

# WOMEN LEGAL EMPOWERMENT THROUGH SELF HELP GROUPS IN TAMIL NADU

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## ABSTRACT

SHGs facilitate women to develop their communication skills to speak at the Gram Sabha, public meetings, etc. An SHG functions through its regular meetings, where members execute transactional activities and discuss over different related issues. Social mobilization through SHGs is unavoidable for political and legal empowerment. In addition women's participation in power sharing, co-policy making and co-decision making, in addition to their right to vote and legal awareness. The active participation of women in political sphere is fundamental to empowerment of women which will help in building gender-equal society as well as development of the nation. At juncture the Legal Empowerment is very essential and vital role in society, so this study focuses to find the Women Legal Empowerment through Self Help Groups in Tamil Nadu.

**Keywords:** Self Help Groups, Legal Empowerment, w Women Empowerment,

## INTRODUCTION

Crafting and implementation of a concrete policy framework, dispersing civic and legal awareness, and education concerning the empowerment of women can guide to accomplishing the desired missions in eliminating the plight of women in the society of India. The area of women empowerment in India is limited to granting balanced rights to women. Still, it is also about assuring that they are ingrained and rightful partners in the workforce.

In recent times, everyone is pointing on the empowerment of women. Its right to say that women's empowerment has become the necessity of the time. Women should possess liberty, faith, and self-worth to opt for their needs and demands. Discrimination based on gender is useless and is having zero worth by looking at the growth of women in the last few decades. Women are paid less and are treated as a cook and slave in families, and their real potential fails to get highlighted. Women empowerment in India is required to overcome situations of such types and to provide them with their independent role in Indian society. Empowering women is a necessary right of women. They should have proportional rights to contribute to society, economics, education, and politics and legal.

## REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

The empirical study by **Gangadhar et al. (2017)** on 170 SC and ST women concluded that women's participation in SHG improved their health status as well as political awareness. However, the study found no improvement in their legal awareness. Further, the study indicated that the women perceived an improvement in their individual empowerment while working in a group.

**Gusti Ayu Purnamawati, et.al., (2019)** described their study Women's empowerment is currently the main focus of attention from researchers, governments and industry players. The concept of women's empowerment contains various meanings. In-depth exploration was carried out in this literature review,

especially regarding women's empowerment and gender equality. The approach used is descriptive, namely discussing the power perspective used to explain the increasing needs of current women's empowerment and policy strategies by suggesting holistic ways of empowering women in the context of their role in improving welfare. The concept is related to the strategy of empowering women in the economic, social, political and legal fields, to increase their role in the family and society. The theoretical foundations of this literature review are very important for policy making by the government.

**Nayak & Panigrahi, (2020)** states that the extent of women's participation in the empowerment of SHG members is moderated by socioeconomic status and the place in which SHG is having their operations. Hossain. A.et.al. (2018) gave the factors such as economic, psychological, knowledge & skills, family, legal and administrative which are the vital factors that significantly influence the involvement of women as an empowerment. Kilifi County-Kenya. Pradeep & Rakshitha, (2016) discuss the constitution, scope, and credibility of the self-help groups with the inclusion of Government initiatives leading to its women legal rights awareness promotion and women empowerment initiatives in rural areas.

### **OBJECTIVE:**

To measure the Legal Empowerment level on Self Help Groups members in the rural areas of Tamil Nadu

### **RESEARCH DESIGN AND SAMPLE**

The Primary Data was collected from the Tamil Nadu rural areas' Self Help Groups members. The 574 samples were collected from Multi-Stage Random sampling method on four Districts of Tamil Nadu. All the four districts select the Economically, Socially, Psychologically and politically & legally developing village people belonging to the districts of Tamil Nadu. The samples were normally distributed and collected from concern districts like, four areas that are North (Tiruvallur District), South (Kanniyakumari District), East (Cuddalore District) and West (Salem District).The random sampling techniques used for the selection of the sample respondents from the defined population. The most critical requirement of probability random sampling is that everyone in defining the population has a known and equal chance of getting selected.

### **ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION**

The study takes Path Regression Analysis of Women Legal Empowerment through Self Help Groups in Tamil Nadu

**Table-1: Model Fit Summary**

Model	R	R-Square	Adjusted R-Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
Legal Empowerment	0.933	0.871	0.870	0.26105	2.127

*Dependent Variable: Legal Empowerment*

Model reveals that R- (Multiple Correlation Coefficients) value is 0.933. It is measuring the degree of relationship between the LegalEmpowermentand the predicted values like, 'I can able to Access to legal literacy and information related to rights' (LEE -1), 'I can able to enhance access to legal literacy' (LEE -2), 'Awareness about Women Legal protection and rights' (LEE -3), 'Awareness of human rights and women harassment act' (LEE -4) and 'I have Knowledge about political and legal rights of women' (LEE -5).

