

Chapter-5

Conclusion & Suggestions

Socio economic conditions of members of Joint liability groups

We find that maximum respondents who have taken loan from joint liability groups of microfinance institutions were of the age group of 35-45 years. Most of the respondents who have taken loans are married. Many of them have taken loan between 10000- 25000. Data shows that most of the respondents are illiterate or have education up to senior secondary level. And Income between 7,500 to 10,000 per month.

Impact of period of membership with MFI

As the period of membership increases members involve more in income generating activities, not using loan amount for other household expenses rather using that loan amount for income generating activities only. We also find that many members who are connected with MFI from long time (24 or more than 24 months) have no control on loans, they are not having knowledge of accounts, do not have control over funds. They are just using loan amount as members of micro finance institution are not educated (58 % Illiterate and 35 % only senior secondary), so membership of longer period of time does not improve their control over loan.

Impact of Joint liability groups on decision making and group dynamics

We find that most of the members disagreed to the point that all group member's opinion is taken while selecting group. Officers of microfinance institutions make groups by themselves and do not take members opinion while selecting group.

Most of the members (156 Members) opined that every member has a freedom of expression in the group. 58 % members of selected sample say that all group members are satisfied with the group.

Impact on empowerment of women

Economic empowerment

Influence of Age: we find that age of members has not any influence on Increase in income, undertaking income generating activities, reduction of dependency on money lenders, reduction of poverty in family.

We also find that age only has influence on improvement in savings of members. Members between the age group of 25-35 are doing the most savings.

Influence of Education level: we find that that education level of respondents has influence on undertaking income generating activities and reduction of dependency on money lenders. Education level of members has not any influence on increase in income, improvement in saving, reduction of poverty in the family.

Influence of type of family: we find that type of family has not any influence on selected variables of economic empowerment like increase in income, improvement in saving, undertaking income generating activities, and reduction of dependency on money lenders, reduction of poverty in family.

Influence of place of Residence: we find that there is significant influence of place of residence of respondents on economic empowerment of women. Place of residence of women influence the economic empowerment of women.

Influence of Income level: we find that in all the cases (except reduction of dependency on money lenders) income level of respondents has influence on economic empowerment. In case of reduction of dependency on money lenders income level has not any influence.

The extent of economic empowerment was also analyzed .The study reported that majority of the respondents (280 respondents) informed that Microfinance increased the income of the family and the increase in income by microfinance was an important indicator of women empowerment. It was observed that majority of the respondents (260 respondents) opined that microfinance enhanced the savings of women, which help them to meet urgent family needs and many of the respondents indicated that they joined the microfinance to save money. Microfinance resulted in improving decision making ability of women in family related matters.

On seeing the mean score of the response of all the variables it was found that there was maximum empowerment with respect to undertaking income generating activities (Mean 3.36)..

All the responses clearly indicate that microfinance activities and lending should be pursued more aggressively and a proper watch should be done to see its effect on overall income of the family. The Standard Deviation of the responses was also found to be high in case of undertaking income generating activities and lowest for increase in income.

Level of participation in household decision

Influence of age: we find that In case decisions relating to of children's education, ability to deal with financial crisis, family health care, food to be cooked each day, celebration of social and religion events, to invite the guest in social function the level of participation of women in decision relating to these issue is independent of age but in all the other cases there is a significant relation between the age and their level of participation in decision relating to saving, expenses, on house repair & family planning methods.

Influence of education level: we find that there is no significant relation between level of education and respondents' level of participation in decisions regarding children's education. We also found that education has influence on decision relating to saving, expenses, and ability to deal with the financial crisis of the family, food to be cooked each day, on house repair and construction, family planning method, celebration of social and religious events, invitation o guest in social functions. Education is the most important factor in women's empowerment and the above results have proved the fact.

Influence of type of family: we find that type of family has no impact on the level of participation of women in household decisions for savings, expenses, children's education, ability to deal with the financial crisis of the family, family health care, food to be cooked each day, on house repair and constructions, family planning methods, celebration of social and religious events, and the decisions for inviting the guest in social functions.

Influence of Place of residence: we find that there is significant relationship between place of residence and the empowerment of women through the level of participation in household decision. The result clearly indicates that the level of participation of women has been different in different regions because of the difference in the effectiveness of program by the respective JLGs.

