



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH NGOS' PROGRAMMES IN TELANGANA AND ANDHRA PRADESH STATES

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KEYWORDS :

NGOs are increasingly important agents of the development process in the countries of the south, sometimes through challenging and sometimes through complementing the role of the state. At the same time, NGOs and the state have different functions within organized society as a whole as well as the development process in particular.

The organizations commonly termed NGOs have rapidly increased in size, scope, and influence within the sphere of international development. They have become important and the key means of attaining established international developmental ends. It is described that NGOs are crucial for achieving the Millennium Development Goals that comprise the United Nations' historical Millennium Declaration. "The growing importance of NGOs is conformed in their numbers; at least 2,250 NGOs have consultative status within the UN". The size of the non-profit sector in India places the number of such organizations at 1.2 million. These groups involve as many as 19.2 million people, many of whom work on a voluntary basis. This is equivalent to 2.7 million paid employees and 3.4 million full-time volunteers, a total of 6.1 million which is considerable given the fact that central government employees in 2000 numbered only 3.3 million. Contrary to popular perceptions, as much as 51 per cent of the receipts are self-generated, and only 36 per cent come from the government as grants and loans and a mere 7 per cent from foreign sources.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

In the recent times truly outstanding work of innovative development, social awakening and environment protection has been taken up by several NGOs. This pioneering work has inspired a large number of people not only India but also several other countries. Despite such remarkable achievements to their credit, members of several NGOs feel that they have not been able to realize their full potential. The present work is basically interested in addressing the following issues relating to the impact of NGO on women development. They include

What is the impact of NGOs' programs on women empowerment?

What are the expectations of the beneficiaries of the NGOs' programs?

Objectives of the study

1. To analyze the socio-economic profile of women respondents.
2. To analyze the portfolio of activities of the sample NGOs.
3. To account the impact of NGOs activities on women development with a focus on women empowerment.

Hypotheses

1. NGOs' rural development programs did not influence women empowerment.
2. The relationship between the social status of the beneficiary women and their perceptions about their own empowerment is assumed to be statistically independent.

Towards the end of objectives and hypotheses, the following are the methodological aspects covered in the study.

SAMPLE DESIGN

For the purpose of present study, a sample of 300 beneficiaries of various rural development programs undertaken by NGOs from Khammam, Visakhapatnam and Kurnool districts in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh by following the principles of stratified random sampling method. The composition of NGOs' programs selected is as follows

Sl.No	Nature of the program	Frequency
1	Rural poverty initiatives	150
2	Micro credit	110
3	Rural health	40
	Total	300

SOURCES OF DATA

The study made use of both primary and secondary sources of data. The secondary sources of data include the annual reports of NGOs under examination. The primary data were directly collected by administering a pre-designed questionnaire/schedule among the sample NGOs.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study covered only the role of NGOs only in rural development. It did not cover the role of NGOs in urban development.

PERIOD OF THE STUDY

The study covered the activities of NGOs from the year 2000-03 to 2011-14.

TECHNIQUES OF ANALYSIS

The present study proposes to use simple percentages; graphs, frequency distribution, Likert scale (3-point), Spearman's rank correlation coefficient; chi-square statistic and other relevant measures and the same were used to process, estimate and analyze the data.

$$r = 1 - \frac{6 \sum d^2}{n(n^2 - 1)}$$

where r = Spearman's rank correlation coefficient

d = deviations

n = number of items

$$\sum (O_i - E_i)^2$$

$$\chi^2 = \frac{\sum (O_i - E_i)^2}{E_i}$$

E_i

Where χ^2 = chi-square statistic

O_i = observed frequencies of the i th class

E_i = expected frequencies of the i th class

Table 1-Composition of respondents by nature of NGOs' programs and place

Nature of the NGO program	Khammam	Visakhapatnam	Kurnool	Total
Rural poverty initiatives	123	107	65	295
Micro credit	30	65	23	115
Rural health	27	38	22	90
Total	180	210	110	500

Source: Primary Data

Table-1 refers to the distribution of the women beneficiaries of NGOs' programs by the composition of respondents by nature of program. It is found that respondents from rural poverty initiatives are highest from Khammam district, followed by Visakhapatnam and Kurnool in the descending order. The respondents from micro credit programs are the highest from Visakhapatnam followed by Khammam and Kurnool in the descending order and the same order holds good in the case of rural health programs.

