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Socio-economic characteristics with knowledge and attitude of perceived by respondents of women regarding women empowerment schemes in Bikaner district of Rajasthan

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Abstract

Context: Women empowerment refers to increasing the spiritual, political, social, educational, gender or economic strength of individuals and communities of women. Policies on Women empowerment exist at the national, state and local (Panchayat) levels in many sectors, including health, education, economic opportunities, and gender based violence and political participation. Hence the Government of India launched many schemes especially for women and the constraints faced by them in gaining the benefits of the selected schemes.

Objective: To find out the relationship of socio-economic characteristics with knowledge and attitude of respondents regarding women empowerment schemes.

Methods: The study was conducted in both rural and urban area. For rural area out of nine Panchayat samiti Bikaner Panchayat samiti was selected, from Bikaner one gram Panchayat namely Husangsar was selected and two villages namely Husangsar and Nagasar were selected. For urban area out of two zones i.e. (east and west) two wards namely ward no. 58 (east zone) and ward no. 39 (west zone). Thirty respondents were selected from each village and each ward thus selecting 120 respondents.

Results & Discussion: Correlation between knowledge of rural and urban women with age ($r=0.235$ & 0.281), caste ($r=0.483$ & 0.425), education ($r=0.315$ & 0.424), mass media utilization ($r=0.410$ & 0.394), Extension personnel contact ($r=0.395$ & 0.295) was positive and significant at 1 and 5 percent levels of significance whereas family type and annual income of rural and urban women were non-significantly correlated. Social participation of urban women with knowledge was also non-significantly correlated.

Correlation between attitude of rural and urban women with age ($r=0.222$ & 0.293), caste ($r=0.289$ & 0.496), education ($r=0.377$ & 0.414), mass media utilization ($r=0.340$ & 0.310), Extension personnel contact ($r=0.367$ & 0.278) was positive and significant at 1 and 5 percent levels of significance whereas family type and annual income of rural and urban women were non-significantly correlated. Social participation of urban women with attitude was also non-significantly correlated.

The findings of the data reveals the fact that there was a positive significant relationship between age, caste, education, family size, mass media exposure, and extension personal contact with knowledge and attitude about women empowerment schemes.

Significance: The findings of this study have vast practical utility. This study would be useful for the stakeholders, policy makers, governmental and non- governmental agencies, cooperatives, and other inventories which are working for the development of women. Ministry of rural development, Government of India has taken initiatives for empowerment of women to all the rural poor families i.e. BPL and available decent quality of life. Various women empowerment schemes have initiatives which emerges as an important strategy for empowering women by providing loan subsidy to members of SHG and also enables livelihood opportunities for village women through microcredit with existing banks in the area.

Keywords: Women empowerment, socio-economic characteristics, knowledge, attitude, schemes

Introduction

Women Empowerment Schemes are structured initiatives, typically launched by the government or related institutions, to enhance the status of women in society by providing them with access to resources, opportunities, education, employment, and legal rights, thereby fostering self-reliance and equality.

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The objectives of women empowerment are to enhance education and literacy among women, improve health and nutrition for mothers and girls, encourage financial independence through skill development and entrepreneurship, ensure safety and security by addressing gender-based violence, promote women's participation in governance and decision-making and create awareness of legal rights and entitlements (Rani, 2021) [3]. Empowerment is a process from being unpowered to being empowered. Speculating of empowerment pressures two main perspectives on this process: namely one more individualistic, namely through women's individual capacities and free exercise of personal choice and one more specific, namely through collective behavior and the adherence to cultural norms which emphasize communal growth. In a poor family, girls are the main victims; they are malnourished and are denied the opportunity of better education and other facilities. But if they are financially independent or they have greater control over the resources then they exhibit greater autonomy both in the household and in public here and are no longer victims of poverty (Rani, 2021) [3]. Lack of awareness about legal and constitutional provisions and failure in realizing it, is another factor that hinders the process of empowerment. Most of the women are not aware of their legal rights. Even women who are aware lack the courage to take the legal step. The regulation which affects women most is their situation in marriage and inheritance. As far as the rights of inheritance are concerned, women generally do not try to inherit land left by their parents if brothers are alive.

