Demographical Perception of Select Rural SHG Women in Anantapuramu District of Andhra Pradesh: An Analytical Study

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Abstract: The concept of Self Help Group is based on the idea of community participation, as sustainable community development requires the active participation of the entire community. ' Popular participation ensures that the benefits of the development are equitably distributed among the needy. Apart from this, proposals are made for the decentralization of the authority so as to ensure redistribution of wealth, improved access to education and other social capital. Consequently the focus of Self Help Groups is to develop the capacity of the disadvantaged, particularly women and to organize them to utilize the opportunities, so that they can deal with socio-political and socio-economic issues of their lives.The present study deals with the demographical perceptions of selected Self Help Groups women respondents of rural in Anantapuramu district of Andhra Pradesh.

Key words: Social Development, Self Help Groups, Women

INTRODUCTION

It has been realized in many parts of the world that an effective way to tackle poverty and to enable communities to improve the quality of life is through social mobilization among disadvantages people especially through Self Help Groups (SHGs). The concept of Self Help Group is based on the idea of community participation, as sustainable community development requires the active participation of the entire community. ' Popular participation ensures that the benefits of the development are equitably distributed among the needy. Apart from this, proposals are made for the decentralization of the authority so as to ensure redistribution of wealth, improved access to education and other social capital. Consequently the focus of Self Help Groups is to develop the capacity of the disadvantaged, particularly women and to organize them to utilize the opportunities, so that they can deal with socio-political and socio-economic issues of their lives.

Self Help Groups have been formed in almost all the villages through some institutions. The women have been mobilized by forming small groups for savings and provision of credit for improving the economic conditions of the individual women. Internal source of loaning for meeting their day-to-day needs has increased their confidence among themselves. Micro-capital assistance has raised their hopes for starting small enterprises for generating additional money thus improving their overall economic conditions. Apart from Income Generating Activities (IGA) the groups have been instrumental in tackling their village issues such as water problem and negotiating with the pradhan for getting the drinking water scheme for the village. The women's collective strength has improved the Public Distribution System (PDS) as far as dry ration is concerned or the functioning of Anganwadi or Balwari's activities is concerned. The present chapter highlighted that the impact of SHGs on rural women before and after SHGs in Anantapuramu district of Andhra Pradesh.

OBJECTIVES

1. To study the nature of Self Help Groups
2. To analyse the demographical perception of rural SHG women in Anantapuramu district of Andhra Pradesh

Study area

The study is undertaken in the Ananthapuramu district which is one of the most economically,

backward districts of Andhra Pradesh. This region is typically a dry track and has been declared as a famine district in south India. Recurrent drought and famines have been stalking this district for the past decades. District is largely dominated by rural population comprising of 74 per cent of the total population. Hence, Ananthapuramu district of AP has been percussively chosen. According to the 2011 census, there are about 8 lakhs households in the district with an average household size of five members. The reference period of the study refers to the calendar year 2018-2020.

Sampling Design

For a detailed study, the entire district of Ananthapuramu has been selected. The district is divided into five revenue divisions' viz., Ananthapuramu, Dharmavaram, Penukonda, Kadiri, and Kalyandurgam. For winder coverage all the five revenue divisions covering 63 revenue mandals, as on 30th April 2020, were considered for sample.

Thus, altogether 66,806 SHGs are working in the district.

