Coastal Women Empowerment in Tamil Nadu with special reference to India

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Abstract: The study has been entitled “Coastal Women Empowerment in Tamil Nadu with special reference to India” with selected of four districts of Tamil Nadu. Moreover coastal women were doing fish related business and women activities are related to income generation. To find the women empowerment for their betterment lives. Statistical tools were used to test the data and hypotheses. For the sake of empowerment, they have potentiality regarding their fishing skill and also other related works nearby the coast. Women are empowering through their income generation activities.

Key words: women empowerment, coastal and betterment and potential.

Introduction:

The empowerment of women refers to providing the necessary rights and responsibilities to women in order to make them self-reliant. Traditionally, Indian women have been brought up to become workers or servants to serve the man – dominating the world. Even in mythology, there is no gender equity and women were deprived of their legal rights, to get property, education, privacy, social status; and they were never treated as participants in any developmental works. Empowerment is the process of building capacities of women, creating an atmosphere which will enable people to fully utilize their creative potentials. Empowerment gives women the capacity to influence decision making process planning implementation and evaluation. The status of women empowerment in India using various indicators like women household decision making power financial autonomy freedom of movement political participation acceptance of unequal gender role exposure to media access to education experience of domestic violence etc based on data from different sources gender gap exists regarding access to education and employment households decision –making power and freedom of movement of women vary considerably with their age education and employment status.

Women Empowerment in world – wide :

Women empowerment in world cannot be considered as a uniform issue and treated with stereotyped measures. In different parts of the world the issues are different and therefore the needs are also different. We need to understand that women empowerment is not equivalent to a motorway where administration of stereotyped fast-track programmes will brings quick change. Making some women gain power in the present structures or making a few more to make informed choices in their life is not really changing the situation on the ground. The underlying conditions which affect women in the form of bias and discrimination exist in the social fabric of the society; and therefore addressing the issue in a limited and stereotyped manner is not going to help women empowerment in world. What we need today is sweeping changes in the structures of society which are inherently biased against women.

Women Empowerment in India :

When a woman is empowered, it does not mean another individual becomes powerless or has less power. On the contrary, if a woman is empowered with her competencies towards decision-making, she will surely influence her family’s and neighbour’s behaviour. The presence of this spillover effects will thus create a ‘social multiplier’, where aggregate power will be greater than individual power. The Government of India has declared Empowerment of Women as one of the principal objectives of the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002); and also declared the year (2001) as the year of ‘Women's
Empowerment’. Our Constitution has conferred and guaranteed equality before law, universal adult franchise and equal opportunities for men and women as fundamental rights. The launching of Rashtriya Mahila Kosh, Indira Mahila Yojana and Mahila Samridhi Yojana and the reservation of onethird of the number of seats in Panchayats and the local bodies are programmes launched with a view to improve and empower women socially, economically and in political frontiers.

Need for Women’s Empowerment in India:

In this contemporary world, women need to gain the same amount of power that men enjoy. Now, it is time to forget that men are the only holders of power. In India, women are still facing different obstacles in male-dominated cultures. Which suppress the women’s status and their future. However, I believe that Indian women are slowly getting empowerment in the sectors like education, politics, the work force and even more power within their own households. The worth of civilization can be arbitrated by the place given to women in the society.

Today, women are busy running in the presidential campaign. The work force is covered with intellectual women who currently hold the CEO positions at large companies which were never held by Indian women long ago. In our country, women have reached a long way eventually and have discovered a new path for them to come up. Women have their own rights from among the human rights. The concept of feminism is very vogue. Feminist usually deals out balky attention. Women’s right and changes effort to win equality for women have containing women's suffrage, feminism, women's property rights, equal opportunity in work and education, and equal pay. Now, the future of women is seeking out.

It is said that women are the pillars of the economy of the world. We just need to think that women particularly from India who purchase the precious ornaments like gold, diamond, silver, platinum, etc. They also spend money for cosmetics items which brings livelihood to millions. They have the most imperative role of the family in keeping it together.

