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## A study of efficacy for empowering women through SHG

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### Abstract

There are a few elements for the advancement of a nation and the women's Self-help Group (SHG) is one of the most important elements of them. Women are the key to the economical turn of events and personal satisfaction in the family. They are drawing in themselves in various profitable activities like handicraft, aquaculture, hand-loom, collective cultivating, making and selling snacks, and a lot more which brings financial independence and prosperity to their families. There are many factors of women empowerment like age, education, self-dependence, gender discrimination, economic activities, social activities, decision making, etc. Self-help groups play a vital role in the development of the nation. This research work focuses on the impact of education for strengthening women's self-help groups in the Balangir district of Odisha. Through multinomial logistic regression outcomes of the study reveal that educational status is the footprint of social empowerment of women SHG of the district. Also, perceive the correlation between the number of SHG promoters and the number of household mobilization. The present study focuses on sample categorical data which were collected by multi-stage sampling technique to know which category has more dominating power in the race of women empowerment through SHG.

**Keywords:** Women empowerment, SHGs, education, household mobilization

### Introduction

India's economy is one of the world's fastest-growing economies. The different factors are responsible for economic growth and self-help groups (SHGs) are one of the most important factors of them. Nowadays, women's empowerment is one of the best segregated and classified matters to be discussed in India. Women empowerment means the all-round development of women politically, socially, economically. Women's empowerment is most essential for concluding imperishable development. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has deduced two considerable directions to empowerment. The first is social mobilisation and collective agency, as impoverished women frequently lack the fundamental capacities and self-confidence to overcome the problems and constraints that they face. Change agents are frequently required to intentionally catalyse societal mobilisation. Second, economic security must accompany and support the process of social mobilisation. The underprivileged will not be able to mobilise as long as they are impoverished and their livelihoods are in jeopardy (UNDP 2001). According to many authors empowerment means freedom socially, economically, and politically. Even though women largely participate in different income generated activities for giving financial help to their families, in rural areas, women are the most disadvantaged people. Many researchers focus on the eradication of poverty they all found that although various factors are responsible and out of these factors one of the most influencing factors is a self-help group. SHG helps to empower women and engage them in different gainful activities. It is visible that women empowerment and poverty are inversely related to each other i.e., more empowerment of women directly impacts on eradication of poverty. Many scholars accept that women's empowerment is one of the significant endowments of development.

### Objectives

The objectives of the present research are as follows;

- To focus on the demographic profile of the Balangir district of Odisha.
- To study the measure of association between several SHG promoters and the number of household mobilization.

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- To study the comparison of category-wise data (General, OBC, SC, ST) in WSHG and their contribution towards women empowerment.
- To study the impact on the education level of the family after joining SHG.

**Hypothesis**

The following hypothesis is being formulated as part of the proposed study.

- There will be no significant difference of average SHGs between the social category-wise data.
- Education level will not affect the social empowerment of members of SHG.

**Methodology**

A mixed-methods design using both quantitative and qualitative methods will have adopted to address the main objectives of the study. The cross-sectional data on population attitude, values and socio-economic resources, and changing scenarios due to SHGs will be administered through household survey, focused group discussion, and key informant’s interviews are to be conducted. The research follows the social and economic development perspective. The empirical data is collected by both primary and secondary methods. The primary data are collected by using proper questionnaire technique based on research work through multi-stage sampling technique, while the secondary data are collected from different sources include books, internet sources, journals, articles, NRLM websites, and reports which are admissible to the research work.

**Demographic Profile of Balangir District of Odisha**

Balangir district was formed on 1st November 1949. It is flanked in the northwest by the Gandhamardan hill. Many hill streams traverse it. The name Balangir is said to have been derived from Balaramgarh, a fort built here in the 16th Century by Balram Deo, the 19th Raja of Balangir and founder of Sambalpur kingdom. (<https://missionshakti.odisha.gov.in/district-pages/balangir>).

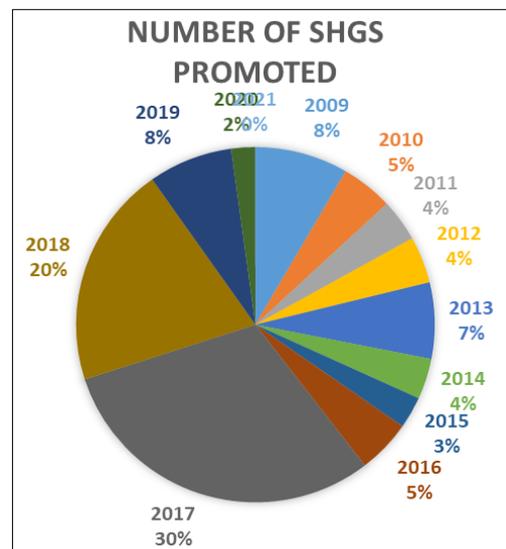
The Balangir District is surrounded by Subarnapur district in the east, Nuapada District in the west, Kalahandi District in the south, and Bargarh District in the north. The district lies between 20 degrees 11’40 to 21 degree 05’08-degrees north latitude and 82 degrees 41’15 to 83 degree 40’22 East longitude. The district covers an area of 6575 sq. km.

