

Entrepreneurial Empowerment of Tribal Women through Self Help Groups in Gajapati District of Odisha

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ABSTRACT

Tribal development in India has been in success as the ancient societies are now educating their children and living in desirable standards. Position of women is described according to their level of social, economic, political, educational and cultural field as well as their roles. The tribal population is an integral part of India's social framework. Empowerment of tribal women is one of the central issues in the process of development all over the world. Self-Help Group is considered as a vehicle to bring women front position of the society by increasing their income. Entrepreneurship enhances financial independence and self respect of women. For this study 150 SHG members of tribal farming community from three tribal blocks i.e. Nuagada, Rayagada, R.Udayagiri of Gajapati District of Odisha were selected. The data has been collected from both the primary and secondary sources. This study shows, the empowerment of tribal women in Gajapati district through SHG by adopting entrepreneurial activities. The respondents have substantial income by adopting some entrepreneurial activities which indicates the positive impact of SHGs on annual income of family. However, the main entrepreneurial activities performed by the beneficiaries of all the three blocks of Gajapati District were goat rearing, maize cultivation, mushroom cultivation etc. Out of three blocks in R. Udayagiri block maximum beneficiaries are in poor financial condition and have no other income sources. Empowerment of rural tribal women in Gajapati District is possible by enhancing the income of women by implementing new Government schemes and the technologies with less investment .

Keywords: Tribal women; Empowerment; Entrepreneurial activities; Annual income.

INTRODUCTION:

The district of Gajapati comprises of one agriculture district i.e. Paralakhemundi with one sub-division and 3 Tahasils i.e. Paralakhemundi, R.Udayagiri and Mohana. There are 5 tribal blocks i.e. R.Udayagiri, Mohana, Gumma, Rayagada and Nuagada and 2 other blocks Gosani and Kasinagar. The district comes under North Eastern Ghats Agro climatic Zone. The normal rainfall of the district is 1400 mm with 60-70 rainy days with major precipitation occurring during June-September. Winter and summer rain appears to be scanty, uncertain and erratic. Soil group is brown forest, lateritic, alluvial, red, mixed red and black. The major economic activities in the district are agriculture, horticulture and activities based on forest produce. The natural resources endowment of the district is eminently suitable for a wide variety of food grains, cash crops, and horticultural crops and offers immense scope for agricultural growth. This is one of the backward districts of Orissa. About 30 per cent of the inhabitable are tribal with an agrarian economy. 47 per cent of the population in Gajapati District are tribals. . It is found that about 86.99 per cent of its population is earning their livelihood from agriculture. Women are performing about 70 per cent of the total farm work. Many horticultural crops (pineapple, oranges, jack fruit, mangos, cashew and lemon) are grown by scheduled tribe women. Micro enterprises contribute to an increased diversification of household economic activities, increased relevance on productive activities, and improved

economic security.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

- To explore the various programmes promoting socioeconomic empowerment of tribal women.
- To find out the relationship between SHGs & women economic empowerment through entrepreneurship.

LITERATURE REVIEW:

Behera B.S (2016) highlighted in his study that SHG members had more interest and aspiration towards training aspect like value added products, and marketing of toy produced etc. Employment opportunities of women is increased through financial intermediaries, building women's competitiveness and increasing economic exchanges among women entrepreneurs.

Sharma, M. and Ansari, E. (2014).explained that the SHGs were not only benefited by bank finance but also benefited by participation in SHGs activities. The aim of the study was to find out the relationship between SHGs & women economic empowerment through entrepreneurship.

Kadu, S.S.; Kotikhane, R.R. and Nagawade, D.R. (2013). highlighted that they need training about new technology. Some method and demonstrations should be conducted by different extension agencies, for increasing participation of tribal women through SHGs.

Choudhary, K.N. (2011). in his study emphasized on the role of women entrepreneurs, as they have been making a significant impact in all segments of the economy in India, if opportunity is given to women to improve their well-being and enhance their capabilities, it empowers the women.

Verma, H. (2007). studied that the state and central government should promote such an organization of the women that promotes entrepreneurship development The Self-Help Groups in Gajapati district are promoted by NGOs as well as Government agencies.

