

“A Study to Find out Awareness, Confidence and Participation of Women in Socio-Economic Arena (with special reference to Rajasthan)”

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ABSTRACT

Socio means relating to society or sociology. Economic means concerned with the organization of the money, industry and trade of a country, region or society. So, socio-economic circumstances or developments involve a combination of social and economic factors.

This paper works on the condition of women and their empowerment in this socio- economic arena. It works on the level of awareness, confidence and participation level of women in the present scenario. It also studies how the education of a person plays a role in making her aware, confident and active woman who can help the country become a better nation, where equality is supported and the women are empowered. They are treated equally as men. Educated women can make the country better by removing the patriarchal society that it has.

Though the quality of being aware, confident or the will to participate comes from within, but the education provided to the women also play an important role in making them better assets for women empowerment, feminism movement and a better India.

KEY WORDS: Socio-economic arena, Women Empowerment, Feminism Movement, Awareness

INTRODUCTION

Women Empowerment

Almost 50% of the world's population is women. But, women are still not treated equally to men in all the places. These inequalities have given rise to what is known as the “Gender Problem”.

Gender disparity is present in many forms in the society such as female feticide (decreasing

female ratio), domestic violence, unequal wages, etc. The underlying causes of this discrimination are in the society itself. The society that we live in is patriarchal, the male dominated society, where men are always given the first preference. The problem is that even with the advancement in everything, the people are still not changing their thinking and beliefs. This social and economic structure has always oppressed women throughout the centuries. The status of women depends upon socio-economic factors such as education, occupation, women's income, decision-making, power, ownership, control and access to land, financial control, family structure, demographic features, mobility and authority.

After Feminism has become popular, the women are awakened as well. They've realized that everything that they have been facing throughout their lives is wrong and they should protest against it. It can be assumed that empowerment of women by providing them equal rights, opportunities and responsibilities will go a long way in removing the existing gender discrimination. Women Empowerment in today's India is in various forms such as work, education, health, social and political participation, their legal status in terms of marriage, divorce and inheritance of property. A woman can empower herself by being aware, confident and participate in various social and political things. Through this, the women can achieve equal status and treatment as men in the socio-economic arena.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

H. Subrahmanyam (2011) compares women education in India at present and past. The author highlighted that there has a good progress in overall enrolment of girls in schools. The term "empower" means to give lawful power or authority to act. It is the process of acquiring some activities of women.

M. Bhavani Sankara Rao (2011) has highlighted that health of women members of SHG have certainly taken a turn for better. It clearly shows that health of women members discuss among themselves about health related problems of other members and their children and make them aware of various government provisions specially meant for them.

Doepke M., Terlit M. (2011) Does women empowerment promote economic development? This study is an empirical analysis suggesting that money in the hands of mothers benefits children. This study developed a series of non-cooperative family bargaining models to understand what kind of frictions can give rise to the observed empirical relationships.

Rahul Lahoti, Hema Sawaminathan (2013) researched on 'Economic Development and Female Labour Force Participation in India'. This paper explores the relationship between economic development and female labour supply using state-level data spanning 1983-1984

to 2011-2012.

S Geetha, S Babu (2016) researched on 'Self-Help Group: An Effective Approach to Women Empowerment in India'. Although, these have been opened for men too, but have been more successful in the case of women, especially in the rural areas of the country

Abby C. Cannon, Jennet Arcara, Laurie M. Graham, Rebecca J. Mary (2017) researched 'Women and Leadership: Selection, development, leadership style and performance'. Through the framework of selection, development, leadership style and performance, they had reported gender-related findings from a broad survey of existing literature from the last three decades.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

In a patriarchal society, women are always suppressed. Earlier, there were many things going on such as child marriages, domestic violence, female feticide and many more, but now it has reduced. Though the conditions are better than before, but still, there is gender inequality going on. That is why, a woman should be empowered. This research was done to evaluate what are the changes that have taken place over the years in gender inequality and the factors that help in women empowerment. There are various social, political and economic factors that contribute in the empowerment of women such as, education, health, working environment, etc. This research paper was done to evaluate how women manage their homes and jobs simultaneously now and how the working women are perceived in the society.

The government and most of the people have realized that the development of a country can take place when the other half of the population is not oppressed. That is why; the government has released various schemes and laws for the protection and upliftment of women, such as SHGs. These Self-Help Groups help in the betterment of the conditions of women. In today's arena, women empowerment is beneficial. To be empowered, they need to be aware, confident and participate in the society.

OBJECTIVES

- To find out the awareness of women in socio-economic arena
- To find out the confidence of women in socio-economic arena
- To find out the participation of women in socio-economic arena
- To keep a check that women are treated equally as men.
- To gain knowledge about the challenges and problems face.

HYPOTHESIS

H₀: There is no significant difference between the awareness, confidence and participation of women in between primary education, secondary education, graduate, post-graduate respondents.

