

## **A Study on Women Empowerment Members with Special Reference to Cuddalore District in Tamil Nadu**

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### **ABSTRACT**

In recent years, women's empowerment has been a hot topic in establishing their standing. The goal of the study is to duplicate the social impact of women's empowerment programmes, to evaluate changes in the social clause of empowerment plans, and to estimate the impact of empowerment schemes on individual social status. The investigation is distinct, with the ultimate goal of using only critical data. The necessary data has been gathered. via a field summary, the size of the exam is 306, for example, Interviewees. The respondent's survey and the information were collected from Cuddalore, District, Tamil Nadu. The information gathered was analysed using discriminating analysis in SPSS. The study focused on social advancement techniques and women's empowerment through empowerment initiatives in Tamil Nadu, specifically in the Cuddalore District.

**Keywords:** Women Empowerment, Empowerment Schemes, Cuddalore

### **INTRODUCTION**

Women are an important part of every economy. Women's empowerment is critical to a country's success and development. Women must be considered equal partners in progress to males. Women's liberation is critical for the country's economic development as well as the upliftment of the community. The impoverishment theory is a barrier to women's transformation. Women's empowerment is essential for economic development that encompasses social, economic, and social well-being. The fast rise of empowerment programmes has suddenly flipped the country upside down. The basis for addressing the above components of women empowerment has been laid in the form of empowerment initiatives. Women's social, economic, and social positions are improved through empowerment programmes. Group dynamics are the foundation of empowerment programmes. Empowerment schemes are small groups of economically and socially backward persons in rural areas, particularly women, who are encouraged to develop their talents, skills, and capabilities to improve their empowerment. The structure of the empowerment programme is a nation's seminary reinforcement. Women bring in the capacity of women to increase self-assurance, position, and family function, among other things.

### **Women Empowerment**

Women's empowerment is a pressing issue in today's globe. Women's empowerment has been steadily increasing. Women's fundamental right is to be empowered. They are entitled to participate in all realms of endeavour on an equal footing. Women's empowerment is critical to the advancement of civilization. Women are typically required to work longer hours than

males. Despite the important role women play in the home and society, women are generally at a disadvantage in all aspects of life, including education, income, partner choice, inheritance laws, property rights, decision-making processes, community organisation, and leadership positions in education, business, and politics. One of the key tasks will be to promote "women's empowerment." The goal is to alter socio-cultural norms and behaviour patterns. Women play an important part in society all across the world.

In actuality, empowerment entails creating someone ground-breaking, assisting the poor in achieving excellence, and in the case of women, it has come to imply a woman's increased control over her own life, body, and social standing. Power dynamics, command chains of class position, and socio-cultural norms, standards, and traditions all contribute to inequalities. Women's development is stifled as a result of gender inequity. Disappointment in meeting social necessities including food, education, well-being, poise, social eminence, and trust. Poor women are prevented from sharing in the benefits of innovations because they are caught in a cycle of need and are hampered by their living situations. As a result, their great potential is underutilised. Today, socially and economically disadvantaged women are the driving force behind Indian behaviour. In any event, the notion of female empowerment, particularly in the field of growth, is slightly different. The reality is that the concept of Women in Growth has matured. Women were viewed as useless, especially in the 1970s, and their work went unnoticed. It was Esther Boserup's 1975 UN Decade for Women that stifled the reassessment of development and approaches that began to see women as operators. The development process, as well as the widely held belief that women are undervalued, are the key reasons for their poor ranking. Literacy, nutrition, health, and empowerment must all be addressed if more women are to become change agents.

## **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

Dr Preema Rose Jincy is a doctor that specialises in women's health. Nichlavose, Jose (2017) In their study of the influence of empowerment schemes initiatives on members' socioeconomic condition in Kerala, they found that there is a need to increase the training programmes available for self-enhancement and improvement.

DA Nithyashree, Veena Chandavari, and Rekha Rayanagoudar (2016) researched the profile of empowerment scheme participants in Karnataka. Their findings revealed that the primary motivations for enrolling in empowerment schemes are to receive financial assistance, as well as to repay and reimburse the credit.

