

**PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT ACTIVITIES WITH
REFERENCE TO KHAMMAM DISTRICT TELANGANA**

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Abstract:

Women participation in Self Help Groups have obviously created tremendous impact upon the life pattern and style of poor women and have empowered them at various levels not only as individuals but also as members of the family members of the community and the society as whole. This paper establishes the linkage of the women empowerment through various connotations, their participation in economic activities in general and tribal women in particular. It examines the occupation pattern of women, their socio-economic conditions, dressing pattern. The paper made use of cross factors analysis. This paper concluded that it is necessary to build up women capacities so as to involve them in productive activities, family and social transformation, decision-making process, political representation, entrepreneurial development and social leadership. Important finding is women have broken the barricades of confining themselves merely to reproduction and now actively participating in production activities.

Keywords: Women Empowerment, Economic Development, Decision making

1.0 Introduction

India soon after freed from colonial rule, took major initiatives to transform its stagnate economy into developed economy. Economic planning system was adopted to realize the dreams of transforming economy into developed one and self-reliant. Unemployment, poverty, inequalities, inflation increased gradually during last six decades of planned economic development. Fruits of development did not reach to all sections of people in all regions. This experience made ruling elite to rethink of development strategy and to introduce parallel strategy which will directly target the problems. Several programmes were launched and implemented from the 5th five-year plan onwards for employment generation and poverty eradication. But they are not comprehensive in nature to cover all the areas and regions of the country and all sections of people who were to be actually targeted. All those programmes did not yield desired results due to many loop holes- lack of sufficient funds, operational and monitoring problems, wrong selection of areas and beneficiaries, overlapping of schemes etc

Education and Women:

A popular saying goes 'While educating a man benefits him alone, educating a woman benefits the whole family and society at large'. It is a proven fact that children of educated women enjoy high education standards and fare better than children of illiterate mothers. Educated women, manage their homes better as they support their families economically, financially and emotionally. Women comprise approximately half of the population in the world. But the hegemonic masculine ideology made them bear a lot as they were denied equivalent opportunities in different parts of the world. Despite best efforts by national and international organizations education is still not accessible to many particularly women from developing countries like India. Key challenge in achieving gender equality in education is reaching those girls who remain out of school even in countries where school campaigns have led to significant gains in enrolment.

Women Empowerment:

Women empowerment refers to the power of having decision making of their own. The dictionary meaning of the term 'empower' is to invest legally or formally with power, to make powerful. Role and involvement in decision making in family affairs, freedom in spending, help received in discharging responsibilities in household and deviation from traditional customs etc are some indicators of women empowerment. It is a holistic concept, multidimensional in approach and involves a basic realization and awareness of one's own powers and potentials, capabilities and competencies and of one's rights and opportunities for development in all spheres of life- social, political, economical and cultural to lead a reasonable and rational life with dignity. Among all the facets of empowerment, economic empowerment occupies utmost significance and employment opportunity is considered to contribute to economic empowerment.

2.0 Literature review

Kumar and Sefali Roy (2012) women's position in the society cannot be improved unless they are imparted formal and informal education along with skill and vocational training. Women empowerment does not require only dynamic laws but also change in the mental setup of people living in the society. Provision of basic infrastructural facilities in the school is not sufficient. Parents of girls need to be made aware of the fact that girl's education is more profitable in the long run than sending her to domestic work for earning little money. Nandini Manjraiker (2003) is of the view that education is peripheral to the concerns of the contemporary women's movement in India especially the legacy of struggle by women to establish their right to education. Part of challenge is thinking through concerns about gender and education lies in uncovering the dialectical linkages between the formal education system and larger social & economic processes and their impact on women's lives. Mishra (2009) through his research work strongly approves that, female literacy plays a very important role in raising productivity levels, reducing child mortality rates and population growth. Girls are underrepresented at every level of formal education. Keeping the girls in primary schools depends upon socio-economic factors and attitude of teachers Dighe (2006) is of the view that increased female education is linked to improved health, lower fertility and other benefits that have high social returns. According to her research study in slums of south Delhi, almost all her respondents were school dropouts except few for various socio-economic reasons that spoiled the chances for girls to continue their studies Pattnaik and Nagaraju Gundemeda

(2016) through their empirical study on two villages of rural Odisha inferred two set of factors influencing girls dropouts from schools –one is infrastructural shortcomings like non availability of high schools within the village or nearby villages, and other institutional problems like helping in domestic chores , taking care of younger siblings, earning for parents as child labour etc All these affect girls education and in spite of several government programmes, obstacles to girls schooling could not be eradicated.

