

Scheduled Caste Women Empowerment In Jaijaipur Development Block

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Summary

There is a majority of Scheduled Caste population in Jaijaipur Development Block of Janjgir-Champa district. The condition of SC (Scheduled Caste) women, having been backward for thousands of years, continues to be deplorable, but for over the last few decades there the women have had a new zeal and enthusiasm, definitely this is an indicator of a positive change. The self-help groups, education and awareness have given special contribution in bringing about the change. Easy approval of loans by banks has also ensured a prompt change, which has directly benefited the dalit, exploited and backward women.

Objective of Research-

1. To promote women awareness.
2. To present the situation of Scheduled Caste women before the society.
3. To draw the government's attention towards the backwardness of scheduled cast women, so that the government may take concrete steps on the progress and development of women.

Introduction- Janjgir-Champa district of Chhattisgarh has an adequate population of Scheduled Caste, Among the 11 Lok Sabha constituencies of Chhattisgarh India, only Janjgir-Champa Lok Sabha constituency is a Scheduled Caste reserved area. There are 102 villages in Jaijaipur Development Block of Janjgir Champa district, and one Nagar Panchayat. The situation of Scheduled Castes in India is worrying.

The occupation of this class includes leaning of drains, cleaning toilets, throwing corpses of animal out of the settlement, making shoes from the skin of dead animals and leather work.. In ancient time, in the Indian social system the society was divided into four classes or varnas, which came to be known as Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vaishya and Shudra respectively.

As per a saying Brahmins were born from Brahma's mouth, Kshatriyas from his arms, Vaishyas from his stomach and Shudras from his feet. In this caste system, Brahmin held superior position, followed by Kshatriya, Vaishya and Shudra respectively.

In this varna system, the Shudras held a lower status in ancient times, and the custom still continues. This evil custom is still in practice in rural and backward society, which is definitely deplorable. The condition of the Shudra class has still no apparent improvement.

The class of Bramhma was entrusted with the occupation of education and worship, the responsibility of the Kshatriya class was for security and administration, while the responsibility of the Vaishya class was to do business and the work of the Shudra class was to serve these three classes. The Shudra class was deprived of education, because to which their condition has been worrying till date. The condition of women in Shudra class is much more worrisome. In a male-dominated society, women are already of second class, but the situation of Shudra women is far more deplorable. In such a situation, we can say that the women in scheduled caste are the most downtrodden and downtrodden, hence this class needs to be uplifted most.

Reasons to Promote Education System after Independence –

Changes in the status of SC women have begun to reflect. Improvement in the status of women has become possible due to education and laws as well. In ancient times, women did not have rights on property, with modern laws women begun to claim rights on property which is also a cause of changes being visible in the status of women. With the women being given reservation in Panchayati Raj, the change in their status became rapid. With the modern Panchayati Raj coming in effect in 1993, one-third reservation was given to women. This truly gave birth to the concept of equality between men and women, but unfortunately, in Panchayati Raj, there is still almost 70 percent interference of husbands or relatives in the decisions taken by women office bearers. According to Dr. Avinash Kumar Lal, as many as 70 percent of the women representatives depend on the suggestions of their husbands or relatives to take official decisions.

The situation of SC women is such that their decisions on Panchayati Raj are influenced not only by their relatives but also by influential people of the village. There is a need to create self-confidence among the women letting them be aware of the important position held by them. They should understand the dignity of that position.

Status of Jaijaipur Development Block- Jaijaipur Development block is situated in Janjgir Champa district of Chhattisgarh. Malkharoda, Sakti, Bamhanidih are its neighboring development blocks. Mahanadi, Son, Borai rivers flow around this development block. In this development block, there is one deserted village named Jhakhadih. Likewise there are two government colleges in this development block, one in Hasaud and another in Jaijaipur. Similarly, there are three non-government colleges in Hasaud, Salni and Darrabhanta. Dhaunrabhanta and Bichhiya are two such villages, where there is not even a single Scheduled Caste family. In the rest 99 villages, there are SC families living, SC families are there in Nagar Panchayat Jaijaipur too.

