

A Study on Women Empowerment in Madurai District of Tamil Nadu

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Abstract

This study was focus on women empowerment in Madurai district of Tamil Nadu. Entrepreneurship is an important aspect in our country's progress. Women entrepreneurs, as well as men entrepreneurs, will contribute to the development of a nation. If just men developed this country, it would result in monolateral growth, whereas we need bilateral development, which includes women's empowerment. Swami Vivekananda said, "Just as a bird cannot fly with only one wing, a nation cannot advance if the women are left behind." If women want to be empowered, they need either seek profitable careers or start their own businesses; otherwise, they will be unable to stand on their own two feet. It is not easy to find a prosperous job. As a result, entrepreneurship is the better alternative for women empower herself.

Key Words: Women, Empowerment, Entrepreneur, Income, Expenditure. **Introduction**

"Empowerment" is a buzzword used by journalists, social activists, academics, politicians, and people from all walks of life in India today. It essentially expresses people's desire to have more control over their lives who feel helpless. In practice, this necessitates the decentralization of power and authority. In short, it seeks to include disadvantaged groups, especially women, in decision-making processes. Women, notably in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, see empowerment for women as a tool to attain a different future society. This viewpoint is best stated by Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era, which was founded in 1985 as a result of the collaborative efforts of individual women and women's groups from throughout the world.

The barter economy that existed in Tamil Nadu during the Sangam period was centred to some part on the various occupations of women. They were everywhere and everything. Because women were restricted to housework, it is important to consider the economic ramifications for women throughout that time period. It is supported by references such as Paruthi Pendir. The widows who live a quiet and isolated life prefer this employment since it is conducive to producing several sorts of thread. Purananuru and Manimegalai discuss Kaimai pendir and ail pendir, both of whom were involved in spinning operations. Such performances continued unabated until the Vijyanagar period in Tamil Country, which lasted from 1336 A.D. to 1565 A.D. A detailed depiction of the involvement of even women in salt manufacture, along with their family heads, may be found. The umathiyar sold salt as hawkers and peddlers, exchanging salt for rice. Women were also engaged in the production of toddy. They collaborated on the production of toddy and liquor. Women toddy vendors had a new position in the economy by selling even intoxicating spirits. The ladies of the coastal region were known as Paradhavar, Valaignar, or Minavar and helped to promote fishing. For example, in the task of processing fish, fisherwomen known as panimakal sold fish on the streets.

Earlier Studies

Kunhi Sikha Bhuyan (2020) indicate that empowerment for women means equipping them to be self-reliant, confident, and economically independent with positive self-esteem and the ability to take decisions to participate in the developmental process and social change. According to the Asian and Pacific Center for Women and Development, empowerment is a process that aims to create the conditions for the self-determination of a particular person or group. Gender inequality is widespread not only in our society but also throughout the world. Education is a fundamental right for all people, women and men alike, throughout the world. Every person benefits from educational opportunities that are designed to meet their needs in life. To empower women, education can play a very important role. Education is empowerment. India still has one of the lowest female literacy rates; a low level of literacy has a negative impact on women's lives and also on their families and the economic and social development of our country. Here we are discussing women's empowerment through education, the problems, the historical background of women's education, constitutional provision, and also forwarding some suggestions. I hope that our paper will help us understand women's educational scenario and the importance of education in their development and empowerment.

Senthilkumar et al., (2020) had examined the empowerment of women has been apparent as a focal issue in deciding their status in recent years. The target of the examination are to replicate the social effect of women self help group, to look into the adjustments in the social clause SHGs, to gauge the effect of the SHGs on the social state of the individuals, and to dissect the demeanor of the individuals from the SHGs towards social effect. The investigation is distinct nature. Just essential information has been made utilized off with the end goal of examination. Essential information has been gathered through a field overview. The example size of the examination is 300 respondents. The specialist has utilized stratified random testing. The survey has used to gather the information from respondents. The study area is Villupuram District. The collected data has been analyzed using discriminate analysis. The study would be immensely useful to researchers; planners and policy makers in overcome the problems of women and in formulating strategies for the social progress and empowerment women through SHGs in Tamil Nadu in general and predominantly in Villupuram District.