3.0 RESEAAARCH METHODOLOGY

The empowerment of women is essential for the development of the society as well as economy. Now-a-days Women are performing multiple roles of working but still they are not equal to men. Women empowerment includes women awareness of their rights, self-confidence, to have a control over their lives both at home and outside and their ability to bring a change in the society. Empowerment has many elements which depend upon and relate to each other i.e. economic, social, political and personal. Economic empowerment means to give woman her rights in the economy. Social empowerment means status of woman in the society should be equal to man by eliminating injustice and inequity. Women should have respectable value in the society. Political empowerment means women should have access to political positions from provincial level to national assemblies and be given right to vote along with men without any discrimination. Personal empowerment means women should have freedom in their personal matters Economic empowerment is the capacity of women and men to participate in, contribute to and benefit from growth processes in ways which recognise the value of their contributions, respect their dignity and make it possible to negotiate a fairer distribution of the benefits of growth. Economic empowerment increases women’s access to economic resources and opportunities including jobs, financial services, property and other productive assets, skills development and market information

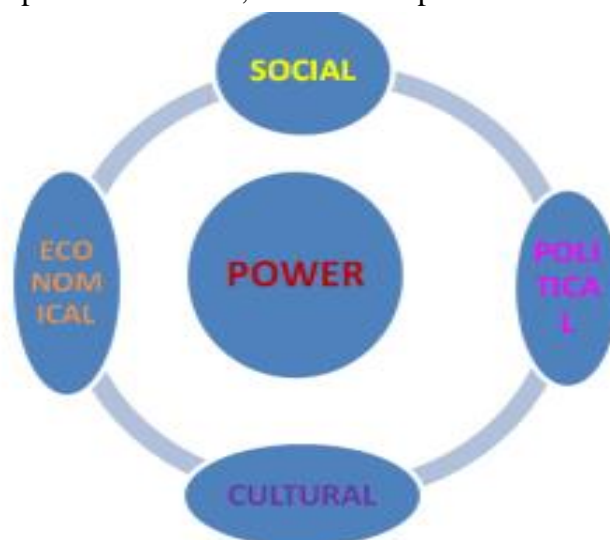


Figure-1: Multi-Dimensions of Women Empowerment

The Area of the Study:

The Khammam district has been selected for the study on Economic Empowerment of Tribal Women. The district is predominantly by tribal population in the Telangana areas. Khammam is one of the most backward districts for tribal development is concerned. The main reasons behind this are that majority people have illiteracy, ignorance, poverty, migration, prostitution etc. We have interviewed 300 sample respondents in the district from

two mandals i.e., Karepally and Burgampad from these two mandals we have selected two Gram Panchayaths.

