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Factors affecting empowerment of women

CHAPTER – 6

FACTORS AFFECTING EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Women's empowerment is a major concern in the developing world and is emerging as an important indicator of development of a society as well as the status of women (Sinha, 2012). One of the objectives of the present study is to find those factors/determinants influencing women's empowerment. Women empowerment is a process through which women acquire the ability to make strategic life choices in a context where this ability was previously denied to them, which establishes the importance of the "process" through which women progress towards an improved condition (Kabeer, 1999). Husband's absence due to his international migration followed by remittances and huge responsibilities to fulfill is the situation of left behind wives. The study investigated the various strategies through which left behind women outstrip those women who live with the husband, and accomplish with an overall development.

In this chapter, it is examined the various factors which determines women empowerment. In order to identify the determinant factors, multiple regression analysis was done with empowerment index as the dependent variable.

Thus this chapter is classified into two heads. They are;

6.1 Construction of empowerment index

6.2 Analysis of variables determining overall empowerment

6.1 Construction of empowerment Index

An empowerment index of women is prepared using the details regarding decision making, freedom to mobility, financial management and inter-spouse consultation in various day to day matters of the respondents. Details regarding each area are collected by asking questions and corresponding responses are used for preparing index for each area and also for overall empowerment.

6.1.1 Decision Making Index

In order to understand the decision-making power of the respondents, 20 decision areas were considered to prepare a decision-making index. Regarding decision making capacity, respondents were asked to mark their role in particular decision areas. If decisions are fully taken by themselves then it is self-decision, if decisions are taken by consulting with husband, in-laws, parents or some others then it is joint decisions, if decisions are taken by their husband, in laws, their parents or others without consulting the respondents then it is considered as others decision. In order to prepare a decision-making index response of the respondents towards each item was scored. Self-decisions are scored by two scores which show high degree of freedom for the decision makers. Joint decisions are scored by one score this shows moderate/average degree of freedom. Others decision are scored zero because the respondents are not having any role in that decision making. This is considered as no freedom in decision making. For the analysis of data the statements were scored as given in the Table 6.1.

Table: 6.1 Details regarding Decision making Index of the respondents

Decision matters	Migrant (n=150)			Non-migrant (n=150)			Overall (n=300)		
	Self	Jointly	Others	Self	Jointly	Others	Self	Jointly	Others
Daily household matters	117 (78)	4 (2.7)	29 (19.3)	114 (76.0)	6 (4.0)	30 (20.0)	231 (77.0)	10 (3.3)	59 (19.7)
Purchase of consumer durables	16 (10.7)	94 (62.7)	40 (26.7)	0	24 (16.0)	126 (84.0)	16 (5.3)	118 (39.3)	166 (55.3)
Own health care	123 (82.0)	9 (6.0)	18 (12.0)	36 (24.0)	69 (46.0)	45 (30.0)	159 (53.0)	78 (26.0)	63 (21.0)
Children's health care	126 (84)	10 (6.7)	14 (9.3)	12 (8.0)	81 (54.0)	57 (38.0)	138 (46.0)	91 (30.3)	71 (23.7)
Children's Education	32 (21.3)	108 (72.0)	10 (6.7)	0	81 (54.0)	69 (46.0)	32 (10.7)	189 (63.0)	79 (26.3)
Purchasing requirement for children	115 (76.7)	26 (17.3)	9 (6.0)	6 (4.0)	21 (14.0)	123 (82.0)	121 (40.3)	47 (15.7)	132 (44.0)
Spending free time	137 (91.3)	10 (6.7)	3 (2.0)	108 (72.0)	24 (16.0)	18 (12.0)	245 (81.7)	34 (11.3)	21 (7.0)
Studies, home business or your Job/work outside	105 (70.0)	22 (14.7)	23 (15.3)	42 (28.0)	18 (12.0)	90 (60.0)	147 (49.0)	40 (13.3)	113 (37.7)
Type of cloths to wear & purchase for yourself	109 (72.7)	21 (14.0)	20 (13.3)	48 (32.0)	21 (14.0)	81 (54.0)	157 (52.3)	42 (14.0)	101 (33.7)
Participation in social activities	91 (60.7)	14 (9.3)	45 (30.0)	24 (16.0)	33 (22.0)	93 (62.0)	115 (38.3)	47 (15.7)	138 (46.0)
About entertainment	77	49	24	0	30	120	77	79	144

