SELF HELP GROUP MEMBERS AND THEIR SOCIO - ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

ABSTRACT

Self Help Group is the essentialtool to improve the women economicsin the Rural and Urban area. Government of India tried through various schemes to eliminate the poverty level of women and motivate them to improve their economic position by providing SHG Loan and provide them training to do small scale businesses. It is important for a woman to learn and to access the financial services and use it for their family development. The real Empowerment of women comes from their family, society and economy.

Key Words : *Self Help Group – Small Credit- Woman Empowerment – Economic Empowerment.*

I. Introduction

Self-Help Groups are unofficial organisations where people gather to discuss how to improve their living circumstances.It can be characterised as a self-governing, peer-controlled informational group of individuals with a comparable socio-economic class and a wish to work together to reach a common goal.The issues that villages face is varied like unemployment, illiteracy, inexperience, lack of official credit, etc. These issues require teamwork because they cannot be solved individually.Self-help groups are a way to bring marginalised and poor individuals together to address their own problems.

Governments, NGOs, and other organisations across the world use the SHG technique. The savings of the impoverished are collected and kept in banks. In exchange, individuals are given simple access to finance with low interest rates so that they can launch their own micro unit business.

Review of Literature

S. Galab and N. C. Rao (2003) made an effort to address some of these issues. These concerns mostly revolve around what the state's women-based group models for eradicating poverty and empowering women look like? How are the underprivileged women grouped together? How are the groups organised? And what impact have these role models on eradicating poverty and empowering women? The formation, operation, and influence of the models on poverty and women's empowerment are described in detail in this study.

In her research on rural women's empowerment in northern Karnataka's Gadag district, Bharathamma (2005) discovered a highly substantial correlation between women's empowerment and education, land ownership, family income, social participation, and media use. According to rural women, the main obstacles to the empowerment of impoverished women includelack of education, being overburdened with dual obligations, lack of competent training, family restrictions on movement, and lack of enough funding.

SHG accounts were found to be the most common type of savings vehicle, according to MinakshiRamji (2009). It was discovered that membership in SHGs require weekly or monthly savings. Members acknowledged that the SHG's mandatory character had taught them financial discipline, which had led to BPL households' regular savings and asset growth. Surprisingly, the names of their female members were found on every account that SHG had registered.

In Chayagao, Assam, Saikia (2017) performed a study on "Self-help groups of women and its contribution to their socio-economic development" and found that the majority of members accepted loans from SHGs while only a small minority obtained loans from banks. Out of 70 samples, 25 SHG members used their loan for general family

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expenses, while 20 members used the loan for their children's education, demonstrating the value of education for women.

In their study on "Women empowerment through self-help groups in Bolar village of Karnataka," Pradeep and Rai (2019) came to the conclusion that the self-help group participants were respected by their families as well as the wider community because they made contributions to the family's income generation, consumption, and savings. Venkatesan, R., & Jacob, J. (2019) opine that working women satisfaction differs from one person to person due to their family, society and economic empowerment.

Venkatesan, R. (2021) have described the work life balance would help develop proper understanding between the working women and men in the family.

II. Need For The Study

In rural India, unemployment and poverty are the main issues. SHGs have played a critical role in reducing poverty, especially in rural regions, among the several programmes the Indian government has implemented to do so. The impact of SHGs on the economic empowerment of rural people has thus been examined in this study article.

III. Objectives of the Study

1. To Study the Demographic nature of the respondents.

2. To study the Women empowerment in Family environment

3. To study the societal empowerment among SHG Women.

4. To analyse the Economic empowerment of SHG members

IV. Methodology and Tools Used

Descriptive research method was used to identify the research objectives. Data collected from qualitative and quantitative method, both Primary and Secondary data were collected from the respondents through Structured questionnaire. Questionnaires were divided into Demographic details and Women Empowerment. SPSS Software was used to analyze the KMO and Bartlett's Test and Descriptive Statistics of Mean Standard Deviation and Loadings

V. Sampling

The Salamedu village chosen for the study is located in Villupuram District and eight groups were finalised. 80 members were selected as respondents and data was collected . The proportionate random sampling technique was used to collect the data. The collected data was tabulated and analysed using percentage method, Mean , Median , and Mode.

VI. Limitations of the Study

(i) The study was conducted in only one area

(ii) The study focused on the Family Empowerment, Economic Empowerment and Empowerment of Society and other aspects have not been covered.

VII Results and Discussion

63 % of the respondents are of the age group 31 to 40, following 19 % of the respondent are of the age group 21 to 30, 6 % of the respondent fall under the age group of 51 while 60.68 % of the respondent have studied SSLC , 3 % of the respondents completed their Under Graduate degree, 69 % of the respondents family size is about 5 members , 8 % of the respondents were in the nuclear family system.44 % of the respondents get loan of about Rs 20,000 to 30,000 while 24 % of the respondents get loan amount above Rs 40,000. All the members received loan from the bank and use it for their basic development.

