Listen To Unheard

Study of Changing politico-socio-economic scenario of Schedule Caste Tribal Female of Kinnaur
HIMACHAL PRADESH

- Land of Snowy Mountains
- Situated in North-west of India
Kinnaura tribe
Kinnaur is situated on north of Himachal Pradesh.

- It has Zanskar, Greater Himalayas and Dhauladhar mountain Ranges.
- This District is very near to Chinese border.

A Sketch map of Kinnaur District
97% of the area is desolate, inaccessible and unsettled.

Poor Geographical terrain.
Tough Life of Kinnauras
Traditional Life of Kinnauras: Changed very less since its origin
Caste division

Khoshiya (Upper Caste)

Chamang (Lower Caste)

Domang (Lowest Caste)
Caste Difference: Occupationally, Economically, Racially

Khoshiya Female: Upper Caste

Chamang Female: Lower Caste
Position of Schedule Caste Tribal Female in Kinnaura Society
whether the parameter of empowerment common to all females applies to scheduled caste tribal females too who are working in economically, socially, politically and geographically hostile environment?

What kind of challenges she is facing in this new world after her election in Panchayati Raj Institutions.
Elected Schedule Caste Tribal Female

- 33% reservation provided under 73rd Amendment Act has changed their position.

- She remained illiterate, ignorant, untouchable and unequal
Her Election on a post has changed her identity.

Political Empowerment: A New Phase of Life
Neglected life of Schedule Caste Tribal Female

- Non-considerable position in the society
- No economic base
- No social recognition
- Illiterate and ignorant
Untouchability

- They are never allowed to enter into the house of Upper Caste.
- In social gatherings they are kept in different rows.
- They have to follow certain norms while dealing with high class people.
Tough life of Schedule Caste tribal female: They do not have their own land so they work in the fields of Upper Caste
Difference in Houses of Upper and Lower Caste
Kuccha House: Lower Caste
To create a social balance: An urgent need
Initial Difficulties

- Non-Acceptance (Socially and Politically)
- Illiteracy (Bureaucratic hurdle, implementation of Govt. Policies)
- Lack of Confidence (No say in Meetings, No exposure)
- Discrimination (Social, Political and Economic)
Hindrances: No Bureaucratic recognition
Even today No SC can enter into House of Upper Caste
Hindrances

- No Economic base
- No experience to attend meetings
- No experience to work with Govt. officials
- No experience to work with SHGs and NGOs
Initial Hurdles

- Non-Acceptance
- Illiteracy
- Untouchability
- Lack of Confidence
- Social Discrimination
First Generation leaders who got elected could not do much because they were not holding any experience. But things started changing when Govt. introduced certain compulsory rules and these females got elected for the second term.
First Generation Leaders Got Elected Second Time
Traditional Set-up got disturbed
Women are important factors in managing homes and fields.

Their political participation gave them a THIRD FRONT.

For SCT female this front carries entirely a different meaning.
Change After Reservation Policy
Sharing Power Seat: Getting Elected under Reservation Policy
Preferences of Elected SCT female

- Infrastructure and Agriculture development
- More Schools for Villagers, especially girls
- More health Centers
Poverty eradication, total sanitation and employment guarantee Programme
Working together (Community Participation)
They are playing important role in local government formation.

As elected member they have five years.
Becoming part of SHGs and NGOs
Representing Panchayat issues Before Govt. Officials
Spreading Awareness: AIDS, TB, Polio
Introducing Grading Machine to Farmers of Village
Conclusion

- There is necessity to design adoption programmes in agriculture, society, education and politics where Schedule Caste Tribal female can be accepted as an integral part of the programme.
- Mahila Mandals can motivate them to contest election, to get a sense of economic independence and self-confidence.
Conclusion

- Systematic training, regular workshops, orientation programmes and various public welfare programmes etc. should be made compulsory for first timers.
- The use of media must be made to broadcast and public special programmes for them.
- There is an urgent need to uplift remaining schedule caste tribal female section.
73rd Amendment of the Indian Constitution is not an end in itself. It is the beginning of grass root democracy.

Due to this amendment only a silent revolution among the most ignored women folk of tribal society of Kinnaur has taken place and she is successful in carving a niche.
Yet To Be Done

- Socially they are still exploited
- Lack of Education
- Lack of Exposure
- Poor Economic Base
- Almost Landless
- Family Issues

Surely Political Empowerment has put SCT female on the path of upliftment though final destination is yet to be achieved