

Socio-Economic Status of Tribal Adolescent Girls Students: A Case Study of Rural Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal

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Abstract:

Socioeconomic status (SES) encompasses not just income but also educational attainment, financial security, and subjective perceptions of social status and social class. Socioeconomic status can encompass quality of life attributes as well as the opportunities and privileges afforded to people within society. In this article an attempt has been made to find out the socio economic status of Tribal Adolescent girls students in the rural Paschim Medinipur district of West Bengal. Primary data have been collected by the researcher personally conducting the field survey through the help of a well structured pre-tested questionnaire and also a checklist to obtain information from the people besides the actual responding whereas the secondary data have been taken from various published and unpublished books, VDC records, articles and writings of the other people. Purposive sampling method has been applied to select the Sample of 186 students. Simple percentage system is used for data analysis. Findings of the study indicate that the population are engaged and depends mainly on the agriculture and subsistence sector and Women are found to have concentrated mainly on household and kitchen chores coupled with substance farm management.

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received: 06 August 2024

Received in revised form
16 August 2024

Accepted 31 August 2024

Citation: Mahata. H. & S. Sk, (2024) "Socio-Economic Status of Tribal Adolescent Girls Students: A Case Study of Rural Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal", *Pen and Prosperity*, Vol. 1, Issue. 1, September 2024.

Keywords: Socioeconomic Status, Tribal, Girls Student, Educational Attainment, Financial Security.

Introduction:

With the advancement of social conditions, the existing state of society in emerging countries is quickly transitioning from a poor to a developed economy. However, these adjustments are not the same everywhere. In general, rural regions exhibit much lower levels of social, cultural, and economic development in comparison to metropolitan areas. An individual's lifestyle is heavily influenced by their financial situation. Thus, a person's money determines their social standing. No area or civilization can advance unless certain parts continue to lag behind. Well-managed socioeconomic development has the power to manage a region's balanced and healthy growth. Today's rural population's socioeconomic standing is shifting due to rising educational attainment and perceptions of schooling. Socioeconomic traits are crucial instruments for gauging human growth. It is a measurement of the economic and social standing of a person, family, or group of people based on factors including employment, income, education, and

health [1. (Dutton & Levine, 1989)]. Socio-economic is the most important determinant of the livelihoods as it influences levels of knowledge, skill and income conditions which mean for their living. Peoples' way of living is differ from one income group to another as their consumption power is also differ among income groups of population. According to author, socio-economic status is "a composite measure that typically incorporates economic status, measured by income; social status, measured by education; and work status, measured by occupation" [2 (Rathod & Ningshen, 2012)], noted that Socio-economic status is an economic and sociological combined total measure of a person's work experience and of family's economic and social position relative to others, based on income, education, and occupation [3. (Krieger, Williams, & Moss, 1997)], define socioeconomic position as 'an aggregate concept that includes both resource-based and prestige based measures, as linked to both childhood and adult social class position'. The position of individuals, families, households, or other aggregates on one or more stratification axes is referred to as their socioeconomic status. These dimensions include money, status, income, education, and other factors of standing that are important to members of society. Although socioeconomic status is often seen as a personal demographic trait, it may also provide details about a person's larger surroundings.

Significance of the Study:

This study serves as a vital resource for understanding and addressing the socio-economic challenges faced by tribal adolescent girls in rural areas. It has the potential to influence policies, enhance educational practices, and foster community engagement, ultimately contributing to the empowerment and development of these young women.

Objective:

The present study has been undertaken to find out the socio-economic status of the Tribal Adolescent girls students in terms of their family income, household land ownership etc.

METHOD:

Study Area:

Paschim Medinipur district, commonly known as West Midnapore district, is a district in West Bengal, India, that was founded on January 1, 2002, after the Partition of Midnapore into Paschim Medinipur and Purba Medinipur. It is the second-largest district in the state in terms of geographical area (9,295.28 km²). Apart from this, Paschim Medinipur district is recognized to have the maximum number of villages than any other popular districts.

