

ANALYSIS OF THE ATTITUDE OF WOMEN BENEFICIARIES ON MICRO CREDIT

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Abstract

In India women cannot be viewed as a homogeneous group, as the society is stratified on the basis of class, caste and religion. It has been observed that the position of women and their demand for bank credit remain tied to class, caste and religious affiliations. In order to grasp the nature of these casual relationships, it is imperative to understand the attitude of women beneficiaries. The study mainly focused the Socio Economic factors and level of attitude of the respondents and also it has been focused the sources of awareness of the women beneficiaries. Participation of women in productive activities is crucial for enhancing the economic status of the family and for the overall empowerment of women.

Keywords: Beneficiaries, Women Empowerment, Micro Credit

Introduction

The study highlights the attitude of women in changing their life style by running small-micro business activities through the loans granted to them by a nonprofit organization under the Micro-credit Program. The study adopted a qualitative approach. The main findings of this study analyzed that participation of women in micro-credit program, in particular the economic and sociocultural dimensions of empowerment by getting awareness on micro credit and create the business and save for the emergencies. The targeted women became economically empowered by having their own income, loan amount availed and such other factors analyze the attitude of the women beneficiaries on micro credit.

Objectives

- To assess the sources of awareness on Micro credit.
- To analyze the attitude of women beneficiaries towards Micro credit.

Research Methodology

The research method generally offers the research with appropriate structure in methodology, the study clearly investigated and gathered information from respondents using through primary data.

Hypothesis

- There is no significant relationship between Socio Economic Factors and level of attitude of the respondents.

Analysis and Interpretation

Size of the Group

Self-help groups are an unregistered body of people, preferably the disadvantaged, who willingly contribute an agreed sum of money periodically based on mutual trust. The formation of self-help groups has empowered the women through their excellent activity with the help of NGOs. The group size mostly preferred towards the size of the group is 10-15 members which enable the effective individual participation in the group. Therefore an attempt is made to analyze the group size-wise membership classification of the sample women beneficiaries to which they belong, to table 1.1.

Table 1.1 Size of the Group

S. No	Group members	No. of the Respondents	Percentage
1	Below 9 members	42	6.0
2	10-15 members	299	42.7
3	16-18 members	290	41.4
4	Above 18 members	69	9.9
Total		700	100.0

Source: Primary Data

From the above table 1.1 it is clearly depicts that number of group members of respondents are as follows, that is number of group members under the category of 10-15 is 42.7% (299) respondents and the number of group members under the category of below 9 members is 6.0% (42) respondents because group size is medium in case of 10-15 members category So it will be helping them to get credit facilities and repay loan amount on prescribed time limit.

Sources of Awareness of the Respondents

The below table 1.2 depicts that suggested joining group of the respondents that is suggested group are self-suggested group, family members, friends and relatives, other members of the group and NGO's Workers.

Table 1.2 Sources of Awareness of the Respondents

S. No	Source	No. of the Respondents	Percentage
1	Self	69	9.9
2	Family members	144	20.6
3	Friends/Relatives	170	24.3
4	Other members of the group	259	37.0
5	NGOs workers	58	8.3
Total		700	100.0

Source: Primary Data

It is clear from the above table 1.2 out of 700 respondents 69 respondents are suggested to join with the group under the self-category and 144 respondents are suggested to join with the group under family members category and 170 respondents are suggested to join the group of friends/relatives category and 259 respondents are suggested to join with the group of other members category and 58 respondents are suggested to join with the group of NGOs workers. The above table 1.2 has clearly denoted that most of the respondents are suggested to join with group in reference with other members of the group, because the group members are having sufficient knowledge about their group and schemes adopted in their group activities, they give awareness about their activities to other members.

Loan amount availed by the Respondents

The below table 1.3 depict that loan amount availed of the respondents, for the women beneficiaries there is a need of funds for running a business and starting an enterprise, but there is insufficient funds make them to take the loan facilities from Micro credit.

Table 1.3 Loan Amount Availed by the Respondents

S. No	Loan amount availed	No. of the Respondents	Percentage
1	Below Rs. 20,000	30	4.3
2	Rs.20001 to 40000	66	9.4
3	Rs.40001 to 60000	359	51.3
4	Above Rs. 60001	245	35.0
Total		700	100.0

Source: Primary Data

From the table 1.3 it is found that out of 700 respondents 30 (4.3%) of the respondents are availed the loan amount below Rs. 20,000 and 66 (9.4%) of the respondents are availed the loan amount Rs. 20,001 to 40,000 and 395 (51.3%) of the respondents are availed the loan amount Rs. 40,001 to 60,000 and 245 (35.0%) of the respondents are availed the loan amount above Rs. 60,001. The respondent who gets micro credit is under the category of 40001 to 60000 because the need of loan amount availed for running an enterprises in today's generation have increased. So this type of loan amount availed is sufficient for the beneficiaries.

Purpose of Savings of the Respondents

With a view to ascertain the opinion of the respondents to the purpose of micro credit regarding their preference, they were asked to rank them. To understand the preference in the order of importance "Garret's ranking" technique has been used.

