

Women Empowerment in dairying through Self Help Groupsx

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Abstract

In the opted research paper an exhaustive effort has been made to pin point in various dimensions which promote rural women to become empowered with the help of Self Help group. As is quite evident the India rural population especially rural women are mostly engaged in agriculture and livestock. In the past so many studies have been carried out related to women empowerment, however, the present study have special focus on empowerment of rural women in rural sector. The present study was conducted in Etah district covering two blocks Nidholi Kalan and Marahara. Out of 44 Self Help Groups in all 220 women members were selected for the purpose of present study. The primary data was collected with the help of well-structured interview schedule. The collected data was coded, classified, tabulated and analyzed with the help of using parametric and non-parametric test. The prominent observations based on facts clearly highlight that correlation coefficient after joining the SHGs was found significant in case of education; land holding, type of house, material possession, type of animal house and herd size. The entrepreneurial characteristics was found highly significant after joining SHGs. Empowerment through dairying was also found highly significant with dairy related variables. The empowerment of SHGs member have noticed increase of income, employment generation and productivity of milch animals which also indicate highly significant after joining the SHGs.

Key words: Self Help Groups, employment, productivity, parametric and non-parametric

Introduction

Empowerment is a process and is not something that can be given to women. The process of empowerment is both individual and collective.

India has been an agrarian country. Women constitute about 66% of the agricultural work force. Around 48% self-employed farmers are Women and 64% of the informal sector work force, depending on agriculture is women, Women throughout the developing world engaged in economically productive work and earn incomes. They work primarily in agriculture and informal sector and, increasing their formal wage employment. Dairying is one of the important enterprises, which supports the rural households by providing gainful employment and steady income. In India, women's involvement in livestock management is a long standing tradition and dairy farming has been an integral part of home stead farming system. The empowerment of women is one of the central issues in the process development of countries all over the world.

Winner of the prestigious Magsaysay Award, Mrs, Ela Bhatt, highlights the need for giving women their due place in dairy development. For their empowerment and economic well-being, women's

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assess to training in modern dairying and Cooperative management is essential. National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has initiated a special training program. Still, most women producers do not always have access to training in modern livestock management.

On the contrary, dairy as an occupation helps them to provide stable income whole year the round. In India, dairy is recognized as substantial contributor towards social and economic development. The nation's milk supply come from millions of small producers, dispersed throughout the rural areas. About 70-75% of households of small and marginal farmers and landless labourers and wedded to the dairy traditionally since ancient times (Shah, 2000). These small and marginal farmers contribute a large chunk to the milk production. They collectively hold about 70% of the national milk-animal herd. Often one or two milk animals enable these farmers to generate sufficient additional income to break the vicious subsistence agricultural debt cycle.

Materials and Methods

The present study was conducted in Etah district in U.P. Etah district consist of a community development block viz. Sheetalpur, Sakeet, Awagarh, Jalesar, Nidholi Kalan, Marahara, Aliganj and Jaithra. Out of 8 blocks 2 blocks mainly Nidholi Kalan and

Marahara were selected purposely. These two blocks having 44 female SHGs were finally identified. A comprehensive list of all the members from each of the selected SHGs was prepared for collecting the relevant information under different aspects of the study. In all 220 members contribute the sample size for the study. Two type of variables namely: independent comprising age, caste, religion, marital status, family type, family size, family education, type of house, material possession, land holding herd size, innovativeness, decision making, achievement motivation, knowledge of dairy farming enterprise, information seeking, risk taking ability, ability to coordinate dairy farm activities, assistance of management services, leadership ability, cosmopolitaness, average per day milk yield, average milk yield per year, milk consumption per year, milk marketed per year and dependent variables includes income generation through dairying employment generation, productivity of milch animals and empowerment through dairying.

Primary data were collected with the help of structured interview schedule. In all 220 respondents (Women members of SHG) were selected primary data was collected by personal interview. The collected data were coded, classified, tabulated and analyzed with the help of both parametric and non-parametric test. For having in depth analysis correlation coefficient was also applied to see the relation between dependent and independent variable.

