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**Socio-Economic Study Of Tribal Women: Special Reference To Mokhada  
Taluka District Palghar**

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**Abstract:**

*The purpose of economic development is to improve life-style of people, to annihilate poverty, to render business with respect; it should always start with women because more than others women have become victims of poverty, unemployment, social and economical disparity. But if we think about the socio-economic condition of tribal community women of Mokhada taluka are not good. To study the socio-economic status of tribal communities' women of Mokhada Taluka is the main object of this paper. If the women of tribal community in Mokhada taluka are studied from economic and social perspective, it will help us to empowerment of women in tribal community in future. For this research I have selected Mokhada taluka. There are 59 villages in Mokhada taluka. Out of which I have selected 50% villages for the study with the help of sequential random sampling method. The figures of selected women are 120. For the study we have selected 04 respondents in each 30 villages with the based on random sampling method. For the betterment and empowerment of the tribal women of Mokhada taluka government should planned some programme related to socio-economic development.*

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**Keywords: Tribal Community, Socio-economic Problems, Women Empowerment**

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**Introduction:**

According to Swami Vivekanand, “There is no chance for the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved. It is not possible for a bird to fly on one wing”. Ravindranath Tagore says that, “Women are the builder and boulder of nation’s destiny. Though delicate and soft as lily, she has a heart, for stronger and bolder than of man ... She is supreme inspiration of man’s onward march.” The purpose of economic development is to improve life-style of people, to annihilate poverty, to render business with respect; it should always start with women because more than others women have become victims of poverty, unemployment, social and economical disparity.

Tribal women often face unique socio-economic challenges that impede their access to resources, education, and economic opportunities. Despite these hurdles, many tribal communities are exploring sustainable business models that not only empower women but also promote the preservation of traditional practices and biodiversity. By integrating community-based approaches, such as eco-tourism and handicraft production, these models can harness the skills and knowledge of tribal women, allowing them to generate income while fostering social cohesion and environmental sustainability. Ultimately, the empowerment of tribal women through these innovative business practices not only enhances their socioeconomic status but also contributes to the resilience and sustainability of their communities (Rathod et al., 2024).

The socio-economic conditions of tribal women in India reflect a complex interplay of cultural, economic, and social factors, often placing them at a disadvantage in comparison to their non-tribal counterparts. Despite possessing a rich cultural heritage and traditional knowledge systems, tribal women frequently face barriers to education and healthcare, limiting their opportunities for economic independence and empowerment. In the context of Viksit Bharat, or an empowered and developed India, there is a pressing need for targeted policies and programs that address the unique challenges faced by tribal women, promoting their access to education, healthcare, and sustainable livelihood opportunities. By integrating tribal women into the broader development narrative, India can foster a more inclusive growth model that not only uplifts these communities but also enriches the nation's socio-economic fabric (Harale & Pawar, 2024).

Tribal women often face significant socio-economic challenges that hinder their empowerment and development. Many belong to marginalized communities with limited access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities, which perpetuates cycles of poverty and inequality. In addition to these challenges, there is a pressing need for targeted training programs that address their unique socio-cultural contexts, focusing on skill development, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy. Such initiatives can empower tribal women, enhancing their capacity to participate in the workforce and make informed decisions for their families, ultimately contributing to the overall socio-economic upliftment of their communities. Moreover, addressing the training needs of tribal women not only fosters individual growth but also strengthens the fabric of their communities by promoting gender equality and enabling women to play an active role in local governance and advocacy (Bhave et al., 2022).

Tribal peoples are often known by national terms such as native peoples, aboriginal peoples, first nations, *adivasi*, *janajati*, hunter-gatherers, or hill tribes etc. The Tribal Community in India is known as Scheduled Tribes or ST under Article 366. In India there are 212 tribes of 14 States. Out of 14 states, Maharashtra state is one of them. Mokhada taluka is the tribal community taluka of Palghar district, Maharashtra. Mokhada Taluka of Palghar district has total population of 83,453 as per the Census 2011. Out of which 41,691 are males while 41,762 are females. In 2011 there were total 17,789 families residing in Mokhada Taluka. The average sex ratio of Mokhada Taluka is 1,002. Out of total populations of Mokhada taluka 76842 (92.07%) people are tribal community. Definite Common Topography, Sense of Unity, Endogamous Group, Common Dialect, Ties of Blood-relationship, Protection Awareness, Distinct Political Organization, Common Culture, Importance of Tribal culture etc. is the main characteristics of the Tribes in Mokhada taluka.

