

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.

1. The topic is contemporary in nature and the authors are able to pull out the insights in their well-structured article. In the very beginning, women status has been mentioned as the most essential developmental indicators. It is suggestive to insert few literatures supporting the statement for better clarity.
2. The study considers sample from Lodha community, but to put as "ex- Criminal" somehow not be in sync with the title. Mere mentioning study on tribal community or study on Lodhas will be more suitable with the intended title.
3. In the introduction part it has been mentioned that "For studying women's participation in economic activity, the women who are involved in any regular income generating activity including involvement in SHGs and working as wage labourers were considered in comparison to the others who were not engaged in any earning activity". Here the authors must consider the timeframe to select samples. Reason is that to understand the impact of income on empowerment demands some time. So, it is better to consider time duration and then select respondents for the tracking of empowerment status.
4. The article is well structured and elaborate in nature. It is advisable to go through some of the contemporary articles for betterment:
 - Datta, S., & Sahu, T. N. (2022). Livelihood transformation through microfinance: an empirical investigation on tribal entrepreneurs in India. *International Journal of Business Innovation and Research*, 29(1), 127-140.
 - Roy, S., & Mohanty, R. P. (2020). Microfinance Models in Improving 'Quality of Life': Empirical Analysis on Indian Perspective. *International Journal of Business Innovation and Research*, 21(1), 23-55;
 - Datta, S., & Sahu, T. N. (2022). How far is microfinance relevant for empowering rural women? An empirical investigation. *Journal of Economic Issues*, 56(1), 97-112.
 - Bhatia, S., & Singh, S. (2019). Empowering Women through Financial Inclusion: A Study of Urban Slum, Vikalpa: The Journal of Decision Makers, 44(4), 182-197;