

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.

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

The qualitative study considers the issue of women empowerment in terms of decision making for women from an ex-criminal tribe (Lodha) in West Bengal, India. The issue is very interesting and it really makes contribution to the existing literature.

However I think there is further scope of improvement in the paper.

1. There exists a gamut of literature that considers the various aspects of women empowerment in India and West Bengal. The literature survey part must be more comprehensive and should cite the notable works.
2. In the introduction the authors have given a brief description of Lodha tribe. It will be more informative if authors cite the relevant studies that describe the condition of Lodha tribe in West Bengal.
3. In Table 1 socio-economic profile should be presented for both the groups: SHG members and SHG non-members.
4. Figure 1 must show the decision making participation of women for both the groups separately as done in Table 5. In Table 5 instead of presenting the chi-square test, the authors should present the test on comparison of sample proportion to under the impact of SHG joining on decision making autonomy.
5. It is not clear from the study whether SHG members have received any training for their productivity enhancement. If they have received such training, the authors will try to gauge the impact of the same on the decision making autonomy of the women.
6. A few lines on the limitation of the study should be incorporated in the conclusion section of the paper.