

Socio-economic Correlates of Women Empowerment

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ABSTRACT

A study was conducted to establish relationship between women empowerment and socio-economic characteristics of the respondents and groups in district Moradabad of Uttar Pradesh. Two blocks namely Tajpur and Kundarki (Digarpur) with equal number of SHGs (8) were selected by random sampling. 160 members of SHGs were included as respondents. The study showed that the SHGs had followed normal pattern of group behavior and higher percentage of women were realizing noticeable impact of being member of SHGs. Women participation in SHG made them discover inner strength, gain self confidence, social and economic empowerment and capacity building.

Key Words: Women empowerment; Inner strength; Self confidence; Capacity building;

Empowerment is the phenomena of nineties and is defined as 'giving power to', creating power within and enabling'. Power is a relative concept, which describes a relationship between people; a powerful person has power over others. Empowerment entails power sharing, a change in the balancing of power between people. An increase in power of one party necessarily implies reduction in power of the other or others. Therefore, empowerment involves negotiation of the balance of power between the more and less powerful (through reformist or revolutionary means). Most of the modern democracies and developing nations have a public agenda for the process of empowerment of women. Empowerment means giving legal and moral power to an individual in all spheres of life-social, economic, political, psychological, religious and spiritual-which are essential for the survival and overall development of the mankind. Every society has known racism, sexism and authoritarianism. In broader terms, empowerment in nothing but a religious, cultural and legal struggle against oppression, injustice and discrimination. Empowerment expresses the bold idea that all people have claims to social arrangements that project them from the worst abuses and deprivations and secure the freedom for a life of dignity. It is also a process of enhancing human capabilities to expand choice and opportunities so that each person can lead a life of respect and value (Singh and Bansal, 2002).

METHODOLOGY

This study was carried out in district Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh. Moradabad (Tajpur) and Kundarki (Digarpur) blocks were purposively selected because there were many working SHGs. Equal number of SHGs, *i.e.*, eight from Moradabad and Kundarki blocks were selected through simple random sampling. The total of 160 respondents from the selected SHGs constituted the sample of the study by random method. The 'descriptive research' design and selected variables was used for the present study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Relationship between empowerment (Y1) and socio-economic variables : The value in Table 1 indicated the relationship between empowerment and socio-economic variables. Empowerment was categorized into economic, socio-psychological and political-legal empowerment. The relationship with each aspect was studied by working out the correlation.

It was evident from Table 1 that economic empowerment (Y1-1) was found positively correlated with education, family occupation, annual income, interpersonal trust and group cohesiveness. The data in Table 1 further reveals that political-legal empowerment (.y1.3) had significant relationship with education, types of family, land holding, social participation, task function, maintenance function, interpersonal trust and group

cohesiveness. All these variables had positive relationship with political-legal empowerment except caste which had negative relationship.

Type of family was also observed having significant relationship while age was found to be negatively correlated but age had negative relationship and type of family had positive relationship with political-legal empowerment.

It was further observed that overall empowerment (Y1) had positive and significant relationship with education, family occupation, annual income, participation, task function, maintenance function, interpersonal trust and group cohesiveness where as caste had negative but significant relationship. It is clear from the results that those variables which had significant relationship affected empowerment.

Table 1 Relationship between empowerment (Y1) and characteristics of the respondents and groups (xs)

Characteristic	Correlation coefficient ('r')			
	Economic empowerment	Socio-psychological empowerment	Political-legal empowerment	Empowerment (Y1)
<i>A. Socio-Economic</i>				
X1 Age	-0.109	-0.34	-0.188*	-0.132
X2 Education	0.250**	0.175*	0.368**	0.322**
X3 Caste	-0.124	-0.071	0.219**	-0.165*
X4 Type of family	-0.093	0.052	0.195*	0.037
X5 Size of family	-0.154	-0.027	0.128	-0.048
X6 Land holding	0.138	0.01	0.35**	0.041
X7 Family occupation	0.312**	0.222**	0.119	0.290**
X8 Annual income	0.305**	0.229**	0.146	0.298**
X9 Social participation	0.57	0.042	0.226**	0.134
<i>B. Group Variable</i>				
X10 Participation	0.265**	0.275**	0.513**	0.147**
X11 Style of influence	-0.602	-0.050	0.018	-0.046
X12 Task function	0.408**	0.411**	0.347**	0.491**
X13 Maintenance function	0.163**	0.215**	0.319**	0.276**
X14 Interpersonal trust	0.376**	0.349**	0.407**	0.469**
X15 Group atmosphere	0.104	0.097	-0.097	0.016
X16 Group cohesiveness	0.468**	0.439**	0.402**	0.551**

*Significant at 5 percent level

**Significant at 1 percent level

Level of performance of SHGs : Overall empowerment was also calculated and it was found that Jagrukta SHG received first rank (60.60) followed by Mansuri SHG who was second in ranking (55.00) Milan SHG was ranked third (54.33) in terms of overall empowerment. Table 2 showed the regression coefficient (byx) of empowerment (Y1) on characteristics of the respondents and groups characteristics. Empowerment was conceptualised as economic, socio-psychological and political-legal empowerment.

