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**Role of cottage industries in socio-economic development of women
workers - A study across Bangalore Rural District**

Kusuma CM

Community Institute of Management Studies, Assistant Professor

Email: cmkusuma@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

Cottage industry is an integral part of economic and social empowerment. The role of women in cottage industries is well known and helps them in contributing to their sustainable livelihood. In addition, cottage industries help women participate in social activities build leadership skills and assist them in decision making within their family. This study attempts to establish the potential of cottage industry in socio-economic empowerment of women. The Study is based on primary data collected from women engaged in weaving for their sustainable livelihood and their economic independence.

This study is descriptive in nature and the paper focusses on socio demographics of working women in cottage industries and its contribution to their social and economic development. This study establishes that working in cottage industries leads to empowerment. Study population included 100 women who are part of women Self Help Groups in Bangalore Rural district. Responses were collected using questionnaire including questions related to social and economic development of women and analyzed using simple statistics. The results showed that economic development of women is impacted by experience and their social development impacted by education qualification. The findings show that economic development and women empowerment are directly proportional and the results are significant.

1. Introduction

The cottage industry is a major profession in Indian villages, other than agriculture in India. Over the years, this industry has arisen as a significant source of jobs in Indian villages. As women are not allowed to work outside their households, the cottage industry plays an important part in the economic development of women employed from home and in rural areas. Many women are interested in all kinds of works of art and craft. The villagers produce various kinds of handicraft goods, and by marketing them, many of them earn their livelihoods. Since ancient times,

occupations such as craftsmen in pottery, wood, cloth, metal and leather have existed in Indian villages and are found still in modern times. During this period the export of various segments registered growth like Shawls Art wares Woodworks and Miscellaneous handicrafts. To earn their livelihoods, many Indian villagers rely on these occupations.

It will serve as a stimulus for the country's economic growth if due attention is granted to the cottage industry. They protect a significant amount of people by the prospect of consuming rural labor, which would otherwise be unemployed for periods of the year, impacting the social system. It further improves women's role in society as their presence enhances the active work force and encourages existing organizations to contact them to get the job done. In most cases, women working from home do not have access to the markets to sell their goods, so working with coordinated organizations makes it easier for them to supply supplies and even to dispose of their goods.

Without the economic participation of women, equality of women is difficult, and for this, women need to be empowered to take part in business decisions and hold a leadership role. The handicraft sector is the only sector specifically related to women's expertise, so there is a desperate need to tap this segment properly.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Women's empowerment and economic growth are closely linked: in one way, growth itself can play a significant role in reducing disparity between men and women; in the other, empowering women can support development. (Duflo, Esther. 2012) Does this mean that it would set a moral circle in motion to push either one of these two levers? This paper discusses the research on both sides of the empowermental growth nexus and suggests that the interrelationships are possibly too fragile to be self-sustaining, and that it might be important to make equality between men and women a continuous political contribution to equality for its own sake.

(Razia Bano * Nida Fatima, 2014) In their study, the importance and importance of the carpet industry in the generation of jobs, particularly the presence of women in the carpet industry, the income level of women workers, and their level of education, are highlighted. It has also attempted to draw attention to the various problems facing the carpet industry and other SSI units in India and to recommend steps to address the problems facing the carpet industry. The entire study is focused on both primary and secondary sources of data obtained by questionnaire field surveys and from Bhadohi government offices.

(V. ShuguftaYasmeen, Dr. B. Gangaiah 2014) The research indicates that after mentioning the micro-enterprises, the saving patterns were improved. They are able to meet their sudden economic needs through these savings. Thus, after beginning a micro-enterprise, economic empowerment is achieved. Similarly, after their inclusion in micro-enterprises, which is an indication of social emancipation, the decision-making power in family relations is vested in the hands of the female entrepreneur. Among female entrepreneurs, micro-enterprises have instilled self-confidence, which demonstrates that they are mentally motivated. It is concluded that since beginning micro-enterprises, women have gained empowerment in the physical, social and psychological spheres, which is a true reflection of female

empowerment.

This is a case report of cottage industry in Nikkas village of Pulwama District (Neelofar and et al, 2019). It aims to illustrate the role of a cottage industry in fostering women's empowerment and also explains their socio-economic status and their problems with remedial recommendations. The cottage industry not only provides women with jobs, but also empowers them in the sense that they no longer need to be subordinate for socio-economic purposes to their male representatives. The current data indicate that various forms of cottage industry crafts offer a forum for women to come to a large degree at par with male peers. They deal with family problems in the same capacity as males. In addition to transforming them into socio-economically sound human beings, it ensures between them a bond of reciprocal inter-dependence and common responsibility.

