# CHAPTER V

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Involved in an unbelievable variety and multiplicity of activities, millions of poor Indian women live below the poverty-line and work, for the purpose of providing for the survival needs of their families. Their multiple roles as workers, child bearers, rearers and family maintainers through a variety of overlapping activities account for much debated invisibility of their unpaid labour. There is a tendency to view women's unpaid work in household, agriculture and allied spheres as having less or no value resulting in an underestimation of their economic role.

The quantification of these invisible multiple roles and productive inputs in terms of contributed work hours has neither been attempted nor recorded in the Census. Attention needs to be paid to identify and impute value to women's unpaid work because support derived from this work generally provides the very basis for family survival particularly amongst the extremely poor. The policy makers are largely unaware of the dimensions and extent of rural women's work or they choose not to notice it. The result of that ignorance or disregard of the problem causes omission of relevant policies. There is need to gather enough data to sensitize planners and policy makers to the massive contribution of women who play a pivotal role in subsistence activities of their families especially in rural and tribal areas.

Considerable research has been done using various techniques of quantification of women's work time and giving it monetary value in other countries. Concensus is still awaited as to which technique has been perfected. In India, there is virtually not much empirical evidence in standardizing monetary valuation techniques of women's work time which is multifarious and overlapping in nature.

The status of women in a society is the most important criterion for estimating with precision the degree of civilization attained by that particular society. A report of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (1975) mentions that generally the relationship between earning activity and status and autonomy within the family for the woman depends to a great extent on the status of her earning capacity. Increased contribution through economic role is often considered to be an essential precondition for improving women's status and household development.

Household production results in feeding, clothing, sheltering, nurturing family members thus fulfilling a vital role in contributing to the welfare of the family. The economic status of woman is now accepted as an indicator of household and society's stage of development. The additional income earned by women enables a family to consume more goods and services, enjoy better health status and living patterns, in other words overall development of the households.

Tribals are the poorest unit of society. Though more than four hundred tribal communities live at present in India, every tribal group has its own demographic, socio-economic and cultural background. By studying the lives of one group of tribal women one cannot make general conclusions for the rest of the tribal groups. Tribals of hilly area lead tougher life than those from plain areas. Gaddi tribal area of Himachal Pradesh is backward due to difficult terrain, harsh climate, poor communication links and lack of exposure to outside world. The 'Gaddi' women are mainly responsible for carrying out multitude of productive tasks. Some 'Gaddi' families of tribal area of Himachal Pradesh have been studied by Anthropologists but neglected by Social Scientists. Hence, there is dearth of information regarding women's status and household development of this tribe.

**Statement of the Problem**

The present investigation is an attempt to determine the impact of economic role performance on household development and status of 'Gaddi' tribal women of Himachal Pradesh.

**Objectives of the Study**

The specific objectives formulated to give direction to the investigation were :

1. To identify demographic and socio-economic characteristics of 'Gaddi' women and their households.

2. To examine the occupational pattern and the extent of women's participation in terms of time spent on :

a) Household tasks
b) Agricultural tasks
c) Allied tasks
d) Gainful employment

3. To estimate the economic role performance and its contribution.

4. To assess the status of tribal women and identify factors contributing to it.

5. To ascertain the level of household development and the influencing factors.

6. To investigate the influence of personal, family and situational variables on economic role performance of women.

7. To determine the impact of economic role on :

a) Household development
b) Status of women

**Assumptions of the Study**

The study is based on the assumptions that :

i. Due to modernization, tribal community is in the process of change.

ii. Tribal women perform various productive tasks and differ from each other in status.

**Delimitations of the Study**

i. The sample consisted of 200 tribal women only.

ii. The data were collected during lean agricultural period.

## Methodology

Descriptive type of survey design was considered to be appropriate for this study.

### Variables

The variables selected for the present research consist of

a. Dependent Variables

(i) Status of women (ii) Household development.

b. Independent Variables

(i) Primary variables i.e., Economic role performance by women (ii) Secondary variables i.e., Personal, Family and Situational variables.