Women Empowerment in Tamil Nadu:

The empowerment of women is one of the central issues in the process of development of countries all over the world. Tamil Nadu has a glorious tradition of recognizing the importance of empowering women over several centuries now. The contribution of writers and social reformers have been well documented. These issues of gender equality are discussed in World Conferences, National and International Conferences, etc. The imperative of gender partnership in matters of development has been recognised. In order to give a fillip to empowerment of women, appropriate institutional mechanisms and interventions have been consciously built into the development design. Separate institutions for women and child development departments at the Central and State levels, creation of the National Commission for Women and also State Commission for Women in several States are some of the important developments for the betterment and prosperity of women.

It was recognised that the main obstacles to the women empowerment has been the low level of educational attainments as well as poverty among women. Taking into account this fact, the Government of Tamil Nadu have framed various policies, designed specific interventions and implemented many programmes to eradicate poverty and to provide education to the vulnerable sections of the society.

Coastal Women Marketing:

Coastal women market the fish, and they in the small villages exercise rather more power, and play a more important economic role, than do the women in larger fishing villages visited by fish merchants: the women sell the fish and receive the money; they are therefore in a strong position to decide whether the money is to be saved or spent, and for what. They in fact participate in decision-making on the buying of nets, boats and other fishing equipment as well as on the handling of domestic purchases.

Despite this, women are non-entities when they come to community affairs: they are not eligible for election as village leaders, or as members of the village council, and they are not allowed
to take part in village meetings. Religious and cultural beliefs and customs bear harder on women than on men, another example being the restrictions placed on the mobility and activities of young unmarried women.

Most women have a good deal of leisure time. There is therefore a pool of potentially productive labour that is under-utilized. There is a trend towards nuclear families setting up houses on their own. The young wife is thus no longer under the direct control of her mother-in-law; and she can make her own decisions on domestic matters. However, she has nobody to help her in looking after the children, do the household work and she is thus prevented from taking fish to market. Although she still has spare time, the young mother would be prevented from engaging in many other types of income-earning activities. Consideration should therefore be given to provision of child care centres.

Enabling and empowering of women is not only developmentally important, but also improved livelihoods and skills to engage them and their families, is an important part of reducing poverty and crucial to real development. Promoting women leadership and participation at higher levels are also necessary for improving the economic status of women through self help approaches. Increasing women’s participation in decision-making processes and facilitating the strengthening of social support structures address social issues affecting women and their families.

Review of Literature:

Aryan Gholipour et.al (2010) analyzed that the social norms can directly or indirectly limited women empowerment role of higher education and occupation in psychological empowerment of women in Tehran by the education and occupation were independent variable and empowerment was dependent. He used random sampling through 600 questionnaires were completed by women in Tehran city. To determine validity of scale, we took advantages of construct validity and factor analysis. The reliability index of Cronbach's alpha was 0.8945 and spearman correlation and structural equations model was used for statistical analysis. The author concludes that higher education and organizational occupation determined the level of empowerment for women in Tehran.

Lamshmi Devi (1994) attempts to study the employment and income generation of rural women. Her main objective is to evaluate the potentialities of integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) in terms of generating employment and income for women in rural areas. This study is based on sample survey of 60 women beneficiaries selected from Trichur District in Kerala. According to her study most of the rural women are unaware of any programme like RDP; and she concluded in IRDP is to have its full implication, rural women to become more effective and productive in the total development effort.

Peta Lanzent(1996) states that it is important to understand the term empowerment. The most conspicuous feature of the term empowerment is that it contains within the world power. So obviously, empowerment is about power, and about changing the balance of power. In every society, there are powerful and powerless groups. Power is exercised in social, economic and political relations between individuals and groups.

