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IMPACT OF ICT SERVICES ON THE EMPOWERMENT OF TRIBAL WOMEN COMMUNITY: A SOCIO-ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

Dr. Deoman Shrikrushna Umbarkar
Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Late Vasantrao Kolhatkar Arts College, Rohana, Rashtrasant Tukdoji Maharaj Nagpur University,Nagpur

ABSTRACT

The current modern ICT service formation is primarily about the ability to electronically input, process, store, output, transmit and receive data with information. This Information and communication technology services are increasingly being used in a variety of fields such as agriculture, education, medicine, tourism etc. As we know, a gender gap between male (82.14%) and female (65.46%) literacy rate remain high at 16.68 as per 2011 Census. Although, the use of ICT service and its contribution to socio-economic development of women community is generally becoming more intense in developed countries than in developing countries and also in urban areas than in rural areas due to the challenges posed by the digital divide and other factors. It is an important fact that, no society can advances without women progress; they should be given equal scopes in almost half of the population. With the help of the Information and Communication Technology Services (ICT) revolution, empowered women can shape and improve the implementation of broader developments in agriculture that will influence rural society. This article provides an overview of the extent of ICT service's role and adoption in various fields in farming that contribute to socio-economic development in developing countries and rural areas, communities have a variety of possible ways to maximize the potential benefits they receive & empowered from ICT services.

KEYWORDS: *ICTS, Development, Rural, Empowerment.*

INTRODUCTION

Although in every society, it is said that the women gender has not been considered as a helpful category but is seen as evil, fruitless, wasteful and defeating (as cited in Gupta, 2018). Yet empowerment of women through information and communication technology (ICT) services has evolved into as an international movement. However, empowerment is a complex concept and it is interpreted in different ways. It comes from the term "empower" which means to give empower or authority and to enable or empowering (Shrinidhi et al, 2018). These empower or authority can be achieved through poverty reduction, increased awareness of universal education, improved health awareness among these women. In addition, they need to preserve their natural habitat by examining the environmental damage that occurs regularly taking place in their natural home. The issue of empowerment can be understood as empowering the weaker sections like poor women especially tribal women to acquire power and resources for their own decision-making. Their primitive way of life, economic and social backwardness and low education literacy, believes in superstition, physical infrastructure of backward tribes and population values of tribal areas show the need for women's empowerment. Empowerment is envisaged to help reduce the gender system substantially and will enable women to play social roles, which they cannot perform without it. In Indian society, this means helping women to enjoy their constitutional and legal rights to equality in real life (ibid). Human resource development attached an equally to both women and men. Women act an equal role even in the sustainability of development through the world but the consequences of development are distributed unevenly among the males and females. Although a lot has been said and debated on this issue, yet gender discrimination amongst the subtle is one of the utmost pervading forms of institutionalized deception and unfortunately, the country of India is no separate from this. Therefore, it is relevant to established big effort to find out ways of empowerment of women and bring some solutions so that the general status of women empowerment can be improved (as cited in Gupta, 2018).

Information and communication technology (ICT) service formation of a set of goods, applications and distribute process and transform information in the society and consists with segments of electronic gadgets as diverse like as mobile, telecommunications, e-governance, television and radio broadcasting, laptop & computer hardware and software system, electronic media like the Internet service, electronic mail, e-commerce, computer games and modern technological tools etc (Suresh, 2011). This new technology services have become an effective forces in transforming to economical, social and political life in very entirely of globally. Without of its incorporation into the information age, there is little chance for countries, regions and rural societies to develop. In the developing countries, a bulk number of women are in the deepest section of the divide further removed from the information age than the men whose poverty they share. ICT service cannot be an important tool for men only but in meeting, women's basic needs and can provide the access to resources in rural society to lead women out of poverty line (Suresh et al, 2004). As a Lower status and without any pay women are spending work two thirds of the world's total working hours mainly on food production and

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cooking, rearing to children, caring for the elder person and maintaining a house etc., which is universally accepted in rural and urban society (Care).

In this context empowerment of women, statuses are essential to bring about an egalitarian human society. Societies cannot succeed never by suppressing the talents of half of the members in no society. The India's first Prime Minister Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru remark "You can tell the condition of a nation by looking at the status of its women section". We know promoting status of women empowerment was declared as an important millennium development goal adopted by the Millennium Summit held in New York in September 2000 (as cited in Gupta, 2018).