S.N..	Name of Village	Total Population	Total Population	Total Population of SC Women
01	Akalsara	2689	417	218
02	Amakhoni	681	154	73
03	Amlidih	897	16	09
04	Amapali	1416	36	19
05	Amgaon	3143	1245	613
06	Amoda	2055	721	347
07	Arsia	1501	376	168
08	Baheradih	994	903	473
09	Baihagudru	797	134	66
10	Barduli	992	276	143
11	Bareilkala	1275	53	26
12	Barekel Khurd	853	571	283
13	Barra	860	58	29
14	Bawanbudi	533	15	08
15	Beladula	2895	1346	683
16	Belkarri	1162	450	222
17	Bhanetara	557	295	156
18	Bhat Mahul	1439	357	169
19	Bhotidih	1494	254	133
20	Bhotiya	3405	359	177
21	Bhchhia	853	00	00
22	Bodsara	906	253	177
23	Boirdih	188	160	70
24	Boirdih B	819	265	146
25	Chhirradih	611	331	162
26	Chhitapadaria	1159	567	274
27	Chikhralonda	1137	156	84
28	Chisda	2784	1230	630
29	Chorbhatti	1373	344	181
30	Chharabhatha	1692	894	448
31	Dataud	2284	356	176
32	Deori Math	1596	684	339
33	Dewar Ghata	1662	1418	730
34	Dhamni	2056	1460	747
35	Dhanuhar Para	442	67	29
36	Dhainrabhata	124	00	00
37	Dotma	1131	138	69
38	Domadih	1084	26	14
39	Dongia	1129	130	71

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40	Gadamor	643	433	219
41	Galgalah	672	77	42
42	Dhivara	2730	581	264
43	Ghordeepa	583	23	10
44	Guchkuliya	1387	49	28
45	Gudrukala	1125	470	226
46	Gunjia Board	1262	476	238
47	Haredi	1355	750	365
48	Hardidih	1230	664	335
49	Harethi Kala	1908	607	296
50	Harethi Khurd	869	115	64
51	Hassaud	5194	1821	903
52	Jamdi	1797	192	96
53	Jarve	1049	1007	504
54	Jhalarondha	1696	682	353
55	Jharap	1390	1166	568
56	Junwani	486	398	199
57	Kachanda	3062	193	89
58	Kaitha	2731	792	406
59	Kalmidih	811	178	82
60	Karauvadih	949	225	117
61	Karhi	2482	1022	496
62	Karmandih	358	105	51
63	Kashigarh	3726	961	469
64	Kekrabhath	946	111	52
65	Khairzhiti	508	198	102
66	Khajurani	1564	328	156
67	Khamhardih	632	07	02
68	Khamhariya	2254	627	313
69	Kikirda	3892	571	283
70	Kotetra	2121	340	163
71	Kumhari Pathan	753	77	35
72	Kutrabod	1833	744	359
73	Lalmati	721	596	291
74	Lohrakot	816	184	96
75	Malani	1841	129	70
76	Maldakala	3052	463	229
77	Mukta	1911	605	321
78	Muralidih	609	104	62
79	Nagaridih	1145	1045	509

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80	Nandeli	2156	323	164
81	Odekara	4711	759	378
82	Padahardi	900	303	161
83	Parsada	2286	445	232
84	Parsadih	2559	1731	869
85	Pathara	530	12	07
86	Pendri	1472	155	74
87	Pisaud	793	654	325
88	Raipura	2636	150	73
89	Rewadih	863	246	126
90	Salni	2207	754	374
91	Semradih	500	41	18
92	Sendri	1944	1240	630
93	Senduras	2434	337	162
94	Shikarinaar	505	10	06
95	Sirli	1844	352	195
96	Talwa	643	29	12
97	Tanduldih	233	20	13
98	Thathari	5307	1592	796
99	Thuthi	1960	160	88
100	Tumidih	816	416	227
101	Tushar	2243	904	454
102	Jhakhadih	Deserted Village		
103	Jaijaipur (N.P.)	7946	1237	618

SC Women in Jaijaipur Development Block - In Jaijaipur development block, The castes coming under SC category in Jaijaipur Development Block include Ganda, Ghasia, Satnami, Rohidas, etc. Given below is the study of these castes -

- 1. Ganda Caste** - The occupation of Ganda caste is doing Kotwari paternally in the village, under which this caste traditionally informs about any festival in the village by making Haka. Similarly any tragic information occurring in any house is also given to the whole village by making Haka.. For example, if someone dies in a house in the village, then for the last rites, people are informed to take out the wood and pot (made from cow dung) from the house. Our villages still have the feelings of collectivity and community in our rural society. Keeping this very spirit in view, it is the responsibility of the entire village to perform

the last rites. Similarly, the village Kotwar avails information about the funeral, thus, whole village is supposed to make arrangements for the funeral and participate in it.

