

Impact On Women Empowerment Of Rural Women In Tiruvarur District**Dr. Kannan .J**

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Abstract

Empowerment is then the process of obtaining these basic opportunities for marginalized people, either directly by those people, or through the help of non-marginalized others who share their won access to these opportunities. It also includes actively thwarting attempts to deny those opportunities. Objectives of the study the socio demographic characteristics of the surveyed women households, to find out the economic factors which influence the empowerment level among the self and wage employed women, to analyze the motivation factors for the women empowerment in the study area, to measure the empowerment of decision making for the women employers and to bring out policies for the betterment of the women in the study area. Methodology of the study sources of data the study predominantly depends on primary data. The data were collected from the sample of 100 sample women respondents. In this 50 samples collected from wage employed and 50 samples from salary employed. Primary data were collected by employing a structured interview schedule. Besides this, participative observation and direct personal discussions were conducted with the women respondents. The collected data were analyzed with simple percentages and averages have been used. Limitations of the study circumstantial limitations may act as barriers and prove detrimental in case of many efforts aimed at achieving something. Similarly, this endeavor could not be relieved from the clutches of such limitations. Irreversible and irrevocable time and intermittent pecuniary constraints were the next irrefutable limitations. Conclude the forgoing discussion amply reveals that though the concepts empowerment, agency and autonomy have been used interchangeably, in practice it is found that they can substantially diverge from each other and are may not reflect into the other. This divergence tells us that there is a need for identification of some cultural factors having bearing on empowerment and autonomy. There is a need to understand that the concepts of empowerment and autonomy are sufficiently different.

Introduction

There is no chance for the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved. It is not possible for a bird to fly on only one wing said Swami Vivekanada. But through centuries, societies in the world over have been trying to fly on only one wing, denying women their rightful place. The greatest champions of women's rights have been great men like Gandhiji, Raja Rammohan Rai, Ishwarachandra Vidyasagar, Maharshi Karve and ironically those who have systematically exploited and degraded them have also been of a largely-male dominated society. The very concept of women empowerment shows that society as such has given a raw deal to women who comprise nearly fifty percent of the population and women themselves have to come forward to fight for their rightful place in all walks of life and prevent their exploitation in every field.

Women Empowerment

Empowerment is then the process of obtaining these basic opportunities for marginalized people, either directly by those people, or through the help of non-marginalized others who share their won access to these opportunities. It also includes actively thwarting attempts to deny those opportunities. Empowerment also includes encouraging, and developing the skills

for, self-sufficiency, with a focus on eliminating the future need for charity or welfare in the individuals of the group. This process can be difficult to start and to implement effectively.

Women's Empowerment in India

Women's empowerment in India is heavily dependent on many different variables that include geographical location (urban/rural), educational status, social status (caste and class), and age. Policies on women's empowerment exist at the national, state and local (Panchayat) levels in many sectors, including health, education, economic opportunities, gender-based violence and political participation. However, there are significant gaps between policy advancements and actual practice at the community level.

National Policy for Empowerment of Women

As a follow up action to the commitments made by India during the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing during September 1995. The Department of women and child development has drafted a national policy for the empowerment of women after nation-wide consultations to enhance the status of women in all walks of life on par with men and actualize the constitutional guarantee of equality without discrimination on grounds of sex. In 1995 the draft policy was circulated to select women organizations for holding regional level consultations with State Governments, State Women Commissions, State Social Welfare Advisory Boards, Women's Organizations, Academicians, Experts and Activists.

Empowerment of Women in Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu having more than ten million rural families (about 50 million individuals) has made an attempt in a similar direction and this has become one of the largest initiative in the world with four million women forming their own self-help groups. Under this initiative, the Government, the NGOs, the community based organizations and the civil society have come together to enable the poor to organize themselves into self help groups with thrift as the entry point activity. Over 30 lakh women belonging to the weaker sections of the society have become members of these self help groups. Majority of them developed the habit of saving, paving the way for socio economic development. It is a paradoxical truth that nearly 40 percent of the DWCRA groups in the country are available in Tamil Nadu itself. During early 90s 10000 groups have been formed and in the last five years there is tremendous increase in the DWCRA groups and 90000 additional groups have been formed in the year 2000 alone.

