

“Tribal Cultural Traditions and Women Empowerment in Natural Resource Management”.

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Abstract

It has been found that the problems of tribal women differ from a particular area to another area owing to their geographical location, historical background and process of social change. In some cases, they are in a better position than their non-tribal counterparts in social rules and cultural norms. There are many facts that indicated low status for them.

Women empowerment is a burning issue in the present development scenario. The objective of women empowerment is to create an enabling environment, where women can freely exercise their rights both within and outside the home as equal partners along with man. Since, 1990s in the process of participatory development and management in the natural resource sector, empowering women is an important thrust area. Joint Forest Management and Watershed Development projects in various parts of our country have attempted to implement the national policy of women empowerment in the following manner:

- i. Enabling environment to realize their full potential and self-worth;
- ii. Enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedom;
- iii. Equal access to participation and decision-making process;
- iv. Changing social attitudes and community practices
- v. Mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development process
- vi. Building and strengthening partnerships with civil society, particularly women's organizations.

The objective of this paper is to discuss the above points through various illustrations from different parts of our country.

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