

# Economic Growth and Women Empowerment through Education: A Study on Santal at Birbhum, West Bengal

Sampa Das

Ph.D Research Scholar, Department of Anthropology, Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan, West Bengal.

**Abstract - This paper presents the economic benefits of female education. Basically Santals are backward classes. For their development women education is most important because educating girls lead to a number of social benefits and women's education increases the income of their families which is the part of economic growth of society. This study is qualitative in nature and the case studies and informal semi-structured in-depth interview were used to conduct the study. Women education is very slowly, who got educational are not highly educated. The women of this community are mainly laborers and helper with low income. This study concludes that economic benefits can be possible by women education which brings also women empowerment among the Santal.**

**Key Words - Economic Growth, Women Empowerment, Santal and Education.**

## I. INTRODUCTION

Although most women in India work and contribute to the economy in one form or another, much of their work is not documented or accounted for in official statistic women plough fields and harvest crops while working on farms', women weave and make handicrafts while working in household industries; women sell food and gather wood while working in the informal sector. Additionally, women are traditionally responsible for the daily household chores. Although the cultural restrictions women face is changing, women are still not as free as men to participate in the formal economy. In the past, cultural restrictions were the primary impediments to female employment; now, however, the shortage of jobs throughout the country contributes to low female employment as well. The economic development of any society is determined by the strength of its physical, financial and human resources. One of the objectives of any planned development programme is to develop its human resources effectively. Since women constitute nearly half of the population, modern societies give considerable emphasis on the development of women. In our country also, women are no longer confined to their houses. Different programmes are being undertaken for the empowerment of women.

Economic empowerment of women is very important for the Santal community because they played a very crucial role in their family. Economic empowerment is a process of liberation from man-made bondage through sustained struggle and resistance. It also represents realization of hopes and dreams of marginalised groups for a social environment, free of inequalities which affect them politically, socially and economically. The issue of economic empowerment is also linked with aspects like equality, liberty and fraternity. Women economic empowerment is uplifting the economic status of women by creating economic opportunities in the form of better jobs, better business climate and access to financial services. Economic empowerment helps women to depend on themselves and also to claim their legal rights especially to land and other properties. In the Santal community women go for agricultural labourer, daily labourer, midwife, handicraft work and so on. For this reason they belong to a poor quality life because they don't have sufficient money from those works and often face the problems of food insecurity, malnutrition, lack of access to health care services and education and are the victim of domestic violence and rape.

Education is the front door for empowerment. It can be an effective tool for women empowerment. The level of literacy among the Santal is very low compared to other community. For lack of education, most of the Santal women work outside their homes and are engaged in various activities. Even young children and girls go for work along with their mothers. Most of the time they do not go to school regularly or drop outs from school. Even the parents in very poor families don't always want to send the children to school because helping hands in work would be reduced.

## II. OBJECTIVES

- To analyze the importance of women education for economic growth.
- To show the economic empowerment by women education.

## III. MATERIALS/METHODS

The qualitative and quantitative research approach used for collecting the field data. The secondary data which is included journals, books, articles, conferences, published and unpublished research work were conducted from online resources by using electronic search engines Google and PubMed and also from the library resources of Visva-Bharati. A case study method applied for primary data take up, also observation participant and in-depth interview used to conduct the field study. Structure questionnaire has been used as a tool of data collection. There also used chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) test as statistical tool.

## IV. FINDINGS

TABLE-1, DEMOGRAPHY PROFILE OF SANTAL ON STUDY AREA

Category		Patharghata				Bergram				Balipara			
		Male		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Population	Santal	188	13.21	194	13.63	199	13.98	212	14.90	268	18.83	362	25.44
Education	Literate	123	8.64	98	6.89	130	9.14	101	7.1	227	15.95	259	18.20
	Non-Literate	61	4.29	90	6.32	69	4.85	108	7.59	35	2.46	93	6.54
Marital Status	Unmarried	94	6.61	76	5.34	105	7.38	83	5.83	133	9.35	159	11.17
	Married	90	6.32	108	7.59	89	6.25	122	8.57	134	9.42	188	13.21
	Separated	4	0.28	9	0.63	2	0.14	4	0.28	0	0	12	0.84
	Divorcy	0	0	1	0.07		0.07	3	0.21	0	0	2	0.14

## A. DEMOGRAPHY POSITION

Table-1, in the total Santal population 13.12% male and where 13.63% female are living at Patherghata village, 14.90% female are living at Bergram and 25.44% female are living at Balipara. This table also shows that in total Santal population 6.89% literate and 6.32% non-literate female from Patherghata, 18.20% literate and 6.54% non-literate female from Balipara. There are 5.34%, 5.83% and 11.17% unmarried female at Patherghata, Bergram and Balipara respectively. The married women percentage of Patherghata is 7.59%. At Bergram this percentage is 8.57%, and divorce is very low than separation in the study area.

