INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES OF WOMEN IN SEIJANG VILLAGE, IMPHAL EAST DISTRICT, MANIPUR

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ABSTRACT

With the increase of cost of living in the present society, families cannot always depend on the earnings of the male in the household. In order to come out of the vicious circle of poverty, besides the household activities, women need to be engaged in income generating activities. They also need to be exposed to the technical know-how, knowledge of financial management, special schemes being initiated by the government for the women, knowledge of organisational management and entrepreneurship. More focus should also be given on women oriented economic activities.

Keywords: Income Generating Activities; Working Women; Businesswomen; Economic Development; Poverty Eradication

INTRODUCTION

The low status of women in large segments of Indian Society cannot be raised without the opening up of opportunity of independent employment and income further. Economic independence makes women conscious of their rights. Working outside home and coming into contact with other people have broadened their outlook and mental horizon. Till recently, a woman was considered unfit for roles other than that of housewife, nurse, primary school teacher, sales girl, telephone operator, stenographer and receptionist. The image of women in society is fast changing. But it is difficult to define or describe clearly the changing shape of the image. One thing is clear that women are entering the labour force in a large number.

For many women, work is regarded as an unfortunate economic necessity or that it is seen as very much a secondary activity to the main business of running a home and looking after children. The entire change and development of civilization to a large extent is the result of trade, commerce and industrialization. In this development, the human resource in general and entrepreneur in particular plays a pivotal role.
STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The study is entitled as “Income Generating Activities of Women in Seijang Village, Imphal East District, Manipur”.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The study of income generating activities of women in Seijang village, Imphal East District will give an idea about the various income generating activities in which women in the area are engaged to. The study shows the role of women in rural villages besides their household activities in solving the financial problem of their families. The study will be helpful in improving the socio-economic condition of the women and their families.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To identify the various income generating activities of working women in Seijang village.
2. To study the economic status of the working women residing in the area.
3. To suggest remedial measures to improve the existing situation.

DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The present study was confined only to the income generating activities engaged by women of Seijang village, Imphal East District, Manipur and to the study of economic status of the women and analysis of the source of income.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Makita (2009) conducted “A study on the visibility of women’s work for poverty reduction: Publications from non-crop agricultural income generating programs in Bangladesh. This article explores mechanisms for making poor rural women’s work visible by drawing on Amartya Sen’s in a family “Co-operative conflict” theory to explain the working of two Bangladesh non-governmental organizations income generating programs (rearing, poultry and rearing silk worm. On the assumption that co-operation in a family depends on how successfully the family can make women’s income generating activities compatible with their existing household some source. Families with a male breadwinner, having a regular income source, tended to offer a more co-operative environment to women’s work than those with a breadwinner involved in casual labour. Woman’s work as a second regular income source can make their work more visible and attribute to their families upward mobility.

Keshava, AK. Mehta and H.K. Gill (2010) conducted “A study on Management of Economic Activity in women Self Help Groups”. The study revealed that about 37 percent members had either started new economics activities or expanded on-going economic affairs after joining the groups. About 59% of group members who started new activity did this in group fulfilling all the requirements of economic activity i.e. from arrangements of raw materials to marketing of final product. About 82% respondents, who faced financial problems in running the activity, relied on group saving for taking loans.

P. Reeja George, C.N. Dinesh, Shibu Simon and P.P. Balakrishnan (2009) conducted “A study on the Socio-Economic Profile of Rural Women and the Role of Animal Husbandry Intervention in a Suicide Affected District of Kerala. Nearly one third of respondents indicated that their primary occupation was agriculture with some animal husbandry component. Nearly 15 percent of women did not have separate latrine facilities on their homestead. More than half of the respondents were in the age group 25-35 years and their average yearly income was reported by item to be Rs. 3768 over three emphasizes the importance of exploring alternate employment and income generating activities such as animal husbandry in order to improve the socio-economic conditions of these women since the family background variables have a vital role in the development of personality traits in children which could affect quality of human capital in the future generation of the district.
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

For the present research, normative survey method is used. The population comprises of all the women of Seijang Awang Leikai, Imphal East District, Manipur. A sample of 110 women has been taken up. The sample includes literate and illiterate females of this area. The sample collection is done by using “Stratified Random Sampling Techniques. A questionnaire was developed and it was used as the major tool for collecting data regarding income generating activities of the working women in the area and also their monthly income.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

Age-Wise Analysis of Working Women

Table 1. Age-Wise Distribution of Working Women

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Age Group (in Years)</th>
<th>Number of Women</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>20-29</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>30-39</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>43.64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>40-49</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>25.45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>50-59</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>17.27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>60 and Above</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>110</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Compiled from Questionnaire

The above table shows that out of the 110 women selected, majority of them i.e., 48 (43.64%) belong to the age group 30-39 years. While 11 (10%) belong to the age group 20-29, 28 (25.45%) are in the age group of 40-49 years. No. of working women in the age group of 50-59 years is 19 (17.27%) whereas, it is only 4 (3.64%) in the age group of 60 years and above.

