

Financial Inclusion Status of Hakkipikki Tribal Women in Mysuru District, Karnataka

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Abstract:

The Purpose of this research study is to understand the level of Financial Inclusion Index of Hakkipikki Tribal Women residing in Mysuru district of Karnataka state. The term financial inclusion refers accessibility to, the availability of, and the usage of financial services to all individuals of the population irrespective of their economic level. The level of Financial Inclusion is vary from one demographic population to other demographic population. The research objective of the study was to examine the current level of financial inclusion index of Hakkipikki tribal women residing in Mysuru district of Karnataka. In this research study financial inclusion is quantified by creating Financial Inclusion Index for ten Dichotomous financial services variables. The levels of financial inclusion index classified as 03 different levels based on a scoring from zero to ten. Low level of financial inclusion index contains scores from 00 to 03, medium level of financial inclusion index comprises scores from 04 to 06, and high level of financial inclusion index incorporates scores from 07 to 10. The Chi-square non-parametric test was performed to assess the statistical significant relationship between the levels of financial inclusion index and respondents demographic and socio-economic variables such as age, the level of education, marital status, present occupation, and the monthly income. The present occupation and the monthly income categorical variables were statistically significant at 5% level. 80 percent of the respondents fall under the levels of low & medium financial inclusion index and remaining 20 percent of the participants fall under the high level of financial inclusion index. To improve the level of Financial Inclusion Index within Hakkipikki tribal community of women. The present study recommends that the concerned policymakers for financial services and development authorities of tribal communities should take necessary initiatives which are in a position to reduce the poverty and societal imbalances of tribal women.

Keywords: Financial Inclusion, Tribal women, Hakkipikki, Financial Inclusion Index, Mysuru, Karnataka,

INTRODUCTION:

A large set of the population in our country, especially, low-income, poor, and marginalized groups are far from the most basic financial facilities provided by policymakers like the Government of India, the Reserve Bank of India, and Financial Institutions. It has been generally observed that the advancement of financial service providers and the upgrading of financial services will give an advantage in achieving inclusive growth. In this manner financial inclusion can proceed to go about as a feasible mechanism to involve more population in the economic activities of a nation. Ultimately, financial inclusion has a better way of turning into a solution for the population, who have no access of financial services and trust in the creation of assets or casual wellspring of financial services to address their financial requirements.

Financial inclusion integrates Transmission of financial services, including financial institution services and credit at a reasonable cost to the massive segments of disregarded and low income people

who will in general be rejected from the formal financial system. Diverse financial services integrate the accompanying access to credits, insurance, funds, instalments, and settlements facilities offered by the formal financial framework. Financial Inclusion undertakes a job in giving monetary security to people and family business units.

Concept of Financial Inclusion: Financial inclusion is to access financial services effectively, particularly among marginalized and disadvantaged communities. The growth of any nation is reliant on achieving a higher level of financial inclusion. But, there are so many barricades for women accessing financial services that stop them from take part in the economy [(Latha & T. J., 2013), (Yadav & Unni, 2016), (Banerjee & Duflo, 2007)].

According to the Reserve Bank of India, Financial inclusion has been defined as “the process of ensuring access to financial services, timely and adequate credit for vulnerable groups such as weaker sections and low-income groups at an affordable cost” (RBI, 2008).

Inadequate financial inclusion remains a widespread challenge on a comprehensive scale, impacting a vast number of people and whole communities (Ozili, 2020). Incomplete financial inclusion branches from various factors, including inadequate access to financial services, a lack of financial literacy and education, unsatisfactory infrastructure in remote and rural areas, and socioeconomic incongruences. One of the major barriers to financial inclusion is the absence of formal banking services in many areas, particularly in rural and inaccessible areas. This leaves a significant amount of the population without access to fundamental financial tools such as savings account, insurance, and credit [(HSA, APM, & M., 2022), (Lakew T & H., 2020)]. Addressing to inadequate financial inclusion involves a multi-faceted approach involving governments, banking institutions, non-trading organisations, and other stakeholders. Initiatives such as financial literacy programs, microfinance, internet or mobile banking, and regulatory framework have extended access to financial services and empowered low-income communities [(Jubril TS, 2024), (Ansong D. Okumu M, 2023), (Danladi S, 2023)].