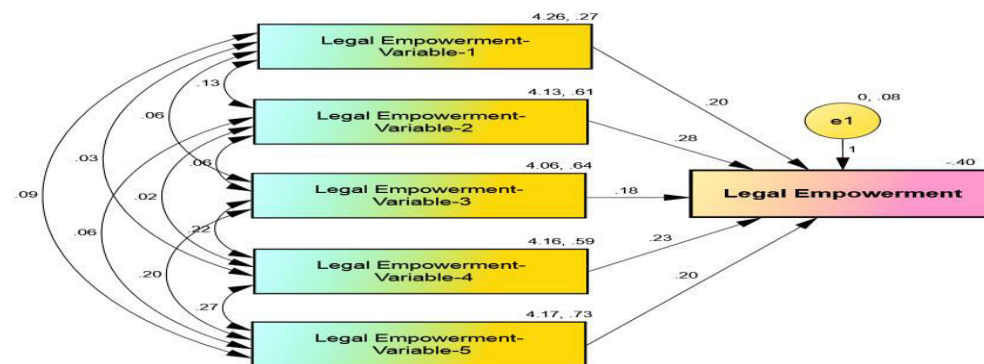
R-Square (Coefficient of Determination) value is 0.871. It is more than about 87% of the variation ofLegalEmpowermentis explained by the variation in the independent variables is explained by the variation in the independent variables.Adjusted R- squared value is 0.870. It adjusts the statistic based on the number of independent variables in the model.

That is the desired property of goodness-of- fit statistic. Furthermore, Durbin-Watson (DW) value exists  $0 \rightarrow 4$  is good correction,  $(0 \rightarrow 2)$  is positive auto correction,  $2 \rightarrow 4$  negative auto correction) here statistics shows 2.127, it is indicating negative auto correction, (i.e.) good correction.

**Table- 2 Regression Weights forSHGsLegal Empowerment**

Regression Weights	Estimate	S.E.	C.R.	P
Legal Empowerment <---LEE-1	0.201	0.025	8.114	0.000
Legal Empowerment <--- LEE-2	0.280	0.016	17.400	0.000
Legal Empowerment <--- LEE-3	0.179	0.016	11.027	0.000
Legal Empowerment <--- LEE-4	0.235	0.018	13.264	0.000
Legal Empowerment <--- LEE-5	0.196	0.016	12.444	0.000

Note: .000 is 1%  $\alpha$  -significant level

**Fig-1: Path Regression Analysis of SHGs Legal Empowerment**

The Path diagram represents the independent variables of the Legal Empowerment like, 'I can able to Access to legal literacy and information related to rights' (LEE -1), 'I can able to enhance access to legal literacy' (LEE -2), 'Awareness about Women Legal protection and rights' (LEE -3), 'Awareness of human rights and women harassment act' (LEE -4) and 'I have Knowledge about political and legal rights of women' (LEE -5). Here Path Regression analysis employed on all five variables; among them, all variables are highly significant at 1%  $\alpha$  -significant level.

**Table-3 Covariance forSHGsLegal EmpowermentVariables**

Covariance	Estimate	S.E.	C.R.	P
LEE-1<-->LEE-5	0.095	0.019	5.034	0.000
LEE-5<-->LEE-2	0.058	0.028	2.091	0.037
LEE-5<-->LEE-3	0.197	0.030	6.637	0.000
LEE-5<-->LEE-4	0.269	0.030	9.108	0.000
LEE-1<-->LEE-4	0.034	0.017	2.053	0.040
LEE-2<-->LEE-4	0.019	0.025	0.770	0.441
LEE-3<--> LEE-4	0.217	0.027	7.991	0.000
LEE-2<--> LEE-3	0.058	0.026	2.232	0.026
LEE-1<--> LEE-3	0.061	0.017	3.475	0.000
LEE-1<--> LEE-2	0.130	0.018	7.347	0.000

Note: 0.000 is 1%  $\alpha$  significant level

The above table interprets covariance relationship of SHGs Legal Empowerment Variables, LEE-2 <--> LEE-4 relationships are not significant at 5% level. Remaining all of the relationships are significant at 1%, the significant relations are comparing with estimate values, LEE-5 <--> LEE-4, LEE-3 <--> LEE-4, and LEE-5 <--> LEE-3 relationships are highly significant at 1% level. The estimate values are 0.269, 0.217 and 0.197 respectively.

### **FINDINGS**

The significant variables are comparing with estimated values, the resulted that the first influenced Legal Empowerment is 'I can able to enhance access to legal literacy' (LEE -2) and the estimate value is 0.280. The second influenced variable is, 'Awareness of human rights and women harassment act' (LEE -4) and the estimate value is 0.235. The third influenced variable is 'I can able to Access to legal literacy and information related to rights' (LEE -1), the estimate value is 0.201.

### **SUGGESTIONS**

1. The basics of this change are empowerment, political and legal consciousness, self-assurance, and assertion of identity. With respect to the organize of resources, changes in behaviour and the decision-making expose that many strides have been made in the right direction and women are in the process of empowering themselves.

2. Based on the study's findings on the influence of various empowerments on Political and Legal Empowerment on SHGs, here are some suggestions that could be derived: Social evils can be restricted by legislation and by bringing awareness among women. Meetings and seminars should be organized to exchange their views.

3. Not only does it suggest the provision of an effective legal structure which is supportive of women empowerment, there also is the need to spread awareness among women about their legal rights and laws preventing their exploitation. It means addressing the gaps between what the law prescribes and what actually occurs.

### **CONCLUSION**

The study concludes the Legal Empowerment through Self Help Groups in Tamil Nadu is 'they can able to enhance access to legal literacy', 'Awareness of human rights and women harassment act' and they can able to Access to legal literacy and information related to rights'.

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