Data Collection & Administration:

Primary data have been collected by the researcher personally conducting the field survey through the help of a well structured pre-tested questionnaire and also a checklist to obtain information from the people besides the actual responding whereas the secondary data have been taken from various published and unpublished books, VDC records, articles and writings of the other people. Purposive sampling method has been applied to select the Sample of 186 students. Simple percentage system is used for data analysis

Data Analysis and Interpretation:

Land Ownership

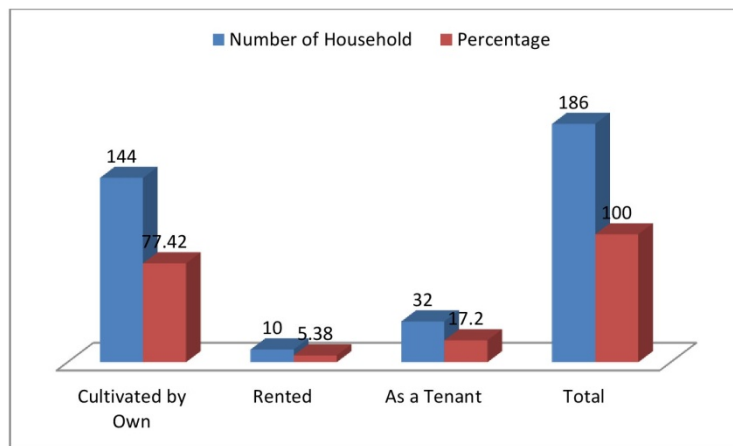
As agriculture is the main occupation of the study area, this study conducted in rural Paschim Medinipur also depicts the same result. But the cultivation pattern a little bit different as found in nationwide cultivation pattern, that is, several studies have shown that farmers do not get their own land for cultivation rather landlords occupies most of the land and farmers get land in rent.

Table1-Percentage Distribution of Land Ownership of Sampled Household

Ownership	Number of Household	Percentage
Cultivated by Own	144	77.42
Rented	10	5.38
AsaTenant	32	17.20
Total	186	100

Source: field Survey,

According to the Table No-1 among the sampled households, 77.42 percent of household cultivate their own land, 5.38 percent of sampled household cultivate land taking in rent. Similarly, 17.20 percent of sampled household cultivate land but as a tenant.

**Fig.1: Showing land ownership**

Family Income Source

There are different sources of income to survive for human beings. Some chooses agriculture some chooses service, some live their life with business some with others. Anyway for the betterment of the life everybody have to choose a professional occupation which creates some sort of income.

The technology of agriculture is primitive and the agriculture is of subsistence type. The other sources are also not found reliable. Only a handful people are engaged in business. Service holders are also limited. For all these reasons, income level of this study area is not so good. On the other hand, income distribution gap is also wide. The level of income varies from one population group to another. Particularly tribal people hardly earn income for their survival. Income level in tribal community is found to be lower than others mostly.

Table2- Percentage Distribution of Family Income Source of Sampled Household

Income Source	Number of Household	Percentage
Agriculture	29	15.59
Service	50	26.88
Business	22	11.83
Others	3	1.61

Agriculture + Business	17	9.14
Agriculture + Service	50	26.88
Agriculture + Cottage	3	1.62
Service + Business	8	4.30
Agriculture + Others	4	2.15
Total	186	100

Source: field Survey,

Above Table Shows the main sources of income of the sampled Households in the study area. The main income source of the studied area is dominated by service sector with 26.88 percent followed by mixed sector that is agriculture and service sector of same percent.

Even though the study area is rural, in this area there are 15.59 percent of household who are fully dependent upon the agriculture sector for their hand to mouth. In the same area, there are 11.83 percent of households who are operating their own business for their income. Similarly, agriculture and business, agriculture and cottage, service and business, agriculture and others cover 9.14, 1.62, 4.30, and 2.15 percent of sampled household respectively.

Monthly Income of family

Income is a variable which shows the status of an individual as well as family in society. It determines the economic status of everyone. Therefore an attempt has been made to find the monthly income of the sampled households.

Table3-PercentageDistributionofMonthlyFamilyIncomeofSampled Household

Income (in NRS)	Number of Household	Percentage
Upto5000	29	15.59
5001-10000	25	13.45
10001-15000	41	22.04
15001-20000	41	22.04
Above20000	50	26.88
Total	186	100.00

Source: field Survey

From the different sources of income sampled population make certain income in monthly basis which can be discussed as in the table 186 sampled household 15.59percent of respondent earn up to 5000/- per month, 13.45 percent of the total respondents earns between 5001 to 10000 Per Month for their survival, 22.04percent of the participants of the survey replied of earning monthly between 10001 to15000. Similarly 22.04 percent and 26.88 percent of the total surveyed population replied as earning 15001 to 20000 and above 20000 respectively. The household income level of the study area, in general, is quite good. Thus, economic condition is seemed to be quite satisfactory.