Objectives of the Study

The following are the main objectives:

- 1. To critically analyse the women empowerment through the activities of Self-Help Groups in Madurai.
- 2. To analyse the suitable policy recommendations.

Methodology

The descriptive, analytical and interpretative historical methodology is attempted based on primary sources. The author has adopted the personal Interview method for collection of primary data. There were nearly 3000 women entrepreneurs in Madurai district. It was decided to study 100 samples i.e., 5 per cent of the total women entrepreneurs. The author has used the simple percentage analysis to investigate and interpret the processed data. Statistical package for social sciences was used for analytical purpose of the study to find out the differentials in the socio-economic conditions of the women entrepreneur, activities of the entrepreneurs, empowerment of women entrepreneurs etc.

Analysis and Interpretation of Data

Educational Status of Women Empowerment

It shows the of the women empowerment education level in the following Table 1.

Table 1: Educational Status of the Women Empowerments

Sl. No	Educational Status	No. Respondents	Percentage
1	Completed Hr. Sec course	34	34.0
2	Completed UG course	38	38.0
3	Completed PG course	10	10.0
4	Professional course	18	18.0
	Total	100	100.0

Source: Primary Data

Table 1 explains that 38 per cent of respondent's Educational Qualification is undergraduate level, 34 per cent of the respondents studied up to Hr. Sec. level, 18 per cent the respondents have completed Professional courses and remaining 10 per cent of respondents studied Postgraduate level.

Religion wise Classification of Women Empowerment

The religion wise classification of the sample women empowerment presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Religion wise Classification of Women Empowerment

Sl. No	Community	No. of Respondents	Percentage

1	Hindu	79	79.0
2	Christian	13	13.0
3	Muslim	08	08.0
	Total	100	100.0

Table 2 shows that majority 79 per cent respondents are Hindus, 13 per cent are Christians and 08 per cent are Muslim in the study area.

Community of Women Empowerment

Shows Table 3, the community of the sample women empowerment in the study area.

Table 3: Community of the Women Empowerment

Sl. No	Community	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	BC	28	28.0
2	MBC	56	56.0
3	SC/ST	16	16.0
	Total	100	100.0

Source: Primary Data

Table 3 visualize that out of 100 sample respondents in the study area, 56 per cent of the sample respondents are Most Backward classes, 28 per cent of the sample respondents are Backward Classes, 16 per cent of the sample respondents are Scheduled caste and Scheduled Tribes.

Type of Family of the Women Empowerment

The type of the family of the sample women empowerment are presented in the following Table

Table 4: Type of Family of the Women Empowerment

Sl. No	Type of Family	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Join family	8	8.0
2	Nuclear family	92	92.0
	Total	100	100.0

Source: Primary Data

Table 4 depicts that majority 92 per cent resp<mark>ondents</mark> belong to Nuclear family and remaining 8 per cent of respondents are in joint family.

Family Size of the Women Empowerment

The following table 5 shows the size of families of sample respondents in the study area.

Table 5: Family Size of the Women Empowerment

Sl. No	Size of the family	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	1	10	10.0
2	2	49	49.0
3	3	25	25.0
4	4	7	7.0
5	5	9	9.0
	Total	100	100.0

Source: Primary Data

Table 5 portrays that 59 per cent of the respondents having belongs to the national average of two, 25 per cent of the sample respondents having three of the respondents, 10 per cent of the sample respondents having one, 9 per cent of the sample respondents having five remaining 7 per cent of the sample respondents are four of family size of women empowerment.

Marital Status of Women Empowerment

The following Table 6 reveals the marital status of the sample women empowerment.