For the micro level study, multi- stage random sampling technique was adopted in selecting the mandals and the groups. In the first stage all the five revenue divisions were considered for selecting the sample. In the second stage one mandal from each revenue division was selected randomly. Further, among two villages one village near to the mandal and another village was selected distance to the mandal head quarter from each mandal two villages were randomly selected. From each village four SHGs were again selected. Randomly making a total of twenty members from each village, were finally selected for analysis based on purposive sampling. Finally, altogether five revenue divisions, five mandals and 10 villages were selected. Thus, the study sample constitutes altogether 200 respondents.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Table 1: Details of age group particulars of the respondents

Community	Age group in years				Total
	15- 18	19-25	26-40	41 and above	
Scheduled Caste	4 07.10	19 33.90	17 30.40	16 28.60	56 100.00
Scheduled Tribe	00 00.0	2 13.30	10 66.70	3 20.00	15 100.00
Backward Caste	06 07.50	11 13.80	36 45.00	27 33.80	80 100.00
General	05 10.20	6 12.20	11 22.40	27 55.10	49 100.00
Total	15 07.50	38 19.00	74 37.00	73 36.50	200 100.00

Source: Field data

The table shows that the community wise and age wise classification of the sample respondents in the study area. It can be found that 33.9 per cent of the respondents 19-25 age group of schedule caste respondents have been effectively participating in SHGs, 26-40 age group of ST are participation by large backward community have reported that 26-40 age group respondents have noticed, and general respondents have been effectively participating who have 41 and more age respondents respectively.

Chi-Square Tests			
	Value	Df	Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	26.09	9	.002
Likelihood Ratio	25.63	9	.002
Linear-by-Linear Association	5.211	1	.022
N of Valid Cases	200		
Df=9, Chi-square (0.05)=16.9			

After examine the study that Marginalised sections are more participated in self help groups than others.

People have been participation in Self help group activities more irrespective community.

Table 2: Particulars to you come to know about the SHGs

Community	Radio/Newspapers	Friends/Relatives	Village leaders	Leaders/Members of SHG	Total
Scheduled Caste	0	11	8	32	51
	.0	21.6	15.7	62.7	100.0
Scheduled Tribe	1	2	4	7	14
	7.1	14.3	28.6	50.0	100.0
Backward Caste	0	7	6	53	66
	.0	10.6	9.1	80.3	100.0
General	0	1	17	27	45
	.0	2.2	37.8	60.0	100.0
Total	1	21	35	119	176
	.6	11.9	19.9	67.6	100.0

Source: Field data

The table 2 depicted that the community wise and information agencies for motivating and joining SHG in the study area. It can be noticed that 62 per cent of the SCs, 50 per cent of the STs, 80 per cent of the BCs, and 60 per cent of the General respondents have been receiving information from the group leaders in the study area.

Chi-Square Tests			
	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	34.132	9	.000
Likelihood Ratio	28.098	9	.001
Linear-by-Linear Association	1.243	1	.265
N of Valid Cases	176		
Df=9, Chi-square (0.05)=16.9			

After examine the study that DRDA staff given more source of information about Self help groups.

Table -3: Who helped in the formation of SHGs in your village

Community	DRDA staff	Village leaders	Self	Total
Scheduled Caste	32	16	8	56
	57.1	28.6	14.3	100.0
Scheduled Tribe	11	4	0	15
	73.3	26.7	.0	100.0
Backward Caste	57	20	3	80
	71.2	25.0	3.8	100.0
General	27	16	6	49
	55.1	32.7	12.2	100.0
Total	127	56	17	200
	63.5	28.0	8.5	100.0

Source: Field data

The above shows that community wise and information helper wise classification and presented. It can be concluded that majority of the community respondents have got information from the DRDA staff followed by village leaders and self.

Chi-Square Tests			
	Value	Df	Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	8.950[a]	6	.176
Likelihood Ratio	10.304	6	.112
Linear-by-Linear Association	.222	1	.637
N of Valid Cases	200		
Df=6, Chi-square (0.05)=7.81			

After examine that DRDA staff empowered the woman in formation of self help groups (SHG). Since calculated value of Chi-Square is greater than table value of Chi-square.