Regression coefficient of empowerment of on Characteristics of the respondents and groups characteristics : Table 3 reveals that group cohesiveness had positive and significant relationship

with economic empowerment, land holding had negative relationship with economic empowerment but significant at one percent level of significant with the value of -1.628. Annual income had positive and significant relationship where as group atmosphere had negative relationship with empowerment. In case of socio-psychological empowerment, out of sixteen variables only group cohesiveness had positive relationship significant at one percent level of significance. In case of political-legal empowerment, land holding, social participation and participation had positive and significant relationship.

It can be seen in case of empowerment (Y1) that group cohesiveness was having positive relationship with

empowerment. The value of R2 (coefficient of determination) for empowerment showed 50.58 per cent variation in the value of empowerment.

Rest 49.42 percent variation in the empowerment has been due to other factors, which have not been under taken in the study.

Table 2. Level of Performance of Self Help Groups:

S. No.	Name of SHGs	Group Process		Economic empowerment		Socio-psychological empowerment		Political-legal empowerment		Empowerment	
		MRV	Rank	MRV	Rank	MRV	Rank	MRV	Rank	MRV	Rank
1.	Nai Kiran SHG	16.50	10	17.83	11	17.25	11	12.13	3	47.41	12
2.	Mansuri	23.41	2	25.50	2	20.35	2	12.16	2	55.00	2
3.	Anmol	19.75	6	22.00	8	19.00	7	10.66	4	51.66	5
4.	Savitri	13.40	14	16.20	14	15.10	14	7.80	13	39.10	16
5.	Ambedkar	15.00	12	16.35	13	15.12	13	8.12	11	39.62	14
6.	Sabhawna	18.00	8	23.37	5	19.12	5	7.25	7	49.75	8
7.	Milan	21.77	5	25.44	3	19.11	6	9.77	6	54.33	3
8.	Ujjawal	14.75	13	23.50	4	19.78	3	9.50	8	50.62	7
9.	Ramrahim	23.00	3	22.75	6	19.25	4	9.50	8	51.50	6
10.	Sakti	8.40	16	16.60	12	16.60	12	8.00	12	41.20	13
11.	Parwati	22.00	4	21.78	9	19.78	3	10.00	5	52.57	4
12.	Jamab	19.15	7	22.53	7	17.46	9	8.15	10	48.15	11
13.	Jagrukta	24.25	1	25.60	1	21.75	1	13.25	1	60.50	1
14.	Dr. Ambedkar	9.50	15	18.37	11	13.00	15	8.00	12	39.7	15
15.	G Khushbu	16.33	11	22.22	8	17.33	10	8.66	9	48.22	10
16.	Chand	17.94	9	21.26	10	18.13	8	9.56	7	48.96	9

MRV= Mean Ranking Value

Table 3 Regression coefficient (byx) of empowerment (Y1) of on Characteristics of the respondents and groups characteristics (xs)

Characteristic	Correlation coefficient ('r')			
	Economic empowerment	Socio-psychological empowerment	Political-legal empowerment	Empowerment (Y1)
<i>A. Socio-economic</i>				
X1 Age	0.0189	0.214	-0.0222	.0181
X2 Education	0.347	0.0748	0.227	0.650
X3 Caste	0.641	0.584	-0.0280	1.197
X4 Type of family	-0.977	-0.411	-0.170	-1.559
X5 Size of family	-0.750	-0.378	0.305	-0.445
X6 Land holding	-1.628**	-0.532	0.701**	-1.459
X7 Family occupation	0.470	0.671	-0.145	0.392
X8 Annual income	2.099**	1.220	-0.374	2.946
X9 Social participation	0.237	0.139	3.510**	3.886
<i>B. Group Variable</i>				
X10 Participation	0.173	0.121	0.334**	0.629
X11 Style of influence	0.471	-0.138	-0.140	-0.231
X12 Task function	0.114	0.250	0.0305	0.396
X13 Maintenance function	0.958	0.248	0.229	0.573
X14 Interpersonal trust	0.274	0.148	0.183	0.605**
X16 Group cohesiveness	0.194**	0.116**	0.0528	0.364
R2	0.462329**	0.347252**	0.494834**	0.505885**
(f-value)	(6.245)	(3.863)	(7.114)	(7.436)

CONCLUSION

Most of the SHG members were found to be high on economic empowerment. In terms of socio-psychological empowerment, SHG members had medium and high socio-psychological empowerment. Women participation in SHG made them discover their inner strength; gain self confidence, social and economic empowerment and capacity building. These facts were also revealed by the respondents during the focused group discussion with the investigator. Thus, it can be

inferred from the findings that membership of SHGs had produced positive impact among women groups. There findings are in agreement with the studies conducted by *Harper, M. (1998)*. About two third of SHGs were found to be above average on economic empowerment and more than fifty five percent above average on socio-psychological empowerment. It is obvious from the results that although women could attain economic independence, but political point of view they were felt less confident for leadership roles.

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