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# STATISTICAL STUDY ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH SELF HELP GROUP IN ATTUR, SALEM DISTRICT

# M. VALAVAN ASST. PROFESSOR DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS GOVERNMENT ARTS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) SALEM

#### **ABSTRACT**

The women in the rural sector in India have immense potential and expertise in art and craft, handloom, food products, bamboo related articles, honey bee, and the like. Small scale units create more self-employment opportunities with less capital investment requirements. The raw materials are locally collected and there is less environmental pollution. It also requires simple technology and low managerial skills. The finished products are exported that help to earn valuable foreign exchange and preserve the balance of payment status. The credit worthiness in the international monetary front will also improve. But, largely the women are neglected group in the society in India. At this juncture, the need of the hour is that the women should be empowered. So, the present study has focused to examine the impact of Self Help Groups on the empowerment of women at a micro level.

#### **KEYWORDS**

Salem district, empowerment, self help group.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

In India, the population already crosses one billion and nearly one third of its population is living under below poverty line. In rural areas, the scenario is deplorably worse, where almost half of its residents live hand to mouth life and below poverty line. Self Help Groups (SHGs) have become the vehicle of change in the rural areas in India, transforming the lives of the underprivileged and marginalized. SHGs organize the poor, downtrodden and marginalized to join hands to solve their problems and the method has been very successfully used by the government and Non- Governmental Organization (NGOs) in achieving several goals by empowering them. In the international arena, out of 1.3 billion people who live in absolute poverty, 70 percent are women. In India, rural women though constitute almost half of the population the participation in the labour force is only 33 per cent, while it is 56 per cent for male. Thus 67 per cent of the female population is not gainfully employed. Majority of them are poverty ridden. The government should take earnest efforts to utilize women force into productive employment.

For these women, poverty does not just mean scarcity and want. It means rights denied, opportunities entailed and voices silenced. In fact women work two third of the World's working hours, earning only 10 per cent of world's income, own less than one per cent of world's property and accounts for two-third of the world illiterate adults and 60 per cent of the world's children who are not going to schools. Former President of Tanzania Julius Nyerere rightly observed that 'a person can't walk very far or very fast on one leg. How can we expect half the people to be able to develop a nation?' Here, he sorrowfully pointed out the negligence of women, when the development needs are discussed. He further emphasized the role of women in building the nation to a new height.

In India, even though the share of women population is equivalent to that of male, the entrepreneurial world is still a male dominated one. In advanced countries women entrepreneurs are well organized. They are venturing into the challenging fields also. The women in the rural sector in India have immense potential and expertise in art and craft, handloom, food products, bamboo related articles, honey bee, and the like. Small scale units create more self-employment opportunities with less capital investment requirements. The raw materials are locally collected and there is less environmental pollution. It also requires simple technology and low managerial skills. The finished products are exported that help to earn valuable foreign exchange and preserve the balance of payment status. The credit worthiness in the international monetary front will also improve. But, largely the women are neglected group in the society in India. At this juncture, the need of the hour is that the women should be empowered. In this article to study and analyze the impact of SHGs on women empowerment with respect to the Ward No. 32 in Attur town, Salem District, Tamilnadu.

#### 2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The following are the objectives of the present study.

- 1. To study about the trend and growth of SHGs in ward 32, Attur town, the study area.
- 2. To assess the nature and extent of distribution of income and expenditure irrespective of the sample respondents before and after joining SHG.
- 3. To analyze the personal profile of the sample respondents of women SHGs in the study area.
- 4. To evolve the opinion of women members of SHGs on their empowerment.
- 5. To examine the effect of SHG on women empowerment on various factors.

#### 3. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The present study is to find out whether there is any impact on SHGs members due to their involvement in SHG activities, and if so, the stage at which the impact has taken place. In this respect, the study attempts to evaluate the changes in the sample respondents on their income and expenditure.

The present study looks into the socio, economic, religious, cultural factors like Age profile, Marital status, Religion, Educational background, Economic status, Caste, Type of family, Family size, Nature of house, Place of origin, Occupational status, Number of earning members, Periodicity of savings, Reasons for joining SHG, Motivational factors to join SHG, Duration of membership, Purpose of availing loan, Quantum of loan, Repayment of loan and Periodicity of borrowings in order to find the status of members of SHG in the study area and thereby develop a suitable model at macro level to promote women community.

The opinion about the factors like Income propagation, Bank Linkage Programmes, Upgradation in Education and Skill, Development of Saving Habit, Involvement in Decision Making, Awareness in Health Care and Education, Leadership Quality and Public Participation, Economic Independence, Government Support Activities, Possession of Basic Need Qualities and Family Expenditure have been collected from the sample respondents to assess their level of empowerment in order to make necessary policy transformation based on the results.

