



## A STUDY OF THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN CHANDRAPUR DISTRICT

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### ABSTRACT:

There are a total of 15 Talukas and 15 Panchayat Samitis in the Chandrapur district. There is a total of 847-gram panchayats in the district. The district has a historical tradition and the Gond kings ruled here for many years. The history of the Pandava dynasty dates back to the Gondvashis named Kottamilal and the first rulers of the Gond dynasty were Gondvanshis from Bhima and Lalbhinga to Neelkanthshah. During this reign, Ballarshah built a strong stone wall around the city of Chandrapur to protect it, which still exists as a feature of the city of Chandrapur. Chandrapur district formerly known as Chanda.

The position of women in society has changed in a big way in the last thousands of years. If we look at the last forty-fifty years, we know that a lot of work has been done on giving equal rights to women. Earlier it was strictly forbidden for women to leave the house. They were forced to live inside the boundary wall of the house. The only goal of her life was to take care of her husband and children. Women were neither treated like men nor given the same importance as men. The life of a woman has become much more complicated than that of a man, despite the government running several awareness programs. A woman has to take care of her life as well as the whole family. What is the social status of women in Chandrapur district? What is the literacy rate of tribal women in Chandrapur district? What is the economic status of women in Chandrapur district? What is the health status of women in Chandrapur district? And how is the participation of women of Chandrapur district in the political field? It has been written with the aim of finding answers to these questions.

**Key words:** - *Employment, Health Status of Women, Literacy, Economic Status of Women*

### Research Methodology:

This study depends on secondary data

### The Objective of Research:

- 1) To study the social status of women in the Chandrapur district
- 2) To study the literacy rate of tribal women in the Chandrapur district
- 3) To study the economic status of women in the Chandrapur district
- 4) To study the health status of women in the Chandrapur district
- 5) To know-how is the participation of women of the Chandrapur district in the political field

### INTRODUCTION:

In 1854, Chandrapur came into existence as an independent district. And in 1874, three tahsils Mul, Warora, and Brahmपुरi were included. In

1874, however, the Upper Godwai district of Madras was reduced and the four tahsils were combined into Chandrapur. A tahsil of Siron was kept as the headquarters. In 1985, a tahsil headquarters was shifted from the original to Chandrapur.

The district was transferred from the state of Madhya Pradesh to Bombay in 1956 as a result of the State Reorganization Plan. The district has been a part of Maharashtra since its formation in May 1960. For administrative convenience and agricultural and industrial development, after the 1981 census, the district was further divided into Chandrapur and Gadchiroli.

The Wainganga River, which flows from north to south on the eastern boundary, and the Wardha

River, which flows along the western boundary, form the two natural boundaries of the district. All the rivers of the district flow from north to south. The district has a rich diversity of mineral resources. There are huge deposits of coal, iron ore, limestone here. The district is also rich in natural resources. Precious teak wood was widely available in the forest. Apart from this, firewood, tendu leaves, bamboo, gum, etc. are also found in large quantities. According to the 2001 census, the population of the district is 20,71,101 out of which the rural population is 15,13,402. Eighty percent of the people in the district depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Paddy is the main crop in the eastern part of the district.

#### **The Status of Women in Chandrapur District:**

Most of the women of the Chandrapur district have a secondary position in their family. Some women call her the head of the family. The head of the family is the woman who takes care of the family financially but does not make any decisions independently. They are all dependent on the men of the house. In a divided family in the Chandrapur district, the importance of women in such a family is increasing as only one man is responsible for the family. In the Chandrapur district, every member of the family, whether male or female, earns a living and contributes financially to the family.

Mahua flowers are used in the manufacture of liquor, but after the announcement of the ban on it, the women of Chandrapur district have opened new avenues of employment by preparing healthy and nutritious Rotis from Mahua flowers. The women of Chakbothali village put these rotis made of Mahua flower for sale recently, which many people tasted and appreciated this effort. Village Chakbothali of the area under Brahmपुरi tehsil is surrounded by forest from all sides. The business of most of the people here is to choose and sell Mahua flowers. Mahua flower is also a source of income for women. Meanwhile, after the prohibition of

liquor in the district, there was an undeclared ban on the collection of Mahua flowers. There is no ban on eating or keeping Mahua flowers in the district, but there is a ban on making alcohol by decomposing it. That's why dried Mahua flowers have always come under the purview of police action. After the prohibition, the situation became even more serious. In such a situation, the women thought of making Mahua flower bread. Necessary preparations were made for this and when the preparation was done, it was converted into a commercial form. These women first dry the Mahua flowers and then grind them. After that, the flour is mixed with salt and it is kneaded. After that Mahua bread is made. With the success of this experiment of women, it has been proved that the flowers of mahua can not only be used for alcohol but better health can also be found by making nutritious food. If the government considers the success of this experiment of women and plans related to the manufacture of other medicinal materials, then in the Chandrapur district, a large number of employment resources can be available to the women of savings group as well as to many unemployed.

