

Impact of Demographic and SHG Factors on Political Empowerment of Women: A Case Study of Hassan District, Karnataka

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Abstract

The present study has examined the impact of demographic and SHG factors on political empowerment of SHG members. Present study has used primary data and logit econometric modeling for analysis. It has been found from the study that only income has expected influence on the political empowerment. All others have negative relationship with political empowerment of the SHG members. It does not mean that there is no political empowerment of SHG members. Without the influence of demographic and change in the SHG characteristics SHG members are entitle for almost fifty percent of political empowerment. With all possible changes in the demographic and SHG characteristics, the political empowerment will be increased from 0.51 to 0.66, with the net increase of 0.15. Accordingly, demographic and SHG characteristics have lesser or little insignificant influence on the political empowerment.

Keywords: SHG, Political Empowerment, Logit Analysis, Predicted Probability and Income

I. Introduction

The political empowerment of women through SHG is a comprehensive way to strengthen unorganized rural women and to attain gender equality. The political empowerment is a procedure of conversion in political power such as right to take decision, right to give orders and instructions, legal authority, power and position. Women's empowerment has five components: women's sense of self-worth; their right to have and to determine choices; their right to have access to opportunities and resources; their right to have power to control their own lives, both within and outside the home; and their ability to influence the direction of social change to create a more just social and economic order, nationally and internationally⁴.

Usually rural women become member with SHGs to improve her Economic and Social condition. In addition to these two the political empowerment also required to realize their rights. The political empowerment of women will increase her leadership, political participation ability, recognition by political party, create employment opportunity and enhance employability and she might be voice against discrimination. The role of SHGs is

remarkable in the Political Empowerment of SHG women. Now Rural SHG women have acquired analyzing skill, leadership skill and organize the resources for social development. The demographic variables like Income, age, education, gender are also the factors influence on the political empowerment of SHG members. (Dharamvir 2019).

II Literature Review

The actual empowerment of women means strengthening her Economically, Socially and Politically. The political and legal power for women is perfect to craft an ideal society and community. Every member gets political importance because of their membership in SHG (M. Chittibabu Kannan 2015). After the SHG membership; rural women has achieved some progress such as gain knowledge how to do banking, Economic sovereignty, acquired leadership Skills, capable to take self decision, have confidence to raise voice against injustices in the society, maintaining good reputation with public. (Prof. Jelsy Joseph 2015). One of the challenges in front government was the Economic, Social and Political empowerment of women. Now SHGs are successfully filling this gap. Now SHGs has brought significant changes in the different spheres of women life; the notable improvement were social contact, commitment in political actions, attending gram sabha, have confidence to resolve the conflicts, enhancement in leadership skills are the amazing political promotion were the outcomes of SHG membership (Nirupama Mishra 2015). The Economic and social empowerment of SHG women evident that; It has increased that savings, loan borrowing capacity, fund rotation, analysing, evaluating and monitoring skills of SHG women. (Dr. Sebastian A. Baskaran and Dr. J J Soundararaj 2016). The Demographic variables like Income, Community, Age and Religion of woman have relatively impact on the Political empowerment of SHG members. (S. Poominathan, Dr. S. Amilan and B. Muthukrishnan 2016). SHGs supporting Panchayatha Raj system to achieve it Vision. The Panchayatha Raj system has working towards political empowerment of rural women. SHGs motivate women to participate in local bodies' election, participate in Gram Sabah, and discuss the local problem with leaders are the optimistic outcomes from SHG intervention. (Aprajeeta 2016). SHGs are the strategic proposal to women to make participation in the political activates. As it result now SHG women taking part in various local political occasions such as doing campaigning for election, contesting in election, creating awareness on voting, got membership in many associations, participate in grievance managing machinery. (Dr. Dheepa T. and Dr. Barani G 2016). There is a strong relationship between the SHG membership and Political involvement. After the membership most of the SHG woman were know the value of vote and they has aware voting is our right. SHGs and there promoting agency educating the members to vote in every election. SHG members have the confidence to attend the Grama Sabah's of local panchayat. (Neha Kumar 2019). There are some challenges for the Political empowerment of SHG women such as; no regular change of SHG leaders, lack of commitment, no periodical meetings, inadequate support from promoting agency, lack of planning, and underestimate of political empowerment. (Swapanadip Sarkar and Iswar Chanrda Malik 2019).

III. Methodology

The present study has used primary data and logit econometric modeling for analysis. The data has collected from 384 SHG members in Hassan district by using systematic and proportionate random sampling technique. Data has collected for demographic characteristics and SHG characteristics and also for political empowerment of SHG members. The respondents have given information on Likert-scale. Accordingly, data have transformed to index and then to binary options like success and failure. If the index value is greater than its own average value, then it is treated as success. If the index value is lesser than its own average value, then it is treated as failure in achieving the political empowerment. Accordingly, for dummy dependent, the index values have transformed to binary options like success or failure; 1 for success and 0 for failure. The logit econometric model is a dummy dependent qualitative response model and the independent variables may or may not be qualitative. For the present analysis, both dependent and independent variables are qualitative. In the present paper the dependent variable is political success and independent variables are demographic and SHG factors.

