

Abstract

Thesis titled: **Developing a multidimensional scale on women empowerment**

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Women empowerment has been a thirist area for several organizations that are working to uplift the status of women in society. The efforts have been enormous and distinctive in directions, as some argue empowerment exclusively for economic, some in political and some in psychological dimensions. These distinctions limit the impact as on overall empowerment of women and thus keep the issue debatable. Present study 'Developing a multidimensional scale on women empowerment 'is an attempt to define women empowerment operationally for its various dimensions. The study is about developing a multidimensional scale on women empowerment in order to establish the exclusiveness of the dimensions over linearity.

In order to reach the broader objectives of the study, extensive reviews through Encyclopedias, subject matter specialists and past researches on the subject were carried out to reach operational definitions of women empowerment and its dimensions. These definitions and dimensions were validated in order to draw the conclusions through 20 subject matter specialists. The dimensions thus shortlisted were established for their exclusiveness via applying multidimensional scaling technique with an aid of SPSS (statistical software package). In order to apply multidimensional scaling technique, proximity scores were obtained among the dimensions on a 10 point scale. Results from multidimensional scaling technique were analyzed for their stress factor which in turn established the hypothesis on exclusiveness of dimensions.

These dimensions were further converted in to a measurable scale. There were 5 main dimensions and 20 sub dimensions. The 5 main dimensions namely, political, economical, social, familial/ interpersonal and legal empowerment were further divided into sub dimensions. For e.g. Political empowerment was divided into sub dimensions namely, one's voice heard, participation, decision making, and collective action etc. The respective sub dimensions were developed for their knowledge, attitude, action and influence as measurable factors.

Data was collected at Dholpur (Rajasthan) and Delhi. These locations were selected on the basis of their ranking on Gender Development Index. Multistage sampling method was applied in order to select the blocks and thereafter simple random sampling to select the final respondents from voter list. The scores thus collected were applied for their factor analysis. The process incurred their factor loadings and thus an empirical formula to sum up the empowerment score.

An important finding of the study is that the regression standard error in case of multidimensional scaling score was 1.471, while in case of linear scoring it was exorbitantly high i.e. 46.792. This result establishes the importance of application of multidimensional scaling technique over linear scoring of a

scale. The respondents were also studied for their independent variables like socio economic status, self efficacy and value orientation. These variables showed significantly positive relation with empowerment scores.