



RETHINKING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION: A MICRO ANALYSIS

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Abstract

The present study focus light on political influence on self-help groups, members religious relationship information sharing among the members of self-help groups. Involvement of women members in deciding the rules of functioning of the SHGs enlighten on the process of women empowerment. Decisions regarding formation of rules of SHGs are a process, which stimulate women to select among the various alternatives available for functioning of SHGs. All the SHGs women members of BPL & APL were unanimously agreed their involvement in deciding the rules of functioning of the SHGs. It indicates the women involvement in the decision making process. SHGs provide a platform to women to discuss on various aspects of social issues. Apart from the financial issues, members of SHGs in selected area agreed their involvement in discussion on social issues. The members of selected SHGs belonging to BPL and APL agreed the groups in SHG. The groups concerned to relationship of members of SHGs, Caste, literate and illiterate and politics. Every member is interested in acquiring a new knowledge concerned in the field of education, finance, administration, production, marketing, distribution of goods and services. SHG assists to the concerned members to acquire the new knowledge in various fields which enhance the economic, social, political empowerment of women. The members of the selected SHGs concerned to BPL & APL category agreed that the SHGs assists them to acquire a new knowledge in the field of production, marketing, finance, social and political field. In indicate the women's empowerment in various fields.

Keywords: Religious relationship, self-help groups, women participation and political influence



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1. INTRODUCTION

All the SHGs members under the category of BPL and APL given preference that they had participate in each other festivals. SHGs members were come to gather to help and co-operate each other. Women members of BPL and APL SHGs had an attitude to held and co-operate to other women members if she has some financial, social problems. One object of formation of SHGs was to improve the standard of living of women members. Under the category of BPL and APL SHGs all the women members admitted that the fruits of Self Help

Groups they had received. Standard of living of the women members of a sample SHG had considerable increased. Members of sample SHGs connected with banking activities such as deposit their funds and borrow the needed funds. Members purchased domestic goods from the loans taken from SHGs. Participation in public activities increases the confidence of the members. All the members of selected SHGs of BPL and APL category were involved in public activities for the betterment of society. SHG is a tool to promote the confidence about decision making relating to production marketing, finance, and social issues. All samples SHGs admitted that their SHGs caused to increase their confidence. They are accepting challenges in the field of production, finance, administration.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The review of literature to Self Help Groups and women empowerment was important and useful for research task. Review of literature focused on the past research work done so far. It enlightened the researcher to identify various aspects and views about women empowerment.

Puhazhendhi and Satyasai (June 2002) they concluded that SHG as institutional arrangement could positively contribute to the economic and social empowerment of the rural poor.

SangitaPuranik (2004) reported that a mother who was frightened and reluctant to register the crime in the police station regarding to case of man raped on her 23 year old girl. The members of the SHG of that particular 'area' supposed her mother and advised to register the crime. The SHG acted as a pressure group and compelled the police to register the crime.

PrashantSarangi (2003) conducted a study on SHGs and concluded that the formation self-help groups increased the decision making capacity among the members. Micro Finance to the SHGs encourages formation of small enterprises.

Mrs. Shinde M. A. (2010) concluded that different women related agencies, NGOs, Social workers and trusts working in the field of women's development help to create a common platform, as a new feminist movement.

Kolay M. K. (2007) concluded that human resource cost is not shown in the balance sheet . He focused on human resource budgeting for improvement in performance of an organization.

Patrick Wright (2003) suggested that productivity of an employee measured in the terms of pay expenses of all employees by the number of units produced.

Shylendra (1998) researched the efforts and performance eight woman SHGs promoted by Institute of Rural Management all around. The SHGs failed to enable members to realize their potential benefits. The reason for failure was the wrong approach followed in the SHGs formation by the team, setting of SHG goals and lack clarity about the concept.

Vashitha K. C., Malik and Sashi (2002) reported that SHGs are playing a vital role in social progress. Financial resources provided to rural women can help them to improve their economic and social conditions.

Chiranjeevi T. (2003) reported that SHGs increased the self-confidence and self-esteem among the members.

Dessler (2008) he explains performance management as an integrated process, may defined as a process that consolidates goal setting, and development into a single, common system, the aim of which is to ensure that the performance is supporting the strategic aims.

Studies on SHGs by Karkar (1995) reviewed that as SHG programme was effectively implemented resulted to increase the monthly income of the members. A large number of groups had become financially self-sufficient and reduced the dependence on money lenders. The process of group dynamics strengthened the networking, homogeneity and self-esteem of women. SHG programme had provided women the opportunity to discuss, sit together and share their views to solve problems. The group thus acts both as a pillar of strength and an information window.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Need of the Study

- 1) To study the political awareness among the self-help group members.
- 2) To study the religious among the self-help groups members.
- 3) To study the communication process and issues discuss in self-help groups.
- 4) To study the information about the government schemes after joining in self-help groups.

3.2 Hypothesis

- 1) Self Help Group members agreed the influence of local politics on SHGs.
- 2) Religious among the members ties members more strongly.