(Ashalatha Puralaithathpam 2011) the role of handloom women entrepreneurship in socio economic development of Manipur. The study wanted to know the contribution of handloom entrepreneurship to the family income. The results show that the monetary contributions of entrepreneur were larger than the family monetary contribution among the selected respondents. Majority of the respondents belonged to moderate socio-economic status level.

3. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The empowerment of women and economic growth are closely linked: in one direction, growth alone can play a major role in decreasing gender inequality; in the other, empowering women can support development. Good research has been carried out on the role of cottage industries worldwide, but detailed research and participation of women has been found. In Bangalore Rural District, there is a lack of a detailed systematic evaluation of the contribution of cottage industries to the socio-economic growth of women. Attempts are then made to concentrate on the role of cottage industries that contribute to women's livelihoods.

4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To study the socio-demographic features of the women working in cottage industries in Bangalore rural.
- To study the role of cottage industries in social and economic development of women workers.

5. HYPOTHESIS

H1: The demographic variables impact the social development and economic development of women working in cottage industries.

H2: Working in cottage industries leads to social development and economic development of women which enhances women empowerment.

6. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study is limited to women workers who are a part of cottage industries. Data is collected from Bangalore rural district which includes four Taluks Devanahalli, Doddaballapura, Hosakote and Nelamangala. Weaving is the main occupation of the women in that area.

7. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study is descriptive in nature as it aims at finding the empowerment of women that is caused by working in cottage industries. Since the population of total women working in the cottage industries is unknown due to various reasons. The population of the study is the total number of women who are part of three Shakti self-help groups and members (Appendix-1). The sample size is calculated on the basis of Cochran formula of known population. The sample size is estimated at 95 women workers at 5% significance level and 10% margin of error. (Appendix -2). The data was collected from all 4 taluks equally where 25 women from each taluk was targeted. Out of the 100 responses 95 are duly filled and eligible for data analysis. The questionnaire is well designed using Likert scale items which are sourced from a Previous Ph.D. report and OXFAM model. The questionnaire consists of 5 demographic questions and 5 questions each related to Social and economic development of the women under study. The data is analyzed using the statistical software such as SPSS and AMOS to validate the hypothesis.

8. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

8.1 Demographic features of the Women working in Cottage industries in Rural Bangalore

A larger percentage of women (42.1%) who work in cottage industries are aged between 36 45 years. Majority of women (71.6%) live in Joint families. Approximately half of these women (47%) had experience above 9 years in cottage industries. Notably 24.2% of women under study have completed their Pre university college and 9.5% have completed their degree. It clearly indicates a large portion of women in cottage industries are not enough qualified. 41.15 women in cottage industry earn between 5001 10,000 in a month, this shows that cottage industries are fostering income to the rural women. (Graph Appendix 3)

8.2 Descriptive Statistics

The descriptive statistics show that for all items indicating economic development the mean score are above 4.00 which signifies that the women working in cottage industries have agreed to it. In case of Social Development statements, the mean scores are between 3.5 and 4.00 which indicate that some of the women have disagreed to the statement, as the minimum value is 1. The standard deviation for all items is within 1.000 indicating moderate variation in responses. (Table Appendix - 4)

8.3 Scale Validity and Reliability

The Cronbach's alpha for the 10 items is 0.8761 which is good reliability measure. Also the Average variance explained (0.389) and the composite reliability (0.856) are within the acceptable range. (Appendix -5, Acceptable ranges).

8.4 Testing of Hypothesis

H1: The demographic variables impact the social development and economic development of women working in cottage industries.

To test the significant impact/ difference in social and economic development due to age, family type, experience, education and Income –ANOVA test is used.

The results in Table 1 shows that, on a majority basis the economic development of the women working in cottage industries is impacted by the experience and the Social development is impacted by education qualification. Income, Age and Family

type of the women respondents does not make any significant difference in the social and economic development achieved by working in Cottage Industries.

