

CORRELATES OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT: ROLE OF REGIONS TO DETERMINE THE WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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ABSTRACT

Women level of confidence and admiration vary in developing countries due to cultural and regional variation in different regions. Women are still suffering discrimination and violence in different regions of developing countries with different extent. In this paper an attempt is made to explore the role of regions in determining the women empowerment. Women empowerment is comprising by the women labor force participation, women awareness level, participation in decision making, self-esteem and self-confidence. The current DHS data of thirty-three developing countries from the five regions were used for analysis. Married women in the age of 15-49 years are used as targeted population for assessing women empowerment. Factor analysis was performed on 18 indicators coming from five dimensions of women empowerment. Importance of each dimension in assessing overall women empowerment is not the same but they give cumulative effect as women empowerment. Using the proportion of each dimension as a weight and calculated a composite women empowerment index of thirty-eight developing countries. Ordinal logistic regression model is used to predict the impact of regions on composite women empowerment and in developing countries. Furthermore, impact of socioeconomic status of women and her household have been evaluated to determine the women empowerment. South and Southeast Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa have negative impact on women empowerment. While, Central Asia, Western Asia and Latin America and Caribbean's Countries have positive impact on women empowerment. Women education, women body mass index, and household wealth strongly effect the women empowerment in the developing economies. In South and Southeast Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, a special attention is required for women empowerment.

Keywords: Self-esteem, Demographic Health Survey, women empowerment

INTRODUCTION

Women are important part of the society, their participation in decision making through their participation in economic activities is very low. Working women contribute to national income of the country and maintain a sustainable livelihood for the families, throughout the world. According to United Nations reports globally 50% women's are involved in labor force whereas men's are 77%(UNDP, 2015). Women throughout the world represent the 40% of the world's active labor force. This is a huge figure and exemplifies the need for allowing this 40% to gain proper education to increase human capital

potential, besides the obvious rights to education that any young girl or boy should possess.

Allowing women to have equal rights and treatment in developing countries has a variety of benefits. Less workplace discrimination means more women can work instead of being outsiders to the economy of a country (West, 2006). Increasing the career opportunities and general rights for women could also usher in more investment from developed countries who may find more cultural connection with the developing nation. Studies have also shown that women are better at spending money in ways that benefit children than men, but, currently, women are earning significantly less than men across the world (Wiklander, 2010).

By empowering women in developing nations, poverty rates could be slashed, businesses could be started, existing industries could be revitalized and greater human capital resources could be fully realized (Khan, 2016).

Measurement of women empowerment is a challenge because empowerment has a broaden meaning and it is difficult to comprise it in a single definition or in a single dimension. In previous literature women empowerment was defined as a "social inclusion"(Bennett, 2002), freedom of persons and capabilities (Sen, Roberts, & Chorev, 2014). Then women empowerment included women individuality in the socially excluded groups (Khattab & Sakr, 2009), as process to control one's life (Giele, 1977; Mehra, 1997; Moghadam & Senftova, 2005), as goal to learn and access to social resources (Zimmerman & Rappaport, 1988), as a goal to attain self-determination (Bandura, 1982; Nayak & Mahanta, 2008; Rappaport, 1981; Rappaport, 1984, 1985; Rodwell, 1996), self-transformation (Naryan, 2002; Rodwell, 1996; Sen & Batliwala, 2000), self-esteem and self-confidence.

Kabeer (2011) more precisely defined empowerment as expansion in people's ability to make strategic life choice in the context where this ability was previously denied. She suggested three interrelated dimensions to attain these choices. These dimensions were resources, agency, and achievement: whereas, resources refer to the condition under which choices are made. There are two types of resources first, material resources such as land and property etc. second; nonmaterial resources such as relationship, network, rules, norms and practices. Second dimension of empowerment is agency that refers to process (Kabeer, 1999, 2001; Kabeer, 2002). It is the skill to set goals, motivation and efforts. Combination of resource and agency makes choices achievable. Third dimension is achievement which refers to the potential created by previous dimensions.