### Selection of the Sample

The study was carried out in the notified 'Gaddi' tribal area in Bharmour sub-division of district Chamba, Himachal Pradesh. A multistage purposive cum random sampling method was followed to select the study area, villages, households and respondents. The Bharmour sub-division can be divided into 5 areas. These are named as : Bharmour, Kugti, Samra, Tundah and Holi.

List of inhabited villages in selected areas was obtained from revenue records Bharmour. List of women employees was obtained from various government, semi-government and private

organisations. A final list of selected villages was prepared in consultation with Block-development officer Bharmour, keeping in view the availability of employed respondents. Thus, twenty eight villages were selected. The list of households was prepared with the help of Gram Sevika which was stratified according to employment status of respondents. A sample of 200 respondents (100 employed and 100 non-employed) was selected.

**Tool Construction**

An interview schedule supported by an observation record sheet was prepared keeping in view the objectives of the study. The interview schedule comprised of five sections. Section (i) and (ii) contained questions to elicit information about personal and family characteristics, migration pattern, exposure to mass-media and participation of respondents in development programmes. Section (iii) included questions related to time utilization profile of respondents. Information on frequency of performance of various activities and help received by the tribal women were also obtained. Questions related to occupational pattern and overall economic contribution through market and non-market work were also included in this section. Section (iv) consisted of questions to ascertain status of women through various indicators; decision making pattern, age at marriage authority of distribution and supervision of work at home, freedom and control over use of money, saving pattern and use of leisure time. Section (v) contained questions on housing conditions, health status, consumption expenditure pattern, food adequacy and material possessions of respondent households.

Time Observation Record Sheet

It was prepared to record observations of the time utilization pattern of the respondents. This consisted of a detailed list of categories of tasks that a tribal woman is likely to pursue each day.

Pre-Testing of the Instrument

The interview schedule and time observation record sheet were pre-tested on 30 randomly selected,employed and non-employed tribal women from non-sampled area. On the basis of its results, required changes were made for preparing the final list.

**Method of Data Collection**

The data were gathered personally by the investigator from employed and non-employed respondents using interview method supported by observations on interview schedule and observation record sheet from August to December 1993.

**Analysis of Data**

The analysis was done by using both descriptive (Frequency, Percentage, Mean and Standard Deviation) and relational statistics (Chi-square, Z-test, Pearson Correlation Coefficient, 't' test, Multivariate test of Significance, Univariate 'F' test, Scheffe's procedure and Multiple Regression Analysis). The following techniques were specifically used to estimate the value of non-market work and economic role performed by employed and non-employed respondents.

(i) Market Alternative - Individual Function Cost

(ii) Opportunity Cost

## Major Findings of the Study

### Description of the Sample

1. On the whole, sample comprised of fifty per cent employed and 50 per cent non-employed respondents. The mean age of respondents was 34.70 years. Irrespective of employment status, 63.5 per cent of respondents were illiterate. Majority of respondents were married. Amongst employed respondents 27 per cent were widows and amongst non-employed respondents 5 per cent were widows. Sixty two per cent of respondents belonged to nuclear family type. The mean family size of employed respondents was 5.10 members and of non-employed respondents 6.50.

Mean monthly family income of employed respondents was Rs. 3095.90 per month and that of non-employed respondents Rs. 2665.20 per month. About one half of the respondents from the entire sample belonged to families employed in various jobs in government and private organizations. One fourth of the respondents belonged to casual/ agricultural labourer category and remaining one fourth to sheep and goat rearing, farming and business as main family occupation. Nearly four-fifths of respondent families belonged to higher caste. More than half of the sample households had marginal land holding size of less than 0.5 acres.

