

## THE STATUES OF WOMEN AMONG THE SCHEDULED TRIBES IN GOA

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### ABSTRACT

*The Scheduled Tribes constitute around 10.23% of the total population in the state of Goa. The Constitutional safeguard Provisions have brought about changes in their position, and still they are face anxiety with a number of challenges in society. The women belongs to Scheduled tribes Communities are hardworking compared to tribal men in the state of Goa. They contribute significantly towards their family income, but their income generating sources are limited. As a result the children belong to scheduled tribe communities are unable to get higher education after post liberation of Goa. Despite, the constitutional protection and assurance, their status is found to be lower than the women of the General Population in Goa. This paper has been discus about the status of tribal women in the term of their health, Education and Employment etc.*

*The present paper deals with the Statues of women among the Scheduled Tribes in Goa. This is based on books, journals, newspaper, and websites. The data from “Mand” of GKUVD (Gawda, Kunbi, Velip and Dhangar Federation) of Goa is also used here.*

**Keywords:** Safeguards, Education, Empowerment, Challenges, Status.

#### **Introduction-**

The Scheduled Tribes women have special safeguard rights are guaranteed under Constitutional of India. The basic rights which has been specified under laws constituted by the Parliament especially for Schedule area. In accordance with the Constitutional provisions, the orders of the President of India has issued under paragraph six of the Fifth Schedule.

Goa has comprises two districts namely North and South district and these districts are fully sub divided into Twelve’s taluka and the smallest unit being is village. Even the smallest unit

of Goa has the vast population of scheduled tribes are residing and spreading all Eleven's talukas except Parnem Taluka.

In the state of Goa, there are many have the mineral belt in Tribal areas and targeted for their own economic development. Currently, the capitalist are moving in tribal area and displacing the Tribal peoples from their own homes. As a result the Tribal communities loose the connectivity between their own culture, history and economy in Goa. But Still the state has not notified as the Scheduled Area or nor implement any other acts related to protection the interest of tribal Peoples in the state of Goa.

According to the Social researcher view, that "the tribal women though they are away from the main stream of National life, but they are not kept away from the impact of socio-economic changes affecting the society in general" (Dr. G. Sandhya Rani, Dr.P. Neeraja, and N. Rajani , 2011 ). But state economy has been affected due to encroachment made by an insensate capitalist, and an uncooperative socio-political structure. As result, the tribal communities were compelling to join protest movements against government and capitalist.

Even "their low position in socio-economic and political hierarchy, illiteracy, their relative lack of access to facilities provided by developmental measures and their inadequate participation in institutions are mainly responsible for their backwardness as well as access to education" (Rasmi Ranjan Puhan, Gorachando Gamango, Lakshmipriya Malla,2013 ).

The conflict situation is worse with political, builder lobby, Mine Mafia, land mafia activities and an increasing violence affecting women. In Goa, the Scheduled Tribe Women has an important role to protecting the land, livelihood and their culture.

### **Demography**

The total population of Scheduled Tribes in Goa is 10.23% including with 9.87% are male and 10.60% female as per Census 2011. In generally it is assumed that tribal women sometimes also face patriarchal pressures, like other general women in Goa. The census data 2011 shows that of the eleven Talukas with majority tribal population only.

### **Sex Ratio**

The overall sex ratio of the ST population in Goa is 1046 females per 1000 males which are considerably lower than the national average of 978 for the total tribal population. The sex ratio among the Scheduled Tribes in the age group 0-6 years (968) compared to National Level. Being a small numbers at the level of individual tribe and the sex ratios tend to be erratic among the Scheduled Tribes.



### **Tribal Literacy.**

Educational attainment is an important indicator of a state level to empowerment of Tribal peoples and their own Development. After post liberation of Goa, the establishment of the First Girls Carmals Higher secondary was started in 1975 and another one is the Nirmala Institute of Education panaji-Goa, a secondary Teacher Education collage was established in 1963.

The huge efforts made by Christian's missionaries to spread the female education in the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and it's indicate to emerge the social awareness among tribal women in Goa.

After post –liberation of Goa, the Scheduled Tribe areas mostly the tribal female literacy remained abysmally low. There was reason due to lack of earning income of tribal family and problem of poverty which as not affordable to send their children School. As with state are not dare to support tribal girls have recently begun to improve academically.

In fact, the post –liberation of Goa due lack of earning capacity was lower among the tribal family and they are not affordable to send their own children in school. It also noted the certain factors are also responsible to take over into consideration because the large numbers of tribal women have missed education at different stages. In order to “empower them there is great need of providing opportunities so as to enable them to assume leadership qualities for economic self-reliance and even social transformation” (Dr. G. Sandhya Rani, Dr.P. Neeraja, and N. Rajani, 2011).

