A Study on Importance of ICT in Women Ewmpowerment

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Abstract

The development of the nation depends upon the development of the human resources and the ICT playing very crucial role for the development of human resource. Human resources mean not only man but women also. As we know that India is still man dominated country and woman have less resource as compare to man but ICT destroying the all the gaps and providing the great opportunity for the development of women.Empowering women through ICT means to provide economic power to reduce poverty, to develop new opportunity of distance learning and education, bring improvement in health of women, and finally to increase literacy rate among women. The study presented the how information, communication and technology (ICT) accelerated women empowerment and basic objectives behind to doing this study are; to study need of the ICT for empowerment of women, to analysis the role of ICT in woman empowerment, to study the impact of different age groups and education on the need of ICT for women empowerment. The study is empirical in nature and based on the primary as well as secondary data. The primary data collected by means of structured questionnaire and targeted to the 100 woman from Delhi on the basis of judgmental sampling and collected the responses from 90 women. The secondary data collected through the various sources like government and non-government website, journal, books etc. The data analysis based on the descriptive statistics as well as inferential statistics. The various tools of descriptive statistics used to analysis the data and for in inferential statistics chi-square test for independence used. The study pre-assumed that the education, skill development and training, decisions making and employment etc. are the main pillar for the development of women. The study concluded that the DAG's (different age groups) do not impact on the need of ICT for women empowerment and education also has not impacted the need of the ICT for women empowerment. Although in some areas women have no access of internet, mobile and any tools of ICT. So unavailability of infra and resources are making the ICT baseless for the women empowerment. The government of India should make the eco-system with collaboration of private sector to provide the entire necessary source and infra to create the enthusiasm among women to adopt the ICT.

Keywords : *ICT(Information Communication and Technology), Women Empowerment, Empowerment through ICT, DAG's (Different Age Groups) and Education.*

Introduction

Women empowerment means build the strength of women, strength include social, economic, political and legal strength of the women, to provide the equal opportunity and rights, and enhance the self confidence that make them self-dependence to claim their right such as:Freely live their life with sense of self-worth, respect and dignity, Have complete control of their life, both within and outside of their home and workplace, To make their own choices and decisions, Have equal rights to participate in social, religious and public activities, Have equal social status in the society, Determine financial and economic choices, Get equal opportunity for

education and Get safe and comfortable working environment.

Economies can become stronger only if it can efficiently utilize all the resource available in economy, so for the efficient use of women resources it is necessary to empower women to participate fully in all sectors of economy. That will help the economy to achieve the integrated goal for the development and sustainability. Women empowerments enhance the standard of the life of women, men, families and communities.

Important of Women Empowerment

Underemployed and Unemployed: The world population have around 50% women share. Very few in number of women around the world are employed. So unequal opportunity for women at workplace negatively impacted on the world economy

Equally competent and intelligent: Women are equal to man in every aspect. Although women can performed extraordinary compare to men in many socio-economic activities.

Talented : women and men are equally talented, in past arena women were not allowed for higher education like men and their talents were wasted. But in present scenario they are also allowed to go for higher studies and it encourages women to show their talents which will not only benefit her individually but to the whole world at large. Today, many women are occupying the top position of multinational companies.

Overall development of society:the overall development of the society depends upon the development and empowerment of women. The earning of women does not benefits to them or their family but it also beneficial for the society as whole.

Economic Benefits: Women Empowerment also leads to more economic benefits not to the individuals but to the society as well. Unlike earlier days when they stayed at home only and do only kitchen stuffs, Nowadays, they roam outside and also earn money like the male members of the society. Women empowerment helps women to stand on their own legs, become independent and also to earn for their family which grows country's economy.

Reduction in domestic violence: Women Empowerment leads to decrease in domestic violence. Uneducated women are at higher risk for domestic violence than an educated woman.

Reduction in corruption: Women Empowerment is also advantageous in case of corruption. Women empowerment helps women to get educated and know their rights and duties and hence can stop corruption.

