



A Study on Impact of Self-Help Groups in The Socio-Economic Conditions of Women Entrepreneur in Krishna District.

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Abstract

Women must actively challenge cultural and social norms in order to empower themselves and effectively advance their well-being. This study examines women's empowerment through self-help groups in Krishna District. The participation of women in self-help groups (SHGs) has a substantial impact on their empowerment both in social and economic dimensions. One of the most significant aspects influencing the societal economic development is entrepreneurship. It has been believed that entrepreneurs play a key role in launching and sustaining socioeconomic progress. The idea of women entrepreneurs is relatively new in India. Women have entered a variety of commercial professions and are more aware of their rights and circumstances. They have built successful corporate empires of their own. As women's literacy rates rise in India, the proportion of women in the workforce is rising as well. In various Indian regions, the idea of self-help groups (SHGs) has shown to be beneficial for rural women. Their social standing has increased along with their income. The primary focus of this essay is on the contribution that SHGs provide to rural women's economic empowerment. The study's conclusion demonstrates that the SHG members' economic situation is positively impacted by the SHG activities.

Key words: Woman Entrepreneur, Empowerment, SHG , Socio-economic conditions

Introduction

SHGs are mostly created at the village level by women joining together in small, deliberate groups. After a testing period, these groups are then credit-linked to local banks. Microcredit is a general term for small loans made without security. Most rural households require relatively small-scale borrowings yet lack the necessary collateral. Institutional credit has thus been unable to effectively enter the rural economy. Now that little funds have been collected from group members, SHGs have stepped in to provide microcredit, first with this corpus and then with the addition of credit tied to banks. A SHG is created when a number of impoverished rural residents band together to establish a unified organisation and pool their savings on a regular basis. Small loans are made to members for both consumption and productive purposes using the group's savings. Savings from the group are mostly used for internal lending to members, based on their ability to repay. The SHGs may approach a bank for a loan extension after developing a reliable system of savings, lending, and recoveries. Banks are willing to provide credit to SHGs when it is tied to their "own investment," which consists of their deposits plus investments in internal loans to members plus interest from those loans plus any other income.

Social empowerment

Man and woman are equal under the Constitution and the law. However, in actuality, women still occupy a subordinate position. There are numerous instances of inequality in the birth rate of women and men, in educational attainment, and in political and financial participation. On women, atrocities are committed. She is not seen as a person, but rather as a delicious object. This situation is being changed in an effort to reach a point where men and women are treated equally. Many programmes are being implemented to ensure that women have equal access to school and career opportunities. As a result, there has been some development in this area. Women are now more prevalent in banks, Gram Panchayats, and other government committees, which has significantly raised their social position. But this procedure takes a long time. The thinking of society as a whole needs to alter to help this process forward. The term "social empowerment" refers to a woman's entitlement to a significant position in her family and society as well as the ability to access resources. The team members SHGs are mostly women. They save money and invest in SHG. They can use it at the time of their needs. As they can have money in their hand, they get in reasonable status in their family. It has resulted in developing self-confidence, self-esteem and self-respect also.

Economic empowerment

It is essential for a woman to have access to, control over, and some degree of financial autonomy in order to be economically empowered.

In India, women work longer hours than men do, according to the National Commission for Women (NCW)- (Status of Women 2001) study. Females participate in 51% of all activities that are not compensated, compared to only 33% of male activities. In addition to this unpaid labour, they are also responsible for taking care of the household, which includes cooking, cleaning, fetching water and fuel, gathering cow feed, maintaining the environment, and giving voluntarily to vulnerable and underprivileged members of the family. This demonstrates that, despite some progress, there is still much work to be done to empower women. To achieve the goal, there is an urgent need of change in the mindset of the entire society.

Review of literature

Prem Singh Dahiya (2012) have explained that the success or efficiency of microfinance interventions may be understood at three levels, primarily (i) outreach and financial sustainability of the programme, (ii) income or poverty impact on the users, and (iii) development of financial market at the local level. The impact on the economy is quantified as an increase in annual incremental income. Income growth was reported by all SHGs, totaling 94.3%. They have also noted that several metrics are employed to assess the households' maturity. These include homogeneity, significance of group creation, awareness of group goals, participation in meetings, frequency of meetings, and regularity. of savings, (vi) repayment of loans and (vii) group participation in financial transactions.

