



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Political Science

TRAINING SATISFACTION IN THE ECONOMIC EMPOERMENT OF WOMEN OF SELF-HELP GROUPS IN CHITTOOR DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH

KEY WORDS:

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ABSTRACT

The paper attempts for analysing the level of satisfaction on the training imparted to the SHG women in promoting women's empowerment in Chittoor District. Training discussed on the habits of savings, economic independence, self confidence, social cohesion, asset ownership, freedom from debt, additional employment etc. benefits are derived by the SHG members through training. Thus, SHGs have served the cause of women empowerment, social solidarity and socio-economic betterment of the poor for their consolidation. The satisfaction of training basing on demographic variables has been assessed and discussed in this paper.

INTRODUCTION

The concept of empowerment is defined as the process by which women take control and ownership of their choices. The core elements of empowerment have been defined as agency (the ability to define one's goals and act upon them), awareness of gendered power structures, self-esteem, and self-confidence (Kabeer, 2001). Empowerment can take place at a hierarchy of different levels – individual, household, community and societal – and is facilitated by providing encouraging factors (e.g. exposure to new activities, which can build capacities) and removing inhibiting factors (e.g. lack of resources and skills). In this connection Micro-finance with Self Help Groups play an effective role for promoting women empowerment. It is not only an efficient tool to fight against poverty, but also as a means of promoting the empowerment of the most marginalized sections of the population, especially women. According to Ellie Bosch it is just old wine in a new bottle (Bosch, 2002). It consists of a group of people of three to eight persons on the condition that each of them would be assuming responsibility for the development of all. Micro Finance institution started in India in 1980s through Self Help Groups (SHGs) model. It is the Grameen replication model of Bangladesh. There is nearly 3,00,000 SHGs working whole over India. It is true that the concept of microfinance is yet to spread its wings all over India, but at the rate in which it is expanding its branches, very soon it would be reaching at the doorsteps of the poor houses. The most successful region for microfinance is the Southern part of India; Andhra Pradesh has become the example for the other states in this case.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The broad objective of the study is to examine the role and performance of SHGs basing on the training they received in terms of demographic characteristics in promoting women's empowerment in the study area. However, the study has some specific objectives. They are:

1. To analyse the demographic characteristics of the members of the SHGs.
2. To examine the impact of training received by the members.
3. To suggest appropriate policy intervention for the effective performance of SHGs.

METHODOLOGY

In order to collect and gather primary data, field observation and structured questionnaire survey methods were employed. In addition, information was also collected through discussions and interviews with local NGOs and government's grass roots level workers. Secondary data gathered from the records of SHGs and NGOs and government offices were supplemented by the primary data collected from the group. A wide range of information such as

composition of membership, savings mobilised, loan disbursed, interest rates, recovery procedures, assets created, external assistance received etc. were ascertained from the SHGs and their members.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The impact of training basing on the satisfaction of the respondents on the training received basing on various demographic variables has been assessed and discussed.

EDUCATIONAL STATUS AND OVERALL TRAINING

Training is imparted for skill development of SHG members. The level of satisfaction on the training received by the respondents basing the educational status has been presented in the Table 1.

Table 1 Educational Status and Level of satisfaction on the Trainings received

Chi-square value	p-value	Level of satisfaction on the Trainings received			Total
		Low	Moderate	High	
30.261**	.000				
Educational status	Illiterate	38	48	14	100
		38.0%	48.0%	14.0%	100.0%
	Up to 10th Class	16	35	43	94
17.0%		37.2%	45.7%	100.0%	
Inter and above	2	0	4	6	
	33.3%	0.0%	66.7%	100.0%	
Total		56	83	61	200
		28.0%	41.5%	30.5%	100.0%

The table portrays that 83 respondents (41.5 %) satisfied moderately on the training they have been imparted and majority of them are illiterates, 61 respondents (30.5 %) highly satisfied on the training they have been imparted and majority of them are having the educational status of up to 10th class and 56 respondents (41.5 %) satisfied at low level on the training they have been imparted and majority of them are illiterates. By and large, it is concluded that around 42 per cent of the respondents satisfied moderately on the training they have been imparted and majority of them are illiterates. The Chisquare value is significant at 1 per cent level and hence it can be inferred that there is strong association between educational status of the respondents and the training they received.

EDUCATIONAL STATUS AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING

As a part of training, training has also been imparted on individual aspects. The level of satisfaction on the training programme on leadership has been elicited and the responses are presented in the Table 2.

Table 2 Educational status and Leadership Training

Chi-square value	p-value	Level of satisfaction on the Training programme on leadership			Total
		Low	Moderate	High	
25.402**	.000				
Educational status	Illiterate	25	13	62	100
		25.0%	13.0%	62.0%	100.0%
	Up to 10th Class	41	26	27	94
		43.6%	27.7%	28.7%	100.0%
Inter and above	2	3	1	6	
	33.3%	50.0%	16.7%	100.0%	
Total		68	42	90	200
		34.0%	21.0%	45.0%	100.0%

The table explicitly shows that 90 respondents (45 %) highly satisfied over the training programme on leadership and majority of them are illiterates, 68 respondents (34 %) moderately satisfied over the training programme on leadership and majority of them have the educational status of up to 10th class and 42 respondents (21 %) satisfied low over the training programme on leadership and majority of them have the educational status of up to 10th class. It is concluded that 45 per cent of the respondents highly satisfied over the training programme on leadership and majority of them are illiterates. The Chisquare value is significant at 1 per cent level and hence it can be inferred that there is strong association between educational status of the respondents and the training they received on the leadership.

