



The constraints in empowerment of rural women

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ABSTRACT

The constraints have been classified as personal, social and economic. Insufficiency of loans and too little income derived from income generating activities were reported as major economic constraints by 60.06 per cent and 65.60 per cent respondents, respectively. Only 1.48 per cent and 1.11 per cent respondents felt that they were not a constraints. Personal and economic constraints seem to affect empowerment considerably when compared to social constraints. Of the personal constraints, lack of education and lack of training seemed to be the major constraints to empowerment as reported by 94.10 per cent and 88.80 per cent respondents, respectively.

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INTRODUCTION

In developing countries like India more than 90 per cent of women work in the informal sector and also in rural areas. These women are engaged in economic activities such as hand crafts and sewing weaving baskets, shop, bee keeping, etc., Those are women who need and deserve poverty alleviation programming more than any other. It will expose these women to telecommunication services media and could cost services that will create markets for their products to services. The change will be to reach these women to provide them with ICT tools that they feel can make difference in their income generation potential (Seetaram, 1992).

Women have to play an important role in the aforesaid activities. Communication is her life line. Communication is all pervasive and a compulsive urge of human beings. Man is a communication animal because he alone has the power to express in words. The word *communis* in Latin means common. Therefore, communication means a common ground of understanding. It is a process of exchange of facts, ideas, and opinions and as a means that individuals or organizations share meaning and understanding with one another. Communication is an exciting and truly challenging field of human interaction. Fast

changes in the society demand that people be proficient in all segments of communication as communication helps one to grow, to learn to be aware of oneself and to adjust to the environment. Information technology together with communication technologies has brought about unprecedented changes in the way people communicate conduct business, pleasure and social interaction. The evolution of new forms of technologies and imaginative forms of applications of the new and older technologies make the lives of the people better and more comfortable in several ways. With the emergence of IT on the national agenda and the announcement of ICT policies by the central government, various state governments have recognized the "Convergence of core technologies and E-Governance" as the tool for good governance, sustainable development, globalization of economy and social empowerment.

The SHG are the effective tools of women empowerment :

The empowering women has become the key elements in the development of any economy. The role of micro-credit is to improve the socio-economic developing of women and improve the status of women in households and

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communities. The micro-entrepreneurships are strengthening the women empowerment and remove the gender inequalities. There are two major models under micro finance namely, self here group and bank linkage empowerment of rural women is an important aspect today, and SHG is an important tool self have successfully developed a system of revolving credit for the benefit of group members on their own saving the linkage of these SHG with formal financial institutions has further enhanced availability of micro credit finances to the groups.

The SHG which started off as a scheme to empower women economically have grown into a full fledged movement of women power in rural Karnataka. The present study was under taken with the objective to study the constraints in Empowerment of rural women

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in six districts of Karnataka. Namely Belgaum, Bellary, Bidar, Bijapur, Gadag, and Mangalore. The districts were so selected that they were representative of the state of Karnataka. Another reason for selection of these districts was that the SHGs in these districts were active. From these six districts, seven Talukas were randomly selected. Empowerment and remove the gender in equalities. Ex-post research design was followed by the study. The main focus of this investigation was to study the role of mass media as SHG formation and empowerment of women and the impact of SHG members on empowerment. From each of the six districts the sample of 90 women were randomly selected.

All women respondents were members of Self-help groups. The total sample for the study consisted of 540 women SHG members.

OBSERVATION AND ANALYSIS

Table 1 shows the major constraints in empowerment of rural women regarding the data on constraints district wise. The constraints have been classified as personal, social and economic. Insufficiency of loans and too little income derived from income generating activity were reported as the major economic constraints by 60.06 per cent and 65.60 per cent respondents, respectively. Only 1.48per cent and 1.1per cent respondents felt that they were not constraints. Personal and economic constraints seemed to affect empowerment considerably when compared to social constraints. Of the personal constraints, lack of education and lack of training seemed to be major constraints to empowerment as reported by 94.07 per cent) and 89.81per cent) respondents, respectively. Lack of knowledge and skills affected to a great extent according to 70.18 per cent women. Lack of freedom to take decisions (42.03 per cent) and lack of child care facilities (61.70 per cent) were seen to minor empowerment to a lesser extent. Among the social constraints, (25.37 per cent) respondents felt lack of social mobility, caste system (51.66 per cent), family restrictions (54.62 per cent), doubts of women's capabilities (40.37 per cent) and ego problem of women (42.96 per cent) were the greater constraints in empowerment. Almost equal number felt that they were not the major constraints.