In the Chandrapur district, the contribution of women in agriculture is equal to that of men. But the burden of domestic work is solely the responsibility of women. Due to this double burden of work, their nutrition is getting affected. The research was done on this subject in rural areas of Maharashtra, in which it was revealed that women are also more prone to malnutrition when agricultural work is done the most. The government needs to bring changes in policies to improve the condition of women involved in agriculture in the district. To reduce the workload on the women who take care of agricultural work along with domestic work, there is a need to invent such technology which can reduce the burden of the women of the district.

The tribal women in the district are different from the urban or rural women. The tribal "woman" is as fearless as the man. She communicates freely through the forest, she is more hardworking than other women, a tribal woman who is not shy like other women, she is very honest.

Women work side by side with men in the fields in the district. But whether it is a traditional challenge like handling household chores or a new challenge like the changing weather - women's difficulties remain more than men's. It is well known that the responsibility of women does not end with just working in the fields, these women also take care of household chores apart from the fields. They do not take care of their health in the affair of fulfilling double responsibility. A study has revealed that during the farming season – from sowing to harvesting – the workload on women increases. During this time, their body does not get the necessary nutrition. Women constitute more than a third of the labor force engaged in agricultural work in the district. Women in the district spend 30 percent of their time on activities related to agriculture. When women work in the fields, they get wages from this work. However, this does not happen in household chores. When the work of agriculture increases, women spend more time in agricultural work in the desire not to lose wages. Despite this, the household chores are not reduced. Vemireddy, along with co-author Prabhu Pingali, from the US-based Tata-Cornell Institute of Agriculture and Nutrition (TCI), interacted with 960 women from Maharashtra's Chandrapur district. During this time, he got information from the women working in the fields about their work, crop cycle, and business. During the study, women were also asked questions related to their ownership of the fields. The researchers also calculated the nutritional value of the food by asking questions related to the method of preparation, ingredients, etc. Cotton and paddy

are cultivated in Chandrapur. According to the 2011 census, agriculture is the main source of livelihood for more than half of the population. The rural areas of this district have been rated as weak in terms of nutrition. Of the women surveyed, 31 percent were found to be landless. Most of the women who owned land had an area of fewer than 5 acres.

The Economic Survey of India 2019-20 says that due to the migration of men, the burden of farming is falling on women, more women are coming into agriculture work. The tribal community has a low literacy rate as compared to other groups of Chandrapur district and this shows that the literacy rate of women is very low. Maharashtra government is implementing various schemes to increase the literacy rate of tribal women. There is no social pressure or impediment for the education of girls in the Chandrapur district.

Kesla's poultry project, becoming a role model for Maharashtra, is the first project by women to be started in Chandrapur. Women made a profit by selling chickens worth 35 crores. Today many women in the Chandrapur district are making their living by selling chicken. The government of Maharashtra has also been affected by the Kesla Poultry Cooperative (KPS) project, which is helping tribal women through chick rearing. It is an effort of the government to start a big poultry farm on the lines of Sukhtwa in the Chandrapur district of Maharashtra, and the tribal women here will be linked with employment. The cooperative sold 25 lakh 4 thousand chickens. This has earned an income of about Rs 35 crore 97 lakh. In this way, about four and a half crore rupees were paid to the women. This group, which makes it self-sufficient by rearing chicks, is a witness to the changing face of tribal women across the country.

Local people believe in 'black magic' in the village of Chandrapur district in Maharashtra. In the village of Chandrapur district, there is more evidence of superstition

among the local women. The proportion of women in the tribal community in the district is about 50%. The woman has played the role of a mother. Mother is the first teacher in every person's life. The effect of the rituals given by the mother is related to the creation of the next generation. For this, a woman needs to be educated and cultured. The tribal women of the district are less mature, knowledgeable, and literate than other women. The family is incomplete without the participation of women. The literacy and knowledge of tribal women are low. The participation of women is important in the development process of the district. The illiteracy rate of women is very high especially among the tribals of the district.

The health-related condition of women of Chandrapur district is very disappointing. Women of the district were facing serious problems like lack of better facilities at the time of pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, abortion problems, infant mortality, and infertility. Many steps are taken by the government for all these problems, but in many rural areas, it is still a big problem. In these areas, women do not get proper health services at the time of hospital and pregnancy. Educating women in the district is a big challenge. With time, the infant mortality rate in these areas is decreasing significantly. Along with the problem of women's health in the district, there are also problems like alcoholism and malaria.

The benefits of Chanda Se Banda Yojana and its benefits are good for the farmers, educated, unemployed, women, and youth of the district who want to start a business. The Chanda Se Banda scheme launched for the Chandrapur district is innovative and has provided financial assistance to some women. Through the Chanda to Banda scheme, women are being trained to make carpets through the Women's Economic Development Corporation and Research Organization. The duration of the

training is six months and so far 500 women have been trained. This training has employed women and raised their standard of living. Agriculture is a very important part of life and many schemes are implemented by the government to develop this component. Male and female farmers should benefit from this scheme but most of the women farmers of the district did not take advantage of these schemes. Is. The Chanda to Banda scheme and the carpet, Satranji unit provided a source of income to the women of the Self Help Groups.