In her work "An empirical study of Empowerment schemes and rural development in Tuticorin District," Prabhavathy (2011) looked at it. Empowerment initiatives have resurfaced in certain areas, while they continue to encounter challenges in others. Empowerment programmes that help women acquire financial stability can make a significant contribution to the country's improvement.

J. Venkatesh and Kala (2010) Kala (2010) broke down the financial reinforcement of women in South Tamil Nadu in their work "Engaging provincial ladies right through self-help groups" and found that the socio-economic status of women has improved as a result of empowerment schemes, and the rise in the family unit from month to month has also been

significantly improved. The study also found that empowerment programmes are particularly effective in expanding women's empowerment in provincial districts in South Tamil Nadu.

Venkateshmurthy and G.M. Dinesh (2009) stated in their study, Women Empowerment through Empowerment Schemes a Review, that empowerment schemes play a significant and crucial role in women, creating initiative features among including women in various wage producing exercises for their innovative improvement.

In their work Harynana's empowerment schemes, Kundu K.K.et al., (2006) attempted to explore the performance efficiency and discovered that commercial banks aided the success of the rural economically backward sustainable approach. They also discovered that empowerment programmes encouraged the habit of saving and increased confidence.

Women's empowerment, according to Chalapathi et al. (2008), entails not only economic freedom but also improving their socio-economic condition. The study also predicted that if women achieved economic independence, empowerment programmes would be successful in a variety of areas. They emphasised that investment was an important aspect of women's empowerment and that investment loans should be made available to them. According to the findings, women have to gain access to and control economic efficiency.

Kolte et al., (2010) said in their study that women were able to observe the outside world due to empowerment programmes and that they were able to grasp local problems. Women's civic involvement provided an opportunity to put their leadership skills to the test in Empowerment initiatives.

Through the Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) Program Participants, Srinivasa Rao D and G.Jeyarajulu (2012) investigated the living situations of women in the Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh. A monitoring cell should be established to investigate DWCRA's problems, protect DWCRA members from local money lenders, give members efficient and effective training, advertise their commodities, and focus on personality development, according to the study.

### **Objectives Of the Study**

- To analyses the personal profile of the respondents of women Empowerment schemes in the study area.
- To study the social and economic conditions of the women members in the study area.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The present study is based on primary data. The primary data was collected from the respondents through the interview schedule in the Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu. A total number of 306 women respondents were collected for the sampling to identify the profile and economic conditions of women by the women empowerment schemes in the study area. A Random sampling technique is adopted for the study.

## Results and Discussions

### *Basic Profile of the Women Respondents*

Age		No	Yes	Total
Below 30	Number	0	62	62
	Percent	0.0%	20.3%	20.3%
31-50	Number	4	207	211
	Percent	1.3%	67.6%	69.0%
Above 51	Number	0	33	33
	Percent	0.0%	10.8%	10.8%
Total	Number	4	302	306
	Percent	1.3%	98.7%	100.0%

Source: Primary Data

The present section of the study deals with the results and discussion of the women respondents in the Cuddalore district in Tamil Nadu. Table 1 represents the age and women empowerment scheme member classification of the women respondents in the study area. It has been analysed from the table that among 306 women respondents, 302 (98.7 per cent) of the women are the beneficiaries of the women empowerment schemes in the study area. While 4 (1.3 per cent) of the women are not members of any women empowerment schemes in the study area. However, among the total respondents, 62 (20.3 per cent) members have the age below 30 and are members of empowerment schemes.

Similarly, 211 (69.0 per cent) of the respondents have the age group of 31-50, in which 207 (67.6 per cent) of the respondents are the members while 4 (1.3 per cent) are not the beneficiaries of the empowerment schemes. Furthermore, 33 (10.8 per cent) of the women have the age group above 51 in the study area. It has been found that the majority of the women respondents have the age group of 31-50 and are members of empowerment schemes in the study area.

