

Empowerment of Tribal Women: A Comparative Study on Gond and Santal Tribes during the Pandemic

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Abstract:

The recent pandemic has been – by both nature and definition – a world-wide phenomenon, and has had a proportional effect on the tribal communities of India. Due to their state of persistent impoverishment, such communities are economically vulnerable, and as such have further destabilized in the aftermath of the pandemic. This has led to abolishment of their primary sources of income. Tribal women affected the most from this phenomenon as they must take care of their family, children, elderly people and also their agriculture. This has direct bearing on their empowerment and which has resulted during pandemic.

Our paper is focusing on these related aspects among the two tribes, Gond of Madhya Pradesh and Santal of West Bengal, India. A dearth of import-export facilities as well as suspension of local markets resulted the Gond suffer from unemployment in the study area. Santhal communities, on the other hand, are typically reliant on handicraft and tourism both of which suffered a similar fate during the cessation of market and tourist activities during the pandemic. Our paper primarily depends on both primary and secondary sources of data. The primary data is gathered from the hamlets of Lalpur area of Anuppur district, Madhya Pradesh and Bolpur area of Birbhum district of West Bengal by Mixed method. The secondary sources of data were gathered from published and unpublished sources of government and non-government agencies.

Keywords: Empowerment, Tribal women, Pandemic, Gond, Santal, Comparative Study

Pandemic is outburst of high infectious diseases which spread its impact in a wide geographical area. Just like wave it may impact on a significant number of people in world. Infectious diseases like influenza can spread rapidly. Its rates of spreading depend on several factors like human to human segregation or compatibleness, international travel such as air travel system now a days. Most of the high infectious illness that occur in are humans are caused by diseases emerge in animal. In case of influenza that causes a great threat on human, WHO has prepared pandemic alertness which has six phases. Lowest level; pandemic alert which is confined in animals and from animals to human transmission rate is low. Second isolated incidence of animal to human viral transmission of the virus are observed and that has pandemic potential. In third here small outbreak occur and animal to human transmission is small in scale. The fourth phase is confirmed human to human viral transmission that cause sustain disease in human communities. Fifth phase is that when diseases transmit from human to human in two countries indicating that pandemic

is imminent. Sixth phase is widespread and sustain diseases transmission among human being. Pandemic is not new in our country as well as world. It has long history from long ancient period. It is said that cholera, influenza, plague which are shaping our population.

Antonine Plague (165AD to 180 AD), it is also known as plague of Galen. It was broken out in Rome Empire in ancient time, all roman cities like Italy and Greece eventually it spread over Spain, Egypt, North Africa. It killed 2000 people per day, it caused may be small pox or measles. The Black Death (1347-1352) It was the pandemic which was in Europe and Asia. Almost 25 million killed in Europe in that time. Small pox pandemic (1870-1874). Before the world completely rid itself of this horrendous disease, it swept through continents killing three out of ten victims. Those who survived were left with deep scars which were even found in 3000-year-old mummies. Showing that it ravaged ancient civilizations for thousands of years. But it was in 1870 during the Franco-Prussian war that smallpox spread throughout the world. From Europe it reached Asia through America causing 500000deaths worldwide. Cholera (1874-1824). Its first emerged in India. Cholera is food indigestion by contaminated of bacterium vibrio cholerae. After three years it reaches different countries in India and in 1821 it was brought in British troop travailing from India. Russian Flu (1889-1890). It called first modern flu. It was started Petersburg and rapidly it contaminated over Europe. After few times it reaches every corner of the world and estimated that one million people died through it. Spanish Flu (1918-1919). Considered deadliest flu, 20 to 50 million people are died through it. It was come through three waves first wave is came as a normal flu, second flu fall in the year 1918 and it killed people within an hour. The third wave that came the following year was just as deadly and added more to the death toll.H3N2 pandemic (1968). It was caused by influenza H3N2 virus. It first hated in Hong Kong that it spread out in south east Asia in 1968. It reaches united states, United Kingdom, other countries of Europe. It killed one million people almost. HIV (1981). The first case acquires Immunodeficiency Syndrome. According to the centre for disease and prevention the HIV infected 65 million people all over the world. SARS (2002-2004). Severe acute respiratory syndrome first reported in Guangdong China on 2003. After few months it spread out in south and north America, Asia, Europe. 8098 people were infected and 778 people were killed. This disease caused high fever, body aches, dry cough which led to pneumonia in some cases. The latest pandemic is corona (2019). They are called “Corona” because of crown like spikes on the surface of the virus. Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) and the common cold are example of coronaviruses that cause illness in human. The new strain first reported in Wuhan, China December 2019. Animals were first infected by corona virus. Eventually it spread in humans. In the case of SARS-coV-19 the first people affected are thought to have contracted the virus at a food market that sold meat, fish, and live animals. The virus travels through mouth, nose eyes, it then travels to the back of your nasal passages and mucous membrane in the back of anyone throat. It attaches to c ells there, begins to multiply and moves into lung tissue. From there the virus can spread to other body tissues.