2. Fifty nine per cent of respondents had medium level of exposure to mass-media. Twenty nine per cent amongst employed and 21 per cent among non-employed respondents had high level of exposure. Radio was the most common source available to respondents followed by television. Printed material was least used by non-employed respondents (7.0 per cent) as compared to employed respondents (37.0 per cent). Forty four per cent of respondents had medium level of extension contact. Maximum contact of respondents was with Gram Sevika (66.5 per cent) and nurses (65 per cent). Majority of respondents were aware of various development programmes such as Mahila Mandals (71.50 per cent), Anganwadi (68 per cent), adult education programmes (42 per cent) and income generating programmes (30 per cent). Non-employed respondents (28 per cent) showed high level of participation in development programmes than employed respondents (19 per cent). Lack of time as a constraint in participation in development programmes was opined by 72 per cent employed and 60 per cent non-employed respondents.

3. In the sample 23 families were migrating every year for a period of 5-6 months (6 per cent amongst employed and 17 per cent amongst non-employed households). Maximum migration took place in winter season (65.21 per cent) followed by in both the seasons (30.43 per cent). The most important reason of migration was attributed to harsh climate for flocks of goat/sheep and humans by 73.91 per cent respondents. Migratory families worked on their lands at the place of migration (43.47 per cent)

followed by work in other's homes as servants (39.13 per cent). About one-fourth respondents reported that workload increased at home as there were less members to share it.

**Occupation Profile of Employed Respondents**

4. Among employed respondents about one-half of respondents were working as Anganwadi helpers, sweepers and peons. Next popular vocation was teachers (23 per cent), nurses (10 per cent) and Anganwadi teachers (9 per cent). Nearly two-fifths of respondents were employed since last 5 years. Seventy per cent respondents worked for the whole year as full time workers. Number of hours spent in market work ranged between 2 to 6 hours or more. The monthly income earned by respondents through various occupations ranged between Rs. 200 to Rs. 3052 per month.

5. Sixty three per cent respondents did not undergo any special training for their employment. Mass-media and extension change agents did not play any role as a source of training for employment. Seventy nine per cent employed respondents considered it necessary that wages should be increased, 49 per cent respondents reported that there should be more promotions and 69 per cent desired that household work should be shared. On the whole, 94 per cent of respondents opined their satisfaction from participation in market work. Eighty three per cent respondents felt that they enjoyed better status due to their participation in market work.

**Role of Respondents in Household, Agriculture and Allied Activities**

6. Child care, meal preparation, care of clothes, care of house, fetching of water and fuel wood were women's responsibilities irrespective of employment status. These tasks except fetching fuel wood and care of clothes, were performed almost daily by a vast majority of respondents. Shopping and account keeping was an occasional task in majority of households. Help was received from daughter, sister-in-law and mother-in-law in tasks like child care, meal preparation, care of house, fetching water and fuel wood. Some help from husbands was received in tasks like meal preparation, child care, fetching fuel and shopping by employed respondents.

7. Thirty four per cent employed and 77 per cent non-employed respondents were responsible for agricultural tasks which were mostly performed daily by non-employed and frequently by employed respondents. The respondents had no role in the tasks of ploughing and seed-sowing whereas, they played an important role in seed bed preparation, weeding, harvesting and transportation of grains. Participation of respondents was low in application of chemical fertilizer. Nearly one-half (49 per cent) of non-employed and 34 per cent employed respondents received help from family members in carrying out these operations.

8. Animal care and fetching fodder were female dominated tasks. Thirty per cent employed and fifty seven per cent non-employed respondents were responsible for these tasks and performed them daily. Forty four per cent employed and 69 per

cent non-employed respondents were responsible for fetching fodder. Women had almost no role in goat and sheep rearing.

9. Allied activities under study included spinning, weaving, kitchen gardening and tailoring. Eighty per cent of employed and 88 per cent of non-employed respondents were responsible for spinning, whereas 45 per cent employed and 75 per cent non-employed respondents were responsible and participated in weaving. Women were involved in all sub-tasks related to spinning and weaving and men were mostly engaged in weaving only.

10. Kitchen gardening was a common allied activity in which women dominated and men and children also contributed towards it. Tailoring was a weekly task pursued by 39 per cent employed and 35 per cent non-employed respondents.

