

Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women in Rural Area of Udham Singh Nagar District with Special Reference to Kiccha Block

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Abstract:

Women empowerment is a multifaceted concept that encompasses various socioeconomic, cultural, and political aspects aimed at advancing the rights, opportunities and agency of women in society. The primary key to the economic growth in any country is Women's Rights. Socioeconomic, cultural and other conditions dictate the feeling of empowerment an individual gets varies. The empowerment of women is crucial for achieving gender equality and social justice. It involves addressing the structural and systemic barriers that hinder women's advancement and ensuring their equal access to education, healthcare, economic opportunities and political participation. When women are empowered, they can actively contribute to the betterment of their families, communities and nation, leading to sustainable development and prosperity. Researchers agree that gender equality and development are crucial for long-term economies. This study is also related to achieving women & socioeconomic empowerment in the rural area of Kiccha block of district Udham Singh Nagar and requires collaborative efforts among various stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society organisations, development agencies, and local communities. By leveraging resources, expertise, and networks, comprehensive and sustainable initiatives can be implemented to advance gender equality and women empowerment in rural communities.

Keywords: Women Empowerment, Socio-Economic, Decision Making, Government Programmes

1. Introduction:

The socio-economic empowerment of women in rural areas is a pressing issue that demands attention and concerted efforts. In many rural communities around the world, women face numerous challenges and barriers that hinder their full participation in economic activities, decision-making processes, and community development. Julia Wiklander (2010) evaluated that women in rural India should be empowered in the economic sector as they will be free from domestic abuse and will get equal access to the decision-making process in households and in property rights. However, empowering women in rural areas is not only a matter of gender equality; it is also a crucial step towards achieving sustainable development and creating an inclusive society. Rural women play a significant role in agricultural production, food security, and the overall well-being of their communities. Yet, they often experience limited access to education, financial resources, land ownership, technology, healthcare, and leadership opportunities. These disparities not only perpetuate gender inequality but also hinder the socio-economic progress of rural areas as a whole. Women empowerment in Uttarakhand, a state located in the northern

part of India, has gained significant attention in recent years. Despite the challenges faced by women in the region, various initiatives and efforts have been undertaken to promote their empowerment and create an enabling environment for their social and economic progress. Here are some critical aspects of women's empowerment in Uttarakhand: This empowerment begins with education. Providing girls and women in rural areas with quality education equips them with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to participate in economic activities and decision-making processes actively. Financial inclusion is another critical aspect of women's empowerment in rural areas. Access to financial resources, credit facilities, and savings mechanisms empowers women to start and expand businesses, invest in their education and skills, and gain economic independence. It also enables them to contribute to household income, improve their living standards, and have a voice in financial matters. Ensuring women's land and property rights is an essential step in socio-economic empowerment. Secure land tenure allows women to access and control productive resources, engage in agricultural activities, and make land use and management decisions. Advocating for equal land rights and inheritance laws and ensuring women's access to productive resources can enhance their economic security and decision-making power. Livelihood opportunities are essential for women in rural areas to earn sustainable incomes and improve their overall well-being. Skill development programs, vocational training, and support for women-led enterprises and cooperatives enable them to diversify their economic activities and contribute to local economic growth.

2. Objectives of the study:

1. To perceive the knowledge about awareness of legal and political rights and the Panchayati raj institution system in women.
2. To analyse the effect of empowerment schemes on the socio-economic profile of women.

3. Hypothesis: There is a positive impact of empowerment scheme programmes on women.

3.1. Sampling procedure:

This research study includes multistage sampling. In the first stage, purposive sampling is used to pick the most populated block in the district out of seven blocks. Then we use simple random sampling of 1 woman from 1 household and 5 women from the whole village and like this, we take 20 villages, which make a total sample of 100 women for our study.

