Socio-Economic Status and factors influencing women's involvement in SHGs program in Ambedkar Nagar District of Uttar Pradesh

ABSTRACT

Self Help Groups is a scheme which able to reach the vulnerable poor at affordable cost and can thus help the poor become self-employed.The present study has been done to understand the socio-economic conditions of the SHG members and factors determining women's participation in the SHG programme. Both Primary and secondary data has been used. Primary data collected through survey schedule and questionnaire.The primary data was analysed with the help of suitable statistical tools like percentage, mean and binary probit model were used to find the factors which effectthe women's participation in SHG programme. The sample size was 120, covering 2 blocks of the Ambedkar Nagar district.Among the findings the prominent ones were that majority of the respondents were in the age group 31-45 years (47.5%), middle sized family members (6-8 members/households) and marginal to small landholding size (54.17%).The respondents were not highly educated because the study was limited to rural areas, showing the backwardness and sluggishness of these places.The study revealed that the probability of participating in the SHG programme increased as women's age increase and the increase of the family size.

Key words: SHG'S, NGOs, Socio-economic, Women's Participation and Probit Model.

Introduction

Around 51% of India's land area is already under cultivation, but more than 85% of these small and marginal farmers have land holding of less than 2 ha. In Uttar Pradesh, 65% of the total households are engaged in agricultural activities. The average sizeof the land is 0.80 hectare as compared to the all-India average of 1.15 hectare. About 2.33 crore farmers in the state have a combined landholding of 176.22 lakh hectares. But 92% of them are small farmers hold 1.43 hectares on an average (Kumar *et al*.,2020).

SHGs are a viable alternative to achieve the objectives of rural development.A self-help group is a small, voluntary association of low-income individuals, ideally from the same socioeconomic background. They meet together with the intention of using self-help to save their common difficulty.The number of members in one SHG does not exceed 20(Surender and Kumar, 2010).The size is restricted to 20 because anygroup bigger than this would need to be registered under the India legal system.Members of the group assure appropriate credit

utilization and prompt repayment by applying peer pressure and collective expertise (Sarma, 2013).

In India, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) had piloted women 'Self-Help Group-Bank Linkage Program' in 1992. In 1999, the Government of India had launched Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojagar Yojana (SGSY)-a program for rural self-employment that aims to give microfinancial services to the impoverished in rural areas by means of SHGs. The "SHG-Bank Linkage Model" and the "Microfinance Institutes (MFIs)-Bank Linkage Model" are now the two main models used in the nation for lending microfinance (Patil and Kokate, 2017). Self-Help Groups (SHGs) are a microfinance approach that offers a distinctive credit delivery technique to improve income-generating activities. Almost 100 million families were covered by the SHG-Bank Linkage Program as of this writing, with "8.00 million" savings linked SHGs. (Mula and Sarker, 2013; Singh and Deshmukh, 2022).The Indian government proclaimed 2001 to be the"Women's Empowerment Year", emphasizing the equality of women and men. SHGs developed into an effective tool for reducing poverty and empowering women in the rural economy. SHPIs (Self-Help Group Promoting Institutions) which primarily include NGOs, banks, and Government officials link poor with SHGs They raised awareness of women's wellbeing, entrepreneurship, and self-employment. This program sets up savings, frequent loan repayment payments, training, and regular meetings. This program also covers marketing, family planning, healthcare, basic literacy, and occupational skills.(Vinodhini and Vaijayanthi,2016).

In 2011, the campaign developed into a national movement and became the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), the largest programme in the world to combat poverty. The NRLM assisted the poor's access to affordable, trustworthy financial services such bank accounts, savings accounts, credit, insurance, pensions and financial services counselling. Self-help groups have been studied as a way to increase effectiveness of women-owned businesses. They are thought to increase mutual trust, a spirit of thrift, group cohesiveness, among other attributes. Self-help groups have been empirically found to increase socio-economic status in rural India (Amutha,2011).

Studies undertaken so far have assessed the role of SHGs towards women empowerment in India, focusing on "Increase in income" or "gender impact". In this study

we have tried to highlight the perception of SHG participants about their empowerment, with particulars reference to a multiethnic village in the Ambedkar Nagar district in Uttar Pradesh.

