

A Comparative Study of women empowerment awareness level of Adolescent Girls in rural and urban H.S. Schools of Assam

Sikha Dutta

PhD Research Scholar, Department of Education,
Gauhati University, Guwahati, Assam
Email-dutta.sikha1@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The present study is undertaken to find out the secondary level urban and rural adolescent girls awareness level on women empowerment. The sample of the study consists of 195 no's of both urban and rural area higher secondary (10+2) level adolescent girl students of Kamrup District of Assam. The main objective of the study is to compare the awareness level of the urban and rural located adolescent girl students. The findings of the study reveals that rural adolescent girls are less empowered than urban adolescent girls and there is a significant difference between rural and urban adolescent girls awareness level.

KEY WORDS: Adolescent girls, Empowerment, Awareness level etc.

I. Introduction

The greatest challenge today is to empower women who constitute half of the population of the country. Dr. Pillai explains empowerment as an active multi- dimensional process which enables women to realize their full identity and powers in all spheres of life. Power is the key word of the term empowerment, which means control over material assets, intellectual resources and ideology. Power is not a commodity to be translocated per can it be given as alms. Power has to be acquired, it needs to be exercised, sustained and must be preserved. So, Empowerment is a process of building capacities and confidence for taking decisions about one's own life at an individual and collective level and gaining control over productive resources.

It is found from the general observation that the issue of women empowerment has failed to attain durable focus owing to the lack of awareness among the women community itself and without which the question of implementing any empowerment project appears to be a vain effort. It has been observed that empowerment does not come abruptly to the minds women. It is a continuous and comprehensive process, the breeding ground of which prepared at an early age. The adolescent girls must be made aware about their rightful place in the society. They should be conditioned in such a manner that they are able to free themselves from the social, cultural and economic bondage and treat themselves not the weaker sex but as the equal and respectful counterparts of man.

Considering this an attempt has been made by the researcher to study the factors that affect the empowerment awareness level of the adolescent girls in the area of Kamrup District. The study tries to focus on some of the important areas of life of adolescent girls which have far reaching effects on the process of making them aware about their own self in particular and of women empowerment in general.

II. Objectives of the Study

1. To determine the difference, if any, in power and entitlement of adolescent girls studying in urban and rural located higher secondary schools of kamrup district in Assam.
2. To determine the difference, if any, in the autonomy and self reliance of adolescent girls studying in urban and rural located higher secondary schools of kamrup district in Assam.

III. Hypothesis

1. There is no significant difference in the power and entitlement of adolescent girls studying in urban and rural located higher secondary schools in Assam.
2. There is no significant difference in the autonomy and self reliance of adolescent girls studying in urban and rural located higher secondary schools in Assam.

IV. Methodology

In the present study the descriptive survey method is used to study the empowerment level of higher secondary school adolescent girls.

□ **Sample:** Study was conducted on 195 higher secondary level (10+2) adolescent girls studying in urban and rural areas of Kamrup District of Assam.

□ **Tool Used:** Adolescence Girl's Empowerment Scale (AGES) by Devendra Singh Sisodia & Alpana Singh (2009)-The scale consisted of 49 announcements isolated into seven parts including power and entitlements, autonomy and self-reliance, decision making, participation, capacity building, Social, political and legal awareness and exposure to information media. Interview schedule was used to survey the empowerment of girls.

□ **Data Analysis:** To assess the difference in empowerment of adolescent girls studying in H.S level of urban and rural areas, the means, SD and t-test was calculated.

V. Analysis, Interpretation and Discussion

Since the data was quantitative in nature thus appropriate statistical techniques were employed including the mean, standard deviation, t-value etc. The significance level for the t-test was taken to be 0.01. The scores obtained from the adolescents of the rural and urban H.S schools of kamrup district were independently grouped to calculate the mean and the standard deviation. The t-test was then administered on the same to examine the differences between the awareness of adolescent girls regarding their power

and entitlement and autonomy and self reliance. The values obtained from the t-test are listed in the table below:

Table 1: The Calculated Values of power and entitlement on AGES

Area	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Mean Difference	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
Rural	85	23.14	5.372	-4.668	-7.144	193	.000
Urban	110	27.81	3.743				

From the above table, it has been found that the mean score obtained by the rural student (85) is 23.14 with SD 5.372 while the mean score obtained by the urban student (110) is 27.81 with SD 3.743. The mean score of urban student is higher than the rural student. However to know the difference between rural and urban students, ‘t’ value is calculated in which the mean difference of -4.668. The calculated ‘t’ value -7.144 is much greater than tabulated value which is significant at 0.01 level. The result shows that there is a difference between rural and urban students in regard to power and entitlement. Hence the hypothesis is rejected.

Table 2: The Calculated Values for autonomy and self reliance on AGES

Area	N	Mean	Std. deviation	Mean Difference	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
Rural	85	24.42	5.560	-2.458	-3.755	193	.000
Urban	110	26.88	3.545				

From the above table it has been found that the mean score obtained by the rural student (85) is 24.42 with SD 5.560 while the mean score obtained by the urban student (110) is 26.88 with SD 3.545 the mean score of urban student is higher than the rural student. However to know the difference between rural and urban students ‘t’ value is calculated in which the mean difference of -2.458. The calculated ‘t’ value -3.755 is much greater than tabulated value which is significant at 0.01 level. The result shows that there is a difference between rural and urban students in regard to autonomy and self reliance. Hence the hypothesis is rejected.

V. Findings of the Study

The hypothesis “There is no significant difference in the power and entitlement of adolescent girls studying in rural and urban located H.S schools” gets rejected.

The hypothesis “There is no significant difference on autonomy and self reliance of adolescent girls studying in rural and urban located H.S schools” gets rejected.

VI. Conclusion

It may be concluded that the adolescent girls from the rural and urban H.S. schools have different awareness level on power and entitlement and on autonomy and self reliance. The urban H.S schools adolescent girls have more awareness towards empowerment than their counter parts in the rural H.S schools. Also, the difference in the mean values is significant enough, thus the adolescent girls in the urban H.S schools and the rural H.S schools have different awareness level on power and entitlement and autonomy and self reliance. The greater value of the mean of the urban H.S school shows that the urban adolescent girls have more awareness level with respect to the concerned dimensions.

VII. References

1. Pandey, Divya 'Empowerment of women' Research centre for women's studies. SNDT Women's University , Bombay, 1995
2. Pillai ,J.K. 'Women empowerment' Gyan Publishing ,New Delhi, 1995
3. Shetter, R. (2015). A Study on Issues and Challenges of Women Empowerment in India. IOSR Journal of Business and Management (IOSR-JBM)
4. Sinha ,Dr. S.L.(2016). A Comparative Study of women empowerment awareness level of Adolescent Girls in Private and Government Schools of Delhi. International Journal of Education and Information Studies. Volume 6, Number 1, pp. 7-10