

# Effect of Political Inferences for Empowering the Women Self Help Groups

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## Abstract:

The SHGs (self help groups) played an important role to sharpen the leadership skills in women in the rural region. The political element entails that women have the capability to analyze, organize and mobilize the surrounding situation for social transformation. This paper explores and highlights that how the political and decision making activities contributes for promoting and empowering the women self help groups in some of the select districts of Haryana as the role of political inferences in the society through various platform such as SHGs is significant for the overall development of the economy. Various variables like age, locality, education, income are too assessed with the political and its related decisions to know the effect in the implied situation.

**Keywords:** Self-Help Group, Empowerment, Women Empowerment, Political & Decision making activities.

## Introduction:

Self-Help Group refers to self-governed, peer controlled, informal group of people with same socio-economic background and having a desire to collectively perform common purposes. Here poor people voluntarily come together to save whatever amount they can save conveniently out of their earnings, to mutually agree to contribute to a common fund and to lend to the members for meeting their productive and emergent needs.

SHGs have been able to mobilize small savings either on weekly or monthly basis from persons who were not expected to have any savings. They have been able to effectively recycle the resources generated among the members for meeting the emergent credit needs of members of the group. Women SHG is a group formed by the community women, which has specific number of members like 15 or 20. In such a group the poorest women would come together for emergency, disaster, social reasons, and economic support to each other having ease of conversation, social interaction and economic interaction.

## Empowerment

Empowerment is a process of change by which individuals or groups gain power and ability to take control over their lives. It involves access to resources, resulting into increased participation in decision-making and bargaining power and increased control over benefits, resources and own life, increased self-confidence, self-esteem and self-respect, increased well being.

### POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT

The political element entails that women have the capability to analyze, organize and mobilize the surrounding situation for social transformation. Leadership qualities are also developing in women because they now participate in the social activities like trying to solve the problems of their 'basti'/ locality, village.

In 1991, constitutional provision for 33 percent reserved seats in Gram Panchayat in our country came into being. In the beginning, the process of participation of women was slow but now the situation is changing fastly. Due to advent of SHGs, women were able to see the outside world. They understood the processes involved in solving the local problems through political participation. By and by, their participation in political process started increasing. In SHGs, they found an opportunity to become a leader of SHG. In some places, local SHGs acted as pressure groups for or against a particular political candidate in Panchayat elections. The SHGs played an important role to hone the leadership skills in women in the rural region.

### Review of literature:

*Rao (2013)* entitled as "women Empowerment Through Micro Enterprises role of Micro finance with special reference to select Mandals in west Godavari district AndhraPradesh" aimed to study the origin, growth and trends in the working of SHGs and their support as micro finance institution in selected areas as well as India and their role in entrepreneurship development. The researcher used a five groups, 24 variables (Parameters), a well structured questionnaire of 300 SHG's on socioeconomic profile of member of SHG's and sample design of 4 Revenue Divisional. It was found through the study that the highest motivation for joining SHG seems to be by the influence of neighbors' followed by friends and family members.

*Kantida (2012)* entitled as "Best practice of self help groups and women Empowerment. A case of Barak valley of Assam" attempted to study the impact of SHG's on women members as well as a comparative study on the quality of SHG's in selected area by collecting 150 sample questionnaires from the selected district. Some quality assessment indicators used for study were as organizational capacity kind of rules and regulation; running the group, attendance in meeting, selection of group leaders nominated by SHGs /NGO/Bank staffs, decisions taken by consensus. The researcher concluded that the quality of SHG's is quite low in barak valley in compression to other regions or states and the problem of the SHG's are facing were found to be of marketing basic infrastructure, training and skill development avenues lack of

administrative experience in managing the affairs of the groups. The study observed that the overall performance of the SHG's in all the three districts was poor.

