CHAPTER-7

SUMMARY, FINDINGS, CONCLUSION, SUGGESTIONS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE STUDY

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7.1. Summary

The new millennium world economic scene, in the middle of vast opportunities, is very turbulent yet it is very volatile with complex challenges. To meet these challenges and to materialise the opportunities available resources be effectively utilized. Among these, competent human resource is the vital resource for a nation’s economy. There is a need to empower this vast Human resource. India is considered as young nation. As per the 2011 census out of India’s total population more than 65% of population is below the age of 35 years. As such India is enjoying demographic dividend where no other country in the world enjoys this dividend.

This demographic dividend can be encashed only when our young population is empowered in all respect and we make them to face and shoulder the challenges and responsibilities effectively. It is the responsibility of all the stakeholders to support, assist, and help the youth in their empowerment process. In India Government departments, NGOs and other civil society organisations are making efforts to empower the youth through various programmes and schemes.

In this study, the researcher studied the youth empowerment programmes of select NGOs, their role in youth empowerment in the study area and based on the objective findings has made specific suggestions to improve the youth empowerment programmes of NGOs, government and to thereby empowering the youth.

After scanning the existing literature on empowerment, it is possible to point out the gaps. Majority of research studies by individual scholars and research institutions relate to surveys and studies on role of NGOs in women empowerment. Little research work is done on the role of NGOs in rural youth empowerment. To fill this gap the present study is undertaken. This research work is undertaken to study the role of NGOs in the empowerment of rural youth by selecting ten NGOs from four taluks in Bangalore rural district.

The present study was therefore taken up with the following objectives. The main objective is to study the role of NGOs in rural youth empowerment.
1. To study the demographic characteristics of the youth beneficiaries
2. To study the association between demographic characteristics and the level of Empowerment of the youth beneficiaries
3. To study the empowerment level of the youth beneficiaries before and after joining NGO
4. To study the various youth empowerment programs implemented by the NGOs
5. To identify the problems confronting the NGO’s in the implementation of Youth Empowerment Programmes in the Bangalore Rural District
6. To recommend suggestions based on findings

For the present study primary data was collected from the respondent beneficiaries and from the ten sample NGOs operating in Bangalore rural district comprising 4 taluks. Secondary data was collected from the annual reports of NGOs, journals, books, newspapers and internet.

This study covers period from October 2011 to August 2015.

The NGOs which satisfied the following conditions were selected

1. NGOs which are registered either under Section 25 of The Companies Act,1956, or Indian Trust Act,1882, or The Societies Registration Act, 1860
2. NGOs which are in youth empowerment field for the last ten years
3. NGOs having rural orientation

The researcher after discussion with subject experts and people working with NGOs in youth empowerment programmes selected ten sample NGOs operating in the Bangalore rural district comprising 4 taluks. From the list of beneficiaries furnished by the selected NGOs a sample of 30 beneficiaries from each NGO were randomly selected making the total sample size to 300 respondents for the study.
Based on literature review on the role of NGOs in youth, women empowerment and a detailed discussion with subject experts, initially 70 relevant and appropriate statements were constructed. After obtaining responses from the subject experts these statements were edited, revised and restructured to avoid the ambiguity and duplication. Finally 50 statements covering various aspects of empowerment falling under 7 dimensions of youth empowerment were retained for collecting data from beneficiaries and for analysis.

For this study separate questionnaires are used for Beneficiaries [interview schedule] and for NGOs to collect data. While constructing the interview schedule for beneficiaries the researcher considered Eleven (11) key areas of youth empowerment as mentioned in *National Youth Policy (NYP)-2014* and Five (5) key domains as used by *Expert Group of Commonwealth Secretariat* in constructing the First ever Youth Development Index (YDI). Finally interview schedule for Beneficiaries covers *seven* dimensions of youth empowerment; each dimension contains five to ten statements. The questionnaire comprises totally 50 statements, which are asked as questions to which the respondent beneficiaries should respond from among five options-1) very low 2) low 3) average 4) high 5) very high. The NGOs questionnaire contains some 49 questions on various aspects of NGOs operations, their financial resources, their empowerment programmes.