Results and Discussion

Level of empowerment through dairying

A perusal of the data clearly indicate that a very high majority of the respondents i.e. 91.36% have low level of empowerment and only 8.64% were medium level of empowerment through dairying before joining

Table 1: Distribution of respondents as per their level of empowerment through dairying

Level of empowerment	Before Joining the SHGs	After Joing the SHGs
Low (15-20)	201(91.36)	63(28.64)
Medium (21-26)	19(8.64)	129(58.64)
High (27.31)	-	28(12.73)

the SHG. After joining the SHG figures indicate that majority of the respondents (58.64%) perceived medium level of empowerment followed by 28.64% and 12.73% at low and high level respectively.

Correlation between independent variables with empowerment through dairying

A critical look of the Table 2 reveals that before join the SHG out of 22 selected independents variables

Table 2: Correlation analysis between independent variables of SHG members with empowerment through dairying

Independent variable	Correlation coefficients(r) after joining the SHGs	Correlation coefficients(r) after joining the SHGs
Age	0.072NS	0.028NS
Family size	0.186**	0.127NS
Family education status	0.016NS	0.383**
Land holding	0.128NS	0.334**
Type of house	0.250**	0.370**
Material possession	0.193**	0.472**
Type of animal house	0.185**	0.295**
Herd size	0.137*	0.474**
Innovativeness	0.397**	0.690**
Decision making	0.158*	0.525**
Acheivement motivation	0.171*	0.533**
knowledge of dairy farming enterprises	0.552**	0.699**
Information seeking	0.031NS	0.414**
Risk taking ability	0.274**	0.479**
Ability to coordinate dairy farm activities	0.267**	0.619**
Assistance of management services	0.387**	0.316**
Leadership ability	0.174**	0.341**
Cosmopolitaness	0.076NS	0.301**
Av. milk yield/day	0.160*	0.536**
Av. milk yield/year	0.258**	0.537**
Milk consumption/year	0.093NS	0.454**
Milk marketed/year	0.169*	0.537**

* Significant $p < 0.05$

** Significant $p < 0.01$

only eleven variables namely family size, type of house, material possession, type of animal house, innovativeness, knowledge of dairy farming enterprise, risk taking ability, ability to coordinate dairy farm activities, assistance of management services, leadership ability and average milk yield per year were found positively and higher significant ($p < 0.01$) with the empowerment through dairying, whereas hers size, decision making, achievement motivation, milk yield per day and milk marketed per year were found significant at 5 per cent level of significance with the empowerment through dairying. Only four variables namely: age, family education, land holding and milk consumption per year of SHG members were found to be non-significantly correlated with empowerment through dairying. After joining the SHGs 20 out of 22 selected independents variable of the respondents

namely; family education status, land holding, type of house, materials possession, type of animal house, herd size, innovativeness, decision making, achievement motivation, knowledge of dairy farming enterprise, information seeking, assistance of management services, leadership ability, cosmopolitness, average per day milk yield, average milk yield per year, milk consumption per year and milk marketed per year were found positively and highly significantly ($p < 0.01$) with the empowerment through dairying. Age and family size of SHG members was found to be non-significantly correlated with empowerment through dairying.

Correlation between dependent variables with empowerment through dairying

Table 3 indicate that positive and highly significant ($p < 0.01$) relationship was found after joining the SHGs between income generation, employment generation and productivity of milch animals with empowerment of SHG members. Before joining the SHGs relationship was significant at 1 per cent level of significance between employment generation and productivity of milch animals and significance of 5 per cent between income generations with empowerment of SHG members. It showed that social empowerment of SHG members. Financially assisted through group leading, were found more interested to rear more milch animals and goats of high producing breeds that resulted in more income and employment in a year.

Table 3: Correlation analysis between dependent variables of SHG members with empowerment through dairying

variable	Correlation coefficients(r) after joining the SHGs	Correlation coefficients(r) after joining the SHGs
Income generation	0.108*	0.476**
Employment generation	0.270**	0.591**
Productivity of milch	0.210**	0.544**

* Significant $p < 0.05$

** Significant $p < 0.01$

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