

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

Rebecca Soanes

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The paper have a lot of potential being that it is a topic on a minority tribal community with the main focus on women empowerment. However, after going through the paper, I have a few points to put out.

- Firstly, the word 'ex' could be avoided and might as well be replaced by 'former' or 'formerly' as in, 'a formerly criminalized tribe'. The word 'ex' gives a very insensitive expression.
- The paper should have had a brief history of the Lodhas, for instance, they were forest dwellers and since land was a very important part of their life and when their lands are being exploited without their consent they revolted against the British and hence they were criminalised. A brief history is important in the case of this topic so as to avoid any misinterpretation of why they were a criminalised tribe. Also adding that the Lodhas also inhabit parts of Odisha and not only West Bengal.
- Since a number of female respondents were selected for the study to represent the village, it is important to give the total number of population in Phulpahari village with the total number of males and females respectively, to highlight the representation percentage of the women selected.
- Now coming to the main point of 'women empowerment', the role that a woman plays in her community usually would imply to the status she hold. Thus, it would have been useful if the role and status of women (on the political, social and economic aspects) had been studied taking the timeline from the British rule upto the present. Such data can be collected (using the Interview method) from all the women and men of the age group (adults) that had lived from the British rule till present. While studying such topics, it is always wise to have both men and women as participants to understand the different aspects of the community. Also, to understand if there has been a paradigm shift over the years in the position of women and the community as a whole.
- As a cross sectional study, it seems to lack both the analytical and descriptive purposes of the topic, though sufficient quantitative data has been collected. The information and writings on the results is sparse and unorganized. However, reviewing and rewriting the paper is always possible by decoding and deconstructing the data accordingly and sticking to the main objectives of the topic.

And I wish both the Researchers the very best on their future endeavours as well as, their efforts on this important topic of a tribe with a rich heritage.

