SOCIO - DEMOGRAPHIC ASPECTS OF THE SELECTED BENEFECIARY SELF HELP GRPOUPS HOUSEHOLDS IN KURNOOL DISTRICT ABSTRACT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

M. Naga Raju[1]

Dr. V. Divyathejomurthy[2]

ABSTRACT

Self Help Groups play dynamic role in socio-economic empowerment of women in the society. Present study analyzed the demographic characteristics of SC women members of SHGs participated and expressed their views from three selected revenue divisions of the Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh. The study found that, majority of the one third of the participants are above 30 years old, around 60 percent are literatures, 88 percent are married and 96 percent of respondents are Hindhu religion.

Key worlds: SHGS, SC women & Kurnool district etc.,

INTRODUCTION:

Untouchability in India, as the race and color problems in the West, rested upon the idea of the superiority of one section of people over others on account of their birth. A Brahmin might be as poor as the untouchable, but he is not ill-treated by our society on that account. 'Time and again, ceaseless efforts were made by social reformers to alleviate the status of the downtrodden and bring them to a level by which they could breathe and subsist with some confidence in the society. This was, however, a most complex problem, the complete or satisfactory solution of which could not be evolved in spite of efforts by prominent personalities including social reformers, educationists and political leaders of our society besides numerous socio-religious reform movements had deep linkage with the cause of the untouchables who were labelled as a serious stigma on the fair name of Hinduism. The prevalence of psychological conflict, which consists of tension in social, economic, political and ritual aspects of social life exists in great degree between Scheduled Castes and upper castes. Brahmins consider ideological reason such as the theory of karma or nature of food for non-acceptance

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[1] Research Schloar, Dept. of Rural Development, Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh – 522510.
[2] Head, Chairman, BOs, Dept. of Rural Development, Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh – 522510.

of Scheduled Castes whereas Scheduled Castes consider material conditions such as poverty as responsible for non-acceptance of themselves by the Brahmins. Except for the use of drinking water wells and entry to temples, Scheduled Castes, do not seem to be willing to have social interaction with other castes on the basis of equality in any great measures.

NEED OF THE STUDY:

Government of India is implementing several programmes and schemes for the development and empowerment of women. Among them, Self-Help Groups (SHGs) are front liners. It also comprises of higher literacy level and better health care for women and children, equal ownership and accessibility of productive resources, increased participation in economic and commercial sectors, awareness of their rights and responsibilities, improved standards of living and acquiring self-reliance, self-esteem and self-confidence. The present research study analyzes the demographic background of the selected members of the sample SHGs in Andhra Pradesh (AP) with reference to Kurnool district.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:

To study the demographic profile of the participated SHGs members in the selected Revenue Divisions of the Kurnool district in Andhra Pradesh. (Age, sub caste, marital status, type of house, religion and education)

RESEARCH METHODLOGY:

The methodological aspects of the study include the selection of the district, selection of revenue divisions, selection of mandals, selection of the sample women respondents, sources of data, tools of data collection and tools of analysis, period of study.

Sampling:

Kurnool district of the Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh has been selected for the purposefully of the present study, which has been divided into three revenue divisions based on criteria of socio-economic conditions of the district. Multi-stage random sampling method has been used for selecting the sample respondents. Accordingly, in the first stage, 03(three) revenue divisions namely Adoni, Nandyala, Kurnool have been considered for the study. In the second stage, from each revenue division 01(one) mandal namely Alur mandal from Adoni revenue division, Gadivemula mandal from Nandyala revenue division, Veldurthi mandal from Nandyala revenue divisions are selected for randomly. In the third stage, in each mandal 01(one) village namely kammarachedu village from Alur mandal, karimaddula village from Gadivemula mandal, Boyinapalli village from Veldurthi mandal are selected. From each village, 100(one hundred) Scheduled Caste women were selected at random with a total of three hundred 300 (three hundred) Scheduled caste women. Special care has been taken to cover equally the two sub-castes of scheduled caste women (Malas and Madigas).

Sources Of Data And Tools Of Data Collection:

The present study is based on both primary and secondary sources of data. The primary data have been collected from the women respondents through a well structured interview schedule which was pre-tested and necessary changes have been made to suit the present study. the secondary some of data has been collected from

published and unpublished resources. The schedules were filled in with the help of the sample women respondents through a face to face interview by the researcher. Focused discussions with women respondents of Scheduled Castes rural women were held to get their perceptions on empowerment of rural Scheduled Castes women.

Analysis of the Data:

The data collected through schedules have been classified and tabulated into many tables for analysis purpose. Simple statistical tools like averages, percentages etc., have been used to analyze the data. Based on the data collected, certain conclusions were drawn.

