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An analytical study on constraints faced by tribal women in business based livelihood activities

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Abstract

Livelihood is defined as a set of activities, involving securing water, food, medicine, shelter, clothing and the capacity to acquire above necessities working either individually or as a group by using endowments for meeting the requirements of the self and his/her household on a sustainable basis with dignity. In tribal area women are involved in all aspects of agriculture and allied enterprise. Many also work as laborers in industries, households and construction, contributing to their family income. However, tribal women face many problems and challenges in getting a sustainable livelihood and a decent life. The objective of the present study is to find out the constraint faced by tribal women in business based livelihood. The study was conducted in three districts of Rajasthan state which were selected purposively having high concentration of tribal population. The findings revealed that major constraints faced by the tribal women were lack of education, motivation, negative attitude towards technology, lack of transportation facilities, distance of market for selling product, poor storage facility, difficult loan procedures and high rates of interest on loans.

Keywords: analytical, constraints, tribal women, business, sustainable livelihood, agriculture

Introduction

According to oxford dictionary 'A tribe is a group of people in a primitive or barbarous stage of development acknowledging the authority of a chief and usually regarding them as having a common ancestor'. As per the 2011 Census, the Scheduled Tribe population of Rajasthan state is 9,238,534. Out of twelve tribes scheduled for the State, Meena is the most populous tribes, having a population of 3,799,971, constituting 53.05 per cent of the total ST population followed by Bhil (2805948). Meena and Bhil together constitute 93 per cent whereas Garasia, Damor, Dhanka and Saharia combine to form 6.6 per cent of the total ST population. Six tribes, Bhil, Meena, Naikda, Kathodi, Patelia, Kokna and Kolidhor along with the generic tribes constitute the residual 0.3 per cent of the total tribal population. The highest concentration of this population is mainly in districts viz. Udaipur, Bhilwara, Dungarpur, Banswara, Chittorgarh, Pratapgarh, and Rajsamand. The tribal situation in the State presents a varied picture, some areas have high tribal concentration while in others they form only a small portion of the total population. Based on the Census of India, 2011 and Directorate of Census Operations, Rajasthan, the district wise distribution of tribal population shows that they have their highest concentration in Banswara district (81.3 per cent), followed by 74.4 per cent and 60.3 per cent in Dungarpur and Udaipur districts respectively. Nagaur (0.2 per cent) has the lowest share of tribal population in the total population than Bikaner (0.4 per cent). Tribals in Rajasthan can be described as the poorest among the poor. The probable reason might be that the tribal community mainly resides in forests and depend on forests for livelihood and they are being uprooted along with jungles. Poverty, lack of knowledge, ill health and exploitation are a few of the complex problems that occupy the lives of tribal (Sarangi, 2009) [6]. The present paper attempts to find out the constraints faced by tribal women in business based livelihood activities.

Methodology

The study was undertaken in tribal area of Southern Rajasthan. Three district viz. Banswara, Dungarpur and Udaipur were selected. Two panchayat samities from each district and two villages from each panchayat samiti were selected randomly. There were 25 tribal women selected from the three districts and they were engaged in business based livelihood activity for their household income. Data were collected by using interview schedule developed by the

investigator. The response of the respondents was recorded on three point continuum i.e. great extent, some extent and not at all assigning 2, 1 and 0 scores respectively. For statistical analysis frequency, percentage, mean percent scores (MPS) were used. Constraints perceived by the respondents were categorized as personal, technical, operational and economic constraints.

Results and Discussion

The results have been categorized as personal, technical, operational and economic constraints faced by tribal women in business based livelihood activity and described as under:-

1. Personal constraints: Constraints faced by the respondents

in business based livelihood activity have been presented in Table 1. Perusal of the table indicates that lack of experience (96 MPS) heavy workload (94 MPS) and health problem (92 MPS) were the main personal constraints reported by the majority of the respondents followed by no risk bearing capacity and lack of scientific orientation (90 MPS). Lack of motivation and education, excess of social responsibilities, lack of decision making capabilities and non-cooperation of family members were also felt to greater extent with mean per cent scores ranging between 82-88 MPS. Findings are in conformity with Chatterjee (2014) [1] who revealed that absence of any fixed livelihood, lack of access to education, low decision making ability and poor condition of health were the main constraints faced by the respondents.

