



COMPARISON OF FINANCIAL INCLUSION OF WOMEN OF KUDUBI COMMUNITY IN KARNATAKA BASED ON NUMBER OF EARNERS IN FAMILY: AN EMPIRICAL STUDY

* RAMYA K R

**Dr.SUBHASHINI SRIVATSA

* RESEARCH SCHOLAR, MANGALORE UNIVERSITY, MANGALAGANGOTRI

** ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, MANGALORE.

Abstract

The recent confusion and uncertainty among the public regarding the implementation of new banking rules and regulations highlights the critical need for financial education. Effective financial education can not only aid in attracting customers to financial institutions, but it can also play a crucial role in ensuring the long-term sustainability of these customers within the banking sector. Financial inclusion is the process of ensuring that individuals and businesses, particularly those in disadvantaged or marginalized communities, have access to appropriate and affordable financial products and services. In the context of the Kudubi community in Karnataka, financial inclusion efforts may involve providing education and training on financial literacy, as well as working with financial institutions to create products and services that meet the specific needs of Kudubi women. The ability to access and effectively utilize financial products and services is a vital aspect of financial inclusion, and without proper education and understanding, individuals and communities may be excluded from the financial system. This study aims to examine the financial inclusion of women from the Kudubi community in Karnataka, India. The Kudubi community is a marginalized and disadvantaged group, and the financial inclusion of its women is an important aspect of overall financial inclusion and economic development. The study will look at the current state of financial inclusion among Kudubi women, including access to financial products and services, financial literacy and education, and any social and cultural barriers that may prevent them from accessing financial services. Sample of 240 women of Kudubi community were surveyed to compare and know the impact of Financial Inclusion of Women on

Kudubi community in Karnataka Based on Number of Earners in Family and concludes that there is significant impact of financial inclusion of women of Kudubi community in Karnataka.

Keyword- banking, financial inclusion, kudubi community

Introduction

Kudubis are an ethnic group that belongs to the non-scheduled tribes of the Indian state of Karnataka. They are a distinct community with their own culture, traditions and way of life. Kudubis are mainly concentrated in the taluks of Kundapur and Mangalore, which are located in the Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka. However, a small number of them can also be found in other taluks such as Udupi, Karkala, and Bantwal. These taluks are situated in the coastal region of Dakshina Kannada, which is known for its rich cultural heritage and diverse ethnic population. Kudubis have been living in this region for centuries and have played a significant role in shaping its cultural and economic landscape. (Heggade, P., & Heggade, O. D. 2012) Despite their contribution, they have been marginalized and disadvantaged, facing multiple challenges such as lack of education and economic opportunities. The community's livelihood mainly depends on agriculture and traditional occupations. The community is also known for their unique customs and practices that are deeply rooted in their culture and heritage. The study of this particular community is important as it can help us understand the challenges they face, and how to improve their lives and help them to be included in the mainstream society. Kudubis, an ethnic group found in the Indian state of Karnataka, have been classified and described in various ways over time. (Shetty, N. K. 2008) They have been referred to as "food-gathering tribes," "hunting-tribes," "hill-tribes," "aboriginal tribes," and "interesting-tribes," and have been characterized as landless labourers of aboriginal stock. Despite the diverse terminology used to describe the Kudubis, it is clear that they are a tribe and that their social and economic position is as poor as that of other tribes in Karnataka. Despite their disadvantaged status, the Kudubis were included in Group B by the Government of Karnataka until 1973. This classification was used by the government to categorize different ethnic and tribal groups, with Group B typically comprising tribes that were considered to be more advanced or developed than those in Group A. However, this classification is now considered outdated, and it is important to note that the inclusion of the Kudubis in Group B did not necessarily reflect their true social and economic status. (Viswanath, N. S. 2011) The Kudubi community has been facing multiple challenges such as lack of education, lack of economic opportunities, landlessness and poverty. The community's livelihood mainly depends on agriculture and traditional occupations. Increasing financial knowledge within the Kudubi community is a crucial step towards improving the financial inclusion and economic well-being of this marginalized group. Financial literacy, or the knowledge and understanding of financial concepts and products, is essential for individuals to make informed financial decisions and effectively manage their money. Financial education can empower Kudubi community **members to access and use financial services, plan for the future, and achieve their financial goals.**

There are several strategies that can be employed to increase financial knowledge within the Kudubi community. One approach is to provide education and training on financial literacy through community-based programs and workshops. These programs can be tailored to the specific needs and circumstances of the Kudubi community and can cover a wide range of topics, such as budgeting, saving, credit management, and investment. Another strategy is to work with financial institutions to create products and services that are appropriate and accessible for Kudubi community members, and to educate them on how to use them effectively.