**Time Utilization Profile of Respondents**

11. Time Spent on Household Tasks : Maximum time was spent on meal preparation and its related tasks per day by both employed (191.9 mins.) and non-employed respondents (205.3 mins.). Employment status of respondents accounted for significant differences in time spent on tasks such as care of clothes ('t' value = -5.46 Sig. 0.01); house ('t' value = - 5.794, Sig. at 0.01); fetching fuel ('t' value = -4.957, Sig. 0.01) and overall time spent on all household tasks ('t' value = -8.452, Sig. 0.01).

12. Multivariate test of significance revealed significant differences in time spent on household tasks due to age of

respondents (Pillais 'F' value = 3.02080, Sig. 0.01). Scheffe's test indicated that young homemakers spent significantly more time on household work than middle and old aged homemakers. Variation was also observed due to employment status of respondents (Pillais 'F' value = 67.10878, Sig. 0.01). Significant differences were found in time spent on household activities by respondents due to family size ('F' value = 4.42403 Sig. 0.01). Scheffe's test revealed that maximum average time of 468.76 min. per day was spent on household work by respondents from medium size families, which was significantly more than that spent by small family size respondents i.e. 403.95 min. per day. No other personal, family and situational variable influenced, time spent by respondents on household tasks.

13. Time Spent on Agricultural Tasks : It varied over the year as different tasks were carried out during lean and peak farming period. Employed respondents spent significantly less time than non-employed respondents ('t' value = - 6.15 Sig. at 0.01 level) during lean season. Variation was observed in mean time spent in agricultural task by employed (198.50 min. per day) and non-employed respondents (250.40 min. per day) during peak period.

14. Multivariate test of significance revealed significant difference in time spent on agricultural work due to employment status of respondents ('F' value = 67.10878 Sig. 0.01). Significant differences were observed in time spent on agricultural activities according to educational level of respondents ('F' value = 3.67388 Sig. 0.01). Scheffe's test

revealed that illiterate respondents spent significantly more time in agricultural work (131.02 min. per day) than those having highest education level (43.61 min. per day). Significant differences were found in time spent by respondents on agricultural tasks according to family type ('F' value = 3.05609 Sig. 0.01). Scheffe's test revealed that respondents from joint families spent significantly more time (139.01 min. per day) than those from nuclear families (95.44 min. per day). Significant differences were revealed in time spent by respondents on agricultural tasks according to family size ('F' value = 4.42403 Sig. 0.01). Scheffe's test indicated that respondents from large family size spent significantly more time (163.48 min. per day) than those belonging to small (85.64 min. per day) and medium family size (111.38 min. per day). Significant differences were revealed in time spent by respondents on agricultural tasks according to family income ('F' value = 3.2420 Sig. 0.01). Scheffe's test revealed that maximum average time was spent on agricultural activities by respondents who belonged to minimum family income group and vice-versa. Significant differences were found in time spent by respondents on agricultural tasks according to family occupation ('F' value = 3.36214 Sig. 0.01). Differences were significant in time spent by respondents from family occupation of agricultural labour (161.62 min. per day) than those from service as main family occupation (76.51 min. per day). Significant differences were found in time spent by respondents on agricultural tasks due to participation in community and development programmes ('F' value = 3.80224 Sig. 0.01).

15. Time Spent on Allied Task : Employed respondents spent significantly less time than non-employed respondents on various allied tasks ('t' value = -2.375, Sig. 0.05). Multivariate test of significance did not show significant differences in time spent by respondents on allied tasks due to personal, family and situational variables except employment status (Pillais 'F' value = 67.10878, Sig. 0.01).

16. The total time utilized was categorized according to time spent on each productive and non-productive task per day by employed and non-employed respondents.

17. Mean time spent in all non-productive tasks i.e. personal care ('t' value = -3.88 Sig. 0.01); leisure time ('t' value = -4.84 Sig. 0.01); rest and sleep ('t' value = -7.32 Sig. 0.01); social activities ('t' value = -6.425 Sig. 0.01); miscellaneous/unreported time ('t' value = -6.571 Sig. 0.01) except for religious activities was significantly higher in case of non-employed respondents. On the whole, employed respondents spent significantly more time in productive work which included time spent on employment and travel time than non-employed respondents ('t' value = 10.03 Sig. 0.01).