Susan M., Lee-Rife (2010) analyzed the reproductive experiences and women’s empowerment using rich life history data from a survey in India. Previous research examined the influence of a rather limited range of reproductive events, focusing on how many children or sons a woman had borne, and had only superficially incorporated the insights of life course theory, focused on the cumulative influence of less-studied reproductive events including unwanted or mistimed pregnancy, stillbirths, miscarriages, and abortions don several dimensions of women’s empowerment, including mobility, financial decision-making, experiences of violence, and threats of abandonment or homelessness using data collected from 2435 women in Madhya Pradesh.

India during, 2002 house-hold based probability sample survey. Logistic regression revealed that, notably, few reproductive events had an impact on women’s current empowerment, but rather, the extent of empowerment immediately after marriage portrayed women’s lives more completely and helped to identify key points of intervention emerged as a strong determinant of their current empowerment.
Veeramani (2009) conducted a study on Empowerment that involves both the individual change and collective action. There is a need in the abilities of individuals and groups to identify and meet their own need in each other and to make demand on the state and on society itself for change, with empowerment of women. While studying empowerment it is also essential to locate correctly interpret the impact of development outcomes. Here an attempt has been made to analyse the micro entrepreneurship and empowerment of women. This paper SHGs members in surrounding villages of Cuddalore District of Tamil Nadu and the results also show the positive signs on women empowerment through entrepreneurship.

Objective of the Study
- To find out the women empowerment in the selected area.
- To study the socio – economic conditions of women in the study area.

Hypotheses
- There is no significant difference in women empowerment in the selected area.
- There is no significant difference in socio-economic condition of women in the study area.

Sampling
The sample size

Leedy and Ormrod (2002) provide the following guidelines for the selection of a sample size for any quantitative study:

1) If the population size is less than 100, the entire population should be included.
2) If the population size is around 500, sample should be 50%
3) If the population size is around 1 500, sample should be 20%
4) If it is above a certain population size (approx N > 5000) a sample size of about 400 is adequate. Therefore the researcher selected 400 as the sample size for the present research work.

Sampling Technique
In the present research to select the appropriate sample, simple random sampling technique has been employed.
WOMEN EMPOWERMENT FACTORS BASED ON FAMILY TYPE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FACTORS</th>
<th>FAMILYTYPE</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Std. Deviation</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>Significant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUCATION EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS</td>
<td>JOIN FAMILY</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>23.1525</td>
<td>4.89128</td>
<td>0.311</td>
<td>398</td>
<td>0.75(NS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NUCLEAR FAMILY</td>
<td>341</td>
<td>22.9560</td>
<td>4.40332</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAMILYBUDGETING</td>
<td>JOIN FAMILY</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>17.7966</td>
<td>5.91835</td>
<td>1.628</td>
<td>398</td>
<td>0.104(NS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NUCLEAR FAMILY</td>
<td>341</td>
<td>16.7449</td>
<td>4.31168</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUSINESS SKILLS</td>
<td>JOIN FAMILY</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>28.4237</td>
<td>1.96700</td>
<td>1.466</td>
<td>398</td>
<td>0.143(NS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NUCLEAR FAMILY</td>
<td>341</td>
<td>28.0528</td>
<td>1.76323</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMPOWERMENT POLITICAL AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES</td>
<td>JOIN FAMILY</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>29.7797</td>
<td>1.93041</td>
<td>1.976</td>
<td>398</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NUCLEAR FAMILY</td>
<td>341</td>
<td>29.2874</td>
<td>1.73700</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INCOME GENERATION</td>
<td>JOIN FAMILY</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>16.7627</td>
<td>1.35620</td>
<td>1.978</td>
<td>398</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NUCLEAR FAMILY</td>
<td>341</td>
<td>17.1114</td>
<td>1.23165</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES</td>
<td>JOIN FAMILY</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>11.5593</td>
<td>2.00234</td>
<td>0.163</td>
<td>398</td>
<td>0.87(NS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NUCLEAR FAMILY</td>
<td>341</td>
<td>11.5220</td>
<td>1.54642</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Primary data
*Significant at 0.05 level **Not Significant

Inference:
H₀: There is no difference in the education and empowerment awareness among women based on their family type.

