

**SUMMARY  
AND  
CONCLUSIONS**

## CHAPTER 5

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

#### 5.1 Summary

Status of women has been continuously impinging the society in different ways from ancient to this present modern time. The Indian society is multistratified. Inter and intra variation exists among regions, different religious, ethnic and caste groups. It is also a gender based patriarchal society where women have been victims of male domination. This has made an impact on the social structure which is full of inequalities and diversities. Women's liberation would be of no value if the society is jacketed into two separate compartments as their roles are interdependent and complementary, hence cannot function in isolation and confrontation but through co-operation (Siddh, 1991).

Women's role in any human society is exceptionally great though it has not been acknowledged and evaluated in the realistic perspectives. There are many societies where women inspite of their indispensable activities do not receive any affirmative recognition thus the status held by them differ basically from the male members of the society.

As regards tribal women's status in the society and their role in the sphere of family living especially in the context of decision making does not reflect a uniform pattern in all the communities. Sarkar (1994) has stated

plainly that in the tribal society, status of women is dependent on the nature of function in social organization. If the socio-economic functions of a woman are held high and are valuable in a tribe, her status is naturally higher. But if her economic functions are not very important she does not enjoy a high social status.

A review of the studies related to the status of women in tribal India indicates that tribal women with their multiple roles as wives, mothers, agricultural labourers, wage earners and teachers of skills have contributed to the national economy as well as to the well being of their families but a status quo still exists in the family. The present research was designed to gain insight into the household and farm decision making role of 'Ho' women who are a part of this tribal society. There is also dearth of empirical data about these women's extent of participation in developmental programmes and their status, therefore this study was also aimed at assessing their status and their participation in various development programmes.

#### 5.1.1 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The specific objectives of study were :

1. To identify the demographic characteristics of tribal women and their household.
2. To study the extent of participation in managerial decision in relation to :

- a. Household affairs
    - (i) Money centred decisions
    - (ii) Children centred decisions
  - b. Farm activities
3. To assess the nature of dependence of status on the following determinants :
1. Power exercised in decision making in the family.
  2. Freedom in spending family income
  3. Help received in discharging household chores.
  4. Observance of traditional customs and behaviour which are indicative of the subordinate status of women.
  5. Participation in social activities.
  6. Age at marriage
  7. Literacy level of tribal women.
  8. Labour force participation.
  9. Decision regarding their own career.
4. To examine (1) the extent of tribal women's participation in various development programmes and (2) the impediments preventing them from participation.
5. To assess the impact of following variables on the level of participation in managerial decisions, in developmental programmes and level of status of tribal women :
- i. Age of respondents.
  - ii. Literacy level of respondents.

- iii. Employment status of respondents.
  - iv. Educational level of the head of the family.
  - v. Family type.
  - vi. Family income.
  - vii. Exposure to the larger environment.
6. To know the opinion of tribal men and the respondents about the status of tribal women in the family and society.
7. To discover the nature of interdependence of different variables under study.

#### 5.1.2 METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in two Blocks of Singbhum district of Bihar.

Sample Selection : A purposive sampling design was adopted to select the study area and the respondents. The sample comprised of 200 'Ho' women who were homemakers and 100 'Ho' men. These included 50 percent illiterates and 50 percent literates in both the groups.

Tool Construction : An interview schedule was constructed keeping in view the objectives of the study. It consisted of five sections. Section I was formulated to elicit information about women respondents' demographic characteristics. Section II dealt with the details regarding decision making pattern of 'Ho' tribal women in relation to household and farm

related activities. Section III included indepth information about the status of 'Ho' tribal women. Section IV dealt with the detailed information on 'Ho' tribal women's awareness about various developmental programmes conducted by Government and voluntary agencies in their area and their extent of participation in these programmes. Section V was constructed to know the extent of tribal women's exposure to the larger environment and awareness about legal rights of women. Section VI consisted of a three point continuum rating scale to know the opinion of women respondents as well as of men about tribal women's status in the family and society. The whole interview schedule was translated into Hindi for easy administration. It was pretested and required changes were made. The content validity of the opinion scale was established by giving it to the panel of seven judges who were the subject matter experts. A Pilot study was done on 30 tribal women. Reliability of the opinion scale was established by applying test-retest method. It was found to be 0.84.