Keeping the objectives of the study in view, the collected data was scored, tabulated and analysed. Various statistical techniques like Percentages, Mean, Standard deviation, Paired’t’ test, Chi-square test and Cronbach's alpha test were used to analyse and interpret the data.

For studying the influence and role of NGOs youth programmes on youth empowerment, the youth beneficiary’s empowerment level before they join the NGOs was compared with the youth beneficiary’s empowerment level after they join the NGOs. For this purpose aspect wise empowerment index values for each dimension of youth empowerment was constructed and over all
empowerment index value was constructed at two points of time - one pre-joining the NGOs point of time and two after-joining the NGOs point of time.

Again the influence and role of NGOs programmes on youth empowerment was highlighted from the amount spent by NGOs on various programmes.

7.2. Major findings

The findings of the study are summarised below

1. Demographic characteristics of the youth beneficiaries - Out of 300 majority respondent beneficiaries were above 27 years of age. They constitute 60.7% of the total beneficiaries. Nearly 61.3% of the beneficiaries are married, 35% beneficiaries are unmarried and widows, widowers, separated and divorcees constitutes remaining 2.7% of the beneficiaries. Nearly 97.7% of beneficiaries were literates and only small percentages (2.3%) of respondents are illiterates. Nearly 78.7% of the respondents were possessing SSLC and above education qualifications.

It is found that the literacy level of respondents is above the district literacy rate of 77.83 % (2011 census). This may be due to NGOs influence.

2. More than 2/3rd families of beneficiaries were nuclear families (69.0%) and 31.0% families were joint families. Nearly 65% families are small families with 2-4 family members and only 8.7% families are large families with 8 and above members. Out of 300, 181 (60.3%) respondents are having own residence, 83 (27.7%) respondents are having in rented residence and 36 (12.0%) respondents are in leased residence.

3. Out of 300, 226 (75.3%) beneficiaries are employed and 74 (24.7%) 101 (33.7%) beneficiaries are unemployed. In terms of employment, the percentage of the beneficiaries engaged in job is 44.2% and this is highest than the percentage of beneficiaries engaged in business/self-

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employment (43.8%), 31.4% beneficiaries engaged in agriculture and 13.3% beneficiaries engaged in subsidiary job.

It was found that Agriculture and private employment are major source income for majority beneficiaries.

4. In terms of individual incomes nearly 30% respondents monthly is below Rs 5000 and 31.8% have monthly income of Rs.5000-10000, 21.5% respondent’s monthly income is between Rs.10001-Rs 20,000. 14.7% respondents monthly income is between Rs.20,000 and Rs.30,000 and Only 2% of respondents monthly income is more than Rs 30,000.

5. The Chi Square test was constructed to study the relation between type of family and level of empowerment. Before joining NGO it was 3.002 and joining NGO it was 2.528. Where ‘p’ at 5% significance level value is less than 0.05. There was significant relation between types of family with the empowerment level of youth beneficiaries. The difference in Chi Square value of all dimensions of empowerment between before joining NGOs point to after joining NGOs point level statistically significant at 5% significance level (p<0.05). The Chi Square value for overall empowerment improved drastically.

6. The Chi Square test used to study the relation between income level and youth empowerment level. The difference in Chi Square value of all dimensions of empowerment between before joining NGOs point to after joining NGOs point was statistically significant at 5% significance level (p<0.05). The Chi Square value for overall empowerment has improved drastically. Before joining NGOs it was 3.895 and it was 16.669 after joining the NGOs. There was significant relation between income levels and the empowerment level of youth beneficiaries.

7. To study the association between occupation and level of empowerment the Chi Square value was constructed. It was found that the chi square value was high for all dimensions of youth empowerment both before and after joining the NGOs. Before joining the NGO the Chi Square
value was 4.093 and it is 3.795. This value was statistically significant at 5% since its ‘p’ value was less than 0.05 (P<0.05). It was evident that there was significant association between occupation and empowerment level; the Economic Empowerment Index (EcEI) after joining NGO, Political Empowerment Index (PEI) before joining NGO, SEI after joining NGO, CEI before joining NGO and OEI before joining NGO.