Percentage Position = $(100 \text{ R}_{ij} / 05)$

N_j

R_{ij} = Rank given for the item by the j th individual

N_j = Total ranks given by the j th individual

The results obtained were compared with Garret's ranking table and scores given (vide-Appendix). The total scores of each item were added and ranks were given according to the total value.

Table 1.4 Purpose of Micro Credit of the Respondents

Sl. No	Purposes	Total score	Mean score	Rank
1	Social Security	38160	54.51	II
2	Food Security	30597	43.71	IX
3	Education	38430	54.90	I
4	Medical Expenses	37750	53.93	III
5	Marriage	34527	49.32	V
6	Festivals	32515	46.45	VII
7	Emergencies	34327	49.04	VI
8	Agriculture	31571	45.10	VIII
9	Asset Building	37123	53.03	IV

Source: Computed Data

It is inferred from the above table 1.4 that education occupies the first rank with a highest score of 38430 (54.90%) because the education is an important factor for all aspects of development and poverty alleviation women beneficiaries are saving the certain loan amount from the business for children higher Education. Education followed by the social security as the second rank with a total score of 38160 (54.51%) because within the social status the beneficiaries need a secured life and they want to fulfill the basic needs so they save the money in savings through micro Credit. Medical

expenses is placed as the third rank with a total score of 37750 (53.93%) because women bearing lot of health issues related to infant health care and such other type of health problems. Micro credit is helping in way of savings from the small business. Asset building is the fourth rank with a total score of 37123 (53.03%) because the micro credit is helping by way of savings this helps the beneficiaries to get lot of benefits by getting the equipment's and machineries and it is useful for beneficiaries to run business effectively. Fifth rank goes to marriage with the score of 34527 (49.32%). Because women have to tackle lot of problems related to family. One of the major problem faced by beneficiaries are marriage related issues to their daughters and sons. Emergencies is placed in the sixth rank with the total score of 34327 (49.04%) because the women beneficiaries will meet the emergencies related to theft or fire accidents these type of risks are unexpected risk in business activities micro credit is helping for these problems by way of savings. Festivals attain the seventh rank with the total score of 32515 (46.45%) and the eighth rank goes to the agriculture with the score of 31571 (45.10%) because the rural area beneficiaries have to spend on agricultural activities, and the least score to 30597(43.71%) goes to food security. Because every women taking care of the family regarding food related issues. Somicro credit is helping for the food security by way of savings.

Respondents Attitude Level

Level of attitude of the respondents is measured using five point scale. Beneficiaries attitude towards micro credit. But most wanted and frequently used benefits are taken for the study is beneficiaries Recognition in the society is increased greatly after availing credit, Economic position is improved after availing credit Cleared off personal debts after availing credit Motivated more women to avail credit in order to improve their quality of life etc.

The level of attitude has been determined by the score values calculated for 9 statements which are associated with beneficiaries attitude by adopting a five-point scale (ranging from one indicating 'strongly disagree' to five indicating 'strongly agree') namely the Likert Type Scale. Thus the total attitude score of a respondent is obtained by adding up the scores of the 9 statements. The level of attitude has been classified into three categories namely high level, medium level and low level of attitude for analytical purposes. The score values $X + S.D.$ and the score values $X - S.D.$ have been classified as high level of attitude and low level of attitude respectively. The score values between $(X+S.D.)$ and $(X-S.D.)$ have been classified as medium level of attitude. X and $S.D.$ are the arithmetic mean and standard deviation calculated from the score values of 700 respondents.

The calculated values of X and $S.D.$ are 43.69 and 9.79.

Therefore,

$X + S.D.$ $(33.8 + 3.49) = 37.29 = 37$ and above – High level of Attitude

$X - S.D.$ (33.8 - 3.49) = 30.51 = 31 and below - Low Level of Attitude

$(X - S.D)$ and $(X + S.D)$ between 32 to 37 - Medium Level of Attitude

For testing the relationship between the respondents' profile variables and the level of attitude, the Chi-square test has been employed. The calculated value of the Chi-Square is measured with the table value of the Chi-Square for the given level of significance usually at the 5 per cent level. If at the stated level, the calculated value (C.V.) is less than the table value (T.V.), the null hypothesis is accepted otherwise it is rejected.

Classification of Level of Attitude

The levels of attitude of the 700 sample respondents from the beneficiaries' attitude towards micro credit in Madurai district are given in Table.

Classification of Level of Attitude

Sl. No.	Level of Attitude	No. of Respondents	Percentage to Total
1	High level	177	25.3
2	Medium level	307	43.8
3	Low level	216	30.9
Total		700	100.0

Source: Primary Data

It is clear from Table that out of the 700 respondents, 307 (43.8%) came under the category of medium level of attitude and 216 (30.9%) came under the category of low level of attitude. 177 (25.3%) of the sample respondents were in the category high level of attitude.

