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Status and Prospects of Fisheries Self Help Group in Kabirdham District, Chhattisgarh, India

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. Author BND designed the study, performed the statistical analysis and wrote the first draft of manuscript. Author KKC supervised the study. Authors BS, LKB and DV managed the literature searches and performed the survey work. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Article Information

DOI: 10.9734/AJAEES/2019/v36i430251

Editor(s):

(1) Dr. Sule Isin, Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics, Faculty of Agriculture, Ege University, Turkey.

Reviewers:

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(3) Ahmad Rasmi Albattat, Management & Science University, Malaysia.

Complete Peer review History: <https://sdiarticle4.com/review-history/51943>

Original Research Article

Received 03 August 2019

Accepted 18 October 2019

Published 26 October 2019

ABSTRACT

The present study analyzed the status and performance of women's Self Help Groups in fisheries of *Kabirdham* district of Chhattisgarh state. Two blocks namely *Kawardha* and *Bodla* blocks of Chhattisgarh, India were selected for the study. Total 140 numbers of respondents from twenty SHGs were interviewed using semi-structured questionnaire and focus group discussion. It has been revealed that women participation in Self Help Groups made a significant impact on their empowerment despite the majority of them were being illiterate (42.85%). The performance analysis conducted using NABARD checklist revealed that sixty percent of the SHGs fall under the category of good and 20 percent as very good. Nevertheless, the major constraints that deter the activities of the SHGs were reported as political biasness existing in the study area followed by lack of capital and awareness among the members. And hence, it has been concluded that the women SHGs in the study area have greater influence and benefitted the respondent members both socially and economically.

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Keywords: Self help groups; women empowerment; fisheries; performance.

1. INTRODUCTION

Self Help Groups are exclusive groups started primarily to empower women in rural & suburban areas, make them economically independent & help them to contribute to the socio-economic development of nation. SHGs are now seen as a means for eradicating poverty and become instrumental in the empowerment of poor rural women [1]. Entrepreneurship activities in fisheries by forming an SHGs has generated an employment potential for about 2.1 lakh persons, most of them belong to weaker section of the society [2]. The Chhattisgarh State is also playing an important role by generating self-employment through fisheries women SHGs in rural area, which in turn provides income and uplift their livelihood. The present study was conducted in Kabirdham district of Chhattisgarh state wherein 2240 number of SHGs regardless of fisheries are there in total. The state has rich resources of water bodies in formed of 59175 numbers of rural pond areas covering 0.772 lakh hectare, 1649 numbers of irrigation reservoir covering 0.800 lakh hectare which can be use for fisheries development through SHGs (Department of Fisheries, Chhattisgarh). It has been reported that in Balod district of Chhattisgarh SHGs have

helped in reducing the poverty in rural areas and increase the level of living standard of the poor peoples [2]. Likewise, it has also been reported that the members of SHGs had moderate level of social performance, economic performance and technological performance in Sarguja district of Chhattisgarh [3]. The present study emphasized that women empowerment through fisheries SHG is possible only through deliberate planned effort carried in a systematic manner and very few studies has been done so far related with Women SHG in fisheries in the study area.

2. METHODOLOGY

Two blocks namely Kawardha and Bodla of Kabirdham district of Chhattisgarh, India were selected for the study. Ten number of women SHGs in fisheries from each block were randomly identified for survey. Total respondents of 140 were randomly interviewed using semi-structured questionnaire and focus group discussion. The scale developed by Hardikar [4] was used to measure the achievement motivation and innovativeness among the members using three-point continuum Likert's scale with scores of 3(Agree), 2 (neither agree nor disagree) and 1 (disagree).



Fig. 1. Map showing the sampling study site

The scores for each statement were added to arrive at the total score for an individual. The performance of the selected fishery SHGs have been evaluated using a check list recommended by the NABARD. Garrett's ranking technique was used for the constraints analysis [5].

$$\text{Percentage position} = \frac{100(R_{ij}-0.5)}{N_j}$$

Where, R_{ij} = Rank given by i^{th} item to j^{th} individual
 N_j = Number of items ranked by j^{th} individual

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Socio-Personal Profile of Fishery Based SHGs

The socio-personal details of the respondents are given in Table 1. It was found that 47.14 percent of members of Fishery based SHGs were belonged to old age category whereas 27.85 and 25 percent were in young (upto 35 years) and middle age (36-58 years) category,

respectively. Majority of the respondent members were found to be illiterate (50.71%) as the member are also more of old age group, 31.42 percent of the members has attained their middle school and only 4 percent went for high school which may be due to lack of educational facilities in the area.

