

Public Opinion on Women Empowerment in Chennai

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Abstract Women play a very significant role from their birth till the end of their life in the Society. It is greatly stated that "To awaken the society, it is women who have to be awakened". Empowerment of women is considered as empowering the whole society. Though there are many measures women are still subjected to various societal violence and are not given proper education and freedom. The Government has taken great initiative in empowering women through schemes like Women Helpline Scheme, Ujjawala Scheme, STEP, Manila Sakthi Kendras. The objective of this study is to analyze the association between Government schemes for women and educational qualifications, and to examine the level of agreement towards factors for women empowerment among the age groups. Descriptive Research is used for the purpose of study. Convenient sampling method is used to collect the samples. Sample size is 1540. Educational qualification, marital status and age are the independent variables used for the purpose of the study. Government schemes, awareness on government schemes, skill enhancement and job opportunities are the dependent variables. Chi square, Independent sample t-test, ANOVA are used for the statistical analysis. It is observed that the opinion on Government schemes for women depends on the educational status of the respondents, and the agreeability towards the factors for women empowerment differs based on the age of the respondents. The society should become open minded to change the mindset against women together with the constitutional and other legal provisions.

Keywords: Women Empowerment, Entrepreneurs, Education Awareness, Government Schemes, Challenges.

I. INTRODUCTION

Women empowerment refers to empowering women with education, employment decision making and health care in view of an equal and just society. According to Constitution of India it is necessary to grant women equality to women in the society in all spheres. Women empowerment is necessary to make them understand their rights to be independent in all fields for a proper growth and development. Women empowerment is the vital tool to expand women's abilities. But they become victims to various social evils and are not widely appreciated. The main problem is that the women are not encouraged and given opportunities to explore their talents. The women entrepreneurs face tough competitions with the men entrepreneurs who can embroil easily. Though there are many schemes provided which hasn't benefited a large population due to lack of awareness and illiteracy.

Revised Manuscript Received on 14, October 2019.

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about the government schemes. The study has been undertaken based on the primary and secondary data, i.e. by interview schedules and books and journals. The Researchers has found that proper encouragement and support can make women entrepreneurs a part of mainstream of the National economy. P. Sathasivam et al (2018) has observed the impact of government health care schemes among rural women in Coimbatore. The method used to collect samples was random sampling. Questionnaire was proposed to 125 women by analyzing through simple percentage, multiple regression and Chi square tests. Through the test they found that 41.6% of the variations of utilization was explained by the factors of promotional campaigns and demographic variables. The Research was concluded stating that Government should concentrate more on the rural and educated low income women for better reach and utilisation. Suman Goel and Rajkumar (2018) has analysed the difficulties faced by women entrepreneurs in any emerging economy. Structured questionnaire was proposed to women entrepreneurs of small and medium Enterprises in Rohtak district of Haryana to collect primary data and various statistical tools were used. The government should take more initiative measures with regard to women entrepreneurship to cope them and provide infrastructural benefits. Uma S N and Ramesh H N (2018) has examined the institutions which supports women entrepreneurs and the government schemes and benefits for empowering women entrepreneurs. The study was based on secondary data and questionnaire. The Researchers has concluded that government through it's schemes has supported women entrepreneurs to help them grow. Rashmi Rani Agnihotri H R and K. S. Malipatil (2018) examines the women welfare schemes in India. Secondary sources are used in collecting data. The study is purely theoretical. The prime goal of the study is for empowerment, development, protection and welfare of women and children. Prathiba (2017) analyses the status of Women empowerment in India and highlights the issues and challenges faced by them. The objective of this study is to know the need of women empowerment, to identify the hindrances and to assess the awareness of women in India. This study is descriptive and analytical in nature. Secondary sources are used collection of data. The women in society can be empowered only when the society provides them with an atmosphere where there is no gender discrimination and they have full opportunity of making self decision in social,economic and political life with a sense of equality. Harsh Purohit and Monika Dwivedi (2016) attempts to understand the level of awareness about government welfare schemes for women among rural areas in Tonk district in Rajasthan. The objective is to financially literate rural women to understand the importance of investment and the importance of insurance to reduce risk. The data was collected through questionnaire with both open ended and closed ended questions. The schemes has benefited the public, but a large population are not financially literate. M.Mahendran and R.Ranjan Babu (2015) has explored the study of financial support and schemes among women entrepreneurs in Nagapattinam District. The objective is to analyse the awareness of financial institutions supporting them and Knowledge of various schemes availed to women entrepreneurs. Both