Table-1

ANOVA Significance results					
	Age	Family Type	Experience	Education	Income
	Sig.	Sig.	Sig.	Sig.	Sig.
Eco_1	0.029	0.451	0.025	0.010	0.619
Eco_2	0.181	0.202	0.037	0.568	0.876
Eco_3	0.625	0.912	0.071	0.107	0.763
Eco_4	0.680	0.632	0.044	0.559	0.406
Eco_5	0.532	0.931	0.017	0.320	0.498
Soc_1	0.815	0.824	0.992	0.009	0.450
Soc_2	0.109	0.132	0.799	0.107	0.135
Soc_3	0.532	0.591	0.585	0.715	0.561
Soc_4	0.393	0.981	0.636	0.022	0.536
Soc_5	0.343	0.796	0.318	0.030	0.768

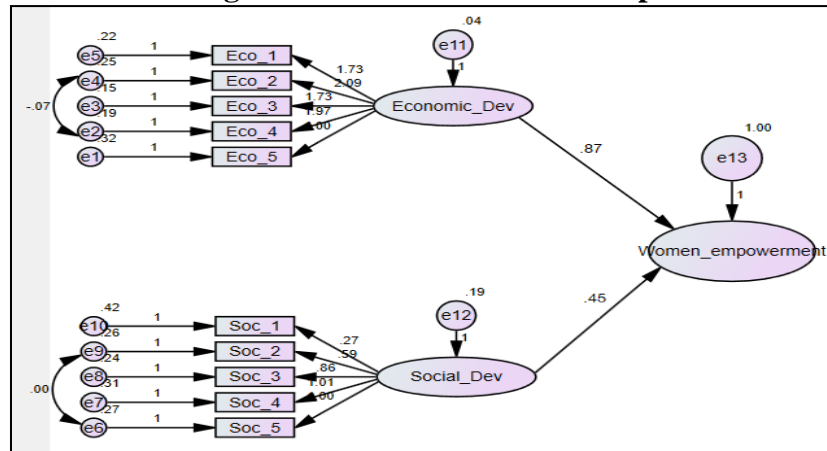
Yellow Highlights are significant

H2: Working in cottage industries leads to social development and economic development of women which enhances women empowerment

The regression result given in Table indicates that the p-value of the relationship between the Economic Development and Women empowerment is significant at 0.05 level ($\beta=0.866$, $p=0.000$, $p<0.05$).

When Economic Development goes up by 1, Women empowerment goes up by 0.866.

Figure 1 – Structural relationship



The regression result given in Table 2 indicates that the p-value of the relationship between the Social Development and Women empowerment is significant at 0.05 level ($\beta=0.448$, $p=0.000$, $p<0.05$). When Social Development goes up by 1, Women empowerment goes up by 0.448.

Table 2

Structural relationship between Social, Economic development and Women empowerment			Estimate	S.E	C.R	P	Label
Eco_5	<---	Economic Dev	1.000				
Eco_4	<---	Economic _Dev	1.974	.765	2.581	.010	
Eco_3	<---	Economic _Dev	1.730	.638	2.713	.007	
Eco_2	<---	Economic _Dev	2.092	.822	2.546	.011	
Eco_1	<---	Economic _Dev	1.731	.657	2.636	.008	
Soc_5	<---	Social_De v	1.000				
Soc_4	<---	Social_De v	1.015	.287	3.529	***	
Soc_3	<---	Social_De v	.860	.244	3.525	***	
Soc_2	<---	Social_De v	.590	.188	3.145	.002	
Soc_1	<---	Social_De v	.269	.193	1.389	.165	
Women empowerment	<---	Economic Dev	.866				
Women empowerment	<---	Social Dev	.448				

Path diagram analysis (Figure 1) shows that there exists a statistically significant relationship between economic, social development and women empowerment, Economic development stands as a major contributor to women empowerment.

9. FINDINGS, SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION

In addition to the above debate, the researcher also noted that the key issue in small-scale expansion and development is capital scarcity as people prefer to waste money on households rather than reinvesting. They rely on companies in such a scenario and eventually agree on low wages. It is often noted that small-scale business owners are not completely aware of the new technologies, so they adhere to old practices. The artisans often inherit from their elders the experience and method of

production and there is little provision for studying new techniques and training that affects the industry. Therefore, in India they are not aware of the needs of the foreign market, it is seen that most of the products manufactured by them are normally sold in the local markets. The cottage industry is mostly situated in rural areas, so facilities such as continuous energy supply, lack of storage location have a bad effect on development. They have no credit facilities, so the process is often slowed down to procure new instruments to meet other expenditures.

