

A sociological Analysis of Problems and challenges of Devadasi Children. A Study of Ballari District.

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ABSTRACT

The recent trend speaks about the concept of development. From the past few years in sociological point of view the notable discussion going on women empowerment. In India women discriminated by economically, socially, culturally and educationally. Devadasi practice is one among the challenge in cultural point of view. Devadasi is a girl dedicated to worship and service of deity or a temple for the rest of her life. The dedication takes place in "pottukuttu" ceremony. It is considered similarly a marriage. It is a social evil and considered social stigma. In some ways devadasi women have the children with the relationship of a man. Hence, the present paper concentrating on Devadasi children, and their problem and challenges with a sociological point of view

Key words: Devadasi, Challenges, discrimination, pottukuttu.

I. INTRODUCTION

One of the significant developments in recent years is the growing awareness about the position of women. Women in India play an important role. Women of this country have been recognized globally with participating cultural, academic, political, economic spheres. In the world, apart from that in Indian women traditionally defined subordinate, passive and modest role have been played by her. Indian women facing many challenges since ancient period. For instance sati and child marriage along with other social evils practiced in the society. Ex:- ParDevadasi system and parasystem. Devadasi practice is not only a social evil but also a social problem and heinous practice. The word devadasi referred as "Servant of God"

Concept of Devadasi

The word Devadasi derived by Sanskrit origin. In which Deva means God and Dasi means

servant. A devadasi is a girl dedicated to worship and service of deity or a temple for the rest of her life and dedication takes place in Pottukuttu (tying a Tali – Mangala sutra) ceremony which is similar in some ways to marriage.

Devadasi practice in Karnataka

Devadasi system is not only found in Karnataka, but also practiced in south Indian states. Including Orissa.

In Karnataka, the devadasi system was followed for over 10 centuries. Chief among them was the Renuka Yellamma (of Saundatti and Chandragutti) cult.

Children of Devadasi

Recent information could have been found out that there is a change occurred in devadasi practice. Social activists, reformists and sociologists fought against the practice.

This brought many changes in the life style of devadasi. Subsequently some stories revealed that the Devadasi practice is a stigma of Indian social system. Keeping all these in mind the study includes to find out the social life of devadasi children.

History speaks for itself devadasi practice is a complex sexual phenomenon. Devadasi children doesn't have identities, sense of family,

Importance of the Study

The present research is a community study. Which includes children of Devadasi. Further the study would like to gain sociological importance in the field of Indian sociology.

Previously about 8 centuries ago Devadasi practice was considered prestigious ritual practice. Devadasi had a high level of social status and this system was attached to the temples, many Devadasi were considered prestigious women and they were performing dance and other

traditional art forms in the temple, when the invader's destroy the temples, devadasis fall out from the temple. Various scholars like Jogan Shankar, Amrit Srinivasan, Channanna Vailikar, Anil Chawal, Alfred Marglinand others work towards the Devadas system but neglected to study Devadasi children. Because children of Devadasis are considered special children of the society.

Research Methodology

The Present research includes several aspects, like research design, statement of the problem, study universe and for the purpose of analysis data both qualitative and quantitative method of research.

Objectives of the study

The Chief purpose with which this study is undertaken is to make a comprehensive and in-depth investigation of the constraints and motivational factor of devadasi children welfare and in relation for Devadasi development programs so as to render its operation on scientific lines.

The present study intends to look in to the status and position of the Devadasi children in contemporary society keeping this in mind the present research work is taken up with the following objectives.

- * Understand the socio economic condition of devadasi children
- * To find out the major challenges and problems being faced by the Devadasi children.
- * To analyze the awareness and knowledge of devadasis for providing health and educational facilities to their children

Study area and Sampling method

Karnataka is the eighth largest state in the country. The state is famous for its rich culture and languages. Its location is close to the nation's heart and boundaries extend to the coastal periphery. The state is in medieval level in developing sectors. Presently the state facing many problems and challenges, like regional disparity health problems etc,

This district is bounded by Raichur district on the north. Koppal district on the west, Chitradurga district and Davangere district on south and Anantapur district and Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh on the east.

In the present study there were 50 respondents distributed equally in seven taluk of Bellary district based on different geographic area

and numerical availability of the respondents.

Tools and techniques of data collection

Data will be collected from both primary and secondary sources. Primary data is collected from respondents. Using the Interview schedule with observation and case study technique. In addition to the primary data the secondary data also use for data collection by using the books, magazines, Government reports, etc.

Analysis of data

Several specific objectives of research study have been stated in this chapter. Data collection based on the objectives as this is an in depth study of sample of only district. This was decided rely upon simple and effective statistical techniques which are descriptive.

II. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

The present study deals with the following findings.

- Children's of Devadasis are in poor condition. Large number of them living below poverty line.
- Socially, Economically and educationally, culturally these children desperately need basic facilities.
- There must be separate governance or commission to study devadasi children and their background.
- There is no special concern for girls marriage in devadasi families
- Devadasi girl child suffering from sexual exploitation it is inevitable to measures has to be taken by the concerned authorities or the Government.
- Devadasi children lagging behind educationally, academically.
- There is a proper health assistance needed for the Devadasi children.
- There is a need to provide adequate education and health facilities to these special children.

In India there are several social evils Devadasi Practice is one among them. In the name of God Girls forced in to become a Devadasi. Some time these devadasis converted in to prostitutes. Though, these women's have the children. These children are very special in Indian Society, facing several social problems. There is a stigma attached to them considered as illegitimate birth. Proper guidance and comprehensive solution is needed to these special children and society accept them as one

among them.

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