Methodology

The present study was conducted in rural and urban area of Bikaner district of Rajasthan. which was purposively selected due to the convenience and easy approachability and also no such research study has been conducted in this area. Secondly, Bikaner district comes under arid zone and vast variability of traditional and indigenous practices was found in this area. A total of 120 respondents were selected for the study purpose. 30 women from each village and ward i.e. Husangsar and Nagasar, ward no. (East zone 58) and (West zone 39) were randomly selected. The correlation coefficient ('r' value) was used to measure the relationship between dependent and independent variables. The correlation coefficient between two groups was calculated by using the following formula:

$$r = \frac{\sum(XY) - \frac{\sum X \sum Y}{n}}{\sqrt{\left[\sum X^2 - \frac{(\sum X)^2}{n} \right] \left[\sum Y^2 - \frac{(\sum Y)^2}{n} \right]}}$$

Where,

r = Correlation Coefficient

X = Independent variable

Y = Dependent variable

n = Total number of respondents

Results

Relationship between the independent variables and knowledge level of respondents regarding various women empowerment schemes.

Table 1: Relationship between the independent variables and knowledge level of respondents regarding various women empowerment schemes (N=120)

S. No.	Characteristics	'r' value	
		Rural (n=60)	Urban (n=60)
X1	Age	0.235*	0.281*
X2	Education	0.315*	0.424**
X3	Family type	0.115NS	0.110NS
X4	Annual Income	0.172NS	0.194NS
X5	Mass media utilization	0.410**	0.394*
X6	Extension personnel contact	0.395*	0.295*
X7	Social Participation	0.251*	0.100NS

NS = No Significant; * = Significant at 5%, ** = Significant at 1%

Age and Knowledge: Table 1 disclosed that there was a positive and significant relationship at 5 percent level between age and knowledge of the rural and urban respondents about the various women empowerment schemes investigated in the study with correlation co-efficient value (r= 0.235* and 0.281* respectively).

Education and Knowledge: Table 1 showed that there was a positive and significant relationship at 5 percent level and 1 percent level between education and knowledge of the rural respondents and urban respondents about the various women empowerment schemes investigated in the study with correlation co-efficient value (r= 0.315* and 0.424** respectively).

Family type and Knowledge: Table 1 revealed that there was non- significant relationship between family type and knowledge of the rural and urban respondents about the various women empowerment schemes investigated in the study with correlation co-efficient value (r= 0.115 and 0.110 respectively).

Annual family income and Knowledge: Table 1 disclosed that there was non- significant relationship between annual income and knowledge of the rural and urban respondents about the various women empowerment schemes investigated in the study with correlation co-efficient value (r= 0.172 and 0.194 respectively).

Mass media exposure and Knowledge: Table 1 proved that there was a positive and significant relationship at 1 percent and 5 percent level between mass media exposure and knowledge of the rural and urban respondents about the various women empowerment schemes investigated in the study with correlation co-efficient value (r= 0.410** and 0.394* respectively).

Extension personnel contact and Knowledge: Table 1 disclosed that there was a positive and significant relationship at 5 percent level between extension personal contact and knowledge of the rural and urban respondents about the various women empowerment schemes investigated in the study with correlation co-efficient value (r= 0.395* and 0.295* respectively).

Social participation and Knowledge: Table 1 disclosed that there was significant relationship at 5 percent level between social participation and knowledge of the rural respondents about the various women empowerment schemes investigated in the study with correlation co-efficient value (r=0.251*), whereas that there was non-significant relationship between social participation and knowledge of the urban respondents about the various women empowerment schemes investigated in the study with correlation co-efficient value (r= 0.100).