Dahiya (2016) They conducted a socioeconomic analysis of the operation of SHGs in the Himachal Pradesh district of Solan for their research paper. The data was gathered from 54 SHG members who were selected from six SHGs in two district development blocks. According to the survey, members primarily worked in small-scale industries such as bangle sales, tailoring, subsistence farming, etc. Internal lending interest rates varied from 24 to 60%, while bank interest rates were 12.5 percent. For both internal and bank loans, the recovery performance was 100%. The study discovered that annual income rose significantly during the post-SHG period. Compared to the more established groups, this growth was particularly high for the newly formed groups. The overall increase in annual income was 94.3 per cent in post-linkage period. The social impact was deep in empowering women folk, educational development of children and emancipation from social evils like drunkenness by male household members.

Manimekalai and Rajeswari (2016) researched the socioeconomic backgrounds of self-help group members in rural Tamil Nadu microbusinesses and looked into the driving forces behind the women's decision to join SHGs and subsequently start their own businesses. In order to identify the challenges SHG women experience in managing their businesses, researchers examined the nature of economic activity and performance in terms of growth indicators including investment turnover, employment, sources of finance, product marketing, and other related elements. 150 SHG members were chosen as a sample for the study from 5 blocks in the Tiruchirapalli district of Tamil Nadu, and they were examined based on the nature of their activities. An NGO created and promoted these organisations. The groups' microbusinesses were mostly

engaged in trading, According to the report, agriculture was the industry in which women SHGs made the most money, followed by trade-related activities and catering services. The vast majority of sample units sold their goods directly to clients rather than marketing them outside of their districts. When the SHG women started microbusinesses, their income nearly doubled. The majority of respondents experienced substantial issues such a shortage of raw materials, infrastructure facilities including marketing, lack of family support for business operations, etc. The NGO's supply of microloans to the women's SHGs has aided the organisations in achieving a certain level of economic and social empowerment. It had gained experience managing numerous commercial tasks, identifying raw materials, and leading others. market and suitable diversification and modernization.

Bardhan and Dabas (2017), the people in rural India belong to different castes, have a variety of jobs, and have a wide range of socioeconomic statuses, according to research on microfinance initiatives through SHGs. In fact, the requirements for group formation lead to significantly improved functioning of the SHGs. By making attendance at regular meetings a requirement for all members, the group can perform better. It is also implied that greater credit acquisition costs raise the value of credit and increase repayment obligations and accountability to the group. The research also emphasises the necessity of transparency in group operations for improved group functioning and for maintaining member trust in one another.

Sheokand (2017) highlighted the development of Indian banking and how it failed to give loans to the underprivileged. In 1992, NABARD launched the Self Help Group-Bank Linkage Program, which was hailed as a turning point in banking for the underprivileged. It was noted that the supply of loans to targeted groups has replaced the security-focused individual banking method utilised by Regional Rural Banks. He claimed that although government-sponsored programmes had taken up a significant amount of economic space, they had not succeeded in reducing poverty. The Self Help Group-Bank Linkage Program has been very effective in enabling the hard-core poor to better their socioeconomic situation by giving them access to financial services and empowering them to engage in economic activities that will reduce their level of poverty. Despite the fact that this approach wasn't a cure-all for the

Rutherford (2018) the distinction between microfinance and microcredit was clarified. Microfinance is a concept that encompasses initiatives to collect savings from low-income households, provide consumer loans, and insurance in addition to microcredit. Microcredit particularly referred to tiny loans made to the poor. Additionally, it assisted in promoting and disseminating clients' product. Microfinance encompasses a variety of financial services aimed at addressing the needs of the poor, shielding them from varying incomes and other shocks while also working to increase their incomes and standard of living. problems of rural poverty, it had the potential for becoming a permanent system of rural lending in the country with full participation from the formal banking system and without any interference from the government.

Objective of the Study

- ✓ To research the self-help group membership profiles of women in the Krishna District
- ✓ To investigate the part SHG plays in rural women's socioeconomic development.

Hypothesis

Null Hypothesis (H_0)

There is no significant difference between the Educational Qualification and Self-Help Groups in the socio-economic conditions of women entrepreneur

Alternate Hypothesis (H_1)

There is a significant difference between the Educational Qualification and Self-Help Groups in the socio-economic conditions of women entrepreneur .