**Monetary Valuation of Non-market Work and Economic Role Performed by Tribal Women**

18. The valuation of non-market work and overall economic role performance was carried out mainly by two methods (i) Market Alternative Individual Function Cost (ii) Opportunity Cost.

19. Value of non-market work by Market - Alternative - Individual Function Cost Method was Rs. 602.10 for employed and Rs. 896.10 for non-employed respondent and by Opportunity Cost Method, it was Rs. 620.12 for employed and Rs. 910.45 for non-employed respondents.

20. Further analysis of Market Alternative Individual Function Cost Method was done to assess the variation in monetary value of time spent in each productive task. It was found to be highest for meal preparation both for employed (Rs. 251.4) and non-employed respondents (Rs. 269.1). It was followed by animal care i.e. Rs. 80.1 for employed and Rs. 178.8 for non-employed respondents.

21. On the whole, monetary value of various non-market tasks was more for non-employed than employed respondents.

22. Economic role of respondents (including value of market and non-market work) by Market Alternative Individual Function Cost Method was estimated to be Rs. 1982.86 for employed and Rs. 896.10 for non-employed respondents; by Opportunity Cost Method it was Rs. 2000.88 for employed and Rs. 910.45 for non-employed respondents.

23. Market-Alternative-Individual Function Cost Method was finally selected in the entire analysis of data. The overall economic role was reflected in money value for market and non-market work for both employed and non-employed respondents.

24. Economic contribution through non-market work to total average family income was higher for non-employed respondents (25.16 per cent) than employed respondents (16.28 per cent). Economic contribution of employed respondents through market work to total family income was 37.32 per cent. Majority of respondents (39 per cent), engaged in market work belonged to minimum family income group of Rs. 1500/- per month followed by 28 per cent respondents who belonged to maximum family income group of Rs. 4501/- per month and above. Their contribution was observed to be 55.9 per cent and 41.40 per cent to total family income respectively.

25. Total economic contribution of tribal respondents through market and non-market work to total family income was 53.60 per cent by employed and 25.16 per cent by non-employed respondents.

26. The total economic contribution was further categorized into low (below Rs. 1000 per month) and high (Above Rs. 1000 month). Eighty nine per cent employed respondents performed high economic role, whereas, 81 per cent non-employed respondents performed low economic role.

27. Higher economic contribution of women led to better personal status of women ('r' value = 0.4988 Sig. 0.01) and household development ('r' value = 0.5244 Sig. 0.01).

**Status of 'Gaddi' Women**

28. Among the indicators of status of women, differences were found between employed and non-employed respondents. Early marriage was prevalent amongst 'Gaddis'. Seventy seven per cent employed and 91 per cent non-employed respondents were married by the age of 20 years. Twenty per cent amongst employed and only 7 per cent amongst non-employed respondents were married between age group of 21 to 25 years.

29. Almost all respondents believed in black magic, evil spirits and visited priests for cure of diseases and visited qualified doctors only in case of serious illness.

30. Ninety six per cent respondents believed in small family size. More of employed (92 per cent) than non-employed respondents (73 per cent) adopted family planning methods.

31. Leisure time availability was an indicator of status of women. Mean leisure time available to employed respondents was comparatively less (67.95 min. per day) than non-employed respondents (94.80 min. per day). Knitting (86.5 per cent) and spinning (84.0 per cent) were most popular leisure time activities.

32. Irrespective of employment status as high as 92.5 per cent respondents from the entire sample had freedom to spend money. Eighty four per cent amongst employed and 55 per cent amongst non-employed respondents had some saving in their names.

33. Seventeen per cent amongst employed and only 2 per cent amongst non-employed respondents had maintained separate account. On the whole, employed respondents had not only more freedom to spend but also control over use of money, more knowledge of different modes of saving and a larger number of them had separate accounts than non-employed respondents.

