

RELATIONSHIP OF PERSONAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF THE SHG MEMBERS WITH THEIR STATUS

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Abstract: The present study was conducted to know relationship of personal and socio-economic profile of the SHG members with their status of Rajasthan. There was significant & positive correlation of SHG status with Organizational status of members and significant positive correlation of SHG status with membership status. There was positive correlation of membership status, frequency of meeting and frequency of activities during meetings with the psycho-social empowerment status of SHG members. Significant difference between members and non-members with respect to psycho-social, economic and legal-political empowerment status as the calculated z values were found significant at 0.05% level of significance. Overall the empowerment status of members (2.70) was significantly higher than non-members (2.33). There was no significant difference between extent of change in empowerment status.

Keywords: self-help groups, growth pattern.

Introduction

Villages are faced with problems related to poverty, illiteracy, lack of skills, health care etc. These are the problems that cannot be tackled individually but can be better solved through group efforts. Today these groups known as Self-help groups have become the vehicle of change for the poor and marginalized. According to report (NABARD 2015-16) 8,23,580 lakh number of SHGs were registered all over the world.

In India, many SHGs are 'linked' to banks for the delivery of micro-credit. Indian microfinance, both in terms of the number of clients and the volume of credit disbursed, is not anecdotal any more. Because of the socio-economic, political, even cultural questions it raises, microfinance becomes a societal challenge. These states accounted for 57 per cent of the SHG credits linked during the financial year 2005-2006 (F. Cyril, 2007). India is experiencing a huge expansion in terms of households linked to microfinance, more

specifically linked to Self-Help Groups (SHGs). An average annual growth rate of 82 per cent was observed in the period from March 1993 to March 2006, in relation to a 110 per cent growth rate in terms of credit amounts. One of the most important programmes conducting this development is the SHG Banking Linkage Programme. Working with 620,109 SHGs during the financial year 2005-2006, it incorporates more than nine million households into the financial sector. (F.Cyril, 2007).

The SHG–Bank Linkage Programme (SBLP), pioneered by NABARD more than two decades ago, starting with a pilot of 500 SHGs, covers about 7.7 million self-help groups (SHGs) and nearly 100 million poor households in India. The rural poor, thought to be unbankable prior to the SBLP approach, now constitute a staggering 4.4 million SHGs having credit outstanding of more than `51,545 crore with the formal lending institutions. About 1.6 million SHGs had availed credit support of `27,582 crore from various banks during 2014–15, at an average of `1.70 lakh per SHG. During 2014–15, there was net addition of 2.6 lakh SHGs with savings linkage. The credit disbursement increased by 14.8 per cent over previous year, whereas, the total outstanding of institutional credit to SHGs increased by 20 per cent and SHGs' savings balance with banks went up to `11,060 crore. The progress confirms growing strength of SBLP (NABARD 2016).

SHGs have now come up in a big way all over the country. Although there can be all women, all men or mixed SHGs, it is seen that all women SHGs have sustained well over the years. The banks and non-government organizations took the lead in India to start such SHGs. Soon the government of Rajasthan and the state governments realized that for the economic betterment and development of rural women the potentiality of these women SHGs need to be harnessed and that it could be an important agency through which poverty could be eliminated. Since 2000 all annual plan of the government promote SHGs.

With this in view the AICRP- Home Science Extension planned to study the dynamics and performance of Women Self Help groups across the state and come out with indicators for successful/sustainable women SHGs to overcome poverty. A intense data on was collected & analysed to know relationship of personal & socio-economic profile of the SHG members with their status.

Research Methodology

In Rajasthan state, ten districts covering all seven divisions were selected. Secondary data were collected from DRDA and other agencies of respective district about SHGs enrolled in 2008-2009. At present total 2766 groups were registered by different forming agencies. In

which, 46 SHGs were selected out of 327 SHGs formed by NABARD, 94 SHGs were selected out of 561 SHGs formed by ICDS. 249 SHGs were selected out of 1829 SHGs formed by DRDA. 13 SHGs were selected out of 49 registered SHGs by SAUs. Thus the sample comprises of 402 SHGs from ten districts. Data were collected through PRA technique from all group members.

