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IMPACT OF MARRIAGE ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT: A STUDY OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS OF UTTAR PRADESH

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Abstract

Women empowerment in a liberal democratic culture is seen as an essential step in the evolutionary political process. Married women are more empowered in comparison to the unmarried women. As in India married women gets an advantageous position over unmarried women. The present paper is an attempt to know about the impact of marriage on women entrepreneurs and to study and reveal the impact of marriage in the success of women entrepreneurs.

Keywords: Women Empowerment, Women Entrepreneurship, Chi Square Test.

Introduction

Although most women in India work and contribute to the economy in one form or another, much of their work is not documented or accounted for in official statistics. Women plow fields and harvest crops while working on farms, women weave and make handicrafts while working in household industries, women sell food and gather wood while working in the informal sector. Additionally, women are traditionally responsible for the daily household chores (e.g., cooking, fetching water, and looking after children).

“It is impossible to think about the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved. It is impossible for a bird to fly on only one wing.”

-Swami Vivekanand

In ancient India the birth of a girl child was hailed as auspicious. The persons were used to say that a home without a daughter is like a body without a soul. A daughter born to the family was compared with the advent of Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth and Saraswati, the goddess of fine arts. Every ceremony had the presence of women and the firm belief that “no home is complete without woman”. In the ancient Indian civilization is known to be an advanced and prosperous among the nations of the world, as the women were given a respectable status and position in the society. They were in the forefront and actively participated in the social and economic life of the country. Then followed the deterioration due to various known causes and consequently the Indian society has been changed to “male dominated” one. This patriarchal pattern had always denied women the warm rays of autonomy and freedom. The indeclinable gender bias disfigured the very face of humanity. This discrimination originates well before the birth of a girl and is sustained right through her womanhood.

Literally empowerment denotes to “to invest with power”. Power is defined as the ability to influence the behavior of others with or without restraint. The extent to which a person or group holds such power is related to the social influence they can wield. It is also control over resources broadly categorized as intellectual and physical. Empowerment endows women with the ability to gain control over resources, develop physical and psychological capacity to challenge the prevailing gender norms and ensure change. It is dynamic and relational which is exercised in social, economic and political relations between individuals and groups but unevenly distributed according to their access and control over resources. It varies in social divisions basing on class, ethnicity, caste, gender, economic resources etc. Lipps defines power as “influence and control” which explain the absolute and unchangeable characteristics. But Weber’s definition of power as the ability to “make others do irrespective of their own wishes and interests” implies the rational aspect of power as it is not inherent but exists in relationships. It can therefore be inferred that “power is created in relationships and hence power relationships are concomitant on changes in power possessors”. Feminist scholars like Miller, Starhawk, Bookman and Morgan have emphasized relational power and empowerment of women refers to this broader perspective.

For the purpose of this paper empowerment of women had been defined as an equal access to knowledge and resources, equal opportunity in decision making, awareness about rights and responsibilities, acquiring self-reliance and self-confidence, equal legislative powers and so on and the term women entrepreneurs had been defined as the women or a group of women who initiate, organize and operate a business enterprise. Women are expected to innovate, imitate or adopt an economic activity to be called women entrepreneurs.



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Married women are considered more empowered in comparison to the unmarried women. As in India married women gets an advantageous position over unmarried women.

The primary objective of the study is to know about the impact of marriage on women entrepreneurs and to study and reveal the impact of marriage in the success of women entrepreneurs.

Materials and methods

The study had been conducted on the basis of Primary data. The primary data in the form of questionnaires had been used. Detailed questionnaire containing 32 questions is framed. A pilot survey is conducted before the final study. The main objective which is accomplished by the questionnaire are family member reaction on various task completed by women, participation of woman in decisions relating to family expenditure, woman's knowledge about dowry prohibition act, domestic violence act and family planning. Last but not the least their contribution in family decisions and whether they cast their vote or not.

Hypothesis

The problems related to woman entrepreneurs are several. On the basis of objectives mention above following hypotheses are drawn and tested.

- H₁: Married women entrepreneurs are neglected by their family members.
- H₂: Married women entrepreneurs don't take active part in the decisions relating to expenditure.
- H₃: Married women entrepreneurs had no idea relating of dowry probation act
- H₄: Married women entrepreneurs had no knowledge of domestic violence act.
- H₅: Married women entrepreneurs have no knowledge about family planning
- H₆: Married women entrepreneurs have no contribution if family decisions.
- H₇: Married women entrepreneurs don't cast their vote.

Area of study

The sample selected was 51 women entrepreneurs working within the boundaries of Uttar Pradesh, on the basis of the random sampling.