Table 4: What kind of products do you sell

Community	Doll	Blouses, Chudidars	Poultry	Dairy	Vegetables	Pot making	Beedis	Others	Total
Scheduled Caste	2	5	24	17	2	3	2	1	56
	3.6	8.9	42.9	30.4	3.6	5.4	3.6	1.8	100.0
Scheduled Tribe	0	1	7	5	1	0	0	1	15
	.0	6.7	46.7	33.3	6.7	.0	.0	6.7	100.0
Backward Caste	1	4	36	19	3	2	0	15	80
	1.2	5.0	45.0	23.8	3.8	2.5	.0	18.8	100.0
General	3	5	8	28	0	0	1	4	49
	6.1	10.2	16.3	57.1	.0	.0	2.0	8.2	100.0
Total	6	15	75	69	6	5	3	21	200
	3.0	7.5	37.5	34.5	3.0	2.5	1.5	10.5	100.0

Source: Field data

The table reveals that the community wise & selling products wise distributed of sample respondents in the study area. It can be found that all communities have been doing business/economic activity.

Chi-Square Tests			
	Value	Df	Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	40.904	21	.006
Likelihood Ratio	46.460	21	.001
Linear-by-Linear Association	1.320	1	.251
N of Valid Cases	200		
Df=9, Chi-square (0.05)=32.6			

After examine that Self help group members economically strengthened by participating in income generating activities (IGA). Since calculated value of Chi-Square is greater than table value of Chi-square.

Table 5: Where do you sell the products

Community	In the village	In the open market	Selling in both the open market and village	Total
Scheduled Caste	38	16	2	56
	67.9	28.6	3.6	100.0
Scheduled Tribe	11	4	0	15
	73.3	26.7	.0	100.0
Backward Caste	48	15	17	80
	60.0	18.8	21.2	100.0

General	40	5	4	49
	81.6	10.2	8.2	100.0
Total	137	40	23	200
	68.5	20.0	11.5	100.0

Source: Field data

Market –place of the respondents which they have been sellilng their products with community wise in Anantapuramu district. It is found that majority of the respondents in all communities have been selling their products in their village only.

Chi-Square Tests			
	Value	Df	Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	18.810	6	.004
Likelihood Ratio	20.603	6	.002
Linear-by-Linear Association	.052	1	.819
N of Valid Cases	200		
Df=6, Chi-square (0.05)=7.81			

After examine that Self help group members facing marketing problems to their production. Since calculated value of Chi-Square is greater than table value of Chi-square.

Table 6: purpose of availing loans

Community	To increase production	To do some business	To fulfil household needs	For children's education	For health needs	Total
Scheduled Caste	28	9	11	4	4	56
	50.0	16.1	19.6	7.1	7.1	100.0
Scheduled Tribe	8	1	5	0	1	15
	53.3	6.7	33.3	.0	6.7	100.0
Backward Caste	41	11	19	9	0	80
	51.2	13.8	23.8	11.2	.0	100.0
General	22	6	11	9	1	49
	44.9	12.2	22.4	18.4	2.0	100.0
Total	99	27	46	22	6	200
	49.5	13.5	23.0	11.0	3.0	100.0

Source: Field data

The table presented that shows that the association between community with reason for availing loan amount by the selected sample households. It can be found that majority of the respondents have taken loans from the financial institutions for receiving their products and followed by the fulfilment household needs in the study.

Chi-Square Tests			
	Value	Df	Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	13.413	12	.340
Likelihood Ratio	16.142	12	.185
Linear-by-Linear Association	.152	1	.697
N of Valid Cases	200		
Df=6, Chi-square (0.05)=21.0			

After examine that the Participation in self-help group their children education levels increased. Since calculated value of Chi-Square is less than table value of Chi-square.

CONCLUSIONS

The self-help groups programme has been implementing by the government with effective manner and women also participating cent percent in the study area. The government will conduct more awareness programme in rural areas on various dimensions like increasing the saving amount, acquiring better knowledge regarding rules and regulations of system, making qualitative decisions, and health dimensions. In all these aspects, women will be empowered. Hence, government and Non-governmental Organisations (NGO) taken a place and see the better society in India.

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