Table 6: Marital Status of the Women Empowerment

Sl. No	Marital status	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Married	69	69.0

2	Unmarried	08	08.0
3	Widow	11	11.0
4	Separate	12	12.0
	Total	100	100.0

Table 6 reveals that majority 69 per cent of the respondents are Married, 12 per cent of the respondents are separate, 11 per cent of the respondents are widow and 08 per cent of the respondents are unmarried in the sample women empowerment.

Primary Occupation of Women Empowerment

Table 7 illustrates the primary occupation of the sample women empowerment.

Table 7: Primary Occupation of the Women Empowerment

Sl. No	Primary occupation	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Agriculture	30	30.0
2	Government employee	9	9.0
3	Private employee	8	8.0
4	Self employed	53	53.0
	Total	100	100.0

Source: Primary Data

Table 7 illustrates that majority 53 per cent respondents are self-employed 30 per cent of respondents are agriculture, 9 per cent respondents are government employee and remaining 8 per cent respondents are the engaged in private employed in the study area.

Annual Family Income

8.

The distribution and analysis of the annual family income of respondents is given in the following Table

Table 8: Annual Family Income

Sl. No	Annual Family income	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Below 1,00,00	19	19.0
2	1,00,000-2,00,000	69	69.0
3	2,00,000-3,00,000	4	4.0
4	Above 3,00,000	8	8.0
	Total	100	100.0

Source: Primary Data

Table 8 bring out that 19 percent of the respondents having a annual family income below Rs. 1,00,000, 69 per cent have an annual income between Rs. 1,00,000 and 2,00,000, 4 per cent have an annual income between Rs. 2,00,000 and Rs. 3,00,000 and 8 per cent have an annual family income of more than Rs. 3,00,000.

Annual Family Expenditure

Table 9 demonstrates the annual family expenditure of the respondents in the study area.

Table 9: Annual Family Expenditure

Sl. No	Annual Fa <mark>mil</mark> y expenditure	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Below 1,00,000	47	47.0
2	1,0 <mark>0,000-1,50</mark> ,00	21	21.0
3	1,50,000- 2,00,00	20	20.0
4	Above 2,00,000	12	12.0
	Total	100	100.0

Source: Primary Data

Table 9 demonstrates that the 47 per cent of the respondents family have an annual expenditure below Rs.1,00,000, 21 per cent have an annual expenditure between Rs.1,00,000 and 2,00,000 and 20 per cent have an annual expenditure between Rs.1,50,000 and 2,00,000 and 12 per cent have an annual expenditure more than Rs.2,00,000.

Annual Savings

Thus the annual savings of the respondents were considered necessary and formulated in the following Table 10.

Table 10: Annual Savings

Sl. No	Annual savings	No. of Respondents	Percentage	
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1	No savings	38	38.0
2	Banks	35	35.0
3	Chits	2	2.0
4	Post office	25	25.0
	Total	100	100.0

Table 10 describes that 35 per cent of entrepreneurs have savings in banks, 2 per cent of them are having chits, 25 per cent of them are saving in post offices and 38 per cent of them having no savings.

Registration of Units

The author has collected data relating to the registration of the enterprise in the following Table 11.

Table 11: Registration of Units

Sl. No	Nature of Registration	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Registered	28	28.0
2	Unregistered	72	72.0
	Total	100	100.0

Source: Primary Data

Table 11 exhibits that majority of the enterprise 72 per cent are unregistered and the remaining 28 per cent of enterprise are registered.

Nature of Business

The following table 12 shows that number of business of the women entrepreneur in the study area.

Table 12: Nature of Business

Sl. No.	Nature of Business	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Tailoring	19	19.0
2	Agriculture	37	37.0
3	Muffler	8	8.0
4	Candle	10	10.0
5	Wire Kudai	14	14.0
6	Flower Making	8	8.0
	Total	100	100.0

Source: Primary Data

The table 12 shows that 19 per cent of the sample women entrepreneur are having tailoring, 37 per cent of the respondents running the agriculture, 8 per cent of the sample women entrepreneur running muffler, 10 per cent of the sample women entrepreneur are running candle, 14 per cent of the women entrepreneur running wire kudai and 8 per cent of the sample women entrepreneurs having flower making.