Decision matters	Migrant (n=150)			Non-migrant (n=150)			Overall (n=300)		
	Self	Jointly	Others	Self	Jointly	Others	Self	Jointly	Others
	(51.3)	(32.7)	(16.0)		(20.0)	(80.0)	(25.7)	(26.3)	(48.0)
About family planning	4 (2.7)	138 (92.0)	8 (5.3)	0	114 (76.0)	36 (24.0)	4 (1.3)	252 (84.0)	44 (14.7)
Purchase and sale of real estate, (land gold, shares)	8 (5.3)	109 (72.7)	33 (22.0)	0	12 (8.0)	138 (92.0)	8 (2.7)	121 (40.3)	171 (57.0)
Monthly/yearly income budgeting	98 (65.3)	11 (7.3)	41 (27.3)	0	24 (16.0)	126 (84.0)	98 (32.7)	35 (11.7)	167 (55.7)
Control of money	96 (64.0)	18 (12.0)	36 (24.0)	0	12 (8.0)	138 (92.0)	96 (32.0)	30 (10.0)	174 (58.0)
Giving gift to your own friends and relatives	99 (66.0)	39 (26.0)	12 (8.0)	18 (12.0)	48 (32.0)	84 (56.0)	117 (39.0)	87 (29.0)	96 (32.0)
Moving out to market school, hospital, for paying bills	116 (77.3)	8 (5.3)	26 (17.3)	27 (18.0)	6 (4.0)	117 (78.0)	143 (47.7)	14 (4.7)	143 (47.7)
stay / visit to your family, friends and relatives	114 (76.0)	4 (2.7)	32 (21.3)	18 (12.0)	48 (32.0)	84 (56.0)	132 (44.0)	52 (17.3)	116 (38.7)
Moving out for your personal needs shopping health club, beauty parlor	116 (77.3)	8 (5.3)	26 (17.3)	48 (32.0)	15 (10.0)	87 (58.0)	164 (54.7)	23 (7.7)	113 (37.7)
Managing an emergency situation	118 (78.7)	4 (2.7)	28 (18.7)	18 (12.0)	3 (2.0)	129 (86.0)	136 (45.3)	7 (2.3)	157 (52.3)

(Values in the brackets are percentages) Computed by the researcher using survey data

An index for Decision Making capacity of the respondents is done by giving a score of two if the decision is done by their own, one if it is done by jointly and zero if the decision was done by some others that is the respondents have no role in decision making. If two is scored then the decision is taken by the respondent alone which means full decision-making power is enjoyed by the respondents. If one is scored then the decision is taken by respondent by discussing with husbands or in laws or parents. If zero is scored then it means that in the decision making the respondent have no role. As there are 20 decision matters, the total scores for this dimension may ranges in between 0 to 40. This entire range are equally classified in such a way that, the scores ranges in between 0 to 12 is classified into low level, 13 to 26 is classified as average level and 27 to 40 as high level of category. Classification according to this is given in Table 6.2.

Table 6.2. Levels of decision making among respondents

Level	Migrant		Non-migrant		Overall	
	No	Per cent	No	Per cent	No	Per cent
Low	26	17.3	99	66.0	125	41.7
Average	10	6.7	42	28.0	52	17.3
High	114	76.0	9	6.0	123	41.0
Total	150	100	150	100	300	100
Chi square value = 151.96**; p-value < 0.001						

** *significant at 0.01 level* Computed by the researcher, Source: Survey data

According to scores attained the respondents were categorized into 3 levels. Majority (76%) women in migrant households and only 6 per cent of women in non-migrant households comes under high level of decision making having full freedom in decision making. Only 17 per cent of left behind women and 66 per cent of non-migrant women comes under low decision making having no decision-making power. Thus, it is clear that decision making power is favorable to left behind women compared to those women who are living with their husbands. This difference in decision making is statistically tested and proved using χ^2 test. χ^2 value (151.96 with p-value <0.001) was found to be significant at 1 per cent level of significance, which indicates that there is notable difference in the decision-making power among migrants and non-migrants. Thus, migration paved the way for left behind women to take decisions and responsibilities in household management in the absence of their husbands.

6.1.2 Mobility Index

In order to understand the mobility level of the respondents, 10 areas where mobility needed for a normal life is considered. The freedom of mobility of the respondents is checked by investigating whether the respondents do have freedom to move alone independently or have freedom to move together with some others or do not have any freedom to move. In order to prepare an index of freedom of mobility scores were assigned to each response. If the respondent has freedom to move alone is given two scores, if the respondents have only freedom to move along with someone else then the score is one, and if the respondents are not at all allowed to move anywhere then 0

score is given. For a particular item if the respondent's score is two it denotes high level of freedom of mobility towards that particular matter, and if the score is one it indicates medium or average level of freedom of mobility for that matter and if the score is zero then it represents low level of freedom of mobility for that particular act. For the analysis of data, the statements were scored as given in the table.

Table No: 6.3 Details regarding Mobility Index of the respondents

Purpose	Migrant (n=150)			Non-migrant (n=150)			Overall (n=300)		
	Alone	With someone	Not at all	Alone	With someone	Not at all	Alone	With someone	Not at all
Bank	110 (73.3)	31 (20.7)	9 (6)	27 (18)	36 (24)	87 (58)	137 (45.7)	67 (22.3)	96 (32)
School	125 (83.3)	25 (16.7)	0 (0)	60 (40)	81 (54)	9 (6)	185 (61.7)	106 (35.3)	9 (3)
Market	100 (66.7)	11 (7.3)	39 (26)	21 (14)	39 (26)	90 (60)	121 (40.3)	50 (16.7)	129 (43)
To pay bills	101 (67.3)	8 (5.3)	41 (27.3)	18 (12)	24 (16)	108 (72)	119 (39.7)	32 (10.7)	149 (49.7)
Hospitals	50 (33.3)	94 (62.7)	6 (4)	12 (8)	132 (88)	6 (4)	62 (20.7)	226 (75.3)	12 (4)
Shopping	73 (48.7)	71 (47.3)	6 (4)	15 (10)	117 (78)	18 (12)	88 (29.3)	188 (62.7)	24 (8)
Recreation	31 (20.7)	74 (49.3)	45 (30)	9 (6)	33 (22)	108 (72)	40 (13.3)	107 (35.7)	153 (51)
Beauty Parlours/ health club visits/ morning walks	77 (51.3)	6 (4)	67 (44.7)	18 (12)	57 (38)	75 (50)	95 (31.7)	63 (21)	142 (47.3)
Visiting Relatives and attending family functions	98 (65.3)	51 (34)	1 (0.7)	30 (20)	111 (74)	9 (6)	128 (42.7)	162 (54)	10 (3.3)
Meetings	51 (34)	17 (11.3)	82 (54.7)	12 (8)	0 (0)	138 (92)	63 (21)	17 (5.7)	220 (73.3)