Results

All seven hypotheses had been tested on the basis of chi-square test. Chi square is a measure for comparing variance in sampling studies. The chi square value is used to judge the significance of population variance. It measures actual difference between the expected and observed frequencies and as such if there is no difference between actual and observed frequencies. The value of chi-square is (o) zero. If there is a difference between the observed and the expected frequencies then the value of chi-square under different conditions are usually available in the table form and if the actual value is more than the tabular value it clearly shows that the difference between expected and observed frequencies is not solely due to sampling fluctuations and that there are some other reasons for it. the chi-square that can be judge if a random sample has been drawn from a normal population with (μ) and the specified (σ^2) the test is based on x- distribution. The formula used for the chi - square test is

$$X^2 = \sum \left[\frac{(O - E)^2}{E} \right]$$

- H₀: Married women entrepreneurs are not neglected by their family members.
- H₁: Married women entrepreneurs are neglected by their family members.

The critical value of $X^2 = 3.841$ at $\alpha = 0.05$ and Degree of Freedom = 1. Since calculated value of $X^2 = 2.027$ (exhibit 1) which is less than the critical value hence, the null hypothesis is accepted. Thus, concluding that married women entrepreneurs are not neglected by their family members.

- H₀: Married women entrepreneurs take active part in the decisions relating to expenditure.
- H₂: Married women entrepreneurs don't take active part in the decisions relating to expenditure.



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The critical value of $X^2 = 3.841$ at $\alpha = 0.05$ and Degree of Freedom = 1. Since calculated value of $X^2 = 0.396$ (exhibit 2) which is less than the critical value hence, the null hypothesis is accepted. Thus, concluding that married women entrepreneurs take active part in the decisions relating to expenditure.

H₀: Married women entrepreneurs had idea relating of dowry probation act.

H₃: Married women entrepreneurs had no idea relating of dowry probation act.

The critical value of $X^2 = 3.841$ at $\alpha = 0.05$ and Degree of Freedom = 1. Since calculated value of $X^2 = 1.730$ (exhibit 3) which is less than the critical value hence, the null hypothesis is accepted. Thus, concluding that married women entrepreneurs had idea relating of dowry probation act.

H₀: Married women entrepreneurs had knowledge of domestic violence act.

H₄: Married women entrepreneurs had no knowledge of domestic violence act.

The critical value of $X^2 = 3.841$ at $\alpha = 0.05$ and Degree of Freedom = 1. Since calculated value of $X^2 = 3.954$ (exhibit 4) which is more than the critical value hence, the null hypothesis is rejected. Thus, concluding that married women entrepreneurs had no knowledge of domestic violence act.

H₀: Married women entrepreneurs have knowledge about family planning

H₅: Married women entrepreneurs have no knowledge about family planning

The critical value of $X^2 = 3.841$ at $\alpha = 0.05$ and Degree of Freedom = 1. Since calculated value of $X^2 = 0.425$ (exhibit 5) which is less than the critical value hence, the null hypothesis is accepted. Thus, concluding that married women entrepreneurs have knowledge about family planning

H₀: Married women entrepreneurs have contribution if family decisions.

H₆: Married women entrepreneurs have no contribution if family decisions.

The critical value of $X^2 = 3.841$ at $\alpha = 0.05$ and Degree of Freedom = 1. Since calculated value of $X^2 = 4.979$ (exhibit 6) which is more than the critical value hence, the null hypothesis is rejected. Thus, concluding that married women entrepreneurs have no contribution if family decisions.

H₀: Married women entrepreneurs cast their vote

H₇: Married women entrepreneurs don't cast their vote

The critical value of $X^2 = 3.841$ at $\alpha = 0.05$ and Degree of Freedom = 1. Since calculated value of $X^2 = 4.204$ (exhibit 7) which is more than the critical value hence, the null hypothesis is rejected. Thus, concluding that married women entrepreneurs don't cast their vote.

Discussions

India is a country where women are still fighting for their place. A lot is being done by the government; NGO & various private societies but still a lot is need to be done in this area. To make women self dependent proper laws are to be made and enforced. Acts like dowry prohibition and domestic violence and not properly implemented. It is also observed these laws are available for influential class, while the poor are harassed by the government employees (police, court, advocates etc.) so that they cannot register their complaints. In some cases, it is observed that it's too late as the victim woman had taken the adverse decision like suicide. Education is another important issue which should be taken as priority. Equal access to education for women and girls should be ensured. All forms of violence against women, physical and mental, whether at domestic or societal levels, including those arising from customs, traditions or accepted practices should be dealt with effectively with a view to eliminate its incidence. Institutions and mechanisms/schemes for assistance should be created and strengthened for prevention of such violence, including sexual harassment at work place and customs like dowry; for the rehabilitation of the victims of violence and for taking effective action against the perpetrators of such violence. A special emphasis should also be laid on programmes and measures to deal with trafficking of women and girls. Empowering woman by improving their financial condition is an important measure to tackle the problem. This can successfully do by motivating woman in becoming entrepreneurs.



