

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 article is a good attempt at studying this important issue in a complexly problematic society like India. The authors attempt to point out the existing situation and try to present some dimensions of the problem. However, it still has a lot of bugs that should be fixed more completely.

First of all, this paper is still an early attempt. In other words, it lacks a solid enough literature review. As much as it still can't give a detailed answer. A doctoral dissertation on the same subject in Pakistan, written by TARIQ MAHMOOD KHAN in 2010, was able to provide more clarity than a decade ago.

[<http://pr.hec.gov.pk/jspui/bitstream/123456789/633/1/607S.pdf>] Also, it cannot extend the implications of this case study to a broader picture, such as India or other developing countries.

The next point is, although equality between men and women was a big and important matter in the last century. But in today's world, we should consider moving beyond bisexuality and equality of both genders to actual gender diversity and equality. It is understandable that feminism and women's empowerment studies are popular topics and can drive greater equality between the 2 genders in recent times. But on the other hand, it is an unintended obstacle to the movement for equality between humanity.

In addition, the cultural realities of the Eastern world may be too complex to be directly understood by the equivalence and theoretical frameworks of the Western academic world. An article about gender politics in Thai culture written by Kittisak JERMSITTIPARSERT in 2016 is one example that the authors should take into account.

[<https://docsdrive.com/pdfs/medwelljournals/sscience/2016/20-28.pdf>]

The last point, but not least, is the accuracy and completeness of the content. The first sentence of the second paragraph of this paper states that this issue is especially important in Southeast Asia before mentioning India in the next sentence. The problem is that India is not part of the previously mentioned region. The authors may deny that these two sentences are not consecutive. But we all have to admit that writing like this may make the reader understand that the authors are trying to introduce the big picture of the region before focusing on the case study of the country in the region. Amazingly enough, I'm pretty sure I've encountered and commented on the same mistake in a paper I reviewed for a journal some time ago.

Of course, I still think the essence of this paper is interesting. But it needs to be improved at least according to my suggestions above.