Values in the brackets are percentages. Computed by the researcher, Source: Survey data

As there are total 10 mobility purposes are included, the total scores for freedom to mobility may ranges in between 0 to 20. This entire range are equally classified in such a way that, the scores ranges in between 0 to 6 is classified into low level, 7 to 13 is classified as average level and 14 to 20 as high level of category. Classification according to this is given in Table 6.4.

Table 6.4. Levels of mobility among the respondents

Level	Migrant		Non-migrant		Overall	
	No	Per cent	No	Per cent	No	Per cent
Low	22	14.7	90	60.0	112	37.3
Average	35	23.3	51	34.0	86	28.7
High	93	62.0	9	6.0	102	34.0
Total	150	100	150	100	300	100
Chi square value = 113.439**; p-value < 0.001						

** significant at 0.01 level

Computed by the researcher, Source: Survey data

According to the scores attained, the respondents are classified into 3 levels that are low, average and high. In the sample, 62 per cent of women in migrant households and only 6 per cent of women in non-migrant households are having high freedom of mobility. While 23 per cent of left behind women and 34 per cent of women in non-migrant households are having average level of mobility. Majority (60 %) women in non-migrant households are having low level of mobility. Thus, it is clear that non-migrant women are having lesser freedom of mobility compared to left behind women. This is in statistically tested and proved using χ^2 test. χ^2 value (113.439 with p-value <0.001) was found to be significant at 1 per cent level of significance, which indicates that there is notable difference in the freedom of mobility between women in migrant households and in non-migrants' households. Thus, we can say that husband's absence due to international migration leads to a higher mobility to their left behind women in the origin.

6.1.3 Financial management Index

In order to understand the respondent's authority in financial matters, 8 financial matters related to households were considered. Financial independence of the respondents was investigated by the response of the respondents in those matters. An index for freedom to financial management of the respondents is done by giving a score of one if they have authority in that matter and zero if they have no authority

Table 6.5. Details of financial management index of the respondents

Financial matters	Migrant		Non-migrant		Overall	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Have money as their own	125 (83.3)	25 (16.7)	66 (44.0)	84 (56.0)	191 (63.7)	109 (36.3)
Have bank Account	124 (82.7)	26 (17.3)	39 (26.0)	111 (74.0)	163 (54.3)	137 (45.7)
Have taken loan by them self to start a business	13 (8.7)	137 (91.3)	12 (8.0)	138 (92.0)	25 (8.3)	275 (91.7)
Keeping money without another knowledge	85 (56.7)	65 (43.3)	102 (68.0)	48 (32.0)	187 (62.3)	113 (37.7)
Subscribe to chitties/Kuries	109 (72.7)	41 (27.3)	42 (28.0)	108 (72.0)	151 (50.3)	149 (49.7)
Sending money by husband to respondent itself own name or entrusting money with wife	115 (76.7)	35 (23.3)	24 (16.0)	126 (84.0)	139 (46.3)	161 (53.7)
Control of income by respondent herself	106 (70.7)	44 (29.3)	3 (2.0)	147 (98.0)	109 (36.3)	191 (63.7)
Knowing about how much money earned by the husband	84 (56.0)	66 (44.0)	37 (24.7)	113 (75.3)	121 (40.3)	179 (59.7)

Values in the brackets are percentages Computed by the researcher, Source: Survey data

As there are 8 such statements, the total scores for this dimension may ranges in between 0 to 8. This entire range are equally classified in such a way that, the scores ranges in between 0 to 2 is classified into low level, 3 to 5 is classified as average level and 6 to 8 as high level of category. Classification according to this is given in Table 6.6.

Table 6.6. Level of freedom in financial matters

Level	Migrant		Non-migrant		Overall	
	No	Per cent	No	Per cent	No	Per cent
Low	26	17.3	93	62.0	119	39.7
Medium	32	21.3	48	32.0	80	26.7
High	92	61.3	9	6.0	101	33.7
Total	150	100.0	150	100.0	300	100.0
Chi square value = 109.131**; p-value < 0.001						

** *Significant at 0.01 level* Computed by the researcher, Source: Survey data

According to the scores attained, the respondents are classified into low, medium and high levels of financial freedom. In the sample about 61 per cent of respondents in migrant category and only 6 per cent in non-migrant category are having high authority in household financial matters. While 21 per cent in migrant category and 32 per cent in non-migrant category of respondents are having medium level authority in

financial matters. Majority (62 per cent) respondents in non-migrant category are only having low level of authority in financial matters. It is only 17 per cent in migrant category of respondents. This indicates that women in migrant household have more financial freedom and authority compared to women in non-migrant households. This is in statistically tested and proved using χ^2 test. χ^2 value (109.131 with p-value <0.001) was found to be significant at 1 percent level of significance, which indicates that there is notable difference in the financial freedom and independence between women in migrant households and in non-migrants' households. Thus, it is clear that absence of husbands due to migration is giving more financial freedom and authority to left behind women. And at the same time the presence of husbands excludes women from indulging in financial matters.

