

# Narikuravar Women and Their Current Status

**Mrs. R. R. Kavitha<sup>1</sup>, Dr. Renuka<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Ph.D. Scholar, Rani Meyyammai College of Nursing. Annamalai University. Tamilnadu, India, Rani Meyyammai

<sup>2</sup>Guide, Rani Meyyammai College of Nursing. Annamalai University. Tamilnadu, India, Rani Meyyammai

## **Abstract:**

The ethnic group of the Narikuravars are attributed to an extremely underprivileged status in the Indian Society. They neither have access to necessary resources for survival, such as drinking water or sanitation facilities, nor to formal education. The following are some of the problems that are confronting the Narikuravar.

## **Introduction:**

Gypsy groups has a separate ethnic identity that is particularly evident from their different languages, but they share many aspects of a common cultural identity as traditional Travellers or Romani people. As per a theory propounded by Werth in 1966 and Fraser, authorities on the "Gypsies" of Europe, believes that the Domar are the ancestors of the Romani people and therefore, the Narikuravars are related to the Romani. Narikuravars are widely known as nomadic communities having their own unique way of life and beliefs. The Narikurava are an indigenous group of people, living in Tamil Nadu. Narikurava means "Jackal People". The name relates to the former livelihood of the Narikurava-the hunting of wild animals. The ethnic group of the Narikurava holds an extremely underprivileged status within current Indian society.

## **Residence:**

For eight to nine months, when they are out of their settlements, moving with their animals in search of pasture, their houses either remain locked or they leave their women, children, old people back who not only to look after the habitation, but also to sow winter crops, if any. Tent/Jhuggis are the most common features in places of stay. Most of the communities live in poor living conditions and are deprived of basic amenities, such as toilets, water, electricity, etc.

## **Recognition:**

The Narikuravars have been recognized as a Most Backward Class, but this status gave them limited access to education and employment. As a result of many collective efforts, today, the Narikuravar community celebrates their newly acquired Scheduled Tribe status. Through this ST status, after years of struggle, we can find developments in education, employment opportunities, livelihood, and other important necessities.

**Education:**

The children in the committee are unable to continue their education due to the non -availability of educational scholarship reaching them on time, and the communities inability to provide sufficient financial help for higher education. One of the basic rights available to all the children: in India is the Right to Education. But it is a sad state of commentary that a lot of societies remain unaware of these rights and suffer in crunching poverty. Narikuravar (Nomads) people is one such community that lives in such a dark age. The reason why this community never got much assistance is the lack of any systematic research on their Social, Economic and Educational status. It has been a major obstacle blocking any effort to assist the Narikuravars.

**Occupation:**

The occupation of the women to selling fancy items, Ornaments making, Grocery items, Tattoo and fish line. Considering the occupation of the women, the occupation that focussed on selling fancy items dominated over all the other categories of occupation. Most of their monthly income is between 2000 to 6000.

**Discrimination:**

Social issues encountered by the women that they faced the lack of appreciation in the family, women entrepreneur play twin role in home and business, male dominance is high, they are denied in taking decision, when compared with other women entrepreneurs in the work place, and that they are being harassed in the workplace.

**Identity:**

The Narikuravar accepted the government's programs, and obtained addresses that enabled them to acquire identification cards, like the 'aadhar' card, which gives them access to welfare benefits. Nevertheless, they also engaged in a continuous negotiation of their nomadism, declaring that their settlements are instrumental, even if they do not live in them.

**Conclusion:**

Gypsy community women have long cultural, artistic and humanitarian traditions. They are faced with discrimination and disadvantage at all levels, preventing them from attaining the quality of life in their own terms and does not see itself as hostile to mainstream society. They also face number of serious inequalities in relation to services in health, housing and education.

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