

A STUDY ON QUALITY OF LIFE OF TRIBAL WOMEN WITH REFERENCE TO WAYANAD DISTRICT, KERALA

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Abstract

Tribal women constitute like any other social group, about half of the total population. The tribal women, as women in all social groups, are more illiterate than men. The role of tribal women for the society is more important because they work harder and the family economy and management depends on them. Even after industrialization and the resultant commercialization swamped the tribal economy, women continued to play a significant role. Despite exploitation by contractors and managers, tribal are more sincere and honest than non-tribal. However, tribal women face problems and challenges in getting a sustainable livelihood and a decent life due to environment degradation and the interference of outsiders. The study has concluded that the tribal women are having poor education, unemployment, in equality, discrimination, exploitation, and domestic violence and these are the key factors to affect the quality of life of tribal women.

Key Words: Tribal, Women, Quality of Life

Introduction

Women in a tribal society play a vital role in their social, cultural, economic and religious ways of life and are considered as an economic asset setting their society. But they are still lagging far behind in the different walks of the life like education, employment, good health, mental health. Though they are industrious, they have limited control over resources and economic activities. Therefore, there is a need of tribal women in order to overcome in equality, discrimination and exploitation and to achieve there all round development in the society. The problem of malnutrition is very common among tribal women society that lead them to face insufficient energy resources in accessing their basic needs. As a result, maternal death are increasing in ratio and also there is not enough hospital ,especially for their treatment. Tribal women have poor condition in literacy level this prevent them from getting more knowledge about how to claim their rights in various types of life oriented requirements. Besides, discrimination against tribal women are one of the major issues that affect them form growing economically. Though, they have the possibilities to access the natural resources occupational differentiation prevents them from improving their social status. As there is no structural social system for the development of the people and the society of tribal area. Domestic violence is another major reason for having poor psychological wellbeing among tribal women. So, they need to approach the court for claiming their rights nearby the cities. Poor education and feeling of insecure make them to withdraw the idea to approach the court for claim their rights. Further, they need to live and access their needs and facilities within the restricted resources. Hence, tribal women are physically and mentally affected that causes more psychological related problems in their life. Unlike the well-organized modern communities, the tribal communities and tribal women lack far behind in social networking. This is the nature and dimension of socio-economic problem among the tribal women in India. Thus, the present study tries to explore the level of quality of life of the tribal women.

Review of the Literature

Gautam Kumar Kshatriya, (2014) in his article has revealed that many of the tribal populations of India are becoming susceptible to various metabolic risk factors that may be related to their dietary profile and physical activity. Therefore, it is worth investigating the changing perspectives of health among the tribes of India in the context of increasing life style disease in India. Vandana Kushwah, (2013) his study found that Health services include all services dealing with the diagnosis and treatment of disease, or the promotion, maintenance and restoration of health. They include personal and non-personal health and mental health services. Every year, 99% of maternal deaths occur in developing countries. This article highlights some of the basic issues of the women community in India and their remedies. Renu Devan, (2012) her study identified that Mental health as perceptions and feelings that determine a person overall level of personal effectiveness, success, happiness and excellence of functioning as a present also depends on the development and retention of goals that are neither too high nor too low to permit realistic successful maintenance of belief in one's self as a worthy, effective human being. He further states that since, employees spend roughly one third of their time in their workplace, mental health is of particular importance. Mankani R. V. and Ganga V. Yenagi (2012) their study results revealed that there was no significant association between mental health dimensions of the working and non-working women. The working women had better mental health when compared to non-working women. The demographic factors such as age, education, income and number of children had a positive and significant relationship with working women and family size had negative but significant relationship with mental health of the working women. Mahantu Yalsangi (2011) his study has found that the Evaluation of community based mental health programmes in resource poor settings can give information on the strengths, drawbacks and effectiveness of such models, providing a platform for starting similar initiatives in comparable settings. Manikamerkar (1996) his study reported that Society has often been expressed, thought it was denied in actual life. A tribal women's lower status in the family was often to her exclusion from economic ability gainful employment. Chandrika (1982) her study results found that NGOs have played a significant role in socio-economic development of tribal people their work remained concentrated mainly in tribal regions. As such NGOs could not do any significant work for the development of tribal women and girls in big cities. The tribal Associations formed by the tribal people in big cities undertook some activities of socio-economic development but those were of general nature and not for the tribal women and girls.

Objectives of the Study

- To study the demographic profile of the respondents.
- To study the level of quality of life of the respondents.
- To study the influence of demographic variables on the level of quality of life of the respondents.