The Indian constitution under Article 46 lays down that “The state shall promote with special care to the educational and economic interest of the people and in particular of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation”.

In order to develop and raise their level of aspiration, adequate educational opportunities are to be provided so that they get motivated to participate, support and also ultimately learn to initiate their own programmes of development” (Dr. G. Sandhya Rani, Dr.P. Neeraja, and N. Rajani, 2011).

The literacy rate of the Schedule Tribe in Goa increased from 55.88% in 2011 census. The Male literacy has increased from 63.49 per cent, while female literacy has 47.32 per cent during 2011 census.

In order, to understand the various concept of the literacy related to improve the Educational Policy for welfare of tribal development. In view the concept of traditional literacy and the

concept of functional literacy would be a valuable educational exercise in the content of tribal development” (Dr. G. Sandhya Rani, Dr.P. Neeraja, and N. Rajani, 2011). Therefore, the Education is as essential and makes the women to find the right way for development. It bringing to change the Soci-economic and political life of tribal women and empowered them to economically independent.

The education helps them to understand their own rights, responsibilities and also motivated them to participate and contribute to the social development. The population of Scheduled Tribes is very high in some taluka and district in the state of Goa. The literacy rate of scheduled tribal female was very high in both urban as well as rural areas in the state of Goa.

In earlier the large number of tribal women in rural areas might have been loose the educational opportunities at different stages. But now the state need to organize the varieties of skill training programmes at the village level special for the tribal women.

### **Work Participation Ratio**

The Tribal Female work participation ratio is considered as an important factor to lead the economic activities in the State. The tribal Women’s contribution is not recognized in all spheres of activity in the state of Goa.

The work participation ratio among scheduled tribe women was higher than that of non-tribal women. However women in this group are extremely underrepresented in formal employment in all states”. (Rupali Tamuly, Urvi Naik, Gaurav K. Pandey, 2004)

The status of women among scheduled tribes showed that tribal women have a higher worker participation rate than tribal men. In earlier the tribal communities are worse in economically than the mainstream Hindu population.

In Goa the majority of tribal are involved in the primary sector and are engaged as cultivators and agricultural labourers. It was also found in recent 2011 census the tribal female literacy was high compared to male literacy in Goa.

Yet, “women’s contribution to state development is crucial, and their emancipation essential for the economic development and social progress of the state. Women must be recognized as a power in the development process and should be actively involved in it” (Mannisha Gangwar,Nita Kandekar,M.K.Mandal,prakash Kandekar 2004 ).

According to the Tribal sub-plan, the state has not set up draft policy for empowerment of tribal women. The tribal women’s empowerment need to be active and multidimensional process because it should be enable them realize their full identity and power in all spheres of

life.

It consists of their greater access to knowledge and resources, greater ability to plan their lives, greater control over their circumstance, and the power to free themselves from the shackles of custom, belief and practices”(Mannisha Gangwar,Nita Kandekar,M.K.Mandal,prakash Kandekar 2004 ).

In earlier, the tribal women’s lack of access to credit, training, shelter and services, education and to decision-making position prevent them from improving their living conditions and participation in formal or informal social organization.

### **Tribal Livelihood dependence on Agricultural Land.**

Around 40% of tribal Women have been always worked predominantly in the agriculture sector and forest land in Goa. The Kumeri farming was a traditional form of farming practiced by the tribal’s communities in Goa.

Once the monsoons begin the saplings of vegetables, pulses or millets are planted and cultivated by tribal communities in Goa. Whole land was reused, and the crops are rotated for three annual seasons, after which the land was once again allowed to fallow and return to the forest.

For thousands of years, the Kumeri land was farming to ensure the food sufficiency of the tribal farmers. After post liberation of Goa the commercial prospects of selling their vegetables and other fruits in the market. It has an important source of income for these marginalized communities.

Most of the tribal people are illiterate and only recently they are depend on the commercial value of the Kumeri produce. Meanwhile, agricultural Sector and forest land in Goa are stressing the importance of Kumeri farming being regularized.

They fear that it may lead to willful deforestation and its affect on diverse and fragile ecosystem. But at the same time, it estimates figure that it is the sole income and subsistence for over 5000 tribal including with the Non-tribal families in the state. The state has remain many alternative tried to ban and allow the practice but there have no attempts at concrete steps to mediate and solve this longstanding issue.

It is unnecessary blame to the tribal Communities for disturbing Goa’s eco-system. In Periodic that clearing of the forest land before leaving it to regenerate is our traditional way of life and it has only enriched and helped preserve the soil and the eco-system.