Method of Data Collection : Data were gathered personally by the investigator using interview schedule. Persons who were willing to answer were selected as sample for the study.

Analysis of Data : By means of both descriptive (frequency, percentage, mean and S.D) and relational statistics (Chi-square, Correlation, Multiple Step-wise Regression, Analysis of Variance and t-test) data were analysed.

### 5.1.3 MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

Highlights of the findings of this investigation are reported as follows :

5.1.3.1 Sample Characteristics. (1) The mean age of the women respondents was 37.16 years. Among the respondents 50 percent were illiterates. Majority of the respondents employed themselves as wage labourers in lean period. The mean yearly income earned by them was Rs. 2457.10. More than 50 percent of the respondents belonged to nuclear families. The mean family size was 6.15 members. The educational level of the head of the families varied from primary to college level. Very few of them were educated upto college level. Most of the heads of the families were farmers. The mean yearly family income was Rs. 20,000.20.

5.1.3.2 Decision Making. Participation of Women in Household Decisions (2) In more than two-third of respondents' families decision related to expenditure on clothing, house repair and maintenance, recreation, personal needs of family members and transport involved the family members. Assertiveness was shown in decision making for the expenditure on fuel by a higher percentage (44.50 percent) of respondents followed by daily food items (42 percent) and health care (32 percent). Regarding these three items respondents belonging to the literate group were more assertive as compared to the illiterate group. Families of illiterate respondents showed more of democratic pattern in their decision for the same items.

(3) Maximum percentages (85.50 and 70.50 percent) of the respondents' families took democratic decisions regarding expenditure on furniture and ornaments respectively. Forty six percent of respondents were assertive in their decision regarding expenditure on household utensils. Expenditure on vehicle involved democratic decision made by more than 50 percent of the respondents' families. Decisions regarding watch/wall clock, more percentage (32 percent) of the respondents were found to be participatory. Radio was owned by three-fourth of the families and the decisions for the same were either democratic (46.50 percent) or the respondents were participatory (23 percent).

(4) In two-third of the respondents' families decisions related to allocation of money for repaying of credit was democratic type, whereas a larger percentage (72 percent) of the respondents' families were found to be democratic in their decisions for the amount to be saved. A small number of respondents were assertive in deciding for the same.

(5) Majority of the household took democratic decisions for the choice of school for the children (86 percent), admission (85.50 percent) and expenditure on education (86.50 percent). Families of literate group did not differ from illiterate respondents' families in these decisions. A little more than half the number of respondents' families were democratic in deciding the purchase of stationery and level of education of children.



(6) A number of respondents' families (38.50 and 39.50 percent) involved adult members of the families to decide the type and place of occupation for the children. A negligible variation was noticed in the decisions of illiterate and literate groups of respondents' household.

(7) About one fourth of the respondents' household took democratic decision regarding when to get children married and amount to be spent on marriage. Same percentage of respondents were neutral regarding above matters including higher percentage of the illiterate group. Perhaps it was due to children selecting their own life partners. Decision related to choice of mates for the children, only 16 percent of the families were democratic in their decision and 34.50 percent of the respondents were neutral which included more of the illiterate group.

(8) In majority of the families adult members decided the preventive care and curative treatment for the children while they were sick. Only less than one-fourth of the respondents were found to be assertive for the same.

(9) More than two-third of the respondents had not much of a say in deciding family size.

(2) **Farm Related Decisions :**

(10) A high percentage of respondents' families were democratic in their decisions related to farm items, viz; expenditure on land improvement (92 percent), purchase of

seed (85.50 percent), expenditure on tools (84 percent), sale of agricultural product (79percent), sale of animals and milk products (75.50 percent) and repaying farm credits (70.50 percent). Only one-fifth of the respondents' families possessed bullockcart and their decisions were democratic. Less percentage of respondents were assertive on matters such as sale of agricultural produce (17 percent) and sale of animals and milk products (13 percent).