Methodology:

The researcher has used descriptive research design as it suits for specifically describing the characteristics of a particular field of study. The population of the study comprises of 350 women respondents among them 150 tribal women respondents were randomly selected as a sample to conduct the study from Wayanad District, Kerala. In this study, the researcher used the convenience sampling to collect the data from the respondents. Self prepared questionnaire was used in the study to collect data from the respondents which consists two sections namely demographic profile and Quality of Life Scale. The quality of life scale which included 24 questions (adopted from WHO - Quality of Life scale). Statistical tools namely mean, standard deviation, ANOVA are used to analyze the data.

Table 3: Analysis and Interpretation

Variable	Particular	Frequency	Percentage
Age	Below-25years	30	20.0
	26years-35years	48	32.0
	36years-45years	31	20.7
	Abow-45years	41	27.3
Educational Qualification	Below-10th	99	66.0
	10th	27	18.0
	12th	13	8.7
	UG	11	7.3
Marital status	Married	60	40.0
	Unmarried	73	48.7
	Widow	12	8.0
	Separated	5	3.3
Occupation	Employed	77	51.3
	Unemployed	73	48.7
Nature of family	Nuclear family	33	22.0
	Joint family	117	78.0
Sibling	No	61	40.7
	1-3	46	30.7
	4-5	15	10.0
	6-7	28	18.7
Religion	Hindu	87	58.0
	Muslim	15	10.0
	Christian	48	32.0
Members of SHG	Yes	69	46.0
	No	81	54.0
Own house	Yes	97	64.7
	No	53	35.3
Affected any diseases	Yes	75	50.0
	No	75	50.0

The findings related to demographic variable shows that Out of 150 respondents, half i.e.,(32%) of the respondents are in the age group between 26-35.Out of 150 respondents, 99(66.0%) of them just completed below 10th standard. Out of 150 respondents 73(48.7%) of the respondents are unmarried. Among the 150 respondents, 77 (51.3%) of the respondents were employed. Out of 150 respondents 117(78%) of the respondents were from joint family. Among the 150 respondents 61(40.7%) of the respondents had no siblings. Out of 150 respondents 87(58.0%) of the respondents belonged to Hindu community. Among the 150 respondents 81(54.0 %) of the respondents were not belonged to the members of SHG. Out of the 150 respondents 97(64.7 %) of the respondents had their own house. Among the total number of the respondents (50 %) of the respondents have been affected by any one disease.

Table 2: Level of Quality of Life

S. No	Quality of life	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Good	30	20.0
2	Moderate	91	60.7
3	Poor	29	19.3
Total		150	100.00%

The above table has specifically pointed out the overall result on the perception level of quality of life of tribal women. The study results reveals that a normal level of quality of life is found among 91(60.7%) of the tribal women, 30(20.0%) of the tribal women had good quality of life and 29(19.3%) of the tribal women had poor quality of life.

Table 3: Significant differences in Quality of Life based on Demographic Variables

S.No	Variable	Test	Values	Result
1.	Age	F-test	F=5.135	Significant
2.	Educational Qual.	F-Test	F=4.918	Significant
3.	Marital Status	F-test	F=2.012	Not Significant
4.	Occupation	T-test	t=1.215	significant
5.	Family Type	T-test	t=2.347	Not Significant
6.	Member of SHG	T-test	t=0.1.291	Not significant
7.	Own Houses	T-test	t=0.378	Not significant
8.	Affected any diseases	T-test	t=0.692	Not significant

The above table reveals that, there is a significant difference in quality of life of the tribal women based on Age, Educational Qualification and Occupation of the tribal women. The mean value depicts that, those respondents whose age group is below 25 years had better quality of life than other age groups. Similarly, those women who have completed their UG degree had better quality of life than other educational groups. Similarly, those women who are unemployed had better quality of life than employed women. Therefore, it is concluded that the above demographical variables have a significant influence over the quality of life among tribal women.

The table also reveals that, there is no significant difference in quality of life of the tribal women on based on Marital status, Family type, Member of SHG, own Houses and affected by any diseases. Therefore, it is concluded that the above mentioned demographical variables have not influenced by the quality of life among tribal women.

Conclusion:

The present study exposes a real picture of the level of quality of life of tribal women. From the study the researcher concluded that, a normal to level of quality of life is found among the tribal women. The demographic variables namely Age; Educational Qualification and occupation do influence the quality of life of tribal women.

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