Table 1 : Constraints in empowerment of rural women							(n=540)	
Constraints in empowerment of women	Major		Minor		Not a constraint		Rank	
	Frequencies	%	Frequencies	%	Frequencies	%		
Personal constraints								
Lack of education	508	94.07	27	5.00	5	0.92	I	
Lack of training	485	89.81	51	9.44	4	0.74	II	
Lack of knowledge and skills.	379	70.18	154	28.51	7	1.29	III	
Lack of freedom to take decision	227	42.03	301	55.74	12	2.22	IV	
Lack of child care facilities	188	34.81	333	61.67	19	3.51	V	
Social constraints								
Lack of social mobility because of restrictions in the family	137	25.37	378	70.00	25	4.62	V	
Caste system in the village	279	51.66	250	46.29	11	2.03	II	
Family restriction	295	54.62	228	42.22	17	3.14	I	
Doubts regarding the women capabilities	218	40.37	275	50.92	47	8.70	IV	
Ego problems of men folk	232	42.96	293	54.25	15	2.71	III	
Economic constraints								
Loans are not sufficient	327	60.55	205	37.96	8	1.48	II	
Income derived is too little	354	65.55	180	33.33	6	1.11	I	

Sl. No.	Village		Block		Taluk		District		State	
	Mej	Std	Mej	Std	Mej	Std	Mej	Std	Mej	Std
1	86	(95.6)	87	(93.3)	86	(95.6)	90	(90.0)	78	(91.1)
2	80	(88.9)	80	(88.9)	79	(87.8)	89	(98.9)	77	(89.8)
3	29	(32.2)	30	(33.3)	36	(40.0)	62	(68.9)	71	(79.1)
4	33	(36.7)	37	(40.0)	33	(36.7)	32	(35.4)	22	(24.8)
5	37	(40.0)	35	(37.8)	66	(71.7)	76	(83.3)	72	(77.8)
6	59	(65.6)	58	(63.3)	76	(82.2)	30	(33.3)	33	(36.7)
7	65	(72.2)	67	(71.7)	78	(84.4)	55	(61.1)	59	(65.6)
8	70	(76.7)	71	(75.6)	72	(77.8)	37	(40.0)	38	(40.0)
9	39	(42.2)	39	(42.2)	41	(44.4)	49	(53.3)	37	(40.0)
10	79	(85.6)	79	(85.6)	70	(76.7)	61	(66.7)	58	(63.3)
11	79	(85.6)	79	(85.6)	51	(54.4)	29	(31.1)	29	(31.1)
12	57	(61.1)	57	(61.1)	60	(64.4)	72	(77.8)	65	(69.4)
13	56	(60.0)	56	(60.0)	56	(60.0)	57	(61.1)	55	(58.3)
14	37	(40.0)	37	(40.0)	27	(28.9)	25	(27.8)	22	(23.3)
15	59	(63.3)	59	(63.3)	66	(70.0)	30	(33.3)	33	(36.7)
16	65	(69.4)	65	(69.4)	78	(83.3)	55	(61.1)	59	(63.3)
17	70	(74.4)	70	(74.4)	72	(76.7)	37	(40.0)	38	(40.0)
18	39	(42.2)	39	(42.2)	41	(44.4)	49	(53.3)	37	(40.0)
19	79	(85.6)	79	(85.6)	70	(76.7)	61	(66.7)	58	(63.3)
20	57	(61.1)	57	(61.1)	60	(64.4)	72	(77.8)	65	(69.4)
21	56	(60.0)	56	(60.0)	56	(60.0)	57	(61.1)	55	(58.3)
22	37	(40.0)	37	(40.0)	27	(28.9)	25	(27.8)	22	(23.3)
23	59	(63.3)	59	(63.3)	66	(70.0)	30	(33.3)	33	(36.7)
24	65	(69.4)	65	(69.4)	78	(83.3)	55	(61.1)	59	(63.3)
25	70	(74.4)	70	(74.4)	72	(76.7)	37	(40.0)	38	(40.0)
26	39	(42.2)	39	(42.2)	41	(44.4)	49	(53.3)	37	(40.0)
27	79	(85.6)	79	(85.6)	70	(76.7)	61	(66.7)	58	(63.3)
28	57	(61.1)	57	(61.1)	60	(64.4)	72	(77.8)	65	(69.4)
29	56	(60.0)	56	(60.0)	56	(60.0)	57	(61.1)	55	(58.3)
30	37	(40.0)	37	(40.0)	27	(28.9)	25	(27.8)	22	(23.3)
31	59	(63.3)	59	(63.3)	66	(70.0)	30	(33.3)	33	(36.7)
32	65	(69.4)	65	(69.4)	78	(83.3)	55	(61.1)	59	(63.3)
33	70	(74.4)	70	(74.4)	72	(76.7)	37	(40.0)	38	(40.0)
34	39	(42.2)	39	(42.2)	41	(44.4)	49	(53.3)	37	(40.0)
35	79	(85.6)	79	(85.6)	70	(76.7)	61	(66.7)	58	(63.3)
36	57	(61.1)	57	(61.1)	60	(64.4)	72	(77.8)	65	(69.4)
37	56	(60.0)	56	(60.0)	56	(60.0)	57	(61.1)	55	(58.3)
38	37	(40.0)	37	(40.0)	27	(28.9)	25	(27.8)	22	(23.3)
39	59	(63.3)	59	(63.3)	66	(70.0)	30	(33.3)	33	(36.7)
40	65	(69.4)	65	(69.4)	78	(83.3)	55	(61.1)	59	(63.3)