8. The education empowerment level has improved significantly. Education Empowerment Index (EEI) is increased by 0.7065 from pre-joining period (before EEI-0.1071) to after joining period basis (after-EEI-0.8136). The enhancement in education empowerment level was found to be significant (t=65.311, p<0.0000). The areas like education awareness, access to primary education, amount spent on education of households were the strong areas which showed significant improvement. Access to higher (before-0.0942, after-0.7808), job oriented and professional education (before-0.0483, after-0.6492) were the weak areas which showed marginal enhancement in empowerment which needs to be taken care of by the NGOs and government.

9. The Health Empowerment Index (HEI) had been increased by 0.6923 from before joining the NGOs period and after joining the NGOs period. Before HEI was 0.1501 it increased to 0.8424 after joining the NGOs. As per Index values Health Empowerment, the second dimension of youth empowerment significantly improved. The improvement in Health empowerment level of beneficiaries was found to be significant (t=69.720, p<0.0000) and aspect wise improvement was revealed from the increase in the empowerment index of health awareness (before-0.1567, after-0.8500), Awareness of health problems like malnutrition, alcoholic use, dangers of HIV & AIDS, dangers of tobacco use (before-0.1517, after-0.8500), Awareness on prevention of health problems (before-0.1475, after-0.8317). Awareness on health care facilities, Awareness on sports, sports facilities and its importance are the areas which show significant improvement.
10. Economic empowerment level had shown improvement. Economic Empowerment Index (EcEI) was increased by 0.6958 from pre-joining period (EcEI-0.0996) to after joining period basis (EcEI-0.7954). The improvement in economic empowerment was found to be significant (t=70.129, p<0.0000). With respect to the income (before-0.0942, after-0.7550), Entrepreneurial and technical skills (before-0.0958, after-0.7983) personal savings (before-0.0908, after-0.7650), economic status (before-0.0933, after-0.7667), Financial Security (before-0.0817, after-0.7717), Living Conditions (before-0.1183, after-0.8108) the respondent beneficiaries were weak before joining the NGOs. In these areas the respondent beneficiaries’ economic condition was improved significantly after they joined the NGOs as per index values. However in the area of Opportunity for Economic Development there was a decline instead of improvement, as was revealed by Opportunity for Economic Development index. It is 0.967 before they joined the NGO, it declined to 0.8350 after they became the beneficiaries. However the overall economic empowerment level was improved.

11. Before joining the NGO the Political Empowerment Index (PEI) was 0.1804 and after joining NGO it increased to 0.8064. The absolute ‘t’ value of mean difference between Political Empowerment Index (PEI) before and after joining NGO is 57.198 and it was statically significant at 5% significance level. The improvement in Political empowerment level was found to be significant (t=57.198, p<0.0000). Before joining NGOs the political empowerment level of beneficiaries was very in the areas like active participation in politics (0.1575), Attending and Participating Gram Sabha Discussions (0.1283), and Desire to contest gram panchayat or any local bodies (0.1683). After becoming the beneficiaries of NGO there was significant improvement in their empowerment level. The overall Political Empowerment has improved after they become the beneficiaries of NGOs. In the areas like Interest/Desire to vote (before 0.2542, after-0.8750), Awareness of
political institutions (before 0.1858, after-0.8592), Participation in family and Community decision making and Rights Awareness there was significant enhancement in the empowerment level( before- 0.1942, after- 0.8642).

12. The Social Empowerment Index (SEI) of respondents before is 0.1263 and it was 0.8126 after joining NGO. In the field of Group Cohesiveness (before-0.1192, after-0.8058), Membership in other social Organisations (before -0.0667, after-0.6917), Organisational skills (before-0.1225, after-0.8033), Social Freedom to work outside family & mix with friends (before-0.1392, after-0.8333) the respondent beneficiaries were weak showing low empowerment level. In other areas of social values and social life also there is significant improvement in the empowerment level. The absolute ‘t’ value of mean difference between Social Empowerment Index (SEI) before and joining NGO is 69.190 and the improvement was statically significant at 5% significance level (t=69.190, P< 0.000).