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Failure to realize the potential leads to incompetence and disempowerment (Batliwala et al., 1995; Lee-Rife, 2010; Mosedale, 2005), while others view it as a goal (Tengland, 2008). Additionally, the understanding of women's empowerment is complicated by the interchangeable uses of closely related terms like women's status, women's autonomy and gender equality

In previous literature number of attempts has been made for determining women empowerment in different countries and regions, Gupta and Yesudian (2006) found socioeconomic characteristics of women own as important correlated of women empowerment in India, in Pakistan wealth status and education strongly effect decision making, according to Njoh and Akiwumi (2012) religion play an important role to determine women's participation in labor force, women relationship with family appeared as strong determinants Africa, Allendorf (2012), in Bangladesh women's father and husband characteristics have primary role in increasing the women empowerment (Muhammad, Shaheen, Naqvi, & Zehra, 2012). Women in Bangladesh, Guatemala, and Uganda seemed to be empowered with higher education, religion faith and by adopting the family planning (Alkire et al., 2013). In Burkina Faso, women older than their husband, belongs to urban areas, and working considered to be more empowered (Pambe, Gnoumou, & Kaboré, 2014). In South Asia, ethnicity, level of deprivation, urban/rural livings, and education, age of women, media exposure, occupation, marital duration, and wealth status have been significantly affecting the women empowerment (Sharma & Shekhar, 2015).

In the present study women empowerment has been measured by self-determination, self-transformation, self-esteem and self-confidence. By adopting the criteria of 4 'S', women can be empowered. Self-determination means knowing about what a woman be and what she can be, and in this study, we can measure her self-determination through her work status and her type of professions. And her participation in decision making. Self-transformation means how she can be transforming her personality and stand for her rights. There self-transformation has been measured through awareness through media. Self-Esteem is a step by which woman should recognizes her worth and respect in society where she lives. Able to be say know against the violence she tolerates. This "S" has been measured "Is beating is justified or not". Self-confidence determined the level of confident of a woman for her movement in the society. In this study it is measured through women's confidence of mobility and claim about her right. There is no previous study which has measured women empowerment through all these 4 S in the composite women empowerment index. In addition, in this study regions (as dummy variable) are used to determined women empowerment, and this become a new addition in the literature.

Research Question

What is the role of regions in determining women empowerment?

Objectives

- To find out composite women empowerment Index

- To find out socioeconomic determinants of women empowerment
- To find out role of regions in determine women empowerment

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Factor Analysis

Factor analysis is used to uncover the underlying structure of the observable data from the survey responses. Since there is no prior theory on the structure of these responses, it is assumed that any individual indicator may be associated with any factor.

These underlying factors are inferred from the correlations among the p variables. Each factor is estimated as a weighted sum of the p variables. The ith factor is thus

$$F_i = W_{i1}S_1 + W_{i2}S_2 + W_{i3}S_3 + \dots + W_{ip}S_p \dots \dots \dots \text{Eq1}$$

W_{ip} is the weight for m_{th} principal component and P_{th} variables. S variables used in factor analysis. Loading of the variable for the given factor and summed these products. This calculation was carried out using SPSS procedure and factor scores were saved as variables in subsequent

$$CWEI = WEI - (\min) / \max - (\min)$$

A similar technique was used in previous studies by (Antony & Rao, 2007; Krishnan, 2010; Sekhar, Indrayan, & Gupta, 1991).

Ordered Logit model

Assuming that the composite Women empowerment is an ordered discrete variable with j categories (low, medium and high), an OLOGIT model (in terms of probability) can be written as (Long, Long, & Freese, 2006):

$$\Pr(y_i > j | X) = g(X_i, \beta) = \frac{\exp(X_i \beta' - \phi_j)}{1 + \exp(X_i \beta' - \phi_j)}, \quad j = 1, \dots, m-1 \quad \text{Eq. 1}$$

where X_i is a $(k \times 1)$ vector of observed non-random explanatory variables; β is a $(k \times 1)$ vector of unknown parameters to be estimated; m is the number of categories of the ordinal dependent variable. The parameters of the model (β) and the cut-points (ϕ_1 and ϕ_2) are estimated by the method of maximum likelihood (Long et al., 2006). In equation (1), it is assumed that the effects of explanatory variables on the level of severity are assumed to be fixed across observations. However, this may not be true as the effect of a explanatory variable may vary across observations. To overcome this problem, a number of recent studies have suggested to employ random parameters models (Anastasopoulos & Mannering, 2009; Ben-Akiva et al., 2002; McFadden & Train, 2000).

Construction of Combined Women Empowerment Index'

Combined women empowerment Index has been constructing by combining 4 'S'.