Influence of Income level: Here we find that Income level has influence on the member's level of participation in household decisions. The level of participation is less in case of low income levels and high in case of high income level.

Here, we can conclude that Age has influence on some factors of level of participation in household decisions. Education level of members has influence on all the factors of level of participation in household decisions except Children's education. Type of family has not any influence. Place of residence of member has influence on level of participation in household decisions. Income level also has influence on level of participation in household decision.

It was also found that joining of JLGs had empowered the members to take decisions relating to savings which could help them meet the urgent family needs. Membership of JLGs had resulted in improving decision making ability of women in family related matters. Respondents play a moderated role in decision making to expenses. Around 76 % respondents reported that after joining joint liability group their involvement in decision making regarding children's education, family health care, food to be cooked each day, celebration of social and religious events, inviting the guest in social functions had been increased. In case of House repair and construction and family planning methods women's involvement in decision making was low.

Social Empowerment:

Influence of age: It was found that there is significant relation between age and social features like Moving independently, expressing views freely. And it was also found that age has not any influence on ability to discuss freely with bankers/officials/NGO.

Influence of education level: we find that education level of member has influence on social empowerment factors like moving independently, expressing views freely, and ability to discuss freely with bankers/ Govt. officials/NGO's and others.

Influence of Type of family: Type of family of respondents having not any influence on social empowerment of women. Social empowerment is independent of type of family.

Influence of Place of residence: Place of residence of members has significant influence on social empowerment of members of joint liability members.

Influence of Income Level: we find that income level has no influence on expressing views freely but has influence on moving independently and ability to discuss freely with bankers/govt. officials/NGOs and others.

It was found that women gained social empowerment at home. Now they are able to express their views freely at home but still they are not so empowered to move independently to other

places without the support of male members of the family. We can say that members are partially empowered in this case.

Participation in protest against social evils

Influence of age: We find that age has no relationship with participation in protest against social evils like illicit liquor sale, Alcoholic use, against pollution, for drinking water problems, against Dowry, Abuse of fellow group members by husbands.

Influence of education level: It was found that education level of member has influence on participation in protest against pollution only. For other factors like protest against illicit liquor sale, pollution, drinking water problem, Dowry, abuse of fellow group members by husband education level has not any influence.

Influence of type of family: It was found that type of family has no influence on participation in protest against social evils.

Influence of place of residence: It can be concluded that place of residence of members has influence on protest against drinking water problem and protest against abuse of fellow group members by husbands. For other features place of residence has no any significant influence.

Influence of Income level: It was found that there is significant relationship between income level and participation in protest against social evils like pollution, Dowry, and abuse of fellow group members by husbands. For Illicit Liquor sale / Alcoholic use, and drinking water problem there is no significant relation between income level and participation in protest against social evils.

It was found that Protest against dowry by the respondents was low and there was no appreciable level of participation. Respondents participation in protest against dowry, against illicit liquor and Pollution was negligible. There was some participation in protesting against the abuse of fellow members by their husbands.

Political Empowerment

Influence of age: It was found that there is not any relationship between women's age and ability to cast vote independently. and age has influence on members participation in panchayat meetings.

Influence of Education level: It was found that there is significant relationship between women's education level and Political empowerment of women.

Influence of type of family: It was found that there is no significant relationship between women's type of family and political empowerment. Political empowerment of women is not affected by type of family of women.

Influence of place of residence: It was found that place of residence affects the political empowerment of members.

Influence of Income level: It was found that there is significant relationship between women's income level and Political empowerment. Income level affects the women to be politically empowered.

It was found that most of the respondents do not participated in rallies organized on women's day and for child labour abolition. All those who have participated in women's day rally were due to rally's organized by NGO's all over the state.

Microfinance empowered respondents to vote independently, and without the direction of their husbands 40 percent respondents said that they vote independently. 42 percent respondents participated in Gram Sabha Meetings.

Impact of joint liability groups on repayment

It was found that there is significant improvement in the repayment performance of groups by the use of social capital of borrowers. We can say that peer pressure helps in improving repayment performance of joint liability groups.

