

Importance of Education to Empowering the Women - A Study in Salem District

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ABSTRACT

The Important role played empowering in a woman in the family by employment; presently many development agencies are planning their programmes and projects of the empowerment of women through capacity building and strengthen their organizations. Given the importance of female leadership in community and grass-roots level, organizations, non-governmental organizations have been identified as a key factor in empowering women, and in ensuring that an accurate knowledge of their true situation, of their actual and potential roles, and of obstacles to their economic participation, is reflected in the design of economy-wide policies. According to A.K Sen, women are less likely to secure favorable outcomes for themselves in household decision making processes. They feel that their long term security lies in subordinating their wellbeing to that of male authority. In this condition education plays a key in discovery the employment and revenue. For a long period, male contribution towards household income was more as compared to female. It is because, female are forced to look after the household work and they were not given opportunity for education thereby revenue. By considering the importance female education, Government gave much importance for female education and changes could be realized at present. The present study analyses the female education and their important. Besides, the study links the contribution of the female income towards their family. Given this backdrop, the study interlinks three concepts viz., female education, income and their contribution to their household. Therefore, the findings of the study would give some policy insights to the researchers in identifying the development and gaps in female education and income.

Key Words: Empowerment, capacity building, leadership, knowledge

1. INTRODUCTION

The Important role played by employment in empowering women in the family, Presently many development agencies are planning their programmes and projects of the empowerment of women through capacity building and strengthen their organizations. Given the importance of female leadership in community and grass-roots level organizations, non-governmental organizations have been identified as a key factor in empowering women, and in ensuring that an accurate knowledge of their true situation, of their actual and potential roles, and of obstacles to their economic participation, is reflected in the design of economy-wide policies. Gender awareness activities for both men and women have also become an important part of many development projects at the community with access to markets and credit and to the need to deal with conflicting interests of the rich and the poor in a community. In the villages, poor women have been gradually gaining confidence and learning how to handle conflicts of interests with their husbands and other males in the family and community as well as the landlords and rich and powerful people. Women gain confidence from participating in women's groups as well as skills in speaking, organizing and

managing. The awareness about needs and rights and the ability and strength of group action are the prime basis for strength of groups makes it easier to arrange child care and organize mutual help. These increased activities often caused personal problems for the women because they are taking on a non-traditional role.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND DECISION MAKING

According to Amartya Sen, women are less likely to secure favorable outcomes for themselves in household decision making processes. They feel that their long term security lies in subordinating their wellbeing to that of male authority figures. The power of decision-making is a real test of empowerment of a person. The extent of decision making power exercised by employed women in their families is analyzed below. An important point to note is that the workers, who had very low score regarding job satisfactions, exhibit a different pattern pertaining to family empowerment. In deciding the number of children as well as in other decision making powers in the family, they exercise a moderately high degree of power than those are earning only a small amount, in a poor family derive more power than others who have high salary.

EDUCATION AND EMPOWERMENT

Education has been identifiable as the major instrument for raising the status of women. Hence, with the acceptance of gender equality of access to education during the last forty years have affected women in a number of ways. It has created awareness among women and enables them to be self-reliant. It has brought women in contact with the philosophy of liberalism are the domestic traditions of the west. It has deferred the age of marriage. Postponed the mothering responsibility and enable them to seek a career it has given rise to new equations in the relationship between husband and wife and enabled women to exercise their choice in the selection of the life partner.

2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Education plays a pivotal in finding the employment and income. For a long period, male contribution towards household income was more as compared to female. It is because, female are forced to look after the household work and they were not given opportunity for education thereby income. By considering the importance female education, Government gave much importance for female education and changes could be realized at present. The present study analyses the female education and their income. Besides, the study links the contribution of the female income towards their family. Given this backdrop, the study interlinks three concepts viz., female education, income and their contribution to their household of Salem district.

Rakesh Dashora and Anushree Sharma (2003) “Role of rural in education”, tries to examine the impact of international women’s decade (declared by United Nations in 1975) on the lives status, suggest of women in India is perusing as for as welfare of women is concerned. According to this study, during the decades of 1971-1981 female literacy rate improved from 18.7 to 24.82 percent but there is wide disparity between male and female literacy conditions of 95 percent of the working in fields and factories, mines and construction sites, cottage and household industries is even. In regard to the economic activity of women it is also gender based having implications of discrimination and deprivation. Another significant dimension of women’s employment is that due to technology transfer in the Indian economy jobs which were alone by women were climate and replaced by a category of new skills rendering women unemployment. A close work at the level of education and employment suggests that the lowest of education i.e. illiteracy and the higher

education level. There are more women found working but in the intermediary level of education. Particularly there is no technical draining women find it very difficult to get employment.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To study the socio – economic conditions of the surveyed respondents in Salem district.
- To access the relationship between the women’s education, employment and family status.