primary and secondary sources are used in collecting data. Proper training should be provided to potential entrepreneurs, to develop them and steps has to be taken in making all the schemes highly effective. A.S. Shiralashetti (2014) has explored the study with the objective to know the awareness level of women entrepreneurs towards government schemes and to offer suggestions. The study is based on primary sources. The government has implemented many schemes to encourage women entrepreneurs, however large population of potential women remain untapped due to lack of awareness. Tanushree Sarker (2013) explores the study with an objective in making an attempt to analyse the role of Kishori Shakthi Yojana (KSY) for women development. The Methodology used is statistical-analytical method. The author has observed that it is necessary to educate every person as most of the population is not aware and not benefited only because they are illiterate.

IV. METHODOLOGY

Descriptive Research is used for the purpose of study. It helps to understand the behaviour of individual groups or a society. Convenient sampling method is used to collect the samples. Samples are collected based on the ease of access of availability. Sample size is 1540. Educational Qualification, Marital Status, and age are the independent variables used. Government Schemes, Awareness on Government Schemes, Skill enhancement and Job opportunities are the dependent variables. Chi square, Independent sample t-test, and ANOVA are used in statistical analysis.

V. ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION & RESULTS

Null Hypothesis: There is no significant association between Government Schemes for women and Educational qualification of the respondents.

Alternate Hypothesis: There is significant association between Government Schemes for women and Educational qualification of the respondents.

Table 1: Cross Tabulation - Government Schemes for Women and Educational Qualification

Educational Qualification	Government Schemes for Women		Total
	Yes	No	
Primary	36	21	57
High School	200	81	281
Higher Secondary	287	89	376
S and above	528	209	737
Illiterate	55	34	89
Total	1106	434	1540

Table 2: Chi-Square Tests - Government Schemes for Women and Educational Qualification

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	10.378	4	0.035



The p value is less than 0.05, the null hypothesis is rejected. There is significant association between Government Schemes for women and Educational qualification of the respondents. Thus, it is observed that the opinion on Government schemes for women depends on the educational status of the respondents.

Null Hypothesis: There is no significant difference between challenges faced by women and Marital status.

Alternate Hypothesis: There is a significant difference between challenges faced by women and Marital status.

Table 3: Challenge Faced by Women and Marital Status

Marital Status	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Married	774	2.08	.843	.030
Unmarried	766	2.42	.989	.036

Table 4: Independent Samples Test - Challenge Faced by Women and Marital Status

	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
Independent Sample t test	7.157	1538	0.000

The p value is less than 0.05, the null hypothesis is rejected. Therefore, there is a significant difference between challenges faced by women and Marital status. It is understood that the opinion on the challenges faced by women differs based on the marital status of the respondents.

Null Hypothesis: There is no significant difference in the mean scores of level of agree ability towards the factors for women empowerment among the age groups.

Alternate Hypothesis: There is a significant difference in the mean scores of level of agree ability towards the factors for women empowerment among the age groups.

Table 5: ANOVA - Factors for Women Empowerment and Age

		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Education	Between Groups	42.461	4	10.615	8.816	.000
	Within Groups	1848.201	1535	1.204		
	Total	1890.662	1539			
Awareness on Got. Schemes	Between Groups	37.438	4	9.360	11.012	.000
	Within Groups	1304.652	1535	.850		
	Total	1342.090	1539			
Skill enhancement	Between Groups	42.543	4	10.636	10.690	.000
	Within Groups	1527.161	1535	.995		
	Total	1569.704	1539			
Job opportunities	Between Groups	52.233	4	13.058	11.459	.000
	Within Groups	1749.193	1535	1.140		
	Total	1801.426	1539			

The p value is less than 0.05, the null hypothesis is rejected. There is a significant difference in the measures of level of agreeability towards the factors for women empowerment among the age groups. It is observed that the opinion on the factors for women empowerment depends on the age of the respondents.

VI. CONCLUSION

The crux of the whole issue is if women are empowered the family, the society, the nation as a whole is developed. As India has become one of the fastest growing economies it

has to also focus on women's empowerment too. Women empowerment hopes in bringing gender equality and a balanced economy. It is observed that the opinion on Government schemes for women depends on the educational status of the respondents, the opinion on the challenges faced by women depends on the marital status of the respondents and the opinion on the factors for women empowerment depends on the age of the respondents. The women should be given awareness about their legal rights and schemes implemented for them. Women should not be bounded by family ties rather explore the world and be empowered. Thus, women too can achieve their desires and can help in developing the society.

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