6.1.4 Details of inter-spouse consultation index

In order to understand about the degree of inter spouse consultation, 10 various areas were selected and asked the respondents whether they require consultation before doing that particular activity. If the respondents need consultation then it reveals less individuality and denote low empowerment and if she does not need any consultation before doing that household activity then it signifies more freedom and thus indicate more empowerment.

Table 6.7. Details regarding inter-spouse consultation

Matters	Migrant		Non-migrant		Overall	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Buying household durables	0	150 (100)	3 (2)	147 (98)	3 (1)	297 (99)
Buying household perishables	26 (17.3)	124 (82.7)	54 (36)	96 (64)	80 (26.7)	220 (73.3)
Purchase of land, gold, etc.	142 (94.7)	8 (5.3)	147 (98)	3 (2)	289 (96.3)	11 (3.7)
Education, expense of children	138 (92)	12 (8)	150 (100)	0 (0)	288 (96)	12 (4)
Your medical treatment	92 (61.3)	58 (38.7)	147 (98)	3 (2)	239 (79.7)	61 (20.3)
Medical treatment of your family members	60 (40)	90 (60)	135 (90)	15 (10)	195 (65)	105 (35)
Your purchase of cloths	82 (54.7)	68 (45.3)	150 (100)	0 (0)	232 (77.3)	68 (22.7)
Your outings	56 (37.3)	94 (62.7)	108 (72)	42 (28)	164 (54.7)	136 (45.3)
Meeting your friends and relatives	74 (49.3)	76 (50.7)	138 (92)	12 (8)	212 (70.7)	88 (29.3)
Daily food preparation	79 (52.7)	71 (47.3)	129 (86)	21 (14)	208 (69.3)	92 (30.7)

Values in the brackets are percentages Computed by the researcher, Source: Survey data

An index for inter-spouse consultation of the respondents is done by giving a score of one if they are consulting with husband or others and zero if they are not consulting with anybody. As there are 10 matters, the total scores for this dimension may range in between 0 to 10. This entire range is equally classified in such a way that, the scores range in between 0 to 3 is classified into low level, 4 to 6 is classified as average level and 7 to 10 as high level of category. Classification according to this is given in Table 6.8.

Table 6.8. Levels of Inter-spouse consultation

Level	Migrant		Non-migrant		Overall	
	No	Per cent	No	Per cent	No	Per cent
Low	62	41.3	0	0	62	20.7
Medium	32	21.3	21	14.0	53	17.7
High	56	37.3	129	86.0	185	61.7
Total	150	100.0	150	100.0	300	100.0
Chi square value = 93.088**; p-value < 0.001						

** significant at 0.01 level

Computed by the researcher, Source: Survey data

Majority (41 per cent) women in migrant households are in the category of low level of inter-spouse consultation and it is zero in case of women in non-migrant households. This indicates that 41 per cent of left behind women are having high level of individuality and independence in household matters so that, they can do things in their own way without consulting anybody. While no single non-migrant women are having such a high level of independence and individuality in household matters. About 21 per cent of left behind women and 14 per cent of women in non-migrant households are in the category of medium level inter-spouse consultation. Majority (86%) of women in non-migrant households and only 37 per cent in left behind women are in the category of high levels of inter-spouse consultation. This indicates a very low level of independence in doing a household activity in her-own way as she wishes, among women in non-migrant households. This is because since the husband is around, wife uses to consult each and every thing with him and thus loses capacity to decide herself even in an emergency critical situation. This difference in levels of inter-spouse consultation among women in migrant and non-migrant households are statistically tested and proved using chi-square test. χ^2 value (93.088 with p-value <0.001) was found to be significant at 1 per cent level of significance, which indicates

that there is notable difference in the inter spouse consultation between women in migrant households and in non-migrants households. Thus, it is clear that absence of husbands due to migration gives an environment of freedom for left behind women to behave independently without consulting anybody in household matters. Which give them more confidence to face any difficult or emergency life situations. Whereas the presence of husbands, give way to involve them in all day today household activities which restrict the independent performance of their wife.

6.1.5 Overall empowerment index

An index for overall empowerment was computed by taking the scores on decision making index, freedom to mobility index, freedom in financial management index and inter-spouse consultation index and adding the scores for each dimension. Score for freedom for doing things with lesser inter-spouse consultation is considered as more empowerment so it is obtained by subtracting the inter spouse consultation score form the maximum expected score 10. That is inter spouse consultation is reversely scored in inter-spouse consultation index for preparing overall empowerment index. Thus, the maximum score for each dimension is like decision making index is 40, mobility index is 20, financial management index is 8 and inter spouse consultation index is 10. Thus, the maximum score for overall empowerment index is 78. Total scores for the overall empowerment may ranges in between 0 to 78. This entire range are equally classified in such a way that, the scores ranges in between 0 to 26 is classified into low level, 27 to 52 is classified as average level and 53 to 78 as high level of category. Classification according to this is given in Table 106.

