

Improvement in Social Status of Women Involved in Self Help Group

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ABSTRACT

Self help group is a small group of rural people especially women ,who voluntarily form a group which is economically supported by its members to run a small scale activity which further support the members to not only support economically and socially. For a developing country, men and women should have a equal rights for achieving their developmental goals but in India women are deprived of their rights women should be given opportunities to achieve developmental goal. When there is development of women ,family develops, country develops and society develops. According to UNDP (1994) empowerment is a process which enables individuals or groups to change balances of power is social ,economic and political relation in society. SHGs play an important for rural women. SHGS help them to bring about awareness among rural women about savings ,education, health etc. Empowered rural women can bring revolution in rural development as well as country development .The focus of the study was on the socio economic status of the SHGs women in selected place of Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh .The study was conducted from November 2015 to April 2016 over a short period of 6 months .Validated questionnaire was used for data collection and appropriate statistical tools were used to analyze the collected data ,simple random sampling technique was used in the selection of 100 SHGs member as the sampling study. The results shows that SHGs has played an important role in betterment of socio economic status of rural women.

Key words: Empowerment , Social status , Self - help groups, Rural women

INTRODUCTION

India is developing country ,where majority of population comes under rural and deprived area where they are not economically strong they will not be able to participate nor fulfill their needs . The world bank has suggested that women empowerment should be a key aspect of social development programs (World Bank 2001). India has also ratified various international conventions committed to security equal rights to women. the empowerment of

women has been recognized as the central issue in determining the status of women . "National policy for the empowerment of women (2001) states that the women's movement and a wide spread network of NGOs which have strong grass root presence and deep insight in to women' s concern have contributed in inspiring initiatives for the empowerment of women in country".

Empowerment of women in India

Empowerment means giving legal and moral power to an individual in all spheres of life like social, economic, political, psychological, religion and spiritual and overall development of the mankind .Every society has known racism ,sexism ,authoritarian. xenophobia depriving men and women of their dignity and their freedom .In broader term empowerment is nothing but religious ,culture and legal struggle against oppression ,injustice and discrimination(Kabeer.N, 2005)

When we talk about Empowerment for women, It means being able to overcome shyness, talk and act confidently ,look at herself honestly, known and accept her capabilities and limitations ,break through barriers , known her desire as well as turn them into objectives ,know that she can acquire the abilities needed and develop a strong will to achieve her objectives . It is an active process which enables women to realize their identity and power in every aspects of their life, either it is a rural women or urban women , empowerment leads to benefits not only to the individual women and women groups but also to the families and the society as well.

Government has implemented various programme for women programs and their empowerment, programme like Indira Mahila Yojana IMY ,Mahila samriddhi yojana MSY, DWCRA are empowering strategies programme for women . TRYSEM, SGSY,SJSRY , urban self employment programme are employment and income generation programme .There are welfare and support services for women like Hostels for working women ,short stay homes SSH ,care centers for the children of working and ailing mothers ,promoting women to engage in economic activities is being increasingly realized in all developing countries .(Maggu, J. 2016)

Empowerment through SHGs

The SHGs have emerged as pivotal route of micro financial activities .The SHGs have given a new lease of life to the women in villages for their social and economic empowerment

.Economic development plays an important role in the development and growth of any society . There are many benefits of empowering women , women spend their most of the money on their family . Economically empowered women are have healthier life and better-educated children, and raise human development levels. Regular meetings in SHGs and discussion on many current issues helps rural women in developing communication skills and build confidence to speak in public meetings and Gram Sabha. Devi Ganga (2018) conducted a study in which she founds that SHGs are playing an crucial role in changing the economic scenario . Many study found that there is a need to increase the no. of training programme given to the SHGs member related to self-development and entrepreneurial skill development. (Nichlavose P. ,2017)

METHODOLOGY

Area Sampling : Kashi Vidyapeeth Block(Naria) of Varanasi district was selected purposively for study location and through simple random sampling technique 100 SHGs women were selected for the study.

Tools and Techniques: Data were collected through validated self-constructed questionnaire which include all the questions relevant to the study and easy to fill up in minimum time .Primary data are used which was collected from 100 SHGs women, therefore the sample size is 100, on the basis of questionnaire by interview method on the topic socio economic conditions of SHG members respectively.

Statistical Analysis: After tabulation collected data was analyzed by percentage distribution .

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

TABLE No.1 Classification of respondents on the basis of socio-economic status

Age-group	No. of respondents	Percentage
20-30	60	60%
30-50	40	40%
Monthly Income:		
5000-10000	40	40%
10000-15000	40	40%
15000-20000	20	20%
Type Of Family		

Nuclear	55	55%
Joint	45	45%
EDUCATION		
Primary education	50	50%
Secondary education (8 th)	40	40%
Secondary education (12 th)	10	10%

Above table shows that majority of the respondents (60%) belongs to the Age group 20-30 years and 40% of the respondents belongs to the age groups of 30-50. majority of the respondents (40%) were belong to the income group of 5000-10000,40% respondents belong to the group of 10,000-15,000, 20% respondents belong to the income group of 15,000-20,000. The above table shows that 55% of the respondents were belongs from nuclear family and 45% of the respondents belong to the joint family . The above table shows that majorities 50% of the respondents are primary passed and 40% of the respondents had pursued education till 8th class and only 10% are 12th passed .

TABLE No.2

Reason of joining SHGs	No. of respondents	Percentage
Financial condition	45	45%
Employment	35	35%
Empowerment	10	10%
All of the these	10	10%

Above table shows that the main reason of joining SHGs was financial condition of the respondents 45% of respondent joined SHGs to better their financial condition .35% joined SHGs for employment and rest of the 10% respondents joined the SHG for empowerment and awareness. 10% respondents joined SHG to improve their financial condition ,to get an employment ,and to get empower themselves as well.

TABLE No.3

Financial condition before SHGs	No. of respondents	Percentage
Poor	45	45%
Average	35	35%
Better	20	20%

Table no.2 shows that majority of respondent 45% were poor before joining the SHGs .their financial condition was not so good to fulfill their basic need . 35% respondent had average financial condition ,they were capable of fulfilling their basic need while 20% of th respondent had better condition than other respondents they were supporting their families and fulfilling their all need .

TABLE No.4

Financial condition after joining the SHGS	No. of respondents	Percentage
Poor	20	20%
Average	40	40%
As usual	10	10%
Better	30	30%

Above table shows that after joining the SHG 40% of the respondent had average their financial condition and living condition as well while 30% of the respondents better their financial condition .Only 20% were poor due to their some personal reason .10% respondent condition were as usual there were no changes in their condition .

Conclusion : This study provide an analysis of socio economic status of women of Self Help Groups from the above research It was found that SHGs had a great impact on women empowerment , especially women from younger age and who belongs to nuclear family . Respondents were much aware of their rights , financially independent and had better quality of life than earlier. Women can improve their financial and social status via Self Help Group

by improving their skills as women's income in the family is very important in relation to nutritional and educational upliftment of the family.

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