

Study of Social Impact on the Role of Self -Help Groups on Women Empowerment in Chhatarpur District

Dr. Pooja Singh
Asstt. Prof. Sociology,
Shri Krishna University Chhatarpur (M.P.)

ABSTRACT

This study focuses on women's empowerment strategies and initiatives while attempting to analyze the necessity for women's empowerment in India. The primary social development mechanism that allows women to take part in the sustainable social, political, and economic growth of rural areas is empowerment. Women's empowerment is still a myth in practice, despite being one of the most significant issues of the twenty-first century. The process of improving the economic, social, and political standing of historically marginalized women in society is known as women's empowerment. In our everyday lives, we witness how women fall prey to a variety of social ills. Self-help organizations are one way that women have developed a new identity. Additionally, by supporting one another, self-help groups have helped the women in the group achieve their goals and improve their relationships with other women. Women's standing is a reflection of the nation's progress. No nation in the world can thrive economically by excluding women. Incorporating women into the nation's development is vital. They must be given the ability to make decisions in order to be empowered. The capacity to make decisions in one's personal life as well as in social, political, and economic spheres is known as empowerment. Women's empowerment has been a global awareness movement since the United Nations established International Women's Day on March 8, 1975. At the local and national levels, numerous attempts were also made in this regard. Self-help groups have been crucial to the socioeconomic advancement of women. There are over 60 lakh self-help groups in the nation, with 6.7 crore women affiliated. This study is an attempt to take a fresh look at earlier research. The primary focus of this study work has been the significance that self-help groups have in women's empowerment.

KEYWORDS

Women empowerment, support groups, social, economic, Political.

1. INTRODUCTION

The well-being of women, who make up half of the world's population, is essential to its economic progress. It is impossible to envision any nation, state, or country developing

economically, socially, or politically without including women into the mainstream. Without empowering women, the idea of a new India cannot come true. Women's standing is a reflection of the nation's progress. They ought to be given enough authority to make social and personal decisions for themselves. They ought to have the same authority as males to make decisions in the political, social, and economic spheres, among others. Additionally, capable women are particularly important to the advancement of the nation and society, and the empowerment of women is essential to the nation's overall growth. Women in the nation are less likely to participate in decision-making and are unable to join the mainstream of social, economic, and political advancement. There are numerous issues pertaining to women in this setting that must be resolved, and they must be given a secure environment. This will be made feasible by the combined efforts of all concerned citizens as well as the government's commitment. Women are now socially and economically adept and have achieved self-reliance through self-help groups. It is assisting in the nation's development.

Increasing the spiritual, political, social, educational, gender, or economic power of women and communities is known as women's empowerment. Every economy depends heavily on women. Only when women are regarded as equal partners in progress with men will a country be able to develop holistically and prosper harmoniously. In India, a variety of factors, such as age, caste and class, educational attainment, and geographic location (rural versus urban), greatly influence women's empowerment. Health, education, economic opportunity, gender-based violence, and political engagement are just a few of the areas where national, state, and local (panchayat) policies on women's empowerment are in place. Autonomy and control over their life are made possible by women's empowerment. Women who are empowered take charge of their own growth, are strong enough to question their inferior status in society, and may make decisions to define their own goals. Due to their disproportionately low assets, skills, education, social standing, leadership abilities, and mobilization capacity—all of which impact the extent of decision-making and power—women, particularly those living in rural regions, are more dependent on men. Since the beginning of time, the men of the house have dominated their movement and personal freedom, kept them confined to the four walls of the house, and saddled them with domestic duties. As a result, they have fallen behind in the areas of education, skill development, and employment, and their labor has been significantly underappreciated in the marketplace. In essence, women's empowerment is the process of improving their economic, social, and political standing as well as shielding them from all types of violence. Raising knowledge of women's conditions, discrimination against them, their rights, possibilities, and the significance of gender equality, as well as forming a group collectively and fostering group identity and pressure, are all components of women's empowerment.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

This study aims to analyse the concept of women empowerment and to see the role of self-help groups and microfinance in women empowerment. How self-help groups are bringing changes in the family and social conditions. What is the role of government and non-government organisations in the development of self-help groups.

1. To study the assessment of women's participation in development programmes on the basis of their awareness about them and their participation in their implementation.
2. To discuss the impact of participation of women respondents in Panchayati Raj institutions.

3. LITERATURE REVIEW

In order to make any research work purposeful and more effective, it is necessary that the researcher obtains brief information about other research works similar to his research problem done earlier. From this point of view, the researcher has tried to obtain information about the subject matter of some major and easily available previous research studies done on studying the social impact on the role of self-help groups on women empowerment. Their brief description is as follows - Ahuja (1981)¹, Bakshi (1994)², Mathur (1966)³, Mishra (2000)⁴, Mukherjee (1980)⁵, Pradhan (2010)⁶ and Smith (2006)⁷.

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Chhatarpur is located within 24.06' to 25.20' North latitude and 78.59' to 80.26' East longitude. This district has 6 sections (sub division), 11 tehsils, 8 district panchayats, 3 municipalities and 12 municipal councils. Chhatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh has total population of 1,762,375 as per the Census 2011. Out of which 936,121 are males while 826,254 are females. In 2011 there were total 356,297 families residing in Chhatarpur district. The Average Sex Ratio of Chhatarpur district is 883.

