

## An overview of tribal society and the problem of virgin mothers

Mr. Sunil Babulal Uikey

Assistant Professor of Social work

Athawale Collage of Social Work Bhandara

### Summary

By sexually abusing tribal girls who are mired in illiteracy and poverty, the practice of making those 'virgin mothers' has increased significantly in tribal areas. This incident has created a new problem of virgin mothers in the tribal society. In the last few years, the number of virgin mothers has been increasing in Yavatmal, Thane, Nashik, Nandurbar and Dhule in Maharashtra, which has a large tribal population District. Contractors who get contract work come to the village, lure tribal girls with marriage, money, lure them and when their work is done they leave. Due to this incident, Kumari Mata has become a major social problem in the tribal community in this major district of Maharashtra. The Maharashtra government had assigned the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics in Pune to look into the matter as there were complaints from other districts in the state. The problem of virgin mothers has been created in the tribal society due to the harassment of contractors and immoral acts in the society. I have tried to review this question in this article.

### Preface:

The tribal community is an integral part of Indian society. Tribal tribes live in various states of India. There are 427 Scheduled Tribes in India. According to the 2011 census, the total population of tribal's in India is 10 crore 42 lakh 81 thousand 034. From time immemorial, a community of people living in the wilderness, in the desert, in the valleys is called a tribal. Tribal's are also called aborigines of the country and as per the provisions made in Articles 341 and 342 of the Indian Constitution, tribal communities are also referred to as 'Scheduled Tribes'. A tribal society living in a particular territory, speaking the same dialect, living the same cultural life; But there is a consolidation of local groups without letter recognition. In the last few years, people belonging to this primitive group, who are economically backward, have been largely exploited by non-tribal. The status of women in tribal communities varies from region to region. However, considering the status of women in tribal communities, decisions have to be made keeping in mind the attitude towards women in that community. Considering family organizations and marriage associations, it is found that the role of women in tribal society is no less than that of men. But as today's tribal society has come in contact with modern society, the visual tendencies of modern life have also entered tribal life. Therefore, today tribal women are getting secondary treatment like other societies. Even in tribal society today, woman has become an object of consumption. Many misconceptions are prevalent in tribal society today that women

are slaves of men, serving their husbands and tolerating injustice. Due to this, the condition of women in the tribal society has become very poor and the rate of physical and mental exploitation of tribal women has increased. The virgin mother is an unworthy and disgusting problem. I have tried to look at this issue in this article.

### **Objectives of the study**

- To study the problems created in the tribal community.
- To study the problems of virgin mothers in major states of India
- Trying to remedy the problem of virgin mothers

### **Problems of virgin mothers in tribal society: -**

Even after 70 years of independence, tribal society is still more distinct than other rural and urban communities. Over the last 70 years, India has witnessed massive industrialization and urbanization. Even the tribal community could not stay away from this process of modernization. The tribal community has also been connected to the cities due to the ease of transportation that has reached the tribal areas. Government schemes for primary schools, ashram schools, health centers, social welfare have also reached out to the tribal's to some extent. But with the help of these schemes, the lifestyle of the tribal community has not changed much. Because even today the tribal society is entangled in norms and traditions, so this society could not touch modernity. Traders, moneylenders, contractors, bureaucrats took advantage of the tribal society being ignorant and closed minded. Tribal's are being exploited and deceived by these people. Instead of interacting with the people of the tribal community in a spirit of goodwill, cooperation and friendship, they have emphasized on exploiting the tribal community more and more. Tribal women and girls have been sexually exploited on a large scale, taking advantage of their poverty and ignorance. That is why the problem of virgin mothers seems to have become more and more prevalent in the tribal society. Family and marriage are as important in tribal society as they are in Indian society. Motherhood is of particular importance in the case of women. However, it is a social sign that a woman gets this motherhood from a man who is close to her in marriage. Widows and virgins, on the other hand, are considered unholy, unworthy and stigmatized, and motherhood is considered a curse. Girls who have had sexual intercourse with other men before marriage are called 'virgin mothers'.

### **Problems of Indian Tribal's and Virgin Mothers: -**

In India, the proportion of virgins is higher in tribal communities than in rural and urban communities. Bureaucrats and contractors entered the tribal areas for the purpose of industrialization of rural areas, exploration of mineral resources and implementation of government schemes. Taking advantage of the poverty of the tribal girls, their simplicity and simplicity, these contractors started sexually abusing the tribal women and virgin girls. Instead of

taking responsibility for these girls after they became pregnant, he left them to their fate and fled. That is why the problem of virgin mothers has arisen in the tribal society. A survey conducted by Sunita Sharma and Amarendra Kishor in Odisha states that there are about 40,000 virgin mothers in the tribal community in Odisha. Pvt. Of Phule-Ambade Kar Mahila Prabodhini at Pandharkavada in Yavatmal district. Dr. Lila Bhele and a researcher on women's issues. A survey of virgin mothers conducted by Seema Sakhare in Zari-Jamani taluka has found that there are about 200 virgin mothers in the tribal community.