Relationship between the independent variables and attitude level of respondents regarding various women empowerment schemes

Table 2: Relationship between the independent variables and attitude level of respondents regarding various women empowerment schemes (N=120)

S. No.	Characteristics	'r' value	
		Rural (n=60)	Urban (n=60)
X1	Age	0.222*	0.293*
X2	Education	0.377*	0.414**
X3	Family type	0.094NS	0.156NS
X4	Annual Income	0.161NS	0.031NS
X5	Mass media utilization	0.340*	0.310*
X6	Extension personnel contact	0.367*	0.278*
X7	Social Participation	0.356*	0.204NS

NS = No Significant; * = Significant at 5%, ** = Significant at 1%.

Age and Attitude: Table 2 disclosed that there was a positive and significant relationship at 5 percent level between age and attitude of the rural and urban respondents about the various women empowerment schemes investigated in the study with correlation co-efficient value ($r = 0.222^*$ and 0.293^* respectively).

Education and Attitude: Table 2 showed that there was a positive and significant relationship at 5 percent and 1 percent level between education and attitude of the rural and urban respondents about the various women empowerment schemes investigated in the study with correlation co-efficient value ($r = 0.377^*$ and 0.414^{**} respectively).

Family type and Attitude: Table 2 revealed that there was non-significant relationship between family type and attitude of the rural and urban respondents about the various women empowerment schemes investigated in the study with correlation co-efficient value ($r = 0.094$ and 0.156 respectively).

Annual family income and Attitude: Table 2 disclosed that there was non-significant relationship between annual income and attitude of the rural and urban respondents about the various women empowerment schemes investigated in the study with correlation co-efficient value ($r = 0.161$ and 0.031 respectively).

Mass media exposure and Attitude: Table 2 proved that there was a positive and significant relationship at 5 percent level between mass media exposure and attitude of the rural and urban respondents about the various women empowerment schemes investigated in the study with correlation co-efficient value ($r = 0.340^*$ and 0.310^* respectively).

Extension personnel contact and Attitude: Table 2 disclosed that there was a positive and significant relationship at 5 percent level between extension personal contact and attitude of the rural and urban respondents about the various women empowerment schemes investigated in the study with correlation co-efficient value ($r = 0.367^*$ and 0.278^* respectively).

Social participation and Attitude: Table 2 disclosed that there was significant relationship at 5 percent level between social participation and attitude of the rural respondents

about the various women empowerment schemes investigated in the study with correlation co-efficient value ($r = 0.356^*$), whereas that there was non-significant relationship between social participation and attitude of the urban respondents about the various women empowerment schemes investigated in the study with correlation co-efficient value ($r = 0.204$).

Discussion

It could be concluded that the finding of the above data that the variable age, caste, education, mass media exposure, and extension personal contact had positive relationship with knowledge of both rural and urban respondent about various women empowerment schemes. The findings of the study was found parallel to the studies of Sharma, *et al.* (2012) [4], Ramjiyani (2013) [2], Singh (2014) [5], and Vaishali (2019) [7]. Likewise, age, caste, education, mass media exposure, and extension personal contact had positive relationship with attitude of both rural and urban respondents about various women empowerment schemes. The findings of the study was found parallel to the studies of Tidke, *et al.* (2012) [6], Bhat, *et al.* (2014) [1], Singh (2014) [5], and Vaishali (2019) [7]. The study was exploratory in nature and conducted only in Bikaner district, Rajasthan. It was restricted to only a few variables due to limited time and resources. The variables were measured by putting questions to each maize grower.

Conclusion

It can be concluded that age, education, family size, mass media exposure and extension personnel contact had positive relationship with both knowledge as well as attitude of respondents about various women empowerment schemes. Awareness need to be created among women regarding various women empowerment schemes through trainings, campaign etc. Implementing agencies should look into the proper publicity of the programme through social media, electronic media and print media

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Declaration of competing interest

The authors have no known competing interests.

Data availability

Data would be made available on request

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Appendix supplementary data

The supplementary data, table for online visibility to the readers are attached in sequence in research paper.

Author's contribution

Both the authors collected and analyzed the data and interpreted the data, participated in contributing to the text and the content of the manuscript, including revisions and edits. All authors approve the content of the manuscript and agree to be held accountable for the work.

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