



Implementation of government strategies on women empowerment: A case study of J&K state

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Abstract

This study examined the impact of women empowerment strategies programmed by government. Data was collected from 273 women beneficiaries and 40 services providers. Questionnaire cum interview schedule were used to collect data. The findings indicate that highest number of services was provided by social welfare department the result also shows that most of the services were available with rural people. The author has explored the most satisfactory level of result is available with women's developments corporation and overall satisfactory level with the services provided by various departments generally ranges between 62% to 96%.

Keywords: women empowerment, strategies, government, J&K

1. Introduction

Women empowerment in simple words can be understood as giving powers to women to decide for their own lives or inculcating such abilities in them so that they could be able to find their rightful place in the society.

According to United Nations, women's empowerment mainly has five components:

- Generating women's sense of self-worth;
- Women's right to have and to determine their choices;
- Women's right to have access to equal opportunities and all kinds of resources;
- Women's right to have the power to regulate and control their own lives, within and outside the home; and,
- Women's ability to contribute in creating a more just social and economic order

Thus, women empowerment is nothing but recognition of women's basic human rights and creating an environment where they are treated as equal as men.

In the last five decades, the concept of women empowerment has undergone a sea change from welfare oriented approach to equity approach. It has been understood as the process by which the powerless gain greater control over the circumstances of their lives. Empowerment particularly includes control over resources and ideology. According to Sen. and Batliwala (2000) [3] it leads to a growing intrinsic capability- greater self-confidence, and an inner transformation of one's consciousness that enables one to overcome external barrier. This view mainly emphasizes on two important aspects. Firstly, it is a power to achieve desired goals but not a power over others. Secondly, idea of empowerment is more applicable to those who are powerless- whether they are male or female, or group of individuals, class or caste. Though concept of empowerment is not specific to women, yet it is unique in that and it cuts across all types of

class and caste and also within families and households (Malhotra *et al.*, 2002) [9]. The state government of J&K has planned a number of strategies and schemes to empower the state women folk. The most important areas of this endeavor are education, economic up liftment, social status Improvement etc.

2. The objectives of the present research are

Objective 1: To identify the most important women empowerment strategies as propagated by the concerned institutions or agencies.

Objective 2: To make an evaluation of empowerment strategies as available in J&K state.

Methodology

To obtain the factual data on the above mentioned objectives and specific methodology was adopted by the present researcher.

- The highlights of the methodology are...
Survey of the strategic policies of different departments concerned with women empowerment.
- To follow a formative methodology of evaluation of the identified strategies.

Sources of the Information

In order to collect information about the concerned topic, both primary and secondary sources were used. The primary sources include some original work. Such as census, official reports questionnaire cum interview schedule etc. the secondary sources consists of books, national and international journals, govt records, review, updated chronicles and newspaper items etc. in some cases questionnaire cum interview schedule were filled by respondents/ beneficiaries. But in most of the cases responses were filled by researcher.

Material selection

1. **Locale:** the locale for the study was all the 22 districts of J&K. the data was collected from various departments namely
 - Jammu and Kashmir entrepreneurship Development institution (JKEDI)
 - Jammu and Kashmir women’s development corporation (JKWDC)
 - Jammu and Kashmir social welfare department (JKSWD)
 - Jammu and Kashmir state commission for women.
 - Agriculture and rural development department.
2. The sample of study was divided into two groups. Groups i consist of service providers of various departments. Group’s ii consists of the beneficiaries of these various departments.
3. **Sample Size:** From group I a total number of 40 service providers were included in the sample. Likewise from

group ii 273 beneficiaries were selected.

4. **Tools for the study:** The sample group was approached through both quantitative as well as qualitative method. Questionnaire cum interview schedule
5. **Procedure:** Tools prepared for data collection were administered on the sample groups through personal contact after establishing rapport.

In order to elicit information from service providers and beneficiaries. The head of the departments were contacted. They were informed about the nature and purpose of the study. Exhibition, seminars, training classes and hearing of cases were attended in order to obtain information from them.

3. Data analysis/ result of the study

The study was carried in the specified department, which offered women empowerment strategies. These departments are sampled as under:-

Table 1: Service Provided By Various Departments of J&K

S. No	Departments	No. of services
1.	JKEDI	Financial assistance, business training
2.	SWD	Financial assistance, health education, nutrition, training, social security, shelter, awareness, medical checkups.
3.	JKWDC	Financial assistance and training, awareness exhibition
4.	J&K Women Commission	Awareness and safeguard
5.	Agriculture And Rular Development Department	Nil

The beneficiaries of the above mentioned services fall in both rural and urban categories. The Table 2 indicates the data on the same.

Table 2: Dichotomy – wise total number of beneficiaries

S. No	No of beneficiaries	Rural	Urban	Remarks
1.	273	172	98	beneficiaries of rural people are higher as compared to urban

Remarks: - the provision of empowered service was on a need plan. So that the beneficiaries drawn from different lacaes like rural, urban, show that most of the services were available with rural women where significant gray areas were obviously visible.

Beneficiaries’ data:- the extent to which available services were utilized by both rural and urban samples can be noted from the following numerical data.

Table 3: Satisfaction level

S. No	Departments	No. of services provided	Satisfactory level/ un satisfactory level
1.	JKEDI	2	86 %/ 13%
2.	SWD	8	62%/37.5%
3.	WDC	4	96%/4%
4.	Women’s Commission	2	-
5.	Agriculture And Rural Development Department	Nil	Nil

Remarks; the highest number of satisfied beneficiaries is available with JKEDI and the low number of satisfied with social welfare department

JKWDC; under the vocational training (MSY) and skill development programmes of NMDFC covered 655 beneficiaries in year 2016-17

The beneficiaries of SWD shows satisfaction by the service provided to them.

Satisfactory level of work is done by women commission functionaries but the whole information about cases involved is confidential.

4. Discussion and conclusion

The present study was conducted with the major objective of looking into the most significant service connected with the empowerment of women with the following conclusion

- Most satisfactory level of work is done by JKWDC.
- Highest number are services is provided by JKWDC.
- Various new schemes are included by JKWDC. Which prove fruitful for the empowerment of women.

JKEDI is providing the enough amount of financial assistance according to beneficiaries in business activities.

5. References

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