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS:
To study whether there is any difference in the education and employment awareness among women with respect to their family type, t test was used. The result was shown in the table no:4.4. From the table it was found that the mean value for joint family was 23.1525 and that for the nuclear family was 22.9560. So the awareness level was more in the case of joint family. t value was 0.311, at 398 df and significant value was 0.756. Here the significant value was greater than 0.05; and so the null hypothesis was accepted. There is no significant difference in the awareness level based on the family type.

FAMILY BUDGETING:
To study whether there is any difference in the family budgeting among women with respect to their family type, t test was used. The result was shown in the table no: 15. From the table it was found that the mean value for joint family was 17.7966 and that for the nuclear family was 16.7449. So the budgeting level was more in the case of joint family. t value was 1.628, at 398 df and significant value was 0.104. Here the significant value was greater than 0.05 and so the null hypothesis was accepted. There is no significant difference in the budgeting level based on the family type.
BUSINESS SKILLS:

To study whether there is any difference in the business skills among women with respect to their family type, t test was used. The result was shown in the table no: 15. From the table it was found that the mean value for joint family was 28.4237 and for nuclear family it was 28.0528. So the business level was more in the case of joint family. t value was 1.466, at 398 df and significant value was 0.143. Here the significant value was greater than 0.05 and so the null hypothesis was accepted. There is no significant difference in the business level based on the family type.

EMPOWERMENT POLITICAL AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

To study whether there is any difference in the empowerment political and social responsibilities among women with respect to their family type, t test was used. The result was shown in the table no: 15. From the table it was found that the mean value for joint family was 29.7797 and for nuclear family it was 29.2874. So the empowerment level was more in the case of joint family. t value was 1.976, at 398 df and significant value was 0.049. Here the significant value was greater than 0.05 and so the null hypothesis was accepted. There is no significant difference in the empowerment level based on the family type.

INCOME GENERATION:

To study whether there is any difference in the income generation among women with respect to their family type, t test was used. The result was shown in the table no: 15. From the table it was found that the mean value for joint family was 16.7627 and for nuclear family it was 17.1114. So the income generation level was more in the case of nuclear family. t value was -1.978, at 398 df and significant value was 0.049. Here the significant value was greater than 0.05 and so the null hypothesis was accepted. There is no significant difference in the income generation level based on the family type.

HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES:

To study whether there is any difference in the healthcare activities among women with respect to their family type, t test was used. The result was shown in the table no: 15. From the table it was found that the mean value for joint family was 11.5593, and for nuclear family it was 11.5220. So the healthcare activities were more in the case of joint family. t-value was 0.163, at 398 df and significant value was 0.870. Here the significant value was greater than 0.05 and so the null hypothesis was accepted. There is no significant difference in the healthcare activities based on the family type.
Table no: 2
Friedman Test for Income Generation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factors</th>
<th>Mean Rank</th>
<th>Chi-square</th>
<th>Df</th>
<th>Significant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LAND IN YOUR NAME</td>
<td>6.20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEASED IN</td>
<td>6.97</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEASED OUT</td>
<td>6.97</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROPERTY YOUR NAME</td>
<td>6.47</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOUSEHOLD INCOME</td>
<td>2.28</td>
<td>2039.254</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEPOSITED BANK</td>
<td>5.18</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHITFUNDS</td>
<td>6.93</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SILVER AND GOLD</td>
<td>3.11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAVE IN POST OFFICE</td>
<td>6.71</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAVE IN LIC</td>
<td>4.18</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Primary data

*Significant at 0.05 level
**Not Significant

HO: There is no variation in the income generation of Friedman test.

