

## The Factor Analysis Components of Related to Obstacles of Members' Empowerment in Women's Rural Cooperatives (Case Study: Ilam)

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**Abstract:** This research was designed to identify the obstacles of members empowerment in women's rural cooperatives that has been performed by descriptive-correlation method. The study population of this research was 1242 member women's of women's rural cooperatives at Ilam province, which among them 128 members have been chosen by means of simple random sampling method. The instrument for collecting data was a questionnaire which its validity was confirmed by jury of experts and its reliability was established through calculating Cronbach Alpha coefficient, as estimated to be 0.93. Based on result, variables of related to the obstacles of women's empowerment with regard to their nature were summarized in six factors namely internal-behavioural, socio-cultural, educational, participatory, infrastructural-managing and external-organizational factors. The results of research showed that, these six factors explained %60 of the total variances of the variables.

**Key words:** Obstacles • Empowerment of rural women's • Women's rural cooperatives • Ilam

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### INTRODUCTION

Since the women's are among the world's largest group of disadvantaged people, therefore planners and policy makers should focus on overcoming the limitations and constraints facing women in rural areas and pushing toward the rural women's to their more empowerment [1]. In this research, the empowerment is a continues process that provides the structural conditions and the availability to the material and spiritual resources existed in the society for the finding power of women's in the house and society in to some extent that are some limitations for them. Based on the results of surveys and the presented antecedents, the empowerment of members in women's rural cooperatives was faced always by the obstacles and the limitations. Since the rectify of the obstacles of empowerment of the cooperatives members, needs to careful recognition of their nature and impact amount and with regard to the lack of studies in the field of empowerment, especially in related to members of cooperatives, therefore, the obstacles of members empowerment was in halo of ambiguity. Thus; with due attention to this vacuum, this research should be

explained the obstacles of empowerment of members this cooperatives and also, each of their influences on their empowerment. The present evidence on the performance of women's rural cooperatives in Ilam province indicates that in spite of presence of rural women's in these cooperatives and their participations in different economic and social arenas, but there was no specific action in the field of their empowerment. The functions of These cooperatives is limited to the securing of members necessities by using the consumption stores, the securing of credits and the required loans for the members and to open the account in agricultural bank and in the other cases that it was mentioned in the statute, it has a pale role. Naturally, the continuation of such a status has inconsistency with the cooperative statute. Thus, the necessity cognitive of the effective obstacles on the empowerment of cooperatives member's in Ilam provinces of in one hand and the presentation of the applicable solutions for their condition improvement on the other hand is important. In this regard a main question has been raised what are the factors/ or the variables is obstacle of the empowerment of cooperatives members in Ilam province? The answer to this question makes omit the

prohibit factors that to take away the possibility of the empowerment development of the members up to now and it has slowdown their empowerment procedure. Therefore based on the result of this research, the deficiencies, damages and the obstacles in this field are identified and hereby the responsible sections can rectify the obstacles and problems existing in this field.

According to the literature review, it can be stated that most of the authors and researchers agreed on the obstacles and the limitations of this society category. So that in a research, Bharathamma (2005) [2], refers to the obstacles which rural women's with faced to it. These obstacles include: the lack of suitable education, the two and multiple responsibilities of the rural women's and finally, the exercising prohibitions from male side. Grown *et al.*, (2005) [3], Vakoufari (2007) [4], Chaudhry and Nosheen (2009) [5] and Mumvandi (2009) [6] in their studies shown that the low knowledge and awareness of the members, the low income, lack of credits and financial resources, the exist limitations in the rural societies such as lack of change and mutation in society attitude towards the women's cooperation, inappropriate performance of managers, the lack of specialist personal and structural supports and lack of perception and members awareness of their role and station are obstacle the personal, social, economical, psychological and legal empowerment of the members. Singh *et al.*, (2010) [7] have accounted the most important obstacles of the empowerment of rural women's in India include: the illiteracy, families financial obstacles for investing in women's education, the low numbers of educated women's for to undertake the empowerment responsibilities, lack of the mass media, lack of socio-political participation, lack of extension-educational and vocational institutes in the rural areas, lack of women's leadership in the rural areas, lack of self-help groups, lack of women's awareness in relation to their rights, unavailable to suitable technology or knowledge and skill, lack of self-work cognitive because of males dominance in the society, the limitation of availability to the credits, lack of the business opportunities, lack of ownership (e.g. field and snare), lack of self-confidence and unavailability to the cooperatives and local organizations.

The other various obstacles such as the lack of suitable communication network in all levels and between whole members; lack of movement, malnutrition, low health and personal hygiene coefficient; lack of women specialists for educating the rural women's; and religion different perceptions related to the acquisition and women's presence in the economical, social and cultural scenes of the country can be accounted as the other

presented obstacles of the women's empowerment. Finally, with survey the theoretical literature of research, the 26 components related to the obstacles of rural women's empowerment capable of study in this research.