**Sreelakshamma(2008)** Regarding the political contacts of the sample beneficiaries with the leaders of different political parties, it is found that during the field survey about 35 percent of the sample respondents have close contacts/ relations with the party leaders of their area. About 40 percent of the total respondents are approached by the leaders of various political parties for their support and cooperation in various elections. It is observed that the priority is given to the Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) members in the selection of candidates for contesting various local bodies elections. Out of the total, 14 sample respondents have contested for different offices in these elections. Of them five members were elected as the ward members of the Village Panchayats. Considerable numbers of the women have become politically active after joining the DWCRA groups and are taking active part in various activities.

### Research Methodology:

The population of study is 200 members which is taken from four districts in Haryana. The area of the study was Rewari, Bhiwani, Mahendragarh and Mewat districts of Haryana state. All 200 respondents have been administered with a structured questionnaire for the purpose of the study. The selection of the respondents has been randomly made from the cities and villages from given districts.

SELECTED DISTRICTS OF HARYANA	NO OF RESPONDENTS
Rewari district	50 units
Bhiwani district	50 units
Mahendragarh district	50 units
Mewat district	50 units

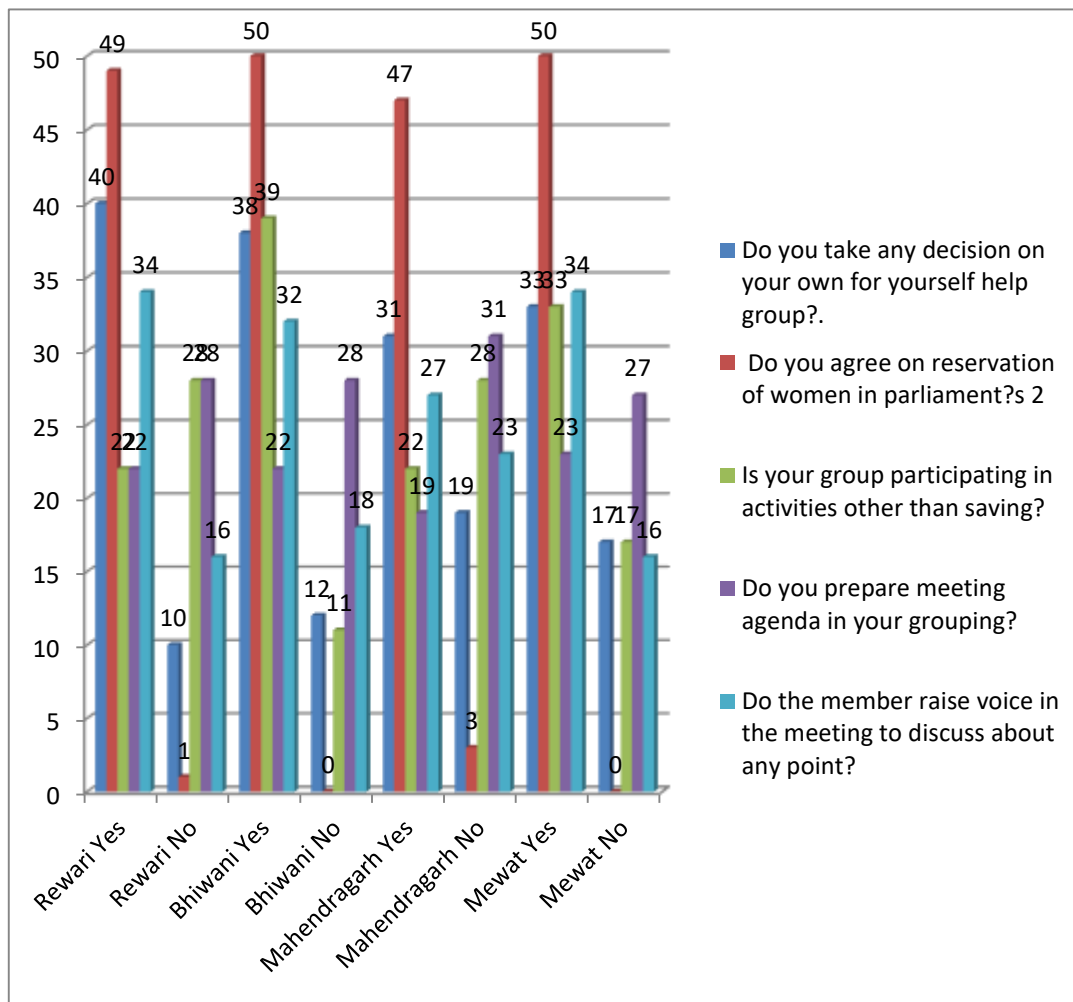
**Objective of the study:** To examine the role of SHGs in promoting empowerment of women through political inferences.