Table 2 represents the age and community-wise classification of the women respondents in the study area. It has been observed from the table that among the 62 (20.3 per cent) of the women respondents, 28 (9.2 per cent) of the women are belong to SC/ST social group, while 26 (8.5 per cent) belong to the MBC social group and just 8 (2.6%) belonged to the BC social group. Similarly, among 211 (69.0 per cent) of the women respondents, 94 (30.7 per cent) women belong to the SC/ST social group, while 90 (29.4 per cent) of women belong to the MBC social group and the remaining 27 (8.8 per cent) belong to the BC community group in the study area.

Age		Community			
		SC/ST	MBC	BC	Total
Below 30	Number	28	26	8	62
	Percent	9.2%	8.5%	2.6%	20.3%
31-50	Number	94	90	27	211

	Percent	30.7%	29.4%	8.8%	69.0%
Above 51	Number	15	13	5	33
	Percent	4.9%	4.2%	1.6%	10.8%
Total	Number	137	129	40	306
	Percent	44.8%	42.2%	13.1%	100.0%
Source: Primary Data					

Among the 33 (10.8 per cent) of the women respondents, 15 (4.9%) women belong to SC/ST community and 13 (4.2%) of the women belong to the MBC community group while the remaining 5 (1.6%) of the women belong to the BC community in the study area.

It has been found from the table that among the 306 women respondents, the majority of the women belong to the SC/ST social group, followed by MBC community groups which include 129 (42.2 per cent) in the study area. However, only 40 (13.1%) belong to the BC community in the study area.

#### *Socio-Economic Conditions of the Women*

Age		Occupation			Total
		Formal	Informal	Home maker	
Below 30	Number	11	18	33	62
	Percent	3.6%	5.9%	10.8%	20.3%
31-50	Number	16	119	76	211
	Percent	5.2%	38.9%	24.8%	69.0%
Above 51	Number	3	22	8	33
	Percent	1.0%	7.2%	2.6%	10.8%
Total	Number	30	159	117	306
	Percent	9.8%	52.0%	38.2%	100.0%
Source: Primary Data					

Table 3 represents the age and occupation type of women respondents in the Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu. It has been observed from the table the majority of the women are engaged with the informal type of occupation, and in which 119 (38.9%) have the age group of 31-50. While 22 (7.2%) have age above 51. The homemaker consists of around 117 (38.2%) of the women in different age groups, Table 3. Only 3 (9.8%) are women respondents are working in the formal type of occupation.

Table 4 represents the socio-economic status and the variation between and within the groups in the Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu. It has been found from the table that except the education all the other variables are found statistically insignificant at a 5% level of significance. It indicated that among all the insignificant variables, the variation between and within the groups are not significant, there is no variation between the groups. In terms of the education in the Cuddalore district, the variations are significant between and among the groups.

		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Community	Between Groups	0.008	2	0.004	0.009	0.991
	Within Groups	146.243	303	0.483		
	Total	146.252	305			
Education	Between Groups	81.512	2	40.756	33.207	0.000
	Within Groups	371.877	303	1.227		
	Total	453.389	305			
Religion	Between Groups	0.152	2	0.076	1.066	0.346
	Within Groups	21.668	303	0.072		
	Total	21.820	305			
Occupation	Between Groups	0.890	2	0.445	1.111	0.330
	Within Groups	121.374	303	0.401		
	Total	122.265	305			
Income	Between Groups	3.212	2	1.606	1.833	0.162
	Within Groups	265.523	303	0.876		
	Total	268.735	305			
Beneficiaries	Between Groups	0.024	2	0.012	0.909	0.404
	Within Groups	3.924	303	0.013		
	Total	3.948	305			
Source: Primary Data						

### Conclusion

It has been observed from the above analysis, that the majority of the respondents belong to the SC/ST social groups and have an age group between 31-50. The majority of the women are working in the informal type of occupation, followed by homemaker, while fewer women are working in the formal type of occupation. It has also been found that all the variables have shown insignificant variation between the groups, while only the education has shown the significant variation in the study area.

The production of the SHG movement has improved the lives of socially and economically backward women. The empowerment schemes have also increased their financial independence and security. Women's empowerment is possible through the development of empowerment schemes. Empowerment schemes have been identified as a source to address the financial needs of women. The economic activity of empowerment schemes paves the way for women's empowerment in enhancing their socio-economic status, not only in rural areas but also in urban areas.

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