

## **SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION ON RURAL WOMEN: A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY**

**Dr. Rajesh Kumar M. Sosa**

*Assistant Professor*

*Department of Sociology*

*L.R. Valia Arts and P.R. Mehta Commerce College*

*Maharaja Krishnakumar Singhji Bhavnagar University, Bhavnagar (Gujarat)*

*Email: rajeshsosa1983@gmail.com*

### **Abstract**

*Social structure has been rapid since independence. To understand the rural structure better, it is essential to understand the role of rural women. In modern times, there are revolutionary changes in the thoughts, beliefs, beliefs and cultural, political and economic life of rural women. Today's rural women are slowly but surely becoming aware of their rights and self-reliance. Today women are equally participating in various economic activities of the country. Now she has started becoming self-reliant rather than being dependent on others for her smallest needs. Women have come to understand that illiteracy, superstition, conservatism, traditional beliefs and male-dominated society are the reasons for their plight; secondly, their own class tells their daughters that what will they do after studying more, they have to run the household after marriage, they are also responsible. By looking at the situation of rural women, it is known that there is definitely some change in the attitude of the society towards women but not as much as it should be, but today women not only have the ability to stand on their own feet but also have a strong desire. Therefore, there has been a change in the thoughts of rural women and their perspective towards the norms and values of the society is changing.*

Reference to this paper  
should be made as follows:

**Received: 28.11.2023**

**Approved: 25.12.2023**

**Dr. Rajesh Kumar M.  
Sosa**

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT  
OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC  
TRANSFORMATION ON  
RURAL WOMEN: A  
SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY

*RJPSSs 2023, Vol. XLIX,*

*No. 2, pp.264-275*

*Article No.33*

Similarity Check: 4%

**Online available at:**

<https://anubooks.com/journal/research-journal-of-philosophy-amp-social-sciences>

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.31995/rjpss.2023v49i02.33>

### **Concepts of Study**

**Rural Women** :in a community or area in sufficient quantity reveals its tendency to be rural. Women are the pillars of the society without which the society cannot be built. In the present study, women from one village in all the tehsils of Bhavnagar district have been included.

**Transformation:** use of the concept of transformation was done in the field of economics. After that, social scientists have tried to start its use in social and political fields. Conversion is made up of two words: form + transfer = conversion. When the shape, form, etc. of an object is completely changed, we call it transformation. That is, when a large amount of change is clearly visible in any system, institution or person, then we call it transformation. In the presented study, an attempt has been made to clarify the changing nature of rural women.

### **Social Transformation**

Social Transformation is a broad concept that reflects the turnaround of the entire social system, i.e. the change of the entire system. The first use of the term social transformation in sociology was made by Karl Marx in his book *German Ideology*. That is, Karl Marx called social transformation a change that takes us towards revolution. This means that due to many internal conflicts, change starts happening at a very rapid pace and as a result, the entire system changes. Therefore, in the situation of social transformation, there is a radical change in both social and cultural systems.

According to the *Encyclopedia of Sociology*, social transformation is a broad concept that reflects the turnaround of the entire social system, i.e. the change of the entire system.

Social transformation is a change by which a traditional society starts changing into a modern society. The main characteristics of a traditional society are underdeveloped technology, predominance of agriculture, social control established through customs and traditions, and local trust. When production starts increasing in the society due to advanced technology. Agricultural production is not done only for consumption. Formal control is established through laws and the importance of rational behavior starts increasing in place of beliefs, then the simple society starts changing into a modern society. In this condition, the form of social relations and social roles of people also change, this type of condition is called social transformation.

**Economic Transformation** When as a result of the impact of economic activities the form of any object acquires a completely new form, then it is known as

economic transformation. In the presented study, the changing social and economic nature of rural women has been analyzed.

**Theoretical Perspectives on Transformation** Transformation in Indian society should be studied. Karl Marx, Louis Dumas, M. N. Srinivas, S.C. Dubey, Mirdal and Yogendra Singh etc. are prominent. Yogendra Singh has stated in his book *Modernization of Indian Traditions* that conducting any study related to social change in India is a difficult task because Indian society has a very ancient history and there is so much diversity in its traditions. In the presented study, the basis of the historical approach, cultural approach, institutional approach, and approach of multiple traditions has been taken.

