

Anthropology, Health & Development

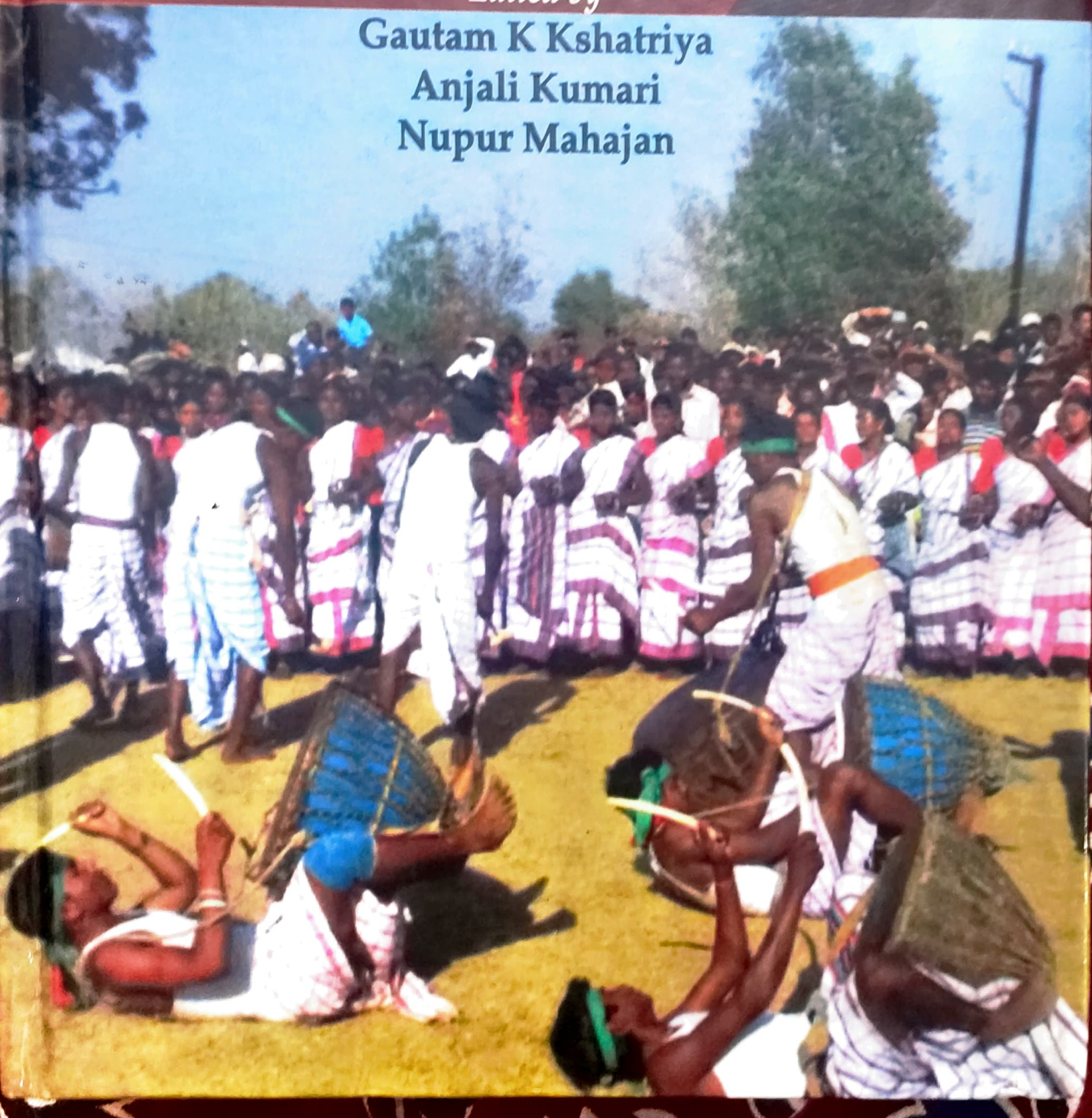
Trends and Future Perspectives

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Issues as Catalysts of Women Empowerment in SHGs - Ethnographic Study in the Villages of South 24-Parganas, West Bengal

Moumita Gupta & Abhijit Das

Preamble

Empowerment literally means “to invest with power” In the context of Women’s Empowerment, the term has come to denote women’s increased control over their own lives, bodies and environment (**Schuler, Islam & Rottach, 2002**).

Women Empowerment aims at realizing their identities, power and potentiality in all spheres of lives. But, the real empowerment of women is possible only when a woman has increased access to economic resources, more confidence, more self-motivation and more strength for entering into the power structure (**Narang, 2012**).

The empowerment of women through Self-help Groups would give benefits not only to the individual woman but also for the family and community as a whole through collective action for development.

Empowerment as a concept was introduced at the International Women’s Conference at Nairobi in 1985. The conference defined as a redistribution of social power and control of resources in favour of women. Women empowerment refers to an increase in the strength of women e.g. spiritual, political, social or economic (**Narang, 2012**). The year 2001 has been declared by the Govt. of India as ‘Women Empowerment Year’ to focus on a vision

Modern Issues

in Education



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Role of Education in Women Empowerment - An Empirical Study among Two Villages in South 24-Pgs., West Bengal

Moumita Gupta & Abhijit Das

Abstract

Education is the key factor for women empowerment because it enables them to respond to challenges, to confront their traditional role and change their life. Education educates a woman and helps her to realize that she is a vital part to the society. Occupational achievement, self-awareness and self-satisfaction are among the many things that will be ensured by effective use of education. The present study mainly depicts the picture of empowerment of women in few villages of South 24-Pargana district of West Bengal through the support for education. In order to collect the primary data for the present study, Participant Observation, Intensive Interview and Case Studies have been undertaken.

Most of the women in these villages came from the lower income class families where their parents are totally illiterate or poor educational background. They struggle enough to educate their children properly in order to prepare themselves to fight from enemies in future. This research paper discusses the impact of education on empowerment of women as well as the suggestion to improve the changes that need to be considered for women empowerment and economic development of the women. Findings of the study will show that educational qualification play significant role in Women Empowerment and it concludes that if women's empowerment is to be effective, it can be carried out only through the medium of education.

Keywords: *Education, Women, Empowerment, Village, Research, Challenge, Study.*