Table 1: Personal constraints faced by tribal women in business based livelihood activity

n=25

S. N	Constraints	Extent of constraint				MPS
		To a great extent		To some extent		
A	Personal constraints	f	%	f	%	
1.	Lack of experience	23	92	2	8	96
2.	Heavy workload	22	88	3	12	94
3.	Health problem	21	84	4	16	92
4.	No risk bearing capacity	20	80	5	20	90
5.	Lack of scientific orientation	20	80	5	20	90
6.	Lack of motivation	19	76	6	24	88
7.	Lack of education	19	76	6	24	88
8.	Excess of social responsibilities	19	76	6	24	88
9.	Lack of decision making capabilities	18	72	7	28	86
10.	Non-cooperation of family members	16	64	9	36	82
Pooled MPS						89.4

2. Technical constraints: It can be seen from the table that majority of the respondents felt technical constraints as major constraints. Business activity requires much more expenditure and money from beginning to end, to purchase raw material, arrangement of work place and storage facilities. Respondents

mentioned lack of knowledge about new business license and lack of guidance in the area were the important constraint faced by majority of the respondents with MPS 90 and 80 respectively.

Table 2: Technical constraints faced by tribal women in business based livelihood activity

n=25

S. N	Constraints	Extent of constraint				MPS
		To a great extent		To some extent		
B	Technical constraints	f	%	f	%	
1.	Lack of knowledge about new business license	20	80	5	20	90
2.	Lack of guidance	15	60	10	40	80
Pooled MPS						85

3 Operational constraints: Data in Table 3 highlight the operational constraints faced by the respondents. High fluctuation in demands of product, inefficient arrangement for marketing & sale, lack of space, interruption in power supply, long distance of the market, lack of transportation facilities and lack of organized and regular market were expressed as the most important constraint faced by the respondents to great extent with mean per cent score ranging between 94-98. Shortage of raw materials (90 MPS) and poor storage facilities (90 MPS) were also identified as major constraints by majority of the respondents. Findings are in conformity

with Singh and Sadangi (2012) [7] who revealed lack of marketing facilities for the product (mean score-1.75) and absence of storage facilities (mean score-1.60) were the severe constraints. In case of social constraints inadequate or no experience on new occupation (mean score-1.70) and shyness in doing socially under estimated work (mean score-1.48) were regarded as main constraints. Sannidhi, M.H. (2015) [5] also reported that all the respondents expressed that inadequate means of transport facilities (61.11%) and poor marketing facilities (32.22%).

Table 3: Operational constraints faced by tribal women in business based livelihood activity

S. N	Constraints	Extent of constraint				MPS
		To a great extent		To some extent		
C	Operational constraints	f	%	f	%	
1.	High fluctuation in demands of produce	24	96	1	4	98
2.	Inefficient arrangement for marketing & sale	24	96	1	4	98
3.	Lack of space	23	92	2	8	96
4.	Interruption in power supply	23	92	2	8	96
5.	Long distance of the market	22	88	3	12	94
6.	Lack of transportation facilities	22	88	3	12	94
7.	Lack of organized and regular market	22	88	3	12	94
8.	Shortage of raw materials	20	80	5	20	90
9.	Poor storage facilities	20	80	5	20	90
Pooled MPS						94.44

4 Economic constraints: Table 4 clearly depicts poor returns to investment (96 MPS) and high cost of transportation (96 MPS) as the mainly faced constraints by the majority of the respondents. Difficulties in transportation were faced more in rainy season which resulted in high cost. High cost of electricity, high investment and unavailability of bank

facilities for loan were also identified as the major constraints by majority of the respondents with MPS ranging between 90-94. Sannidhi, M.H. (2015) [5] also mentioned that in case of economic constraints, most of the tribal families (96.67%) always faced a problem of inadequate government assistance and complicated procedure to available loan (3.33%).

