

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PROFILE CHARACTERISTICS OF WOMEN SHG MEMBERS AND THEIR EMPOWERMENT THROUGH TNCDW

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ABSTRACT

Women's empowerment is essential to ensuring that they have equal access to opportunities and that their rights are properly respected. This is accomplished by enhancing and expanding women's social, economic, political, and legal existence. The present study was conducted in Cuddalore Block of Cuddalore District. Proportionate random sampling procedure was applied to select 120 respondents. They were the members of women Self Help Groups of Mahalir Thittam project under the organizational efforts taken by Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women (TNCDW) to explore the relationships between profile characteristics of women SHG members and their empowerment. From the study it was found that SHGs have contributed significantly to the empowerment of women. Out of thirteen variables, six variables viz., educational status, mass media exposure, information sharing behavior, decision making behavior, self-confidence and awareness on women development programmes were found to have positive and significant relationship with the empowerment of women. SHG member's personal traits as well as group and social activities were the major determinants of empowerment.

Keywords: empowerment of women, mobilization, shgs and women development

INTRODUCTION

The empowerment of women refers to a set of activities intended to raise the degree of autonomy and self-determination of women and communities in order to enable them to serve their own interests in a responsible and self-determined manner when acting under their own authority. Women's empowerment is essential to ensuring that they have equal access to opportunities and that their rights are properly respected. This is accomplished by enhancing and expanding women's social, economic, political, and legal existence. They have equal rights to engage in social, strict, and open exercises, have equal rights to social and financial equity, decide on money-related and financial decisions, get equal open doors for training, and get equal business opportunities in order to make their own decisions and preferences, both inside and outside of their home and workplace environments.

The Self Help Organization is a group of rural poor people who work to organize themselves into a group of representatives to alleviate poverty. SHGs for women are changing the face of Indian villages and improving the gender equality fabric. The women were inspired by preparedness and financial freedom. The SHGs give women

a forum for networking, identifying shared problems, allocating their savings, and encouraging girls' education. SHG aims to improve the lives of women by fostering their independence, developing their talents, and promoting communal sustainability. The Self Organizations have the power to expand vulnerable women's access to the resources available for self-reliance and income development.

OBJECTIVE

To know the relationship between profile characteristics of women SHG members and their empowerment through TNCDW in cuddalore district

METHODOLOGY

The study was taken-up in Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu. Out of the thirteen blocks in Cuddalore district, Cuddalore block was selected based on the maximum number of Self Help Groups in Cuddalore district. A sample size of 120 Self Help Group members was selected by using proportionate random sampling technique. The data were collected by using well-structured interview schedule, containing appropriate questions for bringing the required data. To explore the relationships between profile characteristics of women SHG

members and their empowerment by using correlation and multiple regression were employed. Data were analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS).

RESULTS AND CONCLUSION

The results of correlation analysis of thirteen independent variables with the empowerment of women members were presented in Table 1.

From Table 1, it could be inferred that out of thirteen, four variables viz., mass media exposure (X₆), decision making behavior (X₈), self-confidence (X₁₀) and awareness on women development programmes (X₁₃) had shown positive significant association with empowerment at five per cent level of probability.

The variables namely educational status (X₂) and information sharing behavior (X₇) showed a positive significant association with empowerment at one per cent level of probability.

The variables namely age (X₁), occupational status (X₃), annual income (X₄), social participation (X₅), achievement motivation (X₉), leadership ability (X₁₁) and attitude towards group activity (X₁₂) had exhibited a non-significant association with empowerment.

Table 1: Correlation of characteristics of SHG members with empowerment

| Sr. No. | Variables | Correlation coefficient ('r') |
|-----------------|---|-------------------------------|
| X ₁ | Age | 0.092 NS |
| X ₂ | Educational status | 0.269** |
| X ₃ | Occupational status | 0.019 NS |
| X ₄ | Annual income | 0.253 NS |
| X ₅ | Social participation | 0.132 NS |
| X ₆ | Mass media exposure | 0.266* |
| X ₇ | Information sharing behavior | 0.268** |
| X ₈ | Decision making behavior | 0.196* |
| X ₉ | Achievement motivation | 0.044 NS |
| X ₁₀ | Self-confidence | 0.199* |
| X ₁₁ | Leadership ability | 0.126 NS |
| X ₁₂ | Attitude towards group activity | 0.101 NS |
| X ₁₃ | Awareness on women development programmes | 0.211* |

* = Significant at 5.00 per cent level of probability

** = Significant at 1.00 per cent level of probability

NS = Non Significant

The results of multiple regression analysis of thirteen independent variables with the empowerment of women members were presented in Table 2.

