

Personal correlations of empowerment of women

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted in twelve villages of six development blocks of three districts of Marathwada region of Maharashtra state on 120 women respondents with an object to study the personal, socioeconomic and psychological characteristics and the level of empowerment of rural women. The result of the study depicted that majority of the respondents were found in the category of middle age group, middle school level of education, belonging to schedule caste, nuclear family, small farmer's families and married. The maximum percentage of respondents were possessing agriculture + labour who were earning annual income between Rs.20,001/- to 40,000/-. The social participation, cosmopolitanism and use of information sources were observed to be of medium level. Majority of respondents belonged to medium level of women empowerment followed by low and high empowerment. It was observed that age, education, marital status, land holding, annual income, social participation, cosmopolitans and use of sources of information were positively and significantly related with empowerment.

INTRODUCTION

Empowerment can serve as a powerful instrument for women to achieve upward social and economic mobility and achieve power and status in society. It is a source of mobility, equality and emancipation, both at the individual and at the societal level. Empowering women is important and it indirectly leads to a growing demand for education for girls and enhancing their participation in informal and alternative education system. Empowerment of women for facilitating self-confidence, increasing their income generating opportunities, provision for increased employment, awareness about their rights and to avoid misbehaviour from male dominated society. The women need to be empowered. Realising the need, the research was undertaken with the following specific objectives : to study the personal, socio-economical and psychological characteristics of rural women.. to study the level of women empowerment programmes and to study the relationship between personal characteristics of women with their empowerment.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in randomly selected Parbhani, Hingoli and Nanded districts of Marathwada region in Maharashtra state. From each district, two development blocks were randomly selected.

From each of the development blocks, two villages out of those in which the beneficiaries were receiving benefits during the last two years were randomly selected. The list of women beneficiaries was obtained from the ICDS office in each Panchayat Samiti. Twelve villages, having highest number of women beneficiaries of developmental programmes, were selected. Then from each village, 10 beneficiary women were selected from among the total beneficiaries in the village. Thus, the final sample comprised of 120 beneficiaries. The data were collected by personally interviewing the respondents. The percentage and coefficient of correlation were used for analysis of data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As the sampled respondents were women beneficiaries of empowerment programme, following were the characteristics of beneficiary women (Table 1). Half of the respondents (50.00 %) were found in middle age group, maximum number of beneficiary women (29.16 %) had Middle School level of education, followed by High School (27.50 %). Maximum number of beneficiary rural women (35.00 %) were belonging to schedule caste, followed by open category (33.34 %). Majority of the beneficiaries (80.00 %) were found to be married. Over half of the respondents (56.67 %) were belonging to nuclear family and

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