

CONCLUSIONS

Personal Information

1. In rural areas of Maharashtra, ^{as in Jamb} there is overwhelming dominance of Hindus, particularly of 'Maratha' caste.
2. Average life expectancy of Indian women is very less. So, the women between 50 and 60 years age group are very less. Early marriage and early motherhood combined with malnutrition lead to high maternal mortality.
3. The data shows that marriage is universal and there has been tradition of early marriages, particularly for females. So, the incidence of unmarried women is almost nil in rural areas. Divorcees and separations are also rare, because it becomes a stigma. Even parents and brothers would expect such a woman to bear uncomplainingly everything from her husband. They do so because of fear of losing respect in the society.
4. The level of education is high in women in 20 to 40 years age group, but it is low in women in 40 to 60 years age group. It shows that there were no or less educational opportunities for women before 40 years.
5. Majority of educated women are from 'Maratha' caste and majority of uneducated women are from other lower castes.

6. The level of education is high in 'Maratha' caste as well as it is low in lower castes. It can be concluded that 'Maratha' caste is able to take higher education because of its good economic condition. Higher education facilities are open only in city area. For a village women, to do up and down to city place or to live in hostels, both require money. It is not possible for a lower caste women to pursue education in such circumstances.
7. Majority married women are educated but most of them reach only upto primary level and very few reach upto secondary level. Education upto graduate level is very rare among rural women. We may conclude that early marriage affects the education of rural women. Among widows and separated, the rate of education is very low. This does not allow them to become self-reliant.

Details about Education

1. More than fifty per cent women go to school in their childhood. Among them majority are from 'Maratha' caste and very few are from lower castes. Financial condition, household work and social taboos on women's education do not allow other women to go to school in their childhood. This shows the indifference

- towards women education. Thus poor economic conditions and household work affect the education of rural women.
2. Our data further shows that in rural area, a woman is able to take education only upto primary level. Either there is no facility of further education or marriage gives a fullstop to their education. Very few women reach upto secondary and graduate level.
 3. According to educated rural women, they are not given equal treatment with boys in schools. The general opinion of rural women is that they are shy. So they are not given equal treatment with boys in schools. Some think that it is not considered good to move in equal terms with boys.
 4. Most of the women discontinue their education after marriage because they do not get permission. After marriage, the life of rural women remains confined only to domestic duties. Maternity is the second reason of discontinuing the education. High value is attached to the reproductive function. Formal education tends to be seen irrelevant for girls who are destined for marriage and motherhood at an early age.

Information about family and marriage

1. Majority of the families are joint families which keep womenfolk busy throughout the day. The main occupation of rural people is agriculture and as it requires the

services of many hands on farm. We can, therefore, conclude that joint family is suited to rural community.

2. Majority women married at the age of 10 to 16 in rural area. The incidence of marriage after 20 years is very rare. It shows that early marriage is freely arranged in rural area.
3. Women from 20 to 40 years age group mostly marry at the age of 13 to 16 years, but women from 40 to 60 years age group mostly married at age of 10 to 13 years. So, we may conclude that after passing the 'Sharda' Act, there are rare incidences of child marriage but marriages at very young age still continue in rural area even though marriage age for girl as decided by law is 18.
4. Rural women have a secondary status in their new families after marriage.
5. There is a co-relation between marriage and education of women. As the marriage age is increased, the level of education of rural women is also increased and vice versa. So, we conclude that early marriage is the main reason for lower education among rural women.

6. Majority of women do not correspond with their parents after marriage because of social pressure. Some think that it is not considered good to correspond directly with parents. It shows that rural women have no freedom in such simple matter.

Medical facilities

1. Majority of rural women do not get medical help at the time of maternity. It shows that a simple amenity like medical help is also not available in rural area.

Religious duties and festivals

1. Only few women perform religious function every year at home.
2. Majority women are not going out for yatras yearly. Very few women are going out for yatras. Only three women visited parts of India. We can conclude that there is no mobility among rural women. They are completely isolated from outside world.

Cultural Activities

1. Very few women know some arts. They cannot practise that art after marriage because elders in the family do not like. Some times women lose their interest. Some times they do not get guidelines for improvement of the arts. It shows that cultural activities have

no place in rural woman's life.

2. Among the literate women only few read newspapers, because they do not get time for reading as they are busy whole day in household work.
3. Most of the rural women seek the information around the world from radio or from other people. Many women do not know anything about world around. It shows isolation of rural women from the world around.
4. Many women do not see television, because television sets are rare in villages. If any family has television at home, women in that family do not have time to see it, because women are fully engaged in household work and farmwork from morning to night. Entertainment has no place in the life of a rural woman.

Economic affairs

1. All the economic affairs of rural households are looked after by elder male members and in their absence, mothers or mothers-in-law look after them. We can conclude that rural women, particularly daughters-in-law and daughters do not have any say in this matter.

Political awareness

1. Majority of women do not cast their votes according to their own wish. It shows that rural women do not know value of their vote in democracy.

2. Very few rural women have any knowledge about political situation in the country. Majority of women are ignorant about it. They even do not know about election. It indicates that there is lack of political awareness among rural women.

Suggestions

1. Early marriages are stopped by law. Even then they are still continued in rural areas. The law remains only in books. We do not see it in practical life. So, proper implementation of the law is essential. Public opinion and public attitudes should be changed by showing films on it in annual fair of village or in Ganesh festivals.
2. Majority of women do not get medical help at the time of maternity. In the time of emergency, they send the patient to cities. So it is felt need of women from villages that a maternity home or nursing home should be started in villages.
3. There is need of 'Mahila Mandals' in villages so that womenfolk in villages can gather at least once in a week. Women should be taught sewing, embroidery as well as new methods of cooking, personal hygiene, scientific methods of child care, etc.
4. Adult education classes for women should be started in villages so that women should get civic knowledge with the knowledge of how to read and write.
5. There is need of female social worker to educate the women about the rights given to them by our Constitution about political situation in the country, about voting and other many issues like family planning, sanitation, etc.

6. Special scholarships should be started to encourage higher education among rural women.
7. Education in lower castes of rural areas also be encouraged by expanding more educational facilities, particularly for women of lower castes.
8. There is need of starting cottage industries so that women from rural area may get employment opportunities and they can stand upon their own feet.