Table 6.9. Level of overall empowerment

Level	Migrant		Non-migrant		Overall	
	No	Per cent	No	Per cent	No	Per cent
Low	26	17.3	102	68.0	128	42.7
Medium	25	16.7	42	28.0	67	22.3
High	99	66.0	6	4.0	105	35.0
Total	150	100.0	150	100.0	300	100.0
Chi square value = 131.810**; p-value < 0.001						

** significant at 0.01 level

Computed by the researcher, Source: Survey data

Overall empowerment is high in case of women in migrant households with 66 per cent and it is very low in case of women in non-migrant households with mere 4 per

cent. While in case of medium level of overall empowerment, 28 per cent women in non-migrant households and 17 per cent women in migrant households are there. Majority (68 per cent) non-migrant households are in the category of low-level overall empowerment, while it is only 17 per cent in case of left behind women. It is clear from the table that women in non-migrant household's lag behind left behind women in overall empowerment. This difference of overall empowerment existing in women in migrant and non-migrant households is statistically tested and proved using χ^2 test. χ^2 value (131.810 with p-value <0.001) was found to be significant at 1 per cent level of significance, which indicates that there is notable difference in the overall empowerment between women in migrant households and in non-migrants households. Thus, it is clear that left behind women in migrant households are more empowered than the women living with husbands.

6.2 Analysis of variables determining overall empowerment

6.2.1 Interrelation between different dimensions and overall empowerment

Table 6.10. Interrelation between different dimensions and overall empowerment

Dimensions	Overall empowerment	Decision making	Freedom to mobility	Inter-spouse Consultation	Financial Management
Overall empowerment	1	0.978**	0.942**	-0.815**	0.908**
Decision making	0.978**	1	0.865**	-0.714**	0.875**
Freedom to mobility	0.942**	0.865**	1	-0.819**	0.834**
Inter-spouse Consultation	-0.815**	-0.714**	-0.819**	1	-0.681**
Financial Management	0.908**	0.875**	0.834**	-0.681**	1

** significant at 0.01 level

Computed by the researcher, Source: Survey data

Karl Pearson's correlation coefficient was worked out for finding out the interrelation between different dimensions and overall empowerment. Results shows that correlation between decision making, freedom to mobility, freedom for financial management and overall empowerment was positive and significant at 0.01 level. Positive correlation indicates that as one of the variables increases another variable also increasing. This means that overall empowerment is improving as the decision-

making capacity, freedom to mobility and freedom for financial management increases and vice versa. However, inter-spouse consultation is negatively and significantly correlated with all other variables which indicates that inter spouse consultation is inversely related to overall empowerment, decision making capacity, freedom to mobility and freedom for financial management.

6.2.2 Comparison of overall empowerment with different variables

Table 6.11. Comparison of overall empowerment among migrant and non-migrant

Group	Mean	SD	Z-value	p-value
Migrant	52.48	18.88	15.93**	< 0.001
Non-migrant	23.11	12.38		

** significant at 0.01 level Computed by the researcher, Source: Survey data

Z-test was done for comparing the overall empowerment among left behind women and women in non-migrant households. Z-value (15.93) was found to be significant indicating that there exists significant difference in overall empowerment among migrant and non-migrant respondents. Mean value shows that the higher value is for women in migrant households (52.48). This indicates that left behind women has significantly higher empowerment compared to women in non-migrant households. Thus, we can say that migration status play an important role in determining, women empowerment.

Table 6.12. Comparison of overall empowerment among rural and urban

Group	Migrants		Non-migrants		Total	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Rural	49.09	19.60	21.20	11.43	35.14	21.25
Urban	27.57	16.65	25.97	13.28	41.77	21.83
Z-value (P-value)	2.753** (0.007)		2.345* (0.020)		2.616** (0.009)	

Computed by the researcher, Source: Survey data

Z-test was done for comparing the overall empowerment among rural and urban respondents. Z-value was found to be significant indicating that there exists significant difference in overall empowerment among rural and urban respondents. The mean empowerment index of rural respondents is 35.14; while that of urban is 41.77. Mean value shows that the higher value for urban respondents. This indicates that urban respondents have significantly higher empowerment compared to rural respondents. Among women in migrant households (LBW) living in rural areas empowerment index is found higher (49.09) than in urban area (27.57). While empowerment index in the case of women in non-migrant households is found higher for urban (21.20) women than rural (25.97). This may be due to the special features of Kerala, that is there is no much difference between urban and rural areas in Kerala. Not fully but most of the features and facilities in urban area are now seen and available in most of the rural areas in our state.

Table 6. 13. Comparison of overall empowerment among Joint and nuclear family

Group	Migrants		Non-migrants		Total	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Joint	35.67	21.82	21.57	11.61	29.37	19.24
Nuclear	61.40	8.09	23.70	12.67	41.64	21.70
Z-value (P-value)	8.206** (<0.001)		0.947 ^{ns} (0.345)		4.915** (<0.001)	

** significant at 0.01 level; ns non-significant Computed by the researcher, Source: Survey data

Z-test was done for comparing the overall empowerment among Joint and Nuclear family. Z-value was found to be significant indicating that there exists significant difference in overall empowerment among the respondents belonging to Joint and Nuclear family. Mean value shows higher value for respondents in nuclear family. This indicates that respondents in nuclear family (41.64) have significantly higher empowerment compared to respondents in joint family (29.37). While respondents in both joint and nuclear family, women in migrant families have more empowerment compared to women in non-migrant households. Women living in joint families have a higher level of restrictions than is experienced by women in nuclear families. In

joint families there are many members to share with their responsibilities. While women in nuclear families have more freedom to do things in their own manner.