Self-Determination

Self-determination is measured through women is currently working or not, if working then 1 other wise 0, and women employment status ordering in professions with respect to higher salaried profession (unskilled manual, skilled manual, household domestic, agricultural - self-employed, clerical, agricultural - employee, sales, services, professional/technical/managerial). Participation in decision making has been used to measured

through women power in four types of decision making, decision to spends about women's Husband earning, decision to women's health, decision about large household purchases and decision about visits to family or relatives. Participation in each decision making was recorded by four options, women alone take decision, along with husband, only husband and someone else. Women alone take decision has been ranked with higher score.

Self-transformation

Self-transformation has been measured through women awareness level from media and her learning about family planning. Knowledge about family planning have primary right for every married woman for her and her child's health. Level of awareness has been recorded by women routine of reading newspaper, listening radio and watching Tv³ and categorized in ordered form. Women learning about family planning from newspaper, radio or Tv, has been taking in Yes or No form.

Self-Esteem

This 'S' has been used to judge the women worth by herself, and to know her reaction regarding to violence or beaten by husband. Measured by women answered about beating is justified if she argues with husband, burns food, neglects children, go outside without telling, and refuses to have sex with the husband. Answer is in the form of yes or no. If answer is no its means women know about her self-esteem.

Self Confidence

In this 'S' measured the women confidence level for her treatment, she wants to go alone for her treatment and able to demand money for her treatment. Answer is in the form of yes or no. yes means she has self-confidence and no mean she has not.

Composite Women Empowerment Index

$$CWEI = Wi_1S1 + Wi_2S2 + Wi_3S3 + Wi_4S4$$

S1=Self-Determination

S2=Self-Transformation

S3=Self-Esteem

S4=Self-Confidence

Wip=Weight for each factor

Determinants of Women Empowerment

$$CWEI = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1WE + \alpha_2ADH + \alpha_3AFB + \alpha_4BMI + \alpha_5HE + \alpha_6HES + \alpha_7GHH + \alpha_8AHH + \alpha_9TNCA + \alpha_{10}TNCEB + \alpha_{11}THM + \alpha_{12}WI + \alpha_{13}PR + \alpha_{14}Ri + \mu_1$$

WE=Women Education

ADH= Age Difference with Husband

BMI= Body Mass Index of Women

AFB=Age at first birth

WE= Husband's Education

HES= Husband Employment Status

GHH=Gender of Head of Household

AHH=Age of Head of Household

TNCA= Total Children number of children Alive

TNCEB= Total number of children ever born

THM= Total Household Members

WI=Household Wealth Index

PR=Place of residence

Ri= Regions

R1=South and Southeast Asia

R2=Central Asia

R3= Western Asia

R4=Latin America and Caribbean's Countries

R5= Sub-Saharan Africa

Data and Set of Countries

The data for this study are taken from nationally-representatives Demographic and Health Surveys. DHS data is best for comparable study across the countries. In the current study thirty-eight developing countries are chosen from the five different regions South and Southeast Asia, Central Asia, Western Asia, Latin America and Caribbean, and Sub Saharan Africa. Countries are set to be selected according to availability of data on same questions related to Women status, Household characteristics, background characteristics, husband's background characteristics. In this study it is try to extract the same indicators of women empowerment from the DHS survey across the developing countries. Finally, data on same indicators are extracting from DHS survey on thirty-three countries. Access to the data sets was officially granted by the Demographic and Health Survey program after request for accessing data for research purpose was submitted.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Construction of Combined Women Empowerment Index's

From the the five factors explained 60.45 per cent of the total variation, with the first, second, third, fourth, and fifth factors, explaining 19.27 percent, 12.68 percent, 11.88 percent, 9.31 percent, and 7.31 percent respectively. Therefore, the importance of the factors in measuring overall women empowerment is not the same. Using the proportion of these percentages as weights on the factor score coefficients, combined women empowerment index was developed for using the formula:

$$CWEI = (19.277/60.451) (\text{Factor 1 score}) + (12.681/60.451) (\text{Factor 2 score}) + (11.876/60.451) (\text{Factor 3 score}) + (9.310/60.451) (\text{Factor 4 score}) + (7.307/60.451) (\text{Factor 5 score})$$