METHODOLOGY

For this study the analytical based methodology adopted with primary and secondary data. The primary data collected from the study area with an interview method. The secondary data collected from various reports from statistical department Salem district. The study covers socio - economic conditions of the women in Salem district District.

SAMPLE DESIGN

The present study covered Salem district in random sampling method and the sample size is 45 respondents in three categories. Out of 45 total sampling, 15 sampling collected from women working in government sector, 15 sampling in private and 15 sampling by women working in self-employment. The study links contribution of the female income towards their family. The study interlinks three concepts viz., female education, income and their contribution to their household. Therefore, the findings of the study would give some policy insights to the researchers in identifying the development and gaps in female education and income.

4. CONCEPTS

EMPOWERMENT

Empowerment of women has been recognized as a central issue in determining the status of women. Empowerment covers aspects such as women’s control over material and intellectual resources. Empowerment is a process, not an event, which challenges traditional power equations and relations.

NUCLEAR FAMILY

A nuclear family has been conceived as a household comprised of parents and unmarried children.

JOINT FAMILY

The joint family has been conceived as a group of consanguineous kin of one or more than one generation, who generally, live under one roof, who hold property in common and who participate in a common ritual. There are many research studies related to impact of women’s education on earnings of the urban household in Salem district. This study is stepping up to improvement the women’s empowerments in the study area.

5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**SOCIO DEMOGRAPHIC DETAILS OF THE SURVEYED RESPONDENTS**

DETAILS		TYPES OF EMPLOYMENT			
		GOVERNMENT	PRIVATE	SELF-EMPLOYMENT	TOTAL
		(N=15)	(N=15)	(N=15)	(N=45)
Age	Young	11	7	8	26
	Middle	4	8	5	17
	Old	0	0	2	2
Education	Primary	0	3	3	6
	Middle	0	4	5	9
	Higher sec	0	5	3	8
	College	15	3	4	22
Occupation	Government	15	0	0	15
	Private	5	3	0	8
	Self	0	15	15	22
Community	BC	4	5	3	12
	MBC	6	4	5	15
	Sc	5	6	7	18
Family type	Joint	4	6	3	13
	Nuclear	11	9	12	32

Source: Computed

TABLE NO 1

The table 1 reveals that the socio - economic condition details of the surveyed respondents age wise are younger 11 respondents in government employment middle age of women education on earnings 7 respondents from private sector and 8 respondent to surveyed from self-employment in the study area. The highest number of women respondent (11) earning from the government jobs.

EDUCATION

Education is an important means of socialization. Education has been identified as the major instrument for raising the status of women, with the acceptance of gender equality. Hence, it is necessary to know the educational background of the respondents. Here, the educational level of respondent are classified into 4 categories viz, Primary, Middle, Higher secondary and college education. The 3 respondents are to get the primary education and engaged earning from private sector - 3 respondents to working in self-employment data collected in the study area. Finally, there is no Primary education and middle education of the respondent working and earning from government sector. Therefore, Majority of the Higher education of 15 respondents only working and earning from government sector, but, 3 respondents in private sector and 4 respondents are earning from self-employment in the study area.

OCCUPATION

A person's usual or principal work or business is called as occupation. The predominant occupation of the study areas working population are in the government, private and self-employment. It is

apparent from the table 1 shows that among the women workers, most of them were self-employed (22), in government sector 15 respondents are employed.

COMMUNITY

The table 1 illustrated the community wise classification of respondents' women. 15 respondents belong to most backward, 12 respondents belong to backward caste and 18 respondents belong to scheduled caste. From the table it is inferred that maximum respondents were belong to SC community.

FAMILY TYPES

In this study the types of family has been analyzed under two broad types joint and nuclear family. When we take the family types of the respondent's households, it is observed from the table the nuclear family system is higher than the joint family system. Out of the 45 sample respondents, 32 respondents are nuclear family other remaining 13 respondent families live under the joint family.

ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME OF THE SURVEYED RESPONDENTS

SL. NO	ANNUAL INCOME	NO. OF RESPONDENT	TOTAL (%)
1	Below 2 lakh	20	44.0
2	200001- 400000	10	22.0
3	400001– 600000	8	18.0
4	Above 600000	7	16.0
Total		45	100.0

Source: Computed

TABLE NO 2

The table 2 reveals that the household income of the surveyed respondents. Income is an important variable which determines the social status and power of the individuals. Thus income is an important aspect of the social background of the respondents. While analyzing per household income of the respondents are 44 percent earning below 2 lakhs and 22 percent fall on Rs 200001 - 400000. Further, shows that the household earning 18 percent is Rs 400001 - 600000 and lowest percent and the income wise highest are 16 percent is Rs above 600000/-. It is noted from above table details income of the respondents is play significant role in household income the study area. It is clear that economic status of the respondents were increased in the study area.