ICT on Empowerment of Tribal Women's Development

Although in literal terms, empowerment means increasing one's confidence in one's own capabilities and becoming stronger in life and it was introduced as an idea or a concept in the International Women's Conference held in 1985 at Nairobi, where they called it is the reconstruction of every day social life, authority and control of resources in support of women's lives (UNPOPIN, 2010; Gupta, 2018). It has been observed that rural and urban tribes often live in remote areas beyond the reach of modern means of information and communication technology. They are thus being deprived of important information related to development initiatives, employment programs, etc. day after day. The use of current new types of IT can enable women, regardless of village or city, to enhance their agricultural skills and become entrepreneurs and information mediators. It can provide indigenous women education with farm information such as best method packages, weather forecasts, credit access and availability of farm inputs, market information, and more. Empowerment of tribal women requires knowledge, education and awareness. Their primitive way of life, economic and social backwardness, low level of literacy, old methods of production, absence of pricing system, physical infrastructure scattered in backward tribal areas and the quality of population in tribal areas are developing indigenous and tribal areas (Awais et al, 2009).

From that point of perspective to say that in India, it refers to enhancing skills and ability through information and communication technology that helps women for better adjusting into society and provide them the opportunity to overcome social and institutional barriers and encourage participation in the economic, social and political activities so as to being about overall improvement in their quality of life and economical independent.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Literature reviewing dictates in various ways that the researcher reviews the literature not only to associate the results, previous findings but also to present a new and unique measurement.

Ghufran & Bisht, (2006) created the Women's Empowerment Scale, gave a theoretical explanation of women's empowerment to a group of judges who were teachers in psychology and education, and was established women's empowerment based on testing.

Shukla et al, (2008) directed on study the impact of both newer ICTs and older ICTs in the day-to-day life of rural communities in the rural areas. There was found that people did not have easy availability or access to different ICTs. Lack of training, skills and illiteracy were other factors responsible for not access and having ICTs. Gender bias and cultural barriers were considered equally important in hindering the spread of ICT in all the districts.

Bori, (2017) examined economic Empowerment of women in Golaghat district fall on gonigaon panchayat area and paper evaluate to some economic factors such as income expenditure, saving and investment of the women members after joining SHG.

Gupta, (2018) explained that, in India women construct a large portion of the rural population and play a significant role in the rural manufacturing sector. Where their involvement in a number of productive activities is usually overlooked. For example, the experience of women in the field of animal husbandry, especially in dairy farming, is a case in point. Women expressed their helplessness in caring for the cows, diagnosing various diseases and providing immediate care.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

In my study, objectives are as follows:

- To study the socio-economic background of tribal women beneficiaries.
- To analyze agricultural development through ICT services among tribal women members in Nadia district of West Bengal.

METHODOLOGY AND STUDY AREA

According to the Census of 2011, India is the second most highly populated country. The majority of the world's poor (roughly 75% overall) live in rural and remote areas practicing agriculture for their daily livelihood (Byerlee et al, 2009). Almost 70% (Census 2011) of the population are dependent on agriculture. Thus, the utilization of modern technology with ICT service for agricultural improvements is necessary for the betterment of human living conditions. The study used primary data and secondary data for analysis according to the objectives which set out in the study. To understand the impact of ICT services in empowering Munda and Oraon tribal women farmers in Modna and Sahapur areas. A field study was conducted in Hanskhali Block in Nadia District was prepared. From that list 54 women was selected purposively those who are apply ICT services more or less for agricultural activities.

DATA ANALYSIS

As pointed out earlier, the main aim of the present study was to examine the impact of ICT services in the empowerment of the women status. For this, data were collected from women farmers and agricultural labour from the two village areas of hanskhali

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block in Nadia district by ICT usage questions, which can directly and indirectly empowered to women.

CONCLUSION

In the era of rapid competition in present situation, where various organizations are motivated to compete with each other and strengthen their core competencies, the steps taken through information and communication technology services to protect interests of tribal women are truly commendable. In addition to providing them with ICT service support in the field of agriculture, they are typing their level best of their ability to perfect various interpersonal skills and proper training programs through information and communication technology services they have sought to increase output with the amount of input reduction. The implementation of information and communication technology services is a very positive step in ensuring the advancement of tribal women and providing them with appropriate assistance to increase their productivity in agriculture, which has taken the form of empowerment of tribal women in my research area. The application of technology in the socio-economic development of society is really appreciated.

Swami Vivekananda, the first socialist of India, considered 'man and woman as two wings of a bird', which " bird could not fly just on only wings", and he said, "Can you improve the condition of your women? Then there will be hope for your well-being. Otherwise you will be as backward as you are now" (Singh, 2014; Swami Vivekananda-Wikipedia Education and Philosophy). So we can conclude that women as one wing of the bird also need to be brought under the purview of information and communication technology services, need to be more effective and that will ensure helpful results in the future.

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