



A study of community wellbeing among schedule caste and schedule tribes in Indian perspective

Pandey Asmita¹, Tripathi HGR²

¹ Research Scholar, Department of Psychology, A.P.S. University, Rewa, Madhya Pradesh, India

² Professor, Department of Psychology, Govt. Girls P.G. College, Rewa, Madhya Pradesh, India

Abstract

In India political insecurity, financial poverty, income inequality and overall deprivation has attracted the attention of psychologists to focus on the problem of community wellbeing. In a study, community wellbeing questionnaire was administered on 80 male (40 Rural & 40 Urban) and 80 Females (40 Rural & 40 Urban) of Schedule caste & Schedule tribe community. 2X2X2 factorial analysis revealed that Rural people reported more well-being than urban people. Similarly females reported more wellbeing than males. Participants of SC community displayed greater level of COWB than their counter that ST community.

Keywords: community, wellbeing, schedule cast, schedule tribe

Introduction

Community was the major concern among social scientists about its constituents. Most of the social scientists have tried to distinguish between residential community and community of shared values or interest. Community was considered as a place within which a person may exercise his everyday life. Concept of virtual community online and imaginative spaces were given importance to understand the concept in detail. W.H.O. utilized a setting based approach in which residentially defined community were given importance. The CWEP focused on community in terms of territorial units, the neighborhood and the local authority and compared it in urban and rural areas. It was argued that data collected from local authority rarely constitute a community. What is experienced in a particular territory is the impact of local authority and its policy implementation strategy. These considerations are of crucial importance while studying community wellbeing.

The concept of wellbeing was defined in most of the western studies in terms of quality of life, satisfaction, happiness etc. (Allin and Hand 2014) [1]. Such a type of conceptual orientation was based on the argument that available government economic policies focus on the means rather than the end point of a good life. However it would be important to understand what is needed to make the individuals lives go well in community. Infact, while studying community well being emotional and social needs of community members should be taken into account to understand the realm of community well being It is now the demand of hour to focus on government welfare services to respond to the various aspects which can create flourishing in people's lives, (Economics Foundation (Nef – 2012)).

It was argued in most of the researches that only people can asses their feeling that in what way their life is going. Ereat and Whating (2008) [4] emphasized well being and insisted on cross programme evaluation and comparison. It was indicated that definition of well being depends upon situational and Political processes, (Atkinson and Joyce 2011 Hajer and Laws 2006 Scott and Bell 2015) [2]. The

usage of the term well being changed during last 30 years. It was turned to individual and subjective level rather than collective level, Conrad son (2012) [2] and White (2010) [8] indicated that well being is broad and comprehensive term and is of little use in policy analysis while understanding community well being. Lee and Kim (2015) [7] presented an analytical matrix in which community describes the scale of analysis and well being describes to scope of analysis. Community as the scale of analysis ranges from individual to collective well being and the scope of analysis ranges between partial to comprehensive wellbeing. He argued that individual and partial elements are not capable of capturing the community wellbeing. However he concluded that community well being is more than the sum of individual well being.

Against the above backdrop the present study has tried to study community wellbeing among the people of SC & ST Community.

Due to misleading conception about the definition of community well being it appears a complex task to define it operationally. However, In this study certain emotional social needs at community level were assessed it is argued that the study of well being among the people of rural and urban community among SC and ST participants would prove valuable to understand the underlying dimensions of experienced well being at community level. The Individual is main focus of the study, therefore, the present study aims to study community well being in terms of its 8 important components i.e. community environment, Economic development, social development, Health, connectedness, livability, equity, or meaning fullness in life.

Problem and hypothesis

The man objective of the present study was to see the effect of background gender and type of community on the experienced level of community well being.

It was hypothesized that participants of rural and urban background would show similar amount of COWB. Male and Female participants will also show similar amount of felt COWB. Similarly participants of both the SC and ST

Community will also show similar amount of COWB.

Method

Sample

Present study was conducted on 80 rural (40 male and 40 female) and 80 urban (40 male and 40 female) Participants their ages ranged between 20 to 35 years respectably

Measure

A questionnaire consisting 24 items each anchored with a five point likert type scale were prepared to study community wellbeing. Questionnaire was constructed on the basis of eight components of community well being i.e. Community environment, economic development, social development, Health, connectedness, livability equity, and meaningfulness in life. There were three items related with each component were included thus formed 24 items in the scale. These components were related with eight predefined domains of community well-being.

Procedure

Data were collected from the district Chitrakoot M.P. India. At first 50 schedule caste and 50 schedule tribe participants were contacted personally at their residences. Instructions were read out and subjects were asked to express their feelings along a five point scale ranging between strongly agree (5) to strongly disagree (1). There was no time limit fixed to complete the questionnaire however it required 30 to 35 minutes to complete it. Scale was anchored in a way that higher the agreement greater the felt community well being and higher the disagreement lesser the felt community well being.

Statistical analysis

Data were subjected to the analysis of 2x2x2 factorial Anova.

Result and Discussion

Obtained findings are evident in table no 1.

Table 1: Mean scores on COWB in case of rural and urban SC and ST participants.

S. No.	Background	Gender	Type of community	Mean scores	Level of COWB
1.	Rural	Male	SC	85.05	High
			ST	50.9	Moderate
		Female	SC	106.9	V. High
			ST	68.35	Moderate
2.	Urban	Male	SC	75.55	High
			ST	33.85	Low
		Female	SC	90.95	High
			ST	45.30	Low

It appears that people of rural community showed greater amount of COWB than the people of urban community. Similarly people of SC community also showed greater level of COWB than the people of ST community. Female also showed greater level of COWB than the males, in case of both the rural and urban participants. Rural females of SC community showed very high level of

COWB while it was high in case of urban females. Males of SC community reflected high level of COWB among both the rural urban participants. Similarly rural people of ST community indicated moderate level of COWB while it was low in case of ST females of urban community. Mean scores were subjected to the graphical analysis also. (see Fig.1).