DATA ANALYIS AND INTERPRETATIONS:

Sub-Caste Category Of The Respondets:

In the present study, Scheduled caste women selected as sample in that two major categories are Mala and Madiga.

Table 1:
Sub-Category of The Respondents Cast

S.NO	CATEGORY	ALUR	GADIVEMULA	VELDURTHI	TOTAL
1	MALA	52 (17.33)	59 (19.66)	49 (16.33)	160 (53.33)
2	MADIGA	48 (16)	41 (13.67)	51 (17)	140 (46.67)
	TOTAL	100	100	100	300

Source: Compiled from field study
Note: values in brackets indicates percent of total sample size
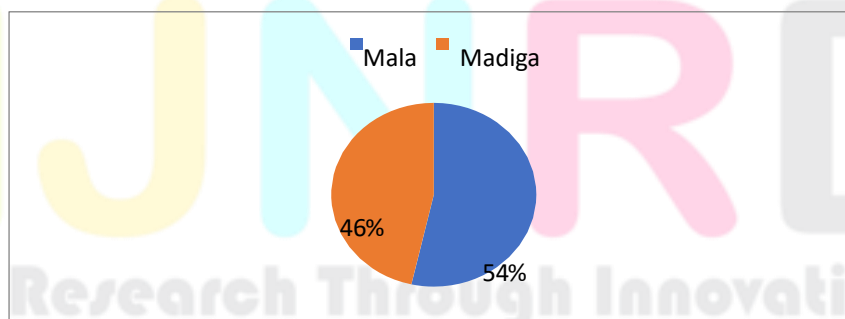
Figure 1: Sub-Category Of The Respondents Caste

Table 1. shows the sub-category of the respondents in the same caste The study found that, In Alur mandal 52 percent respondents belongs to mala and 48 percent is madiga community. On the other hand, in Gadivemula mandal 59 percent is mala community and 41 percent is Madiga community. Similarly, in veldhurthi mandal 49 percent is mala community and 51 percent is madiga community. In total respondents of the study 53.33 percent belongs to mala community and 46.67 percent is madiga community.

Age Of The Respondents:

In the present study SC women divided into five groups based on their age such as age group between 20-25 years, 25 to 30 years 30 to 35 years, 35 to 40 years and 40 years and above. The age group of respondents participated in the study is presented in given table.
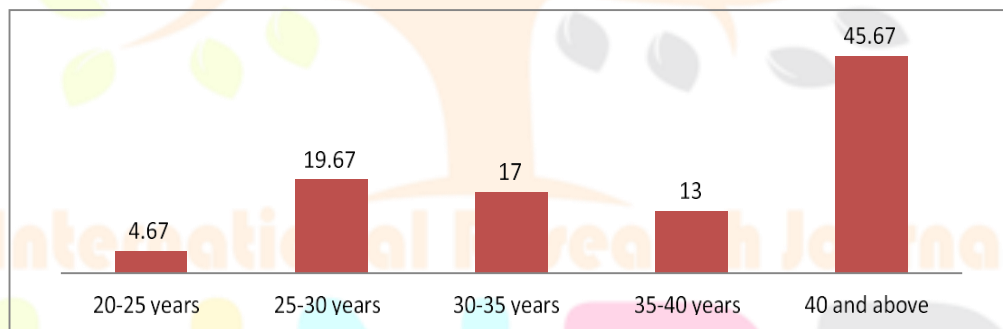
Table 2:
Age Wise Participation of Respondents

S.No.	AGE	ALUR	GADIVEMULA	VELDURTHI	TOTAL
1	20-25 years	6 (2.00)	5 (1.67)	3 (1.00)	14 (4.67)
2	25-30 years	22 (7.33)	24 (8.00)	13 (4.33)	59 (19.67)
3	30-35 years	26 (8.67)	12 (4.00)	13 (4.33)	51 (17.00)
4	35-40 years	5 (1.67)	12 (4.00)	22 (7.33)	39 (13.00)
5	40 and above	41 (13.67)	47 (15.67)	49 (16.33)	137 (45.67)
Grand Total		**100 (33.33)**	**100 (33.33)**	**100 (33.33)**	**300 (100)**

Source: Compiled from field study
Note: values in brackets indicates percent of total sample size

Figure No 2. Age Wise Participation of Respondents (%)

The study observed that, total Alur mandal, out of 100 SC women, 41 percent is in the age group of above 40 years and above, 26 percent is in the age group of 30-35 years, 22 percent is in the age group of 25-30 years, 6 percent is in the age group of 20- 25 years and six percent is age is in the group of 35-40 years. Similarly, in total Gadivemula mandal, out of 100 SC women, 47 percent is in the age group of above 40 years and above, 24 percent is in the age group of 25.-30 years, 12 percent is in the age group of 35-40 years, 12 percent is in the age group of 30-35 years and five percent is age is in the group of 20-25 years.