3.2. Analysis of study area -

3.2.1. Demographic profile of the respondent

AGE	Percentage of the Respondent
18-48	69
48 and above	31

3.2.2. Marital Status Percentage of Respondents

MARITAL STATUS	PERCENTAGE OF THE RESPONDENTS
MARRIED	76
DIVORCED	2
WIDOWED	22

3.2.3. Cast Wise Distribution

GENERAL	39
OBC	44

SC	13
ST	4

3.2.4. Education level of Respondent

ILLITERATE	16
5 TH -12 TH	75
GRADUATION AND ABOVE	9

3.2.5. Family Size

JOINT	21
NUCLEAR	79

3.2.6. Head of the Family

SELF	19
OTHER FAMILY MEMBER	81

3.2.7. Main Occupation Structure of the Respondent Family

OCCUPATION	PERCENTAGE OF THE RESPONDENTS
LABOURER	19
SHOPS	8
AGRICULTURE	21
GOVERNMENT JOB	3
PRIVATE JOB	9
DAIRY FARMING	15
AUTO DRIVING	4
NOT EMPLOYED	7
OTHER	14

3.2.8. Response of Women Involving in Income-generating Activities

Income generating activities	percentage
Dairy/ Buffalo rearing	38
Tailoring, Handicraft	18
Bakery	4
Kirana store	11
Cosmetics/ Parlour shop	13
Auto Rickshaw	4
None	12

3.2.9. Participation in the empowerment scheme

Schemes	Percentage
SHG's	21
Udyogini Scheme	8
Ujjawala Yojana	24
Stree shakti scheme	10
Development of women & children in rural area (DWRCA)	3
Other (Dairy venture capital fund, Matrtav Vandana yojana,	34

MGNREGA)	
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3.2.10. Awareness of legal and political Rights and the Panchayati Raj Institutions System (PRI)

Aspects of Legal and Political Rights	YES(per cent of respondents)	NO(per cent of respondents)
Freedom to decide whom to vote for	81	19
Member of PRI's	21	79
Knowledge about Reservations for women in PRI's	74	26
Awareness of the source of PRI's	40	60
Knowledge about women's legal and constitutional right	51	49
Knowledge about women's reservation of SC/ST women	59	41
Knowledge about property rights	58	42
Land ownership in Personal name	31	69

3.2.11. Income before joining Empowerment scheme in Kiccha block

CLASS INTERVAL (C.I)	FREQUENC Y (F)	MID POINT (X)	F.X
1000-5000	48	2500	120000
5000-10000	32	7500	240000
10000-15000	10	12500	125000
15000-20000	6	17500	105000
20000-25000	4	22500	90000
	N=100		∑F.X= 680000

MEAN= $\sum F.X/N=680000/100=6800$

3.2.12. Income after joining Empowerment scheme in Kiccha block

CLASS INTERVAL (C.I)	FREQUENCY (F)	MIDPOINT (X)	F.X
1000-5000	18	2500	45000
5000-10000	41	7500	307500
10000-15000	27	12500	337500
15000-20000	08	17500	140000
20000-25000	06	22500	135000

	N=100		$\sum F.X=$ 965000
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$$\text{MEAN} = \frac{\sum F.X}{N} = \frac{965000}{100} = 9650$$

As per the analysis we can clearly see that after joining the empowerment scheme women's average income increases from (6800 to 9650). This increment in average income also shows the acceptance of our hypothesis that empowerment scheme programmes have a positive impact on women.

4. Conclusion:

In conclusion, empowering women in rural areas is not only a matter of justice and equality but also a key driver of sustainable development. By addressing the various dimensions of socio-economic empowerment, we can unlock the potential of women in rural communities, enhance their well-being, and contribute to more prosperous and inclusive societies for all. But sometimes women are not able to answer correctly due to some reasons i.e cultural and social norms, language barriers, lack of trust, Fear of Stigmatization, Privacy Concerns, Lack of Understanding, Time Constraints, and Fear of Consequences of Collaborative efforts among governments, civil society organizations, development agencies, and local communities are crucial for advancing women socio-economic empowerment in rural areas. By leveraging resources, expertise, and networks, comprehensive and sustainable initiatives can be implemented to create positive change and promote gender equality in rural communities.

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