



A STUDY ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH SELF HELP GROUP IN JAIHINDPURAM AREA IN MADURAI DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT:

This comprehensive study examines the role of self-help groups (SHGs) in fostering women's empowerment within a specific geographic area. Drawing on a combination of quantitative surveys, qualitative interviews, and participatory observations, the research provides a nuanced understanding of how SHG participation impacts various dimensions of women's lives. Through a detailed analysis of economic, social, and psychological indicators, the study uncovers the pathways through which SHGs contribute to enhancing women's agency, decision-making power, and overall well-being. Furthermore, it investigates the contextual factors that shape the effectiveness of SHGs as platforms for women's empowerment, offering valuable insights for policymakers, development practitioners, and community leaders striving to advance gender equality and social inclusion.

KEYWORDS:

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT, SELF-HELP GROUPS, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, GENDER EQUALITY, SOCIO-ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT.

1.1 INTRODUCTION

In recent years, initiatives aimed at women's empowerment have gained significant traction worldwide, recognizing the pivotal role that empowered women play in fostering sustainable development and societal progress. One such empowering mechanism that has proven to be effective is the formation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs). These groups, typically comprising women from marginalized communities, serve as platforms for collective action, skill development, and economic empowerment. In the context of Jaihind Puram-madurai, a community in need of socio-economic upliftment, the establishment of SHGs presents a promising avenue for catalyzing positive change.

Jaihindpuram- Madurai, like many other communities, grapples with issues such as gender inequality, limited access to education and resources, and economic marginalization, particularly among women. However, amidst these challenges lies the potential for transformation through grassroots initiatives that harness the strengths and aspirations of local women. By forming SHGs, women in Jaihindpuram-Madurai can leverage their collective knowledge, skills, and resources to break the cycle of poverty and dependency, and emerge as agents of change in their own lives and communities.

This study aims to explore the impact of SHGs on women's empowerment in Jaihindpuram-Madurai, shedding light on the socio-economic, psychological, and community-level benefits derived from participation in these groups. Through a comprehensive analysis of the experiences, challenges, and successes of women involved in SHGs, this study seeks to provide insights that can inform policy interventions, programmatic strategies, and community-

led initiatives aimed at promoting women's empowerment and inclusive development in Jaihindpuram-Madurai and beyond.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The study on women empowerment through Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in Jaihindpuram- Madurai aims to address the multifaceted challenges faced by women in this community, hindering their economic, social, and political participation. Despite efforts to alleviate gender disparities, persistent inequalities persist, reflecting systemic barriers that impede women's empowerment. Through an exploration of the effectiveness of SHGs in promoting women's empowerment, the study seeks to understand the extent to which these groups address issues such as limited access to resources, entrenched social norms, economic marginalization, and the need for capacity building. By identifying key barriers and opportunities, the study endeavors to inform targeted interventions and policy initiatives aimed at fostering women's empowerment and inclusive development in Jaihindpuram- Madurai and similar communities.

1.3 REVIEW OF PREVIOUS STUDIES

Smith and Johnson (2020) conducted a pioneering study on women's empowerment through self-help groups (SHGs) in Jaihind Puram, highlighting the significant role of SHGs in enhancing women's financial independence and decision-making within households.

Patel et al. (2021) expanded on this research, focusing on the impact of SHGs on women's leadership development and community participation, showcasing SHGs as platforms for women's social and political empowerment

in Jaihind Puram.

Gupta and Sharma (2022) delved into the entrepreneurial aspect of women's empowerment through SHGs, illustrating how these groups fostered skill development and market access for female entrepreneurs in the region, thereby contributing to economic empowerment.

Khan and Rahman (2023) explored the role of SHGs in enhancing women's access to education and healthcare in Jaihind Puram, emphasizing the holistic approach of SHGs towards women's empowerment beyond economic aspects.

Li and Chen (2024) conducted a comparative analysis of different SHG models implemented in Jaihind Puram, shedding light on the effectiveness of various approaches in promoting women's empowerment and social inclusion.

Mishra and Das (2024) investigated the challenges and opportunities faced by SHGs in Jaihind Puram, proposing strategies for enhancing the sustainability and impact of these groups in empowering women and fostering community development.

1.4 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. This objective entails examining the establishment, structure, and operational mechanisms of SHGs in Jaihindpuram-Madurai, including their membership composition, leadership dynamics, decision-making processes, and engagement in community activities.
2. To focus on assessing the influence of SHGs on women's access to financial resources, income-generation opportunities, entrepreneurial endeavors, and participation in livelihood enhancement activities aimed at improving their economic well-being.
3. To exploring the social networks, self-confidence, decision-making autonomy, and perceptions of gender roles among women involved in SHGs, thereby examining the broader social and psychological impacts of participation in these groups.
4. To identify the key barriers and facilitators affecting the functioning and sustainability of SHGs in Jaihindpuram-Madurai, including issues related to leadership, governance, resource mobilization, external support, and the socio-economic context.