13. The Cultural Empowerment Index (CEI) of respondents before was 0.2533 and it was 0.8870 after joining NGO. There was significant improvement in cultural empowerment areas like Freedom for taking a kind of food (before-0.2592, after-0.8708), Freedom to participate in festivals & religious ceremonies (before -0.2483, after-0.8900), Freedom for choosing a kind of dress (before-0.2392, after-0.8448), Freedom for visiting pilgrim/ Religious places (before-0.2192, after-0.8767) The absolute ‘t’ value of mean difference between Cultural Empowerment Index before and joining NGO was 58.680 and statically significant at 5% since the ‘p’ value was 0.000. (t=58.680, P<0.0000)

14. With regard to Psychological Empowerment, empowerment level is low before they became the members of NGO. Before they became the beneficiaries of NGOs the Psychological Empowerment Index (PsEI) for the youth beneficiaries is 0.1640 and it is 0.8778 after they joined the NGO. There is significant improvement in Psychological Empowerment
level as is revealed by the increase in the Psychological Empowerment Index (PsEI) for youth beneficiaries after they joined the NGO. The absolute ‘t’ value of mean difference between Psychological Empowerment Index before and joining NGO is 79.729 and statically significant at 5% since the ‘p’ value is 0.000.

15. The overall empowerment index of respondents is 0.1629 and it increased to 0.8489 after they became the members of NGO. The absolute ‘t’ value of mean difference between Overall Empowerment Index before and joining NGO is 71.416 and statistically significant at 5% level. (t=71.416, p <0.0000) Therefore the various empowerment dimension index have improved after joining NGO, hence, it can be concluded that the level of empowerment of the beneficiaries is improved after joining NGO. It can be conclude that the NGOs empowerment programmes have positive impact on the youth empowerment level.

7.3. NGOs Youth empowerment programmes

‘From the field survey and interviews the researcher had with the chief executives, the staff and volunteers of the NGOs, it is observed that the respondent NGOs have the following youth empowerment programmes

16. All respondent NGOs have conducted and are conducting number of education empowerment programmes such Computer training, Tally, DTP, Spoken English classes, Soft skill training programs, some NGOs also have D. Ed, B. Ed programmes, nursing courses, for the benefit of youth beneficiaries.

17. The major health empowerment programs of respondent NGOs are awareness programs on Drug addiction, alcoholic consumption, tobacco consumption, AIDS awareness programmes, family health and hygiene and training in various sports.

18. The respondent NGOs haven taken up Economic empowerment programs like automobile training, courses in self finance, imparting
training in handicraft activities, training in dairy farming. Some NGOs also conducting beautician courses, embroidery classes, providing training in entrepreneurial skills.

19. Respondent NGOs are conducting various programmes on creating political awareness like legal awareness, conduct mock gram sabhas, encouraging the people to participate in polling, NGOs are also educating the youth on their constitutional rights and duties.

20. The NGOs are conducting Awareness programmes on social problems like dowry menace, child marriage, counseling programmes for reducing domestic violence, programmes to encourage women education, some NGOs also running old age homes for destitute aged people.

21. Some NGOs are also contributing to the development of art and culture among the youth such as conducting dance programmes, music classes. Yoga classes,

22. NGOs also conducting programmes on personality development, counseling the youths on stress related problems, confidence building programmes for youth. career guidance programmes

23. Some respondent NGOs are also conducting social welfare programmes like free health check up camps, free eye camps, awareness programmes on road safety, to general public along with the youth beneficiaries.

7.4. Problems faced by youth Beneficiaries and NGOs

From the survey and interviews with heads, staff and volunteers of NGOs, the researcher identified the following issues and challenges

1. There is a poor response from the youths towards the empowerment programmes conducted by the NGOs. It is due to various reasons like busy seasons in agriculture etc.

2. Due to lack of financial support the beneficiaries are not able to take up self employment though they are interested to set up their own enterprise after got trained from the NGOs.

3. The percentage of male respondents joining the NGOs is more than the percentage of female joining the NGOs.
4. Violence, attacks and harassment of staff working with NGOs and the NGOs themselves by the state, its agencies, law and order machinery as well as some vested interest

5. Chief functionaries and heads of NGOs complain that there is lack of commitment and determination among the NGOs staff the NGOs.

