

# Review of: "Socio-cultural factors influencing women empowerment: A cross-sectional study among an ex-criminal tribe in West Bengal, India"

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

The paper discusses the socio-cultural influences and experiences of decision-making in an Indian patriarchal tribe/community, and shares interesting experiences. This study is structured better, could provide lessons which could even be relevant to other parts of the developing world. I have indicated my observations below:

**Title:** The authors use the concept of 'empowerment' in the title. However, throughout the paper, it is obvious that actually the research emphasizes 'decision-making'. I would suggest that decision-making is adopted to make the title sync well with the rest of the content.

**Introduction** paragraph 3: the authors mention 'SHG' for the first time without a detailed meaning. It is always good practice to indicate the meaning at this stage.

The last paragraph of the introduction bears statistics from the 2001 census of India data. I wonder whether there could be newer and more relevant data from the Indian subsequent statistics

## **Results:**

-when mentioning currencies, give also an equivalent of the US dollar. This is important for your non-Indian readers to equate

-On the paragraph that immediately follows Figure 1, you discuss 'age' of the women which does not appear anywhere on the figure. It is misplaced. You were better off spending this space discussing thoroughly what we learn from figure 1 before delving into other illustrations.

-The discussion of the results has also not sufficiently engaged the existing literature to help position your research appropriately. It is sketchy and should be boosted.

## **Conclusion**

-One of the recommendations you give e.g. engagement in SHG is targeting the vulnerable woman. It would fair better if there are some proposals targeting the already decision-making members of the community

-I also wonder why it is only the government that majority of the recommendations are targeting. There are other stakeholders that could be equally important and this paper should embrace them

-Also the reader may be at a loss regarding how relevant this research is to the other areas in the global south. It appears to be cocooned on the Indian version. It would sound better if there were clear implications of this research to other communities in the global south.