Similarly, on occasion of a marriage ceremony taking place in some house, the entire village participates in that program. This is what is our community feeling. Information regarding this is provided to the villagers by Kotwar. The people of entire village offer gifts to the girl, which in modern term is known as a dowry.

Information about government schemes and programs is also given by the village Kotwar by making haka. Moreover, the other works assigned by the Sarpanch is also carried out by the Kotwar. Thus, the Kotwar is a sort of village police. For the police station officials, Kotwar acts as a representative of the police station. Even the revenue department regards Kotwar as its unofficial representative.

Information related to births, deaths, marriages etc. in the village is maintained by the village Kotwar. He also receives information about the outsiders visiting the village. In several villages women of this caste are working as a Kotwar. Village Kotwar maintains the register related to birth and death registration, although he is informally authorized for this, formally the village secretary has been authorized for this work. As the Village Kotwar belongs to the same village whereas the Panchayat Secretary comes from any other village, therefore, its actual accountability lies with the village Kotwar. The role of Village Kotwar in elections is that of Special Police. Indirectly the Village Kotwar plays the role of as a spy of the government. Although at present Kotwars from other castes have also been appointed in many villages, yet keeping the tradition in view, the Kotwars in around 90 percent villages of Jaijaipur Development Block, belong to Ganda caste.

2. Ghasia- During the Mahabharata period, this caste is believed to work as a charioteer, which is why this caste is also called Sarthi, which literally means one who rides a chariot. Traditionally, this caste has been in occupation of taking care

of the horses. The works like bathing and running the horses daily, decorating the chariot, etc. used to be the responsibility of this caste. Today there are neither horses nor chariots in Jaijaipur Development Block. Therefore, at present their traditional occupation as a charioteer and caretakers of horses is no longer there as it was ever.

A present, the women of Ghasia caste traditionally perform the task as an assistant of delivery, taking responsibility for the well-being of the mother and newborn. Similarly, they work maintaining cleanliness at the habitation of animals, which is called Ghurwa in Chhattisgarh, where cow dung, garbage etc. are collected in order to prepare organic fertilizer.

3.Rohidas- This caste has traditionally been involved in work related to dead animals, taking out dead animals from the village, making leather from animal skin, making shoes etc. In a way, this caste does the work of cleanliness of the village.

4. Satnami- The word Satnami seems to have come from the name Satya. The famous Saint Guru Ghasidas of Chhattisgarh was born in this caste. An observation the old history makes it clear that the Satnami rebellion took place in Punjab in 1672. The folklore has it that the Satnamis from Punjab had migrated to Chhattisgarh. Saint Gurughasidas Ji is the chosen deity of the Satnamis. He was born on December 18 1756 in Giroudpuri, hence the people of this caste consider Giroudpuri as a holy land. Traditionally, they are generally accepted as a lower caste which is the reason that even till date people of this caste are considered untouchable in rural areas. This caste is the dominant in number among the Scheduled Caste category in Jaijaipur Development Block. The women of this caste are very hardworking. Now a days people of this caste are abstaining from flesh eating and alcoholism due to having influence of Saint Gurughasidas This is a positive change. Gomti Devi of this caste has been the district president.

Mitanin Scheme- Some SC women are working as Mitani in their respective villages which is making them get health related information. Mitani scheme denotes ASHA worker, in Chhattisgarh it is proving helpful in getting success in

population control as Mitadin motivates her village and locality for family planning. In other words Mitadin represents the health department. She provides medicines for minor diseases. The ST women who are not working as Mitadin have also been influenced by Mitadin and they have got health awareness too.