**Study Problem** The presented study is a sociological study of socio-economic transformation among rural women, in which the socio-economic transformation among rural women after independence has been analyzed. Lack of awareness, low level of literacy and economic dependence among rural women, and lack of efficient leadership and decision-making ability are such problems that make them incapable of fulfilling their rights and responsibilities. However, as a result of government and non-government efforts, a new change is being seen in the rural social structure due to which village Women are also affected.

#### **Review of previous studies related to research literature**

If we discuss the research review of the presented study, it has been based on the following literature.

**Thakkar (1974)**, while discussing the development of women's education in Gujarat, has made it clear that economic factors have contributed more to ensuring high progress in women's education. Due to social changes, women's perspective towards education has also changed and women are moving away from many traditional roles and are ensuring their entry into new professions.

**Urmila Jain (2002)** has found in her study that the literacy of women is also important for rural development and she has also found in her study that the active strength of women representatives in Panchayat is negligible, in their place male members of the community are active. Most of the women feel unable to do Panchayat and rural development work independently and voluntarily.

**Girish Chandra Pandey (2008)** clarified in his study that participation of women in the political field in the real sense can be possible only when they are made educated and more importantly, men should change their mindset and remove

this misconception that women's entry into politics will lead to any interference in their field of work. It is not impossible.

**Navalkishore (2013)** has given the efficiency of providing efficiency in the country of the country, in the heart of the country, in the heart of the country, there is a lot of efficiency in the world, the school and the school of the agrarians, the university, the university The form is in the form. Due to increasing employment potential in the non-agricultural sector, the demand for labor has increased, but the labor cost of women is still much lower than that of men. To improve the condition of women, there is talk of labor law, property rights, exploration of technology as per their convenience, increase in cooperative savings of women workers, their education and empowerment of institutions.

**Singh (2015)** found in his study that undoubtedly the social , economic and political status of women is changing in the Indian society today and the potential of women is being accepted at every level, in which the role of statutory acts is also important. The positive impact of changes in the values of social life is being reflected in women.

Thus, an overview of the literature reveals that studies have been done on various aspects related to women, but there is a lack of studies related to the socio-economic transformation of rural women. The present research study is in this direction . In the presented research article , an attempt has been made to find out where the status of rural women can be meaningful and successful in the process of socio-economic transformation , what obstacles still remain and how they can be made more capable.

### **Rural Transformation in India**

Many big changes have taken place in India since independence. The objectives of rural social transformation considered at the ideological level in India can in essence be considered revolutionary and pure development from the planning methodology's point of view. Community development programs have also focused on the overall development of the society. The process of rural transformation has been visible in India since the British era, which has been progressing rapidly since independence. Following are the various programs and schemes run by the government to accelerate rural transformation.

1. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana
2. MANREGA
3. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Yojana
4. Mahamaya Housing Scheme

5. Mahama ya's poor financial assistance scheme
6. Antyodaya Anna Yojana
7. B. P. L. card scheme
8. Old Age Pension Scheme
9. Clean India Movement
10. Indira Housing Scheme
11. National Rural Livelihood Mission
12. Deendayalupadhyay Rural Skills Scheme
13. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana
14. Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana
15. grain-for-food program
16. Mahila Samakhya Yojana
17. StartupIndiaStandUpIndia

#### **Study Objectives**

Objective of the presented study can be seen as follows.

1. To analyze the socio-economic status of rural women.
2. To examine the social transformation taking place among rural women.
3. To evaluate the economic transformation of rural women.
4. To know about the transformation and empowerment of rural women by Panchayati Raj.
5. To evaluate the viewpoint of rural women towards socio-economic transformation.

**Hypothesis** The hypothesis of the presented study is as follows.

1. With the increase in education, there has been progress in the socio-economic transformation of rural women.
2. Media contributes to the socio-economic empowerment of rural women.
3. Government schemes play a positive role in the socio-economic empowerment of rural women.
4. Rural families play a positive role in the socio-economic transformation of women.