### Data Analysis Techniques

To analyze the data, a set of simple statistical techniques such a Cross Tabulation, Person chi square test on 5% level of significance and SPSS 16 will be used in data Analysis.

**Data Analysis:**

**POLITICAL & DECISION MAKING ACTIVITIES**



**DIAGRAM (1.1)**

The above diagram (1.1) exhibits the Political & Decision making Activities.

**TABLE NO 1.2**

$\chi^2$  value showing Effect of Age of SHGs on Political & Decision Making Activities

Sl No	VERIABALS/DISTRICT	REWAR I $\chi^2$ - VALUE	BHIWAN I $\chi^2$ - VALUE	MAHENDERAGAR H $\chi^2$ - VALUE	MEWA T $\chi^2$ - VALUE	TOTA L $\chi^2$ - VALU E
1	Do you take any decision on your own for your Self help group?	.291	.335	.488	.225	.190
2	Do you agree on reservation of women in parliament?	.147	constant	.680	constant	.746

3	Is your group participating in activities other than saving?	.254	.546	.126	.494	.045
4	Do you prepare meeting agenda in your grouping?	.850	.381	.324	.055	.154
5	Do the members raise voice in the meeting to discuss about any point?	.943	.278	.792	.226	.213

Source: primary data

5%level of significant

The Table 1.2 shows that effect of age on political and decision making activities towards variable 1, 3, 4, and 5 that members of all districts self help groups can take decision itself, but variable 3 value of  $X^2$  test (.045) show that members of all selected districts take participation in political and decision making activities. The variable 2 that all members of SHGs in both Rewari and Mahendergarh districts agree on reservation for women in parliament whereas in both Bhiwani and Mewat districts they have given 100 % vote for reservation of women in parliament.

**TABLE NO 1.3**

$X^2$  value showing Effect of locality of SHGs on Political & Decision Making Activities

S no	VARIABLES /DISTRICTS	REWARI $X^2$ - VALUE	BHIWANI $X^2$ - VALUE	MAHENDERGARH $X^2$ - VALUE	MEWAT $X^2$ - VALUE	TOTAL $X^2$ - VALUE
1	Do you take any decision on your own for your Self Help group?	.768	.485	.425	.773	.709
2	Do you agree on reservation of women in parliament?	.178	Constant	.415	Constant	.823
3	Is your group participating in activities other than saving?	.376	.793	.183	.136	.498

4	Do you prepare meeting agenda in your grouping?	.522	.111	.707	.945	.433
5	Do the members raise voice in the meeting to discuss about any point?	.434	.352	.945	.525	.886

Source: primary data

5% level of significant

The Table 1.3  $X^2$  value showing Effect of locality of SHGs on Political & Decision Making Activities. Table shows that all  $X^2$  value are accepted on 5 % level of significance. The variable 2 that all members of SHGs in both Rewari and Mahenderagarh districts agree on reservation for women in parliament whereas in both Bhiwani and Mewat districts they have given 100 % vote for reservation of women in parliament.