The total population of the Balangir District is 16,48,997. comprising total male population as 8,30,097 and female population as 8,18,900. The total SC population of the district is 2,94,777 and the ST population is 3,47,164. Balangir District has 3 subdivisions, 14 Tahasils, 14 Blocks, 2 Municipalities, 3 NACs, 18 Police stations, and 285 gram-panchayats.

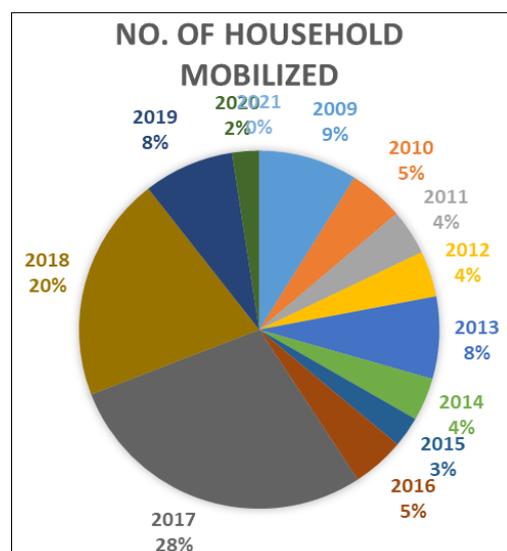
For the socio-economic development of women, WSHGs are formed under Mission Shakti in the Balangir district. At present more than 22,000 of WSHGs are existing in the district. They are involved in different income generating activities like Pisciculture, terracotta, incense sticks, Fruit and vegetable cultivation, weaving, Badi, papad, species, etc making and improving their financial conditions. They are also involved in many social activities like the anti-alcohol movement, tree plantation, immunization, sanitation, etc.



**Fig 1: Demographic Profile of Balangir District of Odisha**



**Fig 2: Number of SHGs Promoted**



**Fig 3: No. of Household Mobilized**

**Data Analysis**

From the figure-1 it was found that the years 2017 and 2018 are the golden periods for the improvement of women empowerment. In the year 2017 highest number of Self-Help groups are promoted. In this year maximum numbers of women come forward to join in SHG for empowering themselves. From 2014 to 2018, India saw the fastest economic growth and overtook China. It's only possible due to the more and more engagement of women in different income-generating activities. Most women are joining in SHG in the years 2017 and 2018 i.e., 30% and 20% respectively of the total joining from the last 13 years. The total number of members who joined SHG in these two years, 2017 and 2018, represents 50% of the total 13 years.

From the figure-2 it was visible that the years 2017 and 2018 are the most propitious periods for refinement of empowering women. As in these two years, several household mobilizations are maximum. Also compared between these two years has strongly shown that 2017 has the highest household mobilization. And the total number of households mobilized in the years 2017 and 2018 was 48% which was mostly half of the total households mobilized from the year 2009 to 2021. The more in joining in SHG shown the more in the mobilization of households. The higher the SHG participation, the greater the household engagement.

**Table 1:** Correlation between SHG promoted & household mobilized

		SHG Promoted	Household Mobilized
SHG Promoted	Pearson Correlation	1	.998**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	13	13
Household Mobilized	Pearson Correlation	.998**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	13	13

\*\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

The above table analysed the measure of association among SHG promoters and household mobilization of 13 blocks of Balangir district of Odisha. In this table, it was found that the Pearson correlation coefficient between the SHG promoters and household mobilization is 0.998 which is approximately +1. It shows that the association between SHG promoters and household mobilization is highly correlated with each other. The correlation is strongly significant as the p-value is less than 0.05 at a 1% level of significance. It resulted that SHG promoter is highly affected the mobilization of the household. As the increase in SHG promoters proportionally increases in household mobilizations. The relationship between Self-Help groups promoters and household mobilizations has a positive impact on the growth of the economy of our country. Nowadays more and more women are directly engaged in different household activities. Women have more power in the decision-making house. They are directly involved in various financial activities. As more and more women are joining in SHG for that greater number of houses are mobilized. In the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, it had shown that a maximum number of women were engaged in only non-profit household activities but nowadays they are more coming forward and working in profitable activities they also maintain the same standard of living as men. At present maximum number of women are attached to different profitable works which are directly proportional to the mobilization of houses as well as empowering themselves.

