

Impact of Total Literacy Campaign on the level of awareness of neo-literate tribal women on their Political Participation issues

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Abstract: The present study is to examine the awareness level of the different neo-literate tribal women groups of Churachandpur District, Manipur. The investigator has employed multi-stage sampling technique and administered self constructed Awareness test on Political Participation Issues among the selected 610 neo-literate respondents. Applying appropriate statistical technique, the study generates various findings which highlight the status of awareness on issues of political participation among the neo-literate tribal women groups. The finding shows that, 43.6% of the respondent has low awareness and 40.8% of the respondents have average awareness on their level of political participation issues. With reference to tribe wise respondents of Thadou Kuki has the highest level of 24.83% (38) awareness. With regards to age wise, the age group of 35 years and above group has the highest awareness level of 22.62% (19). The study further revealed that the knowledge of Awareness on political participation issues will have positive impact on improving literacy rate and empowering women group as a whole.

Key Terms: Neo-literate, tribal women, political participation issues.

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I. Introduction

The provision of educational opportunities for women has been an important part of the national endeavour in the field of education since India's Independence. It is with this concern that the Government of India launched the Total literacy campaigns in 1988 for eradication of adult illiteracy under the aegis of the National Literacy Mission which emphasis on making efforts to (i) Create an environment where women demand knowledge and information, empowering themselves to change their lives. (ii) Inculcate in women the confidence that change is possible, if women work collectively. (iii) Spread the message that education of women is a pre-condition for fighting against their oppression. (iv) Highlight the plight of the girl child and stress the need for Universalization of elementary education as a way of addressing the issue. Some of the significant ways in which the literacy campaigns have contributed to the promotion of female literacy and women's empowerment are as follows:-

(a) Heightened Social Awareness: Because of the campaign mode and creation of a positive environment for literacy, women receive a social sanction to participate in the literacy programmes. As women came out of their homes and take part in the campaigns acquired a heightened sense of self-awareness and desire to gain knowledge of host of women's issues.

(b) Increase School Enrolment: The literacy campaigns have also motivated and encouraged women learners to educate their children, particularly girls by enrolling them in formal schools. **(c) Increase in Self-Confidence and Personality Development:** The literacy classes conducted under literacy campaigns have given women opportunity to break the isolation which is socially structured into their lives, giving them a chance to meet other women and learn collectively rather than learn singly as individuals.

(d) Gender Equity and Women's Empowerment: Total literacy campaigns have provided illiterate adult women, who have been denied access to formal schooling, with a great opportunity for reading, writing, increasing awareness levels and skills training. The impact of literacy on women's life has often been dramatic.

(e) Status in the Family: Literacy campaigns have played a significant role in improving the status of women within their own families.

(f) Educational Equality: As a result of higher participation of women in literacy campaigns, the gender gap in literacy levels is gradually getting reduced. Even more significant is the fact that disparity in enrolment of boys and girls in neo-literate households is much lowered as compared to the illiterate householders.

1.2. Need and Significance

Women in India constitute 50 per cent of the country's human resources and play a pivotal role in developing the community and national economy as well as they contributes both to the productive and reproductive spheres of life. The study is justified based on the following reasons.

1. Women's development is regarded as an important approach to raise the levels of productivity and to break the vicious circle of poverty, for which better health and education are important determinants.
2. Women are deprived and often become victims in the male dominated society. They are treated as secondary citizens, limited to low wages, suppressed, ill-treated and marginalized to accept inequality as their fate and natural order.
3. In tribal communities, the role of women is substantial and crucial. Their primitive way of life, economic and social backwardness, low level of literacy, out dated system of production, absence of value systems, sparse physical infrastructure in backward tribal areas and demographic quality of tribal areas make the development of tribal women essential.
4. Women from tribal communities are regarded as weaker sex and have certain cultural restrictions on them by their male counterpart.
5. Women's security, decision-making power, and mobility are three indicators for women's empowerment. The status of women in a society is a significant reflection of the level of social justice in that society.

1.3. Objectives:

To assess the impact of the Total Literacy Campaign on the level of awareness of neo-literate tribal women on political participation issues.

1.4. Hypotheses

The awareness level on political participation issues varies significantly among the various tribal groups bases on their age differentials.

1.5. Methodology

The investigator followed the survey method of investigation. A Survey aims at collecting information about a group of individuals or programmes without any conscious attempt to control the prevailing situation.

1.6. Sample

The sample method adopted by the researcher for the present study is purposive sampling, random sampling and multi-stage sampling. The sample of the present study is shown vide table 1.1 given below:

Table 1.1: Showing the sample of the present study:

| Sl. No. | Name of the Block | Nos. of villages (10%) | Neo-literate tribal women (10%) |
|---------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. | Singnat Block | 6 | 175 |
| 2. | Henglep Block | 11 | 205 |
| 3. | Samulamlan Block | 7 | 95 |
| 4. | Churachandpur Block | 17 | 135 |
| | Total | 41 | 610 |

1.7. Tools

In the present study, for the purpose of data collection, the investigator has developed and constructed the **Awareness Test on Political Participation Issues (ATPPI)** – to assess the impact of the Total Literacy Campaign on the level of awareness of neo-literate tribal women on political participation issues.