Ganesamurthy, V.S. (2007) studied that majority of the women continues to be confined to micro, small-scale enterprises in spite of efforts made toward economic empowerment of women.

METHODOLOGY:

The district of Gajapati comprises of one agriculture district *i.e.* Paralakhemundi with one sub-division and 3 Tahasils *i.e.* Paralakhemundi, R.Udayagiri and Mohana. There are 5 tribal blocks *i.e.* R.Udayagiri, Mohana, Gumma, Rayagada and Nuagada and 2 other blocks Gosani and Kasinagar. Based on the number of effective groups framed by District Social Welfare Office (DSWO) in tribal area of Gajapati District, top three blocks were selected for the study viz., Rayagada, Nuagada, R. Udayagiri .Again from the three blocks a total number of 15 villages were selected for the study. From these villages 30 effective groups were choosen from which 150 respondents were selected. After collecting the data on entrepreneurial activities, annual income of the family of the respondents from agriculture, subsidiary and other source in one year and expressed in terms of rupees. To know the significant impact on annual income after joining the SHG the level of incime is grouped as low (Up to `15, 000), semi-medium (`15, 001-`.35,000), medium(`.35, 001-`.50,000) and high (Above `50,000). Statistical tools employed to analyze the data included frequency distribution, percentage, mean, standard deviation, mean score and Pearson's chi-squared test.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:

The economic condition of Gajapati is as old as the ancient tribals Gajapati district lags behind from industrial growth and per capita income. Income of a person directly influences in decision making process. It develops the infrastructure and fulfils the goal of the individual as well as family. It is difficult to assess the annual income as the farming communities are not keeping records. Data has collection and analyzed from different angles and assessed the annual income of the beneficiaries. The annual income was leveled as low, semi medium, medium and high income before and after joining in the SHG with mean data. The analyzed data has been presented in Table 1(Before Join) & Table 2.(After Join) As observed from the above tables and figure, 66% respondents belonged to low income level followed by 28%4 for semi medium, 4% for medium and 2% for high income level of Nuagada block before joining and the corresponding data for after joining was 14%, 56%, 20% and 10% for low, semi medium, medium and high respectively. Forr Rayagada block 28% beneficiaries belonged to low income group followed by 44% for semi medium, 22% for medium and 6% for high income group before joining and the corresponding data for after joining was 4%, 50%, 30%, 16% for low, semi medium, medium and high

respectively. 70% beneficiaries belonged to low income group followed by 20 % for semi medium, 6% for medium and 4% for high income group of R. Udayagiri block before joining and the corresponding data for after joining was 32%, 44%, 14%, 10% for low, semi medium, medium and high respectively. Then it can be concluded from the above findings that, the beneficiaries had substantial income and most of the low income level family enhances their family income to semi medium by availing financial and technical support from the different Government and non-government departments.