The main purpose of this study was to survey the obstacles of members' empowerment in women's rural cooperatives. To achieve this aim, we follow these specific goals:

- Identify the empowerment obstacles of cooperatives member's.
- Classification the components related to empowerment obstacles of cooperatives member's.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

In this study, the descriptive-correlation method was used and the main population (N=1242) were the members of the women's rural cooperatives in Ilam province from 2010 to 2011 year. The sample size was calculated by the simple random sampling method the 128 members selecting from townships such as Ilam, Darreshahr, Ivan.

The required information for this study was collected through questionnaire. Appearance and content validity of the questionnaire was assured by professors and the experts. The reliability of the questionnaire was confirmed by conducting a pre-test with 30 women from outside of the sample population and by a reliability test calculating cronbach's coefficient alpha ( $\alpha= 93\%$ ). This percentage showed the high credit rate of questionnaire. After ensuring of the validity and reliability of the questionnaire, 128 questionnaires were available to statistical sample. After completing all of them by respondents, research data were analyzed using SPSS win19 software. Statistical method and technique used in this study was factor analyze. In this study, a five-point likret-type scale (from very low to very high) was used.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The empowerment of the cooperatives members was faced with some obstacles that rectify their needs a careful cognitive of their nature and impact amount. Therefore, in this research, the analysis of the cooperatives member's views was done about special manner of impact any of these obstacles. In this study, 26 variables are analyzed from different aspects. In order to decrease the number of interfering variables in the obstacles of members' empowerment and determination the impact contribution of their, variables related to their in this part, was factor analyzed.

Table 1: KMO measure and Bartlett test to assess appropriateness of the data for factor analysis

Bartlett test		
Sig	Bartlett test coefficient	KMO
0.000	2168.522	0.785

Source: findings of research.

Table 2: Classifications the obstacles of the members' empowerment in women's rural cooperatives by using factor analysis

Category	Variables	Variance by factor
Internal-behavioural obstacles	The low confidence of the members to each other	32.150
	inattentive of the managers to the members requirements in the cooperative	
	Non-to supply of the members expectations of the women's rural cooperatives	
	little impact of the cooperative in improvement of the economical situation of the members	
	little impact of the cooperative in improvement of the psychology situation of the members	
	The low confidence of the members to the board of directors	
Socio-cultural obstacles	Lack of forming the cooperatives from bottom-up	6.936
	The low literacy of the members	
	The disbelieving of the members to the participation in cooperative	
	little impact of the cooperative in improvement of the social situation of the members	
	The traditional believes of the family's towards the women's employments	
Educational obstacles	The false attitude of the society towards the women's employments	6.467
	The unequal opportunities for the women's employments in the business market towards males	
	The lack of presented educations in the field of cooperative issues	
	Inappropriate educational methods	
Participatory obstacles	Lack of the special program for empowerment of women's	5.424
	The lack of economical possibilities of the members	
	Low knowledge and awareness of the board of directors in special manner of the correct administration of cooperative	
Infrastructural-managing obstacles	dissonance between the members and pillars of cooperative	4.552
	inappropriate communication network in all levels and between all members	
	The insufficient experience of the board of directors in the administration of the cooperative society activities	
External-organizational obstacles	The insufficient knowledge of the managing director in the administration of the cooperative society activities	4.207
	The insufficient experience of the managing director in the administration of the cooperative society activities	
	Distance of the cooperative from the main functions and doing the marginal activities	
	appointed of some managers	
	scientific weakness of the cooperative experts in this country	
	experience weakness of the cooperative experts in this country	

Source: findings of research.

Based on the results of Bartlett and KMO (Kaiser Mayer-Olkin) tests was realized whether the data are appropriate for factor analysis ( $KMO = 0.785$ ,  $Bartlett = 2168.522$ ,  $Sig = 0.000$ ). It revealed that the internal coherence of the data is appropriate (Table 1).

After the factors rotation by the VARIMAX way, variables of related to obstacles of members' empowerment were categorized into six factors (Table 2). The obtained results from the factor analysis revealed that the first group, which is labelled Internal-Behavioural obstacles, with special value 9.967 with the largest contribution explained 32.150% of the total variances

of the variables. This factor consists of seven items. The second group, labelled Socio-Cultural obstacles, is comprised of six items. This factor with special value 2.150 explained 6.936% of the variables variance. The third group is labelled educational obstacles. This factor consists of four items. This factor with the special value 2.005 explained 6.467% of the variables variance. The fourth group is labelled participatory obstacles. This factor consists of three items. This factor with particular value 1.681 explained 5.424% of the variables variance. The fifth group is labelled infrastructural-managing obstacles. This factor consists

of three items. This factor with special value 1.402 explained 4.552% of the variables variance. Finally; the sixth group, labelled external-organizational obstacles, is comprised of four items. This factor with special value 1.304 explained 4.207% of obstacles variance.