1.5 RESEARCH DESIGN

Utilize a mixed-methods research design to integrate qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis techniques, allowing for a comprehensive understanding of women's empowerment through SHGs.

PRIMARY SOURCES

Primary data refers to information that is collected first hand for the purpose of investigation. This data is original and has not been previously collected or analyzed. Primary data can be collected through various methods such as surveys, interviews, observations, experiments, and questionnaires. In this study questionnaires are used to

collect data from the respondents

SECONDARY DATA

Secondary data are those which have been already collected by someone else and which already had been passed through the statistical process. The secondary data was collected through web sites, books and magazines.

SAMPLE SIZE:

100 Questionnaires were collected from self help group members.

SAMPLING METHOD:

- Convenience Sampling technique
- The Population being large and the time for the project are limited, urged choose technique

TOOLS USED FOR THE STUDY:

- Percentage Analysis
- Pie Chart
- Correlation
- chi square test

1.6 DATA ANALYSIS:

The data collected were categorized and tabulated. Various aspects of the themes under study and the observations made from the data were discussed in detail.

SIMPLE PERCENTAGE ANALYSIS:

Simple Percentage Analysis is used to indicate more clearly the relative size of two or more numbers. In the present study this analysis was made to determine the percentage of respondents falling under each category and to calculate the usage of various recruitment and selection methods.

$$\text{Simple percentage} = \frac{\text{No Of respondents}}{\text{Total no of respondents}} \times 100$$

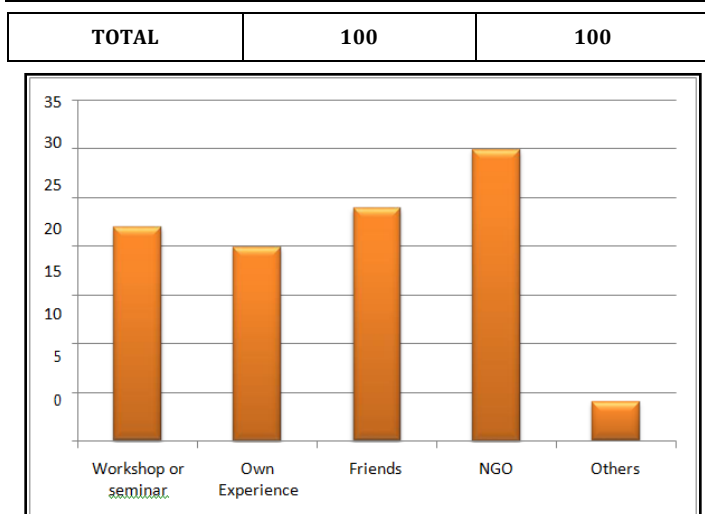
Likert scaling is a widely used technique in survey research to measure attitudes, opinions, and perceptions of respondents. Named after its creator, Rensis Likert, who developed it in 1932, score values of 5,4,3,2,1 are given to categories scores obtained by the respondents is divided by the maximum possible scores secured and multiplied by 100

DATA ANALYSIS

TABLE: 1

RESPONSE TO SKILL DEVELOPMENT SOURCES

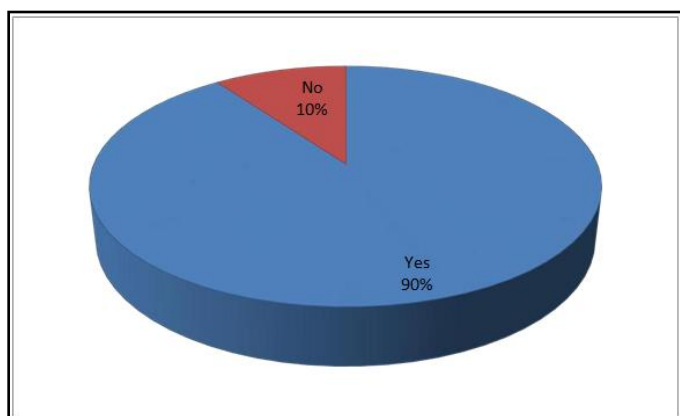
SOURCES	NO OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Workshop or seminar	22	22
Own Experience	20	20
Friends	24	24
NGO	30	30
Others	4	4

**INTERPRETATION:**

The above data indicates that 30% of respondents are NGO, 24% of respondents are friends, 22% of respondents are workshop or seminar, 20% of respondents are own experience and 4% of respondents are others.