Reduce Poverty: Women Empowerment also reduces poverty. Sometimes, the money earned by the male member of the family is not sufficient to meet the demands of the family. The added earnings of women help the family to come out of poverty trap.

National Development: Women are increasingly participating in the national development process. They are making the nation proud by their outstanding performances almost every sphere including medical science, social service, engineering, etc.

Availability of Quality workforce: Large organizations need a large pool of high quality workforce. Empowerment of women would help in increasing the total workforce of quality people.

Information and Communication Technology (Ict):

The world is in the midst of a knowledge revolution, complemented by opening up of entirely new vistas in communication technologies. Recent developments in the fields of information and communication technology are indeed revolutionary in nature. In fact, IT has become the chief determinant of the progress of nations, communities and individual.

A nation that wants to progress cannot afford to disregard capacity building and empowerment of women. Women's development is now associated with technology. Thus, technological intervention undertakes a greater and more vital role globally. It's potential to sweep across political, geographical, economic and social barricades are just the leverage that women need to build for themselves a new distinctiveness place in society.

Empowerment of women in the context of building up the abilities and skills of women to gain insight into the issues affecting them in society. In this

context ICTs are emerging as a powerful tool for gender empowerment in many developing countries. There has been a rapid growth in the ICT sector since the late 1980s and the use of ICT has dramatically expanded since the 1990s.

Women play a central role in family, community and social development, women in India and ICT are interrelated. However, women often remain invisible and unheard. Women more than men have to balance the complexities of surviving in extreme poverty, yet these women are excluded from discussion because they are often illiterate, they lack confidence and they lack mobility. ICT offer the opportunities for direct, interactive communication even by those who lack skills, who are illiterate, lack mobility and have little self-confidence. Here are some aspects of life which have a direct influence of ICT especially on women:

➢ Women's increased access to job market and improve entrepreneurship using ICT

➢ Increase of average household income in villages

➢ Women empowerment

➢ Shrinking Information Asymmetry through ICT

➢ Improved Governance

➢ Indigenous Knowledge

➢ Easy-Family communication

➢ Increase Social awareness

So, ICT providing the development to the pillars of women empowerment and it is also one of the main pillars of women empowerment. ICT technologically empowered women.

Literature Review

Literature review is the main foundation for any research or study, so many research papers covered for the foundation of this study and few of them presented as follows:

Agarwal, S. (2003)studied on the "Technology Model for Women's Empowerment: Reaching the Unreached"

This paper highlighted the importance of required technology to build women entrepreneurs by

improve desired capacity to provide quality of life. Further the study believes that adoption of the technology based on the certain understanding that will develop scientific temper among women. That will increase the production efficiency. So study presented the need of science and technology for the women, wheter they are inside and outside the house. After that, study recognised the technology based traits of women for sustainable development.

Chowdhury, S. (2006), conducted the study on the "Empowering Rural Women through Science and Technology"

This study has targeted to develop technologies that should be women oriented for women empowerment and task should be recognised. The study presented the servel principles for technology development for empowering women like (1) to reduce the drudgery in the life of women (2) to provide employment opportunities to women (3) to improve sanitation and environmental conditions; (4) to improve the health and nutritional status of women; and (5) to protect women from hazards. The study concluded that there is need to women should be maker and user of technology.

Beena, D. M. (2012). Persented in the study of "Role Of ICT Education For Women Empowerment"

This study presented the role and need of the ICT education for women empowerment, the nature of the study is empirical and data collected from the primary as well as secondary sources. The random sampling technique use with the sample size 200 by no. of trainees and 30 by no of instructors of different Governmental and Nongovernmental Organizations of Jaipur district. The description statistics tools use for the analysis and concluded that the information and communication technology empower a women in various areas like social, educational, personal, psychological, political, technological and economical

Arivanandan, M.(2013), studied "Socio-Economic Empowerment of Rural Women through ICTs"

This study has done the critical analysis on the socio-economic inclusion of rural women based on the 2 type of ICT like mobile and internet. The study is empirical and data collected from the 60 women, aged between 15 and 30 via using the self-structured questionnaire from Trichirappalli District of Tamil

Nadu. The study presented the decision making power and economic freedom to women enhanced by the availability of mobile phones. Further, most women now search for jobs by using cell phones and personal contacts. This ability to get jobs means that rural women are earning money, which can go towards the cost of their marriage and that of their siblings.