41	70	(74.4)	70	(74.4)	72	(76.7)	37	(40.0)	38	(40.0)
42	39	(42.2)	39	(42.2)	41	(44.4)	49	(53.3)	37	(40.0)
43	79	(85.6)	79	(85.6)	70	(76.7)	61	(66.7)	58	(63.3)
44	57	(61.1)	57	(61.1)	60	(64.4)	72	(77.8)	65	(69.4)
45	56	(60.0)	56	(60.0)	56	(60.0)	57	(61.1)	55	(58.3)
46	37	(40.0)	37	(40.0)	27	(28.9)	25	(27.8)	22	(23.3)
47	59	(63.3)	59	(63.3)	66	(70.0)	30	(33.3)	33	(36.7)
48	65	(69.4)	65	(69.4)	78	(83.3)	55	(61.1)	59	(63.3)
49	70	(74.4)	70	(74.4)	72	(76.7)	37	(40.0)	38	(40.0)
50	39	(42.2)	39	(42.2)	41	(44.4)	49	(53.3)	37	(40.0)
51	79	(85.6)	79	(85.6)	70	(76.7)	61	(66.7)	58	(63.3)
52	57	(61.1)	57	(61.1)	60	(64.4)	72	(77.8)	65	(69.4)
53	56	(60.0)	56	(60.0)	56	(60.0)	57	(61.1)	55	(58.3)
54	37	(40.0)	37	(40.0)	27	(28.9)	25	(27.8)	22	(23.3)
55	59	(63.3)	59	(63.3)	66	(70.0)	30	(33.3)	33	(36.7)
56	65	(69.4)	65	(69.4)	78	(83.3)	55	(61.1)	59	(63.3)
57	70	(74.4)	70	(74.4)	72	(76.7)	37	(40.0)	38	(40.0)
58	39	(42.2)	39	(42.2)	41	(44.4)	49	(53.3)	37	(40.0)
59	79	(85.6)	79	(85.6)	70	(76.7)	61	(66.7)	58	(63.3)
60	57	(61.1)	57	(61.1)	60	(64.4)	72	(77.8)	65	(69.4)
61	56	(60.0)	56	(60.0)	56	(60.0)	57	(61.1)	55	(58.3)
62	37	(40.0)	37	(40.0)	27	(28.9)	25	(27.8)	22	(23.3)
63	59	(63.3)	59	(63.3)	66	(70.0)	30	(33.3)	33	(36.7)
64	65	(69.4)	65	(69.4)	78	(83.3)	55	(61.1)	59	(63.3)
65	70	(74.4)	70	(74.4)	72	(76.7)	37	(40.0)	38	(40.0)
66	39	(42.2)	39	(42.2)	41	(44.4)	49	(53.3)	37	(40.0)
67	79	(85.6)	79	(85.6)	70	(76.7)	61	(66.7)	58	(63.3)
68	57	(61.1)	57	(61.1)	60	(64.4)	72	(77.8)	65	(69.4)
69	56	(60.0)	56	(60.0)	56	(60.0)	57	(61.1)	55	(58.3)
70	37	(40.0)	37	(40.0)	27	(28.9)	25	(27.8)	22	(23.3)
71	59	(63.3)	59	(63.3)	66	(70.0)	30	(33.3)	33	(36.7)
72	65	(69.4)	65	(69.4)	78	(83.3)	55	(61.1)	59	(63.3)
73	70	(74.4)	70	(74.4)	72	(76.7)	37	(40.0)	38	(40.0)
74	39	(42.2)	39	(42.2)	41	(44.4)	49	(53.3)	37	(40.0)
75	79	(85.6)	79	(85.6)	70	(76.7)	61	(66.7)	58	(63.3)
76	57	(61.1)	57	(61.1)	60	(64.4)	72	(77.8)	65	(69.4)
77	56	(60.0)	56	(60.0)	56	(60.0)	57	(61.1)	55	(58.3)
78	37	(40.0)	37	(40.0)	27	(28.9)	25	(27.8)	22	(23.3)
79	59	(63.3)	59	(63.3)	66	(70.0)	30	(33.3)	33	(36.7)
80	65	(69.4)	65	(69.4)	78	(83.3)	55	(61.1)	59	(63.3)
81	70	(74.4)	70	(74.4)	72	(76.7)	37	(40.0)	38	(40.0)
82	39	(42.2)	39	(42.2)	41	(44.4)	49	(53.3)	37	(40.0)
83	79	(85.6)	79	(85.6)	70	(76.7)	61	(66.7)	58	(63.3)
84	57	(61.1)	57	(61.1)	60	(64.4)	72	(77.8)	65	(69.4)
85	56	(60.0)	56	(60.0)	56	(60.0)	57	(61.1)	55	(58.3)
86	37	(40.0)	37	(40.0)	27	(28.9)	25	(27.8)	22	(23.3)
87	59	(63.3)	59	(63.3)	66	(70.0)	30	(33.3)	33	(36.7)
88	65	(69.4)	65	(69.4)	78	(83.3)	55	(61.1)	59	(63.3)
89	70	(74.4)	70	(74.4)	72	(76.7)	37	(40.0)	38	(40.0)
90	39	(42.2)	39	(42.2)	41	(44.4)	49	(53.3)	37	(40.0)
91	79	(85.6)	79	(85.6)	70	(76.7)	61	(66.7)	58	(63.3)
92	57	(61.1)	57	(61.1)	60	(64.4)	72	(77.8)	65	(69.4)
93	56	(60.0)	56	(60.0)	56	(60.0)	57	(61.1)	55	(58.3)
94	37	(40.0)	37	(40.0)	27	(28.9)	25	(27.8)	22	(23.3)
95	59	(63.3)	59	(63.3)	66	(70.0)	30	(33.3)	33	(36.7)
96	65	(69.4)	65	(69.4)	78	(83.3)	55	(61.1)	59	(63.3)
97	70	(74.4)	70	(74.4)	72	(76.7)	37	(40.0)	38	(40.0)
98	39	(42.2)	39	(42.2)	41	(44.4)	49	(53.3)	37	(40.0)
99	79	(85.6)	79	(85.6)	70	(76.7)	61	(66.7)	58	(63.3)
100	57	(61.1)	57	(61.1)	60	(64.4)	72	(77.8)	65	(69.4)