Literature review

The financial well-being of the Kudubi community, a marginalized group in Karnataka, is of great concern due to the lack of financial knowledge and savings among women in the community. A recent report highlights that a majority of Kudubi community members are dependent on daily wages for their livelihood, with the average income being just Rs 30, which falls below the poverty line as fixed by the Rangarajan panel. (Bhatta, R. 2013) This economic vulnerability puts them at a greater risk of financial insecurity and limits their ability to save and plan for their future. Additionally, the study conducted by Visa also found that a significant number of women in the Kudubi community do not discuss money management with their children, further perpetuating the cycle of financial challenges for the next generation. (KUMAR, A. C. n.d.) To address these issues, it is imperative to provide the Kudubi community, particularly women, with the necessary resources and education to enhance their financial literacy and management skills. This can be achieved through community-based financial literacy programs, partnerships with financial institutions, and government initiatives that support financial inclusion. By addressing the financial knowledge gap among Kudubi women, we can pave the way for a more secure financial future for them, their families, and the entire community. Limited opportunities for economic advancement and development is one of the major issues faced by the Kudubi community due to their lack of financial knowledge. Without financial literacy and the ability to manage their money effectively, Kudubi community members may find it difficult to secure employment or start their own businesses. This can lead to a lack of economic opportunities and a reliance on low-paying jobs or daily wages, which makes it hard for them to break out of poverty and improve their standard of living. (AHMED, S. R., KUMAR, S., & KHAN, M. 2021). Additionally, without knowledge of financial concepts and products, Kudubi community members may miss out on opportunities to invest or grow their wealth which hinders the community's economic growth. This is particularly concerning for women in the community, as a lack of financial knowledge can also lead to a lack of decision-making power and control over their financial resources, further exacerbating their economic disadvantages. A significant number of Kudubi community members are dependent on daily wages for their livelihood, with the average income being just Rs 30, which falls below the poverty line as fixed by the Rangarajan panel. This economic vulnerability puts them at a greater risk of financial insecurity and limits their ability to save and plan for their future. However, there are several strategies that can be implemented to increase limited opportunities for economic development in the Kudubi community. One approach is to encourage entrepreneurship and self-employment opportunities. By providing training and support in business development, including access to credit and other resources, Kudubi community members can be empowered to start their own businesses and take control of their economic futures. MN, R., Shetty, N. S., & Mayya, P. S. (2011) Another strategy is to increase access to financial services. Providing access to microfinance and other financial services can help Kudubi community members to start and grow small businesses, which can lead to economic development and job creation in the community. Despite facing numerous challenges, the community has managed to sustain themselves through their agricultural practices and traditional occupation. This deep connection to the land and their agricultural skills can play a vital role in improving their financial inclusion. Firstly, the community's agricultural skills can help them to produce a reliable source of food for themselves and their