Taking a teenage girl to a tribal trader's house and handing her over to him, forcing the girls to have sex with Make contractor on wages or even knowing that their daughter is unknowingly falling victim to such a sexual relationship, the parents ignore it selfishly, giving false promises of marriage. It is a common practice in tribal society to allow these girls to be consumed by pretending or to hand over their minor daughter to their friends or superiors or sell them outright. Is considered to be a means of earning by. Hunger, constant hard work, neglect, contempt, hatred, domestic violence is the result of the fact that the number of virgin mothers is increasing in the tribal society today. In the tribal areas, many poor tribal girls are surrendering their bodies to these people out of ignorance and without knowing the consequences. Such girls do not have the ability to resist, nor do they have the ability to demand justice. Taking advantage of this ignorance of tribal girls, Kovalaya tribal girls have to endure the atrocities of blood and legal relatives, landlords, local politicians, traders, bureaucrats, as well as NGO workers, Naxalites, terrorists and live with the stigma of virgin mothers for life.

This problem of virgin mothers is not limited to Maharashtra, but the problem of virgin mothers is especially found in the tribal communities of states like Odisha, Assam, Karela, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra in India. The problem of virgin mothers is prevalent in the following states.

### **State of Odisha**

There are a total of 32 districts in the state of Odisha and 62 tribal tribes are living in these different districts. Koraput, Raigad, Naurangpur, Boudh, Malkangiri, Kalahadin, Nuapada, Phulbani, Keonjhar, Sundergarh and Mayurganj districts have the highest number of tribals. There are also Santhal, Jaong, Bhuang, Saora, Bond and Bathudi tribes in the state. According to a survey conducted by Sulakshmi NGO in Kalahadi, Koraput, Bolaginar, Raigad, Malkangiri, Nuwapada, Kendrapada, Sonpur, Sundergad, Phulbani and Bargad districts of Odisha between 2004 and 2006, there are about 40,000 virgin mothers in the district. Sometimes by force, sometimes by luring them, tempting them and forcing these girls to become mothers. These virgin mothers received no sympathy or support from society. So, all they got was neglect and loneliness.

### **State of Jharkhand**

The state of Jharkhand was formed by dividing the state of Bihar. The state of Jharkhand has large deposits of mineral resources like uranium, mica, bauxite, granite, gold, silver, graphite, magnetite, dolomite, coal etc. According to a research report by a non-governmental organization based in Miracle India, Delhi, Jharkhand has about 30,000 virgin mothers, with the highest proportion of tribals. Tribal girls in the state are being sexually exploited and are being sent to foreign countries for prostitution. The Jharkhand government has undertaken the task of constructing shelters for 30,000 virgin mothers in the state.

### **State of Kerala**

There are hundreds of tribal virgin mothers in Tirunelli alone in the Wayanad district of Kerala. According to a survey conducted by a non-governmental organization, there are more than 400 tribal virgin mothers in Wayanad and Palakkad districts. All these virgin mothers in Kerala are victims of sexual abuse and are only 11 years old. These virgin mothers have been sexually exploited by wealthy people in the society, traders, moneylenders, contractors, officials by luring them for marriage or love and forcing them to become virgin mothers. Problems such as poverty, prostitution, indebtedness, etc. have been created in the lives of these girls.

### **State of Madhya Pradesh**

The state of Madhya Pradesh is mentioned as the largest state in India in terms of area. The tribal population in Madhya Pradesh is significant. The major tribal tribes like Gond, Bhil, Korku, Baiga, Sahariya, Kol, Bhariya etc. live in this state. According to the 2011 census, the largest tribal population in Madhya Pradesh is the Bhil tribe. Less than that belongs to Gond, Kale, Kareku, Sahariya and Baiga tribes. Jhabua, Dhar, Barwani, Khargone, Dindori, Chhindwara, Mandla, Betul, Seoni and Shahdol districts of Madhya Pradesh have the highest number of tribals. The Bhil, Gond, Korku and Sahariya tribes of Madhya Pradesh have a large number of virgin mothers. There is no record of these virgins at the government level. However, according to a survey conducted by some NGOs, the number of working mothers in the tribal community of Madhya Pradesh is around 400 to 500.

### **State of Chhattisgarh**

Tribal tribes in the state of Chhattisgarh are distinguished from other tribals in India by their distinctive lifestyle and traditional culture. There are a total of 42 tribal tribes in the state. However, the major tribes are Gande, Kanwar, Binjwar, Bhaina, Bhatra, Uravan, Munda, Kamar, Halba, Baiga, Bhariya, Negesia, Manjwar, Kharia and Dhanwar. Tribes are mentioned. Abuzmadia, Kamar, Pahadi Korba, Baiga and Birhare are the most backward tribes in the state. Contractors, moneylenders and officials have lured girls from the tribal community in Chhattisgarh and made them virgin mothers by sexually abusing them.