The more joining of women in the SHG the more household will be mobilized. SHG promoters and mobilization of households are highly interrelated with each other. It is visible that household mobilization is mostly dependent upon the increase of SHG promoters. Self-help groups create awareness among society. In a rural area, SHG plays a principal role in development. They are involved in a variety of financial activities that help them take charge of themselves economically and socially. Women's participation in household income has increased. This allowed them to more effectively control decisions that impact their lives. It has resulted in the greater participation of women in decision-making.

**Table 2:** Relationship between educational status and social empowerment

Education_status	Coef.	[95% Conf.]	Interval]
<b>Primary education @6th to 10th Std se freemoving</b>			
Good @			
Low	0.30*	-39200000	39200000
Medium	-0.32*	-1.744821	1.085863
Very good	3.07***	0.9452924	5.197947
<b>11th to Graduation se freemoving</b>			
Good @			
Low	1.48*	-57900000	57900000
Medium	-15.03*	-5450.581	5420.516
Very good	5.21***	2.711149	7.724113
<b>Higher Education se freemoving</b>			
Good @			
Low	0.28*	-176000000	176000000
Medium	-0.23**	-19526.23	19525.76
Very good	20.21**	-7480.953	7521.379
<b>Illiterate se freemoving</b>			
Good @			
Low	0.69*	-24200000	24200000
Medium	1.51*	-0.5721826	3.604886
Very good	-14.68***	-13691.91	13662.55

**Note:** @ - Reference category; CI - confidence interval, \*\*\* $p < 0.01$ , \*\* $p < 0.05$ , \* $p < 0.10$

**Result**

The above table analysed the impact of education level on social empowerment of SHG members of the Balangir district of Odisha. One of the factors of social empowerment which is moving freely is taken for analysis with different levels of education. From the table (table no. 2), we can say that the women involved in SHGs, having education level 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> standard have the independence of moving freely at a very good level is 3.07 times more (Coef. 3.07; 95% CI: 0.9452924 - 5.197947) than the level of only good- moving freely status as compared to the women involved in SHGs having the qualification level is minimum, i.e., primary level of education only, and at the same time, the women having the same qualification level, their independency of low level moving freely is 0.30 timeless (Coef. 0.30; 95% CI: -39200000 - 39200000) than the only good level of moving freely status as compared to the women having qualification level limited to primary education only.

It has been seen that the women involved in SHGs, having education level 11<sup>th</sup> to Graduation standard have the freedom of moving freely at a very good level is 5.21 times more (Coef. 5.21; 95% CI: 2.711149 - 7.724113) than the level of only good- moving freely status as compared to the women involved in SHGs having the qualification level primary education only, and at the same time, the women having the

same qualification level, their freedom of low level moving freely is 1.48 time more (Coef. 1.48; 95% CI: -57900000 - 57900000) than the only good level of moving freely status as compared to the women having qualification level in primary education.

Again, the comparison of members of self-help groups having higher education level the independence of freely moving at a very good level is 20.21 times more (Coef. 20.21; 95% CI: -7480.953 - 7521.379) than the level of only good moving freely status as compared to the members engaged in self-help groups comes under primary education level. Simultaneously, the independence of moving freely at a low level of the members belonging to higher education level is 0.28 times less than an only good level of moving freely as compared to the members having primary education level.

Further comparisons are made between the members of SHG who come under the illiterate category with the members having primary education level. It has been seen that the independence level of moving freely of the illiterate category at a very good level is -14.68 times (Coef. -14.68; 95% CI: -13691.91 - 13662.55) which is much lower than the members with primary education level. At the same time, the independence of freely moving at a low level of the members with the same qualification level is 0.69 times less (Coef. 0.69; 95% CI: -24200000 - 24200000) than the only good level of moving freely status as compared to the women having qualification level limited to primary education only. From the above analysis it has seen that education is one of the most important factors for women empowerment.