This single index measures the women empowerment of thirty-eight developing countries of five different regions. The value of the index can be positive or negative, making it difficult to interpret. Therefore, a Standardized Index (SI) was developed, the value of which can range from 1-5, using the formula:

$$CWEI = WEI(\text{min}) / \text{max}(\text{min})$$

A similar technique was used in previous studies by (Antony & Rao, 2007; Krishnan, 2010; Sekhar, Indrayan, & Gupta, 1991). This combine women empowerment is then further divided in to three groups as followed by (Brajesh & Shekhar, 2015; Jeckoniah, Nombo, & Mdoe, 2012)

- Low women empowerment Index ranged between 1 to 2.2
 - Medium women empowerment index ranged between 2.2 to 3.6
 - High women empowerment Index ranged between 3.6 to 5
- Women Empowerment and its determinants with regional effect.**

³ Daily, two time in a week or once in a week

Association between composite women empowerment index with its predictors has been found by using chi square statistics and Ordered Logit Model. Results have been presented in Table 1 and Table 2. In the parameter estimates of ordered logistic regression, standard errors, p-values (Sig.), and odds ratios are shown in Table 2. This table presented six models of ordered logistics regression; in the first model women empowerment is regress with women's personal characteristics, women's number of children, women husband's characteristics, head of household characteristics and household characteristics. After that in the next five model's variable of region is included to find out impact of region on the women empowerment.

Women with secondary education (24.1%) showing association with medium empowerment and (3.9%) with higher empowerment as compared to other level of education ($p < 0.005$). Women with higher level of education seems to be more empowered as compared to less educated women (Chaudhuri, 2010; Guinée, 2014). Women body mass index equal or more than 18.5kg/m² (68.7%) showing the association with medium and (8.8%) higher empowerment as compared to women with lower body mass index ($p < 0.001$) and found to be statistically significant. Women younger than husband (49.9%) have association with medium and (4.4%) with higher empowerment as compared to equal age with husband as as and older than husband ($p < 0.001$) and found to be statistically significant (Chung, Kantachote, Mallick, Polster, & Roets, 2013).

Table 1: Association between women empowerment and its determinants

Co Variables	Cumulative Women Empowerment Index				
	Low Empowerment (1-2.2.0)	Medium Empowerment (2.2-3.6)	High Empowerment (3.6-5.0)	Total	P value
Women's Personal Characteristics					
Education Difference with Husband					
Mother's Body Mass Index less than 18.5 kg/m ²	2.50% -6918	10.50% -28909	0.40% -1225	13.50% -37052	0 -
					3503
equal or more than 18.5kg/m ²	9.10% -24913	68.70% -18876	8.80% -24202	86.50% -23787	
% of Total	11.80%	79.00%	9.20%	100.00%	
Age Difference with Husband					
Older than Husband	0.10% -521	1.40% -5165	0.30% -943	1.80% -6629	0 -718
Equal with husband	5.10% -18235	35.70% -12816	4.60% -16425	45.30% -162822	
Younger than Husband	6.60% -23608	41.90% -15061	4.40% -15650	52.9 -189872	
% of Total	11.80%	79.00%	9.20%	100.00%	
Women Education					
No Education	6.80% -24495	20.20% -74321	0.70% -2379	33.70% -12115	0 -
					3430
Primary	2.40% -8783	23.40% -84109	2.30% -8286	28.10% -10118	
Secondary	2.40% -8813	24.10% -86937	3.90% -14021	30.50% -10971	
Higher Education	0.10% -417	5.30% -19104	2.30% -8380	7.70% -27901	
% of Total	11.80%	79.00%	9.20%	100.00%	
Women Age at First Birth					
Below 15	1.50% -5437	7.60% -27484	0.50% -1777	9.60% -34698	0 -
					5228
15-20	5.90% -21418	39.40% -14174	3.60% -13137	49.00% -17629	
20-25	2.50% -9097	19.70% -70916	2.90% -10601	25.20% -90614	
25-30	0.50% -1723	4.60% -16566	1.10% -3805	6.10% -22094	
30-35	0.10% -358	0.90% -3210	0.20% -828	1.20% -4396	
35-40	0.00%	0.20%	0.00%	0.20%	

