

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.

Overall, the paper adds very little to our understanding of pathways towards empowerment of women. The channels studied by the authors; paid work, education, participation in self-help/women's groups, age and household structure (joint vs nuclear family households) have already been examined in research. There is wide agreement that there exist positive associations between women's empowerment (variously conceptualized) and these characteristics. What remains to be established is the direction of causality. The empirical analysis in this paper does not help establish a causal relationship either.

The abstract of the paper can be shortened. The abstract may convey the study's research questions, methods and conclusions. I would also suggest that the authors engage with the conceptualization of women's empowerment particularly that expounded in Kabeer (1999;2004/08) in the introduction and framework of the study. The results of the empirical analysis can be generalized by comparing them with the findings of similar studies on women's empowerment in South Asia. The paper will also benefit from language editing.