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, Ujjwala 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 agreeableness 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 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.

According to the National Mission for Empowerment of Women (NMEW) launched by the Indian Government has shown improvement in the 2011 census wherein both female sex and female literacy rate has increased. The 108th Constitution amendment Bill which is also known as Women’s reservation Bill was passed to reserve one-third of seats for women only in Lok Sabha to make women actively involved in every field. The estimated economic impact of achieving gender equality in India is to be US$700 billion added GDP by 2025. The IMF estimates India’s GDP will Increase by 27 percent if there is equal participation of women in the workforce.

II. OBJECTIVES

- To understand about the women empowerment in Chennai.
- To analyse the association between Government schemes for women and educational qualifications.
- To find the difference between the challenges faced by women and marital status.
- To examine the level of agreement towards factors for women empowerment among the age groups.

III. LITERATURE REVIEW

Vidhyadhare A.R and Roja GM (2019) has explored the study with objectives of analyzing the problems faced by rural women in India and the role of government schemes in developing them. The Nature of Research is descriptive. The data is collected from secondary sources like newspapers, journals, and other various publications. The researcher has found that in spite of many schemes women in rural areas need more attention and support. Rama Nag (2019) has identified that in reality all women are not getting equal status in opportunity. The Researcher points out that only when the three factors i.e. economic, social and political identity of women correlates with skill development women can be empowered. The data required for this Research has been collected from secondary sources. The researcher has analyzed that though there are various schemes for skill development, lack of awareness brings down the women who are well trained in Ayurveda in tribal areas and are not recognized, whereas women working at malls and in cities are recognized. This ultimately results in losing our tradition and skills. R. Paul Moni and Geetha (2019) has studied that most of the women entrepreneurs are not aware of the Central and State Government schemes made available for them. Hence the objective of the Researchers is that to know Women’s socio-economic status and to assess the awareness...
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. Prathibha (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 Shakti 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. 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 Shakti 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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualification</th>
<th>Government Schemes for Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher Secondary</td>
<td>287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>s and above</td>
<td>528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illiterate</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1106</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualification</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pearson Chi-Square</td>
<td>10.378</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.035</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marital Status</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Std. Deviation</th>
<th>Std. Error Mean</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>774</td>
<td>2.01</td>
<td>0.843</td>
<td>0.030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unmarried</td>
<td>766</td>
<td>2.42</td>
<td>0.869</td>
<td>0.031</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>t</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>Sig. (2-tailed)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.157</td>
<td>1338</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The p value is less than 0.05, the null hypothesis is rejected. There is a significant difference between challenges faced by women and Marital status. Marital status can help in developing the society, the family, the society, the nation as a whole is developed.

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.

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