(11) Participation of women in farm decisions was fairly high. More than 50 percent enjoyed great freedom in deciding variety of crops to be sown, storage and marketing of agricultural and animal products while only 46 percent had say in use of plant protection manure. Illiterate and literate group of respondents did not differ in their decision regarding farm items.

(12) About 66.50 percent of the respondents were found to be playing a greater role in over all decision making process as expressed by themselves. Not much participation was reported by 33 percent of the respondents.

(13) Based on Scores obtained on decision making it was found that higher percentage (71.50 percent) of respondents had medium level of participation, while 15 percent of respondents were placed in the category of high level of participation and only 13 percent were having low level of participation.

(14) The extent of participation in managerial decision was found to be significantly associated with literacy level of respondents (Chi-square=15.67, sig. 0.01), family income (Chi-square=22.023, sig. 0.01), education level of the head of the family (Chi-square=13.773, sig. 0.05) and respondents' participation in developmental programmes (Chi-square=13.821, sig. 0.01).

(15) Literate respondents differed significantly from the illiterate group ( $t=3.16$ , sig. 0.01) in their participation in managerial decisions. Further 'F'-value ( $F=23.358$ , sig. 0.05) indicated that this difference was mainly in the case of decision made regarding expenditure on household items. A positive correlation also existed between the level of participation in managerial decisions and the literacy level of respondents ( $r=0.246$ , sig. 0.01). An increased education level of 'Ho' women enabled them to participate more in managerial decisions.

(16) A significant association existed between women's extent of participation in managerial decisions and participation in developmental programmes (Chi-square=13.821, sig. 0.01). Women whose participation was higher in developmental programmes tended to be participating more in family managerial decisions ( $r=0.248$ , sig. 0.01). This contribution might be due to the influence of awareness programme on women's position in the society included in Mahila Mandal activities.

5.1.3.3 Status of 'Ho' Tribal Women. (17) One-fourth of the illiterate group and 30.50 percent of the literate group enjoyed greater freedom in spending family income. Among the rest most of the respondents from both the groups felt they had less freedom. Only 2.50 percent had no freedom at all in this regard. Little more than 50 percent of the respondents kept the family cash with themselves and 30.50 percent reported that it was with their husbands.

(18) In majority of the families household tasks were performed either by respondents alone or the female members of the family helped them. Male members help was accepted only for marketing and maintenance of the house.

(19) Few traditional customs and behaviour were followed by all the female members of the household. About 50.50 percent of the respondents acknowledged of having their meals after male members had taken food. Almost all the respondents (99.50 percent) reported to have separate place in a corner allotted to them in the community meeting in case their presence was necessary.

All the respondents also agreed of not being allowed to enter the kitchen or to touch the granary during the period of menstruation. During this period household tasks were performed either by other female members of the family or by the husband.

Two-third of the families preferred to serve food to boys while girls had to help themselves. Forty percent of the

respondents disclosed their giving some other privileges to the boys over girls, viz; provision of a cot for sleeping, exempted them from doing household chores etc. In few of the families boys were given education rather than girls.

(20) All the respondents unanimously agreed of their not being allowed to touch the plough or thatch the roof of the house. In case they were found guilty of breaking the above custom they were liable to punishment. Some educated respondents expressed their opinion about these taboos. According to them most of the household and agricultural tasks were performed by the female members and if these two tasks were also carried out by womenfolk what else would be left for men to perform.

(21) Greater participation by more than two-third of the respondents was noticed in funeral ceremony. About 50.50 percent felt their participation was less in a marriage ceremony and 15.50 percent had never participated. It was perhaps because arranged marriages were not so common in 'Ho' community. Either greater or lesser participation in festivals was observed by less than 50 percent of the respondents. Respondents' participation in birthday or naming ceremony was also less. No variation was observed between illiterate and literate group of respondents regarding participation in social activities.

(22) Majority (70.50 percent) of the respondents were married between the age of 17-20 years. Mean age at the time

of their marriage was 19.82 years. Illiterate group did not differ from literate in this regard.

