

# 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.

I have reviewed the article titled "Socio-cultural factors influencing women empowerment: A cross-sectional study among an ex-criminal tribe in West Bengal, India". I find the article interesting to read, relevant for policy and methodologically sound.

Following are some of my comments and observation that might help the authors improve the article.

1. On the methodology, as an alternate approach, it is suggested that a balance between respondents of control and treatment groups based on their observable characteristics (such as demographic data collected during survey) may be first established to ensure that participants of the two groups are not statistically different from one another on these bases and then a simple regression be carried out to check for the impact of treatment.
2. Regarding variables of interest that distinguish women in different groups, the following variables may be considered for the analysis.
  - Gap in education between partners (difference in the years of education between husband and wife)
  - Working status of men (employed/ unemployed)
  - Use / access of mobile phones or internet by women
  - Asset ownership by women

A minor comment about the results on family planning decision in case of different family types where women have a greater say in case of joint family. This result can be better explained for the reader who might expect something otherwise.

Finally, congratulation on taking up an excellent study and I hope you can scale this up subsequently.