Pandemic rampantly affected on tribal people. Tribal people the percentage 8.6% according to 2011 census they faced various types of hurdles before covid. Most of tribes are faces isolation, economic backwardness, poor infrastructure, poor quality of health infrastructure. Generally tribal people are migrated from their native place, due to restriction of states people face short-long term hardships because they are marginalised communities in India. Who are came back to their home they were faced different types of hardship in their way due to connectivity shortage. The tribal peoples are not homogeneous and

covid affected them, it varies from community to community-occupation to occupation. According to Ministry of tribal affairs estimated that about 1.5-2 million tribal people from tribal areas work across different part of the country. Due to lockdown phase most of the workers are unpaid or receive very merger salary in that time but with this petty salary they could not afford their daily life. When they came back home, they engaged in agricultural work. This agricultural product they cannot marketing this time. This product is solely for their livelihood. Small shops are also closed in that time but they serve their service from the backdoor. In the lockdown period the unpacked milk consumption rate was declining. People think that unpacked milk is unsafe in that time but they have no mechanism to pack the milk so their business get decrease. They shell fresh meat in that time which maintain their economy.

Around 10.45 crore indigenous population that reside in India are stake because of economic inequality and social stigma. After covid heating our world then innumerable deaths, generalize economic depression, unemployment, quarantine, unavoidable lockdown, ban of travel that was the necessary things to tackle the situation. In that time nomadic women who are engaged in animal husbandry kind of things they are suffer most. Collection of timber was also restricted in that time. Dairy products demand was decrease in that time because of physical distancing, lack of buyers and movement restrictions. Tribal women also depend upon minor forest product like forest medicine, tree gum, fruits, honey, gooseberry. In the summer they majorly engaged in that activities. But in lockdown time weekly or daily market were remain closed then women were left with no money.

In Lalpur village tribal people were maintain their livelihood with agricultural product and they shell their product from backdoor of shop. Tribal male and female were shell animal product like meat, egg etc. But the business is done in a very small scale. In Bolpur area they were engaged in subsistence agriculture. They shell animal product like meat, egg etc. But they live with half or full starvation every day in that time.

Literature Review:

Paul R Ward (2020) paper stated that in covid time there are social restrictions in everywhere such as gathering, travelling, opening of school- college- university. In that situation people how manage their life. In that time Glocalization means shrinking of the world concept came instead of globalization. People get extreme fear in that time then racism and xenophobia came in the human mind. In that time sociology take its part to manage the cosmos like situation. Government takes juggling with the concept of health vs wealth, how maintain present and future generations. In that time Existentialism came, existence come before essence.

Matthewman & Huppertz (2020) discussed that in that pandemic time our social life got scared. If we can want to experiment in societal basis then we can do it. Notion of welfare reform, progressive taxation, nationalisation, universal basis of income some terms are very important in that era.

Leibfinger et al. (2021). Paper discusses about the care workers who are in Austria. They came from Romania and Slovakia. In pandemic time when border was closed then they could not go back their home then they adjusted in that time though they received very low wages, poor working conditions, live in

hidden place where health, safety measures had no place. In that time, they took care of household work to medical care.