**Research Methodology** Research methodology has been used in the of the presented research study.

**Study Area** The presented study is based on five villages from each taluka of Bhavnagar district of Gujarat.

**A sampling of the study** Bhavnagar tehsil has been selected based on purposive sampling, these five villages include 1. Fariyadka 2. Koliyak 3. Sanes 4. Bhandari and 5. Khetakhatli. In which the selection of families as the audience has been done based on a random marking system of purposive sampling method and two age groups of women between 20 - 35 and 45 - 60 years have been selected from each family as the unit of audience. A sample of 100 descendants was made by selecting 20 families from each village .

**Data Collection** The present Study has been used in data has been compiled from observations, and interview schedules under primary sources and articles, books, magazines, district archives etc. under secondary sources.

**Economic background of rural women** The respondents of the present study that maximum of 98 percent have been found to belong to Hindus out of which the majority 62 percent are from the families of other backward caste groups. The literacy rate was found to be 84 percent among the respondents of the lower age group and 31 percent among the respondents of the higher age group. Most of the respondents of the lower age group, being literate, are engaged in jobs or other professional professions, whereas the majority of the respondents of the higher age group are contributing to the economic condition of the family by working as agricultural laborers because the average monthly income of the respondents of the lower age group has been found to be significantly higher. Most of the respondents included in the study belong to joint families. 88 percent of the families are found to be heads, which shows the dominance of the male class in rural areas. In modern times, most of the families in rural areas are marrying girls above the age of 18 years.

In conclusion of the presented study, it can be said that the tendency to practice discrimination is significantly less in the present time as compared to earlier. Similarly, a maximum of 72 percent of the respondents from the younger age group and 28 percent from the older age group have agreed that they are treated with utmost respect by the family members in their in-laws' houses. 68 percent of the cards are made below the poverty line, which clearly shows that despite economic transformation in rural areas, most of the families are living below the poverty line. 79 percent of the respondents have an account in any bank, which may be the reason for connecting with the bank for various schemes currently run by the government like the Jan Dhan Yojana gas subsidy.

### **Rural Women and Social Transformation**

In the present study, the changes occurring in rural women due to social transformation have been observed. In which it has been divided into two parts : 1. Social transformation through education . 2. Social transformation through communication. It is found from the present study that 96 percent of the respondents of the older age group have accepted that their son , daughter and daughter-in-law are the most educated in their family, out of which three-fourths have been found to have received higher level education, which makes it clear that there has been a lot of change in the field of education in the present time as compared to the past. Similarly, 99 percent of the respondents in the lower age group were found to tend to take education, which is indicative of them being more aware of the importance of education and more interested in women's empowerment. Out of all the educated respondents, 75 percent and 60 percent of the respondents have given priority to education due to an increase in self-confidence and assistance in educating the children of the family respectively , while being health conscious, increasing their prestige in the family and getting proper employment have been given priority respectively. 78 percent of the respondents supported that the girl child of the family is free to pursue education at any level as per her wish. 99 percent of the respondents admitted that education has brought about a great or some extent of positive change in the status of women. Therefore, from the above facts, the research hypothesis of this study can be fully accepted that with the increase in education, there has been progress in the socio-economic transformation of rural women.

At present, the medium of obtaining information in most of the families from rural areas is television (87%), mobile (91%), newspaper (63%) and Internet (32%) . Due to the availability of communication resources and their use, there has been a positive change in the thinking of the children regarding the necessity of educating the children, educating the daughters at appropriate level in the family, in the context of becoming self-reliant and learning about various types of measures for increasing employment, which is indicative of positive transformation.

It can be said that 100% of the respondents have supported the fact that due to the availability and use of communication resources, in the present time, rural women are also using modern clothes openly and freely, which indicates a positive change in social independence and empowerment of rural women as a result of communication resources . Due to the greater use of communication resources by the new generation, there has been a change in the attitude of women, the leadership ability of women and the empowerment of women has increased. From the

observation of these facts, The hypothesis of this research study can be accepted that communication media has an important contribution to the socio-economic empowerment of rural women.