TABLE-2, OCCUPATIONAL STATUS OF THREE VILLAGES

Category	Patharghata				Bergram				Balipara			
	Male		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Agricultural Labour	31	16.49	24	12.37	86	43.22	109	51.42	29	10.82	62	17.13
Business					1	.50	1	.47	17	6.34	5	1.38
Daily Labour	53	28.19	8	4.12	2	1.01	1	.47	19	7.09	24	6.63
Driver	5	2.66			1	.50			14	5.22		
Electric Mistry	1	.53							3	1.12		
Farmer	34	18.09	1	.52	18	9.05	1	.47	24	8.96	2	0.55
Fish Monger	1	0.53							5	1.87		
Govt. Employee			1	0.52					4	1.49	3	0.83
Handicraft Work											29	8.01
Home Maker		95	48.97			25	11.79				73	20.17
Private Job	1	0.53	1	0.52	4	2.01			20	7.46	3	0.83
Raj Mistry	1	0.53	1	0.52	2	1.01			12	4.48	4	1.10
Rickshawpuller										8	2.99	
Shop Keeper					1	0.50			5	1.87	4	1.10
Toto Driver									11	4.10		
Tubewell Mistry					2	1.01						
Visva-Bharati Worker									3	1.12	16	4.42

## B. OCCUPATION

Occupation is the valuable key for showing the economy status. From the table 2, female agriculture labour at Patherghata village is 12.37%, 51.42% at Bergram and 17.13% at Balipara. In the case of daily labourer 6.63% women are from Balipara village, 4.12% women at Patherghata village. The percentage of business women from Bergram is 1.38%. In the Balipara and Patharghata village, maximum women are mainly home maker. This table also shows that the women of Balipara also practiced handicraft work and katha stitching which percentage are 3.31% & 4.70% respectively. Women of this village also go to Visva-Bharati University as a daily worker.

**TABLE-3, MONTHLY EARNING OF THE FAMILY**

CATEGORY	PATHERGHATA		BERGRAM		BALIPARA	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
BELOW 3000	31	35.63	27	26.47	40	23.67
3000-4500	35	40.23	40	39.22	42	24.85
4500-6000	15	17.24	24	23.53	38	22.49
6000-8000	3	3.45	8	7.84	29	17.16
ABOVE 8000	3	3.45	3	2.94	20	11.83
TOTAL	87	100	102	100	169	100

**C.MONTHLY EARNING OF FAMILY**

Table 3, at Patherghata village 35.63% family's monthly income is below Rs-3000/-, where 40.23% family, monthly earning is Rs-3000-4500/-. At Bergram 39.22% family's monthly income is Rs-3000-4500/-. At Balipara 22.49% family's monthly income is Rs-4500-6000/-, where 17.16% families' monthly income is Rs-6000-8000/-. At Balipara village 11.83% family's monthly income is above Rs-8000/- which is greater than the other two villages.

**TABLE-4, DISTRIBUTION OF MONTHLY EXPENDITURE OF THE FAMILY**

CATEGORY	PATHARGHATA		BERGRAM		BALIPARA	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
BELOW 3000	39	44.83	23	22.55	30	17.75
3500-4500	23	26.44	31	30.39	50	29.59
4500-5500	15	17.24	22	21.57	45	26.62
ABOVE 6000	10	11.49	26	25.49	44	26.62
TOTAL	87	100	102	100	169	100

**D.MONTHLY EXPENDITURE OF FAMILY**

Table 4, 44.83% family's monthly expenditure is below Rs-3000/- at Patharghata village and the percentage is the higher than the other two villages. At Bergram, 30.39% family's monthly expenditure is Rs-2500-3500/- and at Balipara 26.62% family's monthly expenditure is Rs-3500-4500/-. 26.04% family's monthly expenditure is above Rs-5000/-, at Bergram and Patherghata, the percentage are 25.49% & 11.49% respectively.

**TABLE-5, ASSETS OWNERSHIP OF SANTAL WOMEN**

Category	Patharghata				Berghata				Bergram			
	Literate		Non-Literate		Literate		Non-Literate		Literate		Non-Literate	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Ownership Of Land	7	23.33	0	0	2	6.67	0	0	3	10	1	3.33
Ownership Of Jewellery	26	53.33	12	40	22	73.33	10	33.33	27	90	16	53.33
Ownership Of Money	25	83.33	5	16.67	21	70	9	30	28	93.33	10	33.33
Ownership Of Livestock	15	50	30	100	20	66.67	30	100	18	60	30	100

**E.ASSETS OWNERSHIP**

The tribal women need to have control over limited resources like land, jewellery, livestock and other resources, so that they can take decisions and implement them in any way that is required.