40-45	-52 0.00%	-542 0.00%	-127 0.00%	-721 0.00%	
=>47	-10 1.20%	-54 6.70%	-13 0.80%	-77 8.70%	
% of Total	-4413 11.80%	-23964 79.00%	-2780 9.20%	-31157 100.00%	
Women's Husband Characteristics					
Women Husband's Employment	Status				
did not work	0.50% -1651	3.10% -11021	0.40% -1314	4.00% -13986	0 -
					1630
unskilled manual	0.70% -2526	8.00% -28118	2.40% -8375	11.10% -3909	
household domestic	0.20% -567	2.20% -7717	0.40% -1327	2.70% -9611	
Skilled manual	1.10% -3845	8.20% -28869	0.90% -3142	10.20% -3586	
agricultural - employed	2.50% -8906	17.50% -61629	1.10% -3782	21.20% -74317	
clerical	2.80% -9684	10.30% -36311	0.30% -969	13.40% -46964	
services	0.10% -251	0.90% -2998	0.20% -593	1.10% -3842	
professional/technical/managerial	0.80% -2663	6.00% -21065	1.00% -3662	7.80% -27390	
Skilled Manual	2.50% -8782	17.30% -60873	1.90% -6654	21.70% -76309	
Sales	0.90% -3083	5.20% -18091	0.80% -2734	6.80% -23908	
% of Total	11.90%	78.80%	9.30%	100.00%	
Women Husband's Education					
No Education	4.80% -17100	18.60% -65988	0.50% -1715	23.90% -8483	0 -
					1985
Primary	2.40% -8386	21.50% -76551	2.20% -7696	26.10% -9263	
Secondary	3.90% -14013	30.10% -10708	4.00% -14114	38.10% -1352	
Higher Education	0.70% -2382	8.70% -30991	2.60% -9224	12.00% -4257	
% of Total	11.80%	79.00%	9.20%	100.00%	
Head of Household Characteristics					
Gender of Head of household					
Female	10.50% -37954	67.90% -	7.00% -25211	85.40% -307563	0 2803
Male	1.30% -4554	11.10% -40082	2.20% -7857	14.60% -52493	
% of Total	11.80%	79.00%	9.20%	100.00%	
Age of Head of Household					
15-25	0.80% -2826	5.10% -18389	0.40% -1565	6.30% -22780	0 -
					1222
25-35	2.90% -10344	20.60% -74138	2.60% -9234	26.00% -93716	
35-45	3.10% -11295	23.40% -84145	3.00% -10745	29.50% -106185	
45-55	2.50% -8933	16.30% -58784	1.90% -6916	20.70% -74633	
55-65	1.70% -5948	8.60% -31038	0.80% -2821	11.10% -39807	
=>66	0.90% -3162	5.00% -17979	0.50% -1786	6.40% -22927	
% of Total	11.80%	79.00%	9.20%	100.00%	
Women Children Information's					
Total Children (Alive)					
3-Jan	6.50% -23499	52.00% -	7.40% -26481	65.9% (237324)	0 -
					5675
6-Mar	3.40% -12342	19.20% -68999	1.50% -5226	24.00% -86567	
9-Jun	1.40% -4920	6.00% -21618	0.30% -1105	7.70% -27643	
>9	0.50% -1747	1.80% -6519	0.10% -265	2.40% -8522	
% of Total	11.80%	79.00%	9.20%	100.00%	
Children Ever Born					
3-Jan	2.90% -10512	18.50% -66723	2.50% -9053	24.00% -86288	0 -442
6-Mar	5.50% -19733	36.60% -	3.80% -13529	45.80% -164874	
>6	3.40% -12263	23.90% -86145	2.90% -10486	30.20% -108894	
% of Total	11.80%	79.00%	9.20%	100.00%	
Household Characteristics					
Source of drinking water					
unprotected drinking water	8.40% -29443	43.00% -	2.90% -9932	54.30% -189147	0 1019
protected drinking water	3.70% -12722	36.10% -	6.00% -20938	45.70% -159311	
Household with toilet facility	7.50% -26298	37.90% -	2.60% -9021	48.00% -167997	0 9261
households without toile facility					
households with toile facility	4.30% -14938	41.20% -	6.60% -23174	52.00% -182290	
Toilet facility is shared	10.20%	60.10%	5.60%	75.90%	0
toilet facility is shared					