### **Rural Women and Economic Transformation**

In the present study, changes in the equality of rural women due to socio-economic transformation have been studied, in which the process of economic transformation plays an important role . It is found from the conclusion that 26 percent of the respondents have expressed the desire to contribute to the family income. The respondents of the lower age group (82%) are highly satisfied with their earned income regarding the fulfillment of their needs, which shows that they earn more income from job profession or handicraft and self-employment. 75 percent of the respondents have supported the fact that the economic dependence of women on men is the main reason for their neglect. For some reason in the family of 32 percent of respondents, they always or sometimes have to take loans to meet their needs. 56 percent of the respondents have information about the programs and schemes run by the government in rural areas. Out of these the maximum beneficiaries are Swachh Toilet Yojana (89%), Kanyavidya Dhan Yojana (77%), National Maternity Benefit Scheme (63%) and Mid Demil Yojana (87%). Similarly, the families of the respondents have benefited from the government-run MNREGA.

Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana, Mahila Samriddhi Yojana and Samakhya Yojana, which shows that they are more affected by the schemes along with educational transformation and are aware of the activities of various schemes. Almost one-third of the respondents have accepted that due to government schemes, there has been a positive change in the social status of their family, out of which 84% percent of the respondents have completely supported the increase in the educational level of women in rural areas and 46% of the respondents have fully supported the improvement in agriculture, becoming more aware of health, getting proper employment, which is a continuation of educational transformation. Also reflects economic transformation. From the observation of these facts, the research hypothesis of this study can be fully accepted that the government schemes being run in rural areas are playing a positive role in the socio-economic empowerment of the respondents.

### **Women Transformation and Empowerment by Panchayati Raj**

In the present study, the changes observed in rural women due to the process of transformation have been studied. The role of Panchayat Raj in women's transformation is also considered important. It is found from the findings that, 89



percent of the respondents have complete or partial information about the Panchayat polity, 68 percent of the respondents said that they are sometimes given information about the various welfare schemes being run in rural areas by the Panchayat members, in response to being affected, 88 percent of the Uttaradatriss have either expressed disagreement or disagreement with the reference to motivating women for self-employment through Self-Help Groups by Panchayat members. They do not have any kind of clear information on this subject, out of which Uttaradatriss of the older age group are more likely to vote only for the self-help group members with low educational levels. Refers to inspiring for awakening. Two-thirds of the Uttaradatriss have agreed that the Panchayati polity is playing a proper role in the economic empowerment of women, out of which the Uttaradatriss having lower age group and higher educational qualification be significantly more, as a result of which the hypothesis of this study can be clearly accepted that the Panchayati polity is playing a proper role in the social empowerment of women in rural areas. plays a positive role in economic upliftment

#### **Socio-Economic Transformation**

In the presented study, an attempt has also been made to know what is the attitude of women towards socio-economic transformation. The conclusion is obtained that most of the women belonging to the lower age group consider lack of education, awareness and dependence on the male class group as the main factors of backwardness of women, due to which women belonging to the lower age group consider lack of education, awareness and dependence on men respectively as rural women. considered to be the cause of backwardness, whereas the women in the older age group who consider illiteracy, lack of awareness and dependence on men as the main causes of backwardness, be of older age group, the main reason of which is that there is not much change in the superstition, conservative tradition and narrow mental thinking already prevalent in the society because there is a positive effect in educational and economic empowerment among the women of rural areas. Despite the transition, there has not been a positive change in the followers of the older age group in following conservative traditions and in their narrow-mindedness. Based on this fact, it can be said that the hypothesis of the presented study can be rejected that at present rural families play a positive role in the socio-economic transformation of women.