**Table 3:** Relationship between educational status and social empowerment

Education status	Coef.	[95% Conf.	Interval]
<b>Primary education @6th to 10th Std se expressviews</b>			
Good ®			
Low	-38.66*	-245000000	245000000
Medium	-2.07*	-3.13795	-1.020947
Very good	19.56***	-24483.5	24522.62
<b>11th to Graduation se expressviews</b>			
Good ®			
Low	-37.94*	-417000000	417000000
Medium	-18.35*	-5207.277	5170.571
Very good	22.04***	-24481.02	24525.11
<b>Higher Education se expressviews</b>			
Good ®			
Low	-20.44*	-1380000000	1380000000
Medium	-0.85**	-29249.61	29247.89
Very good	39.86**	-34014.73	34094.45
<b>Illiterate se expressviews</b>			
Good ®			
Low	19.38*	-10557.15	10595.92
Medium	16.79*	-10559.74	10593.32
Very good	-17.06***	-82665.12	82699.25

**Note:** ® - Reference category; CI – confidence interval, \*\*\* $p < 0.01$ , \*\* $p < 0.05$ , \* $p < 0.10$

## Result

The above table analysed one of the factors of social empowerment of SHG members of the Balangir district of Odisha. The factor that expresses views of social empowerment is taken for analysis with different levels of education. From the table (table no. 3), we can say that the women involved in SHGs, having education level 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> standard have the independence of express views at a very

good level is 19.56 times more (Coef. 19.56; 95% CI: -24483.5 - 24522.62) than the level of only good- express views status as compared to the women involved in SHGs having the qualification level is minimum, i.e., primary level of education only, and at the same time, the women having the same qualification level, their independency of low level moving freely is -38.66 timeless (Coef. -38.66; 95% CI: -245000000- 245000000) than the only good level of express views status as compared to the women having qualification level limited to primary education only.

It has been seen that the women involved in SHGs, having education level 11<sup>th</sup> to Graduation standard have the freedom of express views at a very good level is 22.04 times more (Coef. 22.04; 95% CI: -24481.02 - 24525.11) than the level of only good- express views status as compared to the women involved in SHGs having the qualification level primary education only, and at the same time, the women having the same qualification level, their freedom of low-level express views is -37.94 timeless (Coef. -37.94; 95% CI: -417000000 - 417000000) than the only good level of express views status as compared to the women having qualification level in primary education.

Again, the comparison of members of self-help groups having higher education level the independence of express their views at a very good level is 39.86 times more (Coef. 39.86; 95% CI: -34014.73 - 34094.45) than the level of only good express views status as compared to the members engaged in self-help groups comes under primary education level. Simultaneously, the independence of express views at the low level of the members belongs to higher education level is -20.44 times less (Coef. -20.44; 95% CI: -1380000000 - 1380000000) than an only good level of express views as compared to the members having primary education level.

Further comparisons are made between the members of SHG who come under the illiterate category with the members having primary education level. It has been seen that the independence level of express views of the illiterate category at a very good level is -17.06 times (Coef. -17.06; 95% CI: -82665.12 - 82699.25) which is much lower than the members with primary education level. At the same time, the independence of express views at a low level of the members with the same qualification level is 19.38 times more (Coef. 19.38; 95% CI: -10557.15 - 10595.92) than the only good level of express views status as compared to the women having qualification level limited to primary education only. It has clearly been shown from the data that improvement in education level leads to improvement of social empowerment. Education plays a key role in empowering women.

Nowadays social empowerment of women is one of the most important factors of women's empowerment. Different social factors are responsible for empowering women socially. Today's women confront several societal problems, such as earning a living by producing soaps and incense or raising children in the middle of a hard economic crisis. In the multiple roles she performs, a woman is dynamic. Since the Millennium Development Goals were established, significant progress has been made in improving the social and economic standing of women in poor nations. Women's healthcare and education have made significant progress as a result of these advancements. There has been an upsurge in the number of women working on farms and in companies in developing nations. Despite this rise, professional women continue to be more vulnerable to financial insecurity than men. The

enabling factor that increases women's social contacts and their place in social institutions is referred to as social empowerment. Discrimination in society based on race, disability, religion, ethnicity, or gender is addressed through social empowerment. Empowerment is frequently connected with feminism as a tactic.

**Table 4:** Relationship between educational status and social empowerment

Education status	Coef.	[95% Conf.	Interval]
<b>Primary education @6th to 10th Std se disgovt</b>			
Good @			
Low	-2.60*	-4.085319	-1.12007
Medium	-2.23*	-3.493912	-0.97326
Very good	18.15***	-14855.11	14891.42
<b>11th to Graduation se disgovt</b>			
Good @			
Low	-16.92*	-3473.139	3439.291
Medium	-16.93*	-2798.239	2764.376
Very good	20.98***	-14852.28	14894.25
<b>Higher Education se disgovt</b>			
Good @			
Low	-1.12*	-16902	16899.76
Medium	-1.13**	-15471.5	15469.24
Very good	36.98**	-19339.65	19413.62
<b>Illiterate se disgovt</b>			
Good @			
Low	-0.58*	-3.184713	2.009018
Medium	-17.02*	-4142.373	4108.319
Very good	-0.71***	-49776.17	49774.74