toilet facility is not shared	-7285 1.60% -17438	-58915 18.90% -	-7800 3.60% -21338	-74000 24.10% -182915	6850
		144139			
Type of cooking Fuel					
Type of cooking fuel other than gas	10.20% -36739	60.10% -	5.60% -20110	75.90% -273111	0 6683
		216262			
type of cooking fuel is Gas	1.60% -5769	18.90% -68218	3.60% -12958	24.10% -86945	
Wealth Index of household					
poorest	3.50% -12668	15.30% -55180	0.50% -1664	19.30% (6951)2	0 2494
poorer	2.90% -10365	15.50% -55854	0.80% -2772	19.20% -68991	
middle	2.50% -8890	15.80% -56842	1.30% -4518	20.30% -70250	
richer	1.90% -6916	16.20% -58323	2.20% -7773	21.70% -73012	
richest	1.00% -3669	16.20% -58281	4.50% -16341	78291	
% of Total	11.80%	79.00%	9.20%	100.00%	

Table 2: Socio Economics determinants of Women empowerment

	Model Without Regions	Model with Region 1	Model with Region 2	Model with Region 3	Model with Region 4	Model with Region 5
	Odd Ratio (Std. Error)	Odd Ratio (Std. Error)	Odd Ratio (Std. Error)	Odd Ratio (Std. Error)	Odd Ratio (Std. Error)	Odd Ratio (Std. Error)
ntercept 1	0.298** * (0.343)	0.464 (0.346)	0.352** * (0.345)	0.334** * (0.345)	0.268** * (0.346)	0.708 (0.346)
Intercept2	46.43** * (0.343)	83.17** (0.347)	59.08** * (0.346)	54.59** * (0.345)	49.21** * (0.346)	117.19** (0.346)
Women's Personal Characteristics						
Education Difference with Husband (Less education than husband is reference category)						
Equal Education	1.031* (0.033)	1.05* (0.030)	1.01 (0.082)	1.02 (0.030)	0.978 (0.031)	1.041* (0.031)
More education than Husband	1.033* (0.055)	1.13** (0.055)	0.818 (0.129)	1.02 (0.055)	0.946 (0.056)	1.096* (0.055)
Age Difference with Husband (Older than husband is reference category)						
Same Age	0.648** * (0.048)	0.812** * (0.048)	0.749** * (0.048)	0.735** * (0.048)	0.912** (0.048)	0.729*** (0.048)
Younger than Husband	0.619** * (0.061)	0.830** * (0.061)	0.723** * (0.061)	0.719** * (0.061)	0.931 (0.061)	0.718*** (0.061)
Women Body Mass Index (less than 18.5 kg/m2 is reference category)						
Body Mass Index (>18.5Kg/m2)	1.46*** (0.021)	1.16*** (0.021)	1.44*** (0.021)	1.42*** (0.020)	1.33*** (0.021)	1.33** (0.021)
Women Education (No Education is reference category)						
Primary	2.21*** (0.026)	1.82*** (0.026)	2.13*** (0.026)	2.08*** (0.026)	1.95*** (0.026)	2.01*** (0.026)
Secondary	2.84*** (0.043)	2.32*** (0.043)	3.11*** (0.043)	2.83*** (0.043)	2.95*** (0.043)	2.71*** (0.043)
Higher	8.81*** (0.068)	6.83*** (0.068)	10.45*** * (0.068)	9.24*** (0.068)	10.57*** * (0.068)	8.51*** (0.068)
Age at First Birth (above than 40 is reference category)						
Less than 15 Years	1.21*** (0.032)	1.20*** (0.033)	1.20*** (0.032)	1.21*** (0.032)	1.15*** (0.033)	1.21*** (0.032)
15-20	1.22*** (0.026)	1.24*** (0.026)	1.24*** (0.026)	1.24*** (0.026)	1.16*** (0.026)	1.27*** (0.026)
20-25	1.61*** (0.026)	1.23*** (0.026)	1.21*** (0.026)	1.21*** (0.026)	1.13*** (0.026)	1.26*** (0.026)
25-30	1.25*** (0.032)	1.35*** (0.032)	1.28*** (0.032)	1.32*** (0.032)	1.22*** (0.032)	1.36*** (0.032)
30-35	1.31* (0.052)	1.38*** (0.053)	1.34*** (0.053)	1.38*** (0.053)	1.25*** (0.053)	1.41*** (0.053)
35-40	1.18** (0.051)	1.24*** (.117)	1.23* (.117)	1.23* (.117)	1.15 (.118)	1.28*** (.117)
Women's Husband Characteristics						
Husband's Education (No education is reference Category)						
Primary	1.57*** (0.029)	1.51*** (0.029)	1.44*** (0.029)	1.48*** (0.029)	1.32*** (0.029)	1.56*** (0.029)
Secondary	1.06* (0.044)	1.17*** (.044)	1.06 (.045)	1.06 (.044)	1.05 (.045)	1.15*** (.044)
Higher	1.05* (0.068)	1.23*** (0.068)	1.11 (.068)	1.06 (.068)	1.06 (.069)	1.19*** (0.068)
Husband Employment Status (Not working is reference category)						
unskilled manual	1.87*** (0.037)	2.08*** (0.038)	1.92*** (0.038)	1.96*** (0.037)	1.65*** (0.038)	2.13*** (0.038)
household domestic	1.31*** (0.047)	1.85*** (.047)	1.32*** (.047)	1.39*** (.047)	1.26*** (.047)	1.62*** (.047)
Skilled manual	1.21*** (0.038)	1.48*** (0.038)	1.25*** (0.038)	1.29*** (0.038)	1.08*** (0.038)	1.44*** (0.038)
agricultural - self employed	1.62*** (0.037)	1.69*** (0.038)	1.62*** (0.037)	1.61*** (0.037)	1.19*** (0.038)	1.82*** (0.037)
Clerical	1.21* (0.038)	1.22*** (0.039)	1.08** (0.038)	1.11*** (0.038)	1.02 (0.039)	1.22*** (0.038)
Services	2.61*** (0.058)	2.81*** (.058)	3.35*** (.058)	2.89*** (.058)	3.04*** (.059)	2.88*** (.058)
professional/technical/managerial	1.47*** (0.039)	1.54*** (0.036)	1.57*** (0.039)	1.48*** (0.039)	1.34*** (0.039)	1.67*** (0.039)
agricultural - employed	1.26*** (0.036)	1.77*** (.040)	1.41*** (.036)	1.36*** (.036)	1.22*** (.036)	1.54*** (.036)