Table 5, shows the status of assets ownership of santal community, land ownership is more at Patharghata than other village. At Balipara 90% literate respondent have jewellery ownership. In the case of money ownership seen that maximum literate women have their own money and livestock ownership 100% non-literate respondent have this ownership in this three villages.

**TABLE-6, SHOWING  $\chi^2$  VALUE OF ASSETS OWNERSHIP OF THREE VILLAGE.**

VILLAGE NAME	NUMBER OF LITERATE WOMEN	NUMBER OF NON-LITERATE WOMEN	$\chi^2$ VALUE
PATHARGHATA	73	47	26.07
BERGRAM	65	49	11.26
BALIPARA	76	57	12.88

\*SIGNIFICANT AT 0.05 LEVEL

Table-6 the assets ownership of literate and non-literate women of Patharghata, Bergram and Balipara calculated values are 26.07, 11.26 and 12.88 is greater than tabulated value of 7.82 at 0.05 levels. This indicates that there is significant difference in the assets ownership of literate and non-literate women of Patharghata, Bergram and Balipara.

**TABLE- 7, CREDIT ORIENTATION OF SANTAL WOMEN**

Category	Patharghata				Bergram				Balipara			
	Literate		Non-Literate		Literate		Non-Literate		Literate		Non-Literate	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Get Money From Local Money Lenders	20	66.67	27	90	22	73.33	24	80	10	33.33	20	66.67
Get Money From Private Bank	25	83.33	10	33.33	14	46.67	3	10	11	36.67	13	43.33
Get Money From Govt. Bank	5	16.67	2	6.67	2	6.67	1	3.33	12	40	5	16.67

**F.CREDIT ORIENTATION**

The respondents were getting the credit from the local money lenders by paying high rates of interest. They expressed that the bank personnel were not helping them in knowing the procedures of institutionalized credit. They articulated that the procedure for getting credit from the Government agencies was cumbersome and they do not know the process of getting loans from any agencies.

Table 7, At Patherghata village 66.67% literate respondent get money from local money leaders, where 90 % non-literate respondent gets money from local money leaders. 83.33% literate and 33.33% non-literate respondent take money from private bank and only 16.67% literate and 6.67% non-literate respondent of Pahatghata take money from Govt. Bank. Table 43 also reveal that 73.33% literate and 80% non-literate respondent get money from local money leaders and 46.67% literate and 10% non-literate respondent take money from private bank and only 6.67% literate and 3.33% non-literate respondent takes from govt bank. In the case of Balipara 33.33% literate and 66.67% non-literate respondent take money from local money leaders where 36.67% literate and 43.33% non-literate respondent get money from private bank and 40% literate and 16.67% non-literate respondent takes money from government bank.

**TABLE-8, SHOWING  $\chi^2$  VALUE OF CREDIT ORIENTATION OF THREE VILLAGE.**

VILLAGE NAME	NUMBER OF LITERATE WOMEN	NUMBER OF NON-LITERATE WOMEN	$\chi^2$ VALUE
PATHARGHATA	50	39	7.51
BERGRAM	38	28	6.16
BALIPARA	33	38	6.06

\*SIGNIFICANT AT 0.05 LEVEL

Table-8 showing that credit orientation of literate and non-literate women of Patharghata, Bergram and Balipara calculated values are 7.51, 6.16 and 6.06 is greater than tabulated value of 5.99 at 0.05 levels. This indicates that there is significant difference in the credit orientation of literate and non-literate women of Patharghata, Bergram and Balipara.

**TABLE- 9, DECISION MAKING POWER AT FAMILY**

Category	Patharghata				Bergram				Balipara			
	Literate		Non-Literate		Literate		Non-Literate		Literate		Non-Literate	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Take Decision Of Daily House-Hold Expenditure	18	60	5	16.67	20	66.67	7	23.33	22	73.33	5	16.67
Take Decision About How To Spend Income	10	33.33	7	23.33	10	33.33	6	20	10	33.33	8	26.67
Take Decision For Going To Market	6	20	16	53.33	8	26.67	15	50	8	26.67	15	50
Take Decision For Buying Jewellery	8	26.67	2	6.67	9	30	3	10	11	36.67	6	20

**G.DECISION MAKING POWER**

Decision making is the important factor to empowerment of women. Decision making ability of Santal women is very low. Table 9, shows that in total respondent 60% literate and 16.67% non-literate women take decision of daily household expenditure at Patharghata, only 16.67% non-literate women take decision of daily house-hold expenditure at Balipara. At Bergram village 33.33% literate respondent take decision of spending income 26.67% literate and 6.67% non-literate respondent take decision for buying jewellery at Patharghata village.