It is hoped that the results of the study would help to increase the awareness of the benefits of SHG schemes among the poor. Besides, the safety, security and profitability in lending to SHGs from the recovery point of bankers will also be assessed.

#### 4. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

In Indian society, women are deprived of their opportunities to a large extent. The educational levels of the women are less when compared to that of men. Women are discriminated in wage terms even for the same work they have performed. They are employed as a cheap substitute manual labour. The socio-economic status is also at a lower level for women. The women often fail to identify themselves as workers. They are treated like slaves not only in working places but also in their own families. Even though, the central and state governments legally provide equal rights and opportunities to women, they are unaware of it.

Awareness on the part of women of their rights is the need of the hour to empower them. This could be possible only by making women as groups at local levels. Such a local level group formation is termed as Self Help Group (SHG). The very purpose of SHG is to alleviate poverty by generating more income through establishing productive work in one way or other. The government of India presently provide ample scope for SHGs particularly women SHGs by proving micro credit facilities to pave way for starting small investment ventures. This attempt improves the standard of living, self-reliance, independency, and autonomy status in every respect, confidence, participatory level, equal opportunity and the like of women in India. From this, it is to be clearly understood that the empowerment of women lies in the working of SHGs. In this context the researcher has made an attempt to study the impact of Self Help Group on the empowerment of women particularly with reference to the sample respondents in ward 32 in Attur.

#### 5. HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

The present study is focused into the following hypotheses.

- There is no relationship between income and women empowerment after joining SHG in the study area.
- There is no relationship between expenditure and women empowerment after joining SHG in the study area.

#### 6. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research design is the blueprint for descriptive research work that guides the researchers in a scientific way towards the achievement of the objectives. The research instrument used for this study was a self-administrated questionnaire that was circulated to people respondents in the form of a survey, and the data collected in this way were the primary data for the analysis. In this phase, based on the review of literature, different questions have been employed to study the women empowerment through self help group in ward 32 in Attur town.

The area of this study has a representation of people in Ambethkar Nagar area, in Attur town. The following table represents the population of the study. Since 500 people are in the above joint in self-help group, it was found quite unwieldy to select certain percentage of the population as the sample frame. So I have selected half of the sample size 150 on the basis of simple random sampling through the sample size  $n = \frac{N}{1+N(e^2)}$ , Yamane (1967).

#### **6.1 CONSTRUCTION OF THE RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS**

The present study is descriptive in nature. To carry out this study, a survey questionnaire method was employed to collect relevant information from the respondents. This involved the collection of data that provided description of individuals, groups or situations. One of the instruments which the researcher used to collect data for the descriptive study was questionnaire. Substantial amount of time and efforts were taken to design the final questionnaire for respondents after further careful revision and refinement of the pilot survey questionnaire. A number of researchers argue in favour of the five-point likert scale, since it is believed to give a more precise measure of the participant's evaluation. The benefits of a five-point likert scale are that it provides the users with more options and it is equipped to record more accurately. This survey questionnaire comprise only close—ended questions for the purpose of generating statistical data and they use mainly the five-point likert scale which indicated the women's empowerment through self help group in ward 32, Attur.

#### **6.2 FINALIZATION OF RESEARCH INSTRUMENT**

The questions were designed in such a way as to study on women's empowerment through self-group in ward 32 in Attur. The questionnaire was pre-examined by my project guide. Based on the valuable inputs from the guide, the final version of questionnaire was used for data collection.

#### 6.3 PERIOD OF THE STUDY

The study was carried out based on the data collected from primary and sources. The primary data were collected from respondents with the help of a structured questionnaire and the same was collected during the period from December 2016 to February 2017 from in ward 32 in Attur town while the primary and secondary data were collected from various books, journals, periodicals, magazines, newsletters, newspapers and earlier research works.

#### **6.4 DATA COLLECTION**

The primary data were collected by visiting the Ambethkar Nagar area. The researcher has adopted simple random sampling method to select the respondents for this study. Self-administrated questionnaires were circulated in the form of a survey to respondents. Overall, 150 people were chosen from across in ward 32 in Attur town. The respondents were aware that participation in this survey was voluntary in nature and their responses would remain confidential and used for research purpose only.

#### 6.5 DATA ANALYSIS

In this study, the researcher has adopted quantitative data analysis. Quantitative data analysis is the process of presenting and interpreting numerical data. Questionnaire method of data analysis can be of great value to the researchers who attempt to draw meaningful results from large body of qualitative data.