Table 2 : Multiple regression analysis between the characteristics of SHG members with empowerment (n=120)

| Sr. No. | Variables | Regression Coefficient ('b') | SE | 't' value |
|-----------------|---|------------------------------|-------|-----------|
| X ₁ | Age | -0.261 | 1.976 | -0.682 NS |
| X ₂ | Educational status | 2.416 | 0.742 | 3.256** |
| X ₃ | Occupational status | 0.346 | 2.107 | 1.517 NS |
| X ₄ | Annual income | 0.120 | 0.101 | 1.188 NS |
| X ₅ | Social participation | 0.184 | 1.966 | 1.078 NS |
| X ₆ | Mass media exposure | 1.756 | 1.101 | 1.694* |
| X ₇ | Information sharing behavior | 1.646 | 0.610 | 2.698** |
| X ₈ | Decision making behavior | 2.106 | 1.129 | 1.865 * |
| X ₉ | Achievement motivation | -0.181 | 1.410 | -1.547 NS |
| X ₁₀ | Self-confidence | 1.209 | 0.752 | 1.667* |
| X ₁₁ | Leadership ability | 0.355 | 3.977 | 1.015 NS |
| X ₁₂ | Attitude towards group activity | 0.010 | 0.141 | 0.087 NS |
| X ₁₃ | Awareness on women development programmes | 0.412 | 0.198 | 2.080* |

R² = 0.509 F = 7.106 * = Significant at 5.00 per cent level of probability

** = Significant at 1.00 per cent level of probability NS = Non Significant

Subsequently the multiple regression analysis was performed to find out the extent of contribution of each variable towards the empowerment of SHG members in development activities.

Table 2, indicates that the R² value was 0.509 which revealed that 50.90 per cent variation in the empowerment was explained by thirteen independent variables selected for the study. The 'F' value was significant at one per cent level of probability.

It could be seen from the Table 2, the variables viz., mass media exposure (X₆), decision making behavior (X₈), self-confidence (X₁₀) and awareness on women development programmes (X₁₃) had shown positive significant association with empowerment at five per cent level of probability. Educational status (X₂) and information sharing behavior (X₁₃) had significant contribution at one per cent level of probability.

Educational status (X₂) showed a positive and significant relationship with empowerment level at one per cent level of probability. This might be due to the fact that majority of the respondents were found under the middle level education. This education level would have helped them to increase their thinking capacity, interest which is essential for empowerment. This finding is in line with the findings of Ram (2013).

Mass media exposure (X₆) showed a positive and significant relationship with empowerment level at five per cent level of probability. This might be due to the fact that the medium level of mass media exposure could be the reason for the aware about knowledge of the outside world. This finding is in line with the findings of Elakkiya (2018).

Information sharing behavior (X₇) showed a positive and significant relationship with empowerment level at one per cent level of probability. This might be due to the fact that majority of the respondents were found medium level of information sharing behavior. The women members were interested to share the training experience to friends, family members and neighbour. This finding is in line with the findings of Priyanka (2019).

Decision making behavior (X₈) had a positive and significant relationship with empowerment level at five per cent level of probability. This might be due to the fact that more than half of the respondents were found consulting with spouse and elders for decision making at all the levels. This finding derives support from the findings of Kiran (2012).

Self-confidence (X₁₀) had a positive and significant relationship with empowerment level at five per cent level

of probability. This might be due to the fact that after joining Mahalir Thittam respondents encourage to express their own views. This finding derives support from the findings of Arunadevi (2019).

Awareness on women development programmes (X₁₃) showed a positive and significant relationship with empowerment level at five per cent level of probability. After joining Mahalir Thittam SHG, the women members attended more skill based training and exposure visits about enterprise.

The results infer that a unit increase in educational status, mass media exposure, information sharing behavior, decision making behavior, self-confidence and awareness on women development programmes and would result in 2.416, 1.756, 1.646, 2.106, 1.209 and 0.412 unit increase in the empowerment, respectively.

CONCLUSION

Women empowerment is an important tool for the inclusive socio-economic growth of a nation. Self Help Group was designed not only as a strategy for poverty alleviation, but also to increase women's access to resources and their power in household decision-making and smooth the way for economic independence of women. From the study it was found that SHGs have contributed significantly to the empowerment of women. Out of thirteen variables, six variables viz., educational status, mass media exposure, information sharing behavior, decision making behavior, self-confidence and awareness on women development programmes were found to have positive and significant relationship with the empowerment of women. SHG member's personal traits as well as group and social activities were the major determinants of empowerment.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

This is to declare that there is "No conflict of interest" among researcher.

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