**Note:** @ - Reference category; CI – confidence interval, \*\*\* $p < 0.01$ , \*\* $p < 0.05$ , \* $p < 0.10$

**Result**

Table-4 analyzed the impact of education level on social empowerment of SHG members of Balangir district of Odisha. One of the factors of social empowerment which is discussed with the government is taken for analysis with different levels of education. From the table (table no. 4), we can say that the women involved in SHGs, having education level 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> standard have the freely discuss with govt. personnel at a very good level is 18.15 times more (Coef. 18.15; 95% CI: -14855.11 - 14891.42) than the level of only good- discuss with govt. status as compared to the women involved in SHGs having the qualification level is minimum, i.e., primary level of education only, and at the same time, the women having the same qualification level, their independency of low level discuss with govt. is -2.60 timeless (Coef. -2.60; 95% CI: -4.085319 - -1.12007) than the only good level of discuss with govt. status as compared to the women having qualification level limited to primary education only. It has been seen that the women involved in SHGs, having education level 11<sup>th</sup> to Graduation standard have the freedom of discussing with govt. bodies at a very good level are 20.98 times more (Coef. 20.98; 95% CI: -14852.28 - 14894.25) than the level of only good- freely discuss with govt. status as compared to the women involved in SHGs having the qualification level primary education only, and at the same time, the women having the same qualification level, their freedom of low level discuss with govt. is -16.92 times less (Coef. -16.92; 95% CI: -3473.139 - 3439.291) than the only good level of discussion with govt. status as compared to the women having qualification level in primary education. Again, the comparison of members of self-help groups having higher education level the independence of discussing with govt. at a very good level is 36.98 times more (Coef. 36.98; 95% CI: -7480.953 - 7521.379) than the level of only good discussion with

government status as compared to the members engaged in self-help groups comes under primary education level. Simultaneously, the independence of discussion with govt officers at a low level of the members belonging to higher education level is -1.12 (Coef. -1.12; 95% CI: -16902 - 16899.76) times less than an only good level of freely discuss with govt. as compared to the members having primary education level.

Further comparisons are made between the members of SHG who come under the illiterate category with the members having primary education level. It has seen that the independence level of discussing with govt. of the illiterate category at a very good level is -0.71 times (Coef. -0.17; 95% CI: -49776.17 - 49774.74) which is much lower than the members with primary education level. At the same time, the independence of openly discussed with govt. bodies at a low level of the members with the same qualification level are -0.58 times less (Coef. -0.58; 95% CI: -3.184713 - 2.009018) than the only good level of discussion with govt. status as compared to the women having qualification level limited to primary education only. Women's empowerment is a multi-faceted process that aims to help people or groups of persons fulfill their full potential in all aspects of life. Women's empowerment entails having the same rights, position, and self-development freedom as males. The position of women is a gauge of a country's democratism, as well as a measure of how well its citizens' human rights are protected. Empowerment of women are depending upon many factors like economic empowerment, social empowerment, political empowerment, educational empowerment, etc. and it has been seen from many research papers that all the empowerment factors are interdependent with each other. If we will focus on two major factors i.e., educational factor and social factor both the factors are directly proportionate with each other from the above analysis table it has seen that the improvement of education level directly impacts on improvement on status of social factors.

**Table 5:** Relationship between social categories and social empowerment

Soc_cat	Coef.	[95% Conf.	Interval]
<b>OBC @ General se freelymoving</b>			
Good @ Low	-1.454809*	-525867	525864.2
Medium	-16.38249**	-10508.8	10476.07
Very good	1.311341***	-1.29573	3.918407
<b>se expressviews</b>			
Good @ Low	-.1623531*	-34692.4	34692.08
Medium	1.292455*	-1.76153	4.346441
Very good	-.0351157***	-2.31244	2.242208
<b>se disgovt</b>			
Good @ Low	-1.672753*	-4.79725	1.451747
Medium	-18.53139**	-5457.21	5420.147
Very good	-.9541519***	-3.31092	1.402618
<b>Others se freelymoving</b>			
Good @ Low	-18.20267*	-412499	412462.7
Medium	.5482106*	-1.57386	2.670278
Very good	-17.10046**	-5893.57	5859.364
<b>se expressviews</b>			
Good @ Low	-18.23598*	-24078.4	24041.91
Medium	-.0333044**	-1.6772	1.61059
Very good	-15.0893***	-5837.27	5807.089
<b>se disgovt</b>			
Good @ Low	-1.224263*	-3.58596	1.137434
Medium	-.5080659**	-2.3582	1.342071
Very good	-14.47034***	-5375.16	5346.217