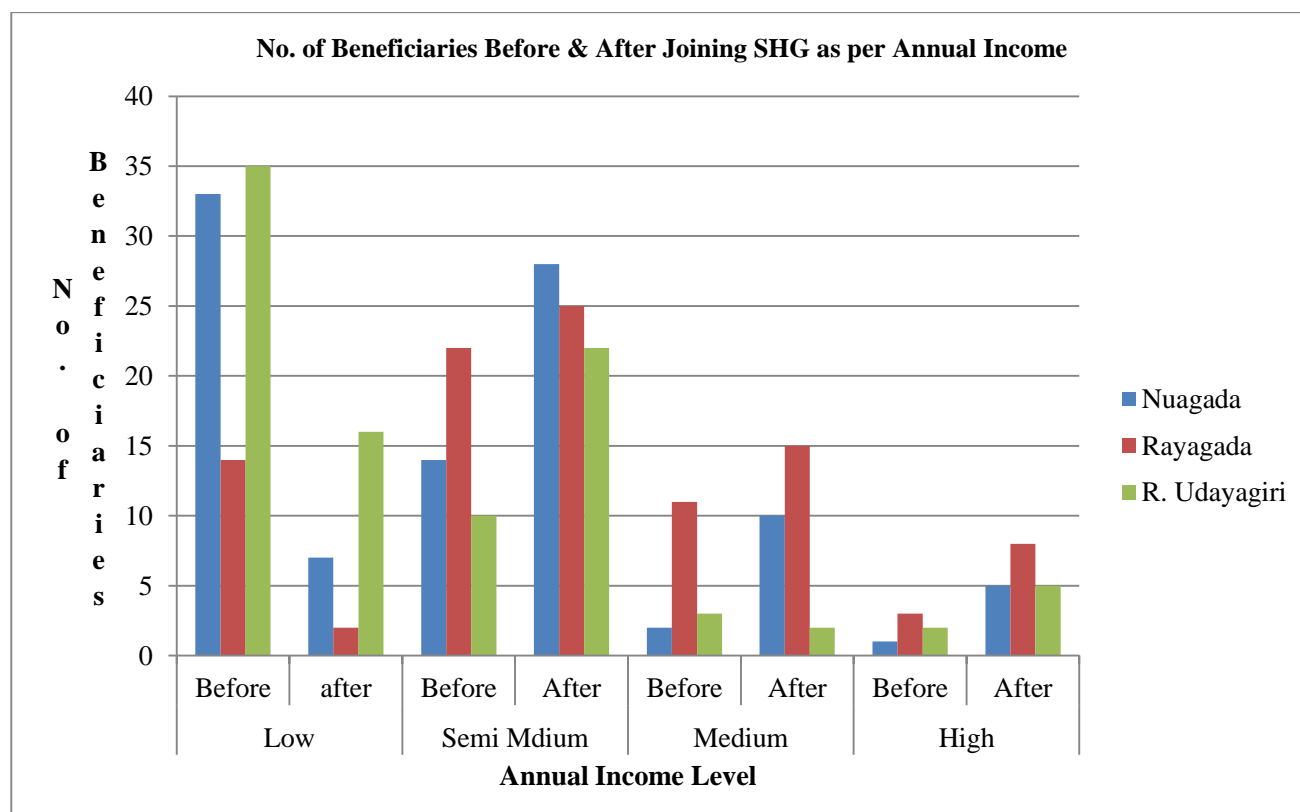
Table 1: No. of Beneficiaries as per Annual Income (Before Joining SHG)

Income Group Block	Low(upto `15,000)(Nos.)	Semi Medium(`15,001-`35,000) (Nos.)	Medium (`35,001-`50,000) (Nos.)	High(Above `50,000) (Nos.)	Total	χ^2 (Chi Square)
Nuagada	33(66%)	14(28%)	2(4%)	1(2%)	50(100%)	24.57
Rayagada	14(28%)	22(44%)	11(22%)	3(6%)	50(100%)	
R. Udayagiri	35(70%)	10(20%)	3(^%)	2(4%)	50(100%)	

Table 2 No. of Beneficiaries as per Annual Income (After Joining SHG)

Income Group Block	Low(upto `15,000) (Nos.)	Semi Medium (`15,001-`35,000) (Nos.)	Medium (`35,001-`50,000) (Nos.)	High(Above `50,000) (Nos.)	Total	χ^2 (Chi Square)
Nuagada	7(14%)	28(56%)	10(20%)	5(10%)	50(100%)	14.1
Rayagada	2(4%)	25(50%)	15(30%)	8(16%)	50(100%)	
R. Udayagiri	16(32%)	22(44%)	7(14%)	5(10%)	50(100%)	

Fig. 1



The entrepreneurial activities performed by the beneficiaries has been presented in the Table 3.