Occupations of Working Women

The below table 2 shows the main occupation of the working women in the Seijang village. Majority of the working women are engaged in embroidery as the main activity of earning. Out of the 110 working women, 43 (39.09%) are earning through embroidery; 22 (20%) are engaged in weaving while 24 (21.82%) are cultivators. The number of working women who earn through private business and others is 21 (19.09%).

Table 2. Distribution of Occupation of Working Women

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No.</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>No. of Women</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Weaving</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Cultivator</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>21.82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Embroidery</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>39.09%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Business</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>19.09%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>110</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Compiled from Questionnaire

Age-Wise Analysis of Occupations of Working Women

Table 3. Age-Wise Distribution of Occupation of Working Women

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Age Group (Years)</th>
<th>Weaving</th>
<th>Cultivator</th>
<th>Embroidery</th>
<th>Business</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>20-29</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>30-39</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>40-49</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>50-59</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>60 and Above</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Source: Compiled from Questionnaire

From the above table, it has been found that among the 11 women in the age group of 20-29 years, 2 women are engaged in weaving; 7 are cultivators; 2 women are engaged in embroidery while none of them are cultivators. In the age group of 30-39 years, out of 48 working women, 8 earn through weaving, 4 are cultivators, 7 are engaged in business and majority of them i.e. 29 are engaged in embroidery. Among the 28 women in the age group of 40-49 years, 8 are engaged in weaving, 9 are cultivators, 4 earn through embroidery while 7 are businesswomen. In the age group of 50-59 years, 2 earn through weaving, 9 are cultivators, 7 are businesswomen and only 1 woman is engaged in embroidery. All the working women in the age group of 60 years and above i.e. 4 are engaged in private business.

**Income Analysis of The Working Women**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Monthly Income (Rupees)</th>
<th>No. of Women</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2000-3000</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>14.54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3000-4000</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4000-5000</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>39.09%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>5000 and Above</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>26.36%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Compiled from Questionnaire

Table 4 shows the monthly income of the working women residing in Seijang village. From the table, it is observed that majority of the working women in the said area have a monthly income of Rs.4000-5000. Out of 110 women chosen for the study, 43 women (39.09%) have a monthly income of Rs.4000-5000. Among them, 16 women (14.54%) earn in the range of Rs.2000-3000 per month while 22 women (20%) have a monthly earning of Rs.3000-4000. Number of working women who have a monthly earning of Rs.5000 and above is 29 (26.36%).

**MAIN FINDINGS OF THE STUDY**

1. The maximum number of working women in Seijang Awang Leikai belongs to the age group of 30-39 years. 43.64% of the working women in the area belong to the age group of 30-39 years while 25.45% of the working women belong to the age group of 40-49 years.

2. Maximum number of working women in Seijang Awang Leikai is engaged in embroidery (39.09%). 21.82% of the working women are cultivators while 20% of them earn their income from weaving. And, 19.09% of the working women earn through private business.

3. Age wise distribution of occupation of working women in the adopted area shows a varying nature. In the age group of 20-29 years and 30-39 years, majority of the working women are engaged in embroidery, whereas in the age group of 40-49 years and 50-59 years, maximum number of working women earn their income through cultivation.

4. Majority of the working women in Seijang Awang Leikai have a monthly income of Rs.4000-5000 (39.09%). 26.36% of the working women have a monthly income of Rs.5000-6000 while 20% of them have a monthly income of Rs.3000-4000, while 14.54% of them have a monthly income of Rs. 2000-3000.

**SUGGESTIONS**

The following are some of the suggestions for improving the economic conditions of the working women:

1. There is a need for imparting vocational and technical education to the working women in order to improve their skill as well as competency level.
2. They should be encouraged to set up Self Help Groups in their locality. It will make them earn in a systematic way and teach them how to work collectively.

3. The Social Welfare Department and other concerned Authorities should provide assistance on a large scale regarding loans, training and awareness of various schemes.

4. Group discussions, meetings and talks by experts should be organised in the respective locality on a regular manner.

5. The village Panchayat should inform and help the working women regarding the various women schemes and policies of women empowerment undertaken by the Central as well as State Government.

CONCLUSION

Women have been playing an important role in raising the socio-economic status of the family by committing themselves to various income generating activities. In Seijang village, Imphal East District, Manipur, women earn through activities like weaving, cultivating, embroidery and other business. But, the methods and equipments used in performing these activities are mostly traditional and outdated. Women are also lacking in skill level and competency. In order to improve the prevailing situation, vocational and technical education should be provided to them. It will help them to acquire the necessary skill and technique and also raise their confidence level.

REFERENCES