1.8. Delimitation of the study

The present study is delimited only to tribal women belonging to different recognised tribal groups by the Government of India in Churachandpur District.

The present study is also delimited to four blocks within Churachandpur District.

1.9: Analysis of the present study

This chapter represents the findings of the present study, where the investigator analysed the data using statistical technique like 't'test, F-test etc., through SPSS and Quartile deviation for the level of awareness where respondents scoring between 25% to 50% were awarded low level, 50% to 75% average level and 75% to 100% were awarded high level. The data so analysed were then interpreted and discussions of the result were carried with the objectives and hypothesis of the present study which is as follows:

Table 1.2: Showing the overall significant F-test on political participation of the respondents.

| | Sum of Squares | Df | Mean Square | F | Sig. |
|----------------|----------------|-----|-------------|-------|--------|
| Between Groups | 121.122 | 8 | 15.140 | 5.277 | < 0.01 |
| Within Groups | 1724.434 | 601 | 2.869 | | |
| Total | 1845.556 | 609 | | | |

The given table is representing a result of the political participation issues among the various tribal groups based on their age differentials. From the present study it is found that the calculated F-value (5.277) for age differentials was greater than the table F-value for 8 and 601 df i.e. 2.55 at 0.01 level. Since, the calculated F-value was found greater than the table F-value, we conclude that there exists significant differences. Hence, the null hypothesis was accepted.

Table 1.3: Overall Awareness Level of neo-literate tribal woman on Political Participation Issues

| Awareness Level | Frequency | Percent (%) |
|-----------------|-----------|-------------|
| Low | 266 | 43.6 |
| Average | 249 | 40.8 |
| High | 95 | 15.6 |
| Grand Total | 610 | 100 |

The above table 1.3 shows the overall awareness level of neo-literate tribal woman on their political participation issues. It was observed from the given table that 43.6% of the respondent has low awareness, 40.8% average awareness and 15.6% high awareness level with regards to the level of political participation issues among the different neo-literate tribal women of Churachandpur district.

Table 1.4: Tribe Wise Level of Awareness on Political Participation Issues

| Name of the tribe | Awareness Level | | | Total % (N) |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| | Low (%) | Average (%) | High (%) | |
| Gangte | 27(37.5) | 35(48.61) | 10(13.89) | 72(11.80) |
| Thadou Kuki | 46(30.07) | 69(45.10) | 38(24.83) | 153(25.08) |
| Vaiphei | 51(42.5) | 51(42.5) | 18(15) | 120(19.67) |
| Any Mizo | 25(47.17) | 18(33.96) | 10(18.87) | 53(8.69) |
| Hmar | 12(44.44) | 8(29.63) | 7(25.93) | 27(4.43) |
| Kom | 31(56.36) | 20(36.37) | 4(7.27) | 55(9.02) |
| Paite | 36(62.07) | 16(27.59) | 6(10.34) | 58(9.51) |
| Simte | 8(50) | 8(50) | 0(0) | 16(2.62) |
| Zou | 30(53.57) | 24(42.86) | 2(3.57) | 56(9.18) |
| Grand Total | 266(43.61) | 249(40.82) | 95(15.57) | 610 |

Out of 610 (100%) from table 1.4 it was found that respondent from the Gangte tribe have 48.61% (35) average awareness level, 37.5% (27) low awareness and 13.89% (10) high awareness level on political participation issues.

It was also found among the Thadou Kuki tribe that 45.10% (69) of the respondents have average awareness, 30.07% (46) low awareness and 24.83% (38) of the respondent have high awareness with regards to awareness level on political participation issues.

With regards to the Vaiphei tribe, 42.5% (51) of the respondent have average awareness, 42.5% (51) low awareness and 15% (18) high awareness on political participation issues.

From table 1.4 it was also found that from Any Mizo tribe respondents of 47.17% (25) have low awareness, 33.96% (18) average awareness level and 18.87% (10) have high awareness level on political participation issues.

It was also found from the given table that respondent from the Hmar tribe have 44.44% (12) low awareness level, 29.63% (8) average awareness level and 25.93% (7) have high awareness level with regards to political participation issues.

With reference to Kom tribe majority of 56.36% (31) have low awareness level, 36.37% (20) average awareness level and only 7.27% (4) of the respondents have high awareness in the level of awareness on political participation issues.

It was also observed from table that, among the Paite tribe majority of 62.07% (36) of the respondents have low awareness level, 27.59% (16) average awareness and 10.34% (6) of the respondent have high awareness levels on political participation issues.

Again it was also observed that 50% (89) of the respondent from Simte tribe have average awareness also 50% (8) low awareness and 0% (0) low awareness level with regards to awareness level on political participation issues.