The role of financial institutions in conveying financial inclusion is to encourage gender equity and poverty reduction. Providing feasible and reasonable financial tools for marginalized and low-income group women to accomplish their money in managing financial transactions and reduce risk is essential to women’s social and economic development. Accordingly, there is a need to create a more gender-inclusive financial environment in an inclusive regulatory framework that addresses women’s specific demand and supply side blockades.

Hakkipikki is a tribal community residing in various regions of Karnataka state. They are primarily found in districts such as Davanagere, Shimoga, Tumkur, Bangalore, Mandya, Hassan, Mysuru, Kolar, and Chikkaballapura. According to the 2011 Census, the Hakkipikki tribal community has a population of 11,892 individuals, comprising 3,038 number of households in Karnataka state.

The Tribal community of Hakkipikki is a diminishing tribal community in Karnataka. basically in the Mysuru district, We found this community in rural areas in the taluks of Hunsur and Heggadadevanakote. This tribal community has a rich cultural legacy that hints back to their relocation from northern India. Despite rapid lifestyle changes, the Hakkipikki community has maintained its unique identity through rich oral traditions that reflect its customs, origins, and values. Historically, the Hakkipikki thrived as hunters in dense forests, relying on wild animals and birds for their sustenance. However, the Government of India regulations in the 1970s restricted their access to forest resources, forcing them to shift towards settled livelihoods, where they adapted by engaging in small trades, agriculture, and various forms of labor to support their families (Bopaiyah, 2017).

In due course, accomplishing an appropriate level of financial inclusion is not only indispensable for promoting economic development but also for empowering women to participate fully in the economic activities of a nation.

LITERATURE REVIEW:

The literature review is an essential part of the research study and is likely to provide a broad overview of the various studies conducted on the subject. This section of the review will discuss the sources examined to date. Despite a significant volume of research on financial inclusion conducted both internationally and in India, persistent gaps are still evident. Within the realm of financial inclusion research, the number of empirical investigations employed on the demand-side framework to dissect the socio-economic variables that shape an economy's financial inclusion landscape. Research studies reveal that variables such as gender, religion, age, financial literacy, urbanization, education level, income bracket, and marital status demonstrably influence financial inclusion. The precise nature of these relationships, however, has been observed to vary geographically and also vary from one population to another.

A significant association exists between an individual's sex and their level of financial inclusion, with males tending to exhibit higher rates of inclusion (E., 2019). Credit programs appear to be a significant factor in fostering women's empowerment (HASHEMI & RILEY, 1996). As income levels increase, access to financial services tends to improve [(Altarawneh Y, 2020), (Badar R, 2020)]. Empirical evidence specifies that women possessing a bank account exhibit a higher probability of employment and are associated with comparatively elevated income levels (Zelu, Iranzo, & Perez-Laborda, 2024). Improved access to fiscal services and domestic credit enables women to participate more actively in economic pursuits. With greater financial support, they are able to invest in their education and pursue entrepreneurial ventures. This financial inclusion empowers them to establish businesses and contribute meaningfully to the broader process of economic development (Mahwish, Bashir, Abbassi, & Ali Khan, 2024). Enhancing access to financial services for women contributes significantly to their empowerment by fostering economic development, lowering poverty levels, and creating avenues for entrepreneurship and financial independence. When women are financially included, they are better equipped to engage in economic activities, which not only benefits their personal well-being but also uplifts their families and communities (Rachmadini & Maya Damayanti, 2023). Women's participation in household financial decision-making and their access to social welfare programs play a crucial role in advancing women's empowerment, primarily facilitated through financial inclusion mechanisms (Pal, Gupta, & Joshi, 2022).

The empirical findings indicate that sole land ownership by women is positively associated with access to formal financial services, particularly in terms of maintaining formal bank accounts and accumulating savings. However, such ownership does not translate into increased access to credit either through formal financial institutions or informal lending mechanisms. Furthermore, the analysis reveals that women are more likely to secure formal credit when their applications are supported by a family member, most notably a male relative. Additionally, a statistically significant inverse correlation is observed between remittances sent by women and their land ownership status, suggesting that women without land assets are more likely to remit funds (Balasubramanian, Kuppusamy, & Natarajan, 2018). Legal and societal structures in many parts of the world perpetuate significant disparities, limiting women's rightful access to financial, digital, and property assets [(Klugman, 2016), (Demirgüç-Kunt, 2013)]. Research findings consistently demonstrate a gender disparity in financial literacy, with female respondents exhibiting lower financial knowledge and competencies relative to their male counterparts (Lusardi, 2015).