Most that tribal communities want to regularize Kumeri farming land and able to start construct a building for market where the tribal women can sell their own product.

The tribal women currently have to resort to makeshift roadside stalls to sell their vegetables and pulses. "It is not just for a matter of livelihood but also a part of their own culture and identity.

The tribal communities who have lived in the forest area for thousand of year had preserved the eco-system and Culture. The eco-system and Kumeri are not two opposite sides of the debate as the government and forest experts have projected it.

The sources of income dependence on Agricultural sector and forest Kumari land which is the mostly preferred by scheduled tribe women in Goa. Similarly, the implementation of policies would help the state in achieving inclusive growth in the long term.

The Scheduled tribes Gawda, Kunbi and Velip population are exist in all the talukas of Goa with concentration in Quepem,snaguem,Darbandor,sattari and Canacona taluka. In Goa most of the Scheduled Tribes women are engaged in agriculture and related activities. Many of them sell vegetables, seasonal vegetable, and other fruits in the nearby city market as well as in the local market.

The tribal Women prefer employment in informal sector because of the nature of work involved it. The tribal Women can balance their family life as well as work life especially for the women with smaller kids.

Besides there are several Constitutional safeguards provision for upliftment of Scheduled tribes i:e educational scholarships, vocational training, loans, credit and child care for scheduled group women would improve their ability to participate in the economy and enhance their status"(Rupali Tamuly, Urvi Naik, Gaurav K. Pandey, 2004)

The tribal women were more important because they worked harder than tribal men and the entire family economy depended on them. The tribal women are mostly involved in the collection of forest produce but also work as labourers in industries, households and as construction workers. They play an important role in management of their resources and agricultural development but remain backward due to illiteracy, superstitions and social evils.

While it also need to improve the Soci-economic conditions of tribal women include diversification of agriculture and non-farm sectors to create job opportunities and to form tribal women's cooperative, taking up sericulture, dairy, handicrafts and horticulture. It is also important to impart practical knowledge and training in modern techniques is also need to all tribal women



By selling the seasonal fruits and vegetables throughout the year having great demand in the local market in Goa. Some of the fruits and vegetables are cultivated by them and in the off season they purchase vegetables from other vendors and sell it.

Sometime, the Scheduled Tribe women who face discrimination in terms of social opportunities and in the job market, because of widening social opportunities a good number of women are seeking for jobs in the formal/ organized market. On the other hand the increasing unemployment rate of Scheduled tribe women is also an indication of more women desiring to enter the organized sector. Government is at crossroads to handle this dualism prevailing among Scheduled tribe women about employment. The self help group may act as bridge to reduce the gap between informal sector and formal sector.

### **Political Representation.**

Giving adequate representation to tribal women in Zilla panchyate and village panchayte, Municipalities has been stalled. The political participation' is related to participation in decision making process, political activism, political consciousness, etc.

The Political participation' and voting rights are the strongest bases of tribal women's to bring the gender equality in politics. The Participation of women in political arena is integral to the advancement of tribal women. The tribal Women's need equal status in every sphere is inextricably linked to state progress and development.

But most of the tribal women participate in the electoral process as voter. They are less awareness about the Panchayati Raj Act of 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Amendment in the Constitution of India.

The Participation level of tribal women in Gram Panchayats only limited and remain as voter. The activities not only formally empowered to make decisions, but also intend to influence the attitudes and behaviour or those who have powers for decision-making.

The 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act is an important landmark in the history of Indian women's participation in the formation of democratic institutions at grassroots level. The most significant aspect is that the gender representation in the decision-making has been taken into account. The 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Acts provide for an opportunity for women's entry into political spheres especially Tribal Women.

### **Health and Nutrition.**

In generally, the Nutritional Levels are very low because the proper Health and medical facilities are not available to tribal women on timely in village. Hence, it has been suffering

from many reproductive complications and contagious diseases.

In tribal society, the tribal male members of the family are supposed to eat fresh and nutritious food in comparison to tribal women.

The balanced diet provides all the food substances to the body for healthy growth and development. The good nutrition also includes eat the proper food of each day and it helps to keep the body healthy and fit.

Due to lack of medical facility is another problem for tribal women. The poor tribal's women do not get food regularly so they fall sick.

In many health centre in village level the Doctors recommend that tribal people have medical care at the first sign of any illness. Early care can result in quicker cure. But the tribal's are deprived of all these basic needs. They are suffering due to mosquitoes' bites, skin diseases, jaundice and do not get any treatment on time.

The Hygiene problem is very common in tribal areas because due to unhygienic conditions their tribal children suffer with many diseases. Due to lack of communication and accessing health service has always been a major concern for tribal women from Scheduled areas.

