

RESEARCH PAPER

# A study on awareness of women about Government programmes

SEEMAPRAKALPA\* AND RAGINI SHARMA

Department of Home Science Extension, Kr. R.C.M.P.G. College (BRAU) MAINPURI (U.P.) INDIA

## ABSTRACT

Government plan and execute various programmes for making women empowered but in real women are not aware about such efforts or benefits. So the aim of present study is to identify the level of awareness of women about Government programme. Primary data were collected through interview schedule from six villages of Saurikh village of Kanpur district and percentage was used as statistical measure. The study show that majority of working women were more aware about programmes and considering themselves as empowered on the economic ground, while non-working women were not. The reason behind this is they were limited upto household duties and responsibilities, and they belonged to similar group. So they have no opportunity to get information about Government endeavours for their welfare. Therefore, Government should plan and execute programme in considering women and their socio-economic status and should facilitate them in every sphere of assistance.

**Key Words :** Women, Programmes, Knowledge, Awareness

**View point paper :** Seemaprakalpa and Sharma, Ragini (2014). A study on awareness of women about Government programmes. *Asian Sci.*, 9 (1&2): 16-19.

In traditional societies, women were confined to the four walls of the house, performing only household activities. Our society is still male dominated and women are not treated as equal partners both inside and outside the four walls of the house. Women have been described as the embodiment of Shakti, but in real life, she is treated as *Abla i.e.* weak and dependent on men. For making women empowered, Government is planning and executing several programmes/projects, so that women could empower themselves. Empowerment is the process of increasing the capacity of individuals or group to make effective choices and to transfer those choices into desired actions and outcomes. Empowered women can define their attitude, values and behaviour in relation to their own real interest, use their talents to live fulfilling lives, continue to meet their family duties and responsibilities, explain their values and formulate their beliefs themselves. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to identify the level of awareness of women about Government programmes for their empowerment.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Exploratory type of research design was used in the present study. Kanpur region was taken as the area for the present study. Kanpur region consists seven districts, out of those Kannauj district was selected purposively. Kannauj

---

### \* Author for correspondence

Seemaprakalpa, Department of Home Science Extension Education, Institute of Home Science, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University, AGRA (U.P.) INDIA  
(Email: prakalpass@gmail.com)

block consists six blocks, out of those Saurikh block was selected randomly for the present study. There are 57 villages in Saurikh block. Out of those, six villages namely; Saurikh, Kayampur, Bhathpuri, Kabirpur, Rajpur and Alipur were selected randomly. Ten respondents were selected randomly from each selected village. Thus, 60 respondents aged above 40 years were selected for the present study. Out of 60 respondents, 34 were working and remaining 26 were non-working. Primary data regarding Awareness of both working and non-working women about Government programme were collected through interview schedule. Interview schedule was used to collect primary data. Percentage was used as statistical measure.

## RESULTS AND REMONSTRATION

Table 1 reveals the responses regarding knowledge empowerment of women among the working and non-working groups. 50 per cent of the respondents knew about the empowerment of women and remaining 50 per cent did not know about it. Out of 60 respondents, 34 were working women and 26 (43.33 %) were non-working women. The knowledge of empowerment of women was found to be among the working women (52.94 %) as compared to non-working women (46.15 %).

Table reveals the responses regarding the meaning of empowerment of women among the working and non-working groups. Out of 60 respondents, 38.33 per cent did not know the meaning of empowerment while 15 per cent respondents informed that the meaning of empowerment of women is to earn money and 5 per cent respondents replied self decision while remaining 41.67 per cent respondents informed that empowerment of women means to earn money as well as to take decision. Out of the 34 working respondents, 38.23 per cent did not reply and 14.71 per cent knew it as earning money, 5.88 per cent knew it as to take self decision and remaining 41.18 per cent informed that empowerment of women means to earn as well as to take self decision. Out of the 26 non-working respondents, 38.46 per cent did not reply and knew it as earning money, 3.84 per cent knew it as to take self decision and remaining 42.30 per cent informed that empowerment means to earn money as well as to take decision. A study conducted by Tiwari (1999) is also in support of above findings that the most crucial decision of family management process was mostly taken by male members in the household. However, in some families such decisions were jointly taken by he concerned male and older female members. Female members did not play an independent role in such a vital issue. Again she indicated in another identified crucial regards the marriage of children, the trends of decision making pattern was more of less similar. However, female also shouldered the responsibility of decision making independently to a certain extent in this regard.