Role of SC Women in Family – With the rising awareness among SC women, they are focusing on their family, paying attention to children's education. Similarly, they are performing better than before in treating the sick person of the family, giving medicine to a sick person and taking him/her to hospital on time, etc. Similarly, immovable properties like land, house, etc. are being purchased in their names as there is a provision of giving 2 percent discount on the registry in the name of women. This is the reason, preference is being given in buying properties in the name of women. Similarly, since 2015, in Chhattisgarh, the woman is being considered as the head in the ration card. This is also strengthening women empowerment. When man used to be the head in the ration card, he would sell the ration to drink alcohol, but as a woman being head in the ration card now, there is hardly a situation of starvation in the family, and the women in the family do not have to wander from door to door to support themselves.

In the Act of 2005, women have been made entitled to have equal rights with their brothers in their father's property; this has made SC women too to continue to get empowered. Women empowerment has been promoted by having women police station at the district level and women's desk in every police station.

Due to the family planning program, there is a change in the attitude of SC women in Jaipur Development Block, and SC women are accepting 'Hum Do, Hamare Do'. Three thousand rupees are being given as incentive for family planning.

Loan from Banks- Through self-help groups, SC women are taking small loans from banks through self-help groups and doing small business with that loan, which is giving new confidence to the women. This scheme of micro credit is the brainchild of Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, Muhammad

Yunus started micro credit in Bangladesh that is providing small loans to the poor without any security, hence he is called the messiah of the poor in Bangladesh. The Bangladeshi model has been appreciated all over the world, and the whole world is adopting this model. Muhammad Yunus is the founder of Bangladesh Grameen Bank, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 which was jointly received by Muhammad Yunus and Bangladesh Grameen Bank.

The Nobel laureate was deeply moved from the famine of 1974, which made him realise that the poor need money so that they can do some business, moneylenders charge huge interest on the loans they give. In 1976, Muhammad Yunus started micro loans. Banks started giving micro loans to small self-help groups. This model has also been adopted by Jaijaipur development block which is quite successful.

When women become economically self-reliant, they challenge the authority of men and in such a situation an egalitarian society is established. The situation is being created among the women of SC, though gradually.

Self-Help Groups in Jaijaipur Development Block - All the self-help groups in the entire development block are formed by women, and there are SC women in around 90 percent of the self-help groups. These self-help groups conduct mid-day meals, in this regard, they receive direction from the office of Block Education Officer, Janpad Office. Banks and projects they are gaining confidence and becoming aware of their rights.

Women in Government Jobs-

SC women are seeking advantage of reservation in government jobs, consequently, their social and economic status continues to get stronger. Changes are visible in the society as the SC women becoming self-dependent. With their self-dependency the women have had amazing confidence.. Women power is strengthening. Having become self-dependent, they are focusing on the education of their children which in return makes even the children get interested in getting ahead.

Progress of women is must in any society. Reservation for women has made the path of progress easier. Society witnesses change not only through economic progress, but also through social, political and ideological progress. The change is quite apparently visible among the SC women of Jaijaipur development block. SC women are increasingly occupying not only third grade but also second grade posts which resulting in strengthening their financial condition is and their social condition in the family has also become better than before. Now SC women are becoming successful in establishing their identity as the head of the family.

Women working in government jobs have begun to be regarded with respect in the family while earlier, the women were not held in high esteem by family members, but now they have begun to respect them they have come in the government jobs.

SC Women in Higher Education-

SC women can be seen now more visible than ever before even in higher education. Following are the government colleges in Jaijaipur Development Dlock-

1. Government College Jaijaipur 2. Government College Hasaud. Similarly, non-government colleges are - 1. Rambai Kanhaiyalal Sahu College Hassaud 2. Kalindri Devi Tilakram Chandra Arts and Science College Salni 3. Jagrani Devi College Darrabhata.

Enrollment of SC women in colleges continues to increase. With the the promotion and spread of education, SC women are getting empowered, which is opening the doors of development. Education definitely plays an important role in augmenting the process of development. Similarly, SC girls of Jaijaipur Development Block, are also showing interest in taking admission in Government College Birra and Guru Ghasidas University, Bilaspur.

Now the girls of SC category have also began to show interest in studying the subjects of science and technology, similarly now they are seeking admission even in B.Sc Nursing course.

