



# Extent of Empowerment of Women entrepreneurs on Social and Economic Empowerment

Swetha M., Jagan Mohan Reddy M. and Sudharani V.

Department of Agricultural Extension, Acharya N.G Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad-30, INDIA

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## Abstract

Women's economic empowerment is the capacity to bring economic changes for themselves, now a days it is increasingly recognised as the most important factor to achieving equality between women and men. But economically strengthening women is not only a means by which to increase the economic growth, but also strengthening women's human rights. Hence the present paper focused on to analyse Determining the factors responsible for resource mobilization, social empowerment and economic empowerment among the women entrepreneurs. Hence the present paper focused on analyzing the Social and economic empowerment of women entrepreneurs. Majority of the women entrepreneurs had medium social and economic empowerment.

**Keywords:** Social empowerment, economic empowerment and women entrepreneurs.

## Introduction

Entrepreneurship itself has been recently recognized as full-fledged profession and women entrepreneurship is an even newer phenomenon. The assertion and analysis of the concept of women entrepreneurship is essential to understand how they can be empowered much to take up entrepreneurial activities more on scientific manner. Many dimensions shall contribute for the empowerment of women entrepreneurs in general whereas the Social and Economic dimensions would influence significantly in empowering the women to take up entrepreneurial activities. A few research studies focused attention to understand the role and influence of these dimensions on empowering the women entrepreneurs. Keeping this in view the present paper focused on analyzing the extent of empowerment of women entrepreneurs on Social and economic empowerment.

## Material and Methods

Ex- post facto research design was followed for carrying out the study. The State of Andhra Pradesh and telangana region were selected purposively for the study as the investigator hails from the state. Out of 10 districts of the region, Medak district was selected purposively for the study. Out of 46 mandals of the district, five mandals were selected randomly.

The selected mandals were Siddipet, Thoguta, Chinnakodur, Nanganoor, Dubbak, Sangareddy. From each mandal two villages were selected at randomly. The selected villages were-Hensanpally and Bandarupally from Siddipet mandal; Thukkapur and Ghanpur from Thoguta; Ramancha and Lingareddypally from Chnnakodur; Nanganoor, and Akkannapally from Nanganoor; Dubbak and Cheekode from Dubbak, where as Pothireddy pally and Malkapur from

Sangreddy mandal. Ten respondents were selected randomly from each village thus making a total of 120 respondents. Extent of empowerment was selected as variable for the study and social empowerment and economic empowerment were the dimensions selected in it. An interview schedule was developed to collect the data from the respondents.

## Results and Discussion

**Social empowerment:** Puhazendi and Jayaraman reported that the involvement of the rural poor in SHGs significantly contributed to their "social empowerment" in terms of improvement in their confidence, their treatment within the family, communication skills and other behavioural changes<sup>1</sup>. It could be indicated from the table 1. that majority of the respondents (40.84%) had medium social empowerment, followed by high (35.83%) and low (23.33%) social empowerment. Preethi and shashi (2008) revealed in their study that 41 per cent of the women entrepreneurs had low social empowerment and 35 per cent of women entrepreneurs had high social empowerment<sup>2</sup>.

**Table-1**  
Distribution of respondents according to their social empowerment (n=120)

S.No.	Category	Class interval	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	Low	12-18	28	23.33
2.	Medium	18-24	49	40.84
3.	High	24-30	43	35.83

It could be noted from the table-1. that majority of the women entrepreneurs had medium to high social empowerment. The significant level of primary and higher schooling high levels of commitment, aspiration, ability to coordinate, risk orientation, medium level of awareness creation, medium to high level of critical consciousness and self confidence might have influenced the medium to high level of social empowerment.

The table-2. indicates the rank ordering of statements of social empowerment of the women entrepreneurs. The ranks assigned to the statements are Having the feeling of social security (rank I) followed by Freedom to work at one’s own time outside the family (rank II), Chance to possess desired social status (rank III), Privilege of having healthy social environment (rank IV), improvement in self education through enterprise (rank V), chance to participate in community actions (rank VI), freedom to visit the hospital or doctor, freedom for practicing and maintaining health (rank VII), freedom to mix with friends (VIII) and appreciation by the family members for significant contributions and access to modern technologies (IX).

The rank ordering of the statements of social empowerment further suggests that the women entrepreneurs had scored high on feeling of social security, freedom to work at one’s own time outside the family, chance to possess desired social status, the reasons could be the medium to high trend of social empowerment gained through an enterprise might have given a feeling of social security among the women entrepreneurs, having more flexibility of timing to attend the works outside the family as an enterprise management does not demand strict and stipulated timings, one can easily achieve the status in the society which is acceptable to all by effective management of an enterprise. The poor score was obtained an access to modern technologies getting appreciation by the family members and getting freedom to mix with friends. Most of the modern technologies are not within the affordability of small and micro entrepreneurs and seldom the credentials of these entrepreneurs are acknowledged by the family members and the entrepreneurs strictly speaking may not get enough time to lead their private life happily with the friends.