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The last but not the least factor is casting of votes, this also is equally important as this will help them to select their representative who raises their voice on a bigger platform. In Uttar Pradesh till early 80’s woman is discouraged from casting their vote. But the present position has improved now women takes part in the election. This has changed the political scenario and the policy makers are considering their views while framing the policy of the state.

On the basis of the study following conclusions are drawn. In state like Uttar Pradesh in India, where a woman heads the state, it’s alarming to witness the current position of women entrepreneurs. On the basis of the analysis following conclusions are drawn.

- Married women entrepreneurs are not neglected by their family members.
- Married women entrepreneurs take active part in the decisions relating to expenditure.
- Married women entrepreneurs had idea relating of dowry prohibition act.
- Married women entrepreneurs had no knowledge of domestic violence act.
- Married women entrepreneurs have knowledge about family planning
- Married women entrepreneurs have no contribution if family decisions.
- Married women entrepreneurs don’t cast their vote.

Appendix

Exhibit 1 Family member reaction

	Married women entrepreneurs	Unmarried women entrepreneurs	Total
Support	33	12	45
Neglect	03	03	06
Total	36	15	51

The Chi-Square test

O	E	O-E	(O-E) ²	(O-E) ² /E
33	31.76	+1.24	1.54	0.048
12	13.24	-1.24	1.54	0.116
03	4.24	-1.24	1.54	0.363
03	6.00	-3.00	9	1.500
			TOTAL	2.027

O-Observed frequencies, E- Expected frequencies

Degrees of freedom= (r-1) (c-1) = (2-1) (2-1) =1

Exhibit 2 Participation in decisions relating to family expenditure

	Married women entrepreneurs	Unmarried women entrepreneurs	Total
Yes	35	15	50
No	01	00	01
Total	36	15	51

The Chi-Square test

O	E	O-E	(O-E) ²	(O-E) ² /E
35	35.29	-0.29	0.08	0.002
15	14.71	+0.29	0.08	0.005
01	0.71	+0.29	0.08	0.113
00	0.29	-0.29	0.08	1.276
			TOTAL	0.396

Exhibit 3 Knowledge about dowry prohibition act

	Married women entrepreneurs	Unmarried women entrepreneurs	Total
Yes	30	10	40
No	06	05	11
Total	36	15	51



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The Chi-Square test

O	E	O-E	(O-E) ²	(O-E) ² /E
30	28.24	+1.76	3.10	0.110
10	11.76	-1.76	3.10	0.264
06	7.76	-1.76	3.10	0.399
05	3.24	+1.76	3.10	0.957
			TOTAL	1.730

Exhibit 4 Knowledge about domestic violence act

	Married women entrepreneurs	Unmarried women entrepreneurs	Total
Yes	24	14	38
No	12	01	13
Total	36	15	51

The Chi-Square test

O	E	O-E	(O-E) ²	(O-E) ² /E
24	26.82	-2.82	7.95	0.296
14	11.18	+2.82	7.95	0.711
12	9.18	+2.82	7.95	0.866
01	3.82	-2.82	7.95	2.081
			TOTAL	3.954

Exhibit 5 Knowledge about family planning

	Married women entrepreneurs	Unmarried women entrepreneurs	Total
Yes	35	14	49
No	01	01	02
Total	36	15	51

The Chi-Square test

O	E	O-E	(O-E) ²	(O-E) ² /E
35	34.54	+0.41	0.17	0.004
14	14.41	-0.41	0.17	0.012
01	1.41	-0.41	0.17	0.121
01	0.59	+0.41	0.17	0.288
			TOTAL	0.425

Exhibit 6 Contribution in family decisions

	Married women entrepreneurs	Unmarried women entrepreneurs	Total
Yes	36	13	49
No	00	02	02
Total	36	15	51



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The Chi-Square test

O	E	O-E	(O-E) ²	(O-E) ² /E
36	34.59	+1.41	1.99	0.057
13	14.41	-1.41	1.99	0.138
00	1.41	-1.41	1.99	1.411
02	0.59	+1.41	1.99	3.373
			TOTAL	4.979

Exhibit 7 Vote casting

	Married women entrepreneurs	Unmarried women entrepreneurs	Total
Yes	27	08	35
No	09	07	16
Total	36	15	51

The Chi-Square test

O	E	O-E	(O-E) ²	(O-E) ² /E
27	24.71	+2.29	5.24	0.212
08	10.29	-2.29	5.24	0.509
09	11.29	-2.29	5.24	0.464
07	4.71	+2.29	5.24	1.113
			TOTAL	4.204

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