EDUCATIONAL STATUS AND TRAINING ON ALL ASPECTS

The level of satisfaction on the training programme on all aspects has been elicited and the responses are furnished in the Table 3.

Table 3 Educational status and Training on all Aspects

Chi-square value	p-value	Level of satisfaction on all aspects of Trainings received			Total
		Low	Moderate	High	
7.217	.125				
Educational status	Illiterate	23	28	49	100
		23.0%	28.0%	49.0%	100.0%
	Up to 10th Class	14	38	42	94
		14.9%	40.4%	44.7%	100.0%
Inter and above	2	0	4	6	
	33.3%	0.0%	66.7%	100.0%	
Total		39	66	95	200
		19.5%	33.0%	47.5%	100.0%

The table presents that 95 respondents (47.5 %) highly satisfied over the training programme on all aspects and majority of them are illiterates, 66 respondents (33 %) moderately satisfied over the training programme on all aspects and majority of them have the educational status of up to 10th class and 39 respondents (19.5 %) satisfied low over the training programme on all aspects and majority of them are illiterates. It is concluded that around 48 per cent of the respondents highly satisfied over the training programme on leadership and majority of them are illiterates. The Chisquare value is and hence it can be inferred that there is no association between educational status of the respondents and the training they received on all aspects.

CASTE AND TRAINING ON ALL ASPECTS

The level of satisfaction on the training programme on all aspects based on has been elicited and the responses are furnished in the Table 4.

Table 4 Caste and Training on all Aspects

Chi-square value	p-value	Level of satisfaction on aspects of Trainings received			Total
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28.132**	.000	Level of satisfaction on the Training programme on leadership			Total
		Low	Moderate	High	
Caste	OC	9	11	12	32
		28.1%	34.4%	37.5%	100.0%
	BC	9	16	29	54
		16.7%	29.6%	53.7%	100.0%
	SC	5	8	30	43
		11.6%	18.6%	69.8%	100.0%
	ST	3	13	1	17
		17.6%	76.5%	5.9%	100.0%
MIXED	13	18	23	54	
	24.1%	33.3%	42.6%	100.0%	
Total		39	66	95	200
		19.5%	33.0%	47.5%	100.0%

The table presents that 95 respondents (47.5 %) highly satisfied over the training programme on all aspects and majority of them belong to SC community, 66 respondents (33 %) satisfied moderately over the training programme on all aspects and majority of them belong to BC community and 39 respondents (19.5 %) satisfied low over the training programme on all aspects and majority of them belong to mixed community. It is concluded that around 48 per cent of the respondents highly satisfied over the training programme on all aspects and majority of them belong to SC community. The Chisquare value is significant at 1 per cent level and hence it can be inferred that there is strong association between community of the respondents and the training they received.

CASTE AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING

As a part of training, training has also been imparted on individual aspects. The level of satisfaction on the training programme on leadership has been elicited and the responses are presented in the Table 5.

Table 5 Caste and Leadership Training

Chi-square value	p-value	Level of satisfaction on the Training programme on leadership			Total
		Low	Moderate	High	
24.039**	.002				
Caste	OC	16	9	7	32
		50.0%	28.1%	21.9%	100.0%
	BC	22	6	26	54
		40.7%	11.1%	48.1%	100.0%
	SC	12	11	20	43
		27.9%	25.6%	46.5%	100.0%
	ST	3	0	14	17
		17.6%	0.0%	82.4%	100.0%
MIXED	15	16	23	54	
	27.8%	29.6%	42.6%	100.0%	
Total		68	42	90	200
		34.0%	21.0%	45.0%	100.0%

The table presents that 90 respondents (45 %) highly satisfied over the training programme on all aspects and majority of them belong to BC community, 68 respondents (34 %) satisfied low over the training programme on all aspects and majority of them belong to BC community and 42 respondents (21 %) satisfied moderately over the training programme on all aspects and majority of them belong to mixed community. It is concluded that around 48 per cent of the respondents highly satisfied over the training programme on all aspects and majority of them belong to SC community. The Chisquare value is significant at 1 per cent level and hence it can be inferred that there is strong association between community of the respondents and the training they received on the leadership.

CONCLUSION

Training is very crucial for skill development that is dire essential for economic development of SHG women in their income generating activities. Around 42 per cent of the

respondents satisfied moderately on the training they have been imparted and majority of them are illiterates. 45 per cent of the respondents highly satisfied over the training programme on leadership and majority of them are illiterates. Around 48 per cent of the respondents highly satisfied over the training programme on leadership and majority of them are illiterates. The Chisquare value is significant at 1 per cent level and hence it can be inferred that there is strong association between demographic characteristics of the respondents and the training they received. It is suggested that the training in legal literacy, rights and gender awareness are important complements to micro-credit for the empowerment of women. The members should be given necessary training and guidance for the successful operation of the group.

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