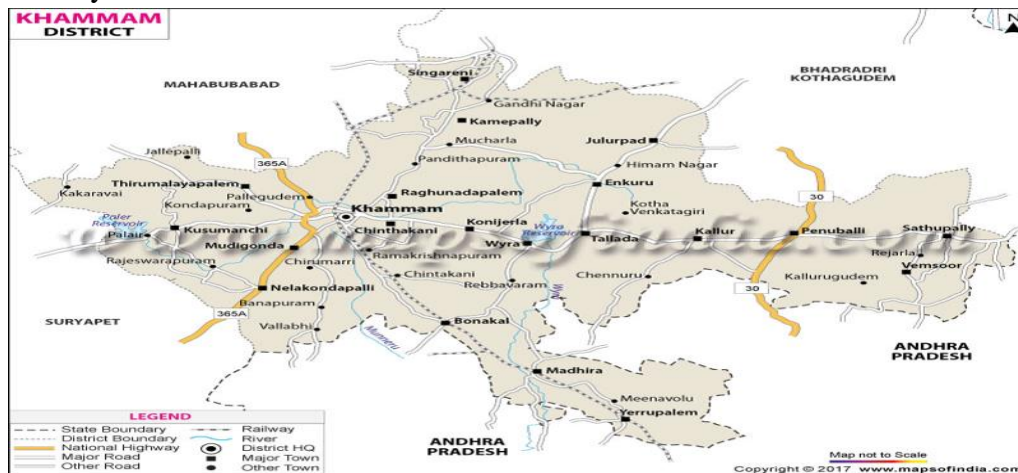


Figure: Area of the khammam

4.0 Results and Discussion:

Empowerment of women has emerged as an important issue in recent times. The economic empowerment of women is being regarded these days as a sine-qua-none of progress for a country; hence, the issue of economic empowerment of women is of paramount importance and reformers. Taking the aspects into consideration, an attempt has been made in this paper to appraise the socio-economic status of the tribal women respondents.

Category	Frequency	Percentage
1. Age Group		
18-25 (years)	54	18.0
26-35	123	41.0
36-45	73	34.3
<46	50	16.7
2. Education		
Illiterate Primary	155	51.7
level Secondary	70	23.3
level Degree level	52	17.3
Degree & Above	17	5.7
3. Marital status		
Married	6	2.0
Widow	269	89.6
Divorced	28	9.2
	3	1.0

The presents detail of socio-economic factors of the women sample respondents. The research findings indicated that cutting across the age group, a majority of the respondents are in the age group of 26-35 years whereas 24.3 percent of those are in the age group of 36-45 and 18 percent in 18 to 25 years and 16.7 percent are above 46 years category. The literacy composition reveals that 155 out of 300 women sample respondents are illiterates i.e.,

51.7 percent and 148 out of 300 samples are literates accounting for 48.3 percent. It confirms our understanding that illiteracy causes ignorance.

Income and Occupational Analysis

Income in relation to the activities of the SGHs is examined in the above table. There are 80 women respondents in the below Rs 5000 level of income. 28.7 percent of them are in dairy activities, 22.5 percent in retail trade and 48.8 percent in other activities. Out of 102 sample women in Rs 5000- 10,000 level of income 41.2 percent are in dairy activities, 11.8 percent in retail trade and 47 percent in other activities. It is found that 54 sample women are in the Rs 15,000 level of income and 53.7 percent of them are in dairy activities, 18.5 percent in retail trade and 27.8 percent in other activities. It is found that 54 sample women are in the Rs 15,000 level of income and 53.7 percent of them are in dairy activities, 18.5 percent in retail trade and 27.8 percent in other activities.

Table: Income from others Activities of the Sample Respondents

Income-group	Activities			Total
	Milk dairy	Purchasing goods	Any other	
Below Rs5000	23(28.7) (7.7)	18(22.5) (6.0)	39(48.8) (13.0)	80(100.0) (26.7)
Rs 5000-10000	42(41.2) (14.0)	12(11.8) (4.0)	48(47.0) (16.0)	102(100.0) (34.0)
Rs 10000-15000	29(53.7) (9.7)	10(18.5) (3.3)	15(27.8) (5.0)	54(100.0) (18.0)
Above 20,000	38(59.4) (12.7)	10(15.6) (3.3)	16(25.0) (5.3)	64(100.0) (21.3)
Total	132(44.0) (100.0)	50(16.7) (100.0)	118(39.3) (100.0)	300(100.0) (100.0)

Dairy activities are relatively more important to the sample women of this income group whom compared to the earlier two income groups. Of the 64 respondent women in the above Rs 20,000 level of income 59.4 percent are in dairy activities, 15.6 percent in retail trade and 25 percent in other activities. It can be stated that dairy activities are more important to the sample women of higher income group while other activities are more important to the lower income groups. In the overall study area dairy activities 44 percent are relatively more important followed by other activities 39.3 percent and retail trade 16.7 percent.