The constraints in the process of women's empowerment. were categorized as personal, social and economic. While lack of education, training, skills, knowledge, child care facilities freedom to do take independent decision were considered as personal constraints. The family restrictions, social mobility, caste systems, and ego problems was considered social factors the insufficiency of loans were the economic constants. Women expressed the extent of contributing of these constraints in women's empowerment.

Among the personal constraints, lack of education (94.07 per cent) lack of training (89.81per cent) and the lack of knowledge and skills (70.18per cent) were said to be major constraints. Lack of child care facilities (61.67per cent) and freedom to take decisions independently (55.74per cent) were said to be the minor constraints in empowerment (Desai and Mohiuddin 1992).

While about half of respondents felt that caste system, doubts of women's capabilities and men's ego problems were greater constraints (Table 2). The other half felt that these constraints contributed to a lesser extent. Lack of social mobility was a minor constraint according to 70.00 per cent of respondents. About 60-65 per cent expressed that economic constraints were as major one while the others said that this was a minor constraint in empowerment. (Srisankari and Uma, 1995)

It is clear from Tables 1and 2 that of all the constraints, the personal constraints were considered as major constraints, while the social constraints and economic constraints affected empowerment to a lesser extent. Some personal constraints like provision of training, knowledge and skills could be easily solved by knowledge and skill up gradation trainings. Bringing about attitude changes of men will help women to more actively

participate in SHG activities. Economic problems by way of increasing the loan amounts and setting up of viable enterprise would go a long way in empowering women.

Conclusion:

From the study it is concluded that majority of the personal constraints were lack of education, lack of training and lack of knowledge and skill. Where as lack of child care facilities and freedom to take decisions independently were the minor constraints in empowerment of women.

This can be tackled by educating the women by conducting training, skill up gradation, bring about attitude change of men will help women for more actively participate in self-help groups activities.

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