Further, she stated that in socio-economic set-up of rural areas of his part of Thar desert, male members played dominant role in taking crucial decision giving very little scope for female to take such decision independently.

The responses regarding to consider herself as empowered among the working and non-working groups. Out of 60 respondents, 45 per cent replied as yes, while 55 per cent respondents did not reply. Out of the 34 working respondents, 55.88 per cent considered herself as empowered and 44.12 per cent did not reply. Out of the 26 non-working respondents, 30.76 per cent considered her self as empowered remaining 69.23 per cent did not reply.

Table reveals the responses regarding to consider herself as empowered on the ground among the working and non-working groups. Out of 27 respondents, 26.92 per cent considered to social work and 22.22 per cent considered to economical work and 7.41 per cent considered to mental work 44.44 per cent considered above all the work. Out of the 19 working respondents, 21.05 per cent, 31.58 per cent and 5.26 per cent herself as empowered on the ground of social, economical and mental work, respectively while 42.11 per cent considered herself as empowered all above grounds. Out of the 8 non-working respondents, 37.50 per cent and 12.50 per cent herself as empowered on the ground of social and mental respectively while 50 per cent considered herself as empowered on all the above grounds.

The responses regarding reasons for not her as empowered among the working and non-working groups. Out of 33 respondents, 9.09 per cent did not consider herself as empowered due to behaviour of husband, 42.42 per cent due to behaviour of society, and 30.30 per cent due to behaviour of family while 18.18 per cent did not consider herself as empowered due to all the above three. Out of the 15 working respondents, 13.33 per cent, 53.33 per cent and 13.33 per cent did not consider herself as empowered due to behaviour of husband, society and family, respectively while 20 per cent did not consider herself as empowered on all the above three reasons. Out of the 18 non-working respondents, 5.56 per cent, 33.33 per cent and 44.44 per cent did not consider herself as empowered due to behaviour of husband, society and family, respectively while 16.66 per cent did not consider herself as empowered on all the above three reasons.

The distribution of respondents regarding knowledge of various programme among the working and non-working groups. Out of 22 respondents who knew the various programme, majority of them (68.18 %) were working and 31.81 per cent were non-working. Among the working respondents, majority of them (33.33% each) knew about Balika Samaraddhi Yojana, Mahiala Samaraddhi Yojna and others while all of the non-working women knew about the Mahila Samaraddhi Yojna. Studies conducted by Bharathi (1992) and Dhoot (2011) are in support of above findings

that minimum respondents are familiar about Government programmes; free primary education, different scholarship, free books and clothes, transport facilities, mid-day meal schemes, funds are kept available for them, Reservation kept in education for employment, Free accommodation and Health and by hygiene and so on.

The responses regarding women's participation in empowerment programme among the working and non-working respondents. Out of 60 respondents, only 16.67 per cent were participated in empowerment programme and remaining 83.33 per cent did not participate. Out of 34 working women, 20.59 per cent participated in empowerment programme and remaining 79.41 per cent did not participate in empowerment programme. While out of 34 non-working women, only 11.53 per cent participated in empowerment programme and remaining 88.46 per cent did not participate in empowerment programme. A study

conducted by Mishra (2002) is also in support of above findings that majority of the respondents who were aware about the various programmes, all of them participated in Indira Awas Yozna and all of them did not participated in Vridhavastha Pension Yozna and Rashtriya Parivar Labh Yozna.

The distribution of respondents regarding reasons for not participation in various programmes among the working and non-working groups. Out of 50 respondents, 54 per cent were working and 46 per cent were non-working. Out of the 50 respondents, majority of the respondents could not participated due to behaviour of society (48 %), followed by the behaviour of family (24%) and minimum by the behaviour of husband. Among the non-working respondents, same pattern was observed in working women, majority could not participated due to behaviour of society (48.15%) followed by the behaviour of the family (25.93%) minimum by the

