

# 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.

This is an interesting article on the socio-economic status of women in Lodham West Bengal India. The authors undertake a primary survey of over a hundred women to understand what factors affect women's decision making and autonomy in India and how memberships in social organizations such as the Self-help groups could be critical in reducing the voicelessness of women. I would suggest the authors to also add a demand and supply channel of understanding empowerment. Is the socio-economic status of women driven by access to basic infrastructures such as water, electricity, sanitation. Is their status affected by lack of gainful employment in the community. Is the membership in self-help group without economic support (such as a chit fund run by the shg) helpful and to what extent. How does the status of women get affected by marital relationship. At present the study seems to be illustrative, though well researched, it still reflects fragments of the phenomenons already discussed in various studies on gender and empowerment. I would suggest the authors to find their niche in explaining why Lodha could or could not be different from the rest of WB or India in general.

It is a very good read indeed!