



PARTICIPATION OF SCHEDULED CASTE WOMEN IN SOCIAL ACTIVITIES : A STUDY IN SOME SELECTED VILLAGES OF KAMRUP DISTRICT, ASSAM, INDIA

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ABSTRACT : *Participation of people in different activities not only important for maintaining a good emotional health but it is also a symbol of social status. The various social activities in rural areas of the study area are organizing meeting, awareness campaign etc. as a member of welfare organization for development of the area and the society, organization of sports and cultural program for youths, holding awareness campaign and meeting to stop environmental degradation and protection of Bio-diversity, working for differently able person, work for improvement of social skills of children etc. These social activities connect different people and brings members of the community together to work for betterment of society. Scheduled Caste people are socio-economically backward people. Women of them are educationally even more backward than their male counterpart. Due to age old tradition, social taboo and stigma, majority of women in rural areas are not allowed to go outside to perform various activities in the in laws house. However, with development of education a section of women come out to participate in some social activities. In order to examine the role of education on participation in social activities 902 Scheduled Caste married women with different educational status from 36 villages were selected and surveyed using a questionnaire and statistical analysis was done with the help of SPSS.*

Keywords: *Social activities, Social skills, Bio-diversity, Community service*

I.Introduction:

Activities which are considered appropriate and beneficial for all members of a society are considered as social activities. According to psychology

dictionary “ Social activity is a event or pursuit that brings member of the community together.”Involvement in social activities helps a people to learn many thing



, keep minds in positive mood and helps to maintain a good emotional health. Even the aged people who involve in social activities are not victimized by the onset of dementia. The purpose of social activities mainly encompasses enjoyment, motivation, relaxation, stimulation and belongingness. Involvement of women in social activities indicates social progress. Scheduled Castes are socio-economically backward section of people in Indian society. Among them majority of women are illiterate and a section of them has low educational status. Thus majority of them are unable to take leadership in organization to do some social activities. However with development of education, establishment of different women organizations and increased communication with urban areas as well as mass media presently some women take part in various social activities. In order to examine the role of education six social activities are considered in the present study.

- i) Member of welfare organization to work for various social activities:
- ii) Some women in villages formed Mahila Samittee or NGO or club. They organize cooking class in the week end, arrange holiday trip to

holly places, give training of folk dance etc.

- iii) Organization of meeting, arranging awareness campaign etc. for conservation and protection of Environment and Bio-diversity:

- a. Many women organization observe World Environment Day, do tree plantation, and arrange awareness campaign to aware people about conservation and protection of environment.

- iv) Organization of sports, cultural program, quiz competition etc. for youths.

Women individually or as group organize sports , cultural program etc. during festivals like Bihu, Puja etc. These activities help women as well as youths to become social.

- v) Community activities especially volunteer work and relief work in disaster sites during flood.

During heavy flood many people of Kamrup district become homeless and suffer from scarcity of food and other essential items. A small section of Scheduled Caste women also individually or as member of NGO or club extend their help to the distress people.



v) Community activities to prohibit common social problems especially drinking of alcohol and use of drug.

Drinking of alcohol by adult male members and creating nuisance in the families at night in poor families is a great social problem. Another major problem is drug addiction of youths. Some Mahila Samittee (women organization) actively take part to stop such activities.

vi) Improvement of social skills and promoting of socio-emotional development of children.

Some literate Scheduled Caste women individually or in group help children and motivate them towards healthy environment by playing, dancing, reciting poem etc. They form organization also help kids to perform different activities in radio and television.

II.Objectives:

The objective of the study is to examine the role of educational status of Scheduled Caste women on involvement in social activities.

III.Hypothesis:

H0:There is no significant difference in the participation of Scheduled Caste women of different educational status in different social activities.

IV.Analysis:

In order to examine the participation of Scheduled Castes women with different educational status in different social activities the table 1 is prepared considering five different educational status of respondents and presented below in table

Table-1: Participation of Scheduled Castes women in social activities in respect of educational Status

Indicators	Educational Status	Yes		No	
		Count	%	Count	%
1) Involvement of Scheduled Castes women in social activities as member of welfare organization like NGO, mahila samittee, club etc.	Illiterate	14	5.69	232	94.31
	Below Primary	10	4.03	238	95.97
	Primary	12	7.18	155	92.82
	Secondary	6	4.14	139	95.86
	Graduate and above	6	6.25	90	93.75
	Total	48	5.32	854	94.68