Null Hypothesis (H_0)

There is no significant difference between the annual income and Self-Help Groups in the socio-economic conditions of women entrepreneur.

Alternate Hypothesis (H_1)

There is a significant difference between the annual income and Self-Help Groups in the socio-economic conditions of women entrepreneur

Null Hypothesis (H_0)

There is no significant difference between occupation and Self-Help Groups in the socio-economic conditions of women entrepreneur.

Alternate Hypothesis (H_1)

There is a significant difference between the occupation and Self-Help Groups in the socio-economic conditions of women entrepreneur

Sources of Data

Both primary as well as secondary data were used for this study to have a better focus on the objectives framed.

Primary Data

Primary data was collected from the respondents, through a structured questionnaire. It incorporates Personal details regarding age, income, occupation etc., were also gathered.

Secondary Data

Information from journals, newspapers, magazines, books, articles, and numerous websites served as secondary sources. A total of 320 questionnaires were distributed through personal contacts as part of the data collection process. Only 293 of the 300 completed surveys that were received—representing 93.75% of the responses—were actually used. The remaining questionnaires were discarded because of incomplete and inaccurate answers. A practical sampling strategy was used for the investigation. F-test and t-test analyses,

percentage analyses, basic distribution analysis, and other analyses were conducted and employed in the study.

Limitation of the Study

1. Data collected from the respondents 'self-help group women in Krishna District only
2. There are many variables that influence in the study, but the study is confined to selected variables only.
3. Respondents religious settings and husband occupation have not been considered for this study

TABLE SHOWING THE DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLE

Age	No of Respondent	Percentages
Up to 25 years	21	7.16
26 years to 35 years	64	21.84
36 years to 45 years	61	20.82
46 years to 55 years	82	27.99
Above 55 years	45	15.36
Total	293	100
EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION		
Nil	43	15.30
Up to 10 th	66	22.53
Up to 12 th	62	21.33
Up to UG	77	26.11
Up to PG	45	15.35
Total	293	100
ANNUAL INCOME		
Less than 25000	83	28.50
25000 – 50000	99	33.78
50000 – 75000	46	15.70
75000- 100000	32	10.40
Above 100000	34	11.43
Total	293	100
OCCUPATION DISTRIBUTION		

Daily Earner	77	26.27
Business	73	24.91
Private	76	25.94
Govt.	67	22.87
Total	293	100

Source: Primary data

Inferences

From the table infrared that, 63% of respondent are above 36 years. Table infrared that, 15.30 percentages of respondents are not educated, 22.53 percentages of respondents are up to 10 standards, 21.33 percentages of respondents are up to 12 standards, 26.11 percentages of respondents are up to Up to UG degree and 15.35 percentage of respondent's parent are Up to PG degree.

The table infrared that, 28.50 percentages of respondents are earning less than Rs.25, 000, 33.78 percentage of respondents are earning Rs. 25000 – 50000, 15.70 percentage of respondents are earning Rs. 50000 – 75000, 10.40 percentage of respondents are earning Rs. 75000- 100000 and 11.43 percentage of respondent's parent earning Rs. Above 100000.

The table infrared that, 26.27 percentages of respondents are daily earning, 24.91 percentages of respondents are business, 25.94 percentages of respondents are private employee, 22.87 percentage of respondents areGovt employee.

Hypothesis

Null Hypothesis (H₀)

There is no significant difference between the Educational Qualification and Self-Help Groups in the socio-economic conditions of women entrepreneur

Alternate Hypothesis (H₁)

There is a significant difference between the Educational Qualification and Self-Help Groups in the socio-economic conditions of women entrepreneur .

TABLE SOWING THE EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION SELF-HELP GROUPS IN THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEUR

Particulars	Mean Value	S.D	f-value	P Value	Result
Nil	66.7322	6.112	.6798	.000*	Significant
Up to 10 th	67.4312	6.231			
Up to 12 th	67.8029	6.976			
Up to UG	71.3291	6.211			
Up to PG	72.1771	6.672			

Source: Primary data

*At 1% level of significance **At 5% level of significance

Inferences

From the table inferred that, mean score (72.1771) indicate who are completed the graduations highly influences in their Self-Help Groups in the socio-economic conditions of women entrepreneur, (67.8029) mean value indicate who are completed the up to +2 in their moderately influences in their Self-Help Groups in the socio-economic conditions of women entrepreneur and mean score (66.7322) indicate who are not completed in primary educations in their low influences in their Self-Help Groups in the socio-economic conditions of women entrepreneur. Therefore the null hypothesis is rejected.