Table 6.14 Comparison of overall empowerment among Employed and unemployed

Group	Migrants		Non-migrants		Total	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Employed	59.56	14.92	32.40	10.93	52.15	18.46
Unemployed	44.39	19.76	20.78	11.64	29.48	18.93
Z-value (P-value)	5.249** (<0.001)		4.946** (<0.001)		10.090** (<0.001)	

** significant at 0.01 level Computed by the researcher, Source: Survey data

Z-test was done for comparing the overall empowerment among employed and unemployed respondents. Z-value was found to be significant indicating that there exists significant difference in overall empowerment among the employed and unemployed respondents. Higher mean value (52.15) for employed respondent indicates that empowerment is significantly higher among employed respondents compared to unemployed respondents (29.48). While respondents in both employed and unemployed, women in migrant families have more empowerment compared to women in non-migrant households.

Table 6.15. Comparison of overall empowerment among different religion

Group	Migrants		Non-migrants		Total	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Hindu	61.78	8.92	23.65	9.60	37.70	20.72
Muslim	49.78	20.30	20.71	11.75	36.78	1.55
Christian	59.57	7.93	45.00	10.85	51.38	3.00
F-value (P-value)	5.394** (0.006)		19.882** (<0.001)		3.417* (0.034)	

** significant at 0.01 level; * significant at 0.05 level Computed by the researcher, Source: Survey data

As there are three categories in religion one-way analysis of variance was done for comparing between religion. Comparison was done for migrants and non-migrants separately and then combining all the migrants and non-migrants. Results shows that

F-value in the case of migrants and also in the case non-migrants is found to be significant at 0.01 level and that for overall cases it is significant at 0.05 level. Significant F-value indicates that there exists significant difference in empowerment among different religion both in migrant and non-migrant cases and also in the case of overall sample. Hence pair wise comparison was done by using Least Significant Difference (LSD) test. Results for the same also represented in the Table 6.16.

Table 6.16. Results of pair wise Comparison of overall Empowerment among different religion using LSD test

Pair	Religion	Migrant		Non-migrant		Total	
		Mean	P-value	Mean	P-value	Mean	P-value
Pair 1	Hindu	61.78	0.002**	23.65	0.137 ^{ns}	37.70	0.752 ^{ns}
	Muslim	49.78		20.71		36.78	
Pair 2	Hindu	61.78	0.776 ^{ns}	23.65	< 0.001**	37.70	0.022*
	Christian	59.57		45.00		51.38	
Pair3	Muslim	49.78	0.173 ^{ns}	20.71	< 0.001**	36.78	0.009**
	Christian	59.57		45.00		51.38	

** significant at 0.01 level; ns non-significant Computed by the researcher, Source: Survey data

In the case of migrants, Muslim category has significantly lower empowerment compared to Hindus. No significant difference was noted between Muslim and Christian and also between Muslim and Hindus. In the case of non-migrants, no significant difference was noted between Muslim and Hindus. However, Christian has significantly higher empowerment compared to other two categories. The pattern of significant difference observed in the case of non-migrant was noted in the overall sample.

Table 6.17 Comparison of overall Empowerment among different age group

Group	Migrants		Non-migrants		Total	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
≥ 40	59.07	13.85	25.68	14.00	44.57	21.64
Below 40	44.53	21.06	21.24	10.76	31.46	19.80
Z-value (P-value)	4.885** (<0.001)		2.107* (0.037)		5.462** (<0.001)	

** significant at 0.01 level; * significant at 0.05 level Computed by the researcher, Source: Survey data

Age is another important factor in determining the empowerment of women. Z-test was done for comparing the overall empowerment among respondents above 40 years and below 40 years. Z-value was found to be significant at 0.01 level indicating that there exists significant difference in overall empowerment among the respondents above 40 years and below 40 years. Higher mean value (44.57) for respondent above age group 40 indicates that empowerment is significantly higher among respondents above age group 40 compared to respondents below age group (31.46). Test result shows similar pattern of result for both migrants and non-migrant women. Also, respondents in both category that is above 40 years and below 40 years, women in migrant families have more empowerment compared to women in non-migrant households. The results of the study show that older women are having more empowerment compared to younger women.

Table 6.18. Comparison of overall Empowerment marital duration among migrants and non-migrants

Group	Migrants		Non-migrants		Total	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
≥ 10	53.46	19.20	23.68	13.45	39.97	22.42
Below 10	44.31	13.89	21.46	8.58	28.11	14.67
Z-value (P-value)	1.845 (0.067)		1.185 (0.239)		4.855** (<0.001)	

** significant at 0.01 level; ns non-significant Computed by the researcher, Source: Survey data

Similar to age marital duration is another important variable determining women empowerment. Z-test was done for comparing the overall empowerment among respondents above 10 years of marital duration with those having below 10 years of marital duration. Z-value was found to be significant at 0.01 level indicating that there exists significant difference in overall empowerment among the respondents above 10 years of marital duration and below 10 years of marital duration. Higher mean value (39.97) for respondent above 10 years of marital duration indicates that empowerment is significantly higher among respondents above 10 years of marital duration compared to respondents below 10 years of marital duration (28.11). Test result shows similar pattern of result for both migrants and non-migrant women. Also, respondents in both category that is above 10 years of marital duration and below 10 years of marital duration, women in migrant families have more empowerment

compared to women in non-migrant households. In both cases F value are significant also. The results of the study show that as marital duration increases the empowerment of women also increases.