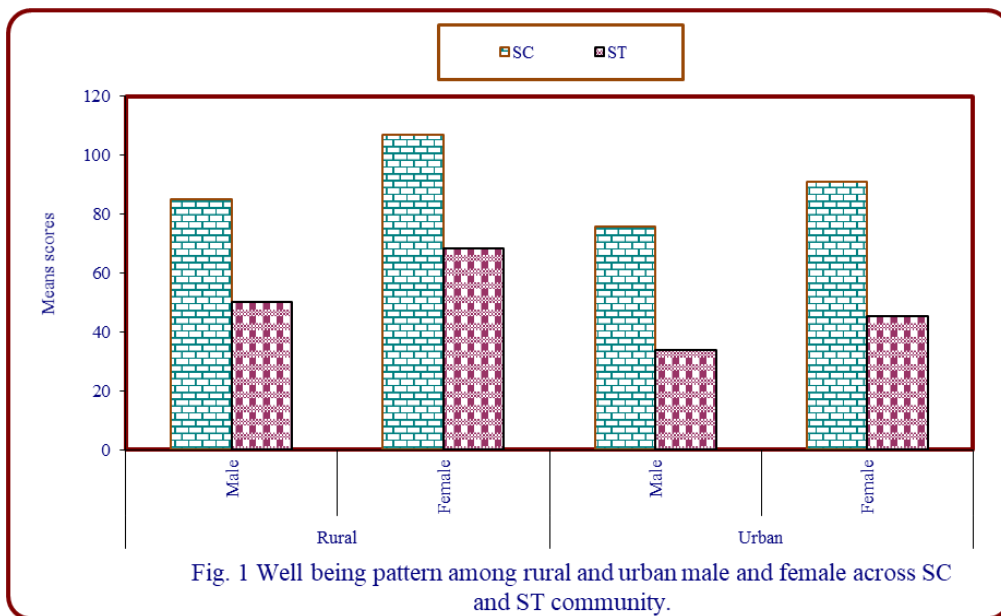


Fig 1

As evident in figure -1 participants of Rural background showed consistently higher mean ratings in case of both the male and females of SC community. Similarly participants

of SC community also showed higher mean ratings in case of urban participants also. It appears that participants of ST community scored lower mean ratings on COWB measure

among rural as well as urban participants. In all figure is showing the level of COWB more in SC community as compared to the people of ST community. It was also slightly higher in case of rural than urban people, females

than males.

Obtained data were used to compute 2x2x2 ANOVA. Results are given in table No 2

Table 2: F-ratio among the mean scores of Background gender and type of community.

S. No.	Source & Variable	Sum of Square	df	Variable estimate	F ratio	Significant level
1.	Background (Rural /Urban (C)) SS	10742	1	10742	15.57	>.01
2.	Gender (Male/Female) (R) SS	10939.55	1	10939.55	15.85	>.01
3.	Type of community (L) SS (SC & ST)	64040	1	64040	92.83	>.01
4.	Background x Gender (C x R)	387.51	1	387.51	0.56	NS
5.	Background x Community (C x L)	536.56	1	536.56	0.78	NS
6.	Gender x Community (R x L)	174.31	1	174.31	0.25	NS
7.	Background x Gender x type of community (C x R x L)	0.51	1	0.51	.00	NS
8.	Within treatment	104853.75	152	689.83		
	Total SS	191674.19	159			

* Significant on .01 level. NS = Not significant

Results indicate that both the rural and urban participants differ significantly on COWB measure. Rural people reflected greater level of COWB than the urban people. Similarly males and females differ significantly on COWB measure. The third main effect regarding SC and ST community was also found significant.

It is clear with the results that reflected amount of experienced COWB was greater in SC community than the ST community among both the rural and urban participants. Double interaction among background and gender, background and type of community and gender and type of community were not found significant. Triple interaction among background gender and Type of community was also not significant.

It appears with the results the urban people showed greater amount of COWB than the rural people. It may be because of the fact that daily routine problems in urban areas are more exhaustive than the daily routine of the people of rural community. Perhaps lack of less struggle in rural life resulted in greater amount of COWB than urban life. Females showed greater COWB than males among both the participants of SC and ST community. People of SC community also showed greater level of COWB than the people of ST community.

Government of India providing many facilities to uplift the standards of living as well as socio economic status of SC and ST people. Even the percentage of reservation and available opportunity of development seems more in case of people of SC community than their counter part the people of ST community. Since the people of ST community are availing lesser opportunity of development than the people of SC community that is why they may have shown lesser level of experienced COWB than the people of SC community. In a study kee *et al.* (2013) [6] indicated that sense of connection and commitment becomes essential for the experienced community wellbeing. It appears that rural people showed greater amount of connection and commitment than the urban people similarly females showed more sense of connection and commitment than males. People of SC community in the same way showed greater amount of wellbeing because experienced level of achievement was high while it was low in case of the people of ST community. In a study women's were reported with higher level of well-being than man (Fujita *et al.* 1991) [5]. In most of the studies women's were reported as having higher level of positive affect or happiness as compared to

man (Wodd. *et al.* 1989, Lee, Seccombe, & Shehan 1991) [9]. Findings of the present study are in line with the previous researches.

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