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Direct and Indirect Changes of Members of Podupu Laxmi Ikya Sangam

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration between all authors. Author MM designed the study, performed the statistical analysis, wrote the protocol and wrote the first draft of the manuscript. Authors TL and SVP managed the analyses of the study. Author NS managed the literature searches. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

Economic development is the effect for which entrepreneurship is caused. Economic development essentially means a process of change in income of the people in society, which directly leads to upward change in real per capita income of a country. Entrepreneurship has an important role to play in development of a country. Entrepreneurship is considered as one of the most important factors contributing to the direct and indirect changes in the society such as employment generation, national income, balanced regional development, dispersal of economic power, better standard of living, creating innovation, capital formation, resource mobilization, backward and forward linkages, promotes country's export trade. Women entry into business is a new phenomenon. Women entry into entrepreneurship is traced out as an extension of their activities mainly to 3 Ps, viz., Pickles, Powder and Pappad. With growing awareness about business and spread of education among women over the period, women have started shifting from 3 Ps to engross to 3 modern Es, viz.,

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Engineering, Electronics and Energy. They are contributing towards the growth of economy and improvement of their socio-economic conditions. Government of India has given importance to women empowerment in the country and several schemes have been introduced for the upliftment of women entrepreneurs. Women entrepreneurs in the country are increasing due to the increase in the women literacy rate in India. The concept of Podupu Lakshmi Ikya Sangam is a boon for the rural women in some states of India. It has not only raised their income but also their social status. Overview of the direct and indirect changes of members of PLIS is depicted in this following article. Research has revealed that income generation and employment generation are the direct changes and perceived impacts in psychological, sociological, economic and political dimensions are the indirect changes.

Keywords: *Women entrepreneurs; direct and indirect changes; socio economic changes.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Today, many women have established their own economy of entrepreneurial empire and are now ruling their world as they wished to. The hidden entrepreneurial potentials of women have gradually been changing with the growing sensitivity to the role and economic status in the society. Skill, knowledge and adaptability in business are the main reasons for women to emerge into business ventures. Indian women had undergone a long way and are becoming increasingly visible and successful in all spheres and have shifted from kitchen to higher level of professional activities. Women entrepreneurs are fast becoming a force to reckon with in the business world and are not only involved in business for survival but to satisfy their inner urge of creativity and to prove their capabilities. Educated Women is contributing to a great extent to the social transformation and in the future, will be seen that more women venturing into areas traditionally dominated by men. A brief overview of work done on direct and indirect changes instigated by participation in SHGs is presented hereunder.

Participation in SHGs certainly helps members to empower themselves and lead to direct and indirect changes [1]. SHG participation has an impact on intrapersonal, interpersonal and community / political empowerment [2]. Majority (62.31%) of the SHG members had medium sociological empowerment, one-fifth of the respondents (20.77%) had low sociological empowerment and less than one-fifth (16.92%) of the respondents had high sociological empowerment. It may be concluded that majority (62.31%) of the SHG members had medium sociological empowerment [3]. Under direct changes income generation had significant difference in the average income per day from Rs.99.02 to Rs.216 and employment generation

resulted in increased man-days from 125.56 to 254.17 days before and after joining of SHG respectively [4]. Additional income earned, increase in savings, clearance of old debts and the most important aspect was the reduced dependence on money lenders [5]. Under social empowerment little less than three-fourth (72.00%) of them had taken action to fight against illicit liquor consumption followed by action against the demand of dowry (51.67%), given focus on sanitation in the village (23.33%), and also female infanticide (22.00%). Only a negligible (3.33%) proportion of respondents had taken effort for the promotion of widow remarriage [6]. In TRYSEM programme major percentage of beneficiaries had two fold increase of previous income due to the increased employment status [7]. The TANWA participants had medium level of empowerment, 35.21 per cent had high level of empowerment and 23.94 per cent have attained low level of empowerment [8]. 83.79 per cent of the farm women had medium to high level of perceived change followed by 16.21 per cent with low level perceived change [9]. Most of the teachers and parents agreed with the direct changes of decreased dropout rate, additional buildings and additional teaching staff while they were in agreement with indirect changes that the students got more opportunity to learn the subject better and Operation Black Board Programme supplemented to better learning situation [10]. 50.00 per cent of the total women respondents had direct and indirect changes and empowered through co-operatives by availing the benefits being as member or office bearer in the same [11].