Lyn Craig (2020) article discuss the lockdown situation in Australia. In pandemic time unpaid worker was very much important for whom who are engaged in health sector and food supply. Some women were replied that the took extra care in that time because they had attained meeting simultaneously, they manage home school for their children, but their husband did not take any responsibilities they only attained their office from home. Some of the response responses that in that time male female work simultaneously then division of domestic labour and care could also be more equal in the pandemic time. Some of them are told that they really enjoy in that time because they took care of domestic work therefore enhance their family life also. They engaged with toddler which is very helpful for that kind of children.

Gaffney et al. (2020) they discussed in their article about the medical facilities in the time of pandemic. In America their medical facilities are costly then disadvantaged sections were suffered most. National health insurance is very necessary for treatment in America. Specially in Texas and Florida people who were not going in hospital because of high cost. Trump administration has also promised to use bailout funds to compensate hospital for the cost and treating uninsured persons. Family first coronavirus response act signed into law by Trump, it is covering for diagnostic testing and health care. Trump administration would allocate a portion of the 100 dollars billion in hospital relief provided by the coronavirus Aid, relief and economic security at passed by March, it also covers corona virus treatment.

In his article **Krouse (2020)** discussed that in America immigrants were badly affected. In that time hospitals were overburden with screening tests, inconsistency in dissemination of factual real time information, inadequate provision of resources such as personal protective equipment to overburdened hospitals and healthcare. High mortality was seen in black population. Poverty, high crime neighbourhoods, poor access to healthy food, limited education, and skill level.

South Asian Survey (2021) here human cost was emerged to explain that human was affected badly, USA was affected mostly. Economic cost was emerged in that time, it affected demand and supply. Local and global aviation, tourism, transport, agricultural, industry, manufacturing etc it's also affected the economy. India's 10.2% economy was shirking. Bangladesh could not be affected in that time; it maintains 5% plus growth rate. Next important term was there that was employment cost which was discussed about joblessness al over world. India, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Afghanistan was experiencing that situation. Social cost is another important word which means isolation, grief economic hardship that can lead people to mental health crisis.

Fawaz & Sanaha (2020) studies on Lebanon citizen. This paper address on post-traumatic stress symptomatology. In covid time they took home quarantine. PTSD symptoms were common after fourth week of quarantine such as feeling distant or cut off from other people, one responds that feeling as if your future will somehow be cut short, watchful on guard, angry outburst or feeling irritable that kind mental conditions were prevail in that time.

Kanupriya (2020) highlighted in her paper that in covid time how people were affected by socio-psychological facts. People losing hope and there was restriction to go here and there which erased the overall existence of people. People losing hope and stopping their most due to unwellness of the world. In economical aspect small business were stopped in that time. Global industries were suffered from shortage of people and part disrupting just in the time of supply chains and triggering seller warning across industries consumer and capital goods sector. Uncertainty, spread out loss of employment, generic economic gloom, and psychological repercussions of any flu pandemic there is often an upsurge in ethnic conflict, food diets and socio-political distrust and unrest.

Baerber & Naepi (2020) they discuss in their paper that in school of social science of the university of Auckland New Zealand, Maori and pacific people were neglected it is because they have no separate department in that university. Covid spread out everywhere and academia it is not exceptional. After covid uneconomic courses, precarious instructors, ongoing domination was cutting down by that time social life.

In their paper **Cameron et al (2021)** point out the SDg-5 goals that deals with gender equality, education, economic opportunities for females, women leadership, gender violence and women health. It was proved that where female politicians were there, they efficiently control pandemic. Pandemic creates job shortage that leads to female unemployment, young women they were suffered in immense poverty. It is said that before covid 35% women were victimised but in the covid time partner violence was increased. Intimate partner violence was increase due to rape, sexual assault, social distancing, closes of restaurant. Among women physical and mental health were suffered. Anxiety and depressed among mother for their children was common in that time.