From table 4.3 it was also found that among the Zou tribe, majority of 53.57% (30) of the neo-literate tribal women have low awareness level followed by 42.86% (24) average awareness and only 3.57% (2) have high awareness levels with regards to political participation issues.

It may be concluded from the above analysis that respondent from the Thadou tribe had the lowest 30.07% (46) awareness level while Hmar tribe has recorded the highest awareness level of 25.93% (7) among the respondents with regards to awareness level on political participation issues.

Table 1.5: Awareness Level on Political Participation Issues in Age Wise

| Age in years | Awareness Level | | | Total % (N) |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| | Low (%) | Average (%) | High (%) | |
| 15-19 | 43(43.88) | 45(45.92) | 10(10.20) | 98(16.06) |
| 20-24 | 59(41.26) | 58(40.56) | 26(18.18) | 143(23.44) |
| 25-29 | 63(45) | 53(37.86) | 24(17.14) | 140(22.95) |
| 30-34 | 67(46.21) | 62(42.76) | 16(11.03) | 145(23.77) |
| 35 and Above | 34(40.48) | 31(36.90) | 19(22.62) | 84(13.77) |
| Grand Total | 266(43.61) | 249(40.82) | 95(15.57) | 610 |

Out of 610 (100%) from table 1.5 neo-literate tribal women belonging to the age group of 15-19 years of age have an average awareness level of 45.92% (45), 43.88% (43) have low awareness level and only 10.20% (10) have high awareness with regards to political participation issues.

It was also found from the table that, among the age group of 20-24 years of age 41.26% (59) of the respondent have low awareness level, 40.56% (58) low awareness and 18.18% (26) high awareness level on political participation issues.

With regards to 25-29 years of age group, 45% (63) of the neo-literate tribal women have low awareness level, 37.86% (53) average awareness level and 17.14% (24) high awareness level on the issues of political participation.

Further, table 1.5 also reveals that in the age group of 30-34 years of age, 46.21% (67) of the respondent have low awareness, 42.76% (662) have average awareness and 11.03% (16) high awareness on the levels of awareness on political participation issues.

With reference to the age group of 35 and above years of age 40.48% (34) have low awareness level, 36.90% (31) average awareness and 22.62% (19) have high awareness with regards to the participation on political issues.

From the above analysis of the data, we may conclude that among the different neo-literate tribal woman, age group of 35 years and above age group has the highest level of awareness 22.62% (19) on their level of participation on political issues.

II. Summary:

To summarize, the present study of the present research work on the impact of Total literacy Campaign on the impact of TLC programme on women empowerment conducted in Churachandpur district of Manipur, the investigator have followed the survey method of research and tools used was standardized interview schedule which was “**Awareness Test on Political Participation Issues (ATPPI)**” – to assess the impact of the Total Literacy Campaign on the level of awareness of neo-literate tribal women on political participation issues.

The findings of the present study can be summarised as given below:-

The present study reveals that, the awareness level on political issues varies significantly among the various tribal groups bases on their age differentials. Where, 40.8% of the neo-literate tribal women respondent had average awareness level, and 15.6% high awareness level.

It was also found from the analysis of the with regards to the age group, age group of 35 years and above of age group has the highest awareness level of 22.62% (19) among the neo-literate tribal women group on political participation issues. With reference to the tribe wise analysis, respondents from the Hmar tribe has recorded the highest level of awareness with 25.93% (7) which was followed by Thadou tribe with 24.83% (38) high awareness level with regards to political participation issues.

III. Conclusion:

Literacy of women is a prime necessity in the development arena of any nation. A woman equipped with the basic functional skills is ready to cope up with any problem she encounters in her family as a caretaker, as well as in the society at large. Therefore, the initiative of the government and voluntary agencies through an inclusive method like the Total Literacy Campaign stands out like a great instrument to uproot the root factors of social evils like illiteracy, social discrimination, poverty, crimes against women, child marriage, etc. This particular study put efforts to go deep into the overall impact of the Total Literacy Campaign implemented by the government of Manipur from 2004-2006, on the awareness of women about their political rights and issues with regards to their participation, its failure and success in order to gain knowledge on better and more effective plan for prospective women literacy plans. Based on the findings of the study, the level of awareness of the tribal women of Churachandpur district on political participation issues and rights was prominently average. Therefore, the study significantly contributes towards the necessity of further literacy campaigns with regards to generation of awareness on women’s rights.

Suggestion

The findings of the present study revealed that majority of the respondent shows average level of participation on political issues. The present study also reveals that, majority of the neo-literate tribal women do participate in political issues.

It is shown that 43.6% of the respondent has low awareness and 40.8% of the respondents have average awareness on their level of political participation issues. Hence, it may be suggested that their right to vote, reservation of seats for women, the right to participation in group discussion related with political issues, should be made aware to them so that they will participate in political issues.

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