The main problems of tribal communities' women of Mokhada taluka are as follows, Poverty, Secondary status in society, Exploitation, Economic and technological backwardness, Socio-cultural handicaps, Problems of assimilation with the non-tribal population, Illiteracy etc

#### **Objective of the Research Study:**

The objectives of the present research paper are as follows

1. To study the socio-economic status of tribal communities' women of Mokhada taluka
2. To study the problems of tribal communities' women of Mokhada taluka
3. To suggest some remedies for difficulties of tribal communities' women of Mokhada taluka

**Hypothesis:**

The hypotheses of the present research are as follows,

1. The socio-economic status of tribal communities' women of Mokhada Taluka is not good.
2. The socio-economic status of tribal communities' women of Mokhada Taluka is good.

**Relevance to Social Benefit:**

If the women of tribal community in Mokhada taluka are studied from economic and social perspective, their problems will be targeted. Women in this society are facing many problems today. Understanding the problems of these women as a researcher can give some suggestions to the government for the empowerment of women. This will promote development in Tribal community.

**Research Methodology:**

For this research I have selected Mokhada taluka. There are 59 villages in Mokhada taluka. Out of which I have selected 50% villages for the study with the help of sequential random sampling method. The figures of selected women are 120. For the study we have selected 04 respondents in each 30 villages with the based on random sampling method.

**Scope and Reference Period of the Study:**

This study is restricted to the Mokhada Taluka only. The duration for the present research is considered i.e. of March 2019-20 to 2021-22.

**Methods of Data Collection:**

For the data collection, mainly two methods has used. They are as follows,

**Primary Data:**

At primary level data is collected through interviews, questionnaire, and discussion with family members of selected villages.

**Secondary Data:**

Secondary data is collected from reference books, special journals, reports, M.Phil., PhD thesis related to this topic and internet websites etc.

**Socio-Economic Study of Tribal Women in Mokhada Taluka:**

With the help of some important issues related to the tribal communities' women of Mokhada Taluka we can understand socio-economic status of women. Socioeconomic issues of tribal communities' women are as follows;

**1. Educational Status of Tribal Community Women of Mokhada Taluka:**

Education is the main factor of development. Education is important component to be discussed related to tribal community women of Mokhada Taluka, because if the people are literate it will help to the development of society. Table No:1 indicate that, the educational status of tribal community women of Mokhadataluka.

**Table No: 1: Educational Status of Tribal Women of Mokhada Taluka**

Sr. No.	Taluka	Educational Status			Total
		Literate	Illiterate	Degree holder	
1.	Mokhada	60 (50%)	50 (41.66%)	10 (8.33)	120 (100%)

Table No 1 shows that, out of total respondents selected for study 41% women are illiterate, 50% women are literate and 8.33% women are degree holders in tribal community of Mokhada Taluka. From this it is understood that, the educational status of tribal community women of Mokhada Taluka is not good and this is bad think for this community.

## 2. Occupational Structure Tribal Community Women of Mokhada Taluka:

Agriculture is the main occupation of tribal community women of Mokhada Taluka. The statistic shows that, women of this community working business is very less. Most of the women of this community doing agricultural labour work. In agriculture the women have cultivated Rice, Vari, Nagali and Vegetable in tribal community of Mokhada Taluka. The situation can be explained with the help of below table.

**Table No: 2: Occupational Structure Tribal Community Women of Mokhada Taluka**

Sr. No.	Taluka	Occupation			Total
		Agriculture	Agriculture Labour	Business	
1	Mokhada	75 (62.5%)	40 (33.33%)	05 (4.16%)	120 (100%)

Table No 2 shows that, 62.05% tribal communities women of Mokhada Taluka are engaged in agriculture sector. From this figure understood that, the main occupation of the tribal women of Mokhada is agriculture. Out of total respondents 33.33% women are work as agriculture laborers and only 4.16% women are doing small types of business.