H_a: There is a significant difference between the awareness, confidence and participation of women in between primary education, secondary education, graduate, post-graduate respondents.

Sampling Design

Universe: Jaipur

Sample Unit: Women from the age of 18 to 60

Sample Size: 150 women

Data Collection Tool:

I have used Questionnaire as the research instrument to conduct the survey. The questionnaire was a combination of 19 questions.

Primary data and Secondary data are used in the research study.

Primary Source: Primary data was collected directly from the respondents through a questionnaire.

Secondary Source: The secondary sources were my colleagues. The sampling has been taken from books, magazines, etc.

Sampling Method

Sampling method is random and non-random sampling method. Here we used convenience sampling method in the research.

Data Collection Instrument

- Multiple Choice Questions
- Likert Scale Questions

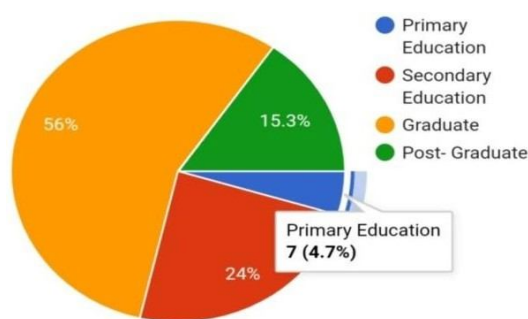
Limitations

1. There is a particular geographical location taken in this survey. In this survey, all the respondents are from Jaipur, Rajasthan.
2. Most of the respondents are lie between the age group of 18-60.
3. The primary data is collected via Questionnaire only.
4. The study pertains to a certain period of time. The result may not be valid for over a longer period of time due to fast changes in socio-economic and socio-cultural setting in this study area.

FINDING AND INTERPRETATION

Table 1- Qualification

Qualification	Total Number of Women	Percentage of Women
Primary	7	4.66%
Secondary	36	24%
Graduate	84	56%
Post- Graduate	23	15.33%
Total	150	100%

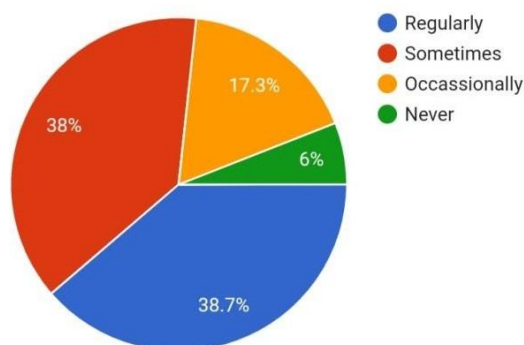


In this, it is observed that most of the respondents are graduates.

Table 2- Awareness Level

Showing how many women read the newspaper

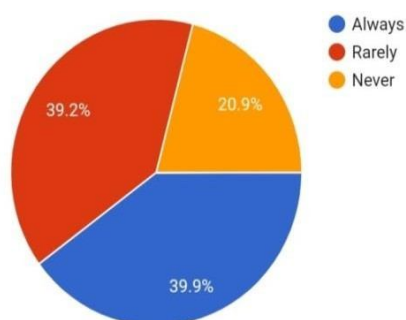
Responses	Primary	% of women with primary education	Secondary	% of women with secondary education	Graduate	% of women graduates	Post-Graduate	% of women post-graduates	Total
Regularly	1	14.28	6	16.66	35	41.66	16	69.56	58
Sometimes	3	42.8	16	44.44	35	41.66	3	13.04	57
Occasionally	1	14.28	9	25	12	14.28	4	17.39	26
Never	2	28.57	5	13.88	2	2.38	0	0	9
Total	7	100	36	100	84	100	23	100	150



In this, it is observed that most of the post-graduate women have the highest percentage (69.56%) in reading the newspaper regularly.

Table 3- Confidence Level
Showing how many women travelling alone to the nearest town

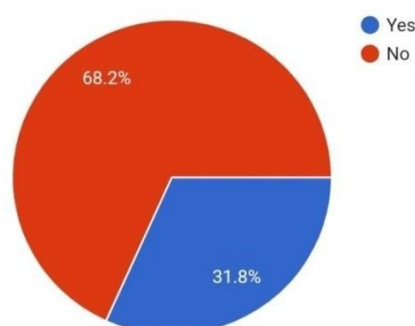
Responses	Primary	% of women with primary education	Secondary	% of women with secondary education	Graduate	% of women graduates	Post-Graduates	% of women post-graduates	Total
Always	2	28.57	9	25.71	34	40.96	14	60.86	59
Rarely	1	14.28	16	45.71	34	40.96	7	30.43	58
Never	4	57.14	10	28.57	15	18.07	2	8.69	31
Total	7	100	35	100	83	100	23	100	148



In this, it observed that most of the graduate and post-graduate women travel alone to the nearest town as compared to the women with primary or secondary education.