Kaker & Nandy (2020) elaborated that in India first covid came to know from three Kerela students who were in Wuhan, China. 11 March in that year WHO announced that it is pandemic. Then Modi announced that “Janata” curfew it was permitted just the essential movement and the social distancing came. On 24th March it was completely lockdown announced. They explain that the worker who were jobless in that time and they were lived in city and how they manage their life in that situation. In that time no connectivity was there then they walk to came back their home, one 12 years boy started walking but when he was nearer to his home then he died. People were interested in home-based industry. The big problems in that time that violence against health worker and in that time, there are emerged communal feeling after the congestion among Muslim in Delhi. They wanted to discussed the history of covid.

Barranco and Ventura (2020). Corona virus was infectious in that time and that time hospitals were over crowded. Most of the hospitals were congested with patients, so health workers were suffered most.

Barneveld et al. (2020) this paper argues that after pandemic destroy the health impact. Which was affect the globalisation. Flow on economy which is related with demand and supply concept. Country inequality was happened by neoliberal regimes of labour market regulation.

Ahmed et al (2020). After pandemic domestic risk domestic risk is increased. India produced drugs but it was indeed at risk.

Rodrigues et al (2021). They discussed that family financial stress and wellbeing and also social impact on families. They used Stress ABCE-WB model to explain the whole situation. The result is that in that time financial crisis were there, fear feeling created, demotivation as consequences of the general lockdown. This also effect well-being, reductions of GDP, increase unemployment, served fiscal pressure, leading to the implementation of austerity policies.

Zaka et al (2020). Their paper discussed that the physical health conditions in that time. In that time frontiers health stuff were suffered most. But we could not ignore their mental health also. Because their mental health also suffered in that time.

Connell (2020). Virus helped the threat of megacities, mass air travel, collapse, and corrupt regimes, Undermining of public service. The virulent effect of corona was spread in our society and then sociology is under threat.

Methodology:

Our argument of paper is mainly based on both primary and secondary data. The primary data is gathered through ethnographic field work by first author from this study areas of Bolpur and Lalpur. As part of fieldwork, we also vividly observed changing livelihood patterns socio-economic issues, existing political scenario among Santhal as well as Gond tribal women through this we tried to analysis empowerment parameter of tribal women. Secondary data is gathered by reviewing existing literature on tribal women tribal livelihood Gond and Santhal tribes from published journal articles, books, and other related sources of information.

This paper used purposive sampling method. Purposive sample must have some criteria, in our paper sample selected through purposive way. Sampling and data collection has been done from villages specifically, such as Bidyadharpur from Bolpur, West Bengal and Lalpur, Madhya Pradesh. Researchers have used self-made tools to measure the different aspects of pandemic scenario on tribal women . To measure the educational attainment, the researchers have used questions related to educational status. In order to measure their empowerment schedule have been used which may include educational-social-economical-political questions. For social, economical, political aspect we collected data through both qualitative and quantitate questions. The data have been analysed using SPSS and some case studies were collected to support the research argument.

Tribal livelihood in India:

Tribals are aboriginals' community, they are associated with jal jameen and jangal. Tribals are mainly involved in agricultural work, they cultivated different types of grains which support them for odd season. Some tribes are live in vicinity of forest then they completely depend on sal, mahua, honey, forest roots, leaves, vegetables etc. On the other hand, they depend on fishing, hunting. In India where the tribal people are there, there are ample natural resources are there then Government and corporation excavated that area and they established some industries kind of things. This is a great challenge for Government to developed tribal area with sustainable way. Various state Government take initiatives to provide the youth of vocational training, formal technical education, upskill development. There are two concepts there which are important for tribal economic development which are macro-economic growth, trickle-down effect. Macro-economic growth is depended upon expansions of urban-industrial system and also through

chemical intensive, modern agriculture. Which are associated with grassroot level then tribal people are beneficial from these activities from trickle down process. In seventies century there were a concept which is direct attack of poverty which also associated with tribes. But in that time, it was not succussed because there was a lacuna which was the restricted meaning of poverty.