Majority of the member (82.85%) engaged in agriculture as their primary occupation wherein they are also part of the fisheries SHGs group as secondary occupation. Twelve percent were fully dependent on fisheries as primary occupation and 5.71 percent works as tailors and remain as housewife. As it is well known that income affect the living standard of the people and henceforth it has been observed that 30.71 percent of the member have an income of more than Rs. 50,000 per month and majority of the member (47.85%) make an earnings of Rs. 10,000 to 50,000 per month and 21.42 percent hardly had an earning of Rs. 10,000 per month which may be due to small land holding. Forty five percent of the respondents participate regularly in various extension work conducted by the governmental department. It is worth mentioning here that with

Table 1. Socio-personal profile of fishery based SHGs (N= 140)

Variables	No.	%
Age	Young(up to 35)	39
	Middle(36-58)	35
	Old(>58)	66
Education	Illiterate	71
	Primary School	19
	Middle School	44
	High School	06
Occupation (Primary)	Agriculture	116
	Fisheries	16
	Others	08
Income	Low (10,000)	53
	Medium(10,000-50,000)	67
	High(>50,000)	20
Membership of any other association	Yes	25
	No	115
Extension Participation	Regularly	63
	Occasionally	34
	Never	43
Mass Media Exposure	Low	42
	Medium	28
	High	70
Achievement motivation	Low	67
	Medium	31
	High	42
Innovativeness	Low	110
	Medium	11
	High	19

such involvement their exposure to mass media were also increased as 42.85 per cent SHG members come under the high category mass media exposure. The majority of the respondents had very low level of Achievement motivation (47.85%) and innovativeness (78.57%) which might be due to illiteracy and inadequate awareness among the members.

3.2 Performance Evaluation of Fishery Based SHGs

Based on the checklist of NABARD for performance of SHGs, Table 2 shows the performance of the studied SHGs. It has been observed that majority of the SHGs (60%) comes under the category of good performance and four SHGs (20%) had very good performance and four SHGs (20%) were under an unsatisfactory group which can be cured out with proper awareness and exposure to various programmes. Hence it can be inferred from these results that the overall performance of the fisheries SHGs of the study area were found to be good. Panda (2010) while assessing the Impact of Participation in women self-help group-based microfinance reported positive impact on the increase in income, assets position, savings and literacy and in the reduction of migration of rural households in India. While, a study conducted in Durg and Rajnangaon district of Chhattisgarh have also reported significant positive impact on socio-economic development of rural women [6,7].

Table 2. Performance of SHGs by using the checklist of Nabard

Performance of SHGs	No.	%
Very good	04	20.00
Good	12	60.00
Unsatisfactory	04	20.00
Total	20	100.00

3.3 Constraints Faced by the SHGs

The constraints of fisheries based SHGs are diverse and may vary depending upon type of fish farming methods and practices are being adopted [8,9,10]. The result presented in Table 3 shows that the political biasness existing in the area are the major constraint faced by the members (36.6%) followed by inadequate capital (23.3%) as their source of fund is by own contribution or through middlemen. Lack of awareness among the members has also been a

constraint factor as more than 50 percent are not aware about various governmental schemes related to the fisheries and benefits of SHG-Bank linkage programme of the state government. Non co-operation among the members in group and management resulting conflict was also perceived as important constraint by 11.1 per cent of the respondents. Non participation by members during meetings and association gathering has been reported as one factor that deter the work of SHG as they are not able to place their needy problem.

Table 3. Constraint faced by fishery based SHGs (N=20)

S.n.	Constraints	(%)	Rank
1	Political biasness	36.6	I
2	Inadequate capital	23.3	II
3	Lack of awareness	19.0	III
4	Conflict during decision making	11.1	IV
5	Non participation	10.0	V

4. CONCLUSION

Presently, the SHG's concept has become one of the successful microfinance programmes for rural women wherein they are benefitting without spending much time and money. The State governments have also designed schemes to promote and encourage for setting up of SHGs to improve their income level by providing credit available to start a small scale enterprises. The present findings show that the SHGs in fisheries played a role in empowering women in the study area with overall good performance. Henceforth, a proper awareness and support from state government will help them to come up with broader aspects of activities that work in productive ways. Furthermore, a well organized training on various aspects of fisheries and regular supervision by the extension personnel can enhance the performance level and lessen their constraints.

CONSENT

As per international standard respondents' informed written consent has been collected and preserved by the author(s).

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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APPENDIX



Picture. SHGs were interviewed using semi-structured questionnaire and focus group discussion

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Peer-review history:
The peer review history for this paper can be accessed here:
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