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GENDER BIAS; AS A STAGNATION OF WOMEN STATUS AMONG **KERALA TRIBE** ABDUL MUNEER.K CHETTIPPADI



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# Introduction

- Women have special internal connection with the environment
- The cornerstone of the social structure
- But ,they are debarred from performing customary practices
- The impact of modernization, cultural transition and non-tribal migrations
- Fundamental problems

# **Tribal Women Status**

- Level of income, employment, education, health and roles within the family, the community and society.
- The tribal women lag behind tribal men in many socioeconomic characteristics
- Literacy rate (illiteracy rate was 32% for men and 41% for women)
- Education at the school level for boys was higher than for girls
- There are more widows (10%) than widowers (2%).
- About 45% of women were unemployed, whereas only 32% of the men were unemployed.
- The average pay for men was Rupees 68 whereas for women, it was Rupees 40.

### **Economical status**

- The status of the tribal women usually depends on the economic roles they play
- Forest dwellers , the food-gathering economy and production of for self-consumption and sale
- Provisions for the basic necessities like food, fuel, medicine, housing material etc
- Large scale deforestation
- More tribal societies follow matrilineal pattern of inheritance, but, sharp distinction is made between 'ownership' and 'control.
- While owner ship of land is transmitted through women, control invariably lies with men



# **Role of women in Family**

- Tribal women have more responsibility in family decision
- They control over production, home, children and even her life
- Major production prepare food and provide drinking water
- Minor products including edible fruits, tubers, flowers, vegetables and berries.
- The collection of Minor forest produce is contributing around 70% of their total income.
- As a result of deforestation and less fertile soil, women's workload has increased, food supply has decreased and their health and social status have deteriorated.
- **Descent system**; Most of the tribes in Kerala follow a patrilinear system

#### Health and malnutrition

- Many tribal women and children die of malnutrition
- The environmental degradation and decline in the availability of minor forest produce
- Decline in the quality and quantity of food and the non-availability of many medicinal Roots
- The non-availability of primary health center and Advanced checkups and treatments
- Lack of health education and little medical attention
- Ignorance and superstitious beliefs

### **Educational status of tribal women**

- Modernization and industrial impact and managing social and natural change
- Education can bring changes and development
- But According to the 1991 Census, nearly 70 per cent of the tribes are illiterates.
- Illiteracy rate was 32% for men and 41% for women
- There are many reasons for low level of education among the tribal people:
- Formal education is not considered necessary and the role Superstitions and myths
- .more importance for their pleasure such as dance, music and other entertainments
- Indifferent attitudes of tribal parents and tribal teachers and tribal students
- Poverty and extra helping hands.
- No any special interest of the formal schools for the children.
- Interior location and remote areas where teachers would not like to go from outside.



# **Migration and Cultural transition**

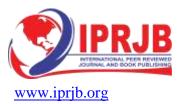
- The destruction of the environment ,increasing pressure from the village and migration to other region
- deterioration of economical status
- in the absence of men, exploitation of moneylenders, businessmen and landlords.
- With low literacy, tribal women face cheating in weighing and pricing and sexual exploitation.
- Large-scale immigration of non-tribe caused to increase many unwed mothers in tribal areas just like wayanad district
- Imitation of western culture and degeneration of tribal culture and tribal arts such as dance, music and different types of craft.
- Complications for women to adjustment.
- The majority of the tribal women had not reaped any particular benefit from the technological development that was taking place.
- Children were badly handicapped by the corrosive effect of poverty as well as by the prejudices of the non-tribes

#### **Customs and women**

- Tribal communities have some clannish customs associated with social institutions such as religion and marriage.
- They believe such costume as part of their identity.
- But its consequence caused to brutal punishment as honor killing and boycott from social activities.
- The Muthuvan tribe in the forests of Edamalakkudy, has customs a Valpura,
- Their monthly periods. using the cheap PILL continuously for many years to escape disabling isolation every time they menstruated

### Livelihood issues of tribal women

- The major livelihood issues of tribal women as perceived by tribal women and other non-tribal respondents
  - ➤ The poverty, alcoholism, wild animal menace in agricultural lands, land alienation, inadequacy of food as per nutritional requirement, addiction to narcotics, depletion of natural resources like forest and water bodies,



inadequate transport facilities, inadequate educational facilities, inadequate medical facilities, social exclusion and discrimination

# Women empowerment

- The success of dynamic tribal development is dependent on various factors
  - ➤ Improved literacy rate, socio-economic status, women's empowerment, better health care and other human resource indicators.
- The programmers, oriented towards the empowerment of tribes, particularly women, have improved their socio-economic conditions and status