(23) Among the respondents 88 percent got employed during lean farming season. About 42.50 percent of the respondents reported to have greater freedom in deciding the type and the place of employment and 45.50 percent had less say regards the same.

(24) On the basis of scores obtained on the determinants of status 59.50 percent of the respondents were categorized as having medium level of status which included 30.50 percent of literate group. High level status category included more percentage (13.50 percent) of literate group of respondents than illiterate group (6.50 percent). In the case of low level status category result was reverse where more percentage (13.50 percent) of illiterate respondents were found among low level than the literate respondents.

(25) Results of Chi-square values showed a significant association between 'Ho' women's status and their age (Chi-square=12.74, sig. 0.01), literacy level (Chi-square=7.93, sig. 0.05), family income (Chi-square= 43.79, sig. 0.01), and exposure to the larger environment (Chi-square = 6.34, sig. 0.05).

(26) Computation of correlation indicated a significant positive relationship between the level of status of 'Ho' women and its five determinants; namely; women's extent of

participation in managerial decision ( $r=0.863$ , sig. 0.01), help received in doing household chores (0.599, sig. 0.01), freedom in spending family income ( $r=0.308$ , sig. 0.01), literacy level of respondents ( $r=0.228$ , sig. 0.01) and participation in social activities ( $r=0.193$ , sig. 0.05).

(27) Stepwise multiple regression result showed that among the five significantly correlated indicators with women's status, the extent of participation in managerial decision explained approximately 83 percent of the variation in women's status ( $R^2=0.826$ ). Beta value of 0.909 indicated that 'Ho' women's extent of participation in managerial decision was the most important predictor of women's status. Twelve percent increase in  $R^2$  value by the inclusion of the variable - help received in doing household chores showed that to some extent it had also influence on the status of women.

(28) A significant difference also existed between illiterate and literate groups of respondents in relation to some of the determinants of status, viz; participation in decision making in the family ( $F=11.64$ , sig. 0.01), freedom in spending family income ( $F=4.329$ , sig. 0.05), and help received in doing household chores ( $F=11.125$ , sig. 0.05). 'F' value also revealed a significant difference in the level of status between these two groups of respondents ( $F=5.859$ , sig. 0.05). Literate group differed from illiterate group by being either assertive or democratic in their decision making. A higher percentage of literate respondents enjoyed greater freedom in spending family income.

(29) A significant association was observed between the level of status and women's participation in developmental programmes (Chi-square = 10.88, sig. 0.01). These two were positively correlated ( $r=0.281$ , sig. 0.01).

(30) Opinion of men respondents differed significantly from the opinion of women respondents regarding the status of 'Ho' women in the family and society ( $t=6.062$ , sig. 0.01). A significant difference also existed between the opinion of illiterate and literate women respondents ( $t=6.895$ , sig. 0.01) and between illiterate and literate men respondents ( $t=4.492$ , sig. 0.01). Literate female and male respondents scored higher than the illiterate group in expressing their opinion about women's status.

(31) There was significant difference of opinion between and within the groups of literate women respondents and 'Ho' tribal men respondents in relation to 'Ho' women's position in the family ( $F=25.879$ , sig. 0.01), their extent of decision making in the family ( $F=8.436$ , sig. 0.01), employment of women ( $F=5.345$ , sig. 0.05) and socio-political opportunity to be given to women in 'Ho' society ( $F=6.489$ , sig. 0.05). Difference in mean score was noticeable between literate female and male respondents regarding above aspects. Female respondents opined that in their society women's position should be enhanced by giving them equal chances in family decision making, by increasing employment opportunity and equal treatment at the place of employment and allowing them to have more socio-political opportunity in the



society. Male respondents were not positive in their opinion about above aspects of women's status.

