

A Distant Dream: Coastal Women Empowerment at Dhanuskodi

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Abstract

Ambedkar once said: “When a man educates, his family develop. When a woman educates the nation develops”. There is no women empowerment. It’s a distant dream for coastal women empowering. It seems that, decision making ability for their household activities is in good destination. Even though, they can’t overcome their financial improvement. Fisherwomen children’s education and healthcare activities are not happily functioning. State and Central government scheme are not enough supporting to maintain their livelihood. Those who settled in the seashore of Dhanuskodi they don’t have power in their house.

Key words: Decision making, destination, financial and women.

1. Introduction

In 1964, cyclone affected Dhanuskodi in India, state of Tamil Nadu, district of Ramanathapuram. Fisherman and fisherwomen lost their household things and lost their blood relations and their own family also. Nowadays, still they are living in these cyclone affected area of Dhanuskodi. They built temporary kutcha house and settled their livelihood in the coastal area. Women empowerment is a distant dream for Dhanuskodi fisherwomen. NGO’s are also stopped their service and SHG’s are also abstract in that area. Dhanuskodi women are good decision makers and confident persons but government welfare is not sufficient.

1.1 Women Empowerment

The global conference on women empowerment in 1988, pointed out that empowerment is the only and surest way of partnering women in development (Khan, 2006). The WHO and the UN have repeatedly emphasized on the need to strengthen women at grassroots, in order to ensure the nations’ development. Considering the fact that women are by nature power-shy as well as powerless, empowerment is necessary to make the women equal partners at all levels of development. Though one can see various reform movements and empowerment strategies developed for the early history of India, the latter was taken up very seriously only during the last decade. Earlier, women’s empowerment centered on ‘empowered’ women, where as today it is realized that empowerment of women should start at the grass root level.

1.2 Occupation

Coastal women doing multi- task work in the coastal area of dhanuskodi;

- Stitching fishing net
- Carrying fish in their head 3 kms from seashore to transport, more than five times.
- Cooking in house.

1.3 Kutcha house

Fisherwomen living in the kutcha temporary house, every year they have to re-construct the kutcha house for spending Rs. 5000 to Rs. 10000. Their saving habit is very low. Financial they are week.

1.4 Background of the study

Empowerment is a multi-dimensional process, which enables the individuals to realise their full identity and powers in all the spheres of life. According to dhanuskodi coastal women are not having sufficient education and there is no way to generating income it’s a dream to overcome their financial needs to empower them. Providing them education and creating income generation activities is the

fundamental way to empower women and belief in the coastal area. Without such virtues being developed among women, empowerment has no meaning.

2. Review of Literature

Meral Uzunoğlu et al., (2012) analysis that, the social-economic and demographic structure were interested in, whether wife's do home based work that makes a contribution to their family's income. Who contribute to the family income is usually younger than 35 years old and their husbands are primary school level and their incomes are very low. Also, the income contributions of wife are having children less than 6 years of age are weak. Wife's who have graduated from vocational schools or universities do not make any effort to contribute to the family income. It was thought that the circumstances that ensure the protection of the family such as a wife's contribution to household income and an increase in wife's participation in working life will ensure more opportunities for work and equity in the home for wife's.

Sonny Jose and Lekshmi V. Nair (2011) asserted that, the SHG movement worldwide aimed at systematically empowering marginalized grass root level women, by way of conscientization, income generation and capacity building. The recent article examines vying evidence as to whether the SHG movement really did enhanced development among the coastal women. Coastal women ability to articulate and gain a higher status in the family as well as in their locality village. On the other hand, consumption of loans by the poor members did not substantially contribute to improve their productive capacities; neither did micro-credit attract the poorest and the needy. With respect to the impact of SHGs on women's status and well-being is mixed.

Wolaitta Soddo (2008). The overall objective of this project is to improve the educational status of poor girls to meet the millennium development goals. The specific objectives of the project are to initiate the community to advocate for support and education of poor girls, to change the life condition of poor girls through education and to empower the households of poor girls economically. Major activities to be carried out are selecting poor girls, support to poor them, conducting community meeting, conducting student meeting, empowering the families of poor girls economically, formation and strengthening of girls club and employment of coordinator. The expected outputs are 500 girls supported in education and their families supported economically.

3. Scope for the study

The present research paper made an attempt to know the empowerment of women in the dhanuskodi coastal areas, some of the coastal areas are affected by Cyclone, tsunami and after that, the whole population were also affected. Their economic status was also affected. But specially, women groups affected more. So in order to know the education and income generation activities of coastal women empowerment, the present study is needed.

3.1 Statement of the Problem

It refers that, fisherwomen managing daily financial activities are unhappy. Meantime natural disaster create problem for food. Fisherwomen children's education and income generation activities are not happily functioning. State and Central government schemes are not enough supporting to maintain their livelihood. Hence, for the study of coastal women empowerment at dhanuskodi areas coastal women education and money making skills will be investigated.

