

INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES OF SHGS WORKING IN SAURASHTRA REGION OF GUJARAT

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ABSTRACT

Self-Help Groups are informal associations of people who choose to come together to find ways to improve their living conditions. They help to build social capital among the poor, especially women.

Among the all SHG members, more than half 73.33 percent of the SHG members gained good income as well as reputation in their society from handicrafts activity. While 60.00 percent of the respondents were stitching the cloths for getting the income.

KEYWORDS: *Self Help Group, Income*

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INTRODUCTION

Self help groups are the important source for the women to enhance their income and participation in different activities. With the help of various economic activities, women are engaged in income generation. Income generation is an important aspect for getting the main target which is poverty reduction and make women self reliant and self confident. Women are involved in various activities like handicraft and handloom, herbal products, cloth stitching and papad making etc.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

180 SHG women members were selected from 18 villages of the 6 talukas of Junagadh and Rajkot districts of Saurashtra region by employing multistage sampling technique. An interview schedule was developed in accordance with the objectives of the study and it was pre tested and translated into Gujarati. The data of this study were collected with the help of structural interview schedule. The collected data were classified, tabulated, analyzed and interpreted in order to make the findings meaningful. The statistical measures such as percentage, mean, mean percent score, standard deviation, correlation co-efficient and Z test were used in the study.

RESULTS & DISCUSSIONS

In this study, attempt was made to find out the income generating activities performed by the members in their SHG. In this study, total 20 income generating activities were selected and were asked to give their response. On the basis of their response frequency and percent was calculated.

The data presented in Table 1 revealed that among the all SHG members, near to three fourth (73.33 percent) of the SHG members were doing the handicrafts activity and gained good income as well as reputation in their society. While 60.00 percent of the respondents were stitching the cloths for getting the income and 38.88 percent of the women were engaged in pickle making followed by 32.22 percent of the respondents were making the papad in their SHG. Whereas, 31.66 percent of the respondents were selling the herbal products and also they were getting the enough income from this. On the other hand, slightly less than one fourth (24.44 percent) of respondents were having the hobby of kitchen gardening and they were actively engaged in this hobby and were getting the income from this and 23.33 percent of respondents were also doing agriculture operation for enhancement of their income. The 18.88 percent of the respondents were having their grocery shop and this was their income source.

While 16.66 percent of the SHG members earned the income by preparing the sauce and jam, followed by fishery, soap making, spices making, saree selling and vadi making, goatery etc. with the 13.33, 13.33, 05.55, 05.55, 4.44 and 4.44 percent, respectively.

Among the all respondents, no one was engaged in poultry, dairy products, flour mill, oil selling and piggery.

From the above discussion, it can be concluded that majority of the respondents were generating the income from handicraft and cloth stitching. The probable reason behind that demand of the hand made products is very good and it is also creative work and with the cheap raw material this one is possible. Cloth is the one of our basic need among three needs and also good source of income generation with negligible cost.

This finding contradicts with the finding of Bhuvanawari et. al. (2011) and Chandarvadia and Kanani (2010).

Table 1: Income Generating Activities of the SHG Members (N= 180)

| Sr. No | Income Generating Activities | Frequency | Percent |
|--------|------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| 1 | Handicrafts | 132 | 73.33 |
| 2 | Goatery | 08 | 04.44 |
| 3 | Piggery | 00 | 00.00 |
| 4 | Agriculture farm | 42 | 23.33 |
| 5 | Papad making | 58 | 32.22 |
| 6 | Pickle making | 70 | 38.88 |
| 7 | Cloth stitching | 108 | 60.00 |
| 8 | Vadi making | 10 | 05.55 |
| 9 | Kitchen gardening | 44 | 24.44 |
| 10 | Fishery | 24 | 13.33 |
| 11 | Souce and jam making | 30 | 16.66 |
| 12 | Selling of herbal products | 57 | 31.66 |
| 13 | Poultry | 00 | 00.00 |
| 14 | Saree selling | 10 | 05.55 |
| 15 | Oil selling | 0 | 0.00 |
| 16 | Spices making | 12 | 6.66 |
| 17 | Soap making | 24 | 13.33 |
| 18 | Flour mill | 00 | 00.00 |
| 19 | Grocery shop | 34 | 18.88 |
| 20 | Dairy products | 00.00 | 00.00 |

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