families, which can improve their food security and overall well-being. Additionally, the community's agricultural practices can also provide them with a source of income. According to a report, around 75% of the Kudubi community members are daily wage workers and the average income of a Kudubi is around Rs 30, which is Rs 2 less than the poverty line fixed by the Rangarajan panel. By utilizing their agricultural skills, they can increase their income and break out of poverty. A significant number of women in the Kudubi community are the sole breadwinners in their families. These women often have to bear the financial burden of providing for their families, which can make it difficult for them to access and effectively utilize financial products and services. This lack of financial inclusion can lead to a cycle of poverty and financial insecurity for these women and their families. On the other hand, when there are multiple earners in a family, the financial burden is shared among family members and it can be easier for the women in the family to access financial services and participate in economic activities. This can lead to a higher level of financial inclusion for the women and can help to improve their overall economic well-being. To address this issue, it is important to provide support and resources to women who are the sole breadwinners in their families. This can include community-based financial literacy programs, partnerships with financial institutions, and government initiatives that support financial inclusion. Additionally, creating awareness about the importance of multiple earners in a family can also help to change attitudes and increase the uptake of financial education programs. This change in the traditional economic organization of the Kudubi community is a reflection of the changing times and the impact of modernization. The community, which was once heavily dependent on traditional occupations such as hunting, gathering, and agriculture, is now seeing a shift towards new occupations. Many members of the community have given up their traditional occupations in search of better economic opportunities. This shift is driven by a variety of factors, including changes in the local economy, increased access to education, and government policies that encourage economic development. The community is now seeing a rise in new occupations such as manual labor, government jobs, and small business ownership. This shift in occupation has also led to a change in the economic status of the community, with many members now earning higher incomes and having greater access to financial services. However, this shift has also led to some challenges. Many members of the community may not have the skills or experience required for new occupations, which can make it difficult for them to find and retain employment. Additionally, the loss of traditional occupations can also lead to a loss of cultural identity and heritage. Comparing the financial inclusion of women in the Kudubi community in Karnataka based on the number of earners in the family can reveal important insights into the economic situation of the community. Families with multiple earners are more likely to have a higher level of financial inclusion than those with a single earner. This is because when the financial burden is shared among family members, it can be easier for women in the family to access financial services and participate in economic activities. Additionally, with multiple earners, the family may have more disposable income, making it easier for them to save and invest for their future. On the other hand, families with a single earner, especially if it is a woman, may face more financial challenges. These women often must bear the financial burden of providing for their families, which can make it difficult for them to access and effectively utilize financial products and services. Additionally, with limited income, they may have less disposable income, making it difficult for them to save and plan for their future. The use of digital platforms and mobile banking in remote and isolated Kudubi communities can

also be supported by providing digital literacy training and awareness programmes to the community members, so that they can effectively use these services. Additionally, Government can also play a role in promoting digital platforms and mobile banking by providing subsidies and other incentives for banks and financial institutions to offer these services in tribal areas. Digital platforms and mobile banking allow community members to access financial services from anywhere and at any time, eliminating the need to travel long distances to a bank branch. Digital platforms and mobile banking can be more cost-effective than traditional banking methods, as they require less infrastructure and staff. Dependence on low income can greatly impact the financial well-being of individuals and communities. When income is low and unstable, it can be difficult to afford necessities such as food, housing, and healthcare. It also makes it harder to save money and plan, which can lead to a cycle of poverty and financial insecurity. For the Kudubi community, dependence on daily wages and low income can make it difficult for them to access financial services and products. With limited disposable income, they may not be able to save or invest for their future. Additionally, they may not have the collateral or credit history required to access loans or other financial services. Furthermore, low income can also lead to limited opportunities for economic advancement, making it difficult for members of the community to improve their financial situation. This can perpetuate the cycle of poverty and make it harder for the community to break free from financial insecurity.

Objective

1. To compare the Financial Inclusion of Women of Kudubi community in Karnataka Based on Number of Earners in Family.
2. To know the impact of financial inclusion of women on Kudubi community in Karnataka.

Methodology

Sample of 240 women of Kudubi community were surveyed to compare and know the impact of Financial Inclusion of Women on Kudubi community in Karnataka Based on Number of Earners in Family with the help of a structured questionnaire particularly designed for this study. The primary data was collected through random sampling method. Comparative mean and ANOVA was applied to analyse and evaluate the data and get the end results.

Findings

Table below is showing demographic details of the respondents where total 240 women were surveyed for present study survey. 29.6% of the respondents are below 30 yrs of age, 42.9% are between 30-40 yrs of age and rest 27.5% are above 40 years of age. 26.7% of the respondents are high school and below, 40.4% are intermediate and above and rest 32.9% are uneducated. 28.7% of the respondents are students, 44.6% are working and rest 26.7% are non-working. 30.4% of the respondents have single earner in their family, 41.3% have dual earner and rest 28.3% are with multiple earners in their family.