**Note:** @ - Reference category; CI – confidence interval, \*\*\* $p < 0.01$ , \*\* $p < 0.05$ , \* $p < 0.10$

**Table 6:** Relationship between social categories and social empowerment

Soc_cat	Coef.	[95% Conf.]	Interval]
<b>OBC @ SC se_freelymoving</b>			
Good @ Low	-20.48566*	-372344	372302.6
Medium	1.356509**	-0.44271	3.155726
Very good	-2.613073***	-5.61185	0.385704
<b>se_expressviews</b>			
Good @ Low	-.0432023*	-3.21612	3.129719
Medium	-.2943478*	-1.94945	1.360756
Very good	-1.06363**	-4.25116	2.123898
<b>se_disgovt</b>			
Good @ Low	-.3891896*	-2.73525	1.956871
Medium	-.3162656**	-2.27526	1.642729
Very good	1.342527***	-1.89915	4.584208
<b>ST se_freelymoving</b>			
Good @ Low	6.301121*	-241923	241935.4
Medium	.0314634**	-2.57215	2.63508
Very good	-.0001367***	-2.2346	2.234322
<b>se_expressviews</b>			
Good @ Low	-18.63687*	-28655.9	28618.66
Medium	-.4764977*	-2.53303	1.580035
Very good	.7928785***	-1.84139	3.427142
<b>se_disgovt</b>			
Good @ Low	.0991421*	-2.47365	2.671935
Medium	-.6420315**	-2.907	1.622938
Very good	-2.052688**	-5.07925	0.973873

Note: @ - Reference category; CI – confidence interval, \*\*\* $p < 0.01$ , \*\* $p < 0.05$ , \* $p < 0.10$

## Results

The above table analysed the impact of different social categories on the social empowerment of SHG members of the Balangir district of Odisha. If we will focus on the first part of the table (table - 5) in which the general category is taken for analysis with three different factors of social empowerment with reference category OBC (Other Backward Class). One of these factors freely moving of social empowerment is taken for comparison of members having a general category with the members having OBC category and it has found that moving freely at a very good level of members with the general category is 1.311341 times more (Coef. 1.311341; 95% CI: -1.29573 - 3.918407) than the level of only good freely moving status of members belong to OBC category. At the same time, the women belong to the same social category their autonomy of low level moving freely is -1.454809 times less (Coef. -1.454809; 95% CI: -525867 - 525864.2) than the only good level of moving freely status as compared to the women belong to OBC category. Another social factor express views is taken for comparison between two different social categories i.e., general and OBC. From the above table, it has been seen that the members corresponding to the general category have a little less than -.0351157 (Coef. -.0351157; 95% CI: -2.31244 - 2.242208) independence to express their views at a very good level as compared with the members belong to OBC category. Simultaneously it was found that the autonomy of express views at a low level in the general category is -.1623531 times less (Coef. -.1623531; 95% CI: -34692.4 - 34692.08) than the only good level of the factor expresses views as compared with OBC category. And the further comparison between another social factor discusses with govt. bodies of the self-help group members belong to general category and OBC category on very good status is taken which is indicative that the very good level of members comes under general category is -.9541519 times less (Coef. -.9541519; 95% CI: -3.31092

- 1.402618) than the members come under OBC category at an only good level. Again, the results of the comparison of self-help groups members belong to the general category on discussion with govt. at low level is -1.672753 times less (Coef. -1.672753; 95% CI: -4.79725 - 1.451747) than the members belong to the OBC category at a good level only. Again, from the above table, it was found that the effect of social categories on empowerment of women socially based on three different factors. Further comparison was made between other categories including PWD, Christianity religion, and Islam religion women self-help groups and women of OBC category which is taken as the reference category. From the analysis table, it has been seen that the women belong to other categories have -17.10046 times less (Coef. -17.10046; 95% CI: -5893.57 - 5859.364) than the women having OBC categories on the independence of freely moving at a very good level with reference category good level. At the same time if we will focus on the analysis table it has seen that the independence of freely moving of women belong to other categories at low level is -18.20267 times less (Coef. -18.20267; 95% CI: -412499 - 412462.7) than the members belong to OBC category at an only good level. From this, we can observe that the women who belong to the OBC category at a good level have more independence of freely moving as compared with the women who belong to other categories at a very good level. At the same time, if we will focus on another factor of social empowerment i.e., freedom of express views, here also we found that a very good level of other categories is -15.0893 times less (Coef. -15.0893; 95% CI: -5893.57 - 5859.364) than a good level of OBC category. Concomitantly we will compare the analysis of SHG members of other categories on self-reliance of expressing their views at a low level which is -18.23598 times less (Coef. -18.23598; 95% CI: -24078.4 - 24041.91) than the members of the OBC category at an only good level. Another social factor discussed with govt. is taken for comparison between other categories and OBC category at a very good level, from which it was found that the women belong to other categories have -14.47034 times less (Coef.; -14.47034 95% CI: -5375.16- 5346.217) than the members belong to OBC category at a good level only. Again, we will see the analysis on freedom of discussion with govt. personnel of the women belong to other categories at low level which is -1.224263 times less (Coef.; -1.224263 95% CI: -3.58596- 1.137434) than the women belong to OBC category at an only good level.