Importance of Economic Empowerment

Poverty is the biggest challenge in India's development efforts to bring about a perceptible change in the quality of life of the people. In India, a vast section of its population suffers from malnutrition, unemployment and poor health care. This is particularly, true in the case of four main weaker sections of society women, children, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. In rural India, the high rates of illiteracy and low economic status of women underlie the need for increasing their earning by providing income generating assets.

Provision of employment opportunities to rural women is one way to improve their nutrition, health, education and social status. In most of the developing countries greater emphasis is laid on the need for development of rural women and their active involvement in the main stream of development especially economic.

Objectives of the study

- To study the socio demographic characteristics of the surveyed women households.
- To find out the economic factors which influence the empowerment level among the self and wage employed women.
- To analyze the motivation factors for the women empowerment in the study area.

- To measure the empowerment of decision making for the women employers.
- To bring out policies for the betterment of the women in the study area.

Methodology

Sources of data the study predominantly depends on primary data. The data were collected from the sample of 100 sample women respondents. In this 50 samples collected from wage employed and 50 samples from salary employed. Primary data were collected by employing a structured interview schedule. Besides this, participative observation and direct personal discussions were conducted with the women respondents.

Statistical Tools

To make compressive analysis on the empowerment level of rural women among the self employment and wage employment. The collected data were analyzed with simple percentages and averages have been used.

Limitations of the Study

Circumstantial limitations may act as barriers and prove detrimental in case of many efforts aimed at achieving something. Similarly, this endeavor could not be relieved from the clutches of such limitations. Irreversible and irrevocable time and intermittent pecuniary constraints were the next irrefutable limitations.

Review of Literature

A brief of past literature pertaining to the empowerment of women is presented in this study. In 20th century, the terms 'women empowerment', 'women is welfare' and 'gender justice' have come in to lime light in the socio economic and political development analysis of both developed and developing nations. The 20th century's progress towards equality regardless of gender, race, religion, ethnicity or age was propelled by social movements. One of the most significant aspects has been the movement for women's right. The issue of empowerment of women became more significant as women constitute half of the population and unfortunately they been discriminated a lot.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

The present study analyzed women empowerment social political and economic empowerments have discussed. Garrett ranking techniques was used to identify the motivations for take up this job based on motivation factors is assigned to each factors depending upon the ranking. Particularly in Indian culture the famous the female members are not preferred to go for a job. But the present situations are compelled the women members to take up a work. There may be so many reasons for the women to take up a job.

Table 1
Opinion Regarding Women Empowerment

Si.No	Particular	Self Employed (%)	Wage Employed (%)	Total (%)
1	Excellent	3 (6)	2 (4)	5 (5)
2	Good	46 (92)	41 (82)	87 (87)
3	Poor	1 (2)	7 (14)	8 (8)
Total		50 (100)	50 (100)	100 (100)

Source: Primary Data

As the above table shows that opinion regarding women empowerment. 92 percentage of good for self employed, 6 percentage of excellent and 2 percentage of poor. 82 percentage good for wage employed, 14 percentage of poor and 4 percentage of excellent in the opinion regarding women empowerment.