**TABLE-10, SHOWING  $\chi^2$  VALUE OF DECISION POWER MAKING OF THREE VILLAGE.**

VILLAGE NAME	NUMBER OF LITERATE WOMEN	NUMBER OF NON-LITERATE WOMEN	$\chi^2$ VALUE
PATHARGHATA	42	30	14.42
BERGRAM	47	31	9.52
BALIPARA	51	34	11.59

\*SIGNIFICANT AT 0.05 LEVEL

Table-10 the decision making power of literate and non-literate women of Patharghata, Bergram and Balipara calculated values are 14.42, 9.52 and 11.59 is greater than tabulated value of 7.82 at 0.05 levels. This indicates that there is significant difference in the decision making power of literate and non-literate women of Patharghata, Bergram and Balipara.

**TABLE – 11, ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT STATUS OF SANTAL**

Category	Patharghata				Bergram				Balipara			
	Literate		Non-Literate		Literate		Non-Literate		Literate		Non-Literate	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Shg Member	30	100	19	63.33	30	100	21	70	30	100	20	66.67
Asset Ownership	7	23.33	0	0	2	6.67	0	0	3	10	1	3.33
Micro Savings	15	50	7	23.33	16	53.33	2	6.67	16	53.33	3	10
Provide Money In The Family	22	73.33	20	66.67	23	76.67	20	66.67	25	83.33	21	70
Migration	8	26.67	3	10	10	33.33	3	10	15	50	3	10



For Work												
Exploited At Work Place	10	33.33	15	50	4	13.33	14	46.67	3	10	10	33.33
Knowing About Modern Technology	15	50	7	23.33	16	53.33	5	16.67	22	73.33	10	33.33

## H.ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT STATUS

From the table 11, the total sample 100% literate samples are a SHG member of Patharghata, which the percentage is same from Balipara and Bergram. 73.33% literate sample provides money in their family at Patharghata village at Bergram only 66.67% non-literate sample provides money in the family. This table also shows mainly literate women are migrated for work than non-literate women and literate women know more than non-literate women about technology which help them in work place.

**TABLE-12, SHOWING  $\chi^2$  VALUE OF ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT STATUS OF THREE VILLAGE.**

VILLAGE NAME	NUMBER OF LITERATE WOMEN	NUMBER OF NON-LITERATE WOMEN	$\chi^2$ VALUE
PATHARGHATA	107	71	17.85
BERGRAM	101	65	23.03
BALIPARA	114	68	18.04

\*SIGNIFICANT AT 0.05 LEVEL

Table-12, the economic empowerment status of literate and non-literate women of Patharghata, Bergram and Balipara calculated values are 17.85, 23.03 and 18.04 is greater than tabulated value of 12.59 at 0.05 levels. This indicates that there is significant difference in the economic empowerment of literate and non-literate women of Patharghata, Bergram and Balipara. So the null hypothesis is rejected here as there is significant difference between the level of economic empowerment of three villages between literate and non-literate women. It means there is better empowerment status in literate women.

## V. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The study on Economic Growth and Women Empowerment of Santal through Education is undertaken with the aims of identifying the economic status of Santal women to analyse the performance of sample women through education in the study area. It also examines how far the Santal women help in promoting economic condition of members through education. To comprise with literate and non-literate respondent from all the three villages of Birbhum get that in the maximum cases literate women are getting better position in the Santal community. Literate women also take their own decision, they are more employed, migrate with own interest and aware about own health. From the above tables and analysis it also finds that literate women are more active and knowledgeable than non-literate women. Literate respondent get respective job, which develop their economic condition but in the case of non-literate respondent, their frequency is too low and when it come to the point of asset ownership literate respondent have different type of ownership than non-literate respondent. Maximum literate women contribute money in their family expenditure. From all the tables it finds that the literate respondent are in better economically developed than non-literate respondent and its showing that how much Santal women are empowered through education.

## VI. CONCLUSION

Economic independence and education of Santal women will go a long way in attaining self-reliance for women. Education is the first stage of development if Santhal's women will be educated then they may be get good job and earned sufficient money. If they have sufficient money, they will be able to fulfil their all needs which are a part of economic growth. After that development, awareness, education, competitiveness, willingness, confidence, self-motivation, mind set, encouragement from family and society is essential for the empowerment of Santal women. In the study area it is seen that few literate women are economically empowered than non-literate women. So it concluded women empowerment can be possible through education.

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