3.2 Objective of the study

An overall objective of the project is to investigate the educational status and analyze the income generation activities of the coastal women.

3.3 Hypothesis

HO: There is a no significant relationship between educational status and income generation activities of the coastal women. So, null hypothesis is accepted and alternative hypothesis is rejected.

3.4 Methodology

In this present study was utilizing, both the primary and secondary sources are related to the specific objectives of the paper "A distant dream: coastal women empowerment at dhanuskodi".

3.5 Sampling Technique

The research survey was taken in dhanuskodi Coastal areas of Tamil Nadu. 100 samples were taken. Therefore in the present research, simple random sampling is used.

3.6 Data Collection Tools

Questionnaires were selected as the tool for data collection. Questionnaires can be administered by self-administration personal (Ghauri & Gronhaug 2005). This study has employed all these methods either individually or in combination with others because of the condition under which the studies were conducted.

3.7 Questionnaire Details

Well structured questionnaire was used. Here the questionnaire consists of 20 questions were included. Questionnaire consists of education and income generation activities detail.

4. Analysis & Interpretation

4.1 Showing distribution of respondents according to demographic variables

Demographic Characteristic	Attributes	Frequency	Percentage
Religion	Hindu	73	73
	Christian	13	13
	Muslim	14	14
	Total	100	100
Marital Status	Unmarried	0	0
	Married	86	86
	Divorce	11	11
	Widow	3	3
	Total	100	100
Education Status	Illiterate	69	69
	Primary	15	15
	Higher secondary	11	11
	College	5	5
	University	0	0
	Total	100	100
Family Type	Joint family	26	26
	Nuclear family	74	74
	Total	100	100
Type of House	Hut	79	79
	Kutch	11	11
	Mud	2	2
	Semi Pucca	2	2
	Government	0	0
	Others	6	6
	Total	100	100

Source: (Primary Data)

Interpretation

The Table 4.1 exhibits that religion wise distribution of the sample. It could be noted that the Hindu (73%), Christian (13%) and Muslim (14%).

So it is concluded from the above discussion that majority of the respondents are from Hindu religion.

4.2 Showing coastal women factors based on family type

Factors	Family type	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t	df	Significant
Income Generation	Joint family	59	16.7627	1.35620	1.978	98	0.05
	Nuclear family	41	17.1114	1.23165			
Education	Joint family	59	23.1525	4.89128	0.311	98	0.75(NS)
	Nuclear family	41	22.9560	4.40332			

Source: Primary Data

Interpretation

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: 4.2. 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 98 df and significant value is 0.05. 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.

Education

To study whether there is any difference in the education and empowerment awareness among women with respect to their family type, t test was used. The result was shown in the table no: 4.2. 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 98 df and significant value was 0.75. 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.

Table no: 4.3 showing religion with dependent factors using Anova

Factors		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Income Generation	Between Groups	35.047	2	17.524	11.722	0.001
	Within Groups	593.513	97	1.495		
	Total	628.560	99			

Source: (Primary data)

Ho: There is no variation in the religion with dependent factors of income generation among dhanuskodi coastal women.

Interpretation:

Income Generation

To test whether there is any difference in the income generation based on the respondents' religion, one-way ANOVA test was used. From the result shown in table 4.3, the F-value was 11.722 and significant value was 0.001 . From the result, it was found that the null hypothesis is rejected, because the significant value was 0.001. So, it is concluded that there is variation in the income generation based on the religion of the respondents.

Table no: 4.4 Showing Friedman test for Income Generation

Factors	Mean Rank	Chi-square	df	Significant
Land in Your Name	6.20	2039.254	9	0.001
Lease in	6.97			
Lease out	6.97			
Property in Your Name	6.47			
Household Income	2.28			
Deposited Money in Bank	5.18			
Chit Funds	6.93			
Silver and Gold	3.11			
Saving in Post Office	6.71			
Saving in LIC	4.18			

Source: (Primary data)

Ho: There is no variation in the income generation.

Interpretation:

From the table 4.15, 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 LIC savings, 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.

Suggestions

Government can start children's park in this area. Museum can be started in the whole area depicting the past glory of Dhanuskodi. Handicrafts shells and others natural objects from sea and shore can be sold in separate stalls were want for the public to purchase. This helps working activities in the area.

Conclusion

In 2017 Dhanuskodi fisherwomen decision making are tremendous, but Government, Ngo s, and SHGs need to support to reduce fisherwomen poverty. Dhanuskodi fisherwomen are marginalized people. Central and State government need to implement effective programme to supporting financially otherwise, fisherwomen future will be? There is no women empowerment. It's a distant dream.

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