



Empowering Rural Women for Inclusive Social Change: A Case Study of Jamgaon-M Village, Patan Block, Durg District, Chhattisgarh

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Women empowerment is one of the most important factors for achieving inclusive social change and sustainable rural development. Empowered women contribute significantly to the economic, educational, social, and political development of their families and communities. The present study was conducted in Jamgaon-M Village, Patan Block, Durg District, Chhattisgarh to examine the role of women's empowerment in promoting social change. The study was based on primary data collected from 70 respondents through a structured questionnaire and personal interviews. The findings revealed that women are becoming increasingly aware of government welfare programmes and actively participating in Self-Help Groups (SHGs), household decision-making, and income-generating activities. The study also found that women's empowerment has improved awareness, confidence, financial independence, and community participation. However, challenges such as inadequate education, limited employment opportunities, and lack of awareness among some women continue to hinder their full empowerment. The study concludes that strengthening education, skill development, government support, and community participation can further enhance women's empowerment and contribute to sustainable social change in rural areas.

Keywords: Women Empowerment, Social Change, Rural Development, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Government Schemes, Women's Participation, Jamgaon-M Village, Chhattisgarh.

Introduction

Women empowerment is the process of enabling women to exercise equal rights, opportunities, and responsibilities in all aspects of life. It includes improving women's access to education, healthcare, employment, financial resources, and participation in decision-making. Empowerment allows women to become economically independent, socially confident, and active contributors to family and community development. Social change refers to the transformation of social institutions, cultural values, attitudes, and behaviours that improve the quality of life of individuals and communities. In rural India, women play a vital role in agriculture, household management, education, and community welfare. Their active participation is essential for achieving inclusive growth and sustainable development. The Government of India has launched several initiatives such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, DAY-NRLM, Mission Shakti, Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, and Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana to promote women's education, entrepreneurship, financial inclusion, and social security. Self-Help Groups (SHGs) have also emerged as an effective platform for enhancing women's confidence, leadership, savings, and income generation. Jamgaon-M Village of Patan Block, Durg District, represents a typical rural community where women are increasingly participating in education, Self-Help Groups, livelihood activities, and community development. Therefore,

this study was undertaken to assess the role of women's empowerment in promoting inclusive social change in the village.

Objectives of the Study

1. To study the socio-economic profile of respondents in Jamgaon-M Village.
2. To assess the awareness of women regarding women empowerment programmes.
3. To examine the role of education, occupation, and Self-Help Groups in women's empowerment.
4. To evaluate the impact of women's empowerment on social change in Jamgaon-M Village.
5. To identify the major challenges faced by women and suggest suitable measures for their empowerment.

Research Methodology

The present study was conducted in Jamgaon-M Village, Patan Block, Durg District, Chhattisgarh. The study followed a descriptive research design to assess the role of women's empowerment in promoting social change. Both primary and secondary data were used for the study. Primary data were collected from 70 respondents through a structured questionnaire and personal interviews. Respondents were selected using a convenient random sampling method. Information was collected regarding socio-economic characteristics, educational status, occupation, awareness of women empowerment programmes, participation in Self-Help Groups (SHGs), household decision-making, economic contribution, and social participation. Secondary data were collected from books, research articles, government reports, journals, NSS publications, and official websites related to women's empowerment and rural development. The collected data were classified, tabulated, and analysed using simple statistical tools such as frequency and percentage. The results are presented in the form of tables and interpreted to understand the relationship between women's empowerment and social change.

Results and Discussion

The study was conducted among 70 respondents in Jamgaon-M Village, Patan Block, Durg District, Chhattisgarh, to assess the role of women's empowerment in promoting social change. The findings revealed that 37.14% of the respondents belonged to the old age group, 34.29% to the middle age group, and 28.57% to the young age group, indicating representation from different generations. The study found that 74.29% of the respondents were aware of women empowerment programmes, while 25.71% were not aware. A majority of the women were homemakers, self-employed, or engaged in labour activities, reflecting their active contribution to household and livelihood activities. Further, 64.29% of the respondents were members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), which helped improve their savings, financial independence, and self-confidence. Around 68.57% of the women participated in household decision-making, and 60% contributed to the family income through agriculture, labour, small businesses, or other income-generating activities. The study also revealed that 54.29% of the respondents participated in Gram Sabha and community development activities, showing increasing involvement in local governance. However, lack of education, financial constraints, limited employment opportunities, and inadequate awareness remained the major challenges affecting women's empowerment. Overall, the findings indicate that women's empowerment has positively influenced social change in Jamgaon-M Village by improving awareness, economic participation, decision-making, and community involvement. Strengthening education, skill development, and awareness programmes can further enhance women's empowerment and contribute to sustainable rural development.

Major Findings

- Most respondents belonged to the old age group (37.14%).
- Around 74.29% of respondents were aware of women empowerment programmes.
- Nearly half of the respondents were homemakers or self-employed.
- More than 64% of women were members of Self-Help Groups.

- About 68.57% participated in household decision-making.
- Sixty percent of women contributed to the family income.
- More than half participated in Gram Sabha activities.
- Education and financial limitations remained the major challenges to women's empowerment.

Conclusion

The study concluded that women's empowerment has significantly contributed to positive social change in Jamgaon-M Village. Increased awareness, participation in Self-Help Groups, economic activities, and household decision-making have improved women's confidence and social status. However, challenges such as limited education, financial constraints, and inadequate employment opportunities still affect many women. Strengthening education, skill development, awareness programmes, and government support can further enhance women's empowerment and promote sustainable rural development.

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