In total Veldhurthi mandal, out of 100 SC women, 49 percent is in the age group of above 40 years and above, 22 percent is in the age group of 35-40 years, 13 percent is in the age group of 25-30 years, 13 percent is in the age group of 30-35 years and three percent is age is in the group of 20-25 years. In overall, selected mandal of Kurnool district, out of 300 SC women,

45.67 percent is in the age group of above 40 years and above, 19.67 percent are in the age group of 25-30 years, 17 percent is in the age group of 30-35 years, 13 percent are in the age group of 35- 40 years and 4.67 percent is in the group of 20-25 years.

Marital Status Of The Respondents:

The marital status of the selected respondents is represented as married. Unmarried, divorce or widow.
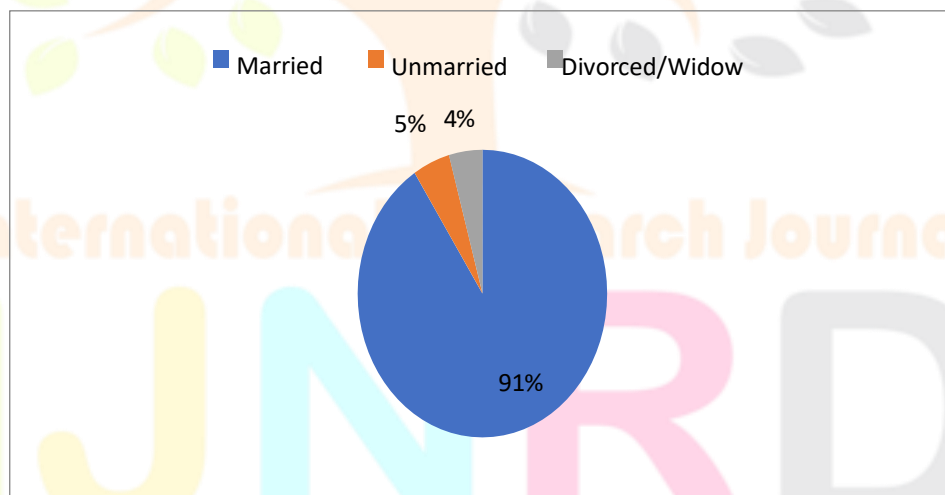
Table - 3
Marital Status of the Respondents

S.No	MARITAL STATUS	ALUR	GADIVEMULA	VELDURTHI	TOTAL
1	Married	90 (30.00)	92 (30.67)	91 (30.33)	273 (91)
2	Unmarried	6 (2)	3 (1.0)	5 (1.67)	14 (4.67)
3	Divorced/Widow	4 (1.3)	3 (1.0)	6 (2.0)	13 (4.33)
GRAND TOTAL		100 (33.33)	100 (33.33)	100 (33.33)	300 (100)

Source: Compiled from the field study
Note: Values in the brackets indicates percent in total sample size.

Figure 3. Marital Status Of The Respondent

The study observed that, in Alur mandal 90 percent of respondents are married, six percent is unmarried and four percent is divorced and widow. Similarly, in Gadvemula mandal 92 percent of respondents are married, three percent is unmarried and three percent is divorced and widow. Similarly, in Veldhurthi mandal 91 percent of respondents are married, five percent is unmarried and six percent is divorced and widow. In overall, 91 percent of respondents are married, 4.67 percent is unmarried and 4.33 percent is divorced or widow.

Religion Of The Respondents:

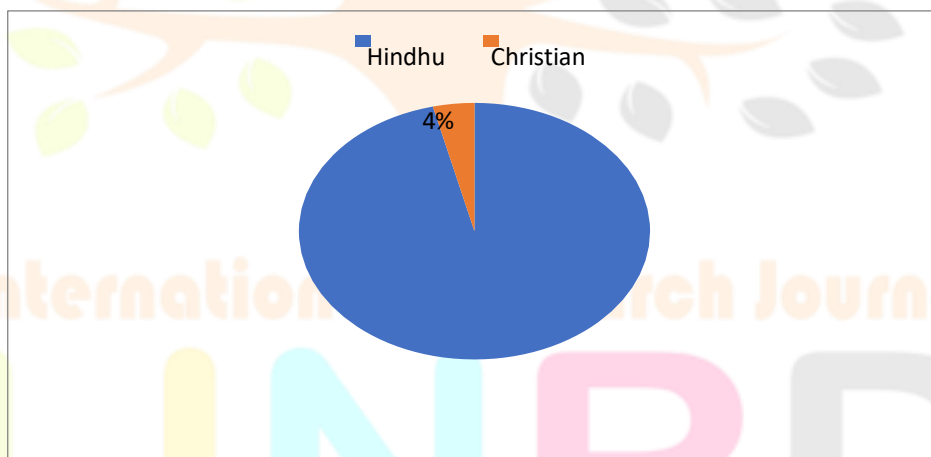The religion of the respondents is either Hindu, Christian or others.

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Table - 4

Shows the Religion Of The Respondents

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S.No	RELIGION	ALUR	GADIVEMULA	VELDURTHI	TOTAL
1	Hindu	95 (31.67)	96 (32)	98 (32.67)	289 (96.33)
2	Christian	6 (2)	3 (1.0)	2 (0.67)	11 (3.67)
3	Others	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
GRAND TOTAL		**100 (33.33)**	**100 (33.33)**	**100 (33.33)**	**300 (100)**

Source: Compiled from field study
Note: values in brackets indicates percent of total sample size.

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Figure 4. The Religion Of The Respondents

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The study observed that, in Alur mandal 95 percent of respondents are Hindu, six percent is Christian and nobody is others. Similarly, in Gadivemula mandal 96 percent of respondents are Hindu, three percent is Christian and nobody is others. Similarly, in Veldhurthi mandal 98 percent of respondents are hindu, two percent is Christian and nobody is others. In overall, 96.33 percent of respondents are hindu, 3.7 and nobody belongs to other religion.
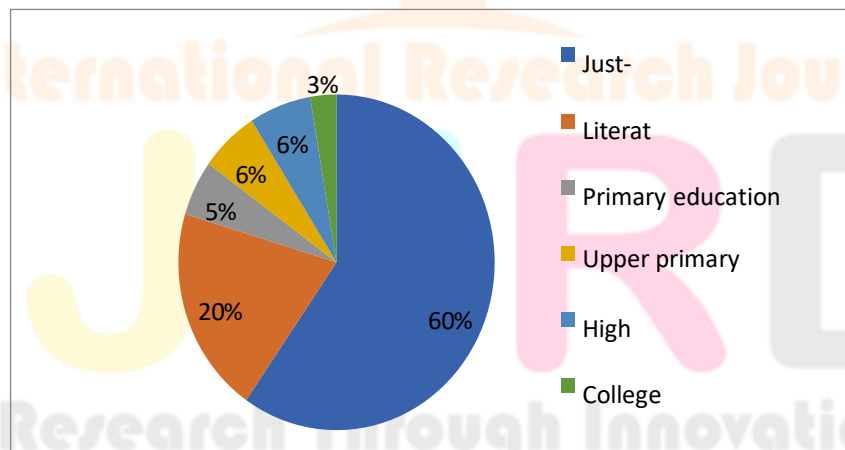
Educational Status of the Respondents:

In the present study, selected SC women participants are classified into six groups based on their education such as just literature, literate, primary education, upper primary education, high school education and college education.

Table-5

Educational Status of Respondents

S.No	EDUCATION	ALUR	GADIVEMULA	VELDURTHI	TOTAL
1	Just-Literate	76 (25.33)	28 (9.33)	75 (25.00)	179 (59.67)
2	Literate	6 (2.00)	48 (16.00)	6 (2.00)	60 (20.00)
3	Primary education	3 (1.00)	7 (2.33)	6 (2.00)	16 (5.33)
4	Upper primary education	4 (1.33)	6 (2.00)	8 (2.67)	18 (6.00)
5	High School	7 (2.33)	8 (2.67)	4 (1.33)	19 (6.33)
6	College	4 (1.33)	3 (1.00)	1 (0.33)	8 (2.67)
	Grand Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**300**

Figure 5. Educational Status of Respondents

The study found that, in total educational status of selected SC women of Alur Mandal 76 percent is just literate, seven percent is high school standard, six percent is literates, four percent is our upperprimary school, three percent is completed primary education and four percent is are graduated from colleges. Similarly, in Gadivemula Mandal 48 percent is just literates, 28 percent is just literates, 8 percent is high school education, seven percent is primary school, six percent is completed upper primary education and three percent is graduated from colleges.