In Jaijaipur Development Block ITI is being operated at two places -1. Hasaud 2. Jaijapur. The performance of SC students in this course is also appreciable. SC women are also taking admission in the course of B.Ed, D.Ed. and are showing their interest in becoming teachers.

If a comparison is made between Chhattisgarh before its formation and now, then the change is very rapid. Education and self-help groups have played key role behind this change.

Women in Panchayati Raj- The condition of women in the three-tier Panchayati Raj system of Chhattisgarh continues to be stronger day by day. Under the Panchayati Raj system of Chhattisgarh, women have been provided 50% reservation. It is worth noting here that under the 73rd Constitutional Amendment, the lower level Panchayati Raj system in Chhattisgarh is being implemented excellently.

Under the Panchayati Raj system, women of SC category have also been provided reservation, which has led to the women of the extreme edge of the society are getting connected with the mainstream of the society and contributing to social development. In Jaijaipur Development Block, several changes are perceptible with the entry of women into Panchayati Raj, which are as follows-

1. Transparency in the functioning of Panchayats.
2. Education, health and cleanliness have started getting priority in the villages of women's reservation.
3. Women are more serious than men about children's education and health.
4. An awareness among people can be witnessed about pure drinking water system, law and order and women security in villages.
5. With the predominance of women, an environment of peace and harmony has been established in the villages.
6. It is proving helpful in eliminating social evils like child marriage, dowry system, untouchability and death feast.

7. Women representatives and self-help groups have also taken up the responsibility of eradicating social evils like drug addiction.

8. The schemes like Chief Minister Food Scheme and mid-day meal are being better run in schools by women.

9. The movement against drug abuse being run by women is no less than a social revolution. The above has been stated by Ashok Bajaj, the former Chairman of Cooperative Bank.

10. Several years ago, the Central Government had sought the opinion of the states to extend women's reservation to 50% in Panchayats. The government of Chhattisgarh consented and at present about 60% posts of Panchayati Raj are held by women.

11. Women and self-help groups also helpful in preparing food at Anganwadi centres.

At present, Chhattisgarh Three-tier Panchayati Raj system is functioning in-

1. Gram Panchayat – in the villages
2. District Panchayat – at development block level
3. District Panchayat – at the district level

The above Panchayati Raj is under the 73rd Constitutional Amendment -

Similarly, under the 74th Constitutional Amendment, the following Panchayati Raj is being implemented -

1. Nagar Panchayat with 5000 population
2. Municipality with the population from 5000 to 20000
3. Municipal Corporation with population above 1 lakh

These women are doing the work of representation by taking advantage of reservation at every level and are becoming empowered.

SCs Women in Self-help Groups -

Generally, self-help groups are working very actively in the villages of Jaijaipur Development Block. The women of SC category are becoming self-reliant, taking loans from banks for self-employment. Awareness toward education continues on the rise among them, above all their self-confidence is boosting. After joining the self-help group, they are engaged in the works of making papad, pickle, dona-pattal, socks, soap making etc.

There are 3 types of self-help groups-

1. Women Self Help Group
2. Men Self Help Group
3. Mixed Self Help Group

Generally women self-help groups can be seen in Jaijaipur Development Block. The changes as given below are being observed in other women by joining self help groups -

1. Mobility can be seen among women.
2. An awareness has come among women aware, they have being aware of their rights.
3. Women of SC category are getting organized.
4. People are getthing together for the movement against drug abuse.
5. Women have got confidence.
6. Progressive thinking has arisen among women.
7. Swachh Bharat program is heading toward success.

SC Women in Gauthan Yojna -

The ambitious scheme of Chhattisgarh government -Narva, Garva, Ghurva, Bari is being very popular and the women here have a made special contribution in popularizing it. The women of ST category here are involved actively through self help group. Gauthan Yojna is being implemented in all the villages of Jaijaipur Development Block, in which the role of women

groups has been admirable. Women of SC category are associated with self-help groups and the contribution of these women in Gouthan Yojna can be understood with the help of the following points:-

1. Women SC category are engaged in the occupation of vegetable production in the lands lying unused around Gauthan, because of which they are earning additional income which has resulted into a significant change being visible in their living standard.
2. Women of SC category are contributing in manufacturing of organic fertilizer due to which the fertility of the land continues undergoing improvement and due to the use of organic fertilizers, improvement in people's health is also visible and with self-reliance, the economic situation has also changed.
3. In some Gauthan poultry farming is also being done which has boosted the rural economy. People are earning money due to which their purchasing power is increasing which is clearly reflected in their lifestyle.