Table 6.19. Comparison of overall Empowerment among different income group

Income group	Mean	SD
≤ 50000	23.36	12.81
50001-100000	45.95	20.22
Above 1 Lakh	60.08	14.03
F-value (P-value)	143.093** (<0.001)	

** significant at 0.01 level; Computed by the researcher, Source: Survey data

Monthly income is classified into 3 categories to check whether there is any association between income category and women empowerment. Significant F-value indicates that there exists significant difference in empowerment among different income categories in the case of overall sample. As income increases empowerment also increases. A pair wise comparison was done by using LSD test. Results for the same also represented in the Table 6.20.

Table 6.20. Results of pair wise Comparison of overall Empowerment among different income group using LSD test

Pair	Religion	Mean	P-value
Pair 1	≤ 50000	23.36	< 0.001**
	50001-100000	45.95	
Pair2	≤ 50000	23.36	< 0.001**
	Above 1 Lakh	60.08	
Pair 3	50001-100000	45.95	< 0.001**
	Above 1 Lakh	60.08	

** Significant at 0.01 level; ns non-significant Computed by the researcher, Source: Survey data

Pair wise comparison results also show that there exists significant difference in the overall empowerment among different income group. There is an increase in the mean

value of empowerment as the income level increases. So, it can be concluded that overall empowerment increases as the income increases.

Table 6.21 Correlation of overall empowerment with selected variables

Variables	Migrants		Non-migrants		Overall	
	Correlation	P-value	Correlation	P-value	Correlation	P-value
Education	0.158 ^{ns}	0.053	0.133 ^{ns}	0.105	0.332**	< 0.001
Monthly income	0.529**	< 0.001	0.332**	< 0.001	0.702**	< 0.001
Education of the spouse	0.418**	< 0.001	0.062	0.452	0.454**	< 0.001

** significant at 0.01 level; ns non-significant Computed by the researcher, Source: Survey data

Correlation of overall empowerment with education of respondents in migrant and non-migrant category was found non-significant, which implies that there is no linear relation between education and overall empowerment in respondents among migrant and non-migrant category. But in the total sample Correlation of overall empowerment with education is found significant with correlation coefficient 0.332 which shows a low positive correlation between education and overall empowerment.

Correlation coefficient (0.702) of overall empowerment and monthly income of the respondents was found to be significant at 0.01 levels with p value < 0.001. This means a high positive correlation between income and empowerment that is as income increases overall empowerment of the respondents also increases. Among migrant and non-migrant categories of respondent's similar pattern of relationship between monthly income and overall empowerment was found. A moderate positive correlation (0.529) is seen among migrant respondents and a low positive correlation (0.332) is seen among non-migrants.

Correlation coefficient (0.454) of overall empowerment with education of spouse of the respondents was found to be significant at 0.01 level with p value < 0.001. This means a moderate positive correlation between education of spouse and overall empowerment. The test result implies that as education of spouse increases the overall empowerment of the respondents increases. Among migrant and non-migrant categories of respondent's similar pattern of relationship between spouse education and overall empowerment was found. A moderate positive correlation (0.418) is seen

among migrant respondents and a low positive correlation (0.062) is seen among non-migrants.

Table 6.22. Correlation of overall empowerment with selected variables

Variables	Correlation	P-value
Age	0.285**	< 0.001
No. of earning Members	0.156**	0.007
Family Size	-0.191**	0.001
Social participation	0.578**	< 0.001

Computed by the researcher, Source: Survey data

Spearman Rank correlation was done for finding out whether age, number of earning members in the family, family size, and participation in social activity. Among other variables, age, Number of earning members in the family and participation in social activity are significantly positively correlated with empowerment. Family size is negatively correlated with empowerment. Negative correlation of the empowerment shows that as the family size increases overall empowerment decreases.

Table 6.23 Correlation of overall empowerment with psychological wellbeing

Variables	Correlation	P-value
Autonomy	0.746**	< 0.001
Environment mastery	0.631**	< 0.001
Personal growth	0.476**	< 0.001
Positive relation	0.518**	< 0.001
Purpose of life	0.372**	< 0.001
Self-acceptance	0.692**	< 0.001
Overall Psychological wellbeing	0.733**	< 0.001

** significant at 0.01 level Computed by the researcher, Source: Survey data

Karl Pearson's correlation coefficient was worked out for finding out whether dimensions of psychological wellbeing are significantly related to overall empowerment. All the correlation was found to be significant and positive. This shows that as the psychological wellbeing increases empowerment is also increases.

6.2.3 Multiple regression for finding out the determinant factors of empowerment

From the results of univariate analysis, it is observed that empowerment is influenced by age, education and occupation of the respondent, migration status, locality, type of family, number of earning members in the family, family size, monthly income and participation in social activity and overall psychological wellbeing. Among the above variables, empowerment index is dependent variable all other variables are independent. As these independent variables have some interrelation between them, to find out which of the variables are determinant factors of empowerment, a multiple linear regression equation was fitted with empowerment as dependent variable. Fourteen variables like overall psychological wellbeing, migration status, type of family, Locality, age, education and occupation status of the respondent, education of father and mother of the respondent, occupation status of mother of the respondent, marital duration, education of the spouse, monthly income and social participation of the respondents are used as independent variables .