Arrawatia, A. &Meel, P.(2017)completed the study on **"**Information and Communication Technologies& Woman Empowerment in India"

This paper looks at the prospects formed by ICT enabled networking processes for women's empowerment. It discusses the main challenges and impediments faced by women, recommends strategies to address those challenges and ways to cultivate the conditions leading to women's empowerment. The research is based on the secondary data that has been collected from review of past research, journals, books, newspaper internet etc. This study result into ICT which helps the women to raise their business and concluded that ICT helps the women to bring their talent and develop the women empowerment in India as well as ICT helps the women to bring more positive ideas to start a new business.

Research Methodology

Research methodology is a scientific and systematic way to solve research problems. It may be understood as a science of studying how research is done scientifically. In it we study the various steps that are generally adopted by a researcher in studying his research problem along with the logic behind them.

Statement of Problems:

Technology is future of our country and future depends upon the development of human resources. The role of ICT on the women empowerment will decide the development of the women as human resources. The impact of ICT on the women empowerment depends upon the education that are essential for the increase the use of ICT for women empowerment, so educated people understand the need of the ICT for women empowerment or not that is critical problem. Moreover old age people give less weightage to the new technology, so next problem is different age groups decide the need of ICT for women empowerment or not.

Objectives of Study

This paper is an attempt to identify the role of ICT in women empowerment along with the secondary objectives as follows:

(1) To study the impact of education on the need of ICT for women empowerment.

(2) To evaluate the impact of different age group on the need of ICT for women empowerment.

Research Model

ICT & Women Empowerment

This research model based on the assumption that women empowerment based on the education, role in family decisions, social circle and the health services and security etc. so this study focus to show the impact of factors on the need of ICT for women empowerment.
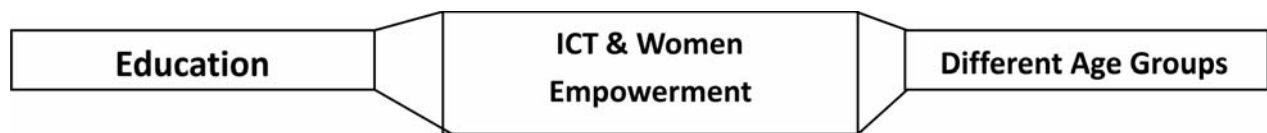

Figure: 1

Hypothesis

$H_{01:}$Education has no impact on the need of ICT for women empowerment

H_{02}: Different age groups have not impact on the need of ICT for women empowerment

Research Design

Nature of Study – The study is the empirical in nature and based on the descriptive cum exploratory research design. It studies the whole how ICT helping for the development of Women as human resource and ultimately women empowerment.

Data Collection – The study is based on the primary as well as secondary source of data. The major source of secondary data collection:

- o   Websites

- o   Articles

- o   Various journals, data available on the internet, newspaper etc.

The **primary data** collected by means of **structured questionnaire** and collected from the Delhi Women from different age groups with considering the variable that need to obtain the goal of study.

Sampling Design- the sampling technique is **judgmental technique** and around **100 respondent** targets to get the responses, which include the **women form Delhi** from different age groups.

Data Anaylisis and Findings:

The findings of the study based on the both descriptive as well as inferential statistics analysis. In this section first descriptive analysis presented and after that inferential statistics use to test the null hypothesis.