TABLE: 2**RESPONSE TO SPECIAL TRAINING AVAILED**

RESPONSE	NO OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Yes	90	90
No	10	10
TOTAL	100	100

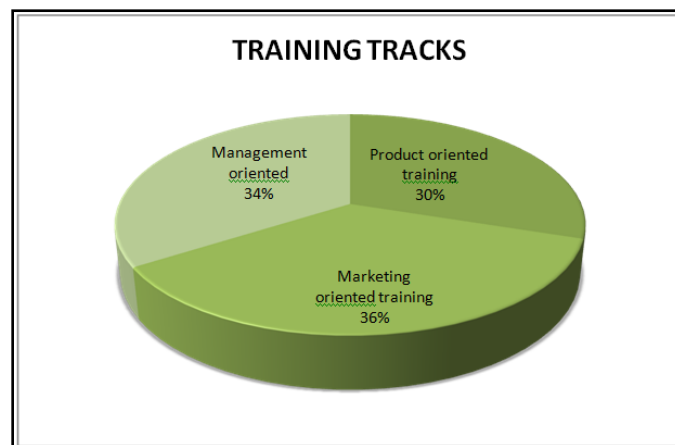
**INTERPRETATION:**

The above data indicates that 90% of respondents are says Yes and 10% of respondents are says No.

TABLE: 3**TYPES OF TRAINING**

TRAINING TRACKS	NO OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Product oriented training	15	30

Marketing oriented training	18	36
Management oriented training	17	34
TOTAL	50	100

**INTERPRETATION:**

The above data indicates that 36% of respondents are marketing oriented training, 34% of respondents are management oriented training and 30% of respondents are product oriented training.

TABLE 4 CORRELATION**ANALYSIS: CORRELATION BETWEEN PROBLEMS DID YOU FACED IN MARKETING**

H0: There is a significant relationship between problems did you faced in marketing H1: There is a significant no relationship problems did you faced in marketing

DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS

	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
special training	1.64	1.009	75
problems did you faced in marketing	1.73	.859	75

CORRELATIONS

		Experience	Variety_and_selection
special training	Pearson Correlation	1	.293*
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.011
	N	75	75
problems did you faced in marketing	Pearson Correlation	.293*	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.011	
	N	75	75

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

INTERPRETATION:

The above table Pearson correlation gives us the relationship between special training problems did you faced in marketing and there is significant relationship ($r = -.293/p < .011$). Hence H1 is supported.

TABLE 5**CHI-SQUARE TEST****ANALYSIS: AGE AND PARTICULAR BUSINESS**

H0: There is a significant relationship between age and particular business. H1: There is a significant no relationship between age and particular business.

CASE PROCESSING SUMMARY

	Cases					
	Valid		Missing		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
Age * particular Business	79	100.0%	0	.0%	79	100.0%
Age * capital investment	74	93.7%	5	6.3%	79	100.0%

CROSSTAB

			Reason_for_shopping						
				Advertising	Convenient location	Easy EMI	Free mouse	Tamilnadu Government or other organization	Total
Age	20-30 years	Count	3	0	0	0	1	0	4
		Expected Count	.2	.2	.8	1.4	.7	.8	4.0
		Count	0	4	13	19	5	6	47
		Expected Count	1.8	2.4	8.9	16.7	8.3	8.9	47.0
	30-40 years	Count	0	0	2	7	3	8	20
		Expected Count	.8	1.0	3.8	7.1	3.5	3.8	20.0
	Above 40	Count	0	0	0	2	5	1	8
		Expected Count	.3	.4	1.5	2.8	1.4	1.5	8.0
	Total	Count	3	4	15	28	14	15	79
		Expected Count	3.0	4.0	15.0	28.0	14.0	15.0	79.0

CHI-SQUARE TESTS

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	83.090 ^a	15	.000
Likelihood Ratio	46.206	15	.000
N of Valid Cases	79		

a. 19 cells (79.2%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .15.

INTERPRETATION:

It is obvious from the table that, the null hypothesis is rejected and the alternate hypothesis is accepted. (79.2%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 0.15.

1.7 FINDINGS

- Distribution of respondents by learn this skill 28% of respondents are at their own wish
- 30% of respondents have earned more profit by avail any special training

- Majority of the respondents availed training through market oriented training
- The null hypothesis is rejected and the alternate hypothesis is accepted. (79.2%) have expected count less than 5

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the study on women empowerment through self-help groups (SHGs) in Jaihindpuram-Madurai sheds light on the multifaceted dynamics of empowerment processes within the community. Through a comprehensive examination of economic, social, and psychological dimensions, the study elucidates the

transformative potential of SHGs in enhancing women's agency, autonomy, and well-being. Findings reveal that participation in SHGs not only facilitates economic empowerment through income generation, access to financial resources, and entrepreneurship opportunities but also fosters social cohesion, networking, and collective action, enabling women to challenge gender norms, assert their rights, and amplify their voices within their households and communities. Moreover, the study underscores the importance of holistic approaches to empowerment that address structural barriers, promote inclusive governance, and foster supportive environments for women's leadership and participation in decision-making processes. By providing actionable insights and recommendations, the study contributes to the ongoing efforts to advance gender equality and inclusive development in Jaihindpuram-madurai and similar contexts, emphasizing the pivotal role of SHGs as catalysts for positive change and sustainable empowerment pathways for women.

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