79 percent to 92 percent of women have clearly admitted that they are illiterate or lack of self-confidence due to lack of educational qualification, lack of confidence in getting proper employment, underestimation of their social status by family and society people and having to face the problems of financial

issues in daily life. They have a high age and low educational level. This is most prevalent among the women belonging to the Utradhatri family because the older women are found to be lacking in education and due to old social conservative traditions, superstitions and narrow mental thinking, as a result of which the educational and economic empowerment among the women of their families has been very less. The situation becomes clear from the results that most of the women have expressed the opinion that the rural women are not educated, follow the old conservative attitudes, the dowry system is prevalent, marriage of boys and girls of the family at an early age and lack of positive change in the social status of rural women are the most important factors. People continue to have old social conservatism, narrow mindedness and despite positive transformation in every field, the overall development of rural women has not been achieved and they are suffering from the narrow-minded mentality of the family. Based on these facts, it can be said that the hypothesis of this study cannot be accepted because rural families are playing a positive role in the socio-economic transformation of women.

89 percent of the women's respondents were found to be completely or partially satisfied with women's awareness and participation in rural development, most of whom were older and uneducated. While most of the younger and highly educated descendants are found to be dissatisfied because despite their educational, social, and economic status and being more aware of various development programs and schemes with the use of various communication media, the elders in the family continued to follow the socially conservative system and traditions and acted independently due to their narrow mindedness. Women have not been able to participate in all the programs as a result of which there has been very little change as compared to the greater awareness and participation of women which should happen due to which the young age group and educated women have been found to be more dissatisfied. Based on these facts, it can be said that the hypothesis of the presented study is not rejected that at present rural families are playing a positive role in the socio-economic transformation of women.

### **Finding and Conclusion**

In the presented study, some findings of the presented study can be seen as follows.

- An increasing tendency among women of lower age groups to join jobs or other professional professions and earn more income from work.

- Even in the present times in rural areas, male dominance is found in most of the 92 percent of families, which shows that women's empowerment is more effective despite the radical changes in education.
- An increase in the trend of girls getting married above the age of 18 years in comparison to earlier times.
- In the tendency of family members to behave respectfully towards women compared to earlier times.
- Family economic activities are increasing in most of the families. By doing some economic activities even while sitting at home, the family income is increasing.
- Changes are being seen in the tendency of rural women to become account holders and save in various banks.
- Due to the increase in education in rural areas, women are getting higher positions in the family and society.
- In comparison to earlier times, in the present times, the awareness of women about their rights is increasing day by day.
- Decisions in the family and the tendency to properly educate and raise children as per the time is increasing.
- Rural women are increasing due to the Panchayati Raj system. And state participation is strengthening state leadership among women in rural communities.

#### **References**

1. Thakkar, P.N. (1976). "Development of Female in Gujrat after Independence". Gujrat Vidyapith: Gujrat.
2. Fraser, Thomas G. (2013). "India's Rural Transformation and Development Issues Processes and Direction". Sarodiya Books: New Delhi.
3. Jha, Ashok Kumar. (2004). Women in Panchayati Raj Institution. Anmol Publication: New Delhi.
4. Joseph, Neena. (2001). Gender Related Problems of Women. Women's Empowerment. Himalaya Publishing House: Indian University.
5. Dave, J.K. (1971). "A Study Evolution of Female Education in Gujrat till Independence". SP University: Gujrat.
6. Desai, S.H. (1972). "A Critical Study of the Development of Secondary Education for Girls in Gujrat: Its History and Present-Day Problems". MS University: Baroda.

7. Jain, Urmila. (2002). Women's election in Panchayats and rural development. Kurukshetra: New Delhi.
8. Pandey, Girish Chandra. (2008). Panchayati Raj is the foundation of democracy. Kurukshetra. Year 54. Issue-10. New Delhi.
9. Kishore, Naval. (2013). Status of Women in Rural India in the Age of Technological Change". Hindi Medium Implementation Guide. University of Delhi.
10. Singh, Dr. Santosh Kumar. (2015). Women empowerment and government efforts. Kurukshetra. March. year 61. Issue-05. New Delhi.
11. Singh, V.N., Singh, Janmejay. (2010). Modernity and Empowerment of Vanaris. Rawat Publications: Jaipur.
12. Singh, Kattar. (2011). Rural Development, Principles, Policies and Management. Rawat Publications: Jaipur.