(Table 1)Testing of H_{01}: Education has no impact on the need of ICT for women empowerment

Education * Need of ICT for women empowerment (Crosstabulation)								
			Need of ICT for women empowerment					
			strongly disagree	disagree	neutral	agree	strongly agree	Total
Education	Graduation	Count	3	1	10	13	3	30
		Expected Count	1.7	1.3	4.7	17.0	5.3	30.0
		Residual	1.3	-.3	5.3	-4.0	-2.3	
	under graduation	Count	0	0	1	6	3	10
		Expected Count	.6	.4	1.6	5.7	1.8	10.0
		Residual	-.6	-.4	-.6	.3	1.2	
	post-graduation	Count	2	2	2	22	5	33
		Expected Count	1.8	1.5	5.1	18.7	5.9	33.0
		Residual	.2	.5	-3.1	3.3	-.9	
	more than Post graduation	Count	0	1	1	10	5	17
		Expected Count	.9	.8	2.6	9.6	3.0	17.0
		Residual	-.9	.2	-1.6	.4	2.0	
Total		Count	5	4	14	51	16	90
		Expected Count	5.0	4.0	14.0	51.0	16.0	90.0

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	17.452[a]	12	.133
Likelihood Ratio	18.477	12	.102
Linear-by-Linear Association	4.986	1	.026
N of Valid Cases	90		
a. 13 cells (65.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .44.			

The null hypothesis is accepted because the significance level is 0.05 and the p value is greater than 0.05. That means the level of education does not impact on the need of the ICT for women empowerment and education and the need of ICT for women empowerment are independent from each other. The demand of the ICT for the women empowerment not depends upon the education.

(Table 2) Testing ofH02: Different age groups has no impact on the need of ICT for women empowerment

Age (Binned) * Need of ICT for women empowerment(Crosstabulation)								
			Need of ICT for women empowerment					
			strongly disagree	disagree	neutral	agree	strongly agree	Total
Age (Binned)	18 - 27	Count	3	4	11	33	12	63
		Expected Count	3.5	2.8	9.8	35.7	11.2	63.0
		Residual	-.5	1.2	1.2	-2.7	.8	
	28 - 37	Count	1	0	1	8	3	13
		Expected Count	.7	.6	2.0	7.4	2.3	13.0
		Residual	.3	-.6	-1.0	.6	.7	
	38 - 47	Count	0	0	2	8	0	10
		Expected Count	.6	.4	1.6	5.7	1.8	10.0
		Residual	-.6	-.4	.4	2.3	-1.8	
	48+	Count	1	0	0	2	1	4
		Expected Count	.2	.2	.6	2.3	.7	4.0
		Residual	.8	-.2	-.6	-.3	.3	
Total		Count	5	4	14	51	16	90
		Expected Count	5.0	4.0	14.0	51.0	16.0	90.0

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	9.992[a]	12	.617
Likelihood Ratio	12.775	12	.386
Linear-by-Linear Association	.004	1	.950
N of Valid Cases	90		
a. 15 cells (75.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .18.			

The null hypothesis is accepted because the significance level is 0.05 and the p value is greater than 0.05. That means the different age groups does not impact on the need of the ICT for women empowerment and different age and the need of ICT for women empowerment are independent from each other. We cannot say that old age people are not interested for the need of ICT for women empowerment

Discussion

Generally people assume that elderly people resist technological changes and do not give much importance to ICT (Information Communication and Technology as means of women empowerment. This study aims to verify that age is not the factor when it comes to importance of ICT for the women empowerment. Similarly general perception of the people is educated people consider more important ICT for women empowerment than less educated. However, this study falsifies this common perception and rather shows that educational level and felt need of ICT for women empowerment are independent from each other.

Conclusion

This study concludes that ICT has significant role in women empowerment as it supports women empowerment by increased access to knowledge, education in remote corners, enhanced social circle (SHGs), improving the quality of health services etc. Also this study shows that education and the need of ICT for women empowerment are independent of each other. Its means that level of education does not decide the need of ICT for women empowerment. Similarly age group does not impact the need of the ICT for women empowerment. Thus ICT empowers women technologically, or in other words ICT technically empowers women.

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