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh during the year 2016-17. Ex-post facto research design was followed. Three

mandals and two villages from each mandal viz., Hussainapuram and Nannuru villages from Orvakallu mandal, Bramhanakotkur and Bollavaram villages from Nandikotkur mandal and Lakshmpuram and Pandipadu villages from Kallur mandal were selected by using simple random sampling method from which 120 women entrepreneurs as sample was selected. Pre tested interview schedule was used to collect the primary data and statistical techniques like Arithmetic mean, Standard deviation, Frequencies and percentage were used. Here, the direct and indirect changes of the respondents were calculated based on the mean scores and ranking.

3. DIRECT CHANGES OF PODUPU LAXMI IKYA SANGAM MEMBERS

3.1 Income Generation

Findings from (Table 1) showed the mean of income generated before joining PLIS was 40.26 and income generated after joining PLIS was 82.48 and difference between the mean values of income generated before and after joining PLIS was found to be significantly high. Thus the income generated as a result of joining PLIS has strongly increased compared to earlier period.

The probable reason for above trends might be that respondents who joined PLIS became more enthusiastic to improve upon their standard of living, PLIS motivated respondents by making them aware of different loan facilities provided by the Government and benefits of scheme.

3.2 Employment Generation

Findings from (Table 2) showed the mean of employment generated before joining PLIS was 102.5 and employment generated after joining PLIS was 204.83 and difference between the mean values of employment generated before and after joining PLIS was found to be significantly high. Thus the employment generated as a result of joining PLIS has strongly increased compared to earlier period.

The probable reason for above trend might be that after joining PLIS they got awareness of various benefits and schemes by government to set up an enterprise and they got on average 200 man days to work when compared to before. It could be seen that the mean values of employment generated before and after joining PLIS differed significantly. This result is in conformity with the findings of [4].

From the (Table 3) it could be found that the average income earned before joining PLIS income is Rs.40.26 per day. After joining PLIS the average income works out to be is Rs.82.48.

Further, the (Table 3) indicates the average employment before joining PLIS was 102.50 days. After joining PLIS women reported the average working days of nearly 204.83 days in a year. This may be due to that most of the women were engaged in various enterprises. This infers that participation has a substantial impact in terms of getting employed for earning additional income. This result is in conformity with the findings of [12].

4. INDIRECT CHANGES OF PODUPU LAXMI IKYA SANGAM MEMBERS

4.1 Perceived Impacts

From the (Table 4) it is interpreted that in the case of psychological dimensions, improvement in communication skill with mean score of (1.46) ranked I, ability to express own views (1.45) ranked II, enhanced "we" feeling among members (1.41) ranked III, improvement in self-confidence (1.29) ranked IV, skill development in records and account maintenance (1.09) ranked V and increase in leadership skill (0.93) ranked VI.

With respect to sociological dimension, the respondents had perceived better planning in family maintenance (1.87) ranked I, joint decision making at all levels (1.70) ranked II, better linkage with local institutions (1.55) ranked III, active involvement in addressing social issues and problems (1.47) ranked IV, awareness about socio-economic development programmes (1.47) ranked V, better group co-operation (1.40) ranked VI respectively.

This result is in conformity with the findings of [3].

