

A STUDY ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN THROUGH SELF HELP GROUP IN THOOTHUKUDI CORPORATION

S.Vimala

(Reg.No: 19211281012022)

Ph.D Research Scholar,

PG& Research Department of Commerce,

St.Xaviver's College (Autonomous), Palayamkottai.

Affiliated To Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Abishekapatti, Tirunelveli – 627012

DR. C. MAHIMAI ARUL IGNATIUS

Research supervisor & Assistant Professor,

PG & Research Department of Commerce,

St.Xaviver's College (Autonomous), Palayamkottai.

Affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Abishekapatti, Tirunelveli - 627012

Absract

Our society comprises men and women. In earlier times, men were considered to be the leading members of a family. They were responsible for earning the livelihood and were the decision takers of the family. On the other hand, women were responsible for doing household work and upbringing of the children. So, the roles were mainly based on gender. Women Empowerment is made up of two words women and empowerment. Empowerment means to give power or authority to someone. So, Women Empowerment means power in the hands of women. It signifies that women should be given equal opportunity in every field, irrespective of any discrimination. Since the overall empowerment of women is crucially dependent on economic empowerment, women through these SHGs work on a range of issues such as health, nutrition, agriculture, forestry etc. This paper also highlights the socio economic empowerment of women through self-help group in thoothukudi area.

Key words: women empowerment, Self-help groups.

Introduction

Women play a very vital role in human progress and have a significant place in the society. They are not at all inferior to men. They are capable of sharing all the responsibilities of life. Man and woman have been rightly compared to the wheels of same carriage. They can have equal rights to participate in education, society, economics and politics. They are allowed to have higher education and treated in the way like men and they are the backbone for a progressing nation. But in reality, we all know that India's is a male dominated in every area and females are forced to be responsibilities for only family care and live in the home with many restrictions. Classifying the people based on gender is unreasonable and it is having no worth. Still, women are paid less, expected to cook and restricted by their family members. They still not allowed women to work or study far away from their home because they believed that women are weaker than men and some husbands get jealously. In additionally, some women in Cambodia married in young age and some also forced to married by their parents. To overcome these situations and to have an independent role in society, women's empowerment is needed. Women must possess self-worth, confidence, and freedom to choose their needs and requirements.

Review of Previous Studies

Mathur, P. and Agarwal, P. (2017), The purpose of this paper is to examine the role of self-help groups (SHGs) in providing an environment for the empowerment of Indian rural women. The authors argue that the SHG empowerment strategy paves the way for the process of development of bottom-up empowerment of women. The authors argue that SHG is a systematic strategy and is not solely based on credit, but also incorporates many other dimensions necessarily required for developing an empowerment process. The survey was conducted by the authors in the vicinity of rural Jaipur, Rajasthan, India. Moreover, during the survey, it was found out that participation in SHG facilitates women to know the current state of disempowerment and provides them strength, capacity to come out from the status of drudgery, poverty and seclusion.

Chatterjee, S., Dutta Gupta, S. and Upadhyay, P. (2018) the purpose of the paper is to address the sustainability issue of Self-help groups by means of developing small business/micro-entrepreneurs. The causal relationship between empowerment through SHG and micro-entrepreneurship is being investigated by estimating empirical data through structural equation modeling with second-order latent factor. Empirical examination supports the causal relationship between empowerment through SHG and small business. The study is conforming the policy of group forming and, at this stage, develops a conceptual framework but with real implications for comprehensive policy decisions. There are many studies on the women empowerment aspect of SHGs. However, few attempted to find out how the micro-entrepreneurs emerging from SHGs.

