

Extent of empowerment and variation caused through self-help group women in Junagadh District of Gujarat

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ABSTRACT

In the present study, attempt has been made to know the extent of empowerment and variation caused by independent variable on independent variable. The study was under-taken in Junagadh district of Gujarat state. Total 200 respondents were selected from nine villages. In light of the objectives, the interview schedule was prepared. The data were collected by personal interview of the respondents. The study revealed that majority (66.50 per cent) of the self-help group women had medium level of empowerment about self help group. The R^2 value (0.63) expressed the ideas that fourteen variables jointly contributed toward 63.97 per cent of the variation in level of empowerment about self-help group of respondents.

INTRODUCTION

The concept of the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) stands to underline the principle "for the people, by the people, and of the people". Empowerment implies on overall positive change in the physical quality of life and this positive change for the better encompasses economic as well as social aspect. Empowerment, a concept that has become popular in recent times to describe an enabling process for socially marginalized persons and groups to gain advantage and opportunities otherwise non-available to them. Serageldin (1991) describe it as follows:

"The empowerment idea manifests itself at all levels of societal interaction. It is found in giving a voice to the disenfranchised, in allowing the weak and the marginalized to have access to the tools and the materials they need to forge their own destinies".

METHODOLOGY

To measure the women empowerment through SHG, the teacher made scale was developed and used. The scale with various parameters related to empowerment measurement was developed. The empowerment scores of self-help group women were calculated as sum of the correct responses and converted into percentage. The respondents were classified into three

categories based on mean and S.D.

Low empowerment group = $< \text{mean} - \text{S.D.}$
Medium empowerment group = $\text{mean} \pm \text{S.D.}$
High empowerment group = $> \text{mean} + \text{S.D.}$

Multiple regression analysis was carried out to study the extent of variation towards empowerment of self-help groups women by various independent variables.

The collected data of respondents' empowerment of self-help group are presented in the Table 1 and 2.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results obtained from the present investigation are presented below:

Extent of empowerment of women through self-help groups:

From Table 1 it is quite clear that majority of self-help group women (66.50 per cent) had medium level of empowerment. Then 17.50 and 16.00 per cent of the respondents gained high and low empowerment through self-help group, respectively.

Hence, it can be concluded that majority (66.50 per cent) of the self-help group women possessed medium extent of empowerment of self-help group. Such a high empowerment observed may be due to training received and participation in group activity. Moreover, they

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