Sales	1.73*** (.041)	1.93*** (.041)	1.81*** (.040)	1.75*** (.040)	1.37*** (.041)	1.92*** (.040)
Head of Household Characteristics						
Gender of Head of Household (Female is reference category)						
Male Head of household	0.67*** (.017)	0.757** * (.017)	0.701** * (.017)	0.707** * (.017)	0.729** * (.017)	0.727*** (.017)
Age of Head of Household (above than 65 is reference category)						
15-25	2.02*** (.039)	1.77*** (.040)	1.88*** (.039)	1.98*** (.039)	2.03*** (.039)	1.77*** (.040)
25-35	1.82*** (.029)	1.63*** (.029)	1.72*** (.029)	1.79*** (.029)	1.78*** (.029)	1.63*** (.029)
35-45	1.53*** (.028)	1.42*** (.029)	1.48*** (.028)	1.51*** (.028)	1.47*** (.029)	1.43*** (.029)
45-55	1.12*** (.031)	1.07*** (.031)	1.11*** (.030)	1.11*** (.030)	1.08*** (.031)	1.08*** (.030)
55-65	0.98* (.031)	1.02*** (.031)	0.975 (.031)	0.978 (.032)	0.973 (.032)	0.988 (.032)
Women Children Information's						
Total Children (Children above than nine year Old is reference category)						
1-3	1.39*** (.043)	1.56*** (.044)	1.35*** (.043)	1.39*** (.043)	1.29*** (.044)	1.52*** (.044)
3-6	1.15*** (.043)	1.22*** (.043)	1.14*** (.043)	1.15*** (.043)	1.14*** (.043)	1.19*** (.043)
3-9	0.98* (.046)	1.02*** (.046)	0.958** * (.046)	0.975 (.046)	0.983 (.046)	0.995 (.046)
Children Ever Born(More than 6 is reference category)						
1-3	0.94** (.022)	0.93*** (.022)	0.928** * (.022)	0.947** * (.022)	0.931** * (.022)	0.927*** (.022)
3-6	0.91*** (.014)	0.92*** (.014)	0.896** * (.014)	0.914** (.014)	0.924** * (.014)	0.905*** (.014)
Household Characteristics						
Household Wealth Index (Poorest is reference category)						
Poorer	1.21*** (.023)	1.31*** (.023)	1.21*** (.023)	1.22*** (.023)	1.23*** (.023)	1.23*** (.023)
Middle	1.31*** (.023)	1.68*** (.023)	1.43*** (.023)	1.46*** (.023)	1.49*** (.023)	1.48*** (.023)
Richer	1.92*** (.023)	2.37*** (.024)	1.84*** (.023)	1.29*** (.023)	2.08*** (.023)	1.89*** (.023)
Richest	2.66*** (.025)	3.78*** (.026)	2.69*** (.025)	2.84*** (.026)	3.39*** (.025)	2.71*** (.025)
Place of residence (Rural is reference category)						
Urban	1.28*** (.015)	1.25*** (.015)	1.12*** (.016)	1.27*** (.015)	1.27*** (.015)	1.24*** (.015)
Regions						
South and Southeast Asia		.441*** (.015)				
Central Asia			1.427** * (.027)			
West Asia Europe				1.858** * (.026)		
Latin America and Caribbean					1.551** * (.021)	
Sub-Saharan Africa						.666*** (.016)
Pseudo R-Square						
Cox and Snell	0.145	0.165	0.156	0.152	0.169	0.156
Nagelkerke	0.197	0.225	0.213	0.207	0.23	0.213
McFadden	0.118	0.136	0.128	0.124	0.14	0.128