The obtained results from the factor analysis revealed that the six mentioned factors explained 60% of the total variance of empowerment obstacles. The remained 40% of the variance, related to the other factors that unforeseen in this research. Since the first factor has the main important obstacles and the last factor have the least important ones, therefore it can be pretended that the low confidence of the members to each other is the most important internal-behavioural obstacle that avoids the member's empowerment. In this field can say that low confidence of the members to each other, due to the lack of suitable communication network between the members, lack of agreement and coordination between their and the unequal behaviours' of managers with the members. The results of research by Naraghi (2010) [8] confirmed this finding.

Based on the results, the low literacy of the members is the most important socio-cultural obstacle. The results of research by Kalantari *et al.*, (2010) [9] confirmed this finding.

The results have shown that the most important educational problem that avoids the empowerment of the members was the lack of presented educations in the field of the cooperative issues. The results of researches' by Saadi and Arabmazar (2004) [10], Naraghi (2010) [8], Bharathamma (2005) [2] and Idrisa *et al.*, (2007) [11] confirmed this finding.

The low knowledge of the board of directors in special manner of the correct administration of the cooperative is most important obstacle in participatory obstacles domain. In this regard, it can be pretended that by considering the fact that main administrators of the cooperatives are pillars, thus, their low knowledge in the correct interaction with the cooperative problems can be a big obstacle for the empowerment of the members. The results of researches' by Vakoufaris (2007) [4] and Naraghi (2010) [8] confirmed this finding.

The insufficient experience of the board of directors in the cooperative administration was the main management problems in the cooperatives. In some cases, it is possible that the board of directors have the enough knowledge and science but do not have the business experience. Since the experience than the knowledge is more effective in empowerment, therefore, the insufficient experience of the board of directors has been faced the

cooperative with challenges. The results of research by Sobhanniannejhad and Zamani (2009) [12] confirmed this finding.

Based on the results, the main important organizational problem was the distance of the cooperatives from the main functions and doing the marginal activities. The results of research by Idrisa *et al.*, (2007) [11] confirmed this finding.

## CONCLUSION

According to the results of factor analysis the components related to the obstacles of member's empowerment, the following suggestions are proposed:

- Low literacy of member's was the most important obstacle of socio-cultural that the members were faced. Therefore, the combat with low literacy, the promotion of their knowledge and awareness and presenting the cultural services to them are essential.
- The lack of presented educations in the field of cooperative problems and issues was the main important obstacle of educational that the member's were faced. In this regard it can be recommended that, the education of the members should be part of educational system of the cooperatives and with to compile of the methods and the appropriate educational programs, promote their awareness and skill for doing their own regular tasks. Also, responsible parts should bound to dispose of the terms continuously and in the suitable qualitative and quantitative level. Also, it is essential to inform and invite of the members with the time distance and by using an appropriate method.
- In complete the previous suggestion; based on the statute of the women's rural cooperative, any cooperative should allocate from the special place of the income in case non-detriment, three percent to the development of education, under the name of "educational right". The mentioned cooperatives have the educational weakness, assuming to take into consideration the fact that these cooperatives have disadvantage, it cannot be a suitable justification for the lack of investigation to educational situation of cooperatives in this regional. As a rule, on the side of the central organization an amount distribute annually as the educational contribution to the cooperatives of any province. Thus, based on the allocated budget by the organization and based on the expenditure that

cooperative in case non-detriment annually for this affair payment is suggested that programmers promoted the education context. The programmers do not merely focus on the theoretical education but they try to put skill and business-making educations in the educational headlines.

- The most important obstacle in the domain of participatory obstacles was the low knowledge and awareness of board of directors in special manner of the correct administration of the cooperative. In fact, regarding the management of the cooperative was done by the managers from the very beginning of the cooperative society establishment, therefore most of the managers believe that the members should not interfere or participate in the cooperative activities. Naturally, such a situation has inconsistency with the cooperative statute that considers the democratic participation of all members and pillars as one of its principles. In this regard, suggest that culturalization for the participation management in cooperatives.
- In complete the previous suggestion; since the knowledge and awareness of board of directors toward the cooperative issues and its correct management is relatively low, thus need to education is completely perceptible. The managers, alone to take the reins of cooperatives. This issue reveals the weakness in the cooperatives performance. In this regard, it can be suggested that the responsible parts by using the extension programs and the mass-media promotion the awareness of managers' in this field.
- The distance of cooperatives from the main functions and doing the marginal activities, the most important obstacle was in the external-organizational obstacles domain. Therefore, the suggested solution would be the decline of government dominance on cooperatives activities and the democratic control by their members. So that the cooperatives to perform their main functions and with regard to the total interests of the members of cooperatives can to perform.

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