



Research Paper

The Rights of Tribal Women in Maharashtra: An Aspect of Advocacy.

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ABSTRACT

Women in society are part and partial of holistic development of society. In different words we can state out that they are drives of development from every aspect of life. With this context there is always a question remain present and silent that "Are women developed?" The obvious answer is 'no'. So we need to start journey to find it. As according to constitution of India women's are declared as weaker section. It doesn't mean each and every woman belongs to it. When we started it finding we have many dimensions to find it. In the present paper presenter is trying to focus on rights of tribal women in Maharashtra. Within this subject entire context will cover as "Aspects of advocacy and the rights of tribal women in Maharashtra".

In the present paper we will find out issues, context of rights, recent conditions of programmes and strategies, concept, types, needs and importance, aspects of advocacy in the field of tribal rights and especially rights of tribal women in Maharashtra.

KEYWORDS: - Rights, tribal women, and advocacy.

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I. INTRODUCTION

If we try to explain the situation of tribal women, we found that like other social groups tribal women are more uneducated than men. As we think of problems of tribal women, they are facing number of problems. In health related problems as reproductive and maternal health issues, very subsequent pregnancies and its impact with other health issues, anemia and related consequences, women specific illness, and infection of STI/STD's. Women's participation in non-economic activities is more entrusted than economic activities. If non-economic work is tallied women are working obviously than men, but as it are in sense of non-productive. And they are not getting financial return or credit to such uncounted participation in number of activities. Habitually every woman in Indian society is playing and passes through the defined rules as norms. Roles are under the shell as a girl, daughter, an unmarried woman, a married woman, a widow, divorcee and a barren woman. With this reference still need to focus that tribal women in their specific world are having a freedom and right to self- expression. But when they are in frequent contact with rural and urban societies this situation is getting change.

When tribal society is taken as cause to social development and their involvement in action is started placing change. The transformation is affecting men and women differently. In the process of development very few people are addressed and tribal women are still in their traditional mode like dress, language, tools, accessories and resources as they are growing food crops rather than cash crops. In whole climax Indian woman is suffering on all frontiers as social, political, economical, scientific, legal, religious and official spheres of life. Very common cause of such inequalities is gender and its orientation right from the birth of woman. Responsibility of women is as whole but according to the sense of power they are subordinate. Diplomacy in such power politics affects status and participation of women in significant decisions. Patriarchy in India signifies a culture of power relationship that promotes man's supremacy and women suppression. It encompasses institutional authorization of man's ascendancy within the family and other social structures and affects social status of woman.

CONTEMPORARY VIEW ON RIGHTS OF WOMEN

The position of women in a society is an important reflection of the level of social justice in that society. Women's status is often labeled in terms of their level of income, employment, education, health and fertility as well as their roles within the family, the community and society. In tribal communities, the role of women is considerable and crucial. In India women are categorized due to several historical, religious and other reasons.

Tribal popularly identified as a symbol of self-assertion include of around 8.6% of the national population of India. The total population of tribal in India according to the 2011 census is 104,281,034 out of which women are 518,71,211 which volumes to almost half of the tribal population. The status of women in the tribal societies looks to be comparatively better than that of the women in general society because, tribal societies have been by and enormously characterized as democratic societies especially in relation to the hierarchical character of caste society. However, this statement could not highlight the actual status and position of women.

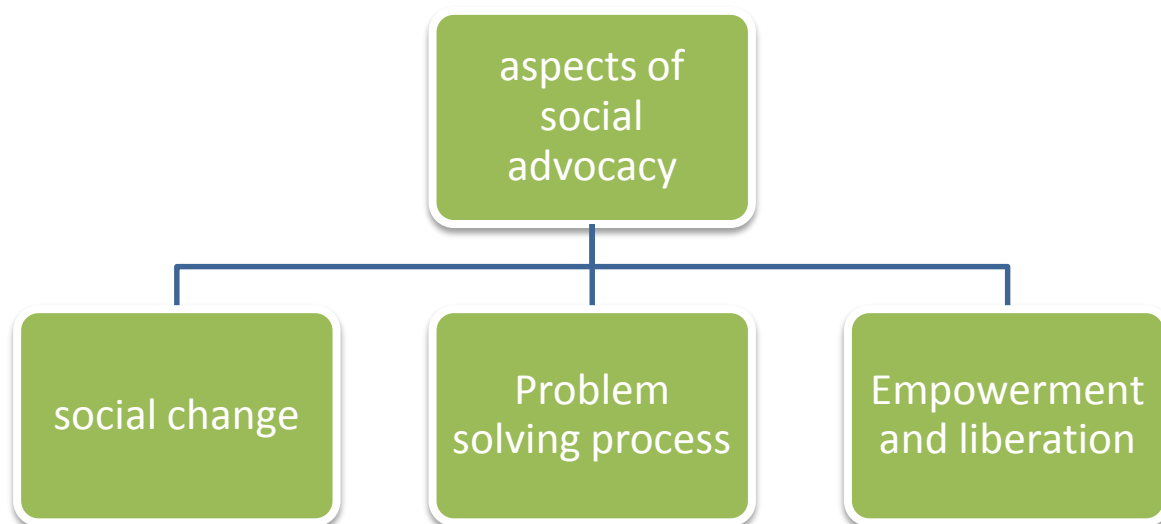
CONCEPT ELABORATION

According to Robert L. Schneider, Virginia Commonwealth University, Emeritus a social practitioner an advocacy is an action by an individual or group that aims to influence decisions within political, economic, and social systems and institutions. Advocacy includes many activities that a person or association starts including media promotions, public speaking, commissioning and publishing research or conducting exit poll.