From the (Table 5) It is interpreted that with respect to economic dimensions, increased ability to support family financially (1.80) ranked I, improvement in income (1.74) ranked II, successful entrepreneurship and engagement in income generating activity (1.65) ranked III, debt clearance (1.55) ranked IV, economic independence and reduced poverty level (1.32) ranked V, security for future life (1.25) ranked VI, development of saving habit (1.22) ranked VII, improvement in standard of living (1.05) ranked

VIII, repayment of credit in time (0.98) ranked IX, free from exploitation of money lenders (0.88%) ranked X. With respect to political dimensions, strong decision making power (1.25) ranked I, participation in political process (0.88) ranked II respectively.

This result is in conformity with the findings of [4].

Table 1. Distribution of respondents according to their income generation before and after joining PLIS (n=120)

S. no.	Category	Mean	SD	SE
1.	Income generated before joining PLIS	40.26	28.92	2.64
2.	Income generated after joining PLIS	82.48	57.03	5.20
3.	Mean difference	42.22	28.11	2.56

t -value = 16.25

Table 2. Distribution of respondents according to employment generation before and after joining PLIS (n=120)

S. no.	Category	Mean	SD	SE
1.	Employment generated before joining PLIS	102.5	54.86	5.01
2.	Employment generated after joining PLIS	204.83	102.34	9.34
3.	Mean difference	102.33	47.48	4.3

t -value = 23.34

Table 3. Average income generation and employment generation of respondents before and after joining of PLIS (n=120)

S. no.	Category	Before	After
1.	Average income/day (Rs)	40.26	82.48
2.	Average employment (man days)	102.50	204.83

Table 4. Perceived impact in psychological dimensions and sociological dimensions of PLIS respondent (n=120)

S. no.	Perceived impact	Respondents	
		Mean score	Rank
I Psychological dimensions			
1.	Improvement in self-confidence	1.29	IV
2.	Improvement in communication skill	1.46	I
3.	Increase in leadership skill	0.93	VI
4.	Skill development in records and account maintenance	1.09	V
5.	Ability to express own views	1.45	II
6.	Enhanced "we" feeling among members	1.41	III
II Sociological dimensions			
1.	Social recognition	1.05	XI
2.	Improvement in social status	1.19	X
3.	Gender equity	1.26	VIII
4.	Awareness about socio-economic development programmes	1.35	V
5.	Active involvement in addressing social issues and problems	1.33	VI
6.	Members are highly informative	1.32	VII
7.	Better group co-operation	1.40	IV
8.	Joint decision making at all levels	1.65	II
9.	Better planning in family maintenance	1.74	I
10.	Social problems in the village are resolved	1.20	IX
11.	Better linkage with local institutions	1.59	III

Multiple responses; Overall mean score = 1.33

Table 5. Perceived impact in economic dimensions and political dimensions of PLIS respondents (n=120)

S. no.	Perceived impact	Respondents	
		Mean score	Rank
I	Economic dimensions		
1.	Successful entrepreneurship	1.65	III
2.	Economic independence	1.32	V
3.	Improvement in income	1.74	II
4.	Increased ability to support family financially	1.80	I
5.	Development of savings habit	1.22	VII
6.	Debt clearance	1.55	IV
7.	Repayment of credit in time	0.98	IX
8.	Free from exploitation of money lenders	0.88	X
9.	Engagement in income generating activity	1.65	III
10.	Reduced poverty level	1.32	V
11.	Improvement in standard of living	1.05	VIII
12.	Security for future life	1.25	VI
II	Political dimensions		
1.	Strong decision making power	1.25	I
2.	Participation in political process	0.83	II

Multiple response Overall mean score =1.333871

5. CONCLUSION

Entrepreneurship helped in solving the problems like unemployment and poverty in India. The changes that have occurred before and after stages of the microenterprise establishment are encouraging. A successful intervention for empowering women necessitates several elements among which imparting of new skills to women for assuming new roles and support through training for enabling them to perform those roles. Women should recognize clearly how society structures their perceptions. The training programme must promote critical analysis in women and encourage them to think independently and challenge unequal gender relations and exploitations. The women should think of occupation mobility to improve their incomes.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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