The following logit model has constructed to analyse the impact of economic and personal empowerment on managerial success.

$$\ln Y = b_0 + b_1 \ln x_1 + b_2 \ln x_2 + u$$

The following logit model has constructed to analyse the impact of demographic and SHG factors on political empowerment.

$$Y = b_0 + b_1 x_1 + b_2 x_2 + b_3 x_3 + b_4 x_4 + b_5 x_5 + u$$

The above function is a general form of logit function. The specific function for the impact of demographic and the SHG factors on political empowerment has given below;

$$SPOE = b_0 + b_1 \text{age} + b_2 \text{education} + b_3 \text{income} + b_4 \text{ageshg} + b_5 \text{members} + u$$

Where;

SPOE = Expected Success in Political Empowerment,

Age = Age of SHG Member,

Education = Education Level of SHG Members,

Income = Average Monthly Income of SHG Family,

ageshg = Age of SHG (since how long the SHG is functioning),

Members = Number of Members in the SHG,

b's are constant and coefficients

u = the error or disturbance term

IV. Results and Discussions

The paper intended to analyze the impact of demographic characteristics and SHG factors on the success in achieving political empowerment. It is assumed that demographic and SHG factors will have significant impact on the success in political empowerment of SHG members. It is believed that as age, education, income of the SHG members increase, there will be increase in political empowerment. Accordingly, the study expects positive relationship between demographic factors and success in political empowerment. The study also expects positive relationship between SHG factors and political empowerment. As age of SHG increases and size of the SHG increases, there will be increase in political empowerment. Therefore, there are relations of demographic and SHG factors with political empowerment. Hence, the impact of demographic and SHG factors on political success are estimated and presented in the following;

Table 1: Logit Estimation for Impact of Demographic and SHG Factors on SPOE

Dependent Variable: SPOE Method: ML - Binary Logit (Quadratic hill climbing) Sample: 1 384				
Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	z-Statistic	Prob.
C	0.020190	0.577450	0.034965	0.9721
Age	-0.113968	0.124160	-0.917910	0.3587
Education	-0.067300	0.105292	-0.639179	0.5227
Income	0.094986	0.129507	0.733441	0.4633
Age SHG	-0.078109	0.094724	-0.824597	0.4096
Members	0.174868	0.176655	0.989885	0.3222
McFadden R-squared	0.006001	Mean dependent var	0.460938	
LR statistic	3.180622	Avg. log likelihood	-0.685951	
Prob(LR statistic)	0.672162			

The impact of demographic and SHG factors on success in the political empowerment are estimated and presented in the above table. The above results have estimated using logit regression model. The-squared R value is low and matter of fact the model fit is not an important issue. LR statistic is not significant at five percent level and total impact of demographic and SHG factors are insignificant in explaining the skew in political empowerment.

The constant and coefficients of the independent variables are odds ratios of the estimated model. Except income and members all other are having negative coefficient and at the same time they are not significant even at ten percent level. Accordingly, in the absence of influence of the independent variables the success in the political empowerment is positive

but not guaranteed as the intercept is also not significant and constant value is almost nearing zero. At the same time, the income and members have positive impact on the success in the political empowerment and it is also not guaranteed. Education, age of SHG and number of members in the SHG are having negative impact on the success in political empowerment. However, the predicted probability will exactly explain the impact of independent variables on dependent variable, like success in political empowerment.

The two stage method has adopted to calculate the probability of success in political empowerment.

1. Calculation of odds ratio: the formula to calculation of odds ratio is given by;
 $\ln(\hat{p}/1-\hat{p}) = b_0 + b_1x_1 + b_2x_2 + \dots$ estimated.
2. Calculation of estimated probability: the formula to calculation of expected probability is given by;
 $\hat{p} = \frac{\exp(b_0 + b_1x_1 + b_2x_2 + \dots)}{1 + \exp(b_0 + b_1x_1 + b_2x_2 + \dots)}$ estimated.

The result of the estimated odds ratio and estimated probability of success in political empowerment are given below;

Table 2: The Predicted Probability of Success in Political Empowerment

Variables	Coefficients	Expectations					
C	0.02019	1	1	1	1	1	1
Age	-0.11397	0	4	3	2	1	1
Education	-0.0673	0	5	4	3	2	1
Income	0.094986	0	1	2	3	4	4
Age SHG	-0.07811	0	4	3	2	1	1
Members	0.174868	0	1	2	3	3	3
Logs of Odds Ratio		0.0202	-0.8148	-0.2855	0.2437	0.5981	0.6654
Predicted Probability		0.5050	0.3069	0.4291	0.5606	0.6452	0.6605

By using the formulas, the odds ratio and predicted probabilities success in political empowerment are estimated. It has been found from the above estimations that the expectations are ranging from zero to five. If the expectations for demographic and SHG factors are equal to zero the predicted probability of success in political empowerment is 0.51. Based on the dimensional values, the values for expectations are assigned. The best possible combinations of expectations are assigned to obtain increased predicted probability of success in political empowerment. It has been revealed from the predicted probability that as expectation values are increasing for income and members, the predicted probability of success in political empowerment is increasing. And as expectation values are decreasing for age, education and age of SHG, the predicted probability of success in the political empowerment is also increasing. With all possible changes in the demographic and SHG characteristics, the political empowerment will be increased from 0.51 to 0.66, with the net increase of 0.15. Therefore, the best possibility of achieving success in political empowerment is with lower age, less or no education and early SHG, relatively higher

income families and bigger SHGs. Accordingly, the bank linkage SHG programme is very effective for younger, less educated, newly formed bigger SHG with relatively higher income members to achieve better political empowerment.

Conclusion

The present paper has examined the impact of demographic and SHG factors on success in political empowerment. The study has used primary data and logit model to analyse the issues. It has been found from the study that only income has expected influence on the political empowerment. All others have negative relationship with political empowerment of the SHG members. It does not mean that there is no political empowerment of SHG members. Without the influence of demographic and change in the SHG characteristics SHG members are entitle for almost fifty percent of political empowerment. With all possible changes in the demographic and SHG characteristics, the political empowerment will be increased from 0.51 to 0.66, with the net increase of 0.15. Accordingly, demographic and SHG characteristics have lesser or little insignificant influence on the political empowerment.

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