### **State of Maharashtra**

Maharashtra is considered as a reformed state among all the above states. There are Gond, Warli, Katkari, Kolam, Banjara, Mahadev Koli, Bhill, Thakru, Pardhan, Halba, Halbi etc. tribes in Maharashtra. In the tribal communities of Thane, Nashik, Dhule, Nandurbar, Gadchiroli, Yavatmal districts of Maharashtra, the proportion of virgin mothers is higher. Recently, the issue of 400 virgin mothers in Jharijamani taluka of Yavatmal district came up for discussion. In the tribal community, contractors who have been given jobs in Katranta come to the village, lure tribal girls for marriage and money, establish physical relations with them, and when their work in the village is completed, they leave each other. This has created a social problem of virginity in the tribal community in Yavatmal district of Maharashtra.

### **Problems created in the lives of virgin mothers in tribal communities**

Apart from other states, contractors, truck drivers, village moneylenders and some hooligans working in the tribal areas created only in the lives of tribal virgin mothers in Maharashtra took advantage of the ignorance, naive nature of the tribal girls and their situation. After the incident that took place at an unknown age, these girls were rejected by the society, beaten by their families and even ignored by the government. Even today, such a virgin mother is living a life with her unborn child in a dilapidated house. There is no means of survival and no guarantee of security. Zari taluka comes under the jurisdiction of Pandharkavada Tribal Development Project Office. From this project office, various schemes are implemented by the government for the tribals of Zari. But neither virgin mothers nor their children can avail the benefits of this scheme. Because they don't have father's name, caste certificate. No ration card, no Aadhaar card. In some cases, an attempt was made to obtain a caste certificate by naming the same Isma who became a virgin mother. But since the 'father' is a non-tribal, many of the children of the virgin mother have also abandoned the tribal scheme.

On the other hand, the children here also have some problems. These mothers, who gave birth at a young age, did not know how to take care of their babies, so their children grew up somehow, but now there is a big gap in education. The name of the school is not the father's name. Caste certificate is required. Some of them named their children after their grandparents. Some of them put their children in the school by naming themselves (mother) instead of father. Like Narayan Surve's poem, many of these virgin mothers sent their children to school saying, 'Master, take your name'. But even after going to school, the question of 'who is your father' is making these children reluctant to live. Many such questions are bothering these virgin mothers. The real question before them is who will answer them.

## **Conclusion**

The number of cases of sexual exploitation of tribal girls, who are mired in illiteracy and poverty and forcing them to become virgin mothers, are on the rise. The Government of Maharashtra has now taken a strict stand against the foreign contractors who are fleeing such tribal girls as virgins. Similar to the Yavatmal district which came to light due to the Kumari Mata case in the state, the search for Kumari Mata was also done in the tribal districts of Thane, Nashik, Nandurbar and Dhule. The government tried to focus on this issue as there was a lot of criticism on social media and current affairs papers. Also Shiv Sena MLA Dr. Neelam Gorhe had also raised this issue in the Assembly. Against this backdrop, the then Tribal Development Minister of Maharashtra, Vishnu Savara, held a separate meeting on the issue and discussed the issue of how to stop the exploitation of tribal girls and rehabilitate existing virgin mothers, how to solve the problem of their children's education, etc. . In order to track down the culprits involved in such cases, the government has decided to register contractors traveling from the state and the district to the gram panchayat, to conduct DNA testing of the accused, but no action has been taken against the culprits.

The forest is not new to these girls who live in huts full of rubbish. Helping others, being honest with everyone is the basic nature of tribal society. Seeing this, some people lure girls into their traps for as little as ten rupees and exploit them. These girls lack education on the one hand and lack of knowledge of the outside world on the other hand. Many such victimized girls are still living alone in tribal areas. When the case arises, the regime wakes up and when the case cools down, the regime forgets. Virgin mothers, however, have to live a normal life.

## **References**

1. B. K. Khadse, (2008), Jati wa Varga: Bhartiya Aadiwasi,
2. Nashik, Y. C. M. O. U. Publication, p. 42.
3. Aaglave Pradeep, (2010), 'Aadiwasi Samajache prashna
4. The State of Unwed Mothers of Orissa: Possibilities of
5. Their Rehabilitation and Prevention to Mar This
6. Malpractice, Research Project of Sulaxmi, Orissa, 2004-2006.
7. 10. The Rediff Special, Venu Menon, Unwed Mothers may spark tribal rebellion in Kerala.
8. Resources, (Supported by Jamsetji Tata Trust), Hyderabad,
9. Ansari Mubarak, (2014), 'Look in to Unwed Tribal Mothers
10. Website & newspaper articals