Statement of the Problem

Government of India recognized that to make our country as developed one, first of all it is very necessary to empower women. It had taken a few efforts to build the job of women and to improve the status of women. In this context, the government of India initiated so many schemes for empowerment of women. Self-help groups have become the Vehicle of change in India, transforming the lives of underprivileged and marginalized. 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, small business and the like. Small scale units create more self-employment opportunities with less capital investment requirements. It is a tool to remove poverty and improve the women entrepreneurship self-help groups are progressively turning out to be significant strategy for arranging women to make a move and change their circumstances. This is particularly true in the corporation areas and in cases of main weaker sections of society like scheduled caste, fisherman, and backward class. In the recent times, women have contributed to great extent towards the development of the economy but not many are aware that they have the potential. The recent development has been in entrepreneurial activities undertaken by them. Therefore, empowerment of women is the only remedy to the problem faced by them in our society. Hence the researcher chosen the study as empowerment of women through SHG.

Objectives

The following are the objectives of the present study.

- To examine the socio-economic status of the women SHGs member in the Study area.
- To identify the reason for joining in SHGs.
- To find out the socio-economic empowerment of women SHGs member in the study area.

Scope of the Study

The present study has been carried out to assess the empowerment of women through Self-Help Groups in Thoothukudi Corporations. It aimed to assess the Self-Help Groups, socio-economic conditions of Self-Help Group members, provided the facility of pooling their savings and access to credit, reasons for joining Self-Help Groups and also a humble effort to assess the socio-economic empowerment of women through Self-Help Groups.

Methodology

The methodology adopted for the study was descriptive and empirical in nature involving primary and secondary data. The primary data was collected by an interview Schedule. The secondary data were collected from the official records of Self-Help Groups at the district level and block level. Simple random sampling method was adopted to draw the sample respondents meant for the study. The list of Self-Help Group operated by different NGOs covered under the Mahalir Thittam in Thoothukudi Corporation was prepared and arranged. From the list of SHGs, 20 SHGs were selected at random from the study area and 5 members from each of the selected 20 SHGs were selected at random, thus constituting a sample size of 100 members for the purpose of the study.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

TABLE.1

Demographic Profile of the Respondents

S. No	Age-wise Classification	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	18-30	2	2
2.	31-40	40	40
3.	41-50	36	36
4.	51-60	20	20
5.	Above 60	2	2
Total		100	100
S. No.	Marital Status	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	Married	86	86
2.	Un-Married	-	-
3.	Widow/Separate	14	14
Total		100	100
S. No.	Nature of family	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	Nuclear family	70	70
2.	Joint family	30	30
Total		100	100
S. No	Educational Qualification	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	Up to Primary Education	1	1
2.	Up to HSS	74	74
3.	Graduate	22	22
4.	Others	3	3
Total		100	100
S. No	Occupation	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	Taylor	42	42
2.	Small business	12	12
3.	Grocery shop	10	10
4.	Self-employed	6	6
5.	House wife	28	28
6.	Others	2	2
Total		100	100
S. No	Family size	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	Up to 3	38	38
2.	4-5	52	52
3.	6-7	8	8
4.	Above 7	2	2
Total		100	100
S. No	Income earners	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	One	40	40
2.	Two	53	53
3.	Three	5	5
4.	More than three	2	2
Total		100	100

Source: Primary data

TABLE 2
Status of SHG Members

S. No.	Numbers	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	12-14	58	58
2.	15-16	28	28
3.	17-18	4	4
4.	19-20	10	10
Total		100	100
S. No.	No. of years	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	Up to 1 years	12	12
2.	1 – 3 years	32	32
3.	4 – 6 years	16	16
4.	Above 6 years	40	40
Total		100	100
S. No.	Frequency of Meeting	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	Weakly once	10	10
2.	Fortnight once	6	6
3.	Monthly once	84	84
Total		100	100
S. No	Reasons for forming	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1.	To save money	47	47
2.	Out of Interest	6	6
3.	Compulsion of friends/ relations	4	4
4.	Above 6 years to avail loan	10	10
5.	To start business	25	25
6.	To improve social and economic status	8	8
Total		100	100
S. No.	Improvement of Social Status	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	Very much	46	46
2.	To some extend	16	16
3.	Very least	38	38
Total		100	100