3) Central and State Government policies and programmes promote Self Help Groups.

3.3 Sampling

In the selected area, ten villages of each category of BPL and APL SHGs selected purposely based on the maximum number of SHGs. Self Help Group selected from each of the selected villages. Three Self Help Groups selected from 'Below Poverty Line' (BPL) and one of 'Above Poverty Line' (APL). Thirty SHGs were selected from 'Below Poverty Line' and ten SHGs 'Above Poverty Line' in the selected area. Thus, total sample in the selected area amounted to forty SHGs. The study related to SHGs of KadegaonTahsil of Sangli district.

Investigation of sampling made based on two-stage sampling technique. At the first stage, village as the primary unit and the second is in regards to SHGs. Data will collect through the use of primary and secondary methods. Primary data became more useful and reliable to the researcher. The secondary data are collected through the printed and published facts.

3.4 Processing and Analysis of Data

The collected facts and figures from primary and secondary sources were processed by editing, coding, classification, tabulation, etc. various tables will be designed to arrange the data in concise and in logical order. The processed facts and figures will analyze by using various statistical techniques such as percentage, average, etc. The data will presented with the help of charts, maps, graphs, etc.

3.5 Scope of the Study

The study was applicable to only Kadagaon tehsil pertaining to 40 samples. The researcher relied on SHGs who supplied the required facts and figures. The study will helps to understand the influence of local politics on Self Help Group members of the selected area. It assists to the policy formulation to the Governments, Banks, NGOs and many other stakeholders. The present research study will enlighten to manage SHGs on efficient basis.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Influence of Local Politics on SHG

Local politics is one factor which also help for the strengthening the SHG movement. Table 1 shows the influence of local politics on the working of SHG.

Table 1 Influence of Local Politics on SHG

Particulars	Response		to	to	
	No. of BPL SHGs	% Total		No. of APL SHGs	% Total
Have an influence of local politics on SHGs.	23	76.67	07	70	
No. influence of local politics on SHGs	07	23.33	03	30	
Total	30	100	10	100	

Source: Primary data

Table 1 showed the influence of local politics on SHGs activities. 23 (76.67 %) SHGs of BPL agreed that they had influence of local politics on SHGs activities. 07 SHGs of BPL not agreed the influence of local politics.

In case of APL category SHGs 7 (70 %) SHGs agreed the influence of local politics on SHG whereas 03 (30%) SHGs are not agreed the influence of local politics.

4.2: Religions Joining

In case of BPL 26 (86.67%) SHGs women members belong to all religions join and in APL 7 (70 % SHGs) women members belonging to all religions.

4.3 Place of meeting

Members of SHGs came to gather to discuss issues before them. For the meetings of SHG they come together at group leader's house, temple masjid and member's house. Table No. 2 showed the response of members for place of meeting.

Table 2 Place of Meeting for Discussing Issues

Particulars	Multiple Response		to	to	
	BPL SHGs	% Total		APL SHGs	% Total
Group Leaders House	06	20	03	30	
At Temple / Masjid	02	6.67	01	10	
At Members House	21	70	06	60	
Other Place	01	3.33	--	--	

Source: Primary data

Table 2 revealed that 21 (70%) SHGs meeting of BPL were held at members house and in case of APL it was 6 (60%). 6 (20%) SHGs of BPL response to the meetings held at group leader house and in case of APL it was 3 (30%)

4.4 Information about Government Schemes

Central and State Government formulate and implement a policy and programme for the development of SHGs. Table 3 indicates the information about the government schemes after joining in SHGs.

Table 5.12

Information about Govt. Schemes

Particulars	Response			
	BPL SHGs	% to Total	APL SHGs	% to Total
Sufficient Information	04	13.33	02	20
Insufficient Information	26	86.67	08	80
Total	30	100	10	100

Source: Primary data

Table 3 showed that more than 8% of sample SHGs not got sufficient information about Government schemes introduced to the betterment of SHGs.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTION

5.1 Conclusions

- 1) Involvement of women members in deciding the rules of functioning of the self-help groups enlighten on the process of women empowerment.
- 2) Members of sample self-help groups connected with banking activities such as deposit their funds and borrow the needed funds.
- 3) Women involvement in the decision making process assist to formation of self-help groups.
- 4) The groups concerned to relationship of members of SHGs, caste, literate and illiterate and politics.
- 5) All the self-help groups' members under the category of BPL and APL given preference that they had participate in each other festivals.
- 6) Every member is interested in acquiring a new knowledge concerned in the field of education, finance, administration, production, marketing, distribution of goods and services.

5.2 Suggestions

- 1) It is required to reduce the political influence in the self-help groups.
- 2) To develop leadership skills among the women members of self-help groups.
- 3) Educates the members to manage the groups and maintain accounts self-help groups.

- 4) More efforts are required to communicate information of the different schemes of Central and State Governments.
- 5) An arrangement of religious festivals, exhibitions leads more opportunities to sale goods produced by the self-help groups.
- 6) Establishment of selling centers for goods produced by self-help groups.
- 7) Promote female literacy for formation of self-help groups.

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