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Situational Analysis of Women Self-Help Groups among Maram Tribal Women in Manipur, India

Anna Lungbila and Varghese K. Varghese*

Abstract

Tribes are the most vulnerable groups in the country. One of the reasons attributed to this is that tribal groups are persons who are still very much attached to traditional beliefs and practices. Although technological advancement has brought improvement in general, tribals are not able to fully keep up with the current state of affairs. Their mindset appears to be linked to the past, and in a distinctive manner, to ancestral thoughts and ideas. In this context, tribal women have to face challenges in their lives. With the introduction of various programmes and implementation of schemes for the benefit of women in general and particularly for tribal women, they are able to move forward to a better future. For women, in particular for Maram tribal women, programmes, such as self-help groups (SHGs), have helped them as they have long been denied their basic rights under customary laws and traditions. The objective of this paper is to analyse the status quo of Maram tribal women in Manipur, India. A field study of Maram tribal women was conducted at Maram Centre village under Tadubi block, Senapati district in Manipur. This study reveals that awareness creation and sensitisation for the cause of literacy and government schemes will enhance the empowerment of Maram tribal women. This process of sustained empowerment of Maram tribal women through SHGs will result in the overall development of the Maram tribal community in the long run.

Keywords

tribals, Nagas, women, self-help groups, empowerment

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