Total 402 SHGs were selected from 82 blocks of 10 districts i.e. Jhalawar, Udaipur, Jodhpur, Ajmer, Jaipur, Bikaner, Rajsamand, Sawai Madhopur, Barmer & Sikar districts from 7 division of Rajasthan State. Of the total SHGs in each State only those SHGs, which were registered in 2008-2009 were selected for the study keeping in mind that the selected SHGs if sustained for at least five years would have made differences in the lives of the women.

The SHGs have been categorized as discontinued, dormant and active. Active groups are those groups who have taken up entrepreneurial activities either at individual or group level. Out of 402 SHGs, 46.51 per cent SHGs were active and were doing income generating activities with microfinance. Dormant groups are those who are involved in money collection, borrowing and lending money. One of the important functions of SHGs is mobilizing small savings at regular intervals from poor group members who do not normally have saving. The results show that 27.36 per cent groups were in the dormant category while 26.11 per cent groups were discontinued. The reason for discontinuation or break up of the groups was due to lack of compatibility or misunderstanding among group members. In general, it could be because of poor group dynamics.

Results and Discussion

Table 1 Relationship of personal and socio-economic profile of the members with SHG status

Profile variables	SHG Status
Age	
Office bearers	0.044
Members	0.065
Overall	0.069
Education	
Office bearers	-0.003
Members	0.061
Overall	0.028
Organizational status	
Office bearers	0.097
Members	0.183 [*]
Overall	0.161 [*]
Occupation	

Office bearers	0.573 [*]
Members	0.239 [*]
Overall	0.581 [*]

**Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Data in table 1 reveal that there was significant & positive correlation of SHGs status with Organizational status of members and occupation of office bearers and members at 0.05 levels. Whereas no relation of office bearers and members were there with respect to age and education.

Related research conducted by Planning Commission Government of India (2008) and found that a great majority of the SHG members were found to be educated and at least literate in both the groups of SHGs. Over 65 per cent members were capable of reading and writing.

M.K. Sarma (2013) also reported that most of the women are belonged to the age group of 21-40, educated up to Secondary and Higher- Secondary level they are either unemployed or self-employed in unorganized sector and Income of the SHG members is increased after joining the Self Help Group. Most of the SHGs members are highly satisfied with the activities of SHG in the study area.

Table 2 Relationship of group profile and activities with SHG status

Profile variables	Status
Gap (months) in formation and registration	0.083
Membership status	0.659 [*]
Collection status	0.654 [*]
Frequency of deposit in the bank	0.681 [*]
Group activities	
Frequency of Meetings	0.930 [*]
Frequency of activities during meetings	0.920 [*]
Any trainings	0.276 [*]
Usefulness of training	0.477 [*]

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Table 2 reveal that there was significant positive correlation of SHGs status with Membership status, Collection status, frequency of deposit in the bank, frequency of meetings, frequency of activities during meetings, trainings attended and usefulness of training. However no

significant correlation was observed between group status and gap in formation and registration.

Vinaya Gamoorthy (2007) also noted that the self-help group members saving habit are increased through SHG. Geeta Manmohan et al., (2008) views that Micro finance is such a tool, which directly hits the poverty by helping poor or enabling them not only to survive but also to improve their standard of living. Chittaranjan Mishra (2005) noted that by joining a co-operative society. Women acquire collective bargaining power and at the same time, they get an institution of their own which is managed by them.