Table-2 Occupation of the respondents

Occupation	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Agriculture	150	30.0	30.0
Caste based services	350	70.0	100.0
Total	500	100.0	

Source: Primary Data

Table-2 refers to the distribution of the sample respondents by their occupation. It is observed that 70 percent respondents are drawn from caste based services and 30 percent are drawn from agricultural occupation. Thus, in case of majority of the respondents, their occupation is traditional.

An attempt is made in this paper to explain the processes and level of women empowerment through the means of NGOs' programs. The concept of women empowerment is measured in terms of

- New knowledge in before and after NGO setting
- Skill in Before and after NGO Setting
- Consciousness rising in before and after NGO Setting
- Group Mobilization in before and after NGO Setting
- Self reliance in before and after NGO Setting
- Collective decisions about future course of action in before and after NGO Setting
- Leadership in before and after NGO Setting
- Interdependence in before and after NGO Setting
- Cohesiveness in before and after NGO Setting
- Self image in before and after NGO Setting

RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

Table-3 New knowledge in before and after NGO setting

Sl.No	Level	Before NGO setting		After NGO setting	
		Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
1	Low	396	79.2	117	23.4
2	Moderate	82	16.4	349	69.8
3	High	22	4.4	34	6.8
4	Total	500	100	500	100

Source: Primary data

Table-3 refers to the distribution of women beneficiaries by their new knowledge in before and after NGO setting. It is found that in pre-NGO setting 79.2 percent of the women have experienced low level of knowledge followed by 16.4 percent moderate and only 4.4 percent respondents have experienced high level of new knowledge. Women respondents have experienced an improvement in the experience of new knowledge in post-NGO setting. It is evident that 69.8 percent

of the respondents have experienced a moderate level of new knowledge, low level by 23.4 percent and high level of new knowledge by 6.8 percent of the respondents in post NGO setting.

Table-4 Skill in Before and After NGO Setting

Sl.No	Level	Before NGO setting		After NGO setting	
		Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
1	Low	416	83.3	139	27.8
2	Moderate	69	13.8	330	66.0
3	High	15	3.0	31	6.2
4	Total	500	100	500	100

Source: Primary data

Table4 refers to the distribution of women beneficiaries by their skill formation in before and after NGO setting. It is found that in pre-NGO setting 83.3 percent of the women have experienced low level of skill formation followed by 13.8 percent moderate and only 3 percent respondents have experienced high level of skill formation. Women respondents have experienced an improvement in the experience of skill formation in post-NGO setting. It is evident that 66 percent of the respondents have experienced a moderate level of skill formation, low level by 27.8 percent and high level of skill formation by 6.2 percent of the respondents in post NGO setting.

Table-5 Consciousness rising in before and After NGO Setting

Sl.No	Level	Before NGO setting		After NGO setting	
		Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
1	Low	407	81.4	116	23.2
2	Moderate	81	16.2	356	71.2
3	High	12	2.4	28	5.6
4	Total	500	100	500	100

Source: Primary data

Table-5 refers to the distribution of women beneficiaries by their consciousness rising level in before and after NGO setting. It is found that in pre-NGO setting 81.4 percent of the women have experienced low level of consciousness rising followed by 16.2 percent experienced moderate level and only 2.4 percent respondents have experienced high level of consciousness rising. Women respondents have experienced an improvement in the experience of consciousness rising level in post-NGO setting. It is evident that 71.2 percent of the respondents have experienced a moderate level of consciousness rising level, low level by 23.2 and high level of consciousness rising by 5.6 percent respondents in post NGO setting.

Table-6 Group Mobilization in Before and After NGO Setting

Sl.No	Level	Before NGO setting		After NGO setting	
		Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
1	Low	372	74.4	131	26.2
2	Moderate	113	22.6	345	69.0
3	High	15	3.0	24	4.8
4	Total	500	100	500	100

Source: Primary data

Table-6 refers to the distribution of women beneficiaries by their group mobilization level in before and after NGO setting. It is found that in pre-NGO setting 74.4 percent of the women have experienced low level of group mobilization followed by 22.6 percent experienced moderate level and only 3 percent respondents have experienced high level of group mobilization. Women respondents have experienced an improvement in the experience of group mobilization level in post-NGO setting. It is evident that 69 percent of the respondents have experienced a moderate level of group mobilization, low level by 26.2 and high level of group mobilization by 4.8 percent respondents in post NGO setting.