Table 2
Suggestions of the Respondents

Si.No	Suggestions	Self Employed (%)	Wage Employed (%)	Total (%)
1	Self Employment	18 (36)	7 (14)	25 (25)
2	Self Confidence	9 (18)	3 (6)	12 (12)
3	Education	2 (4)	4 (8)	6 (6)
4	Income	0	1 (2)	1 (1)
5	Independent	3 (6)	0	3 (3)
6	Rights	2 (4)	1 (2)	3 (3)
7	No Idea	13 (26)	31 (62)	44 (44)
8	Other	3 (6)	3 (6)	6 (6)
	Total	50 (100)	50 (100)	100 (100)

Source: Primary Data

The above table shows that the researcher as asked their suggestions move the women empowerment, nearly one half of the respondents said that they no idea about empowerment of the women. Whereas one group of the respondents that self employment will improve the empowerment of the women in rural area. The employment categories the picture is different i.e, in self employment every 36 percent of the women said employment as their suggestion to improve their while more than 62 percent of the wage employed category said no idea as the empowerment.

Findings, Suggestions and Conclusion

- It is found that nearly 10 percent of the respondents stated that they were not satisfied with their present jobs due to poor pay. So, those who have not completely satisfied. In general, the heads of the households (male) income support their in all respects.
- The study was found that variable excepting one told that their income supports their family in both the categories of women. The one who belongs to self employed category state that her income not supported her family.
- It is found that when the researcher makes a group wise analysis most (94%) the self employed women said that their power in decision making has increased. It case of wage employed nearly one half of the respondents said there was no change in the decision making of even after they gone for work.
- The study was found that among the employment categories most of the wages employed have enrolled in SHGs and other local programmes like Grama Vidiyal. Whereas the self employed women gave much importance of SHGs rather than in the other two viz NGO and Grama Vidyal.
- It is found that among the 70 percent of the respondents are says their husbands only earned highest income their family. Finally only 6 percent of the respondents are says both respondents are higher earner in their family. So most of the respondents are says their husbands earner in their family.
- It is found that among the women categories 16 percent of the self employed category agreed and only 8 percent of waged employed that they should not look their children. More than one half of the women have exported that hey are neutral children. Only one in both the categories of women stated that heir as no problem of looking children while they have engaged in work.

- The study was found that the employment categories the picture is different i.e, in self employment every 36 percent of the women said employment as their suggestion to improve their while more than 60 percent of the wage employed category said no idea as the empowerment.

Suggestion to improve the Women Empowerment

- Provision of micro credit specifically targeted to women and youth;
- Entrepreneurship training;
- Provision of agricultural inputs and other services to boost agricultural productivity;
- Improved access to land and secure tenure for women;
- Improve labour force participation of women through appropriate policies;
- Strengthen social protection mechanisms to support women's incomes and ability to access health services;
- Reinforce girl child education as it is the foundation for women's empowerment;
- Intensify literacy classes for women to help them fight poverty;
- Train and deploy population and family health advisors into communities who can provide support to women's health through home visits. These advisors can provide training on hygiene rules, feeding, antenatal and post natal care; efforts that can help change behavior;
- Extend free health insurance coverage to the entire population.
- Increase the participation of women in decision making processes at all levels: household, local/community, national and regional. This is essential in empowering women to protect themselves;
- Mainstream gender and health issues in national, sectoral and local development policies;
- Develop legislation that domesticates global conventions that are supportive of women's health;
- Adopt and enforce legislation that empowers women to access productive resources, property and investment and on violence against women.

Conclusion

The forgoing discussion amply reveals that though the concepts empowerment, agency and autonomy have been used interchangeably, in practice it is found that they can substantially diverge from each other and are may not reflect into the other. This divergence tells us that there is a need for identification of some cultural factors having bearing on empowerment and autonomy. There is a need to understand that the concepts of empowerment and autonomy are sufficiently different. As the data presented in the above tables exhibited, still a large part of women do not have sufficient autonomy regarding the value choices for their own life. The data also makes us to infer that there is a necessity to look beyond economic resources or material prosperity and into cultural and social influences, which are playing a significant role in shaping the women's autonomy and agency. Again, it is also true that though not the women's access to resources or material well being, it is to be accepted that there is a variety of potential connections and there exists various forms of linkages among these variables. Hence, the answer for the question "Are women really empowered in India" is nothing but "not yet to the desired level".

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