(32) A significant difference also existed between illiterate male and female respondents regarding women's position in the family ( $F=6.675$ , sig. 0.01), extent of decision making in the family ( $F=4.751$ , sig. 0.05), education to be given to the female members of the 'Ho' society ( $F=36.932$ , sig. 0.01), employment opportunity provided to the women and fair treatment at working place ( $F=10.407$ , sig. 0.01) and socio-political opportunity given to women in the society ( $F=6.848$ , sig. 0.01). A higher mean score of illiterate female respondents indicated that they want a better position of women in their society and hence wanted a change. As for illiterate men they were satisfied with women's status in the society. This group of female respondents also held the same opinion as the literate group regarding the above aspects of status.

5.1.3.4 Extent of Participation in Developmental Programmes. (33) A little more than half the number of the respondents were aware of some organizations working among them for the development of the people. About 26 percent were not sure whether any such organization existed, the remaining one were neither aware, nor knew anything about any organization. Among those who were aware 34 percent knew about Jan Vikas Kendra, Jamshedpur working for women's development. In spite of their awareness about the

organization only 18 percent claimed membership. Only 7.50 percent visited the centre of organisation regularly while 10.50 percent seldom visited it. About 10.50 percent reported attending meetings as members and nine percent took active participation in various programmes.

(34) Percentage of respondents about the awareness of Mahila Mandal was not very encouraging. Only 41 percent were aware of its existence. Of the illiterate group 6.50 percent and 9.50 percent of the literate group were members. Many (14 percent) of them were ordinary members and two percent held responsibility as executive members. Only 7.50 percent were regular in attending meetings. Mostly all the members participated in all the activities of Mahila Mandal. Respondents who were not members, gave various reasons for not having membership. About 17.50 percent had no time due to their multiple roles in the field related activities as well as at home and for six percent the programme held was of no interest. Most of the respondents having membership in Mahila Mandal felt that its objectives were to improve the conditions of women and to remove the social evils. The illiterate group did not differ much from the literate group of respondents regarding awareness and participation in Mahila Mandal.

(35) A great majority (93 percent) of the respondents were aware of the literacy programme conducted in their area. Among the illiterate only 22 percent reported participation

either by them or family members. About 15.50 percent of this group did not find time to join the programme.

(36) Awareness about the existence of Health Centre in the Block was greater (94.50 percent) than any other programmes but availing of its facilities by the respondents was not satisfactory. About 49 percent visited occasionally and only three percent went whenever need arose. One-third of the respondents visited the centre for minor ailments and 21 percent went to get their children vaccinated. More of literate group made use of vaccination facilities and a higher percentage (21.50 percent) of illiterate went for minor ailments.

Multiple reasons were stated by the respondents for not availing the facilities of the Health Centre. About 24.50 percent reported of the long distance from their house and 21 percent used home medicines. Sorcery was practiced by nine percent. Some went to the village doctor.

(37) More than two-third of the respondents were aware of Anganwadi/Balwadi programme for the children. Facility was availed by 73.50 percent of the respondents. Forty eight percent of the respondents made use of the programme to a great extent by sending their children to the centre, whereas 25.50 percent reported of availing the facilities to a lesser extent.

(38) According to 37 percent of the respondents few income generating programmes were organized in the area to raise

their financial position. Among these programmes, functioning of Jawahar Rozgar Yozana was reported by about one sixth of the respondents, other programmes mentioned by few of them were digging of pond on contract basis, demonstration / training programme for growing vegetables, agricultural improvement programmes. Nehru Yuwak Yozana, tailoring for women etc. About 9.50 percent participated in these programmes. Those who did not participate in the programme, for 17 percent of them these programmes held no interest and 11 percent were kept busy with agricultural work.

(39) On the basis of scores 58 percent of the respondents were categorized as having low level of participation whereas 42 percent of them fell in high level of participation in development programmes. High level participants included more (36.50 percent) of literate group whereas more (44.50 percent) of illiterate group were low participants.

Thus illiterate group of respondents differed significantly from literate group in their extent of participation in development programmes ( $t=7.228$ , sig. 0.001).

(40) Among the personal, family and situational variables except family type and employment status of the respondents all other variables were significantly associated with the women's level of participation in development programmes; viz., their age (Chi-square=17.00, sig. 0.01) literacy level (Chi-square=78.89, sig. 0.01), education level of the head of

the family (Chi-square=49.40, sig. 0.01), family income (Chi-square= 17.05, sig. 0.01), and exposure to the larger environment (Chi-square=12.97, sig. 0.01).