34. Forty six per cent non-employed respondents observed age old traditions and customs 'always' and only 10 per cent employed respondents did so.

35. Fifty six per cent employed respondents had authority to distribute and supervise work at home 'always' and only 33 per cent non-employed respondents enjoyed this authority 'always'.

36. Decision Making Practices of Respondents

Personal Matters : Irrespective of employment status, respondents had almost no say in matters such as marriage, choice of bridegroom and number of children.

37. Decisions related to type of employment, choice of work and place of work were taken independently by 61 to 62 per cent employed respondents and jointly by 70 to 72 per cent non-employed respondents.

38. Fifty five to 63 per cent employed respondents took independent decisions about social and community participation, whereas, 40 to 50 per cent non-employed respondents took joint decisions in these matters.

39. Family Matters : Seventy nine per cent employed and 57 per cent non-employed respondents took independent decisions in health care related matters of all family members.

40. Decisions related to education of children and its related aspects were taken independently by 51 to 55 per cent employed and only 10 to 13 per cent non-employed respondents.

41. Decisions related to family expenditures, control over cash, repayment of credit, amount to be saved were taken independently by 51 to 66 per cent employed and 16 to 29 per cent non-employed respondents.

42. Decisions related to expenditure on durable items such as utensils, television and purchase of ornaments were taken independently by 41 to 64 per cent employed and 6 to 25 per cent non-employed respondents.

43. Farm Matters : Majority of decisions related to farm matters such as expenditure on farm tools and equipment and freedom of decision regarding farming practices were taken jointly by both employed and non-employed respondents. On the whole, more number of employed respondents took independent decisions, whereas, least number of non-employed respondents took independent decisions in these matters.

44. On the whole, employed respondents perceived less hindrances in their decision making role than non-employed respondents.

45. On the basis of the above indicators status of women was categorized at three levels. Majority of respondents among employed (59 per cent) and non-employed (63 per cent) categories belonged to medium level of status. Thirty six per cent among employed and 4 per cent among non-employed respondents belonged to high level of status.

46. Status of women was significantly influenced by factors such as age of respondents (Chi-square value = 24.526 Sig. 0.01), education of respondents (Chi-square value = 14.351 Sig. 0.05), employment status of respondents (Chi-square value = 46.362 Sig. 0.01), marital status of respondents (Chi-square value = 42.973 Sig. 0.01), economic role of women (Chi-square value = 47.234 Sig. 0.01), family type (Chi-square value = 15.400 Sig. 0.01), main family occupation (Chi-square value = 23.250 Sig. 0.01) participation in development programmes (Chi-square value = 6.934 Sig. 0.05). But no association of status of women was found between family income, land holding size and caste.

47. Employed respondents had significantly higher status than non-employed respondents ('t' value = 8.044 Sig. 0.01).

48. When strength of variables was determined through Multiple Regression Analysis, employment status, age, economic role, education of respondents, marital status of respondents and family type emerged as key determinants of status of women with coefficient of determination to be 58.961 percentage.

**Household Development**

49. Household development was assessed on the basis of selected indicators and impact of respondents' economic contribution towards it. Housing conditions was an indicator of development which was studied for quality of housing and available facilities. Forty three per cent amongst employed and 13 per cent among non-employed respondents resided in 'Semi-Pucca' (some what strong) or 'Pucca' (concrete houses). Seventy six per cent employed and 46 per cent non-employed respondents had drinking water facility in and around their houses. Majority of houses were well maintained and had electricity supply irrespective of employment status of respondents.

50. General health status of respondents and their family members was fairly good. Incidences of illness were rare both amongst employed and non-employed respondents. Eighty one per cent employed and 56 per cent non-employed respondents reported that their children were immunized with complete essential doses.