If we will focus on the first part of the above table (table - 6) in which the SC (Scheduled Caste) category is taken for analysis with three different factors of social empowerment with reference category OBC (Other Backward Class). One of these factors freely moving of social empowerment is taken for comparison of members having SC category with the members having OBC category and it has found that moving freely at a very good level of members with SC category is -2.613073 times less (Coef. -2.613073; 95% CI: -5.61185 - 0.385704) than the level of only good freely moving status of members belong to OBC category. At the same time, the women belong to the same social category their autonomy of low level moving freely is -20.48566 times less (Coef. -20.48566; 95% CI: -372344 - 372302.6) than the only good level of moving freely status as compared to the women belong to OBC category. Another social factor express views is taken for comparison between two different social categories i.e., SC and OBC. From the above table, it

has been seen that the members corresponding to the SC category have a little less -1.06363 (Coef. -1.06363; 95% CI: -4.25116 - 2.123898) independence to express their views at a very good level as compared with the members belong to OBC category. Simultaneously it was found that the autonomy of express views at a low level in the SC category is -.0432023 times less (Coef. -.0432023; 95% CI: -3.21612 - 3.129719) than the only good level of the factor expresses views as compared with OBC category. And a further comparison between another social factor discusses with govt. bodies of the self-help group members belong to SC category and OBC category on very good status is taken which is indicative that the very good level of members comes under SC is 1.342527 times more (Coef. 1.342527; 95% CI: -1.89915 - 4.584208) than the members come under OBC category at an only good level. Again, the results of the comparison of self-help groups members belong to the general category on discussion with govt. at low level is -.3891896 times less (Coef. -.3891896; 95% CI: -2.73525 - 1.956871) than the members belong to the OBC category at a good level only.

Again, from the above table (table - 6) it was found that the effect of different social categories on social empowerment of women self-help groups. Further comparison was made between the members belonging to the ST (Scheduled Tribe) category and women of the OBC category which is taken as the reference category. From the analysis table, it has been seen that the women who belong to the ST category have -.0001367 times less (Coef. -.0001367; 95% CI: -2.2346 - 2.234322) than the women having OBC category on the independence of freely moving at a very good level with reference category good level. At the same time if we will focus on the analysis table it has been seen that the independence of freely moving of women belong to ST category at low level is 6.301121 times more (Coef. 6.301121; 95% CI: -241923 - 241935.4) than the members belong to OBC category at an only good level. From this, we can observe that the women belonging to the OBC category at a good level have more independence of freely moving as compared with the women belonging to the ST category at a very good level. At the same time, if we will focus on another factor of social empowerment i.e., freedom of express views, here also we found that a very good level of ST category is .7928785 times less (Coef. .7928785; 95% CI: -1.84139 - 3.427142) than a good level of OBC category. Concomitantly we will compare the analysis of SHG members of the ST category on self-reliance of express their views at a low level which is -18.63687 times less (Coef. -18.63687; 95% CI: -28655.9 - 28618.66) than the members of the OBC category at an only good level. Another social factor discussed with govt. is taken for comparison between ST category and OBC category at a very good level, from which it was found that the women belong to ST category have -2.052688 times less (Coef.; -2.052688; 95% CI: -5.07925- 0.973873) than the members belong to OBC category at a good level only. Again, we will see the analysis on freedom of discussion with govt. personnel of the women belongs to ST category at low level which is .0991421 times less (Coef.; .0991421; 95% CI: -2.47365- 2.671935) than the women belong to OBC category at an only good level.