(41) Correlation value showed a significant and positive relationship between women's level of participation in development programmes and their literacy level ( $r=0.7941$ , sig. 0.01), exposure to the larger environment ( $r=0.4104$ , sig.0.01), and education level of the head of the family ( $r=0.4255$ , sig. 0.01). Age of the respondents was found to be negatively correlated ( $r= -0.2845$ , sig. 0.01).

(42) In regression analysis more influence of literacy level of respondents and their exposure to the larger environment was noticed which explained 64 percent of variation in women's participation in development programmes. Only one percent increase was observed by the addition of the variable education level of the head of the family. Beta value of 0.744 revealed that education level of the respondents was one of the important factors for their participation in development programmes.

(43) About one third (34.50 percent) of the respondents often went to the town for shopping, whereas higher percentage (62 percent) did occasionally. More than two-third made occasional visits to the town for the purpose of selling their agricultural products. Visit to the town was limited for other purposes, viz., hospital, to see the fair and film, visiting relations and friends, to see the decorations during festivals, for training programme etc.

(44) Exposure to the mass media was found to be poor. Since 50 percent of the respondents were illiterate print media was out of question for them. But among the literate group too a very negligible number read something. Of the literate group who possessed radio, 22.50 percent of them made an effort to listen to it everyday. Of both the groups 12.50 percent listened rarely. Mostly they listen to music etc., not necessarily informative broadcasts. Frequency of seeing film was less. None of the families had television due to the non-availability of electricity.

(45) About 69 percent of the respondents never had any contacts with Gram Sevikas which included 26.50 percent of illiterate and 42.50 percent of literate respondents.

(46) More contacts were seen with Health Visitors as well as Extension Workers. More (34 percent) of illiterate group contacted Health Visitors occasionally, whereas rare contacts were made by 22 percent of literate group. Frequency of contacts made with Extension Workers by both groups was almost similar. More occasional contacts were noticed with Extension Workers which included 31 percent of illiterate and 29.50 percent of literate group.

(47) Majority of the respondents were unaware of the legal rights of women. Only 19.50 percent of them knew that men and women had equal rights in the society about which they had heard either from Extension Workers or the Head of the village or their own educated daughters.

## 5.2 Conclusions

In the context of the findings of this investigation, the following conclusions have been drawn :

1. The decision making pattern for most of the household and agricultural tasks are of a democratic type. Only for the few tasks such as, expenditure on daily food items, fuel, health care, household utensils and ornaments where a good number of respondents are found to be assertive in their decisions.

2. Decisions related to some household assets, viz; radio, vehicle and sewing machine are influenced by the education level of the respondents. An increased participation in decision making for these items is visible among the literate 'Ho' women.

3. In women's opinion their extent of participation in overall decision making for various household and agricultural activities is more which shows that due to their distinguished role in agricultural production and other household tasks they are consulted more by their husbands.

4. Wage labour is common among 'Ho' women due to their low literacy level. Most of the women feel free to decide about their own employment.

5. Not very distinct influence of education is noticeable on the extent of freedom enjoyed by the women in spending family income. Women's manifold responsibilities allow them to exercise more freedom in spending family income.

6. Most of the household tasks are performed by women or female children of the family. Men's duty is to plough the field, help out in marketing and occasionally care for the maintenance of the house. Men are seen gossiping in their free time, while women keep themselves engaged in multitudes of activities of field and of household.

7. 'Ho' women are not faced with restrictions in their movement in the society but there are some other age-old traditional customs, taboos and behaviour imposed on them.

8. 'Ho' community is liberal in permitting women to participate in most of the socio-religious and cultural activities.

9. Among 'Ho' women marriageable age is appropriate. Most of them get settled around 19 years of age or above. It is also found that parents do not make much effort to get their daughters settled by giving them in marriage due to their magnanimous share in performing various tasks of the family. Due to this many of the 'Ho' girls remain unmarried and stay with their parents.