History of Tribal People:

The commonly used adjectival form Tribal is etymologically derived from a Latin word tribal means to be. In 1981, J.A. Brains, the census commissioner, reported them as forest tribe according to their traditional occupation in the forest areas. After that 1901 census report, it was changed to Forest Tribes to Animists and then in 1911 more specifically changed to Tribal Animists. In consequent reports of 1931 categorically mentioned as Primitive Tribes and Backward Tribes in 1935 report. In 1941 report the same word Tribe coined. It was only in 1948 census report they are called Adivasi. In 1950 constitution of India were renamed them as Scheduled Tribe and the purpose was to special treatment. According to the International Working Group Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) so called tribals have their own historical self-understanding about themselves over against the derogatory and discriminatory connotation. The people who have distinct historical, political, political and cultural identities.

Covid Changes their Livelihood:

Minaketan Behera and Preksha Dassani (2021) observed that most of the tribes are isolated, they have economic backwardness, poor infrastructure, and poor economic health care. Tribes are not homogenous group then the effect of covid was not same, it was differed from community to community-region to region. According to Ministry of Tribal Affairs 1.5-2 million people work in different part across our country. In that time tribes were unpaid in non-formal sectors and they live in financial instabilities and distressed. According to Ministry of Tribal Affairs 30-40 million people are engaged in collections of Kendu leaves and beedi making means minor forest product. But in covid time the social distancing is everywhere then their livelihood hampered in that time. Tribal women are depended in forest product, but in that time their livelihood got affected. Even some of them engaged in small business activities but in that time the periodical shops were closed. In that time fairs were stopped but tribal women are rich in traditional tattoo, ear and nose piercing they used to do but, in that time, they were with no money. The tribal people are engaged in agricultural worker and as they are nomadic then they sell milk and fish to the local people but in that time, people were not parched that kind of product because of safety measures.

Effect of Covid on our Study Areas:

In my study areas where covid effected badly. In Bolpur and Lalpur they are engaged in agricultural work. Secondarily they engaged in small business sectors. In Bolpur in covid time agricultural were not running in that time. In that area tribes are small business sectors but, in that time, social distancing was enforced everywhere, then these activities were restricted in that time. They are rich in handicraft product but in that time 'sonibarar haat' was not running then there get no money. In Lalpur they worked at agricultural work and productivity get enhanced because of immigration. But they are not getting training to enhanced their capacity.

Data and Discussion:

Demographic data: In Bolpur is fall under the district of Birbhum, West Bengal. It is a municipality area. Bolpur municipality has population 80,210 where 40,468 are male and 39,742 are female according to 2011. Female sex ratio is 982 against state average of 950. Literacy rate in Bolpur is 86.77% higher than state average 76.26%, male literacy 91.25% where 82.24%. Sex ratio in Bolpur block is 972 and child sex ratio is 974. Total tribal population in Bolpur area is 38615 where male population is 19113 and female population is 19502, 1709 are live in urban area and 36906 are live in rural area according to 2011 census.

Gond: Lalpur is largest village in Shahdol district, Madhya Pradesh. Total village has population 6013 out of which 3015 are males and 2998 are female. In Lalpur village population of children with age 0-6 is 900 which makes up 14.97% of total population of village. Average sex ratio of Lalpur village is 994 which is higher than Madhya Pradesh state average of 931. Child sex ratio for the Lalpur as per census is 1018, higher than Madhya Pradesh average of 918. Literacy rate in that village is 63.33% out of which 71.82% and female literacy 54.76%. Total workers in the village are 572 women and marginal worker is 410. In the village scheduled tribe people number 2570, where 1265 male and 1305 female.

