Performance Appraisal of Women Self-Help Groups in Rolpa District of Lumbini Province, Nepal

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration between both authors. Both authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Original Research Article

ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted in the Rolpa district of Nepal. For the purpose of the study, primary data has been collected using purposive cum multistage sampling technique. Rolpa district was selected purposively due to there was no such study conducted previously on performance appraisal of SHGs. A sample size of 150 self help group members was selected through multistage random sampling technique from two municipalities. The interview schedule was developed on the basis of objective and variables for data collection. The data was analyzed by using following statistical tools such as mean, standard deviation, percentage and correlation. This study revealed that, majority of the respondents observed under high category for the variables group cohesiveness(64 percent), collective action (65.33 percent), effective leadership (55.33 percent) group communication (50.67 percent) and group norms (76. 67 percent). The study depicts that majority of the SHGs had medium level of overall performance. It had reported most of the

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members had medium level of economic achievement after joining of SHGs. The variable like localite sources as information seeking behavior was found negative significant correlation whereas other independent variables exert positively with economic development of Self Help Groups.

1. INTRODUCTION

In Asian countries self help groups is not a new concept. It emerged during 70s in Bangladesh and during 90s in Nepal and India [1]. Women were always discriminated in every sector like land, property, business, decision making and in many other sector of society. Participation of women in SHGs activities have given them a platform for developing leadership qualities, education and awareness and also provided them an opportunity for empowerment [2,3]. SHGs have become a platform to empower powerless women by involving them into economic activities, social issues as well as move independently and have increased managerial abilities, role in decision making, expressing opinion freely and self-confidence. SHGs have a power to uplift the lives of rural women. Today the SHGs have covered more than 5800 crores poor making it the largest Micro-Finance programme in the world [4]. After establishing SHGs it is also seen that there is very good improvement in the efficiency of the sector in which the members are involved [5]. In Nepalese context SHGs not only provide members with employment, but also give them a chance to be connected with the outside world. All the SHGs in the study provide broadly similar services: vocational training, credit, and job placements. Some Common types of training are tailoring, handicrafts, waitressing, computer and secretarial work. The groups also offered jobs at their own place [6]. SHGs also offer an efficient space for women to share ideas, information and raise awareness among them about their rights. Self Help Groups play a very crucial role in transforming the lives of rural poor, especially women [7-10]. In Nepal self help groups are known by mother's group and women's group [11]. Although the number of members in the SHGs is increasing day by day, it is necessary to analyze the performance of these groups. This paper attempts to study the performance of the SHGs in terms of economic achievement, group cohesion, group communication, collectiveness, effective leadership and group norms. This paper further reveals the relationship between socio economic profile and performance of SHGs. In view of this, the current study was conducted to determine how well SHGs perform as a group. To address the following questions study has been planned.

- What is the performance of SHGs of the study area?
- Do socio-economic variables correlate with economic development of SHGs?

The following specific objectives were taken for the present study.

1. To examines the performances of women Self Help Groups of the study area.
2. To find the relationship between socio economic variables and economic development of SHGs.

2. METHODOLOGY

A primary source of data was collected using purposive cum multistage random sampling for selection of district, municipalities, wards, SHGs and respondents for the study. Present study was carried out in Rolpa District of Lumbini Province, Nepal. Two municipalities Rolpa urban municipality and Sunil smriti rural municipality were selected purposively. From each municipality 3 wards were selected randomly. Two SHGs were selected from each ward. Thus, total 12 SHGs from 6 wards were selected randomly. All members of Self Help Groups were taken as respondents. Thus, total 150 respondents comprised for the study. The data was collected by using the structured interview schedule. The data was analyzed using statistical tools such as mean, standard deviation, percentage and correlation. Each statement was measured at three point continuum i.e. great extent, some extent and not at all with respective score 2, 1 and 0 respectively.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Group Characteristics of SHGs

It can be observed from Table 1 that majority of respondents were in the category of 'high' for the variables group cohesion, collective action,

effective leadership, group communication and group norms. Majority of the respondents has been observed under 'high' category for the variables. i.e. for the variables group cohesiveness (64 per cent), collective action (65.33 per cent), effective leadership (55.33 per cent), group communication (50.67 per cent) and group norms (76.67 per cent). Less than fifty percent of the respondents were observed under medium category and about very less per cent (less than twenty) respondents were observed under low category.