Considering the limitations of time and money, it was not possible for the researcher to contact all the Panchayati Raj Institutions representatives and other respondents in the district and collect data from them. Hence, simple random sampling and other sampling techniques were adopted and it was decided to take a sample of 20 Gram Panchayats where women representatives have been elected. A total of 200 members were selected for interview from there. The researcher contacted the members of these Panchayats to collect data from the field. To obtain primary data from the above respondents, the researcher prepared an interview schedule for Panchayati Raj Institutions. The secondary sources of information used for the present study include books, journals, reports, online sources, etc. The primary data generated by the researcher is organized, classified, tabulated and then interpreted. In this context, computers, internet and statistics tools are used to extract the relevant information from the primary data.

5. RESULTS AND DATA ANALYSIS

5.1 BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS

An outline of the background characteristics of the respondents included in this study is presented below:

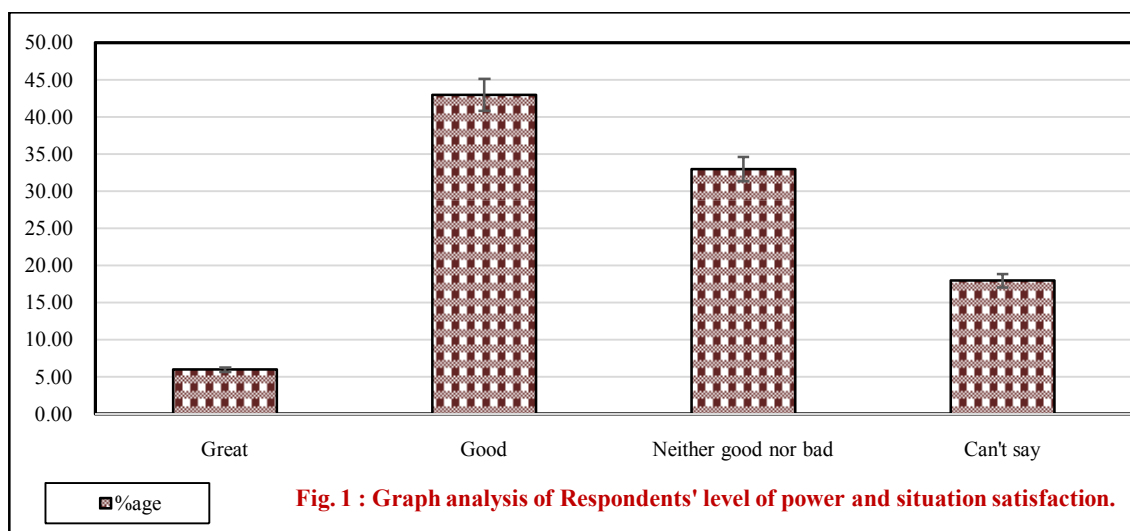
Table 1 Educational Status of the Respondents

Educational Status	Number	Percentage
Uneducated	30	15.00
Primary	10	5.00
Middle	15	7.50
High School	18	9.00
Higher Secondary	84	42.00
Graduate	29	14.50
Post graduate	14	7.00
Total	200	100.00

The table shows the educational status of the respondents. 15.00 per cent of the respondents were illiterate, 5.00 per cent had education upto primary level, 7.50 per cent had education upto pre-secondary level, 9.00 per cent had education upto high school level, 42.00 per cent had education upto intermediate level, 14.50 per cent had education upto graduation level and only 7.00 per cent of the respondents had education upto post graduation level.

Table 2 Respondents' level of power and situation satisfaction

Power and status satisfaction	Number	Percentage
Great	12	6.00
Good	86	43.00
Neither good nor bad	66	33.00
Can't say	36	18.00
Total	200	100.00



The table represents the level of satisfaction of power and position of the respondents in grassroots democracy. 6.00 percent of women representatives had achieved great level of satisfaction through power and position, 43.00 percent had achieved good level of satisfaction, 33.00 percent had achieved neither good nor bad level of satisfaction and 18.00 percent of women representatives did not express any opinion. It is clear that majority of women representatives had satisfied their power and position. But a large number of women representatives had not satisfied their power and position. This is a feedback for the policy makers.

CONCIUSION

Women are becoming more independent and self-sufficient thanks in large part to self-help groups. According to a number of studies, these organizations have helped women escape exploitation and domestic abuse. Women's standing in society has improved. The most significant aspect of life is the economy, and these associations have helped women become economically independent. By connecting them to the mainstream of development, self-help groups have empowered women by bringing about changes in their social, personal, and economic lives. Self-help groups use microfinance to help women become more self-reliant and confident. These have raised social standing, economic prosperity, and women's propensity to save. Self-help organizations have so been seen as the primary source of assistance for women. Only these groups have made it feasible for women to be empowered in rural areas. In this regard, a number of governmental and non-governmental groups have also made admirable efforts. Through a number of welfare economic programs, the government has strengthened self-help groups. NABARD is working on projects pertaining to training and finances. Further initiatives and awareness-raising regarding self-help groups are required.

REFERENCES

1. Ahuja, Ram (1981). Apradhshastra : 2nd Ed. Meenakshi Prakashan, Meerut.
2. Bakshi, P.M. (1994). legislative Reponses for Tackling Domestic Violence. The lawyers Collective, Vol. 9, Issue 1.
3. Mathur, S.S. (1966). A Sociology Approach to Indian Education Vinod Pustak Mandir, Agra.
4. Mishra, Jyotsana (2000). Women and Human Rights. Kalpaz Publications, New Delhi.
5. Mukherjee, A.B. (1980). The chamars of Uttar Pradesh, Inter India Publication, New Delhi.
6. Pradhan, D. S. (2010). Women Rights and International laws. M.D. Publications, New Delhi.
7. Smith, Carolyn (2006). Cutting it out : A Journey Through Psychotherapy &Selfharm : Jessica Kingsley Publishers

