

## Societal paradox of self-help group women with their empowerment in Junagadh district of Gujarat state

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### ABSTRACT

The present study was carried out on relationship of the selected characteristics of self-help group women with their empowerment level in Junagadh district of Gujarat. It was envisaged that the extent of association between two variables (independent and dependent) provided the strength and direction and effects of one variable on the other variable and independent variables, which were included in the study. Attempts were made to ascertain the extent of association between the variables and their direction. The variables like, age, family size, marital status, amount of saving and deposit and age of self-help group had negative and significant correlation with the empowerment about self-help group.

**Key words :** Self-help group, Empowerment, Age, Education, Social participation

Women managed self-help groups have shown remarkable growth during the last decade in India. SHGs have proved to be very versatile and their members have successfully taken up social, economic and community related interventions. SHGs provide poor women an opportunity to take decisions involving themselves, their groups and their lives. Empowerment is a process, which helps people to gain control over their lives through raising awareness, taking action and working in order to exercise greater control. In other words, empowerment facilitates changes and enables a person to do what one wants to do. Empowerment is the feeling that activates the psychological energy to accomplish one's goals. From the institutional perspective empowerment is the process of setting the right environment and structure and creating the circumstances where people can use their faculties and abilities to fully actualize their potential.

### METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Saurashtra zone of Gujarat state covering, Junagadh district. Among 15 Talukas of Junagadh district, three talukas were selected randomly from Junagadh district. After selection of talukas three villages from each taluka were selected randomly. Thus total nine villages from the three selected talukas

were considered for the study. The respondents were selected from each three talukas keeping in view of the sample size of 20 SHG women selected in each village. Thus, 200 respondents constituted the sample respondents for this study. To find out the relationship between dependent and independent variables, the Pearson's product moment method of computing correlation coefficient, which provided generally accepted means for measuring the relationship was used (Chandel, 1975).

### FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The findings of the present study as well as relevant discussion have been summarized under following heads:

#### Age and empowerment:

Correlation coefficient ( $r = -0.2042$ ) was negative and highly significant at 1 per cent level. There was negative and significant association between empowerment of self-help group women and their age. The direction of association was negative and significant which indicated that self-help group women empowerment increased significantly with decreased in their age. This might be due to fact that lower the age, higher the empowerment (Table 1).

#### Education and empowerment:

The calculated correlation coefficient ( $r = 0.2423$ ) which was positive and highly significant at 1per cent level. Hence, the null hypothesis was rejected and it can be concluded that there was positive and significant association between extent of empowerment of self-help group women and their education.

The obvious reason is that education has a

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