6. One of the major challenges faced by Indian NGOs is that NGOs are collaborating with political parties

7. Poor governance is a matter of serious concern for the government

8. Lack of accountability is the serious issue in the administration of NGOs

9. NGOs complain that there is poor response from public to the NGOs development programmes and schemes

10. Majority NGOs lack professionalism in their operations

11. Lack of trained staff and volunteers

12. Lack of committed and dedicated volunteers support to NGOs programmes.

7.5. Conclusion

The main focus of this study is to examine the status of youth, their problems, areas of concern to empower the youth, the NGOs functioning, their empowerment programmes and the impact of NGOs on youth empowerment in India and Karnataka in general and Bangalore rural district in particular. For this purpose the youth empowerment index has been constructed by taking in to consideration eleven key areas of national youth policy of 2014 for youth empowerment and the youth empowerment scale has been developed by adopting the commonwealth plan of Action for youth empowerment (PAYE).
Based on survey, interviews had with the heads of NGOs, NGO volunteers and beneficiaries of respondent NGOs and the findings of the study it was found that the majority of youths in rural area are not educationally, economically, socially and politically empowered compared to urban youth in spite of governments and NGOs efforts. The per capita income of rural people in real terms is much below the national and state level per capita income. The family, the society and all other stakeholders should encourage the youth to empower themselves in all spheres of life and make them the responsible citizens of nation. Again the NGOs operations should be made more transparent and accountable so that they can contribute to empowerment of youth.

We can conclude that in spite of continuous efforts made by the government and others in the development of youth (empowerment) still there is a long way to go in the reaching the real youth aspirants in the country. In this context, it is felt that along with the efforts of the state the voluntary sector (NGOs) should also shoulder responsibility in uplifting this segment and contribute to nations development by empowering our young generation.

7.6. Suggestions

Based on the above findings of the survey, the following suggestions are recommended to improve the performance of NGOs and other stakeholders especially the government to empower the youth.

1. NGOs should come out with Strategies for effective Mobilisation of local Community Resources.
2. NGOs should educate and create awareness among the local community about the youth development programmes of government and themselves.
3. The central government should enact a single unified Act for NGOs registration and monitoring the functioning of NGOs to make them more accountable and transparent in their dealings.
4. For a sustainable youth empowerment holistic approach is needed. The roles of different or stakeholders are interrelated, interdependent and
interconnected to make youth empowerment programmes more result oriented.

5. Multi pronged youth empowerment plans be designed.

7.7. Implications of the study

Based on study with respect to problems of rural youth, challenges in youth empowerment and NGOs challenges in their operations in general and youth empowerment in particular, this study has come out with following policy implications

1. Government should support and strengthen the NGOs through the Public Private Partnership (PPP) initiatives.

2. Special financial assistance in the form of rural development packages and technical advice is given to those NGOs working in rural areas.

3. Government should bring stricter and effective regulations to make the National Soft Skill Development Council (NSDC) more effective and under this scheme more NGOs be engaged to instill life skills and soft skills among the rural youths.

4. The government in partnership with NGOs should prepare special schemes and programmes for the development of youth especially in rural areas.

5. Government and NGOs should take up mass public awareness programmes to create awareness among the people on voluntary services of Non-governmental organisations and various youth development programmes.

6. The fake and fraudulent NGOs should be punished and genuine NGOs be encouraged to take up development programmes by providing more assistance.

7. NGOs operations are properly regulated through effective governance mechanism.

8. Government and NGOs should support youth at risk and create enabling economic environment to disadvantageous youth. For this
purpose government should develop multipronged approach to help disadvantageous youth.

9. Social audit be made more popular and government and NGOs work on youth empowerment programmes should be brought under social audit.

7.8. Scope for further research

The present study was conducted in the Bangalore rural district of Karnataka and the main focus of this study was to analyse the impact of NGOs various programmes on the empowerment of rural youth. From the literature review and survey conducted the researcher observed that in India extensive research work is done on NGOs role in rural development and women empowerment. India is a young country and has rich demographic dividend and NGOs are also doing commendable work in youth development field. The researcher feels that in spite of this, studies have not been conducted in the field of youth empowerment and the NGOs role in youth empowerment. In India ample opportunities are there for conducting research in youth development field and other youth related fields. Some specific areas are-

a. Influence of education on youth empowerment

b. Role of government and other stakeholders in achieving youth empowerment

c. The study on youth empowerment programmes. The relationships between fund allocation and these programmes can be studied separately in this area

d. Influence of urbanisation on rural youth and its implication on youth can be studied as the district has rapid urbanisation effect.