Materials and Methods

Sampling design: The sample of the present study was conducted by proportionate random sampling as well as purposive technique was applied for the selection of district, block, SHGs and enterprises etc.

Locale of the study: The study was conducted in the Ambedkar Nagar district of Uttar Pradesh. As per list total 11531 SHGs are currently working tirelessly in the district women empowerment division (NRLM).

Ambedkar Nagar district of Uttar Pradesh was selected on the basis of following grounds.

i. Availability of resources.
ii. High numbers of SHGs.
iii. Promising district of promotion of enterprises.
iv. Economic development of SHGs members.

Selection of Block: There are 9 blocks in Ambedkar Nagar District in which, 2 blocks namely Akbarpur and Bhiti has been selected. The main reason behind selecting these blocks has higher number of SHGs.

Sample size: A survey sample of about 120 respondents has been taken from SHGs functioning under NRLM Project.

Nature of data: For the study both primary and secondary data has been taken. Primary data conducted by survey schedules&secondary data collected - review, government publication, NRLM website, District Development Office and NGOs.

Analytical Procedure: In the socio-economic status of the SHG member's simple descriptive statistics like Percentage and Mean etc were used.The binary response probit model was given by Mcfadden, 1981. Which was further used by Kumar, 2021 to determine the factors that influence women's participation in Self Help Groups (SHGs).

The model will be specified as given below:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 AW + \beta_2 FS + \beta_3 LH + \beta_4 EW + \beta_5 NI + U_i$$

where,Y= Participation of women in SHG programme,

β_0 = Intercept,

AW = Age of women (years),

FS = Family size,

LH = Landholding size (ha),

EW= Education (years),

NI = Net non-farm income

β1-β5 are the respective coefficients and U_i is the error term.

Results and Discussion

This part of the study was added to help with the interpretation of the results for the different goals. Given that each of the two objectives touches on either the social or economic facets of respondent's lives, a complete analysis of their socio-economic situation would provide a solid framework for assessing the results. This section discusses several socio-economic characteristics of the sampled households, such as age distribution, family composition, education level, land-use pattern, size of land holdings, livestock distribution and annual household income.

Age wise composition of the members

Age is an important component of a person's socio-economic conditions since it impacts their general functioning capability and decision-making abilities. The participants in this study were divided into three age groups based on their age. The table no.1 shows that the bulk of the respondents were between the ages of 31 to 45 years, which is 47.5 percent of the sample population. while 13.33 percent were under 30 years. The remaining 39.16 percent of the population was above the age of 45.

Table No. 1Age wise composition of the members of SHGs

S. No.	Age Groups (Years)	Number	Average Age	Percentage (%)
I	Less than 30 (Young Age)	16	28.81	13.33
II	31 to 45 (Middle Age)	57	38.35	47.5
III	Above 45 (Old Age)	47	50.8	39.16
IV	Total	120	39.32	100

Educational status of the members of the SHGs

Education is essential for women's empowerment because it gives them with the self-confidence and support, they require to participate actively in SHG activities the educational backgrounds of the sample respondents are shown in Table No.2 depicted that the different educational status categories clearly shows that most of the respondents were literate. 40 percent of the population was illiterate. 24.17 percent of the literate had obtained primary

education while 12.5 percent had received secondary education. Only 8.3 percent of respondents had a high school diploma, 4.17 percent of the Intermediate, while those with a college graduation made up only 10.83 percent of the sample population.

The respondents were not highly educated because the study was limited in rural areas, showing the backwardness and sluggishness of these places. The importance of education in motivating and encouraging women could not be overlooked because the bulk of the members were educated.

