women Rights**

The women rights and her status concern to the tribal women to knowing about women rights, child birth right, violence of women, educational rights, political rights, cultural rights and prevent gender based violence act. The tribal women need to know what are the women rights is there, how it will be used to life secure development.

### **Educational Status**

Educational is considered one of the most important means to empower women with knowledge, skills and self confidence necessary to participate fully development processes. Educated women marry later, want fewer children are more likely to use effective methods of contraception and have greater means to improve their economic livelihood.

The main problem of the tribes is illiteracy. Illiteracy and ignorance are responsible for their exploitation and backwardness. The census report 1991, reveals that still 53.24% of the scheduled caste people and 72.11% of the scheduled tribal people are illiterate. The static's of 2001 census reveals that among the majors STs Konnareddis are reported to have the highest 78.2 per cent literacy rate, followed by Kurumans 61.4 percent , Kattunayakan 54.7 percent Malayalis 37.4 percent and Irular 34.3 percent. The female literacy rate of 32.8 percent among ST population is lower than 64.4 percent registered among total female population of the state. As in literacy rate, the highest and lowest female literacy rate of 68.9 percent is also recorded among Kondareddis and Irular.

Education is free for them of all stages. At present the tribal welfare department is running 1077 school and 245 tribal residential schools for the welfare of Adi Dravidars and scheduled tribes respectively, 1079 Adi Dravidar students' hostels and 26 tribal student hostels are being run this department.

Text books, note books and uniform are supplied free of cost to all students of scheduled caste and scheduled tribes students.

The Directorate of Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare is running 213 Government Tribal Residential Schools in thirteen districts with a total strength of 13,950 for the benefit of tribal children. This includes four High Schools and five Higher Secondary Schools. Every year ten new Government Tribal Residential Schools are being opened in Integrated Tribal Development Project areas. The children studying in these schools are provided with free boarding and lodging, woolen blankets, text books, writing materials and uniforms. Some of the voluntary organizations are also actively involved in imparting education to the tribals. Mid – day meal scheme, scholarships, post metric scholarships and loan scholarships are also introduced for the benefit of these students. Coaching classes are conducted to improve the student's standard. Hostels play a vital role in popularizing education among the tribal communities. Both central and state government contributes to the hostel facilities.

For all people education is liberation from their old ties and control. Elementary schools were opened at Pachamalai. In 1996 there are number rose 18. There is also a higher secondary school boys and girls are given free food, free dress, books and note books and hostel accommodation. There are also 26 primary government tribal residential schools found in entire Pachamayalai hills. It is significant to note that there are more than 12 graduates including a bachelor of medicine and bachelor of surgery and engineering students belonging to the Malayalis community. However a attitude toward education among certain of these tribes has not change even now. So some teachers, book male and females are approaching the parents to send their children to the school regularly but the response from the tribal parents has not been encouraging since they are looking for money for their day-to-day life.

Look other tribal communities the source of income or these malayalis tribes is agriculture and forest produce. There are a number of societies working for their advancement of tribal development.

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