AVERAGE ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE OF THE SURVEYED RESPONDENTS

Sl. No	Annual expenditure (Rs)	No. of respondent	Total %
1	Below 1lakh	18	40.0
2	100001- 200000	10	22.2
3	200001– 300000	9	20.0
4	Above 300000	8	17.8
Total		45	100.0

Source: Computed

TABLE NO 3

The table 3 brings out the consumption expenditure not only depends upon income of the head of the family but, also depends upon the income earning from other services as well as the income of other members of the family. The expenditure pattern of the respondent's households can be divided into Food and non-Food expenditure, such as groceries, vegetables, clothing, education, transport, health, fuel, LPG gas, house rent and others. This expenditure is not including of loans and emergence expenditures. While analyzing per household expenditure the highest spending of the respondents are 17.8 percentages, i.e. above Rs 300,000/- of annual. Similarly, the average household expenditure of the respondents is 20, 22.2 and 40 percentages of their total income. It is mentioned in value of Rs. 200001– 300000, 100001- 200000 and below 1 lakh respectively.

ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD SAVINGS OF THE SURVEYED RESPONDENTS

Sl. No	Annual income	No. of respondent	Total (%)
1	Below 1lakh	21	46.7
2	100001- 150000	14	31.1
3	150001– 200000	6	13.3
4	Above 200000	4	8.9
Total		45	100.0

Source: Computed

TABLE NO 4

The table 4 reveals that the household savings of the respondents. Savings is an important variable which determines the social status and power of the family. Thus savings is an important aspect of the social background of the respondents. While analyzing per household savings of the respondents are 46.7 percent of their earning below 1 lakh and 31.1 percent fall on Rs 100001 - 150000. Further, shows that the household savings 13.3 percent is Rs 150001 - 200000 and lowest of savings is 8.9 percent. It is noted from above table details savings of the respondents is play significant major role in household income the study area. It is clear that economic status of the respondents were increased in the study area.

EMPOWERMENT OF THE RESPONDENTS IN DECISION MAKING

Sl. No	Empowerment	No. of respondent	Total (%)
1	Individual Decision Making	15	33.3
2	Family Decision Making	12	26.7
3	Purchasing	10	22.2
4	Attending Function	8	17.8
Total		45	100.0

Source: Computed

TABLE NO 5

The table 5 reveals that the empowerment in decision making of the respondents of the study area. Of which it is shows individual decision making was highest 33.3 percent by working of women in families and the level to take family decision making is 26.7 percent by women's in household activities. It's observed intensively the other purchasing and attending function decision making by women are 22.2 and 17.8 percent respectively. It is well defined from the analysis the women have education, the empowerment, knowledge and social status is automatically too increased in the study area.

MAJOR FINDINGS

From the analysis the researcher arrived some major findings and they are as follows. The table 1 shows that among the women respondents young and middle age group are high. It shows 43 in numbers. The most of them were self-employed (22), in government sector 15 respondents are employed. From the table it is inferred that maximum respondents were belong to SC community (18). Out of the 45 sample respondents, 32 respondents are nuclear family other remaining 13 respondents are joint family. The maximum number of respondents (44 percent) income level is low and they earning below 2 lakhs. Only 16 percent is earned above 600000/- the household expenditure of the respondents highest spending are 17.8 percentages, i.e. above `300,000/- of their earnings. The respondent's annual savings are 46.7 percent of their earning below 1 lakh and very few respondents' annual savings are high. The individual decision making are highest 33.3 percent in working women respondents in family matters.

6. SUMMARY

The employment played important role by empowering women in the family; presently many development agencies are planning their programmes and projects of the empowerment of women through capacity building and strengthen their organizations. Given the importance of female leadership in community and grass-roots level organizations, non-governmental organizations have been identified as a key factor in empowering women and in ensuring that an accurate knowledge of their true situation, of their actual and potential roles and of obstacles to their economic participation is reflected in the design of economy-wide policies.

The overall index is 62, which is moderately favorable; the district-wise index is 69 for Salem district, which falls in the highly favorable range. The highest score is 90 given for the self-employed in Salem district. That means, all the values fall either in the highly or moderately favorable range. This shows that in all the families of employed women, they have got an important position. It can be concluded that employment increases the importance of a woman in the family. According to Amartya Sen, women are less likely to secure favorable outcomes for themselves in household decision making processes. They feel that their long term security lies in subordinating their wellbeing to that of male authority figures.

7. CONCLUSION

The study reveals the immense potential of employment to enhance the empowerment of women in the family set up. Hence more opportunities should be provided to women for employment of self - employment. After going through all the indices on the above elements, it is clear that employment contributes a great degree of empowerment to women in the family and society.

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