51. Tribal households consumed mostly home grown cereals, pulses, vegetables etc. Their diet was cereal based with sparing use of other food groups. The quality of food intake was evaluated on the basis of adequacy of calories in diet per consumption unit which was compared with recommended dietary allowances of I.C.M.R. 1993. Calorie requirement was adequate in case of ninety two per cent employed and 86 per cent non-employed respondent households.

52. Per unit expenditure on food was Rs. 225.81 for employed and Rs. 206.98 for non-employed respondent households. The expenditure was higher on items such as housing, clothing, health, transportation, celebrations, fuel and electricity for employed than non-employed category. Employed households spent almost double the amount on education of their children (Rs. 82.96 per unit) than non-employed households (Rs. 44.03 per unit).

53. Forty five per cent employed and 27 per cent non-employed respondents reported that they had adequate savings, whereas, 6 per cent employed and 33 per cent non-employed respondents revealed that they had no savings.

54. More number of material possessions were owned by employed respondent households due to contribution of women's earnings than non-employed respondent households.

55. Leisure time availability was also used as an indicator of household development as discussed earlier. pp.

56. On the whole, housing conditions, health status, quality of food, income, expenditure, savings and material possessions were more and better in case of large percentage of employed respondents than non-employed respondents. On the basis of these indicators household development was categorized at three levels. Majority of employed (57 per cent) and non-employed (72 per cent) respondents belonged to medium level of household development. Thirty five per cent amongst employed and 20 per

cent amongst non-employed respondents belonged to high level of household development.

57. The perception of contribution towards household development in preparing, providing and maintaining basic necessities was opined more by employed than non-employed respondents.

58. Household development was significantly influenced by age of respondents (Chi-square value = 9.590 Sig. 0.05), education of respondents (Chi-square value = 53.082 Sig. 0.01), economic role of respondents (Chi-square value = 49.971 Sig. 0.01), family type (Chi-square value = 15.1835 Sig. 0.01), family occupation (Chi-square value = 30.392 Sig. 0.01), family income (Chi-square value = 93.245 Sig. 0.01) and mass-media exposure (Chi-square value = 6.611 Sig. 0.05). But significant influence was not found on household development by family size, caste, land holding and participation in development programmes.

59. Employed respondents had significantly higher developed households than non-employed category ('t' value = 3.5972 Sig. 0.01).

60. When strength of variables was tested through Multiple Regression Analysis, economic role of women, rest of family income, family type and education of respondents emerged as key determinants of household development with coefficient of determination to be 54.203 percentage.

## Conclusions

On the basis of the findings of this investigation the following conclusions were drawn :

1. Tribal women were mostly employed in petty occupations due to illiteracy, lack of training and skill. Neither extension change agents, development programmes nor existing training facilities were able to provide better employment opportunities for them. However, employed women were satisfied with whatever occupation they were engaged in because it enabled them to add to family income, crucial for betterment of their households and a means of escape from tough nomadic life.

2. Tribal women were invariably responsible for performance of dual tasks (market and non-market) and employment status generally did not alter the role played by them in non-market work. More assistance of family members, husbands and paid help was received by employed women than non-employed women in carrying out non-market work.

3. Employed women spent less time on non-market work than non-employed women but total time spent by them on all productive tasks (including market work) was higher than non-employed women.

4. The immense contribution of tribal women through market and non-market work was estimated by various methodologies and finally Market Alternative Individual Function Method was found appropriate in the context of the present study.

5. Economic contribution through non-market work to family income was higher in case of non-employed women than employed women.

6. More number of tribal women from low family income group were engaged in market work and contributed substantial percentage to family income.

7. Employed respondents performed higher economic role (both market and non-market) which formed a large proportion of family income than non-employed women (participated only in non-market work).

8. Early marriage was common and no variation in age at marriage was revealed due to employment status. The transition in the opinions held by tribal women were apparent as on the one hand belief in magic world and evil spirits was still deep rooted, on the other hand they believed in small family size and adopted family planning measures, more so in case of employed women.

9. Migration of men folk and economic indispensability of women (through market and non-market work) empowers them to make decisions. Large number of tribal women had freedom to spend but more number of employed women were found to be spending freely and had personal savings because their contribution to family income was visible which accorded to them better status.

