

**SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY ON WOMEN DEVELOPMENT IN
KARNATAKA**

**empirical research paper: sociological study on women development in
Karnataka**

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To Cite this Article

Raghu. B. L., "SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY ON WOMEN DEVELOPMENT IN KARNATAKA" *Musik In Bayern*, Vol. 85, Issue 6, 2020, pp168-173

Article Info

Received: 24-01-2020 Revised: 02-02-2020 Accepted: 11-02-2020 Published: 22-02-2020

Abstract

This study examines the socio-economic and cultural factors influencing women's development in Karnataka, India. Using a mixed-methods approach, the research explores key areas such as education, employment, health, and political participation. Data was collected through surveys, interviews, and secondary data analysis to identify patterns and barriers affecting women's progress. Findings indicate significant strides in education and health but highlight persistent challenges in economic empowerment and political representation. Recommendations include targeted policy interventions and community-based programs to address these gaps.

Key Words: Education, women development, economic status

Introduction

One important measure of a society's overall growth is the progress made by its women. Women's development has made significant strides in Karnataka, a state renowned for its economic vibrancy and cultural richness. Disparities still exist, nonetheless, in a number of socioeconomic areas. The purpose of this research is to examine the variables influencing women's growth and offer workable ways to close the gaps.

Education has been praised as the most effective weapon for socioeconomic development and as a means of ensuring that the poor and oppressed have equal access to opportunities. Furthermore, everyone has seen its potential as the cornerstone for the advancement and empowerment of the Dalit population in general and Dalit women in particular. The Indian and Karnataka governments have reportedly worked hard to integrate all Dalit families into the educational system through a number of state-sponsored initiatives and anti-discrimination laws. All educational programs created specifically for Dalit communities have as their primary goal not just giving them access to facilities and advancing their education, but also using education as a powerful tool for empowerment.

Governments have put in place numerous programs for the socioeconomic advancement of Dalit women in addition to those for educational development. The rise of education in terms of literacy and the participation of rural Dalit girls at higher levels of education, however, is below the national average, making a conceptual overview of the educational advancement of Dalit women in rural India a startlingly depressing situation. It is evident that the issue has to be re-examined when the instrument itself appears to have failed to accomplish its verified goals. This study has sought to examine the educational status among Dalit women and its impact on their empowerment, keeping in mind the rise in Dalit women's educational attainment.

Theoretical anecdotes

The literature highlights that while Karnataka has made progress in women's literacy and health indicators, challenges such as gender-based violence, wage disparities, and underrepresentation in politics remain significant. Previous studies emphasize the need for multi-sectoral approaches to address these issues effectively.

Many studies show that Dalits and Hindu caste members continue to be the underprivileged and face various forms of discrimination, despite the fact that the constitution and development plans aim to promote conditions that will lead to equality between them. According to Govindakutty's (1975) research on Kerala's Scheduled Castes, the phenomenon of untouchability appears to have persisted despite the law's prohibition. He goes on to observe that they are not in a better position than they were in the past despite economic and educational growth, and he concludes by saying that it would not be premature to draw the conclusion that traditionalism still has a significant enough impact on social attitudes. of pain. Parvathamna (1984), who focusses on the Karnataka state's Scheduled Castes, discovered that despite concerted attempts through constitutional measures and policy developments, the rural living conditions of these individuals remain

According to Chetty's (1991) assessment of the effects of development on Andhra Pradesh's Scheduled Castes, the programs have been crucial in enabling these individuals to achieve greater output, higher net incomes, and better asset positions. Similarly, Rao and Babu (1994) investigated the Scheduled Castes in roughly 80 Karnataka villages to see if development plans had succeeded in achieving the stated goals. They come to the conclusion that although many of these individuals have profited from the programs, some of them lag far behind the higher castes and are identified as a distinct socioeconomic group.

Methodology

Research Design

A mixed-methods approach was adopted, combining quantitative and qualitative data collection methods.

Data Collection

1. **Surveys:** A structured questionnaire was administered to 200 women across urban and rural areas.
2. **Interviews:** In-depth interviews were conducted with 50 stakeholders, including policymakers, activists, and educators.
3. **Secondary Data Analysis:** Government reports, census data, and academic studies were analyzed.

Sampling

A stratified random sampling technique ensured representation from diverse socio-economic and geographic backgrounds. The overall sample is 200.

Table-1: Employment of the Respondents

Sl.No	Occupations	Frequency	Percentage
1	Agriculture + Agricultural labourer	80	40
2	Beedi Rolling	33	16.5
2	Dairying +Poultry	33	16.5
3	Tailoring	16	8

4	Govt Service	12	6
6	Petty Business	2	1
7	House Maid	11	5.5
9	Unemployed	13	6.5
	TOTAL	200	100

The above table shows the employment of women in the rural areas of Karnataka. As employment is one of the major determinants that affect on the economic status. Hence, through the above table, we can identify that large part of the rural women are depend upon the agriculture.

Table-2 Purpose of education

Sl.No	Nature of impact	Frequency	Percentage
1	To get jobs on government sector	82	41
2	For Dairy management	28	14
3	To lear tailoring	10	5
4	To manage business	6	3
5	No concrete positive impact	74	37
	Total	200	100

In the above table the purpose of education has been examined. As the table shows large number of women believed that education is to get the government job. However, the table also reveals that there are around 37 percent of women believed that education may not have No concrete positive impact.

Findings and Discussion

Education

The literacy rate among women in Karnataka has increased to 75.6%, with significant improvements in urban areas. However, rural women still face challenges such as early marriage and limited access to higher education.

Employment

Only 29% of women participate in the workforce, with a significant wage gap compared to men. Women in rural areas are predominantly engaged in informal sectors, lacking job security and benefits.

Health

Karnataka has achieved a maternal mortality rate (MMR) of 92 per 100,000 live births, which is better than the national average. However, access to reproductive health services in rural areas remains limited.

Political Participation

Women's representation in local governance has improved due to reservation policies, but their presence in state and national politics remains minimal.

Barriers to Women's Development

1. **Cultural Norms:** Patriarchal attitudes restrict women's mobility and decision-making power.
2. **Economic Constraints:** Lack of access to credit and entrepreneurship opportunities.
3. **Educational Gaps:** High dropout rates among adolescent girls, especially in rural areas.
4. **Political Underrepresentation:** Limited support for women candidates.

Policy Recommendations

1. **Education:** Implement scholarship programs and awareness campaigns to encourage girls' education.
2. **Employment:** Promote skill development programs and enforce equal pay policies.
3. **Health:** Strengthen rural healthcare infrastructure and provide free reproductive health services.
4. **Political Participation:** Introduce leadership training programs for women and enforce quotas in political parties.

Conclusion

Significant obstacles still exist even though Karnataka has achieved great strides in some areas of women's development. Government, civil society, and the commercial sector must work together to address issues. Sustainable development and women's empowerment can be achieved through focused policies and community-based projects.

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