### Findings/ discussion

The evidence from the table (table no. 2) result shows that the women with qualification level 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> standard have more

independence/capability of moving freely than lower-level, i.e., the primary level only. And at the same point, we can see that the number is increasing for the women with very goodly moving capability and the decreasing for the low level of freely moving ability, when we compare with the lower level, i.e., those who have the primary level education only. Again, it has been seen that the members having 11<sup>th</sup> to Graduation level have more self-reliance than the members having primary education level only. It has been seen that the liberty of low level freely moving of SHG members having 11<sup>th</sup> to Graduation standard is a little bit higher than freedom of low level moving freely of members having 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> standard education level. Also, the results of the analysis indicate that the increase in education level leads to an increase in the capability of freely moving. If we will focus on the members whose qualifications are higher, they are much more independent in moving freely as compared with different lower-level education. This indicates that education is one of the most important factors for social empowerment. That means the prevalence of low level freely moving is less in contrast to the education level increases, and a good level of freely moving capability increase with the increasing level of education. The reasons behind the improvement of social empowerment are better social qualities like communication, behavior, attitude, interaction which helps them to cope with society in complex situations. The impact of education directly influences such social traits.

Again, the level of education is compared with another factor of social empowerment of women self-help group members on (Table-3) which is the independence of express views. After analysis of primary data indicates that education is one of the most dependable factors of social empowerment of women SHG members. We can see that the members who belong to the 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> standard of education level have more independence to express their views as compared with the members having primary education level only. Again, it has been seen that the improvement in education level from 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> standard to 11<sup>th</sup> to graduation as well as higher education the level of social empowerment of very good status is also increased as compared with lower education level. At the same time, it has been seen that the illiterate members are very little ability to express their views on different decision-making activities as compared with the members with primary education level. The women with higher education levels have more self-reliance to express their views and decision-making capacity on different household activities as compared with members having different lower-level of education.

Further analysis is made between the self-help group members with different education levels by taking another factor of social empowerment on (Table - 4). One of the factors discussed with government personnel is taken into consideration and the analysis shows that the members with higher education levels have more capability to discuss freely with govt. bodies than the members having different lower-level education. The above analysis indicates that the increase in the level of education leads to an increase in very good status on the factor discuss with govt. employees. It has been seen that the members having 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> standard is more independent of discussing with govt. as compared with the members having primary education level only. Simultaneously, again seen that the SHG members with the 11<sup>th</sup> to graduation level of education are comparatively more autonomous to directly discuss with govt. about different

activities. As in Odisha government has more focus on women empowerment which can be only possible through self-help groups. In India maximum women are engaged only in non-profitable household activities so govt. imposed different income generated activities for women to make them self-dependence.

The caste system is one of the foremost vital boundaries for the advancement of a nation. To reveal the impact of the caste system on social empowerment the above analysis (Table – 5 & 6) took self-help group members of five different major categories these are general, OBC, SC, ST, and Others (including PWD, Christianity, and Islam religion). From the analysis, it was clearly shown that the members belonging to the OBC category have dominant as compared with other different social categories like General, SC, ST, Others. The analysis reveals that social categories also significantly affect social empowerment. From the above analysis, it was found that the self-help group members belonging to the OBC category have more empowered than the other four different categories which have been taken for analysis. From the above table, results show that the comparison between the self-help group members belonging to general and OBC categories have not much significant difference on the improvement of social empowerment. But then there is much significance on the comparison with the members belonging to other categories than the members of general and OBC categories. And if we will focus on the members belonging to SC and ST categories also not much empowered as compared with general and OBC categories. The caste system finds out a risk to social arrange, solidness, peace, and concordance within the society. It is mindful of tradition-bound, traditionalist, and traditionalist considering of a society that brings obstruction of the empowering women within the society. The caste system could be a social structure that's decided by birth. It separates the social bunches into diverse positions and categories.

### Limitations of the Study

The present study is conducted on secondary data and primary data but, only a part of the sampled data was analysed, the results would have more reliability if the size of data increased.

### Suggestions

The above analysis and discussions indicate that the role of education is one of the most important factors for the empowerment of women socially. The self-help group members having higher education have more independence to move freely anywhere for business purposes, express their views freely on family matters, and also discuss with govt. about their problems. Women play a basic part in making a country dynamic and directing it towards advancement. They are basic belonging of energetic humankind required for national advancement, so on the off chance that we have to see a shining future of women in our nation, instructing them must be a pre-occupation Strengthening implies moving from a frail position to execute control. The caste system is one of the most important barriers to the development of a nation. Abolishment of the caste system leads to more development in India. The caste system was moreover one of the social disasters in India which segregate individuals on the premise of the lesson.

- Government should arrange different programs for giving education to women particularly those who are joined in self-help groups.
- Different programs should be arranged by NGOs and other govt. or private institutions who are working for women empowerment.
- The caste system should be abolished to unite the women SHG to work together.
- Women's education should be introduced in rural areas, especially for tribal women who are more interested in joining self-help groups.
- The government, as well as NGOs, should arrange different programs to ensure different earning activities for SHG workers.

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