

Original Research Article

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To Study the Socio-economic Profile of SHG Members in Tentulikhunti Block of Nabarangpur District (Odisha)

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ABSTRACT

The present study was undertaken in the Tentulikhunti Block of Nabarangpur District (Odisha). The SHGs have given a new charter of life to the women in villages for their social and economic empowerment. Economic development plays an important role in the development and growth of any society. 100 respondents were selected through simple random sampling. Data were collected through a structured interview schedule. Findings revealed that there were most of the respondents (53.00%) belonged to the middle age category. The majority of the respondents (49.00%) belonged to the other backward caste followed by scheduled tribe (23.00%), general caste (15.00%), and scheduled caste (13.00%) respectively. Respondents were observed 45.00% members were found to illiterate. Further, the educational levels of literate members in descending order were found as a primary school (23.00%), functionally literate (15.00%), middle school (09.00%), high school (05.00%), and graduation (03.00%).

Keywords

SHGs, Economic development, Interview schedule, Development

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Introduction

The current population of India is 1.21 billion among them 586 million are women which is equal to 48.43 percent of the total population (Census 2011). Women are an integral part of every society. The majority of them, live in rural areas who are still underprivileged, disadvantaged, discriminated against

depending upon men for their livelihood, and continue to be voiceless section, though the economic value is not attached to women's role. In bringing up the family, their contribution is very significant. Since household health and nutrition are generally in the hands of women, the empowerment of them is necessary for ensuring their welfare and also the wellbeing of the entire household

and ultimately the development of the nation. Real empowerment of women would happen only by adding more value to their contribution to the family and society. Women, therefore, are an important part of the social and economic setup of the country. All-round development and harmonious growth of a nation would be possible only when women are considered as equal partners in development with men. Empowerment of women is essential to exploit the women labor in the mainstream of economic development. The empowerment of women is a holistic concept. It is multi-dimensional in its approach and covers economic, political, social, cultural, personal, and familial aspects. Of all these facets of women's development, economic empowerment is of greatest significance to achieve a lasting and sustainable development of society. Women empowerment through self-help groups constitutes an emerging and fast-growing trend towards the social and economic development of the nation. Self Help Groups (SHGs) are one of the innovative and much-needed schemes to accelerate women entrepreneurship, women's self-employment, and women empowerment. This concept was successfully implemented in Bangladesh and now in India. It has become a wise tool to improve social and economic development. Self Help Groups (SHGs) are a homogenous group of 10-20 individuals who come together for saving and internally helping each other in times of need.

Materials and Methods

The study was conducted in the Tentulikhunti block of Nabarangpur district of the state Odisha. Out of 30 districts of Odisha, the Nabarangpur district was selected purposively as the female literacy percentage was very poor as compared to other districts of the state. There are 10 Community Development blocks in the Nabarangpur district, out of which

Tentulikhunti block was selected, randomly. A sample of 100 SHGs members was selected from 10 SHGs, which were successfully functioning for the last 4-5 years in the two selected villages. The research design was adopted for the present study was ex-post facto, since the phenomenon has already occurred at this place.

Results and Discussion

Age

The information regarding the age group of the respondents is important in getting an insight into the potential human resources. It is evident from Table 1 that the majority of the respondents (53.00%) belonged to the middle age category of 36- 50 years followed by 31.00 percent of the respondent belonged the young age group and 16.00 percent respondents belonged to the old age category.

Education

The evidence regarding the education level of the respondents' perusal in Table 1 was observed that the majority of the respondents (45.00%) were found to illiterate. Further, the educational levels of literate members in descending order were found as a primary school (23.00%), functionally literate (15.00%), middle school (09.00%), high school (05.00%), and graduation (03.00%). Hence it is concluded that the members had a considerably good educational background for the smooth functioning of SHGs.

Caste

A glimpse at Table 1 reported that the majority of the respondents (49.00%) belonged to the other backward caste followed by scheduled tribe (23.00%), general caste (15.00%), and scheduled caste (13.00%) respectively.

Table.1 Distribution of respondents as per Socio-economic and communication profile (n=100)

Variables	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
Age	Young age (up to 18-35)	31	31.00
	Middle age (36-50)	53	53.00
	Old age (above 50)	16	16.00
Education	Illiterate	45	45.00
	Functionally literate	15	15.00
	Primary school	23	23.00
	Middle school	09	09.00
	High school	05	05.00
	Graduation and above	03	03.00
Caste	General	15	15.00
	OBC	49	49.00
	Scheduled	13	13.00
	Scheduled Tribes	23	23.00
Marital status	Married	70	70.00
	Unmarried	07	07.00
	Divorced	23	23.00
Family type	Joint family	19	19.00
	Nuclear Family	81	81.00

Landholding	Marginal (<1 ha)	63	63.00
	Small (1-2 ha)	30	30.00
	Medium (2-3 ha)	7	07.00
	Large (> 3 ha)	00	00.00
Occupation	Agriculture +Dairy	71	71.00
	Agriculture+labour	16	6.00
	Agriculture +business	11	11.00
	Agriculture+ service	02	02.00
Social Participation	No participation	26	26.00
	Participation in one organization	72	72.00
	Participation in two organization	01	01.00
	Participation in more than two organization	01	01.00
Material possession			

	Low (0-1)	30	30.00
	Medium (2-3)	49	49.00
	High (4-5)	21	21.00
Annual Income			
	Up to Rs 20,000	12	12.00
	Rs 20,001-40,000	79	79.00
	40,001-60,000	9	9.00

Marital status

It was depicted from Table 1 that about 70.00 percent of the respondents were married women followed by divorced / widowed (23.00%) and only 07.00 percent unmarried.

Family type

Table 1 reported that the majority of the SHGs members (81.00%) belonged from nuclear family and the rest (19.00%) from joint family.

Landholding

In this study, the actual land possessed by the respondent was indicated. A perusal of Table 1 was found that the majority of the members (63.00%) having landholding of less than 1ha. means marginal farmer followed by the small farmer (30.00%) having (1.0- 2 ha) landholding and medium farmer (07.00%) having (2.0-3.0ha.). Hence it concludes that there was no such member having landholding of more than 3.0 ha.

Occupation

A fleeting look at Table 1 reported that the majority of the respondents (71.00%) were having agriculture+dairy as their family occupation followed by Agriculture+labour (16.00%), Agriculture+business (11.00%), and Agriculture+service (02.00%). From this result, it is concluded that the main occupation of people was in the agriculture sector and very few were in the service sector.

Social participation

It was illustrated from Table 1 that about maximum respondents (72.00%) participated in one organization followed by without participation in any organization (24.00%), participation in two organizations (01.00%), and participation in more than two organizations (01.00%).

Material possession

According to Table 1 maximum members (48.00%) having a medium level of material possession followed by low (30.00%) and high (21.00%).

Annual income

Pursuance to Table 1 majority of the respondents (79.00%) had annual income of Rs.20.001-40,000 followed by 12 percent (Rs.20, 000) and 09 percent (Rs.40, 001-60,000). The socio-economic condition of SHGs members was average standard and the literacy percentage of females was not up to the level. The majority of members were satisfied with their economic condition and a medium level of decision-making ability after joining in SHGs which were the measurement tools for women empowerment.

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