HYPOTHESIS

Null Hypothesis (H₀)

There is no significant difference between the annual income and Self-Help Groups in the socio-economic conditions of women entrepreneur.

Alternate Hypothesis (H₁)

There is a significant difference between the annual income and Self-Help Groups in the socio-economic conditions of women entrepreneur

TABLE SHOWING THE ANNUAL INCOME SELF-HELP GROUPS IN THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEUR

Particulars	Mean Value	S.D	f-value	P Value	Result
Less than 25000	77.432	6.612	.9012	.000*	Significant
25000 – 50000	58.731	6.831			
50000 – 75000	59.829	6.986			
75000- 100000	60.291	7.221			
Above 100000	61.541	7.634			

Source: Primary data

*At 1% level of significance

**At 5% level of significance

Inferences

From the table inferred that, mean score (61.541) indicate are earning income above 100000 in their not highly influences in their Self-Help Groups in the socio-economic conditions of women entrepreneur, (59.829) mean value indicate who are earnings between 50000 to 75000 their moderately influences in their Self-Help Groups in the socio-economic conditions of women entrepreneur and mean score (77.432) indicate who are earning below 25000 in their influences in their Self-Help Groups in the socio-economic conditions of women entrepreneur. Therefore the null hypothesis is rejected.

HYPOTHESIS

Null Hypothesis (H₀)

There is no significant difference between occupation and Self-Help Groups in the socio-economic conditions of women entrepreneur.

Alternate Hypothesis (H₁)

There is a significant difference between the occupation and Self-Help Groups in the socio-economic conditions of women entrepreneur

TABLE SHOWING THE OCCUPATION AND SELF-HELP GROUPS IN THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEUR

Particulars	Mean Value	S.D	f-value	P Value	Result
Daily Earner	76.412	6.212	2.782	.000*	Significant
Business	56.811	6.134			
Private	57.529	6.381			
Govt.	56.391	7.214			

Source: Primary data

*At 1% level of significance **At 5% level of significance

Inferences

From the table it is inferred that mean scores indicate are occupation government in their not highly influences in their Self-Help Groups in the socio-economic conditions of women entrepreneur, mean value indicate who are private employee moderately influences in their Self-Help Groups in the socio-economic conditions of women entrepreneur and daily earner influences in their Self-Help Groups in the socio-economic conditions of women entrepreneur. Therefore the null hypothesis is rejected.

Suggestion

The attitude, drive, dedication, and comprehension of socioeconomic issues and the dynamics of self-help groups of the promoting agencies are essential. Initial phases of the inception phase call for intensive nurturing and care procedures. It has been realised that the emphasis should shift from creating new groups to enhancing the capabilities of current groups. The urgent requirement is to increase the existing organisations' capacity and guarantee their sustainability. In the state, just 16% of the groups are considered to be of high quality. Even then, the groups' ability to flourish is hampered by a number of circumstances. It is advised to focus your efforts on the current group while developing your capacities. Additionally, increasing capacity is a continuous process, and it's crucial to keep an eye on the current systems. SHG group members and leaders, bankers, and the promoting agency, as well as the animator and bookkeeper, all require capacity building. It is possible to improve the abilities and competencies of the promoting organisations so that they can comprehend the dynamics of SHGs, their surroundings, and the socioeconomic circumstances of the group members. Planners and financial institutions might examine the groups and strengthen the groups with the aid of a thorough database of SHGs and organisations that support them at the district level.

This movement must become participative by incorporating the groups' expressed requirements into the approach.

Conclusions

The empowerment of women in self-help groups in the sample area is greatly influenced by socioeconomic characteristics. This demonstrates the necessity and significance of socioeconomic variables and their ability to successfully guide and implement the government's programmes designed to empower women in rural areas and society at large. A successful self-help group participant is one who lights a fire under the followers and enlightens them by counselling and mentoring for the good of the group members and the greater good of society. This study provides empirical support for the actions taken and pursued by the leaders in the sample area to empower women in socioeconomic dimensions.

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