#### **6.6 FRAME WORK ANALYSIS**

The researcher has adopted the following statistical tools to analyse the collected data and achieve the objective of the research. This study has used Microsoft Excel and Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) computer software for analyzing the primary data of this study. These tools have been used to run the statistical analysis end to create suitable tables and figures. The data collected from people were tabulated and used for interpreting the findings. The following are the statistical tools that were used for analyzing collected data of this research study.

#### 7. STATISTICAL TOOLS

#### 7.1 PERCENTAGE ANALYSIS, SIMPLE BAR DIAGRAM AND PIE CHART

The frequencies procedure provides statistics and graphical displays that are useful for describing many types of variables. For a first look at our data, the frequencies based on percentage are a good place to start. The frequencies report can be suppressed when a variable has many distinct values.

In simple bar chart, we make bars of equal width but variable length, i.e. the magnitude of a quantity is represented by the height or length of the bars.

A pie chart (or a circle chart) is a circular statistical graphic, which is divided into slices to illustrate numerical proportion.

#### 7.2 ANALYSIS OF VARIANCE

It is a statistical method used to test differences between two or more means. This technique is called "Analysis of Variance" rather than "Analysis of Means." As we see, the name is appropriate because inferences about means are made by analyzing variance for research.

#### 8. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

#### 8.1 PERCENTAGE TABULATIONS FOR WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT THROUGH SELF-HELP GROUP

- The maximum of 32.7% respondents are participating in study of women's empowerment through self-help group, the maximum of 62% respondents are participating of married women, the maximum of 85.3% respondents are participating in study of belonging to Hindu religion, the maximum of 26% respondents are illiterate women, the maximum of 59% respondents are participating in study of monthly family income, the maximum of 74.7% respondents are nuclear participate in study, the maximum of 80% respondents are own house, the maximum of 80% respondents are living in urban, the maximum of 85.3% respondents are SC participates, the maximum of 44% respondents are 2 members are earning in family, the maximum of 52.7 % respondents are weekly saving and the maximum of 38.7% respondents are 5,000 to 10,000 loan availed participate in study.
- The highest respondents are giving first rank for the ranking variable of "fulfilment of basic necessities like food, cloth and shelter". The highest respondents are giving third rank for the ranking variable of "Reasonable income with dignity in work place". The highest respondents are giving second rank for the ranking variable of "Getting out of clutches of money lender". The highest respondents are giving second rank for the ranking variable of "to create productive assets". The highest respondents are giving fifth rank for the ranking variable of "Elimination of rural poverty". The highest respondents are giving first rank for the ranking variable of "Reservation in local body election". The highest respondents are giving forth rank for the ranking variable of "Legal protection". The highest respondents are giving second rank for the ranking variable of "Free education for girl student". The highest respondents are giving second rank

for the ranking variable of "Reservation for women in employment". The highest respondents are giving forth rank for the ranking variable of "Welfare for widows and parentless children".

### 8.2 ASSESSING THE LEVEL OF OPINION/ INFORMATION OF THE DIFFERENT CATEGORY OF RESPONDENTS ON THE VARIOUS ASPECTS RELATING TO THE STUDY USING ANALYSIS OF VARIANCE

- The calculated ANOVA for one-way p-value 0.106 is greater than 0.05. Therefore, we accept our null hypothesis. So, we conclude that the there is no significance between the age groups with respect to women's empowerment through self-help groups.
- The calculated ANOVA for one-way p-value 0.854 is greater than 0.05. Therefore, we accept our null hypothesis. So, we conclude that there is no significance difference between the religion groups with respect to women's empowerment through self-help groups.
- The calculated p-value 0.382 is greater than 0.05. Therefore, we accept our null hypothesis. We conclude that there is no significance difference between the Education groups with respect to women's empowerment through self help groups.

#### 9. SUGGESTIONS

- There is a need for coordinated, constant effort and action oriented plan on the part of all towards empowerment of women.
- Empowerment of women is an empowerment of family and the nation. This basic idea is fulfilled only when SHGs are strengthened.
- To strengthen SHGs literacy and numeric training should be provided to the poor women. The success of group operation rests in training and guidance. So training in literacy, gender awareness and guidance about their rights should be provided.
- Women in general, particularly in India are the neglected group in the society. To create awareness and empower them social issues like gender discrimination, dowry menace, sex torture, poverty related crimes and the need to be discussed and addressed in the women's forum.

#### 10. CONCLUSION

Empowering women puts the spotlight on education and employment, which are an essential element to sustainable development. A woman is said to be powerful only when she has a control over a large portion of power resources in the society. The study reveals that it is possible through SHG. But as of date, women were lacking behind in so many factors in realizing empowerment. So attention by the government as well as other agencies should be needed to improve their empowerment. It is hoped that the study might be useful to the policy makers, academicians and the government for their future course of action.

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