The above literature review specifies the presence of several determinants persuading women's engagement with financial services. Research shows that the issues stem not just from economic factors, but also from systemic, social, and political causes (Ghosh, 2017). Earlier research indicates a need for further investigation to deepen the understanding of the barriers that limit women's access to and utilization of financial services [(Ghosh, 2017), (Demirgüç-Kunt, 2013)]. There are no studies have been conducted on the Financial Inclusion Status of Hakkipikki Tribal Women in the Mysuru district of Karnataka state. This is done by examining how financial inclusion is connected to various

socio-economic characteristics such as age, gender, income level, type of job, marital status, and where a person lives. This research constructs a financial inclusion status based on an index composed of ten binary indicators related to formal financial services (Njenga & Irungu, 2024).

METHODOLOGY:

It is clear that relying solely on secondary data would not be sufficient for this study. To gain a deeper and more accurate understanding of the issue, it is necessary for the researcher to gather information directly from the Hakkipikki tribal women involved in the study. For this purpose, primary data is collected through an interview schedule, where a structured set of questions relevant to the research is prepared. The responses provided by the participants are then recorded and used for analysis.

Financial Inclusion Level Index: This research study categorizes the Financial Inclusion Level Index as an ordinal variable comprising three distinct tiers: low level, medium level, and high level. The Financial Inclusion Index (FII) for each individual respondent was calculated by combining scores resulting from ten dichotomous (binary) pointers representing various dimensions of financial inclusion. These indicators encompass access to and usage of formal financial services and products, including but not limited to: possession of a bank account, ownership of debit and credit cards, registration for life and non-life insurance policies, engagement with mobile banking services, operation of mobile money platforms, and presence of unpaid loans. Each indicator was assigned a value of 1 for confirmatory responses and 0 for non-confirmatory responses. Consequently, the FII score for an individual respondent ranges from a minimum of 0 to a maximum of 10. The levels of financial inclusion were then categorized according to a classification scheme detailed in the table number 01 (Njenga & Irungu, 2024).

Table 01: Financial Inclusion Index

Financial inclusion score	Financial inclusion level
00 – 03	Low level
04 - 06	Medium level
07 – 10	High level

Table 02: Glimpses of Research

Title:	“Financial Inclusion Status Of Hakkipikki Tribal Women In Mysuru District, Karnataka”
Research Study:	Descriptive Study
Universe:	Respondents were chosen from a variety of occupational backgrounds, including government and private sector jobs, Agriculture, livestock management, forest product collection, self-employment or family-run businesses, labor work, and students.
Sample Size:	100 Hakkipikki Tribal Women
Sample Area:	Mysuru district, Karnataka State
Data:	Primary and Secondary Data
Data Collection Method:	Interview Schedule
Data Collection Tool:	Self-Structured Questionnaire
Data Analysis:	Measure of Frequency Chi-square
Scope of Research Study:	The study is confined to only 100 Hakkipikki Tribal women who avail the financial services and determine the Financial inclusion Status through the financial inclusion index.

Table 03: Descriptive Statistic Results

Variable	Category	Total (%)	Financial Inclusion Level		
			Low	Medium	High
Education	Illiterate	13(13)	06	05	02
	Primary	17(17)	05	12	-
	High	31(31)	03	23	05
	PUC	25(25)	03	17	05
	Graduate	14(14)	02	08	04
Total		100	19	65	16
Age	18-28 Years	17(17)	03	11	03
	28-38 Years	47(47)	08	30	09
	38-48 Years	29(29)	05	22	02
	48-58 Years	07(07)	03	02	02
Total		100	19	65	16
Present Occupation	Dependent	08(08)	04	03	01
	Student	05(05)	00	05	00
	Labour work	16(16)	06	09	01
	Agriculture	19(19)	03	14	02
	Business	52(52)	06	34	12
Total		100	19	65	16
Monthly Income	₹0 – ₹ 15,000	39(39)	12	25	02
	₹15,000– ₹30,000	37(37)	05	23	09
	₹30,000 – ₹45,000	19(19)	02	12	05
	₹45,000 –₹ 60,000	05(05)	00	05	00
Total		100	19	65	16
Marital Status	Single	07(07)	02	05	00
	Married	91(91)	17	58	16
	Divorced/Separated	01(01)	00	01	00
	Widowed	01(01)	00	01	00
Total		100	19	65	16