10. Employed women enjoyed more authority in delegation and supervision of work at home and observed less of customs and

traditions as they had less time. More leisure time was available to non-employed women than employed women.

11. Decisions related to personal matters of women (career, marriage) were men-dominated. Employment of women enabled them to take decisions independently about family health, education of children, income, expenditure, saving and social participation followed by joint decisions. On the other hand, more of non-employed women took joint decisions followed by less number who took independent decisions in all these matters. Farm decisions were not affected by employment status and were taken jointly.

12. Inspite of active participation of tribal women in decision making, they still gave importance to the men's opinion as male superiority was a way of life.

13. Visible economic contribution due to women's employment accorded them higher status than non-employed women. It was proved that employment status, age, education, economic role, marital status and nuclear family type were the key determinants of women's status in tribal area.

14. On account of women's earnings, housing conditions, health status, quality of food, consumption expenditure, savings and material possessions were better and more in number in case of employed women households than non-employed women households. Moreover, employed women perceived to contribute more towards their households than non-employed women.

15. Higher economic role / contribution of women led to significantly higher developed households. More number of employed women belonged to high developed households. Hence, economic role of women, rest of family income, nuclear family type and education of women emerged as key determinants which lead to better developed households.

## Implications of the Study

The results of the investigation have various implications :-

1. Improvements are required in existing community and development programmes in tribal area in terms of their nature, content, suitability to local conditions, environment and interest of women.

2. Results suggest that training should be imparted to tribal women to simplify their tasks in order to release more time to get involved in development programmes. Home management specialists can play an important role in this aspect.

3. Women should be trained to improve their existing skills to work more methodically for preparation of commercial products and for self and gainful employment in the areas of : spinning, weaving, kitchen gardening, tailoring, embroidery, preservation of locally available fruits and vegetables, carpet making, candle making etc.

4. Women need to be trained in the use of credit facility for self employment, marketing of products and to organize Women's Co-operative Societies. Women's Polytechnics, Mahila

Mandals, Social Welfare Board, Village Cooperatives, Youth clubs, Khadi and Village Industry at central and state level, Development Programmes and Voluntary Organizations can play a key role in this direction.

5. Focus of government policies and programmes should be to facilitate and improve educational qualification of women in tribal areas as findings suggested that education was key determinant in according high status and household development. There is need for adult education and literacy classes for women.

6. Findings suggest that employed women performed high economic role which has a strong impact on their household development and status. Therefore, more employment opportunities should be generated with adequate support system of 'Balwadis' and creches so that maximum women may take part in them and lead better life. Separate cells in the ministry for women's affairs or in each ministry may be started to help in this direction.

7. Even though contribution of women through economic role is immense, this has not been realized by policy makers as well as the respondents and their family members. Hence, awareness needs to be generated amongst them through extension change agents and other organisations.

8. State agricultural universities and other development agencies should encourage to involve tribal women and ensure effective participation by employing women extension workers.

9. Awareness also needs to be generated about legal rights and women's status. Mass-Media, educational institutions especially Home Science and Home Management specialists, Voluntary Organisations, Mahila Mandals welfare agencies, government policies can play a crucial role in these directions.

10. Relevant training programmes should be evolved to provide proper information to help the tribal women to carry out them effectively.

**Recommendations for Future Research**

A few suggestions for future research are given below

1. Assessment of the existing development programmes in the tribal area in the light of needs of tribal women requires immediate attention.

2. Analysis of opinions and attitudes of males and females towards (i) status of women (ii) contribution of women to household development may be carried out because it has implications to formulate relevant policies improve women's status.

3. Comparative studies may be conducted to assess the economic role of women with rural/urban, tribal and non-tribal groups which can give further insight into the dimensions of economic/productive activities in which women are engaged.

4. Assessment of the seasonal variation in economic role performed by rural and tribal women may help in planning relevant training/development programmes and their suitable implementation