10. Majority of the 'Ho' women are positive about the equal chances to be given to boys and girls in the field of education.

11. Extent of participation in development programmes is disheartening. Women keep busy in their field work and find no time for these programmes. Women also feel programmes are



not of their interest. Some of the women are not even aware of various programmes conducted in their area so the impact of these programmes is not much visible.

12. Exposure to the urban situation and mass media is limited to only few of the women. Same is the case with contacts made with different link agents.

13. Moreover, awareness and knowledge about the legal rights of women is insignificant.

14. At the planning stage of this study it was visualized that the status of 'Ho' women would be as low as other caste women but the findings reveal that they enjoy a medium level of status in their society. If the literacy level of these women could be raised perhaps they would still enjoy a higher status than at present.

### 5.3 Implications of the Study

The findings of this investigation have implications for all concerned personnel, educational institutions, policy makers and all who directly deal with the 'Ho' women to improve their conditions.

1. It was found that though women participated more in family decision making, many of them were not assertive about household items. Therefore it is suggested that for these women some leadership training programme could be conducted to increase their potentials which will equip them to be more assertive in their decisions.

2. During lean period women employed themselves in wage labour only and received half the amount compared to men's wages. It shows that due to low level of education as well as lack of home based industries they resort to wage labour. Therefore there is a need for well articulated home based industries. It also calls for strengthening the non formal education and literacy programmes for these women assuring them better chances for employment and its benefits, social security and better working condition.

3. In the villages of Khuntpani Block selling of rice beer was very common among 'Ho' women to earn more income to better their financial position. Hence, government should prohibit village liquor shops in tribal area and introduce other income generating schemes which would be more remunerative; thus squandering of money by men and women could be stopped.

4. 'Ho' women had the burden of multiple responsibilities in a traditional way and received no help from the male members of the family. They had no time for relaxations or other activities to increase their skills. These women need to be introduced to appropriate technology to alleviate their drudgery and perform their household tasks more efficiently, sparing time for other leisure time activities. 'Ho' men and male children should be made aware of their responsibilities and contribution towards household tasks.

5. Women should be included together with men in training programmes related to agriculture because of their significant contribution in this area.

6. It is essential to probe into the problems of age old taboos and traditions imposed on 'Ho' women by the society.

7. There is a strong need to eliminate all forms of discrimination in the 'Ho' society, especially regarding the education of girls and boys, performing household chores, wage differentials between women and men, separate place allotted for women in the community meeting etc.

8. Despite Government efforts to improve the condition of 'Ho' tribal women by introducing various developmental programmes it was found that women's participation was discouraging. Hence it calls for identifying the needs and introduction of need based programmes for these women. Government should make proper strategies for creating awareness and to motivate women so that they come forward and take maximum advantage of developmental programmes.

9. Both the government as well as voluntary organisations should make collective efforts to consolidate and regularize their development programmes for women. Voluntary organisations should be encouraged and supported by Government to undertake more programmes for the upliftment of 'Ho' women.

10. In order to be aware of what the position of other women outside tribal society is, there is a need of exposing these women to the larger environment.

11. To bring the 'Ho' tribal women on par with the women of other societies trained manpower with relevant skills and knowledge in various spheres should be employed so that

women's need can be given greater thrust, harnessing their own human resources for development.

12. Mahila Mandal and local women's organizations should be introduced and strengthened in all the villages. The local level organizations as well as women should be involved in the formulation of development strategy.

13. Before the introduction of any development programme among tribal women there is a need to conduct research oriented survey to know the real needs of this group of women, hence ensuring the success of the programme.

#### 5.4 Recommendations for Further Research

1. Regional differences are found among the various tribal groups therefore a study can be planned taking tribal women from various states of our country and compare their involvement in family decision making.

2. Due to modernization and industrialisation many 'Ho' tribal families have migrated from rural to urban area. A study could be conducted on 'Ho' women living in the urban area to examine the changes brought about in their status and life style as compared to rural 'Ho' tribal women.

3. Through an evaluatory study merits and demerits of government and non government development programmes among tribal women could be compared to examine its impact on women as well as their families.