## 3. Information about Loan of Tribal Women of Mokhada Taluka:

The tribal community women of Mokhada Taluka takes loan from moneylenders to fulfill their various needs as well as celebrate many festivals like Diwali, Holi, Wedding Ceremony etc. Landlord cheats these people by charging high interest rate. Many women of the taluka member of self-help group, so they takes loan also from her self-help group.

## 4. Social status of Tribal Community Women of Mokhada Taluka:

Tribal community women empowerment is the base of economic development of country. In patriarchal society of the tribal community are socially, politically and economically alienated from main stream of socially. There is superior and inferior complex between other communities women. They always have a secondary position. There is need of self awareness in this community women. They should improve their status on the basis of education and knowledge.

## Economical Status of Tribal Peoples of Mokhada Taluka:

Unemployment is basic obstacle in the development of India. Especially women are suffering from the problem of unemployment because they are undated unskilled and even patriarchal social not allowed them to work in public sectors. Now situation changing, that women are treating equal entity with men. So, women are also doing jobs in public as well as private sector. But if we think about the tribal community's women status of Mokhada Taluka then we understand that, the socio-economic statuses of the women are so bad. Many women face so many problems related to house work, domestic violence, status etc.

## 1. Other Problems faced by Tribal Women in Mokhada Taluka:

**Health Related Problems:** Malnutrition, lack of awareness to healthcare & proper medicines, lack of literacy & education opportunities, low empowerment & sense of independence

**Sexual Exploitation:** A number of complaints registered in police station regarding sexual harassment of tribal community women of Mokhada taluka. Landlords, Rich people of community as well as family members are sexually harass the women.

**Isolation:** Prevents women to take up education or benefit from government policies like maternity benefit, reservation etc.

**Financial exploitation by money lenders:** Many money lenders cheat uneducated tribal women related to financial matters.

**Low wages, bad work conditions, malnutrition:** Tribal migrant women of Mokhada taluka face issues of low wages, bad work conditions, malnutrition, unhygienic sanitation, cramped housing etc. Out of total women of the Mokhada taluka more than 50% women are suffer this type of problems.

### **Recommendations:**

It is necessary to implement different programs on a large scale at the taluka level for betterment of women of tribal community of Mokhada taluka. Some suggestions for empowerment of tribal communities' women given below;

1. In the tribal communities' women of Mokhada taluka, the government needs to provide financial assistance for start the small business for empowerment of the women.
2. During the research, it was found that, even today the tribal community of Mokhada taluka is living in the tribal small divisions. The infrastructure facilities in those divisions are also not good and fulfilled, in order to develop such regions; the government should build electricity, water supply, roads, communication, education, health facilities as well as banking facilities for the people of this community.
3. The employment opportunities of the women living in Tribal communities of MokhadaTaluka have disappeared and many women have become unemployed. Government should do important work of creating employment for such women for betterment of her life.
4. Tribal communities women of Mokhada Taluka still has important problems such as illiteracy, so education should be spread in these community. If the government provides primary schools and hostels in the villages to spread it, it will definitely help to spread the education.
5. Due to the lack of health facilities, many women in the tribal community died at the time of delivery. So, for the future, if health facilities are provided to the women of that place, then the death rate will decrease.
6. When many people in the tribal community have to migrate for employment, if employment opportunities are created for such people in the place where they live, such people will not have time to migrate and also the problem of education of children of such people will not arise. It will help to improve the economic conditions of these people.
7. As the problem of malnutrition among children and women in tribal community of Mokhada taluka is high, the government should pay special attention to address the problem of malnutrition among such children because the malnourished generation can be worst affected by diseases like corona pandemic.
8. In order to eliminate superstitions in Mokhada taluka, it is necessary to work together with the Superstition Eradication Committee as well as the local level government.
9. For the empowerment of the tribal women of the Mokhadataluka self-help groups can play very vital role, so local government should try to established more self-help groups for the socio-economic development of the women.



**Conclusion:**

The purpose of economic development is to improve life-style of people, to annihilate poverty, to render business with respect; it should always start with women because more than others women have become victims of poverty, unemployment, social and economical disparity. But if we think about the socio-economic condition of tribal community women of Mokhada taluka are not good. For the betterment and empowerment of the women government should planned some programme related to socio-economic development of the women.

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