KMO and Bartlett's Test

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy.		0.814
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Approx. Chi-Square	14.467
	df	10
	Sig.	0.153

If the KMO value is less than 0.05 is poor and above 0.05 is good and acceptable level. Our research result shows that the sampling adequacy of KMO value is 0.814 and the sapling size is accepted.

Descriptive Statistics of Mean Standard Deviation and Loadings(N = 80)

Items	Mean	Std. Deviation	Load ings
Judicious purchases (ECO EMP 1)	3.41	0.91	0.713
Members seek help improve Eco Status (ECO EMP 2)	3.39	1.142	0.562
Bank/financial services in own right. (ECO EMP 3)	4.21	0.567	0.78
Alternative economic (ECO EMP 4)	3.54	1.136	0.953
Solve Financial problems. (ECO EMP 5)	4.15	0.638	0.932
Domestic violence reduction (FAM EMP 1)	3.41	1.464	0.522
Overcoming the resistance from husband (FAM EMP 2)	4.05	0.825	0.785
Increased participation in decision making (FAM EMP3)	2.6	1.038	0.585
Taking own decision (FAM EMP 4)	2.61	1.436	0.753
Improvement in courage (FAM EMP5)	3.48	0.856	0.506
Participation in public protest and campaigning (SOC EMP 1)	3.74	1.145	0.611
Awareness on health and sanitation. (SOC EMP 2)	4.31	0.466	0.816
Feeling fearless open and confident in public (SOC EMP 3)	3.21	0.412	0.529
Expressing opinions freely awareness about politics (SOC EMP 4)	4.08	0.591	0.905
It helps in self reliance/independence. (SOC EMP 5)	3.43	1.1	0.946

Self Help Group people have ability to make judicious purchases Table value 1shows the mean value 3.41 and the loading value is 0.713 and it is the accepted level. Community members seek the help to improve the economic status, Table 1 value showsthat the mean value is 3.39and the loading value is 0.562 and it is accepted level.SHG helps women to have access to bank and financial services on their own. Table value shows that the mean value is 4.21 and the loading value is 0.780 and it is accepted level. Women have ability to develop alternative economic structures in their locality. Table value shows that the mean value 3.54 and the loading value is 0. 953 and it is accepted levelSHG women have ability to understand & solve financial problems. Table value shows that the mean value 4.15 and the loading value is 0. 932 and it is accepted level

Domestic violence has been reduced it proves through Mean Value 3.41 and loading value is 0.522Self Help group women have to overcome the resistance from husband and other members of the family to join the SHG through mean value 4.05 and factor loadings value is 0.785SHG women have less participation in decision making within the house it's a need to be improve mean value is 2.60 and the factor loading is 0.585SHG Women have less chance to take her own decision to the house and the village frequently due to the male domination in the family and society. Its need to change the attitude mean value is 2.61 and loading value is 0.753 .SHG women needs to Improve their in the society and home mean value is 3.48 and loading value is 0.506.

SHG Women participation in public protest and campaigning is need to be high to know the way to get their opportunities because the mean value shows that is 3.74 and Loading value is accepted level of 0.611. SHG have awareness on health and sanitation mean value (4.31 and loading value is .816) it is accepted level SHG women still feel fear and their confident level need to be high in public mean value and Lading value (3.21, 0.529)

SHG people Expressing their opinions freely and have awareness about politics and engaged in political participation by way of voting or directly by standing as a candidate in the local elections. Its shows in the result as mean vale and Loading vale (4.08 , 0.905). SHG women have self reliance and independence mean value and loading value shows (3.43 , 0.946)

Findings and Suggestions

SHG women's have more awareness about their health and sanitation (mean value 4.31) and they learn how to access the financial right from the government and other NGO's (mean value 4.21) Expressing their opinions freely about politics and engaged in political participation by way of voting or directly by standing as a candidate in the local elections.(mean value 4.08) and overcoming the resistance from their family and husband with courage (mean value 4.08). Decision making opportunity is still a big issue to the community in their family (mean value 2.60) Feel fear to express their opinion in public due to family members domination (3.21)

SHG members seeks help to improve their Economic status (3.41). Family and husband should and motivate women's to taketheir own decisions and give freedom to participate financial decision making

Conclusion

The goal of the study is to determine how SHGs affect rural women's socioeconomic empowerment. The socioeconomic standing of rural women has improved as a result of the microfinance initiative for rural empowerment. Based on the findings, it can be said that the SHG is greatly improving the status and alternatives for livelihood for women in every sphere, enabling them to lead lives of empowerment. To improve the standing of women in society, such an organisation should be encouraged. Thus, it can be said that SHGs' impact on microfinance is substantial in delivering rural women's empowerment through the development of their courage, confidence, and skills among the economically excluded sector of society.

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