There is a desire to discuss how to inject the concept of women's liberation and gender equity into everyone's minds. Strategies to strengthen the role of women in decision-making and power sharing in all operations need to be centered and developed. The challenges to making women financially independent are the negative views of politicians, racial discrimination, lack of jobs and lack of credit facilities. People need to change our attitude about women and take part in raising consciousness that their participation has an influence and should be converted into income generation in line with their efforts to manufacture goods.

The value of the cottage and small-scale industry is understood by all, but the steps taken are not adequate to overcome the barriers to the growth of these sectors. The government plays a very important role in the growth of this sector. With the support of NGOs, they should formulate policies to improve leadership skills, create trust, raise awareness of gender and make them realize their pay rights in compliance with their commitment and time allotted for these activities. They should also concentrate on women's health, schooling, technological skills, the growth of infrastructure, and turn it into an industry focused on exports. The expertise and sacrifices they put forward to accomplish the goals can also be respected by artisans.

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**APPENDICES
APPENDIX -1**

Population for the study

13. ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ / Women & Child Development
13.1 ಸ್ತ್ರೀ ಶಕ್ತಿ ಸ್ವಸಹಾಯ ಸಂಘಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಸದಸ್ಯರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ
Sthree Shakthi Self Help Groups and Members Year 2016-17 (In Nos.)

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ. / SL No	ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು / Taluk	ಸ್ತ್ರೀ ಶಕ್ತಿ ಸ್ವಸಹಾಯ ಸಂಘಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ / No. of Sthree Shakthi Self help groups	ಸ್ವಸಹಾಯ ಸಂಘಗಳ ಸದಸ್ಯರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ / Self Help Group Members			ಒಟ್ಟು ಸದಸ್ಯರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ / Total No. of Members
			ಜ.ಪಂ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು / No. of Women (SC)	ಜ.ಪಂ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು / No. of Women (ST)	ಇತರೆ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರು / No. of Women (Others)	
1	2	842	843	844	845	846
1	ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ / Devanahalli	896	3503	1994	8027	13524
2	ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ / Doddaballapura	809	2941	688	9715	13344
3	ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ / Hosakote	992	4501	634	10746	15881
4	ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ / Nelamangala	833	2769	466	10590	13825
	ಒಟ್ಟು / Total	3530	13714	3782	39078	56574

ಮೂಲ: ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ದೂರವಾಣಿ 23522175

Source:

<https://cdn.s3waas.gov.in/s3aba3b6fd5d186d28e06ff97135cade7f/uploads/2018/07/2018072186.pdf>

APPENDIX -2

Determination of Sample size

Cochran equation

Where n_0 is the sample size,
 Z_2 is the abscissa of the normal curve that cuts off an area α at the tails;
 $(1 - \alpha)$ equals the desired confidence level, e.g., 95%);
 e is the desired level of precision,
 p is the estimated proportion of an attribute that is present in the population, and q is $1 - p$.
 The value for Z is found in statistical tables which contain the area under the normal curve. e.g $Z = 1.96$ for 95 % level of confidence