In simple words advocacy is a concern taken for underprivileged. Reasons of being underprivileged are may vary from one to one. But the main route cause is found as denial of access and exercise over the community resources as basic resources. There are numerous forms of advocacy, each representing a different method in a way to initiate changes in the society. One of the most prevalent forms is social justice advocacy.

SOCIAL ADVOCACY

We found major three aspects of social advocacy to solve and handle end number of crises situation. They are as follows....



1. Social change – It is a very important aspect to channelize working towards social issues and to influence educators and policymakers for positive social change.
2. Problem solving processes – This aspect helps and advice affected people, group and communities about the resources and strategies they can use to manage their troubles and situations.
3. Empowerment and liberation – It focuses on encouraging people and their care takers to take action to affect change.

Social work advocacy is distinct and shared representation of a client(s) or a cause in a forum, trying to systematically encourage decision-making in an unjust or unresponsive system(s).” Advocacy was recognized as a professional role as far back as 1887, and social workers deliberate client advocacy an ethical responsibility. Social workers are cumulating the use of electronic advocacy to influence client problems, concerns and policy development.

TRIBAL RIGHTS AND CONSTITUTIONAL SAFEGUARDS

According to Art.342 of Constitution of India, the President after referring with the state governments concerned has disseminated nine orders so far. This declaration has clearly stated the Scheduled Tribes in relation to concerned State and Union territories. India can proudly be entitled the largest tribal population in the world. In all, 705 Scheduled Tribes exist in India. Constitutional Provisions / Safeguards for Scheduled Tribes can be divided into two parts as protective and development.

Basic Safeguards Provided In Indian Constitution

- Article 15(4), 29, 46, 350 are related to Educational & Cultural Safeguards of scheduled tribes and comprises special provisions for advancement, protection of Interests of Minorities, The State shall encourage, with special care, the educational and economic welfare of the weaker sections of the people, and in particular, of the Scheduled Castes, and the Scheduled Tribes, and shall guard them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation, Right to conserve distinct Language, Script or Culture and instruction in Mother Tongue.
- Article 23 and 24 are related to Social Safeguard of scheduled tribes and inculcates Prohibition of traffic in human beings and beggar and other similar form of forced labour and Forbidding Child Labour.
- Article 244, 275 are related to Economic Safeguards Provisions of Fifth Schedule shall apply to the administration & control of the Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes in any State other than the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura which are covered under Sixth Schedule and Grants in-Aid to specified States (STs&SAs) covered under Fifth and Sixth Schedules of the Constitution.
- Article 164, 330, 337, 334, 243, 371 are related to Political Safeguards Provides for Tribal Affairs Ministers in Bihar, MP and Orissa, Reservation of seats for STs in Lok Sabha, Reservation of seats for STs in State Legislatures, 10 years period for reservation (Amended several times to extend the period.), Reservation of seats in Panchayats, Special provisions in respect of NE States and Sikkim.

Unsafe handling, security and safety of tribal women have been one of the major issues in India. But how many of the Indians are truly concerned about it and how many officials have taken sufficient steps to get better their condition? The question is always remaining unanswered. Being tribal and being tribal women they became more deprived and ill-treated. Concern of rights is always playing a silence card with this.

There are 705 scheduled tribes in various regions of India among them 47 Maharashtra. Due to lack of education, women are not aware of their rights and still continue to remain in their protected area. Till date, it has been found that there are certain tribal communities who refuse to obey the Indian laws and prefer taking their own decisions. It instance cruelty against many women and could not taking or getting legal protection and help as in an rape incident that in Eastern Bengal – the 20 year old victim stated that she was raped by almost a dozen of men in her village as punishment for falling in love with a boy from other community which was unacceptable in her village.

In another incident at Ranchi on Dec 18, 2015 – a newly married 20 year old Santhali woman was gang-raped for 10 hours at a village. These incidents are not only shocking but also a mirror to the growing insecurities among women population in India. Apart from this, the women of scheduled tribes in India have the lowest literacy rate which is yet another proof of gender inequality as ignorance. In fact the National Human Rights Commission had found 16 tribal women, who were assaulted and raped by the State police personnel of Chhattisgarh. It is very disheartening to see the police who are probable to help the public are the ones who harms them the most. It's astonishing to see the 'protectors turning into intruders.'

Major reasons of victimization of tribal women in India:

1. Difficult to lodge a FIR or police report because they are not aware of their own rights and are uneducated.
2. Seeking help from panchayat or elderly people because they still obey their traditional beliefs.

NEED AND IMPORTANCE OF ADVOCACY

The concept behind social advocacy relates to social justice it inculcates the idea of value to the society as a whole. When the society defends and upholds the rights of people in the community who are not having the same dignity due to disadvantage or discrimination. The thematic areas that relate to social advocacy include civil rights, individual rights, community building, communication and awareness, and human rights violations.

1. To promote social inclusion
2. To encourage social change
3. To empower people to exercise rights
4. To influence decisions
5. To liberation of people
6. To enhance well-being
7. To promote equality, justice and fairness

II. CONCLUSION

Tribal women's in India are facing end number of problems and issues. Region or state wise conditions are varying. But if we need it to put into a bucket we found some major issues like Discrimination, temporary special measures as remedy, sex roles and stereotyping, trafficking, exploitation and prostitution, healthcare and family planning services and access, educational facilities, safety and security, malnutrition, child marriages and subsequent pregnancies, and with this absence of legal protection, rights and remedies. To improve the sphere of life need to overcome difficulties. It can be happen only through planned, organised and proper advocacy.

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