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2) Participation of Scheduled Caste women in conservation and protection of Environment and Biodiversity by organizing meeting, campaign etc	Illiterate	1	0.41	245	99.59
	Below Primary	12	4.84	236	95.16
	Primary	12	7.18	155	92.82
	Secondary	24	16.55	121	83.45
	Graduate and above	36	37.5	60	62.5
	Total	85	9.42	817	90.58
3) Participation of Scheduled caste women in organizing sports,cultural programmes for youth during festivals.	Illiterate	32	13.0	214	87.0
	Below Primary	23	9.27	225	90.73
	Primary	23	13.77	144	86.23
	Secondary	18	12.41	127	87.59
	Graduate and above	12	12.5	84	87.5
	Total	108	11.97	794	88.03
4) Participation of Scheduled caste women in community activities especially volunteer and relief activities in disaster sites during flood.	Illiterate	14	5.69	232	94.31
	Below Primary	10	4.03	238	95.97
	Primary	12	7.18	155	92.82
	Secondary	6	4.14	139	95.86
	Graduate and above	6	6.25	90	93.75
	Total	48	5.32	854	94.68
5) Involvement of Scheduled caste women in community activities to prohibit the drinking of alcohol, country made liquor and drug	Illiterate	30	12.20	216	87.80
	Below Primary	19	7.66	229	92.34
	Primary	20	11.98	147	88.02
	Secondary	9	6.20	136	93.80
	Graduate and above	3	3.13	93	96.87
	Total	81	8.98	821	91.02
6) Contribution of Scheduled Caste women towards improvement of social skills and promoting	Illiterate	0	0	246	100
	Below Primary	0	0	248	100
	Primary	0	0	167	100
	Secondary	3	2.07	142	97.93



socio-emotional development of children	Graduate and above	9	9.37	87	90.63
	Total	12	1.33	890	98.67

Source: *Field study, 2022*

V. Interpretation:

The above table shows that in respect of participation in social activities as member of welfare organization only 5.7% of illiterate women were found which decline to 4.0% in case of women below primary level of education and again rose to 7.2% of women with primary level of education which is recorded as highest. However in respect of women with secondary level of education the participation in welfare organization is decline to 4.1% and again increased to 6.3% of women with educational status graduate and above. It was the prevailing social system and restriction on women for which majority of women are not allowed to join in organization.

It is observed that educated women are conscious about conservation and protection of Environment and Biodiversity. Therefore with increase of educational status the involvement of the respondents in those activities is found more.

There is slight variation in respect of proportion of women involved in organizing sports for youths in different educational status during festivals. The highest percentage of women (13.8%) is found in respect of women with primary level of education which is followed by illiterate women (13.0%). Women with educational status graduate and above and secondary level recorded their involvement in such activities slightly low. It is observed in the field that majority of women basically look after household works and they do not have freedom to go for social work for organizing sports for youth which generally a day long activity or cultural program at night. Thus 88.03% are not involved in such activities.

So far participation in local community activities especially voluntary and relief work, extend help to the flood victims during flood are concerned it is observed that the women who are member of welfare organization participated in such activities with NGO. The highest involvement 7.18% found among the



Scheduled Castes women having educational status up to primary level followed by women with educational status graduate and above(6.25%) and illiterate women (5.69%). In other two groups only a small section are involved.

It is observed that 8.98% of Scheduled Castes women of different educational status involved in community activities especially organizing meetings for prohibition of use of drug, alcohol. An analysis of educational status of women who involved in this social activity shows that the highest (12.20%) was found in case of illiterate Scheduled Castes women which is followed by women with educational

status primary level(11.98%). Use of drug specially dendrite is common among the young people, while drinking of alcohol and country made liquor is common among the elder section of people.

A small section of Scheduled Castes women also contributes towards improvement of social skills and socio-emotional development of children. It was only 1.33% of total respondents found in two groups.

Statistical analysis has been done using SPSS and mean score of involvement in social activities of Scheduled Caste women with different educational status is calculated and ANOVA table is prepared.

Table 2: Mean Score of participation in Social Activities

	Educational Level	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error
Mean score of involvement of Scheduled Castes women in Social Activities	Illiterate	246	2.8699	1.72122	.10974
	Below Primary	248	2.7016	1.74477	.11079
	Primary	167	3.1976	1.64734	.12747
	Secondary	145	4.9517	1.82700	.15172
	Graduate & Above	96	4.1250	1.97484	.20156
	Total	902	3.5654	2.11060	.07028



Table 3 : ANOVA

		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig
Mean score of Social	Between Groups	1234.243	4	308.561	99.582	.000
	Within Groups	2779.398	897	3.099		
	Total	4013.641	901			

It is observed that there is fluctuation in the mean score values are along with the increase of educational status of of the respondents and the value of F is 99.582 at sig(p=.001)<0.05.thus there is significant difference in the participation of Scheduled Caste women of different educational status. Therefore the Null hypothes is rejected.

VI.Conclusion:

The above analysis clearly indicates that though educational status of women is very important for participation in social activities but in reality it is mainly the age old tradition which govern the society. Therefore, in some activities participation of women even with high educational status is less. So there is need of a positive change in the social system which can give independence to women and enhance the social status of women.

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