



An Empirical Study On Economic And Social Empowerment Of Members Of Self -Help Groups Of Women Under Mannam Memorial Social Service Society In Kottayam Taluk Union.

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ABSTRACT

"Empowerment" refers to the process of giving someone or anything more power in some area, whether it material, political, social, educational, gender, or spiritual. Through a variety of social issues, women's empowerment enables them to make choices that impact their lives. The financial and non-financial empowerment of women through various self-help groups are entitled to the study. Percentage analysis, Likert scale and ANOVA are the tools used for the study.

Key words : Empowerment, Self Help Group

Introduction

The Mannam Social Service Society is a jovial service wing of Nair Service Society has embarked on a mission to empower women by providing them chances to market goods readied at home. Self -help groups are launched by Non - Governmental Organisations (NGO's).SHG is first originated in MYRADA in 1985.Self - help groups has proved to be a major tool for empowerment of poor people.

Objectives of the study

1. To know the economic and social empowerment of members in Self Help Groups of women under Mannam Memorial Social Service Society.
2. To study the role of Self- Help Groups for empowering women.

Hypothesis

H01: There is no significant variation in economic and social empowerment among the members based on their age, occupation and educational qualification.

H02: There is no economic and social empowerment among the members.

Data sources

The sources of data used for the study are primary and secondary. The primary data is gathered from selected Self Help Group members by using a structured interview schedule. Bylaws of MSSS, newspapers, articles and e- sources are the secondary data used for the study.

Sampling Technique

The study's sample method is convenience sampling.It is a non-random sampling strategy that depend up on the convenience of the respondents.

Tools for analysis

1. Percentage analysis
2. Likert scale techniques
3. Analysis Of variance (ANOVA)

Analysis and Interpretation of data

Table 1 Analysis of total empowerment based on age

Sl no.	Age	No. of respondents	Totalscore	Mean score	Standard score
1	35-40	21	1628	77.52	1260
2	40-45	20	1558	77.9	1200
3	45-50	8	634	79.25	480
4	Above 50	1	85	85	60
	Total	50	3905	78.1	3000

(Sources: primary data)

The above table is inferred that the mean score of all age group is above the standard score of 60. it is high in 45-50 age groups (79.25) and low in 35-40 (77.52).

Table 1.1 ANOVA					
SOURCES OF VARIATION	SUM OF SQUARES	DEGREES OF FREEDOM	MEAN SQUARES	CALCULATED VALUE OF F	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE
Between samples	SSC=10667 51.75	K-1=3	MSC=3555 83.92	10.17	2.81
Within samples	SSE=16077 46.75	N-K=46	MSE=3495 1.02		
	SST=26744 98.5	N-1=49			

The computed value of F (10.17 > 2.81) surpasses the table value of F at the 5% level of significance, as can be seen in the table above. Therefore, the null hypothesis of no economic and social empowerment among members is rejected. There is significant relation between the total empowerment among members based on their age.

Table 2 Analysis of total empowerment based on occupation

Sl no.	occupation	No. of respondents	Total score	Mean score	Standard score
1	Unemployed	7	559	79.86	420
2	Daily employed	33	2591	78.52	1980
3	Others	10	784	78.4	600
	Total	50	3954	78.86	3000

The above table is inferred that highest mean score is for unemployed members (79.86) lowest among the other employed group (78.4). The variation is only nominal. It reveals that the total empowerment is normally high in unemployed members and low in other employed.

ANOVA					
Source of variation	Sum of squares	Degrees of freedom	Mean squares	Calculated value of F	Level of significance
Between samples	SSC=22728.87	K-1=2	MSC=1118639.44	33.26	3.20
Within samples	SSE=1580908.01	N-K=47	MSE=33636.34		
	SST=3818186.88	N-1=49			

The statistical significance of variation in mean scores among different occupation group reveals that the differences in mean score are significant at 5% level of significance (933.26 > 3.20). Therefore there is an association between occupation and total empowerment among members in Self-help groups. Therefore, the hypothesis of no empowerment among members is rejected.

Table 3 Analysis of total empowerment based on education

Sl no.	Age	No. of respondents	Total score	Mean score	Standard score
1	Read and write	12	954	79.5	720
2	SSLC	20	1556	77.8	1200
3	Up to plus two	10	781	78.1	600
4	Graduates	7	556	79.43	420

5	Post Graduates	1	86	86	60
	Total	50	3933	78.86	3000
ANOVA					
Source of variation	Sum of squares	Degrees of freedom	Mean squares	Calculated value of F	Level of significances
Between samples	SSC=542179.22	K-1=4	MSC=135544.805	4.205	2.58
Within samples	SSE=1450432	N-K=45	MSE=32231.82		
	SST=1992611.22	N-1=49			

The statistical significance of variation in mean scores among different groups reveals that differences in mean scores are significant at 5% level of significance ($4.205 > 2.58$). Therefore there is an association between education and total empowerment. Therefore the hypothesis of no empowerment among members based on education is rejected.

Findings from the objectives

- a) Participation in Self-help groups enhances both economic and social empowerment of members of its members.
- b) From this study it was found that the members of the Self -Help Groups were economically and socially empowered. It strengthens their economic health and also develops self-confidence among

Conclusion

The study was conducted to understand the effectiveness of the functioning of the Self-Help Groups. The members undertake entrepreneurial activity at a smaller level with minimum capital requirements. It is within their ability to bring about a socioeconomic revolution in the country's rural areas.

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