Source: Primary Data

The Table 03 represents a frequency distribution of Hakkipikki Tribal women respondents categorised by their Financial Inclusion Level. The data appears to be resultant from a sample size of 100 respondents, demonstrating a categorical variable (Financial Inclusion level) with three exclusive categories such as Low Level, Medium Level, and High Level.

The total number of respondents (N) for this research study is 100, demonstrating the overall size of the dataset analysed for financial inclusion levels.

The mode of the frequency distribution is the Medium level, as it has highest absolute frequency of 65 respondents, demonstrating 65 percent of the total sample size. This indicates that the largest amount of proportion of the sample size falls into the medium financial inclusion category. Medium level of financial inclusion is the most predominant level, accounting for 65 percent of the respondents. Low level of financial inclusion follows, encompassing 19 percent of the total sample size. High level of Financial Inclusion demonstrates the smallest segment, with 16 percent of the respondents.

The above table 03 provides descriptive statistical analysis valuable research perceptions into the frequency distributions of Financial Inclusion within the studied Hakkipikki tribal women respondents. A cumulative 84 percent of the respondents exhibits either Low or Medium level of

financial inclusion, advising that a majority of the Hakkipikki tribal women may require interventions designed at augmenting their financial inclusion level. Only 16 percent of the sample size is categorised as having a high financial inclusion level, this demonstrating that potential areas for focus or programs to upraise this segment. The Primary data could serve as a base for evaluating the impact of financial inclusion initiatives or policies. Following studies could relate these frequencies to compute changes over time or across diverse demographics.

Hypothesis Testing: In this research study we are going to conduct hypothesis testing for the following categorical variables.

- H1: There is a significant association between The Age groups in years and the level of Financial Inclusion index of the Hakkipikki tribal women.
- H2: There is a significant relationship between the respondents of Hakkipikki tribal women’s Education level and the level of Financial Inclusion.
- H3: There is a statistically significant association between a Hakkipikki tribal women’s present occupation and the financial inclusion index.
- H4: There is a statistically significant relationship between the monthly income of Hakkipikki tribal women and their level of financial inclusion.
- H5: There is a significant relationship between marital status and the level of Financial Inclusion Index.

1. There is a significant association between age and the level of financial inclusion index of the Hakkipikki tribal women.

Table 04: Association between Age and the level of Financial Inclusion Index

	Value	df	p
χ^2	6.74	6	0.346
N	100		

A Chi-square test of independence was accomplished to test the relationship between the Age group in years and the level of financial inclusion. The association between these two categorical variables was not statistically significant, $\chi^2 (6, N = 100) = 6.74, p = 0.346$. These results recommend that Hakkipikki tribal women’s level of Financial Inclusion is independent of their age group in this sample size.

2. There is a significant relationship between the respondents of Hakkipikki tribal Women’s Education level and the level of Financial Inclusion.

Table 05: Relationship between the Level of Education and The level of Financial Inclusion

	Value	df	p
χ^2	14.7	8	0.066
N	100		

χ^2 test of independence was conducted to examine the relationship between Education level and the level of financial inclusion. The results indicated that there was no statistically significant relationship between the two variables, $\chi^2 (8, N = 100) = 14.7, p = 0.066$. This result suggest that Hakkipikki tribal women’s education level is not statistically significant related to their level of financial inclusion index in this sample size.

3. There is a statistically significant association between a Hakkipikki tribal women’s present occupation and the financial inclusion index.