Table-7 Self reliance in before and After NGO Setting

Sl.No	Level	Before NGO setting		After NGO setting	
		Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
1	Low	362	72.4	131	26.2
2	Moderate	122	24.4	345	69.0
3	High	16	3.2	24	4.8
4	Total	500	100	500	100

Source: Primary data

Table-7 refers to the distribution of women beneficiaries by their self reliance level in before and after NGO setting. It is found that in pre-NGO setting 72.4 percent of the women have experienced low level of self reliance followed by 24.4 percent experienced moderate level and only 3.2 percent respondents have experienced high level of self reliance. Women respondents have experienced an improvement in self reliance level in post-NGO setting. It is evident that 69 percent of the respondents have experienced a moderate level of self reliance, low level by 26.2 and high level of self reliance by 4.8 percent respondents in post NGO setting.

Table-8 Collective decisions about future course of action in before and After NGO Setting

Sl.No	Level	Before NGO setting		After NGO setting	
		Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
1	Low	362	72.4	124	24.8
2	Moderate	122	24.4	354	70.8
3	High	16	3.2	22	4.4
4	Total	500	100	500	100

Source: Primary data

Table-8 refers to the distribution of women beneficiaries by their collective decisions about future course of action level in before and after NGO setting. It is found that in pre-NGO setting 72.4 percent of the women have experienced low level of collective decisions about future course of action followed by 24.4 percent experienced moderate level and only 3.2 percent respondents have experienced high level of collective decisions about future course of action. Women respondents have experienced an improvement in collective decisions about future course of action level in post-NGO setting. It is evident that 70.8 percent of the respondents have experienced a moderate level of collective decisions about future course of action, low level by 24.8 and high level of collective decisions about future course of action by 4.4 percent respondents in post NGO setting.

Table-9 Leadership in Before and After NGO Setting

Sl.No	Level	Before NGO setting		After NGO setting	
		Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
1	Low	393	78.6	131	26.2
2	Moderate	93	18.6	345	69.0
3	High	14	2.8	24	4.8
4	Total	500	100	500	100

Source: Primary data

Table-9 refers to the distribution of women beneficiaries by their leadership level in before and after NGO setting. It is found that in pre-NGO setting 78.6 of the women have experienced low level of leadership followed by 18.6 percent experienced moderate level and only 2.8 percent respondents have experienced high level of leadership. Women respondents have experienced an improvement in leadership level in post-NGO setting. It is evident that 69 percent of the respondents have experienced a moderate level of leadership, low level by 26.2 and high level of leadership by 4.8 percent respondents in post NGO setting.

Table-10 Interdependence in Before and After NGO Setting

Sl.No	Level	Before NGO setting		After NGO setting	
		Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
1	Low	372	74.4	133	26.6
2	Moderate	111	22.2	351	70.2
3	High	17	3.4	16	3.2
4	Total	500	100	500	100

Source: Primary data

Table-10 refers to the distribution of women beneficiaries by their interdependence level in before and after NGO setting. It is found that in pre-NGO setting 74.4 of the women have experienced low level of interdependence followed by 22.2 percent experienced moderate level and only 3.4 percent respondents have experienced high level of interdependence. Women respondents have experienced an improvement in interdependence level in post-NGO setting. It is evident that 70.2 percent of the respondents have experienced a moderate level of interdependence, low level by 26.6 and high level of interdependence by 3.2 percent respondents in post NGO setting.

Table-11 Cohesiveness in Before and After NGO Setting

Sl.No	Level	Before NGO setting		After NGO setting	
		Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
1	Low	393	78.6	131	26.2
2	Moderate	93	18.6	345	69.0
3	High	14	2.8	24	4.8
4	Total	500	100	500	100

Source: Primary data

Table-11 refers to the distribution of women beneficiaries by their cohesiveness level in before and after NGO setting. It is found that in pre-NGO setting 78.6 of the women have experienced low level of cohesiveness followed by 18.6 percent experienced moderate level and only 2.8 percent respondents have experienced high level of cohesiveness. Women respondents have experienced an improvement in cohesiveness level in post-NGO setting. It is evident that 69 percent of the respondents have experienced a moderate level of cohesiveness, low level by 26.2 and high level of cohesiveness by 4.8 percent respondents in post NGO setting.