Table No. 2 Educational status of the members of the SHGs

S. No.	Educational Status	Number	Percentage (%)
I	Illiterate	48	40.00
II	Primary	29	24.17
III	Secondary	15	12.50
IV	High School	10	8.33
V	Intermediate	5	4.17
VI	Graduation	13	10.83
Total		120	100

Family structure of the members of SHGs

Family composition is an essential socio-economic attribute since it can impact people's living standard and resource allocation.The family category in this study were divided into three groups based on their members. The table shows that the bulk of the respondents were medium family size (5-6 person/household) which is 50.83 percent of the sample population. while 37.50 percent were under small size (Up to 4 members). The remaining 11.66 percent of the population was above the large family size (more than 6 members/household). In table no.3 members of the family are classified according to the size of the family.

Table No. 3 Classification of the members according to the family size

S. No.	Family Size (No. of members)	No.	Average size	Percentage (%)
1	Small (Up to 4)	45	3.68	37.50
2	Medium (5 to 6)	61	5.44	50.83
3	Large (More than 6)	14	7.57	11.66
4	Total	120	5.56	100

Family composition of respondent households

The family composition of the respondent households is shown in Table No.4 Males made up an average of 1.39 people per home, accounting for 27.13 percent of the overall sample population. Females made up 28.37 percent of the sample population with an average of 1.45 per home. The average number of children per home was 2.28. The normal functioning of civilization requires a healthy population of women. This obviously shows that women were numerically well represented in the study area, indicating their well-being.

Table No. 4 Family composition of respondent households

S. No.	No. of Members	Average no. per household	Percentage (%)
1	Adult males	1.39	27.13
2	Females	1.45	28.37
3	Children	2.28	44.49
4	Total	5.03	100

Land holding pattern of households

Land is the most significant factor in production, particularly in rural areas where agriculture is the people's major profession. The details of land holding area under different size group of sample farms discussed in Table No.5. The average size of land holding of marginal, small, medium farms were found 0.25, 3.31 and 1.4 hectares.

Table No. 5 Land holding pattern of the sample households

S. No.	Land holding pattern	Total	Average land holding	Percentage (%)
I	Marginal farmers (Less than 1.00 ha)	65	0.25	54.17
II	Small farmers (From 1.01 ha to 2 ha)	34	1.4	28.33
III	Medium farmer (From 2.01 ha to 4 ha)	21	3.21	17.50
Total		120	-	100

Distribution of livestock per household

For rural households, livestock performs a number of socio-cultural tasks, such as supplying food, providing income and employment, improving soil fertility, providing transportation, traction for agriculture, diversity, and long-term agricultural productivity.

Cows, buffaloes, bullocks, goats, and poultry birds were among the livestock animals

present in the agri-households, as shown in table no.6. Each family had an average of 1.03 buffaloes, accounting for 36.79 percent of the total animal population. Per household, an average of 0.58 cows were available i.e., 20.71 percent of the total animal population. There were 4 bullock pairs and 4.64 percent sheep in some family. There are 35.72 percent of goat populationin the total animal population

Table No. 6 Distribution of livestock per household

S. No.	Livestock owned	Average No. per household	Total animal population (%)
1	Cow	0.58	20.71
2	Buffalo	1.03	36.79
3	Bullock	0.06	2.14
4	Sheep	0.13	4.64
5	Goat	1.00	35.72
6	Total	2.80	100.00

Annual income of the households

The average annual income of the respondent's household is shown in Table No. 7 Farm revenue, with a share of 39.41 percent of farm income and followed by non-farm income, with a share of 60.59 percent. Crop operations supplied 17.43 percent of overall farm income, while animals contributed 21.98 percent. Government or private jobs, business, and non-farm laborers were the main sources of non-farm income. Jobs provided 23.51 percent of the household income, while business provided 15.18 percent of total annual household income. As a result, to enhance the socio-economic status of the rural population, the government should increase and promote agriculture in rural areas.

Factors determining the participation of women in the SHG programme

The objective of this part is to highlight the variables that either benefited or harmed rural women's participation in the SHG initiative. Because not all women displayed active participation in the programme, it is critical to understand the impact of many elements in influencing women's participation in SHGs. It'splays aa crucial role in the transition from self-negation to self-reliance. The characteristics that influenced women's engagement in a SHG-led empowerment programme in Uttar Pradesh's Ambedkar Nagar area were assessed using probit regression.