$$n = \frac{z_{\alpha}^2 \cdot p \cdot q}{e^2}$$

Finite population
 N is the population size

$$n = \frac{n_0}{1 + \frac{(n_0 - 1)}{N}}$$

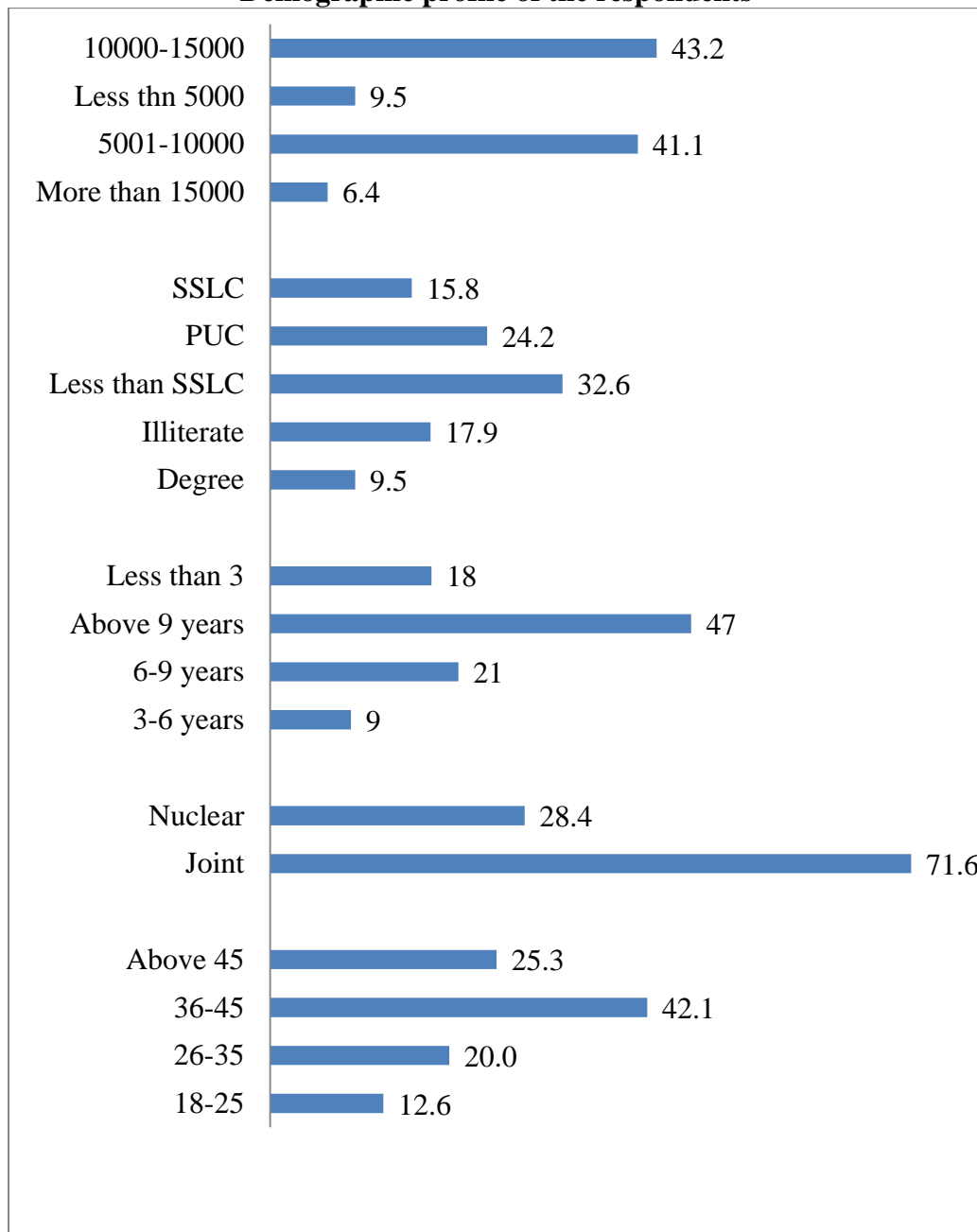
Source: <https://www.slideshare.net/TinaSephehrifar/sample-size-determination-75911693>

Determination of sample size - Known Population			
		Sample size for Women Cottage Industry workers in Bangalore rural District	
Confidence level	95%		
P	0.5		
Error	0.1		
Population	56,574		

Alpha divided by 2	0.025		
Z-score	1.959963985		
Sample Size	95.87205598	95	

APPENDIX – 3

Demographic profile of the respondents



APPENDIX -4

Descriptive Statistics						
		N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Eco_1	I am able to gain control over economic assets and achieve financial independence	95	2	5	4.63	0.584
Eco_2	I am able to achieve family infrastructural development	95	2	5	4.64	0.651
Eco_3	I am able to gain self – employment opportunities	95	2	5	4.77	0.515
Eco_4	I am able to develop my professional skill and competence	95	2	5	4.69	0.585
Eco_5	I am able to improve their saving ability	95	2	5	4.62	0.605
Soc_1	I am able to work for social equality	95	1	5	3.57	0.663
Soc_2	I am able to achieve the goal of social freedom	95	1	5	3.60	0.572
Soc_3	I am able to gain the benefit of social justice	95	1	5	3.61	0.624
Soc_4	I am able to achieve the goal of small family	95	1	5	3.38	0.713
Soc_5	I am able to gain the benefit of social mobility	95	1	5	3.54	0.681
Valid N (listwise)		95				

APPENDIX 5

Acceptable ranges for scale validity and reliability as per Hair et al, 2007

- Average Variance explained > 0.50
- Composite reliability > 0.70
- Cronbach Alpha > 0.70