Table 1 Demographic Details

Variable	Respondents	Percentage
Age		
Below 30 yrs	71	29.6
30-40 yrs	103	42.9
Above 40 yrs	66	27.5
Total	240	100
Educational qualification		
High school and below	64	26.7
Intermediate and above	97	40.4
Uneducated	79	32.9
Total	240	100
Occupation		
Students	69	28.7
Working	107	44.6
Non-working	64	26.7
Total	240	100
No. Earners in family		
Single	73	30.4
Dual	99	41.3
Multiple	68	28.3
Total	240	100

Table 2 Comparison of Financial Inclusion of Women Based on Number of Earners

S. No.	Financial Inclusion of Women	No. of Earners			
		Single	Dual	Multiple	Total
1.	Financial inclusion of women helps them to save and invest for their future	3.61	4.06	4.14	3.94
2.	Financial inclusion encourages women to access financial services and participate in economic activities	3.31	3.68	3.86	3.62
3.	It encourages entrepreneurship and self-employment opportunities among women	3.22	3.68	3.94	3.61
4.	Increases decision-making power and control over their financial resources among women	3.65	4.09	4.30	4.01

5.	Financial inclusion helps to break out of poverty and improve standard of living	3.76	4.18	4.16	4.03
6.	Financial inclusion secure employment and help women to start their own businesses	3.63	4.30	4.30	4.07
7.	Addressing financial knowledge gap among women, we can pave the way for a more secure financial future	3.67	3.89	4.02	3.86
8.	Financial inclusion provides necessary resources and education to enhance financial literacy and management skills	3.70	3.67	4.10	3.82
9.	Financial inclusion will help women to create products and services that meet the specific needs	3.96	4.05	4.33	4.11
10.	Financial inclusion may provide education and training for employment	3.74	3.90	4.09	3.91

Table above is showing comparison of Financial Inclusion of Women Based on Number of Earners. It is found that highest mean value 4.14 is given for multiple earners followed by dual and single earner in the family where the respondent says that financial inclusion of women helps them to save and invest for their future. Similar results are shown for the statements like Financial inclusion encourages women to access financial services and participate in economic activities where highest mean value 3.86 is shown for multiple earners followed by dual earners

with mean value 3.68. It encourages entrepreneurship and self-employment opportunities among women highest mean value 3.94 (multiple earner) followed by 3.68 (dual earner). Financial inclusion increases decision-making power and control over their financial resources among women (4.30) where the family have multiple earners. Financial inclusion helps to break out of poverty and improve standard of living 4.18 mean value shown for dual earners followed by multiple earners with mean value 4.16. Respondent shares that financial inclusion secure employment and help women to start their own businesses sharing common mean value 4.30 for dual and multiple earners. Highest mean value is shown for multiple earners in the family followed by dual earner for all the statements Addressing financial knowledge gap among women, we can pave the way for a more secure financial future, financial inclusion will help women to create products and services that meet the specific needs and financial inclusion may provide education and training for employment 4.02, 4.33 and 4.09 respectively.

Table 3 ANOVA

Impact of social media		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Financial inclusion of women helps them to save and invest for their future	Between Groups	12.900	2	6.450	10.829	.000
	Within Groups	141.162	237	.596		
	Total	154.062	239			
Financial inclusion encourages women to access financial services and participate in economic activities	Between Groups	12.508	2	6.254	8.708	.000
	Within Groups	170.225	237	.718		
	Total	182.733	239			
It encourages entrepreneurship and self-employment opportunities among women	Between Groups	20.775	2	10.387	15.762	.000
	Within Groups	156.188	237	.659		
	Total	176.962	239			
Increases decision-making power and control over their financial resources among women	Between Groups	17.575	2	8.788	15.383	.000
	Within Groups	135.388	237	.571		
	Total	152.962	239			
Financial inclusion helps to break out of poverty and improve standard of living	Between Groups	8.808	2	4.404	4.297	.015
	Within Groups	242.925	237	1.025		
	Total	251.733	239			
Financial inclusion secures employment and help women to start their own businesses	Between Groups	24.300	2	12.150	12.081	.000
	Within Groups	238.350	237	1.006		
	Total	262.650	239			
Addressing financial knowledge gap among women, we can pave the way for a more secure financial future	Between Groups	4.975	2	2.488	3.111	.046
	Within Groups	189.487	237	.800		
	Total	194.463	239			

Financial inclusion provides necessary resources and education to enhance financial literacy and management skills	Between Groups	9.100	2	4.550	4.824	.009
	Within Groups	223.550	237	.943		
	Total	232.650	239			
Financial inclusion will help women to create products and services that meet the specific needs	Between Groups	5.725	2	2.863	6.044	.003
	Within Groups	112.237	237	.474		
	Total	117.962	239			
Financial inclusion may provide education and training for employment	Between Groups	4.908	2	2.454	4.804	.009
	Within Groups	121.075	237	.511		
	Total	125.983	239			

Table above is showing ANOVA results for impact of Financial Inclusion of Women Based on Number of Earners. It is observed that value under significance column for all the statements is below 0.05.