**Table-2**  
**Rank ordering of statements of social empowerment of women entrepreneurs**

S. No	Statement	Agree		Undecided		Disagree		TS	M.S	Rank
		f	%	f	%	f	%			
1.	There is a significant improvement in self education through enterprise	55	45.83	7	5.83	58	48.34	237	1.97	V
2.	I had the freedom to work at my own time outside the family	60	50.00	9	7.50	51	42.50	249	2.07	II
3.	I had the freedom to visit the hospital or doctor	54	45.00	5	4.17	61	50.83	233	1.94	VII
4.	I had the freedom for practicing and maintaining health	44	36.67	25	20.83	51	42.50	233	1.94	VII
5.	I got the chance to participate in community actions	48	40.00	20	16.67	52	43.33	236	1.96	VI
6.	I had the feeling of social security	64	53.33	4	3.34	52	43.33	252	2.1	I
7.	I had the chance to possess desired social status	53	44.16	20	16.67	47	39.17	246	2.05	III
8.	I had the privilege of having healthy social environment	54	45.00	16	13.33	50	41.67	244	2.03	IV
9.	I got the appreciation by the family members for significant contributions	35	29.17	37	30.83	48	40.00	227	1.89	IX
10.	I had access to modern technologies	35	29.17	37	30.83	48	40.00	227	1.89	IX
11.	It gives me freedom to mix with friends	36	30.00	38	31.67	46	38.33	230	1.91	VIII

**Economic empowerment:** It could be indicated from the table-3. that majority of the respondents (50.83%) had medium economic empowerment, followed by high (30.00%) and low (19.17%) economic empowerment.

**Table-3**  
**Distribution of respondents according to their economic empowerment (n=120)**

S. No.	Category	Class interval	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Low	20-23	23	19.17
2	Medium	23-26	61	50.83
3	High	26-29	36	30.00

From the table 3. It could be observed that majority of the women entrepreneurs had medium economic empowerment. It indicates that the selected enterprises were not much profitable and did not yield immediate income to meet their needs. This may be due to lack of emphasis on systematic identification and selection of viable economic activities based on their technical

and economic feasibility considering the factors like marketing, technology etc. John found that majority (82 per cent) of the women in SHGs stated that they had economic independence after forming SHGs and he also found that increase in freedom in spending their earnings in meeting their needs and 18 per cent of the respondent have no economic independence<sup>3</sup>. In most of the cases it was also reported that the loan obtained for running an enterprise was not put to proper use and was mostly spent for meeting other needs. To avoid mis-utilisation of loan amount, and the sanctioned amount must be released in two or three instalments and officials should appraise about the enterprises taken up by the women periodically to ensure proper utilisation of loan amount by the women entrepreneurs. Chaitanya (2004) revealed in her study that a considerable majority of (44.44%) of women in all enterprises had medium economic empowerment followed by low (29.89%) and high (25.67%) economic improvement<sup>4</sup>.

The table-4 highlights the rank ordering of the statements of economic empowerment of the women entrepreneurs.

**Table-4**  
**Rank ordering of statements of economic empowerment of women entrepreneurs**

S. No	Statement	Agree		Undecided		Disagree		TS	M.S	Rank
		f	%	f	%	f	%			
1.	The running of an enterprise gives me an opportunity for entrepreneurship development	62	51.66	29	24.17	29	24.17	273	2.27	I
2.	I had freedom for selection of job	40	33.34	28	23.33	52	43.33	228	1.9	VII
3.	I could able to manage personal savings in the form of fixed deposits	39	32.50	22	18.33	59	49.17	220	1.83	X
4.	I could operate personal accounts in the bank	51	42.50	37	30.83	32	26.67	259	2.15	II
5.	I could involve in the decisions on adoption of modern technology in home or enterprise	39	32.50	23	19.17	58	48.33	221	1.84	IX
6.	I could participate in decisions on purchasing building or house	40	33.33	23	19.17	57	47.50	223	1.85	VIII
7.	I could influence the decision on marketing of produce	56	46.67	24	20.00	40	33.33	256	2.13	III
8.	I could participate in purchasing inputs for family enterprise	41	34.17	30	25.00	49	40.83	232	1.93	VI
9.	I had the authority to employ labourers	37	30.83	22	18.33	61	50.83	216	1.80	XI
10.	I had the freedom for spending on entertainment of guests	48	40.00	35	29.17	37	30.83	251	2.09	IV
11.	I had freedom for offering presents to relatives	48	40.00	26	21.67	46	38.33	242	2.01	V

The ranks assigned to the statements are-running of an enterprise gives an opportunity for entrepreneurship development (rank I), operation of personal accounts by entrepreneur in the bank (rank II), influence the decision on marketing of produce (rank III), freedom for spending on entertainment of guests (rank IV), freedom for offering presents to relatives (rank V), participate in purchasing inputs for family enterprise (rank VI), freedom for selection of job (VII), participate in decisions on purchasing building or house (rank VIII), involve in the decisions on adoption of modern technology in home or enterprise (rank IX), able to manage personal savings in the form of fixed deposits (rank X) and authority to employ labourers (rank XI).

### Conclusion

The empowerment of the women entrepreneurs can be significantly improved with better social and economic conditions. The respondents in the present study had medium to high level of social and economic empowerment. The significant level of primary and higher schooling, high levels of commitment, aspiration, ability to coordinate, risk orientation,

medium level of awareness creation, medium to high level of critical consciousness and self confidence might have influenced the medium to high level of socio-economic empowerment.

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