The waste material of poultry is also being used in farming activities, thus double benefit is occurring from poultry farming work.

4. The women of Scheduled Caste category are enthusiastically participating in cow dung collection, which is an ambitious scheme of Chhattisgarh government. The government is purchasing cow dung at the rate of Rs 02 per kg. Organic farming is being promoted by purchasing cow dung, thus paint is also being manufactured from cow dung. Paint is important in painting houses.

The work of cow dung collection has given momentum to economy of Chhattisgarh togetherwith an increase in women empowerment.

5. The government of Chhattisgarh is taking special interest in purchasing of cow urine and women of self-help groups are actively contributing to this work of the government. Cow urine is being purchased at the rate of Rs 05 per litre. Cow urine plays a special role for better health of the soil. Organic fertilizer is

being manufactured from cow urine. Similarly, cow urine is applied in the manufacturing of Ayurvedic medicines.

6. A revolution can be seen in the thinking towards modern agriculture among the women of SC category. The women who are associated with the Gauthan Yojna are adopting modern agriculture.

They have become aware of the benefits of organic agriculture and is becoming drawn towards organic agriculture. Tribal women have become aware of the disadvantages of using chemicals in farming and are becoming aware of better health.

7. A unity is also being seen among the women of SC category associated with Gauthan Yojna. These women are doing significant work by contributing to social development by getting organized.

8. There has also been mobility among the SC women associated with the Gauthan scheme. Now these women seem to be more dynamic than before.

9. The occupation of duck farming is also going on in some Gauthans. Women of self-help groups are also active and contributing in duck farming.

10. Some Gauthans have also been found being situated on the banks of the pond, due to which the women of SC category with their Self Help Groups have become aware of fisheries and have moved forward in this direction.

11. There are 2 model Gauthans in the block, where there is a big concept of development, which has been identified as rural industrial areas. These rural centers are being developed as industrial centres. In such model gauthans, chalk manufacturing, soap manufacturing etc. is being done under RIPA scheme.

12. There are some Gauthans where focus is being made on the production of paira mushroom. It may be noted that the quantity of paira is naturally high in Gauthans, hence during the rainy days due to the rotting of para mushroom is produced, which is sold so much in Chhattisgarh. Now like cheese, mushroom vegetable is being preferred a lot.

Negative Aspects-

1. alcoholism is a grave problem with the Scheduled Caste category. It is found not only in men but also in some women.
2. Gambling is also common among the Scheduled Castes.
3. The problem of untouchability continues in practice at the village level.
4. The problem of children's leaving school also exists due to poverty.
5. Instead of valuing their power of vote, they vote for money.
6. Abstaining from responsibility for alcohol, mutton, fish and chicken at the time of elections.
7. About 70 percent women representatives SC category are not exercising their rights.
8. In lack of education among women of SC category, there is dominance of influential people of village in the Gram Sabha.
9. With the use of money and power in elections, women of SC category are lagging behind.

Positive Aspects-

1. Women of SC category have gained self-confidence through women's reservation in Panchayati Raj.
2. Education has spread among women of SC category.
3. SC women are helping in preparing food through self-help groups in Anganwadi centres and schools.
4. Women of SC category are engaged in the works of Dona-Pattal manufacturing, chalk manufacturing, pickle papad, soap manufacturing, etc.
5. Cooperative societies in villages are also being run by self-help groups.
6. They are also providing services as Anganwadi worker and assistant in Anganwadi centres.
7. With the representation of the women of SC category in Panchayats, they have started expressing their views with clarity.
8. With 30 percent women reservation given by the state government in government services, SC women are getting government jobs.

Conclusion- If the expenditure on alcohol consumption and non-vegetarian food is minimized among the SC class, then definitely SC women will be empowered, because after consuming alcohol, men beat women. Likewise the government should take steps like complete prohibition. Education and awareness will also lead to empowerment of women.

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