PREFACE

Tribal, widely known as Adivasis, are confined to economic and social backwardness and it is one of the important problems in the country. Adivasis in this country can be described as the poorest among the poor. They might have had a wonderful past but their present status is miserable. Adivasi women are doubly excluded from the mainstream development process as Adivasi and also as women.

We cannot achieve higher levels of development by excluding women, particularly tribal women, from the developmental policies and processes. In the present study ST and PTG now known as vulnerable tribes were selected in the sample. The PTGs have no access to assured sources of livelihood, proper houses, electricity connection and safe drinking water. They are disease prone, illiterate, and assetless and debt ridden. The Primitive Tribal Groups are a stagnant and declining population characterized by isolation, poverty, pre-agricultural technology and low literacy.

Empowerment is a process that takes a person from a position of powerless inaction to responsible action. The process moves through several stages from a) participation to b) decision making to c) action and, ultimately to d) the capacity to take responsibility for those actions. Empowerment is possible by undertaking economic activities such as thrift and credit by SHGs. In the present study three different Bank-SHG models were found.

Any systematic study, to show the effects of NGOs and GOs efforts on empowerment of women, was not conducted so far, according to Smt. Tarlaben Shah, in-charge of Udyogwadi-Valod (Vedchi Pradesh Seva Samiti) and Mr D K Patel chief of GRISERV in Tapi. They needed such type of study. Some groups are promoted by Bhasha Sanshodhan Prakashan Kendra, BAIF-GRISERV & Uthan Mahila saving and Credit Society run by tribal women in all 5 talukas. Hence comparative study of SHGs formed by Private NGOs and G. O. (Sakhi Mandal) was taken into account.

The SHGs in the study were selected from all 5 talukas in the district Tapi. They are Vyara, Valod, Songadh, Uchchal and Nizer. Total 300 women respondents were selected in the sample. The SHGs promoted by NGOs and governmental organizations (GOs) were selected in the sample on 50:50 basis. The major tribal communities residing in Tapi are Halpati, Chaudhari, Vasava, Gamit, Valvi- Padvi, Kotwalia and Kothud out of it Kotwalia
and Kathod communities are known as Primitive Tribes.

While chaptering the thesis, in the Chapter 1: Introduction, Chapter 2 Review of Literature, Chapter 3 Profile of the Study Area (Region), Chapter 4 Socio-Economic Profile of Tribal Women in Tapi, Chapter 5 Economic Empowerment of Tribal Women, Chapter 6 Impact of State Intervention and Chapter 7 Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations was put.

It was observed that in all talukas there was an improvement in spending on children’s education, families’ health care and self-health care, after the respondents have joined the SHGs. Their decision making capacity in savings, voting and education of their children and family planning has been improved and there was also an improvement the lifestyle of the respondents after joining SHGs. There has been substantial improvement in the income of the respondents in all Talukas after joining SHGs. It is proved that SHGs have been successful in empowering the tribal women in almost all Talukas. Three years’ analysis from the year 2009-10 to 2011-12 showed that the income generated through SHG activities has improved over a period of time. Government efforts are also showing positive results in Tapi. To avail the facilities provided by government SHGs should create awareness amongst members.

In all Talukas except Vyara it was observed that NGOs had performed better than the Government Organizations and even amongst NGOs the best performance was recorded by BAIF.

The researcher hopes that the present study will throw light on the unexplored area of Tapi district, and recommendations made at the end of the study will go a long way in improving status of tribal women and make them empowered.