Notes: ***p<0.01, **p<0.05, *p<0.1

Women with age of 15-25 years (39.4.0%) at her first birth seems to have association with medium Women empowerment is significantly associated with employment status of her husband, women whose husband are working are more empowered as compared to those women whose husbands are not working (p<0.005). Women whose husband have less education reported as more empowered as compared to the women whose husband have more education. Women whose husband among 25-35 years (24.4 %) have medium empowerment and (3.0%) with higher empowerment as compared to other age group (p<0.005) (Jeckoniah et al., 2012). Households where the head of household is female women (67.5%) showing association with medium and (7.0%) with higher as compared to those where the head of household is male (p<0.005). Age of head of household showing association with women empowerment. Women belongs to household where the age of head of household age in the range of 35-45 years (24.9%) seems to be more empowered as compared to other age groups of head of households (p<0.005). Women (52.1%) who have total children in the range of 1-3 have probability to be medium and (7.4%) women are higher empowered as compared to other women who have more than three children (p<0.005)(Jejeebhoy, 2000). Women who have ever born children in the range of 3-6 reported (36.1%) have medium empowerment and (3.8%) higher

empowerment as compared to those women who have less than three or more than six children ever born ($p < 0.005$) (Jejeebhoy & Sathar, 2001).

Wealth status of household has a strong association between women empowerment. According to wealth index of household's women who belongs to richer and richest households seems to have more medium and higher empowerment as compared to the women who belongs to poorer, poorest and middle wealth status households ($p < 0.005$) (Kantachote, Mallick, Polster, & Roets, 2013).

From six models, model 2 incorporate South and Southeast Asia to determine its effect on women empowerment and found to negatively impact on women empowerment as odd ratio is less than one. Opposite results have been shown in model 3, model 4 and 5 for Central Asia, West Asia and Latin America and Caribbean's countries. Sub-Saharan Africa have positive impact on women empowerment as the odd ratios are greater than one. Shown in model 6.

In developing countries, regions have important role to determine the women empowerment. In these countries' due to diversification in their cultures, traditions, norms and religion factors. These factors also directly or indirectly affect the socioeconomic status of women and living norms of her households. For a woman her socioeconomic status and living norms of her households are the primary determinants of her empowerment.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In developing economies, one of the most common reason of low level of economic growth is the gender inequality. Due to gender inequality almost half of the population (women) remained failed to become the part of income generation and economic growth in these economies. This gender inequality can be minimized through the women empowerment. Self-determination, self-transformation, self-esteem and self-confidence are the best measure for the empowerment of a women (Kabeer, 2011; Mason & Smith, 2003; Rappaport, 1984, 1985). Women's education, her body mass index, husband's education, household's wealth and household locality are the primary determinants of women empowerment in the developing countries. Regions have their individual importance to determine the women empowerment in the developing economies. Central Asia, West Asia and Latin America and Caribbean are positively determined women empowerment as compared to South and Southeast Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

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