Table 06: Association between the present occupation and the level of Financial Inclusion

	Value	df	p
χ^2	15.60	8	0.049
N	100		

A Chi-square test of independence was accomplished to evaluate the association between Hakkipikki tribal women’s present occupation and their level of financial inclusion index. The analysis shown that a statistically significant association between these two categorical variables, $\chi^2 (8, N = 100) = 15.6, p = 0.049$. This outcome specifies that the dissemination of the level of financial inclusion index fluctuates significantly across various present occupational categories.

4. There is a statistically significant relationship between the monthly incomes of Hakkipikki tribal women and their level of financial inclusion.

Table 06: relationship between the monthly income and the level of Financial Inclusion

	Value	df	p
χ^2	12.6	6	0.049
N	100		

A Chi-Square test of independence was performed to inspect the relationship between monthly incomes of Hakkipikki tribal women and the level of financial inclusion index. The outcome shown that a statistically significant relationship between these two variables, $\chi^2 (6, N = 100) = 12.6, p = 0.049$. This results indicates that the distribution of the levels of financial inclusion index is not independent of monthly incomes within this sample size. As per the table 03 suggests a trend where individuals in lower monthly income brackets tend to have a higher prevalence of Lower levels of financial inclusion index within this sample size. Notably, the lowest income bracket (₹ 0 - ₹ 15,000) had the highest number of tribal women with medium level of financial inclusion index (N = 25), and the highest income bracket (₹ 45,000 - ₹ 60,000) involved exclusively of tribal women’s with medium level of Financial inclusion index (N = 5).

5. There is a significant relationship between marital status and the level of Financial Inclusion Index.

Table 06: relationship between the monthly income and the level of Financial Inclusion

	Value	df	p
χ^2	2.75	6	0.840
N	100		

A Chi-Square test of independence was performed to assess the statistical significant relationship between marital status of the Hakkipikki tribal women and their level of Financial Inclusion Index. The results shown that a non-significant relationship, $\chi^2 (6, N = 100) = 2.7, p = 0.84$. This indicates that there is no statistically significant relationship between the tribal women’s marital status and their level of Financial Inclusion Index within this sample size. The perceived distribution of marital status across the levels of financial inclusion index does not significantly diverge from what would be expected if there were no relationship between these two categorical variables.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

The objective of this research study was to know the level of Financial Inclusion Index of Hakkipikki tribal women who resides in the Mysuru district of Karnataka state. In this study the level of Financial Inclusion Index is in ordered categorical variable with three levels such as Low level, Medium level, and High level. These levels were obtained from the score of Financial Inclusion Index, which ranged from 0 - 10. In this research study the following demographic and socio-economic factors were considered such as education, age, marital status, present occupation, and monthly income. Except age, level of education, and marital status, all the other demographic and socio-economic factors were statistically significant at 5% level.

This research study investigated the factors influencing the access and usage of financial services among Hakkipikki tribal community women residing in the Mysuru district of Karnataka. The study specifically examined the roles of Demographic and Socio-economic factors like Class intervals of age, the level of education attainment, monthly income, marital status, and present occupation. These categorical variables were analysed for their relationship with various aspects of financial service engagement such as possession of a formal bank account, participation in insurance schemes, usage of debit and credit cards, participation in credit facilities from formal financial institutions, adoption and engagement with digital financial services.

The Study revealed that a significant patterns in the Financial Inclusion Index among the Hakkipikki tribal women. A substantial majority, 80 percent of participants, were segmented within the low and medium levels of financial inclusion index. Conversely, the remaining participants demonstrated a high level of financial inclusion. This inequality emphasises critical areas for intervention to augment financial access and utilization within this demographic.

To enhance the level of Financial Inclusion Index within Hakkipikki tribal community of women, this research study recommends that the concerned policy makers for financial services and development authorities of tribal communities like Reserve Bank of India, Financial Institutions, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Integrated Tribal Development projects (ITDPs), and Karnataka State Tribal Research Institute to strengthen the policies like undertaking women empowerment issues, improve tribal area banking infrastructure, An atmosphere that enables innovative accomplishments is vital for encouragement of employment and income generation, advocate for to attain highest level of education, and address any social challenges of tribal community practices affecting for participation in the formal financial system. These initiatives intention to alleviate the poverty and societal discrimination, thereby encouragement of financial and economic growth in the long term.

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