

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

Cloe Mirenda

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Dear authors,

thank you for this contribution. It is necessary to bring more and more evidence on gender inequality and women's oppression to understand how to transform it into liberation and empowerment. I agree on the intersectional factors examined, the exposition of the results is clear, the integration of quantitative analysis with quotes from women interviewees is appropriate and enriches the analysis.

More contextualization of the study communities could be helpful for international readers who may not have in-depth knowledge of the social situation in the study area. In addition to better contextualizing for the reader, looking toward the social-historical context of Lohda women may open up insights for analysis.

How is the label "Ex-criminal tribe" one of the factors negatively affecting women's empowerment opportunities? Are there any governmental or civil society actions that seek to overcome this stigma?

At the same time, I think it is useful to describe the "self help groups" more. Do these groups perform other functions besides providing economic support to women? For example, in terms of providing psychological help or building a gender perspective?

From a conceptual point of view, I suggest considering decision-making capacity not only individually and limited to the domestic sphere, but especially collectively and politically. Do Lohda women who have some degree of decision-making capacity within the household also have this externally, at the community level?

Regarding the results, it would be worth discussing some unexpected results that run counter to the others. For example, regarding educational status and level of participation in decision making, women with no education have less decision-making power on certain issues than women with no education (Table 6). This could be further investigated with subsequent studies to enlarge the statistical sample and observe whether there are differences in the data obtained and then propose analyses of these data.

In the conclusions, the contradiction between the social resistance of women's empowerment and at the same time the greater respect at the family level that educated and emancipated women get could be further explored.

Is it possible for violence against emancipated women to increase without a change in the patriarchal postures of various members of society?



Thank you