Table No.8 displays the results of the probit regression. Age, education, number of household members, size of landholding and net non-farm income were included as explanatory factors. The probit model employs maximum likelihood estimation, which is an

iterative approach that converged after five iterations in this case. After five iterations, the fitted model's log likelihood was -36.362. This was the greatest value of log likelihood, which resulted in the coefficients unique maximum likelihood estimations. The high pseudo R^2 value of 1.017 demonstrated that the model fit the data well; the greater pseudo R^2 value,better fit. At a 5% level of significance, the probability of receiving the likelihood ratio (LR) chi square test statistic of 35.411 was 0.000.

Table No. 8 Influential elements affecting women's participation in Self-Help Group (SHG) initiatives: analysed through a probit model.

Explanatory variable	Coefficient	Z value	P> |z|	[95% Confidence Interval]		Marginal Effect
Age (Year)	.272	3.1030	.005*	.083	.461	32.9667
Family Size	.015	.1319	.910	-.244	.273	5.0500
Size of holding	.288	.2715	.289	-.244	.820	.6315
Education	.052	.0502	.300	-.046	.150	5.1833
Net non- form income	1.494E-5	4.3952E-6	.001*	6.327E-6	2.356E-5	9.4250E4
Log Likelihood	-36.362					
Pseudo R^2	1.017					
-R Chi^2 (5)	35.411					

Note: *Significant at 5% Level of Significant

The explanatory variables of education, size of land holding and family size were not statistically significant, whereas the statistically significant variables were Net non- farm income and age of the woman at 5% level of significance. Age is the first explanatory variable in the table. At the 5% level of significance, the coefficient of explanatory variable i.e., age of women .272, was statistically negatively significant and inversely connected to the likelihood of participating in the SHG programme. The anticipated probability of involvement in the SHG programme reduced as the woman's age grew. this could be linked to the decline in women's health as they grow older, as well as pessimistic and a traditional attitude. (Anjugam and Ramasamy, 2007), who used age as one of the explanatory variables in explaining rural women's participation in SHGs. With a value of 32.96%, the findings of the probit model revealed that age was statistically negatively significant and other variable i.e., Net non- farm income statistically significant at 5 % level of significance with coefficient value 1.494E-5 findings showed that when net non - farm income increase than the participation of women in SHG decrease at 9.4250E4 times. There are some other variables statistically analysed at 5 % level of significance was family size influenced programme participation in such a way that as the number of household members increased, so did the

predicted probability of participating in the SHG programme. The positive coefficient value of .015 justified this. The likelihood of participation increased by 5.05% for every additional member added to the household. (Sinha's, 2008) findings, which revealed that the probability of participating in the SHG programme increased as the size of the family increased. It is the most valuable asset for rural agri households and so has a position in the model. positive coefficient value of .288 justified that landowners with greater landholdings were less likely to participate in any SHG programme, implying that participation probability and landholding size were inversely connected. The relationship's magnitude was determined using the marginal effect estimate. With one unit increase in landholding size, i.e., per acre, the chance of involvement reduced by 6.3 %, according to the marginal effect of .6315.

Summary and Conclusion

An inside view of rural societal structure and its nature. The core SHG philosophy is in empowerment through increasing employability, self-sufficiency and including a habit of saving among the rural women. There was a lack of social mobility among the younger age group of women and they were expected to stay in home and take care of the household. It applies to both married and unmarried young women with in age group 18-30 years.It was also found that most of the women were illiterate. It was due to the participation of older women the SHGs. The future looks promising as most of the women understood the value of education and were very much interested towards educating their girl child. The family structure in rural villages were quite traditional with majority of the respondents having joint family and a family size of 6-8 members. The analysis SHGs have led to increase in employment as well as income among the rural women. For women’s empowerment to be addressed, women need to be enabled to define their priorities and demand their rights.From the above discussion it appears that joining in SHGs has not only emancipated the participants but has also provided them economic and social empowerment.Its shows the backward picture of the rural villages of the Ambedkar Nagar district of Uttar Pradesh. Through numerous development programmers were being carried out in the district.

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