Table-1

Educational Attainment		
Standards	No of Santal women	No of Gond Women
Illiterate	32	41
Primary	6	6
Upper primary	6	5
Madhyamik	5	0
Higher secondary	1	0
Graduation	1	0

Source: Primary data

Table-2

Minimum level of literacy among Santal and Gond Women				
	Santhal – read	Santhal – Write	Gond –read	Gond – Write
Able to read and write in Bengali	6	5	0	0
Able to read and write in English	0	0	0	0
Able to read and write in Hindi	0	0	5	3
Able to read and write in their own language	0	0	2	1
Bilingual	2	2	2	1

Unable to read and write	43	44	43	47
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Source: Primary data

Maximum number of women are illiterate from Santal and Gond. Only few are completed primary and upper primary level. Though they are just able to put their signature. So wastage and stagnation is very common phenomenon in their society. They have no proper school like Ekalavya model school, teacher student ratio are not maintain, their mode of language in their school is Bengali, Hindi. So wastage and stagnation is very common phenomenon in their society. In covid time they are not comfortable to send their children into school because of isolation. Paul R. (2020) said that due to glocalization mobility completely stopped in that time and therefore xenophobia was increased in that time, tribal people are live in close society then they afraid to mingle with other community. In that time online education is very common term in that time. Though they have no basic amenities to continue their education. Out of 51 respondents 28 have no mobile phone, only 8 have smart phone and left have normal phone. In Gond community out of 52 women 32 have no mobile phone, only 4 have smart phone, left 17 have normal phone (Field data). How the children were continue their education in covid time. Who have smart phone they are just marry or new born babies' mother. They have little bit addictions and they use their mobile phone for entertainment purpose. Naturally the children from tribes they can not continue their education in covid time. In Government school the government not taken any action related to continue the classes. Most of the children forgot their present class. One girl Moti Murmu said that now she don't know about her class, he has no interest to go to school now she want to play with her friend and she also work in her family and she enjoy her life now very much. Educational attainment is also related with social empowerment. In social empowerment direct and indirect blocking concepts are there. Where direct blocking means when people are block from education, employment. In the same case for tribes they directly block from their basic facilities, they are not empowered totally.

Table-3: Social Empowerment between Santal and Gond

Tribal women	N	Mean	SD	Std Error	Significance	Remarks
Santal (Bolpur)	51	30.57	4.662	0.653	0.000	Significant
Gond (Lalpur)	52	27.37	4.210	0.584		

Since the 'p' value is lesser ($p < 0.005$) then the table value. The hypothesis about stated is rejected as the Bolpur (50.76) women are empowered mean to the Lalpur (37.75). As the Bolpur region is observed most proximal development in an its sphere of social and economic life system. Hence they out do Lalpur area. In regard to social empowerment of Santal and Gond communities, 51 Santal women and 52 Gond women selected and necessary scale of empowerment was adopted. Above table reveals the comparison of mean empowerment score between Santal (50.76) and Gond (37.75) women. Result reveals that the mean empowerment score of two groups of women differ significant. Meaning thereby women of two groups differ in their social empowerment level significant. The women of Santal community is having greater amount of mean empowerment score then that of Gond women. Therefore the gain is in favour of the women of Santal community. The result needs to conclude that in Santal women are better in social

empowerment then Gond women. If one women economic freedom then she should empower her socially. Santal people have economic freedom then Gond then they take decision in her family and society. They could not receive any training related to their educational empowerment. Santal community in Bolpur region they live in the vicinity of Santiniketan, then they are little bit much literate then Gond. Literacy give them socially empowered.

Table-4: Educational Empowerment among Santal and Gond

Tribal Women	N	Mean	SD	Std Error	Significance	Remarks
Santal (Bolpur)	51	50.76	5.010	0.702	0.000	Significant
Gond (Lalpur)	52	37.75	6.902	.957		

Since the ‘p’ value is (<0.005) then table value. The hypothesis above stated is subjected as the Bolpur (27.51) women are empowered mean of the Lalpur (19.79). As the Bolpur region is observed as the most proximal development in its all spheres of social and economic life. Hence they out do Gond tribal women of Lalpur area. Regarding economic empowerment of Santal and Gond communities. Regarding educational empowerment of Santal and Gond communities, 50 Santal women and 50 Gond women selected and necessary scale of empowerment was adopted. Above table reveals the comparison of mean empowerment score between Santal and Gond women. Result reveals that the mean empowerment score of two groups of women differ significant. Meaning thereby women of two groups differ in their educational empowerment level significant. The women of Santal community is having greater amount of mean empowerment score then that of Gond women. Therefore the gain is in fever of the women of Santal community. The result needs to conclude that in Santal women are better in educational empowerment then Gond women.