Table 3 Relationship of empowerment status and group profile / activities with SHG status

Profile members	Empowerment Status			
	Psycho-social	Economic	Legal-political	Overall
Gap (Months) in formation and registration	0.011	-0.143	-0.014	-0.053
Membership status	0.167*	-0.036	0.124	0.101
Collection status	0.098	-0.086	0.000	0.012
Frequency of deposit in the bank	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Group activities				
Frequency of meetings	-0.151*	-0.180*	-0.214*	-0.203*
Frequency of activities during meetings	0.171*	0.018	0.085	0.110
Trainings	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Usefulness of trainings	-0.024	-0.092	-0.106	-0.079

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

* . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Table 3 reveal that there was positive correlation of membership status, frequency of meeting and frequency of activities during meetings with the psycho-social empowerment status of SHG members whereas with regard to other variables i.e. gap in formation and registration, collection status, frequency of deposit in bank, trainings and usefulness of trainings non-significant relationship was observed.

With regard to Economic empowerment and legal –political empowerment status significant but negative correlation was observed in case of frequency of meetings. However in other variables there was no significant relationship with economic empowerment status of members.

With regard to overall empowerment status negative and significant correlation was observed between frequency of meetings and empowerment status of SHG members. In other variables no significant relationship observed.

Comparison of empowerment status of SHG members and non-members.

Table 4 Comparison of empowerment status of members and non-members

Empowerment	Members of sustaining group n- 561	Non members n-408	Difference	z value
Psycho-social	2.82	2.61	0.20	6.38*
Economic	2.89	2.18	0.78	24.76*
Legal	2.39	2.21	0.17	7.56*
Overall	2.70	2.33	0.36	15.08*

Table 4 indicates that there was significant difference between members and non-members with respect to psycho-social, economic and legal-political empowerment status as the calculated z values were found significant at 0.05% level of significance.

Overall the empowerment status of members (2.70) was significantly higher than non-members (2.33).

Similar study conducted by A. Angel Anisha (2012) and reported that women in the rural areas are highly empowered with the activities of SHGs and became active to take part in socio-economic progress of the nation.

Table 5 Comparison of empowerment status of office bearers and members of sustaining groups

Empowerment	Office bearers of sustaining group	Members of sustaining groups	Difference	z value
Psycho-social	2.03	2.01	0.02	1.00 NS
Economic	1.95	1.94	0.01	0.40 NS
Legal	1.78	1.70	0.08	2.07*
Overall	1.92	1.88	0.03	1.51 NS

Table 5 portrays that there was no significant difference between empowerment status of office bearers and members except in legal empowerment status of sustaining groups.

Table 6 Comparison of extent of change in empowerment status of office bearers and members of sustaining groups

Empowerment	Office bearers of sustaining group	Members of sustaining groups	Difference	z value
Psycho-social	2.85	2.81	0.04	1.14 NS
Economic	2.91	2.89	0.02	0.52 NS
Legal	2.40	2.39	0.01	0.57 NS
Overall	2.72	2.70	0.01	0.46 NS

Table 6 shows that there was no significant difference between extent of change in empowerment status of office bearers and members of sustaining groups with respect to all the variables i.e. psycho social, economic & legal empowerment.

Conclusion

The study was undertaken to the study relationship of personal and socio-economic profile of the members with SHG status. The study was concluded that there was significant & positive correlation of SHGs status with Organizational status of members and occupation of office bearers and members at 0.05 levels. Whereas no relation of office bearers and members were there with respect to age and education. Significant positive correlation of SHGs status with Membership status. Positive correlation of membership status, frequency of meeting and frequency of activities during meetings with the psycho-social empowerment status of SHG members. There was significant difference between members and non-members with respect to psycho-social, economic and legal-political empowerment status as the calculated z values were found significant at 0.05% level of significance. Overall the empowerment status of members (2.70) was significantly higher than non-members (2.33). There was no significant difference between empowerment status of office bearers and members except in legal empowerment status and extent of change in empowerment status of office bearers and members of sustaining groups with respect to all the variables i.e. psycho social, economic & legal empowerment.

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