The government has lifted the ban on liquor in the Chandrapur district of Maharashtra with effect from 1 April 2015. The ban has caused a loss of about Rs 1,606 crore to the state in five years. Along with this, a sales tax of Rs 964 crore was also sunk. In this way, there was a total loss of Rs 2,570 crore. To meet the revenue shortfall, the government lifted the prohibition of liquor in Chandrapur district. 2 lakh 69 thousand 824 people of the district submitted a memorandum to the government. Of these, 2 lakh 43 thousand 627 statements were in the form of a review of the ban, while 25 thousand 876 statements were in demand to maintain the ban. Violence against women has increased since the government lifted the ban on alcohol. Many argue that the money raised from alcohol contributes to the development of the poor.

Today again, for the development of women in the rural areas of the district, it is necessary to give priority to their education. If women's education in the district can be examined, the problems and difficulties can be highlighted; On the other hand, if some basic measures are suggested, it will also be important from the point of view of overall social reform for the education of women and also in the interest of the country. Social development can be achieved through women's education and women's education through social development.

It is important to note the importance of both of these processes.

There are a total of 15 Talukas in the Chandrapur District. There are coal cement and power plants. The liquor trade is mainly associated with the working class and the working class working here is an important component of coal and other mineral mines. Country liquor is in great demand among the working class. Chandrapur district ranks second in the Nagpur division in total liquor sales. There are a total of 479 liquor licenses. If we look at the total liquor revenue in the last 10 years, there has been a tremendous increase in it.

According to the government website, in the year 2010-2011, 2 crores ten lakh liters of liquor were sold in Chandrapur. Its cost was Rs 700 crore. Due to this, the government got a tax of Rs 125 crore. All these expenses were borne by 4 lakh families, which means that on average each family spends Rs 17,000 per year on alcohol. Due to the ban on liquor in neighboring Gadchiroli and Wardha districts, liquor is supplied from this district to both districts. That's why I felt that the liquor of Chandrapur should be stopped. According to government figures, the number of tribals in the district is 4 lakhs. As per the Tribal Excise Policy approved by the Central and State Governments in 1977; The biggest exploitation of tribals is said to be alcohol. For these reasons, prohibition seems to be an important precondition for escape from poverty. The number of workers in this district is very high. Their addiction destroys the world. The prohibition appears to be the key to stopping it. Four generations have come under the grip of alcohol in the district. It has been observed that poor women cannot live freely till alcohol is banned in the district.

Considering the age of marriage of women in the Chandrapur district, it has been observed that most marriages take place between the ages of 18 and 21. The idea of marriage started at an

early age, so there was partial education. He is then assigned the household chores and gradually farming. Early marriage prolongs the reproductive period. Fertility at a young age, the distance between two children does not necessarily lead to good children. Miscarriages, stillbirths, and stillbirths do occur. It adversely affects the health of the mother. A mother can't take care of her health in raising a small and overcrowded child. All this makes it difficult for the mother to take care of her health. All the above cases apply to the women of the Chandrapur district. Mothers in the Chandrapur district have to spend most of their time in the upbringing of small and underprivileged children. Older children, who are too young, may not get the attention they need. The attitude of using family planning to increase the distance between two children and not to increase the number of children has not yet increased as much as it should be among the women of the Chandrapur district.

Various schemes for orphans have been announced by some departments of the government. Many single/widows are unaware of government schemes and procedures as they do not have access to government offices.

A wife system is common in the majority society of Chandrapur district. The divorce system exists in various communities in the Chandrapur district. Divorce by women is also accepted by society. The decision of divorce is taken by the caste panchayat of the elders. But divorce is usually neither granted nor granted. Elderly and experienced members of society try to compromise between husband and wife. However, if there is any disagreement between them, the divorce has to be approved by Gram Panchayat. The women of Chandrapur district feel that they have an independent social existence in their society. Zilla Parishad schools already existed before the government started separate schools for tribals. It is clear from the information received that a large number of girls

of the Chandrapur district are getting an education from Zilla Parishad schools. However, they do not seem convinced that the importance of education is enough to overcome family and financial difficulties and to devote time to education.

#### CONCLUSION:

The health condition of women in the Chandrapur district is not good. Most of the women in the district go to the hospital for treatment when they fall ill. Most of the women do not do family planning to maintain their health and keep their children healthy. However, the facilities available are utilized for the care of the growing child from pregnancy to delivery and post-delivery. The number of women working in their field is more. Most of the women have to earn a living for their families. The number of working women and self-employed women is found to be less in the district. Due to being illiterate, the number of women working for livelihood is high. If these women are to be developed through government schemes, then it is necessary to connect them with education first.

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