Table 2 depicts that majority (60.67 per cent) of the respondents had medium economic achievement and about 22 per cent and 17.33 per cent respondents had high and low respectively economic achievement after joining of SHGs.

Table 3 shows that majority (71.33 per cent) of the members had medium level of overall performance, followed by 20.00 per cent of members who had low level of overall performance and 8.67 per cent members were found in high level of overall performance.

3.2 Relationship of Independent Variables with Economic Development of Self Help Groups

An attempt has been made to calculate the relationship of selected socio-economic profile with performance of self help groups as economic development. The coefficient of correlation between the selected independent variables (Age, Education, Annual income, Family Size, social participation, localite sources as information seeking behavior, institutional sources as information seeking behavior , mass media exposure, Group cohesiveness, collective action, effective leadership, group communication, group norms and dependent variable(Economic development) was worked out and tested for its significance. It could be observed from the Table 4 that among 13 independent variables, 4 variables (Education, social participation, mass media exposure and institutional sources shows positive and significant relationship at 0.05 level of probability where other 6 variables (Institutional sources, Group cohesiveness, collective action, Effective leadership, group communication and group norms) shows positive and significant relation at 0.01 level of significance. It means that these variables exert their influence positively on economic development of SHGs. With the increase of these variables economic achievement of self help groups will increase. Another variable (localite sources as information seeking behavior) shows negative significant relation at 0.01 level of significance. It means that this variable exert its influence negatively on performance of SHGs. With the increase of this variable economic development of self help groups will decrease.

Table 1. Distribution of respondents based on the group characteristics (n=150)

S.No.	Group characteristics	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Group Cohesiveness	Low	022	14.67
		Medium	032	21.33
		High	096	64.00
2.	Collective action	Low	019	12.67
		Medium	033	22.00
		High	098	65.33
3.	Effective leadership	Low	020	13.33
		Medium	047	31.33
		High	083	55.33
4.	Group communication	Low	023	15.33
		Medium	050	33.33
		High	076	50.67
5.	Group norms	Low	010	06.67
		Medium	025	16.67
		High	115	76.67

Source: Primary Data

Table 2. Distribution of respondents based on their economic achievement (n=150)

S.No.	Particulars	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Economic achievement	Low	26	17.33
		Medium	91	60.67
		High	33	22.00

Source: Primary Data

Table 3. Distribution of respondents according to their overall performance (n=150)

S.No.	Particulars	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Overall performance	Low performance	030	20.00
		Medium performance	107	71.33
		High performance	013	08.67

Source: Primary Data

Table 4. Relationship of the socio-economic and personal profile with economic development of SHGs

S.No.	Independent variables	Correlation coefficient(r)	Significant(p) value
1	Age	0.062	0.454
2	Education	.067*	0.014
3	Family size	0.014	0.866
4	Annual income	.124**	0.009
5	Social participation	.183*	0.025
6	Localite sources (Information seeking behavior)	-.492**	0.000
7	Institutional sources (Information seeking behavior)	.611**	0.000
8	Mass media exposure (Information seeking behavior)	.197*	0.016
9.	Group cohesiveness	.460**	0.000
10.	Collective action	.470**	0.000
11.	Effective leadership	.336**	0.000
12.	Group communication	.500**	0.000
13.	Group norms	.437**	0.000

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)
*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed)

4. CONCLUSION

It is concluded that majority of members had medium level of economic achievement, medium level of overall performance. Meanwhile, most of them had fall under high level of group characteristics. Those group characteristics like Group cohesiveness, collective action, Effective leadership, group communication and group norms positively and significantly correlated with economic development of SHGs. Socio-economic variables like education, social participation, annual income, information seeking behavior (Institutional and mass media exposure) have also exert positively and highly significant with dependent variable. These independent variables mainly influence the functioning of the group which leads to overall growth on performance of SHGs. Only one variable information seeking behavior (Localite sources) non-significantly correlates with the economic development of groups.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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