Socio Economic Factors and Level of Attitude of the Respondents

The below table 1.5 depicts Socio economic factors and Level of Attitude of the Respondents.

Table 1.5 Socio Economic Factors and Level of Attitude of the Respondents

Particulars	Calculated Value	Table value at 5% of Significant	Degrees of Freedom	Inference
Age and Level of Attitude	57.540	12.59	6	Rejected
Marital Status and Level of Attitude	61.133	5.99	2	Rejected
Educational qualification and Level of Attitude	41.778	18.31	10	Rejected
Type of the family and Level of Attitude	31.184	5.99	2	Rejected
Occupation and Level of Attitude	10.957	18.31	10	Rejected
Annual Income and Level of Attitude	51.890	12.59	6	Rejected

Age and Level of Attitude of the Respondents

In order to test the relationship between the age and the level of attitude of the respondents, the following null hypothesis was formulated:

H0: There is no significant relationship between age and level of attitude of the respondents

The Chi-square test was applied to examine the null hypothesis and the computed results are given in Table 1.5

The above table 1.5 reveals that the calculated value of the Chi-square test is more than the table value at the 5 per cent level of significance with 6 degrees of freedom. It also shows that the null hypothesis is rejected. Hence, there is significant relationship between the age and the level of attitude of the respondents.

Marital Status and Level of Attitude of the Respondents

With a view to test the relationship between the marital status and level of attitude following null hypothesis was formulated.

H0: There is no significant relationship between the marital status and the level of attitude of the respondents.

The Chi-square test was applied and the results are shown in Table 1.5.

Table 1.5 shows that the calculated values of the Chi-Square are greater than the table values at 5 per cent level of significance with 2 degree of freedom, the null hypothesis is rejected. Hence, it could be inferred that there is a significant relationship between the marital status of the respondents and the level of attitude.

Educational Qualification and Level of Attitude of the Respondents

For finding out the relationship between the educational qualification and the level of attitude of the respondents, the following null hypothesis was formulated:

H0: There is no significant relationship between the educational qualifications and the level of attitude of the respondents.

To test the hypothesis, the Chi-square test was applied. The computed results of the Chi-Square test are presented in Table 1.5.

It is clear from the table 1.5 that the calculated value of the Chi-square test is more than the table value at 5 per cent level of significance with 10 degree of freedom, the null hypothesis is rejected. Hence, there is significant relationship between the educational qualification and the level of attitude.

Type of the Family and Level of Attitude of the Respondents

With a view to test the relationship between the type of family and level of attitude following null hypothesis was formulated.

H0: There exists no relationship between the type of family and the level of attitude of the respondents.

The Chi-square test was applied and the results are shown in Table 1.5.

The above table 1.5 reveals that the calculated value of the Chi-square test is more than the table value at the 5 per cent level of significance with 2 degrees of freedom, the null hypothesis is rejected. There is a significant relationship between type of family and level of attitude of the respondents.

Occupation and Level of Attitude of the Respondents

For finding the relationship between the occupation and the level of attitude, the following null hypothesis was formulated:

H0: There is no significant relationship between the occupation and the level of attitude of the respondents.

To test the above hypothesis, the Chi-square test was applied. The computed results of the Chi-Square test are presented in Table 1.5

The table 1.5 reveals that the calculated value of the chi-square test is more than the table value at the 5 per cent level of significance with 10 degrees of freedom, the null hypothesis is rejected. There is a significant relationship between the occupation of the respondents and the level of attitude.

Annual Income and Level of Attitude of the Respondents

With a view to test the relationship between the annual income and level of attitude following null hypothesis was formulated.

H0: There is no significant relationship between the annual income and the level of attitude of the respondents.

The Chi-square test was applied and the results are shown in Table 1.5.

Table 1.5 shows that the calculated values of the Chi-Square are greater than the table values at the 5 per cent level of significance with 6 degrees of freedom. It implies that the null hypothesis is rejected. Hence, it could be inferred that there is a significant relationship between the annual income and the level of attitude of the respondents.

Findings and Conclusion

- The study inferred that number of group members under the category of 10-15 is 42.7%.
- Out of 700 respondents the majority of 259 respondents are suggested to join the group because of the influence of other member's.
- Out of 700 respondents the majority of respondents, 395 (51.3%) respondents are availed the loan amount Rs. 40,001 to 60,000.
- The study infers that most of the respondents opted Education as the reason for the savings, which occupies the first rank with a highest score of 38430 (54.90%).
- Out of the 700 respondents, the majority of respondents (43.8%) are under the category of medium level of attitude.

- There is no significant relationship between socio economic factor and level of attitude of the respondents.

The concept of microcredit has tremendous potential in the world. Micro credit has a blend of social and economic characteristics which provide a strong foundation that can be used to achieve objectives of micro credit efficiently and effectively. It can bring about positive change in the poverty especially for the women beneficiaries. Although, the women beneficiaries are aware about the micro credit schemes and loan facilities offered by the various financial institutions, and the beneficiaries are satisfied with the micro credit offered by the NABARD.