Table 4 Multiple Comparisons

Dependent Variable	(I) VAR00001	(J) VAR00001	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig.
Financial inclusion helps women to save and invest for their future	Single	Dual	-.45000*	.12203	.001
		Multiple	-.52500*	.12203	.000
	Multiple	Dual	.07500	.12203	.812
Financial inclusion encourages women to access financial services and participate in economic activities	Single	Dual	-.36250*	.13400	.020
		Multiple	-.55000*	.13400	.000
	Multiple	Dual	.18750	.13400	.343
It encourages entrepreneurship and self-employment opportunities among women	Single	Dual	-.45000*	.12836	.002
		Multiple	-.71250*	.12836	.000
	Multiple	Dual	.26250	.12836	.104
Increases decision-making power and control over their financial resources among women	Single	Dual	-.43750*	.11950	.001
		Multiple	-.65000*	.11950	.000
	Multiple	Dual	.21250	.11950	.179
Financial inclusion helps to break	Single	Dual	-.41250*	.16008	.028

out of poverty and improve standard of living		Multiple	-.40000*	.16008	.035
	Multiple	Dual	-.01250	.16008	.997
Financial inclusion secure employment and help women to start their own businesses	Single	Dual	-.67500*	.15856	.000
		Multiple	-.67500*	.15856	.000
	Multiple	Dual	.00000	.15856	1.000
Addressing financial knowledge gap among women, we can pave	Single	Dual	-.21250	.14138	.291
		Multiple	-.35000*	.14138	.037
the way for a more secure financial future	Multiple	Dual	.13750	.14138	.595
Financial inclusion provides necessary resources and education to enhance financial literacy and management skills	Single	Dual	.02500	.15356	.985
		Multiple	-.40000*	.15356	.026
	Multiple	Dual	.42500*	.15356	.017
Financial inclusion will help women to create products and services that meet the specific needs	Single	Dual	-.08750	.10881	.701
		Multiple	-.36250*	.10881	.003
	Multiple	Dual	.27500*	.10881	.032
Financial inclusion may provide education and training for employment	Single	Dual	-.16250	.11301	.323
		Multiple	-.35000*	.11301	.006
	Multiple	Dual	.18750	.11301	.223

Table above is showing multiple comparison between different categories of number of earners in the family. For the statement financial inclusion helps women to save and invest for their future, Financial inclusion encourages women to access financial services and participate in economic activities, It encourages entrepreneurship and self-employment opportunities among women, Increases decision-making power and control over their financial resources among women, Financial inclusion helps to break out of poverty and improve standard of living and Financial inclusion secure employment and help women to start their own businesses significant difference is found between single and dual & multiple number of earners and no significant difference is found between multiple and dual number of earners for above statements. The statements like Addressing financial knowledge gap among women, we can pave the way for a more secure financial future shows significant difference between Single and Multiple earner group, financial inclusion provides necessary resources and education to enhance financial literacy and management skills shows significant difference between Multiple & Dual and Single & Multiple. Financial inclusion will help women to create products and services that meet the specific needs shows difference between Single and Multiple earners and financial inclusion may provide education and training for employment shows significant difference between Single and Multiple earner group.

Conclusion

The financial inclusion of women in the Kudubi community in Karnataka is an important issue that requires attention. To increase financial inclusion in the Kudubi community and other tribal communities in Karnataka, it is important to provide education and training on financial management and banking services. It's also important to partner with banks and other financial institutions, provide government support for financial inclusion initiatives and use technology to increase access to financial services. Encouraging savings and promoting traditional occupation can also help to improve the economic well-being of the community.

The study had compared the Financial Inclusion of Women of Kudubi community in Karnataka Based on Number of Earners in Family and found that Financial inclusion of women helps them to save and invest for their future, Financial inclusion encourages women to access financial services and participate in economic activities, It encourages entrepreneurship and self-employment opportunities among women, Increases decision-making power and control over their financial resources among women and Financial inclusion helps to break out of poverty and improve standard of living where there are multiple earners in the family. The study concludes that there is significant impact of financial inclusion of women of Kudubi community in Karnataka.

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