Table-12 Self image in before and After NGO Setting

Sl.No	Level	Before NGO setting		After NGO setting	
		Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
1	Low	416	83.3	131	26.2
2	Moderate	69	13.8	343	68.6
3	High	15	3.0	26	5.2
4	Total	500	100	500	100

Source: Primary data

Table-12 refers to the distribution of women beneficiaries by their self image level in before and after NGO setting. It is found that in pre-NGO setting 83.3 of the women have experienced low level of self image followed by 13.8 percent experienced moderate level and only 3.0 percent respondents have experienced high level of self image. Women respondents have experienced an improvement in self image level in post-NGO setting. It is evident that 68.6 percent of the respondents have experienced a moderate level of self image, low level by 26.2 and high level of self image by 5.2 percent respondents in post NGO setting.

Table-13 Social status and Skill in before NGO setting

Social status Low Moderate		Skill in before NGO setting			Total
		High			
BC		276	47	10	333
		82.9%	14.1%	3.0%	100.0%
		66.3%	68.1%	66.7%	66.6%
SC		83	14	5	102
		81.4%	13.7%	4.9%	100.0%
		20.0%	20.3%	33.3%	20.4%
ST		38	6		44
		86.4%	13.6%		100.0%
		9.1%	8.7%		8.8%
OC		19	2		21
		90.5%	9.5%		100.0%
		4.6%	2.9%		4.2%
Total		416	69	15	500
		83.2%	13.8%	3.0%	100.0%
		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Chi-square=3.715, df=6, p=0.715, r=-0.022

Source: Primary data

Table-13 refers to the distribution of the women respondents by their social status and by their perceptions about their skill formation in before NGO setting. The correlation between the social status of the respondents and their perceptions about their skill formation in before NGO setting is found to be negative (r= -0.022). The acceptance of the null hypothesis with level of significance=0.05 and degree of freedom=6 which implies that the relationship between the social status of the respondents and their perceptions about their skill formation in before NGO setting is found to be statistically independent.

Table-14 Social status and Skill in after NGO setting

Social status Low Moderate		Skill in after NGO setting			Total
		High			
BC		95	217	21	333
		28.5%	65.2%	6.3%	100.0%
		68.3%	65.8%	67.7%	66.6%
SC		25	69	8	102
		24.5%	67.6%	7.8%	100.0%
		18.0%	20.9%	25.8%	20.4%
ST		15	28	1	44
		34.1%	63.6%	2.3%	100.0%
		10.8%	8.5%	3.2%	8.8%
OC		4	16	1	21
		19.0%	76.2%	4.8%	100.0%
		2.9%	4.8%	3.2%	4.2%
Total		139	330	31	500
		27.8%	66.0%	6.2%	100.0%
		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Chi-square=3.725, df=6, p=0.714, r=0.011

Source: Primary data

Table-14 refers to the distribution of the women respondents by their age and by their perceptions about their skill formation in after NGO setting. The correlation between the age of the respondents and their perceptions about their skill formation in after NGO setting is found to be positive (r= 0.085). The rejection of the null hypothesis with level of significance=0.05 and degree of freedom=6 which implies that the relationship between the age of the respondents and their perceptions about their skill formation in after NGO setting is found to be statistically dependent.

Thus, it is concluded that the non economic implications of NGOs' initiatives experienced by the beneficiaries of NGOs' programs included knowledge and awareness levels, skill formation, consciousness raising, group mobilization, self reliance, collective decisions about future course of action, level of leadership, level of interdependence, level of cohesiveness and self image. All the said non economic effects are found in the range moderate to high in the post NGO setting which is in contrast to that of pre NGO setting.

The relationship between the social status of the beneficiaries of NGOs' programs and their level of experience of non economic effects of NGO initiatives is found to be statistically independent except with reference to self reliance, collective decisions about future course of action and self image in pre NGO setting.

The relationship between the education of the beneficiaries of NGOs' programs and their level of experience of non economic effects of NGO initiatives is found to be statistically independent.

The relationship between the age of the beneficiaries of NGOs' programs and their level of experience of non economic effects of NGO initiatives is found to be statistically independent except with reference to skill formation in post NGO setting.

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