**TABLE NO 1.4**

$X^2$  value showing Effect of education of SHGs on Political & Decision Making Activities

S NO	VARIABLES /DISTRICTS	REWARI $X^2$ - VALUE	BHIWANI $X^2$ - VALUE	MAHENDERAGARH $X^2$ - VALUE	MEWAT $X^2$ - VALUE	TOTAL $X^2$ - VALUE
1	Do you take any decision on your own for your Self help group?	.435	.819	.866	.736	.962
2	Do you agree on reservation of women in parliament?	.407	Constant	.648	Constant	.841
3	Is your group participating in activities other than saving?	.306	.898	.172	.400	.336

4	Do you prepare meeting agenda in your grouping?	.251	.468	.226	.933	.604
5	Do the members raise voice in the meeting to discuss about any point?	.232	.826	.226	.198	.494

Source: primary data

5%level of significant

The Table 1.4,  $X^2$  value shows Effect of education of SHGs on Political & Decision Making Activities. Table shows that all  $X^2$ value are accepted on 5 % level of significance. The variable 2 shows that all the members of SHGs in both Rewari and Mahenderagarh districts agree on reservation for women in parliament whereas in both Bhiwani and Mewat districts they have given 100 % vote for reservation of women in parliament.

**TABLE NO 1.5**

$X^2$  value showing Effect of income of SHGs on Political & Decision Making Activities

S NO	VARIABLES /DISTRICTS	REWARI X <sup>2</sup> - VALUE	BHIWANI X <sup>2</sup> - VALUE	MAHENDERAGARH X <sup>2</sup> - VALUE	MEWAT X <sup>2</sup> - VALUE	TOTAL X <sup>2</sup> - VALUE
1	Do you take any decision on your own for your Self Help group?	.210	.271	.662	.249	.012
2	Do you agree on reservation of women in parliament?	.751	Constant	.738	Constant	.512
3	Is your group participating in activities other than	.909	.075	.747	.603	.171

	saving?					
4	Do you prepare meeting agenda in your grouping?	.857	.670	.536	.658	.361
5	Do the members raise voice in the meeting to discuss about any point?	.526	.047	.426	.474	.013

Source: primary data

5%level of significant

The Table 1.5  $X^2$  value shows the Effect of income of SHGs on Political & Decision Making Activities towards variable 1. Value of  $X^2$  – test (.012) shows that the members of all selected districts don't take their decision on their own. The variable 2 shows that all the members of SHGs in both Rewari and Mahendergarh districts agree on reservation for women in parliament whereas in both Bhiwani and Mewat districts they have given 100 % vote for reservation of women in parliament In variable 5 value of  $X^2$  – test (.047) shows that members of Bhiwani district thinks that they have not raised their voice in the meeting to discuss on the Self Help Groups point and overall results value of  $X^2$  – test (.013) is same as that Bhiwani district.

### Findings of the study:

#### POLITICAL & DECISION MAKING ACTIVITIES WITH AGE FACTORS

All the statements shown in the table are strongly agreed with the analysis made through primary data except the statement “is your group participating in activities other than saving.” From the deep study of collected data it was conformed that .according to “effect on political & decision making activities with age factors in  $x^2$  values”. Overall empowerment has been ensured.

#### EFFECT ON POLITICAL & DECISION MAKING ACTIVITIES WITH LOCALITY FACTORS IN $X^2$ VALUES

All the statements shown in the table are strongly agreed with the analysis made through primary data. From the deep study of collected data it was conformed that .according to “effect on political & decision making activities with locality factors in  $x^2$  values”. Overall empowerment has been ensured.



## EFFECT ON POLITICAL & DECISION MAKING ACTIVITIES WITH EDUCATION FACTORS IN $\chi^2$ VALUES

All the statements shown in the table are strongly agreed with the analysis made through primary data. From the deep study of collected data it was conformed that .according to “effect on political & decision making activities with education factors in  $\chi^2$  values”. Overall empowerment has been ensured.

## EFFECT ON POLITICAL & DECISION MAKING ACTIVITIES WITH INCOME FACTORS IN $\chi^2$ VALUES

All the statements shown in the table are strongly agreed with the analysis made through primary data except the statement “Do you take any decision on your own for yours self help group and Do the members raise voice in the meeting to discuss about any point” From the deep study of collected data it was conformed that .according to “effect on political & decision activities with income factors in  $\chi^2$  values”. Overall empowerment has been ensured.

Thus, Self-help Group has proved an important means in taking the process of women empowerment to rural region.

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