Table 4- Participation Level
Showing how many women participate in the committees/village meetings

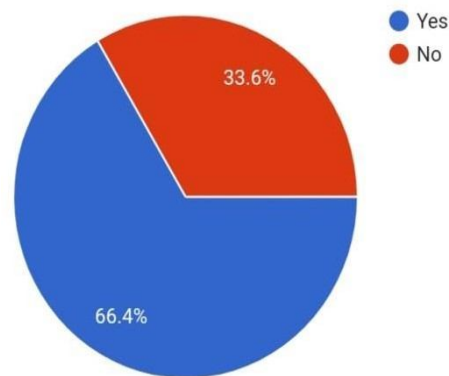
Responses	Primary	% of women with primary education	Secondary	% of women with secondary education	Graduates	% of women graduates	Post-Graduates	% of women post-graduates	Total
Yes	2	28.57	11	30.55	21	25.60	13	56.52	47
No	5	71.42	25	69.44	61	74.39	10	43.47	101
Total	7	100	36	100	82	100	23	100	148



In this, it is observed that all the women, regardless of their educational background, participate in various committees/ village meetings.

Table 5- Confidence and Participation Level
Showing how many women have raised their voice against sexual misconduct or unethical behaviour

Responses	Primary	% of women with primary education	Secondary	% of women with secondary education	Graduates	% of women graduates	Post-Graduates	% of women post-graduates	Total
Yes	0	0	23	63.88	58	69.87	18	78.26	99
No	7	100	13	36.11	25	30.12	5	21.73	50
Total	7	100	36	100	83	100	23	100	149



In this, it is observed that except the women with primary education, women, regardless of their education have raised their voice against sexual misconduct or unethical behaviour.

Chi-square Tables on Data

Table 1: How many women are aware about Women Empowerment?

Occupied Data

Qualification	Always	Occasionally	Rarely	Never	Total
Primary	0	4	1	2	7
Secondary	19	11	3	1	34
Graduate	58	20	3	0	81
Post-Graduate	14	8	1	0	23
Total	91	43	8	3	145

Expected Data

Qualification	Always	Occasionally	Rarely	Never	Total
Primary	4.39	2.07	0.38	0.14	7
Secondary	21.33	10.08	1.87	0.7	34
Graduate	50.83	24.02	4.46	1.67	81
Post-Graduate	14.43	6.82	1.26	0.47	23
Total	91	43	8	3	145

Chi-Square Test:

Formula $(\chi^2) = \sum (O-E)^2/E$

WHERE $E = A \times B/N$

$V = (r-1)(c-1)$

O= Observed Frequency

A= the row total for the row containing cell

B = the column total for the row containing cell

N = Total number of observations

R = Row

C = Column

$$\chi^2 = 14.2$$

$$V = (4-1)(4-1)$$

So table value at 5% significance is 2.262.

$$14.6 > 2.262$$

Computed value is higher than table value.

H_a: Alternate hypothesis accepted.

Interpretations

- Most of the respondents of the survey are graduate women.
- Most of the post-graduate women read the newspaper regularly (69.56%).
- Most of the graduate and post-graduate women travel alone to the nearest city/town. Even after revolutionary change in the condition of women throughout the years, the women with primary and secondary education are still dependent of their families.
- All the women, regardless of their educational background, participate in committees/ village meetings. This shows that education doesn't necessarily have to play a role in the participation level of women.
- All the women have raised their voices against sexual misbehavior or unethical misconduct, except the women with primary education.
- Most of the women are healthy, and thus, rarely have any health-related problems.
- Not all the women go and buy consumer durable on their own. Mostly, they are dependent on others, presumably men.

SUGGESTIONS AND OVERVIEW

1. Every woman should read the newspaper every day because it will make them aware of what is happening all around the world.
2. Every one of them should have a bank account of their own and should be aware about the banking transaction process.
3. Women should not be dependent on anyone and should buy consumer durable on their own.
4. Their families should support them in their empowerment so that the family disputes can be solved.
5. Women should be given safety so that they can travel alone or go for medical treatments on their own.
6. Women should be active and participate in committees or village meetings and should help in the charities.
7. They should raise their voice against any sexual misconduct or unethical behaviour because they should help each other to move forward.

CONCLUSION

It has been concluded that the condition of women has changed drastically over the years. It can be seen that the education of women plays a vital role in their empowerment. The ones who have had only Primary Education are not aware or confident. The women who have had education only till the Secondary level are a little ahead than them. The Graduate women are the most aware amongst all. They are more confident and active in the participation than any other category, even the post- graduates. Therefore, it can be concluded that if the education level of the women in India is increased, women may be empowered more and that they would be more aware, confident and active in participation. This would help them to move towards a future where equality of the sexes would be there. Women and men would be treated equally.

This empowerment of women will help the country to move forward towards a bright future and being a better nation.

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