Findings

- Majority (40%) of the self-help group women are in the age group of 31-40. This means that youth are more attracted towards the process of participation and collective action.
- It is observed that 86% of the Self Help Group women are married.
- It is found that 70% of the self help group members were Nuclear family
- Out of 100, 74% of the self help group women have completed up to HSC
- Majority (42%) of the self help group women are working in Taylor shop
- 52% of the self help group women belonging to the family size of 4-5 members.
- It is found that majority of the respondents belong to the family of 2 earning members.
- It conclude that majority of the respondents (45%) say that they have joined in SHG to save money
- It is confirmed that majority of the SHG respondents belong to the category of 12-14 members group.
- It is evident that majority of the respondents are having more than 6 years of membership in SHG
- 46% of the respondents say that after joining SHGs it improve their social states very much.

Suggestion

- Since youths are more attracted towards the process of participation and collective action, the Government will motivate them by introducing some peculiar scheme for them.
- The literacy level among the SHG women is low hence efforts should be made to improve the literacy on priority basis because education provides opportunity for socio-economic development.
- Importance should be given on the training programmes so as to create awareness about the different types of livelihood generating like tailoring, hand working, handicrafts, and prepare snacks items.

- Since the reasonable number of self help group women are engaging in small business. The Government could provide the entrepreneurial training to the SHG members so as to do their business effectively
- Since women play vital role in society and their family, they are facing many problem and stress in their day to day life. Hence the Government official should take necessary steps to give counseling to the SHG women so as to do their functions smoothly.
- The SHG members strongly agreed that self help group improved their economic independence, self confidence; decision making, family change, and personal independence. Hence it should be maintained and take necessary efforts to further improvement so as to achieve the women empowerment.

Conclusion

Self Help Group is an important tool which helps the rural women to acquire power for their self-supportive life. SHG Programme clearly plays a pivotal role in the lives of the poor. Empowering women is not just for meeting their economic needs but also more holistic social development. Since women are the sole family caretaker, proper emphasis should be given to the women and for empowering the women finance is required. Microfinance to the SHGs is a way to raise the income level and improve the living standards and economic independence of the women. The impact on their lives is not just an economic one -gaining more self-confidence is often a more lasting achievement that forms the basis for social and economic improvements. It has empowered women members substantially and contributed to increased self confidence and positive behavioural changes in the post-SHG period as compared to the pre-SHG period. The self help groups in Thoothukudi perform very well and provision offered to women for their empowerment is notable one

Reference

Journals

- Colovic, A. and Mehrotra, S. (2020), "Lifelong activism and women's entrepreneurship: how a social movement organization improves conditions for self-employed women in India", European Business Review, Vol. 32 No. 5, pp. 937-958.
- Joshi, G. (2019), "An analysis of women's self-help groups' involvement in microfinance program in India", Rajagiri Management Journal, Vol. 13 No. 2, pp. 2-11.
- Chatterjee, S., Dutta Gupta, S. and Upadhyay, P. (2018), "Empowering women and stimulating development at bottom of pyramid through micro-entrepreneurship", Management Decision, Vol. 56 No. 1, pp. 160-174.
- Dr. (smt) Rajeshwari M.Shettar Apr 2015, A study on Issue and challenges of women empowerment in India ISSN 2278-487X ISSN 2319-7668 vol 17 Issue 4.PP 13-19.
- V. Valliammal Apr 2018, "Socio – Economic Empowerment of Women Through Self Help Groups – A Study With Reference To Thoothukudi District In Tamilnadu" International Journal of Recent Research Aspects ISSN: 2349-7688 pp. 159-163.

Websites

1. www.google.com
2. www.emeraldinsight.in
3. <http://www.shodhganga.inflibnet.in>
4. <http://researchgate.in>
5. www.thoothukudicorporation.com

Books

1. Business statistics-R.K.Gupta
2. Research Methodology-C.R.Kothari