Table 1 : Knowledge of empowerment of women among working and non-working group					
					$n_1=34, n_2=26$
Sr. No.	Particulars	Classification	Working women	Non-working women	Total
1.	Responses	Yes	52.94(18)	46.15(12)	50.00(30)
		No	47.06(16)	53.84(14)	50.00(30)
2.	Meaning of empowerment	No response	38.23(13)	38.46(23)	38.33(23)
		To earn money	14.70(5)	15.38(9)	15.00(9)
		Take self decision	5.88(2)	3.84(3)	5.00(3)
		Above both	41.18(14)	42.30(25)	41.67(25)
3.	Consider herself as empowered	Yes	55.88(19)	30.76(8)	45.00(27)
		No	44.12(15)	69.23(26)	55.00(33)
4.	Ground of empowerment	Social	21.05(4)	3.75(7)	26.92(7)
		Economical	31.58(6)	-	31.58(6)
		Mental	5.26(1)	1.25(1)	7.41(2)
		Above all	42.11(8)	50.00(4)	44.44(12)
5.	Reasons of not considering as empowered	Behaviour of husband	13.33(2)	5.56(1)	9.09(3)
		Behaviour of society	53.33(8)	33.33 (6)	42.42(14)
		Behaviour of family	13.33(2)	44.44(8)	30.30(10)
		Above all	20.00(3)	16.66(3)	18.18(6)
6.	Knowledge of programmes	Yes	44.12(15)	26.92(7)	36.67(22)
		No	55.88(19)	73.08(19)	63.33(38)
7.	Programmes	Balika Samradhi Yojna	33.33(5)	-	22.73(5)
		Mahila Samradhi Yojna	33.33(5)	100.00(7)	54.55(12)
		Indira Mahila Yojna	-	-	-
		Others	33.33(5)		22.73(5)
8.	Participation in programmes	Yes	20.59(7)	11.53(3)	16.67(10)
		No	79.41(27)	88.46(23)	83.33(50)
9.	Reasons for not participating	Behaviour of husband	11.11(3)	4.35(1)	8.00(4)
		Behaviour of society	48.15(13)	47.83(11)	48.00(24)
		Behaviour of family	25.93(7)	13.04(3)	20.00(10)
		Others	14.81(4)	34.78(8)	24.00(12)
10.	Getting benefits	Yes	20.59(7)	7.69(2)	15.00(9)
		No	79.41(27)	92.31(51)	85.00(51)

behaviour of husbands (11.11%).

The distribution of respondents regarding for 19 the benefit from these programmes among the working and working groups. Out of the total respondents, 15 per cent respondents getting benefit and 85 per cent respondents were not getting any benefit from these programmes. Out of the 34 working respondents, the corresponding percentages of getting and not getting benefit from these programmes were 20.58 per cent and 79.42 per cent, respectively. Out of the 26 non-working respondents, the corresponding percentages of getting and not getting benefit from these programmes were 7.69 per cent and 92.31 per cent, respectively.

#### Conclusion :

Change in women status is a long term aspect of our social progress and will require continuous examination their personal, familial and societal status by the Government and non-Government personnels. Conclusively, they will do efforts individually and socially for the welfare for own and for the society because women is considered as pivot of development. The findings of this study clearly indicated that working women have little knowledge about the programmes those were planned and implemented for their

welfare, while non-working women have not. So the first and foremost need is to aware both working and non-working women about the programmes. As a result, they could get benefits and participate in the programme, and perform their duties and responsibilities in all spheres of life in parallel to their life partner. If the wheels of life cart move in parallel, our economy will move accordingly. For the same, government should plan and organize programmes and execute after campaigning at each and every level.

#### REFERENCES

- Bharathi** (1992). A study on the knowledge of level in rural development programme. *J. Rural Develop.*, **11**(5): 677-684.
- Dhoot, U.M.** (2011). Awareness of Education Rights among B.Ed. Girls students: A study". *Indian streams Res. J.*, **1**(5): 1-4.
- Mishra, P.** (2002). A study on role of women in rural development, Mainpuri District (U.P), M.H.Sc. (Extension Education) Thesis, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University, Agra, U.P. (INDIA).
- Tewari, P.** (1999). Involvement of females in decision making process in rural sector of parts of Thar district. Thailand, Davis, *Indian J. Adult Edu.*, 48-52pp.

---

Received : 21.06.2014; Revised : 26.10.2014; Accepted : 11.11.2014