Table 4: Economic constraints faced by tribal women in business based livelihood activity

S. N	Constraints	Extent of constraint				MPS
		To a great extent		To some extent		
D	Economic constraints	f	%	f	%	
1.	Poor returns to investment	23	92	2	8	96
2.	High cost of transportation	23	92	2	8	96
3.	High cost of electricity	22	88	3	12	94
4.	High investment	20	80	5	20	90
5.	Unavailability of bank facilities for loan	20	80	5	20	90
Pooled MPS						93.2

Data presented in Fig 1 point out the overall constraints faced by the respondents in business based livelihood activities. Operational constraints were found major constraint by most of the respondents with mean percent score 99.44 due to the reason that respondents had shortage of finance at the time of establishment of the business. Respondents also mentioned

that purchasing cost of item in business was high and return to the investment was low so they did not get profit. Tribal women had many problems in business i.e. proper market facilities, transportation and storage facilities as they lived in remote area and they did not get government loan, schemes and training related to business activity.

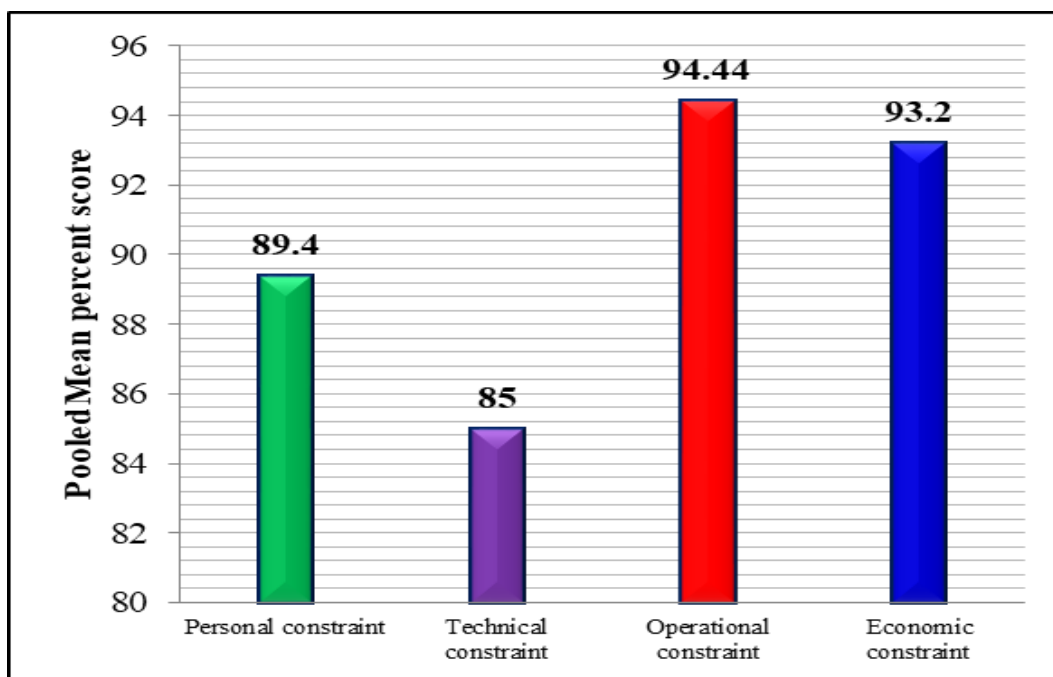


Fig 1: Overall constraints faced by the respondents in business based livelihood

Similar findings were revealed by Goswami (2021) ^[3], Dave (2019) ^[2] who mentioned that financial constraints were most important constraints ranked I with 85.34 MPS followed by operational constraints, ranked II with 70.97 MPS, marketing constraints ranked III with 67.12 MPS and personal constraints were ranked IV with 61.38 MPS.

Conclusion

It can be said that the most of the constraints were important in one way or other. To ensure the security of any livelihood activity personal and economic constraints play a significant role. However, still those related to the operational and technical aspects had a major role in creating obstacles to livelihood security. In order to overcome the constraints the state government, agriculture department, extension agencies, non-governmental organizations needs to give more emphasis and focus on livelihood activities related trainings, technology transfer and adoption of the scientific practices thereby it may lead to better and improve their livelihood income.

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