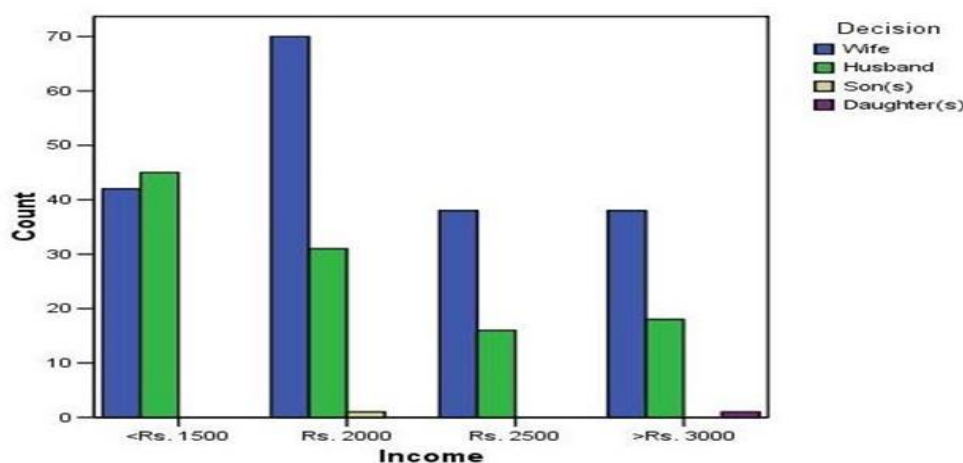


Figure: Income and Decision-Making Analysis

Table: Chi-Square Tests-1

Education	Sample Size	DF	Significance
Education Status	300	4	.000
Decision Making	188	3	.000
Expenditure	160	3	.000

Since the computed value of chi-square test statistic is higher than the table value at the given degree of freedom and they chose level of significance (0.00) the null hypothesis to $\mu_1 = \mu_2$ is rejected. It leads us to conclude that the influence by literacy level and decision-making empowerment is statistically significant.

Table: Chi-Square Tests-2

Occupation	Sample Size	DF	Significance
Occupation	300	6	.000
Agriculture	104	3	.000
Non-Agriculture	196	3	.000

As the computed value of chi-square test statistics is higher than the table value at the given degree of freedom and they chose level of significance (0.00) the null hypothesis to $\mu_1 = \mu_2$ is rejected. It leads us to conclude that the influence by occupation patterns on economic empowerment is statistically significant.

- Slowly tribal women have started to protest against atrocities, social evils and liquor consumption in considerable numbers in the family.
- Majority of the household in the study spend more on the education of sons than daughters revealing gender discrimination in the brought up of children.
- Dowry has entered the tribal societies in the form of the cash, land and household durables and more than 80 per cent of the women in the sample are willing to offer at the time of marriage of daughters.

Conclusion:

Women's entrepreneurship holds sturdy potential for spurring economic chance and job creation in not solely India however conjointly in Telangana state. Additionally, growing proof suggests that economically empowering ladies might reap substantial advantages for the health and wellbeing of families and communities. Telangana has conjointly been parturition respectable emphasis on lady's entrepreneurship development. In this context, government schools should be strengthened as tribal children mostly depend on them, school drop outs be discouraged through incentives and by creating interest in education. Discrimination between sons and daughter should be reduced through counselling. The evils of dowry and early marriages are to be controlled by creating awareness among the tribal women. Government hospitals are to be provided with infrastructure and doctors to protect the tribal households from the private practitioners and local curators. Women are the part of

our society but they have less authority. An egalitarian society cannot be created without women contribution. Generally, there is discrimination between men and women. Women have hindrances in every aspect of work. From centuries, societies have been trying to develop without giving women their rights. For the welfare of society, condition of women should be improved.

Suggestions:

- Increasing awareness at the grass root level regarding the schemes and policies for ladies enterpriser and therefore the roadmap to avail them
- Information and awareness regarding entrepreneurial opportunities and entrepreneurship as a career possibility got to be created in society at massive. In educational activity entrepreneurship ought to be created mandatory across all streams. Vocational education ought to begin from school level.

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