Table 3

Activities	Nuagada			Rayagada			R.Udayagiri		
	Never	Sometimes	Regular	Never	Sometimes	Regular	Never	Sometimes	Regular
Dairy	43	5	2	35	9	6	42	5	3
Tailoring	42	2	6	32	7	11	45	2	3
Goat Rearing	28	10	12	45	3	2	25	10	15
Fruits and Vegetable Marketing	32	11	7	25	15	10	25	15	10
Tamarind Marketing	48	2	0	34	9	7	45	1	4
Maize Cultivation	50	0	0	36	6	8	12	27	11
Brick Industry	50	0	0	49	0	1	40	6	4
Broom and Khali Business	34	13	3	38	5	7	31	7	12
Vegetable cultivation	36	11	3	30	12	8	22	15	13
seasonal business	38	2	10	21	9	10	42	3	5
Grocery Shop	50	0	0	26	9	5	47	1	2
Mushroom cultivation	34	10	6	24	15	11	39	4	7
Sunflower Cultivation	36	13	1	36	8	6	50	0	0
Mat Making	34	12	4	38	7	5	47	2	1
Tractor Hiring	50	0	0	46	3	1	50	0	0
Mean	40.33	6.06	3.6	34.33	7.8	11.86	37.46	6.53	6
Standard Error	1.98	1.39	0.99	2.14	1.08	5.36	3.007	1.93	1.26
Standard Deviation	7.68	5.4	3.86	8.29	4.19	20.77	11.64	7.48	4.98
Sample Variance	59.09	29.2	14.97	68.8	17.6	11.12	135.69	55.98	24.85

From the Table 3, that the mean values with their standard error, standard deviation and variance for the Nuagada block according to never, occasional and regular were found to be 40.33, 1.98, 7.68, 59.09, 6.06, 1.39, 5.4, 29.2 and 3.6, 0.99, 3.86, 14.97 respectively. For Rayagada block they were found to be 34.33, 2.14, 8.29, 68.8, 7.8, 1.08, 4.19, 17.6, 11.86, 5.36, 20.77, 11.12 and for R. Udayagiri block the respective values were found to be 37.46, 3.007, 11.64, 135.69, 6.53, 1.93, 7.48, 55.98, 6.1.26, 4.98, 24.85 respectively. The main entrepreneurial activities performed by the respondents of all the three blocks of Gajapati District were goat rearing, marketing of fruits & vegetables, maize cultivation, mushroom cultivation etc. So it is concluded here that the entrepreneurial activities performed by the beneficiaries of all the three blocks of Gajapati District have significant contribution in women empowerment. There is a very good scope and resources available for the tribal women to earn additional income but lack of awareness to avail schemes and technology of Government in the study area discourage them to adopt other entrepreneurial activities.

REASON FOR PARTICIPATION OF BENEFICIARIES IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP ACTIVITIES:

Participation in entrepreneurship activities of the beneficiaries have been presented in Table 4.

Table 4

Reason for activity	Nuagada Nos.(%)	Rayagada Nos(%)	R. Udayagiri Nos. (%)	Chi square
Buying assets	10(20%)	25(50%)	4(8%)	
Time Pass	2(4%)	5(10%)	2(4%)	
Traditionally Participation	7(14%)	16(32%)	1(2%)	
Poor Financial Condition	20(40%)	2(4%)	30(60%)	
No other source	11(22%)	2(4%)	13(26%)	
Total	50(100%)	50(100%)	50(100%)	64.395

However, 20(40%) beneficiaries of Nuagada block are under poor financial condition are adopting the enterprise for financial benefit and 11(22%) beneficiaries have no other source to strengthen the economics of their family. In Rayagada block the number of beneficiaries for buying assets is 25(50%) to meet the family requirement and the saving money is utilized accordingly and 16(32%) beneficiaries traditionally participate to run their family. Likewise for R. Udayagiri block 30 (60%) beneficiaries are in poor financial condition and 13 (26%) of them have no other sources. So the beneficiaries family is very much interested to avail new schemes and technologies of Government and the technologies with less investment. However, the different entrepreneurship activities are statistically significant ($P < 0.01$).

CONCLUSION:

Empowerment of women in India requires a crosscutting approach The impact of SHGs on rural women has been very minimal; Low education, unemployment, low income, deficient savings, and insufficient assets are all example of lack of women empowerment. So the income generating activities must be selected after careful survey of market studies and local resources. Media should play a vital role in projecting success stories of tribal women entrepreneur to motivate women farmers. Empowerment approaches for women therefore is not only about providing services, but also about recognizing their lived realities of multiple layers of discrimination that hinder their access to services.

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