



Research Paper

Impact of different grades of Stree Shakti Groups (SSG's) on socio-economic empowerment of women in Mandya district

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ABSTRACT : The study was under taken to assess the impact of Stree Shakti Groups (SSGs) on socio economic empowerment of women in Mandya district. The impact of social and economic empowerment of different grades of SSGs was assessed by taking into consideration of 13 and 8 indicators, respectively. The 't' value of economic indicators like investment, employment, income and savings of the SSG members in all the three grades of SSGs was significant at 1 per cent level. The gain index of social empowerment was 55.62, 50.13 and 47.57 and economic empowerment was 41.12, 41.67 and 37.71 in A, B and C grade SSGs, respectively. The impact index of socio-economic empowerment of A grade SSGs was satisfactory compared to B and C grade SSGs.

KEY WORDS : Stree Shakti Groups (SSGs), Economic empowerment, Gain index

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INTRODUCTION

In any society the status of women is an indicator of the level of its development. Women constitute nearly half of the total population of the world. They seem to be underpowered relative to men. They are relegated to secondary position in the household, workplace or in governance and society in general. It is this perceived gender inequality and urge to remove it and 'Empower', women that have constituted the motive force for the formation of 'Self Help Groups' and empowerment by means of modest income generation activities. In Karnataka conveying services to poor women through SHGs has emerged as the dominant strategy for combating female poverty. The state government has several programmes of running SHGs and one of the most significant schemes in terms of funding and outreach is 'Stree Shakti', implemented by Department of Women and Child Development. It attempts to focus the attention of members on curbing domestic violence against women and empower women through savings and micro-credit, social awareness and adequate budgetary provision for training and a grant of Rs. 5000 per group as revolving fund. The fact is that women though largely absent from the formal workplace and hence

from official labour statistics, are nevertheless heavily engaged in subsistence agricultural and informal sector of economy. Women's economic right is definitely an important indicator for enhancement of their status. So, women's labour needs to be recognized. Education, more employment avenues, political awareness etc. would all lead to women's economic emancipation. A major limitation to the advancement of women is the institutionalized set of social prescriptions that limit their participation in socio-economic activities and their input in decision making. Efforts to increase the potential for women's social participation should be extended down to the level of the household. Intra-family dynamics affect use of income and decision over resource allocation along gender lines. Empowerment of women requires fundamental changes at many levels of society, arguably the most complex and elusive transformation may be in the relations within the household and family. Keeping all these in view, the main objective of the study is to assess the socio-economic empowerment of women in different grades of Stree Shakti Groups. The main objective of the study was to assess the socio-economic empowerment of women in different grades of Stree Shakti Groups.