

A Study on personal demographic traits of Self-Help Group Members (SHG) under National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) in Lakhimpur Kheri district of Uttar Pradesh, India

Abstract

The study was conducted in Nighasan and Pasgawan block of Lakhimpur kheri district of Uttar Pradesh, by personal interview with 100 respondents; They were selected through proportionate random sampling technique from two selected gram panchayat and 10 SHGs from each gram panchayat. Total 20 SHGs (each block total fifty respondents) were selected randomly. The results of the study show that the majority of the Self Help Group Members were in their middle age (61.00%), other backward caste (41.00%), literates (90.00%) and those who completed intermediate education (38.00%), small family size (63.00%), marginal farmers (56.00%), engaged in farming (54.00%), married (80.00%), low annual income (63.00%), participants in one organization (60.00%), medium level of risk orientation (53.00%), medium level of scientific orientation (59.00%), with formal sources in bank officials/community resource persons ranked Ist, informal sources in family ranked Ist, and mass media exposer in T.V. ranked Ist.

Keywords: Socio-economic, National Rural Livelihood Mission, Self Help Group Members.

INTRODUCTION

The self-help groups are intended to empower rural women by focusing on rural women living below the poverty line in order to improve their family's socio-economic position through collective action for development; By empowering rural women through self-help groups will benefit not just the individual women, but also their families and communities as a whole. A self-help group is defined as a "self-governed, peer-controlled information group of people with similar socio-economic background and having a desire to together perform mutual purpose." The National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) was initiate by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India (GoI) during June 2011. Under this programme, the emphasis is given on promoting self-employment and organization of rural poor women. The current coverage of NRLM across the country is up to 8.99 crore rural poor households, 742 districts, 7073 blocks, 269133 Gram panchayats and 725906 villages in September 2023.

Socio-economic status is the study of social and economic elements in order to better understand how the combination of both effects any aspect. The socio-economic aspects related to demographics, means of production and investment of income, and the expenditure pattern of individuals living in a certain location are some of the critical variables aid in establishing the social and economic status of the inhabitants of that location. Development policies may be improved and planned based on these factors/dimensions, with the location serving as the focus point.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was carried out in Lakhimpur Kheri district of Uttar Pradesh to assess the Entrepreneurial Behaviour of SHG members functioning under National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM). Nighasan and Pasgawan block was selected purposely from 15 blocks of

Lakhimpur Kheri district; They were selected through proportionate random sampling technique from two selected gram panchayat and 10 SHGs from each gram panchayat. A Total 20 SHGs (each block total fifty respondents) were selected randomly. A total of 100 respondents who are members of SHGs were selected randomly. Data were collected with the help of pretested structured interview schedule. The classes were divided by using mean and standard deviation and the data was analysed by calculating frequency distributions and percentage.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Age

Table – 1 Distribution of respondents according to their age

n=100

| S. No. | Categories | Respondents | |
|--------|-------------------|-------------|---------------|
| | | F | % |
| 1. | Young (up to 33) | 18 | 18.00 |
| 2. | Middle (34 to 60) | 61 | 61.00 |
| 3. | Old (above 61) | 21 | 21.00 |
| | Total | 100 | 100.00 |

Age of the SHG members was studied and the results obtained have been presented in Table 1. The respondents were categorized as young, middle-aged and old on the basis of mean (47.47) and standard deviation (14.41). The data revealed that, out of the majority of the women members, 61.00 per cent were middle aged (34 to 60), while 21.00 per cent belonged to old age, and the remaining 18.00 percent were young because this is due to the reason that at this age, the SHG members might be capable of taking responsibility, to try to increase their income and they want to initiate in small enterprises.