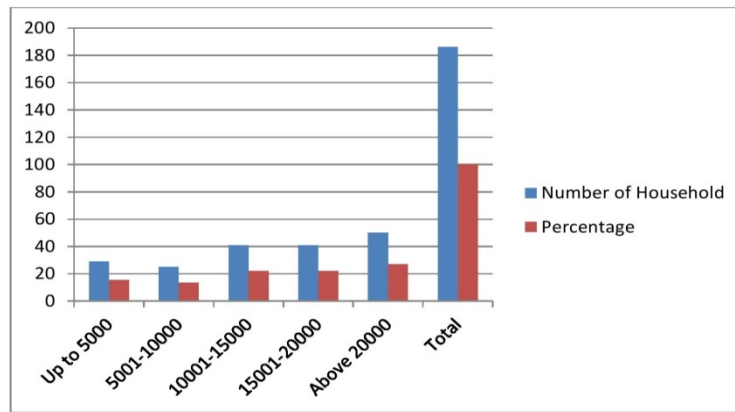


Fig.2: Showing Monthly Family Income

Livestock Pattern

Livestock are the most important and integral part of rural Paschim Medinipur. Farming and livestock raising are interdependent in the agriculture system of rural Paschim Medinipur. Majority of households keep livestock for different purposes such as earning income, providing food and manure etc.

Cattle are the common livestock of rural Paschim Medinipur. People have kept livestock for the same above-mentioned purposes. For many families, they have become main source of income. Especially the people of rural Paschim Medinipur earn income by selling the milk of cow. The Table below shows the livestock raising status.

Table4-Percentage Distribution of Livestock Pattern of Sampled Household

Cattles	Number of Household	Percentage
Yes	101	54.30
No	75	45.7
Total	186	100

Source: Field Survey, 2067

Above Table shows that in the sampled area 54.30 percent of the population hold cattle and 45.70 do not. This shows that more than half percent of the respondent are earning income through their livestock.

Table 5-Percentage Distribution of Parental Education of Respondents

Education Level	Number of Respondent	Percentage
Illiterate	57	30.65
Literate	41	22.04
Primary	20	10.75
Secondary	28	15.05
Higher Secondary.	15	8.06
B.A.	14	7.53
AboveBA.	11	5.92
Total	186	100

The Parental educational level of the respondents was varying from illiterate to Masters Level. 30.65 percent of the respondents were found illiterate. Regarding the respondents who can only read or write as literate, the literacy rate of the respondents is 22.04 percent. The percentage of women with the education under S.L.C. was 25.80 whereas 8.06 percent were Higher Secondary. passed, 7.53 percent were B.A. passed and only 5.92 percent of respondents hold Master's degree. The education level of the respondents in general is quite good, thus educational condition seemed to be quite not satisfactory.

Major Findings:

- Majority of households keep livestock for different purposes such as earning income, providing food and manure etc.
- Even though the study area is rural, in this area there are 15.59 percent of household who are fully dependent upon the agriculture sector for their hand to mouth.
- Rural women are bearing a overwhelming role in economic as well as domestic sector work, and hence their contribution to the family's household income is also significant. Total working hour per day for women is found 15 hour in an average.
- Women are found to have concentrated mainly on household and kitchen chores coupled with substance farm management.
- The Parental education level of the respondents in general is quite good, thus educational condition seemed to be quite not satisfactory.

Limitations of the Study:

- The study was limited to only Paschim Medinipur district of West Bengal.
- Only Tribal girl's students were selected for the current study.
- The sample of the study was limited to 186.

Conclusion:

Socio-economic status is the foremost issue in the contemporary world, especially in the developing world. Socio-economic status in rural areas is gradually improving over a period of time. Many programmers and policies have been implemented to improve the socioeconomic status of population in rural areas. But in economic sense, people of the rural areas could not develop equally over the region. Even within a small village, different types of economic classes are found.

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