In total educational status of selected SC women of Veldurthi Mandal 75 percent is just- literates, eight percent is completed upper primary education, six percent is literates, only percent is primary educated, four percent is completed high school, and only 1 percent is graduated from college. In overall Literacy of SC women from the selected regions of Kurnool district out of 300 women 59.67 percent is just literates, 20 percent percent is literate, 6.33 percent is percent is completed high school, 6 percent is from upper primary education, and only 2.67 percent percent is pursed graduated.

Type of House Possessed By The Repondetns:

The house possession of the sample respondents divided as hut/thatched house, semi pucca and RCC and Pucca.
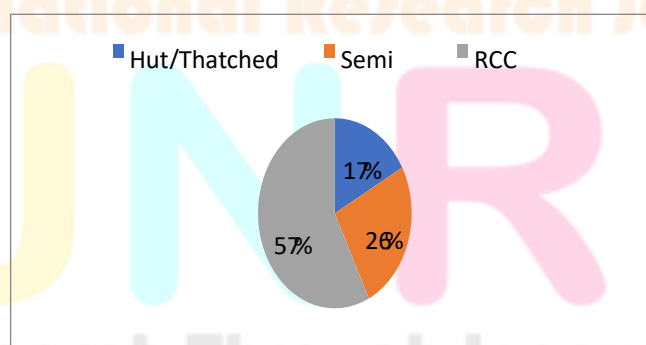
Table - 6.

Type of House Possessed By The Respondents

S.No.	TYPE OF HOUSE	ALUR	GADIVEMULA	VELDURTHI	TOTAL
1	Hut/Thatched House	15 (5.00)	24 (8.00)	12 (4.00)	51 (17.00)
2	Semi Pucca	9 (3.00)	60 (20.00)	8 (2.67)	77 (25.67)
3	RCC /Pucca	76 (25.33)	16 (5.33)	80 (26.67)	172 (57.33)
	GRAND TOTAL	100	100	100	300

Source: Compiled from the field study
Note: Values in the brackets indicates percent in total sample size.

Figure 6. Type Of House Possessed By The Respondents

The study observed that, in the Alur mandal of Kurnool district, 76 percent is living in RCC/pucca houses, 15 percent is living in hut/thatched houses, and nine percent is living in semi pucca houses in their mandal. In the Gadivmula mandal of Kurnool district, 60 percent of respondents is living in semi pucca houses 24 percent is living in hut/thatched houses, and 16 percent is living in RCC/pucca houses in their mandal. In the Veldurthi mandal of Kurnool district, almost 80 percent is living in RCC/pucca houses 12 percent living in hut/thatched houses, and eighty percent is living in RCC/pucca houses in their mandal. In overall selected regions of kurnool district, the scheduled caste 57.33 percent living in RCC/pucca houses is, 25.67 percent is living in semi pucca houses and 17 percent scheduled caste percent is living in hut/thatched houses in the Kurnool district.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:

- The study observed that, in total respondents' 53.33 percent is belongs mala community while 46.66 percent belongs to madiga community. However, both are relating Scheduled caste community.

- The age of respondents reveals that, in Kurnool district, out of 300 SC women, 45.67 percent is in the age group of above 40 years and above, 19.67 percent are in the age group of 25-30 years, 17 percent is in the age group of 30-35 years, 13 percent are in the age group of 35- 40 years and 4.67 percent is in the group of 20-25 years.

- In total respondents of the study, 88 percent of women are married, 4.8 percent is unmarried, and 4.3 percent is either divorced or widow.

- Similarly, the study observed religion of the respondents and found that 96.02 percent is Hindu religion while 3.8 percent is Christian (converted) in the Kurnool district.

- The educational status reverals that, in Kurnool district out of 300 women 59.67 percent is just literates, 20 percent is literate, 6.33 percent is percent is completed high school, 6 percent is from upper primary education, and only 2.67 percent is pursed graduate from colleges.

- The type of house living is reveals that total respondents, 57.33 percent living in RCC/pucca houses is, 25.67 percent is living in semi pucca houses and 17 percent scheduled caste percent is living in hut/thatched houses in the Kurnool district.

CONCLUSION:

Self Help Groups play dynamic role in socio-economic empowerment of women in the society. Present study analyzed the demographic characteristics of SC women members of SHGs participated and expressed their views from three selected revenue divisions of the Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh. The study found that, majority of the one third of the participants are above 30 years old, in case of sub category most of the respondents belongs to mala community that is 53 percentage, in case of resident type majority of the respondents are live in RCC/Pucca houses around 57 percentage, around 60 percent are literates, 88 percent are married and 96 percent of respondents are Hindhu religion.

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