2. Caste

Table 2 Distribution of the respondents according to their caste

n=100

| S. No. | Categories | Respondents | |
|--------|----------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| | | f | % |
| 1. | General Caste (GEN) | 19 | 19.00 |
| 2. | Other Backward Caste (OBC) | 41 | 41.00 |
| 3. | Scheduled Caste (SC) | 27 | 27.00 |
| 4. | Scheduled Tribe (ST) | 13 | 13.00 |
| | Total | 100 | 100.00 |

Data regarding the caste of the SHG members has clearly been depicted in Table 2. The results revealed that majority of the SHG members (41.00 per cent) belonged to other backward caste followed by schedule caste (27.00 per cent), general caste (19.00 per cent) and only 13.00 per cent of the SHG members belonged to the schedule caste.

3. Education

Table 3 Distribution of respondents according to their education

n=100

| S. No. | Categories | Respondents | |
|--------|--|-------------|---------------|
| | | f | % |
| 1. | Illiterate | 10 | 10.00 |
| 2. | Literate | 90 | 90.00 |
| i. | Primary (1 st to 5 th standard) | 09 | 09.00 |
| ii. | Middle (6 th to 8 th) | 07 | 07.00 |
| iii. | High school (9 th to 10 th standard) | 18 | 18.00 |
| iv. | Intermediate (11 th to 12 th standard) | 38 | 38.00 |
| v. | Graduate & Post Graduate | 18 | 18.00 |
| | Total | 100 | 100.00 |

From table 3, it can be observed that the majority (38.00 per cent) of respondents were educated up to intermediate, followed by 18.00 per cent of educated up to high school, 18.00 per cent of respondents were under graduate and post graduate, 09.00 per cent of respondents were educated up to under primary school, 07.00 per cent of respondents were educated up to middle school and only 10.00 per cent were found illiterate.

4. Size of Family

Table- 4 Distribution of the respondents according to their family size (members)

n=100

| S. No. | Categories | Respondents | |
|--------|---------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| | | f | % |
| 1. | Small family (up to 4 members) | 63 | 63.00 |
| 2. | Medium family (5 to 9 members) | 35 | 35.00 |
| 3. | Large family (above 10 members) | 02 | 02.00 |
| | Total | 100 | 100.00 |

It was evident from Table 4 that the majority of the SHG members (63.00 per cent) had small size of the family, followed by 35.00 per cent with medium family size and only two per cent were having large family size.

5. Occupation

Table- 5 Distribution of the respondents according to their occupation

n=100

| S. No. | Categories | Respondents | |
|--------|------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| | | f | % |
| 1. | Farming only | 54 | 54.00 |
| 2. | Farming + Service | 18 | 18.00 |
| 3. | Farming + Business | 16 | 16.00 |
| 4. | Farming + Service + Business | 12 | 12.00 |
| | Total | 100 | 100.00 |

Table 5. describes the maximum number of respondents engaged in farming (54.00 per cent) followed by, farming + service (18.00 per cent), farming + business (16.00per cent) and farming + business + service (12.00 per cent), respectively.

6. Land Holding

Table- 6 Distribution of respondents according to their land holding (in ha.)

n=100

| S. No. | Categories | Respondents | |
|--------|-----------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| | | f | % |
| 1. | Marginal Farmers (below 1.00 ha.) | 56 | 56.00 |
| 2. | Small Farmers (1.01 to 2.00 ha.) | 17 | 17.00 |
| 3. | Medium Farmers (2.01 to 4.00 ha.) | 11 | 11.00 |
| 4. | Large farmers (above 4.01 ha.) | 16 | 16.00 |
| | Total | 100 | 100.00 |

Table 6 describes that the majority of the SHG members (56.00 per cent) were having (below 1 ha.) of land who belonged to marginal farmers, followed by small farmers (17.00 per cent) who were having (1.01 to 2.00 ha.) of land, large farmers (16.00 per cent) were having (above 4.01 ha.) of land holding, and only medium farmers (11.00 per cent) who were having (2.01 to 4.00 ha.) land holding, respectively.