Inference:

From the table 4.13, the mean ranks found to differ significantly at one percent level because the chi-square value was 2039.254 at 9 df and significant value was 0.001. So the mean ranks of income generation factors were found to differ significantly. The highest contributing income generation factor is the savings of household income with the mean value of 2.28. This is followed by silver and gold with the mean value of 3.11. This is followed by save in LIC 4.18. This is followed by deposited in bank 5.18. This is followed by land in name 6.20. This is followed by property in name 6.47. This is followed by savings in post office 6.71. This is followed by chit funds 6.93. This is followed by each leased in and leased out 6.97.

Summary of Findings, Suggestions and Conclusions

This chapter summarizes the major findings of the study, conclusions and also suggestions for further study in the same area. Coastal Women empowerment is very significant and plays a major role for national development in coastal areas.

Findings

- There is no significant difference in the awareness level based on the family type. There is no significant difference in the budgeting level, based on the family type. There is no significant difference in the budgeting level based on the family type. The research proves that there is no significant difference in the empowerment level, based on the family type. There is no significant difference in the income generation level, based on the family type. The research proves that there is no significant difference in the healthcare activities, based on the family type.
- Also it is exhibited from the obtained result that the calculated chi-square value is significant at 0.001 level. So, the null hypothesis is rejected and alternate hypothesis is accepted. Based on the obtained data, out of 100 respondents in each district, in Cuddalore, only 96 of them have house-hold income, 4 of them don’t have house-hold income. Also in Nagai district out of 100, 95 of them have house-hold income; and 5 of them have no house-hold income in Tiruvarur districts, only 85 of them...
have household income; and 15 of them have no household income. In Ramanathapuram, 99 of them have household income and; 1 of them has no household income.

The survey shows that compared to other districts, more number of respondents have savings at LIC in Tiruvarur district.

**Suggestions**

Participation in SHGs has improved the access of women to credit. This has helped the women in reducing their dependence on money lenders. The interest rates in informal credit sector have declined. This has to be confirmed with further evidence as the rate of interest are generally declining over time due to the penetration of formed banking system in the village economics. The access to credit has helped the women to meet their consumption as well as production needs. The women have invested the credit obtained from SHGs in new economic activities and strengthening the old activities. They have contributed to the occupational diversification at the household level. The non-agricultural activities undertaken by the women helped the household to obtain income from low risk activates. Thus the quality of employment indicated by shift from wage to self-employment of women as well as their families is enhanced.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REHABILITATION**

The following programmes could be considered under rehabilitation:

**Fisherwomen**

Several thousand fisherwomen who were on the beach for marketing fish catch were swept away by gain waves. The following relief measures can be undertaken for the women who escaped disaster and lost their properties.

1. **Supply of insulated fish box**
   One insulated fish box of 50 liter capacity costs Rs. 1300 to 1500. It can be used as a mobile mini cold store. One more type of insulated fish box has been designed with transparency top for marketing fish which costs about Rs. 4,000/- This will prevent spoilage of fish and add value to the fish catch.

2. **Training on fish processing for value addition**
   Training centres available in the Fisheries College, Tuticorin and Fisheries Department of govt. of Tamilnadu in Chennai could be utilized for training on value added fish processing. Atleast 100 women can be trained for 5 days in one batch in two centers. 1000 women can be trained in 10 weeks. Training cost per women is estimated Rs.500/day.(Daily allowance, transport, purchase of raw material(fish), teaching material) To train 1000 women for 5 days may cost Rs.25 lakhs. Bank loan is available up to 70,000/- per family of self-help women groups without collateral security.

**Conclusion**

The study has been entitled “Coastal Women Empowerment in Tamil Nadu with special reference to India” with selected four districts. 400 samples were selected randomly. Interview schedule method was used to collect the data. Statistical tools were used to test the data and hypotheses. The result concluded that Women empowerment is better in Cuddalore and Nagapattinam district when compared with Thiruvarur and Ramanathapuram.

In general women in coastal areas of the selected study are financially developing at a moderate speed. For the sake of empowerment, they have potentiality regarding their fishing skill and also other related works nearby the coast and for such reason they need a proper guidance and training, which they expect very rigorously from the government.
Reference:


f) www.google.com