The present Status of tribal women in education and employment level is high compared to tribal men, but also in comparison to women belonging to the general population.

The health living Conditions and access to good quality health care for all citizens is not only basic human rights, but also essential accompaniments of social and economic development and policies and programs need to be implemented in the framework of quality health care for all and access to basic determiners of health as a basic right.

### **Violence among Tribal family.**

In Goa it has been observed that alcoholism since after post liberation of Goa due to lower literacy and poverty among the tribal community. Because the poverty and lack of education are major factor are responsible for violence against women in Scheduled Tribe areas.

For last five decades the alcoholism amongst tribal men has affected the family's quality of life because it was more expenditure on alcohol. Under such circumstance the tribal Women's frustration and inability to look on their face. The violence against tribal women is hampering the empowerment of women's for their capability remained low.

### **Status and Empowerment of Tribal Women in Goa.**





India is a welfare State and it's wholeheartedly dedicated to make the welfare and development of Citizen of India and the weaker sections in Society.

The preamble, Fundamental Rights including with the Directive Principles of State Policy are specific the certain Articles 38, 39 and 46 in the Constitution of India to the delivery of the State to its people. Thus, who have the socially isolated groups like Scheduled Tribes have not received on special focus over the years for their social and economic development?

The central and state has not taken any steps for framing appropriate policies and design the various welfare programmes for achieving the objective of tribal sub plan to ensure speedy socio economic development of Scheduled Tribes.

For the well being of these disadvantaged groups like Scheduled Tribes have special focus to prepare various beneficial scheme and developmental programmes to lead the upliftment of tribal communities.

The state must be focus on major reform activities for these communities are as educational development, economic development and other schemes need to prepare under Tribal Sub Plan.

The Scheduled Tribes need to receive the special attention on the welfare programmes are effective instruments to ensure proportionate flow of funds for tribal development under Tribal Sub Plan.

Presently, the flow of funds from state plans to tribal sub plans has been increased substantially for the 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan. The size of 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Tribal Sub Plan 2012 - 2017 and annual Tribal Sub Plan 2012 – 2017 has been fixed at the Rs. 400 Crores respectively. This entire fund are not utilized for welfare of tribal peoples and empowered for tribal women by Government in the state of Goa.

The Directorate of Tribal welfare has not framed any other tribal development policy or any other project for tribal development project in the state of Goa. Even the few tribal welfare schemes for women and girl was implemented in the state of Goa has proved ineffective. The tribal Communities were not happy against the Government policy because the Procedure is very complicate to obtain certain benefit of various department or Scheme.

It is true that the adequate irrigation, drinking water, electricity or any other development project not reached in Tribal area. During the successive five year plan periods it also impact on their socio-economic mobility. Therefore, the tribal women were remaining abysmally backward and still living in harsh environments.

### **Conclusion and Suggestion.**

Women's development requires support in economic empowerment to make a budgetary provision through tribal sub-plan. This will ensure that tribal sub-plan policy is implemented suitably in tribal dominated area in the state of Goa.

While international laws of women a right have several provisions to protect and welfare programmes to reducing Poverty. The developmental policies and welfare programmes must be related to tribal women and put into action through various five year plans under tribal sub plan.

1. To ensuring accessible toilets policy for tribal women in each Talukas, and village Level.
2. To prepare the health Scheme policy for availing the tribal women those who living below poverty line and requires the establishing of a large scale programme.
3. To keep the awareness health programme in each Talukas, and village Level in the state of Goa.
4. To provide the agriculture extension trainings, and new production technologies for tribal women.
5. To set up the Counseling facilities in every police station is required to combat domestic violence.
6. To ensure that State should setup the women developments Committees have 50% representation of tribal women.
7. To establish the Women resource centers in each districts in the state of Goa and enable women to coordinate education, employment and livelihood facilities to tribal women.
8. To make awareness programmes among tribal women about their various Government policies, schemes and legislations etc.

### **Conclusion**

The constitutional safeguard provision and welfare policies are avail for the tribal women but still they are lagging behind, and face many challenges.

The low level of economic conditions, social backwardness, and poor health conditions and it makes to prevent a vital for a systematic process of tribal development. The tribal women are work very harder compared to tribal male and they were contributing significantly towards

the economic condition of the family.

During the XII<sup>th</sup> plan periods it lay down guideline to undertake the various programmes for the development of the Scheduled Tribe population in the state of Goa.

In the present context no one can remain completely isolated but they are influenced by the growth of modern society and culture. The state has not show keen interest to support and grant for the education of Tribal girls and female. It is impossible without the help of the state to increase the literacy rate and difficult to lead development programmes in tribal area.

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