7. Marital Status

Table- 7 Distribution of the respondents according to their marital status:

n=100

| S. No. | Categories | Respondents | |
|--------|---|-------------|---------------|
| | | f | % |
| 1. | Married | 80 | 80.00 |
| 2. | Unmarried | 05 | 05.00 |
| 3. | Other specific (Separated, divorced or widowed) | 15 | 15.00 |
| | Total | 100 | 100.00 |

Data in Table 7 revealed that 80.00 per cent of the SHG members were married, followed by 15.00 per cent who were separated, divorced or widowed. Only 05.00 per cent SHG members were unmarried. The above distribution was due to the fact that married women wanted to provide a helping hand to their respective head of the family financially.

8. Annual Income

Table- 8 Distribution of the respondents according to their annual income

n=100

| S. No. | Categories | Respondents | |
|--------|-----------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| | | f | % |
| 1. | Low (below Rs. 86,000/-) | 63 | 63.00 |
| 2. | Medium (Rs. 86,001 to 3,84,000/-) | 29 | 29.00 |
| 3. | High (Rs. 3,84,001 and above) | 08 | 08.00 |
| | Total | 100 | 100.00 |

Data pertaining to the annual family income of the SHG members has been illustrated in Table 8. The data in the Table indicates that the maximum percentage of the SHG members (63.00 per cent) had low annual income (up to Rs. 0.86 lakh), followed by 29.00 per cent of the members who were of medium annual income (between Rs.0.87 to Rs. 3.84 lakh), and only 08.00 per cent members had high annual income (Rs. 3.85 lakh and above). Minimum annual income of the SHG members is Rs. 0.29 lakh and maximum annual income of the SHG members is Rs. 6.10 lakh.

9. Social Participation

Table- 9. Distribution of the respondents according to their social participation

n=100

| S. No. | Categories | Respondents | |
|--------|--|-------------|---------------|
| | | f | % |
| 1. | Participation in one organization | 60 | 60 |
| 2. | Participation in two organization | 19 | 19 |
| 3. | Participation in more than two organization. | 21 | 21 |
| | Total | 100 | 100.00 |

Table 9 indicates that the majority of SHG members (60.00 per cent) has participated in one organization, followed by (21.00 per cent) members who participated in more than two organizations and (19.00 per cent) members who participated in two organizations.

10. Risk Orientation

Table- 10 Distribution of respondents according to their risk orientation

n=100

| S. No. | Categories | Respondents | |
|--------|---------------------|-------------|---------------|
| | | f | % |
| 1. | Low (up to 16) | 20 | 20.00 |
| 2. | Medium (17 to 24) | 53 | 53.00 |
| 3. | High (25 and above) | 27 | 27.00 |
| | Total | 100 | 100.00 |

Table-10 shows that the majority of the SHG members (53.00 per cent) had medium level of risk orientation, followed by high (27.00 per cent) and low (20.00 per cent) level of risk orientation respectively.

11. Scientific Orientation

Table-11 Distribution of respondents according to their scientific orientation

n=100

| S. No. | Categories | Respondents | |
|--------|---------------------|-------------|---------------|
| | | f | % |
| 1. | Low (up to 13) | 18 | 18 |
| 2. | Medium (14 to 19) | 59 | 59 |
| 3. | High (20 and above) | 23 | 23 |
| | Total | 100 | 100.00 |

Table 11 shows that the majority of SHG members (59.00 per cent) had medium level of scientific orientation, followed by high (23.00 per cent) and low (18.00 per cent) level of scientific orientation respectively.

12. Extension Contact

12.A. Formal Sources:

Table- 12.A. Distribution of respondents according to their formal sources

| S. No. | Formal Sources | MPS | Rank |
|--------|---|------|------|
| 1. | Line Department of NRLM department /mission coordinators. | 1.51 | VI |
| 2. | Bank officials/ Community resource persons | 4.75 | I |

| | | | |
|----|------------------------|-------------|-----|
| 3. | NGOs | 2.31 | IV |
| 4. | KVKs/Training Centre's | 2.27 | V |
| 5. | Cooperative Agencies | 3.89 | II |
| 6. | Private agencies | 3.38 | III |
| | Average | 3.01 | |

Table-12.A shows the extension of contact of respondents with different information sources as used by them for general information, as well as about various woman SHG. The information sources were categorized into three categories, namely formal, informal and mass media sources. As far as the contact of SHG members with formal sources was concerned, it was found in descending rank orders viz bank officials/community resource persons got with MPS (4.75) ranked I, followed by cooperative agencies (3.89) ranked II, private agencies (3.38) ranked III, NGOs (2.31) ranked IV, KVKs/training centre's (2.27) ranked V, and line department of NRLM department-/mission coordinators (1.51) ranked VI, respectively. The overall mean of score of all formal sources was found to be 3.01.