Reason for Selecting the Present Business

The given table 13 may briefly state the reason for selecting the present business.

Table 13: Reason for Selecting the Present Business

Sl. No.	Nature of Business	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Easy to setup	29	29.0
2	Low initial capital	16	16.0
3	High profit	6	6.0
4	Previous experience	9	9.0
5	Low competition	2	2.0
6	Family business	38	38.0
	Total	100	100.0

Source: Primary Data

Table 13 shows that the majority of the respondents 38 per cent selected the business due to family business, 29 per cent of the sample women entrepreneur selected the business due to easy to setup, 16 per cent of the sample women entrepreneur selected the present business due to low initial capital, 6 per cent of the sample women entrepreneurs selected due to high profit, 9 per cent of the sample women entrepreneur selected due to previous experience, 2 per cent of the sample women entrepreneurs selected the present business due to low competition started the business.

Methods of Marketing

The table shows different methods adopted for marketing at present under the study in Table 14.

Table 14: Methods of Marketing

Sl. No	Marketing	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Direct	59	59.0
2	Indirect	41	41.0
	Total	100	100.0

Table 14 shows that 59 per cent of sample respondent's method of marketing of their products is direct and remaining 41 per cent of the sample respondent's method is indirect.

Sources of Finance

The following table 15 shows that sources of finance of the women entrepreneurs in the study area.

Table 15: Source of Finance

Sl. No	Source of Finance	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Own fund	54	54.0
2	DIC	26	26.0
3	Loan from commercial banks	6	6.0
4	Friends and relatives	14	14.0
	Total	100	100.0

Source: Primary Data

Table 15 indicates that 54 per cent of the respondents having owned fund, 26 per cent of the respondents got loan from DIC, 6 per cent of sample women entrepreneur got loan from commercial banks and remaining 14 per cent of the sample women entrepreneur got finance their friends and relatives.

Important Constraints of the Respondents

The following table 16 shows of the sample women entrepreneurs in the study area.

Table 16: Constraints of the Women Entrepreneur

Sl. No	Constraints	Yes	No	Total
1	Lack of encouragement recognition and appreciation from		82	100
1	family	(18.0)	(82.0)	(100.0)
2	Lack of proper training and experience		66	100
2			(66.0)	(100.0)
3 Excessive personal and political influence		39	61	100
3	Excessive personal and political influence		(61.0)	(100.0)

Source: Primary Data

Table 16 reveals that 18 per cent of the sample women entrepreneurs having the problem of lack of encouragement, recognition and appreciation from family, 34 per cent of the sample women entrepreneurs having the problem of proper training and experience, 39 per cent of the sample women entrepreneurs having the problem of excessive personal and political influence in their constraints of the women entrepreneurs.

Women Empowerment in Personal Level

The personal level of empowerment is presented in the Table 17.

Table 17: Personal Level Indicators

	Personal Level	No. of respon	dents		
Sl. No	Indicators Level	Increased	Somewhat Increased	Not Increased	Total
1	Health and Sanitation	38	54	8	100
1	Health and Samtation	(38.0)	(54.0)	(8.0)	(100.0)
2 Career	Career Choice	48	32	20	100
	Career Choice	(48.0)	(32.0)	(20.0)	(100.0)

Source: Primary Data

Regarding the personal level empowerment of respondent's 38 per cent of the sample women respondents in health and sanitation has increased due to involving in the entrepreneurial activities, 54 per cent of the sample women respondents health and sanitation level has somewhat increased, 8 per cent of the sample women respondents health and sanitation level has not increased. 48 per cent of the sample women respondents in career choice has increased due to involving in the entrepreneurial activities, 32 per cent of the sample women respondents career choice level has somewhat increased, 20 per cent of the sample women respondents career choice level has not increased.