Empowerment includes educational, social, economic, political perspectives. In Bolpur region this place is vicinity of urban are and then they can receive much better amenities then Gond live in Lalpur.

Table-5: Economic empowerment of two tribe

Tribal women	N	Mean	SD	Std. Error	Significance	Remarks
Santal (Bolpur)	51	27.51	4.575	0.641	0.000	Significant
Gond (Lalpur)	52	19.79	4.079	0.566		

Since the ‘p’ value is (<0.005) then the table value. The hypothesis above stated is subjected as the Bolpur (27.51) women are empowered mean of the Lalpur (19.79). As the Bolpur region is observed as the most proximal development in its all spheres of social and economic life. Hence they out do Gond tribal women of Lalpur area. Regarding economic empowerment of Santal and Gond communities. 51 Santal women and 52 Gond women selected and necessary scale of empowerment was adopted. Above table reveals the comparison of mean empowerment score between Santal (27.51) and Gond (19.79) women. Result reveals that the mean empowerment score of two groups of women differ significant. Meaning thereby women of two groups differ in their economic empowerment level which is more significant. The women of Santal community are having greater level of mean empowerment score than that of Gond women. Therefore,

the gain is in favour of the women of Santal community. The result needs to conclude that in Santal women are better in economic empowerment than Gond women.

The reason is that the santal tribal women are exposed to the modern social system that gives alternative economic opportunities for Santal people like tourism industry, they are engaged in handicraft market, specially in Sonajhuri Haat is one of the exposure for them like the influential santiniketan and its academic community networking for many decades than that of the Gond women of Lalpur. Government gave extra ration to the tribes and they survive their life in the special time and some NGOs like Monmajhi they support them for their survival in the special time. In our field survey in Lalpur they did not receive any kind of support even in both the places they have no BPL card. In Bolpur some women response that through Lakhmi Bhandar they received money that help them for their survival.

Table-6: Political empowerment among two tribes

Tribal women	N	Mean	SD	Std. Error	Significance	Remarks
Santal (Bolpur)	51	63.53	10.454	1.464	.064	Not Significant
Gond (Lalpur)	52	58.06	7.994	1.109		

Since the ‘p’ value is (>0.005) then the table value. The hypothesis stated that there is no significance difference between Santal and Gond. Regarding political empowerment of Santal and Gond communities. 50 Santal women and 50 Gond women selected and necessary scale of empowerment was adopted. Above table reveals the comparison of mean empowerment score between Santal and Gond women. Result reveals that the mean empowerment score of two groups of women differ significant. Meaning thereby women of two groups not differ in their political empowerment level significant. The women of Santal community are having greater amount of mean empowerment score then that of Gond women. Therefore, the gain is in favour of the women of Santal community. The result needs to conclude that in Santal women are better in political empowerment then Gond women.

For Santal and Gond have same political situation. Because they are only the part of crowd. They take part in voting. One respondent from Bolpur Rita Soren she told us that in the time of voting they go for vote, party prepare launch for them. In Lalpur some response told that in the time of voting they (party) come and they promise them to remove their problem but its never happen. They have no basic amenities like Pakka house, toilet, water, electricity etc.

Conclusion:

Tribes are sensitive groups because their have low education, economic conditions is also low during the covid wave much more affected the lives of tribes. They lose their livelihood. Who are migrated they came back home without any alternatives. In that time psychological disturbance was there because everywhere there was restrictions. without money they faced acute problems. In that time Government gave no extra facilities for them. Because they are treated as just to increased their vote bank. But during covid time one NGO work day to night for their survival. They distribute free ration, they introduced one rupee haat, free coaching for children. Visva Bharati initiatives to gave training the women for chicken incubator which helps them a lot for their survival.

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