12.B. Informal Sources

Table- 12.B. Distribution of respondents according to their informal sources.

| S. No. | Informal Sources | MPS | Rank |
|--------|----------------------|-------------|------|
| 1. | Family Members | 8 | I |
| 2. | Neighbours | 6.25 | II |
| 3. | Friends | 4.89 | III |
| 4. | Relatives | 2.51 | VI |
| 5. | Local Leaders | 3.5 | IV |
| 6. | Progressive Farmers | 2.6 | V |
| | Total Average | 4.62 | |

Table-12. B. shows the extension of contact of respondents with different formal sources as used by them for general information. The contact of SHG members with informal sources was found in descending orders, like family members got with MPS (8.00) ranked I, followed by neighbours (6.25) ranked II, friends (4.89) ranked III, local leaders (3.5) ranked IV, progressive farmers ranked V and relatives ranked VI, respectively. The mean of score of all informal sources for SHG members was found to be 4.62.

12.C. Mass media Sources

Table- 12.C. Distribution of respondents according to their Mass media sources.

| S. No. | Mass media | MPS | Rank |
|--------|------------|------|------|
| 1. | Radio | 2.82 | IV |
| 2. | T.V. | 5.33 | I |

| | | | |
|-----|------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 3. | Mobile phones | 4.81 | II |
| 4. | Internet | 3.44 | III |
| 5. | News Bulletins | 1 | XVII |
| 6. | Field day | 1.06 | XVI |
| 7. | Farm magazines | 1.11 | XV |
| 8. | Circular letters | 1.39 | X |
| 9. | Posters | 1.41 | IX |
| 10. | Exhibition | 1.53 | VIII |
| 11. | Farmers Fair | 1.28 | XII |
| 12. | FLD(Demonstration) | 1.24 | XIV |
| 13. | Folders | 1.25 | XIII |
| 14. | Film shows | 1.64 | VI |
| 15. | News Paper | 2.79 | V |
| 16. | Agrill. Books | 1.56 | VII |
| 17. | OFT (On Farm Trail) | 1.38 | XI |
| | Average | 2.06 | |
| | Overall Average | 3.23 | |

Table-12.C. shows the extension of contact of respondents with different mass media sources as used by them for general information. The contact of the SHG members with mass media exposure was found in descending order i.e., T.V got ranked I, followed by mobile phones ranked II, internet ranked III, radio ranked IV, newspaper ranked V, film shows ranked VI, exhibitions ranked VII, agrill. Books ranked VIII, posters ranked IX, circular letters ranked X, on farm trail ranked XI, farmers fair ranked XII, folders ranked XIII, demonstrations ranked XIV, farm magazines ranked XV, Field Day ranked XVI and news bulletins ranked XVII, respectively. The mean scores of all mass media exposure among SHG members was found to be 2.06 respectively. The overall average for formal, informal and mass media sources was found to be 3.23, which may be considered as fair contact with information sources.

CONCLUSION

According to the study's findings, the majority of the SHG members belonged to the middle age group having education up to intermediate level, small family size. It was observed that the majority of the SHG members were married and belonged to the other backward caste. The study also revealed that the majority of the SHG members were marginal farmers and farming was found as a major occupation with a medium annual income between Rs. 86,001 to 3,84,000. The majority of the SHG members had a medium level of risk orientation and scientific orientation, participation in at least one organisation.

Consent

As per international standard or university standard, respondents' written consent has been collected and preserved by the author(s).

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