Women Empowerment in Professional Level

The Professional level empowerment is further classified into one indicators Decision making skill. The professional level of empowerment is presented in the Table 18.

Table 18: Women Empowerment in Professional Level

Sl.	Professional Level	No. of respon	No. of respondents					
No	Indicators	Increased	Increased Somewhat Not Total					
			Increased	Increased				
1	Decision making skill	32	58	10	100			
		(32.0)	(58.0)	(10.0)	(100.0)			

Source: Primary Data

Regarding the professional level empowerment of respondent's 32 per cent of the sample women respondents in decision making skill has increased due to involving in the entrepreneurial activities, 58 per cent of the sample women respondents decision making skill level has somewhat increased, 10 per cent of the sample women respondents decision making skill level has not increased.

Women Empowerment in Economic Level

The personal level of empowerment is presented in the Table 19.

Table 19: Women Empowerment in Economic Level

	Fanomia Lavel	No. of respondents			
Sl. No	Economic Level Indicators	Increased	Somewhat Increased	Not Increased	Total
1	Income level	71 (71.0)	25 (25.0)	4 (4.0)	100 (100.0)
2	Bank credit worthiness	34 (34.0)	52 (52.0)	14 (14.0)	100 (100.0)
3	Savings level	51 (51.0)	36 (36.0)	13 (13.0)	100 (100.0)

Source: Primary Data

Regarding the economic level empowerment of respondent's 38 per cent of the sample women respondents in Income level has increased due to involving in the entrepreneurial activities, 54 per cent of the sample women respondents Income level has somewhat increased, 8 per cent of the sample women respondents Income level has not increased. 48 per cent of the sample women respondents in Bank credit worthiness has increased due to involving in the entrepreneurial activities, 32 per cent of the sample women respondents Bank credit worthiness level has somewhat increased, 20 per cent of the sample women respondents Bank credit worthiness level has not increased. 48 per cent of the sample women respondents in Savings level has increased due to involving in the entrepreneurial activities, 32 per cent of the sample women respondents Savings level has somewhat increased, 20 per cent of the sample women respondents Savings level has somewhat increased, 20 per cent of the sample women respondents Savings level has not increased

Women Empowerment in Social Level

The social level of empowerment is presented in the Table 20.

Table 5.3.4: Women Empowerment in Social Level

		No. of respondents			
Sl. No	Social Level Indicators	Increased	Somewhat Increased	Not Increased	Total
1	Relationship with society	28	64	8	100
1	Relationship with society	(28.0)	(64.0)	(8.0)	(100.0)
2	Creating social awareness	12	19	69	100
2	on sanitation	(12.0)	(19.0)	(69.0)	(100.0)

Source: Primary Data

Regarding the social level empowerment of respondent's 28 per cent of the sample women respondents in Relationship with society has increased due to involving in the entrepreneurial activities, 64 per cent of the sample women respondents Relationship with society level has somewhat increased, 8 per cent of the sample women respondents Relationship with society level has not increased. 12 per cent of the sample women respondents in Creating social awareness on sanitation has increased due to involving in the entrepreneurial activities, 19 per cent of the sample women respondents Creating social awareness on sanitation level has somewhat increased, 69 per cent of the sample women respondents Creating social awareness on sanitation level has not increased.

Conclusion

Entrepreneurship is an important aspect in our country's progress. Women entrepreneurs, as well as men entrepreneurs, will contribute to the development of a nation. If just men developed this country, it would result in monolateral growth, whereas we need bilateral development, which includes women's empowerment. Swami Vivekananda said, "Just as a bird cannot fly with only one wing, a nation cannot advance if the women are left behind." If women want to be empowered, they need either seek profitable careers or start their own businesses; otherwise, they will be unable to stand on their own two feet. It is not easy to find a prosperous job. As a result, entrepreneurship is the better alternative for women empower herself.

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