Stepwise procedures are used for fitting the regression equation. Results of multiple regression analysis were given in Table 6.24. Stepwise regression procedure was used for variable selection in the final model. This procedure is a combination of forward selection (for adding significant terms) and backward selection (for removing no significant terms). As in forward selection, we start with only the intercept and add the most significant term to the model. At each step, the independent variable not in the equation that has the smallest p -value is entered, if that probability is sufficiently small. Variables already in the regression equation are removed if their probability of p -value becomes sufficiently large. The method terminates when no more variables are eligible for inclusion or removal. We use a p -value threshold to determine when to stop adding terms to the model. For example, set the p -value to enter the model at 0.05 or 0.10. At each step, look at the p -values for the terms in the model and compare the p -values to the threshold for removal. For example, we might set a p -value to leave the model at 0.10 or 0.15. If a p -value is greater than the threshold, the term is removed from the model. Results of the final model are given in Table 6.24. In the stepwise procedure only, significant variables are included in the final model non-significant variables are excluded from the model.

Variables namely Locality, education of the respondent, monthly income, period after marriage, education of the parents of the respondents are excluded from the final model as these variables are not influencing the empowerment of the respondents.

Table 6.24. Results of regression for finding out the determinant factors of overall empowerment for the total sample

Variables	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t-value	P-value
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	0.273	4.498		0.061 ^{ns}	.952
Overall wellbeing	0.347	0.034	0.360	10.107**	.000
Migration status	-16.843	1.334	-0.395	12.628**	.000
Social participation	3.912	0.546	0.205	7.160**	.000
Type of Family	7.695	1.211	0.167	6.354**	.000
Occupation status of the respondent	4.753	1.300	0.107	3.655**	.000
Age of the respondent	0.172	0.067	0.067	2.572*	.011
Occupation status of the mother of respondent	2.581	1.241	0.057	2.080*	.038
Education of the spouse	0.801	0.403	0.057	1.990*	.048
F-value = 167.576**; P-value < 0.001 Coefficient of determination (R ²) = 0.829					

** significant at 0.01 level; * significant at 0.05 level; ns non-significant, Computed by the researcher, Source: Survey data

F-value (167.576) was found to be significant at 0.01 level of significance and Coefficient of determination (R²) is 0.829. So the model is a good fit and almost 83 per cent of the variability in overall empowerment is due to the independent variables namely overall psychological wellbeing, migration status, social participation, type of family, occupation status of the respondent, age of the respondent, occupation status of the mother of the respondent and education of the spouse, which are included in the final multiple regression model. Variables in regression model are coded as index developed for overall psychological wellbeing and social participation. Dummy variable 1 for non-migrant and 0 for migrant, for family type it is taken as 1 for nuclear and 0 for joint family, occupational status of mother of the respondent is also taken as dummy variable one for employed and zero for not employed. Respondents

age is taken as their actual age. Education of spouse is taken as 0 for no formal education, 1 SSLC and below, 2 plus two, 3 under graduation, 4 non-professional PG, 5 professional UG, 6 professional PG.

Among these variables, all variable except migration status has a positive regression coefficient which indicates that these variables are positively influencing overall empowerment of the respondents. Variables like migration status, type of family, occupation status of respondents and occupational status of mother of respondents are taken as dummy variable zero and one. In the case of migrant and non-migrant, the regression coefficient was negative. This is only because the code given to migrant is zero and non-migrant is one. Negative slope coefficient indicate that unit increase in the value of the independent variable results in the decrease in the overall empowerment *ie.* Comparing migrant to non-migrant there is a decrease in the overall empowerment. Magnitude of standardized regression coefficient is higher for migration status followed by overall psychological wellbeing and social participation. This shows that these three variables are most significant variable influencing the overall empowerment of the respondents.

Univariate analysis reveals that education of the respondent, number of earning members in the family and monthly income has a significant influence on overall empowerment, but in the multiple regressions analysis reveals that these variables are not directly influencing the overall empowerment of the respondents. All the other variables like occupation of the respondent, migration status, type of family, education of spouse, age of respondent, and occupational status of respondent's mother, participation in social activities and overall wellbeing has a significant influence on the overall empowerment of the respondents.

Conclusion

In this chapter which deals with the factors determining the empowerment of women, which is one of the most important objectives of the present study, the impact of international male migration on left behind women in Malappuram district. It was found migration status itself as one of the major factors determining empowerment of women in the study area. Migration status gives women an exposure to experience various opportunities which were once inaccessible for them. Thus, migration status

can be said as a window of opportunity for the respondents in the study area. Migration of husbands gives a chance to the left behind women to do the inside and outside household activities alone. This challenging opportunity gave those women various positive and negative experiences resulting an overall personality development and an enhancement of their self-esteem and status. Thus, it can be conclude that international male migration is one of the most important factor determining the empowerment of respondents in the study area women.

Next most important factor determining empowerment of women in the study area is the overall psychological wellbeing of the respondents. Psychological wellbeing of the respondents was tested scientifically using Ruff's Psychological wellbeing test. Three questions from six different dimensions of life was asked to the respondents through an 18-item questionnaire which includes six subscale items - autonomy, environment mastery, personal growth, positive relations, purpose of life and self-acceptance. Scores attained for each dimension and the psychological wellbeing of the respondents were analyzed in detail in chapter four, here in this chapter overall psychological wellbeing of the respondents is considered. Respondents who scored high values for autonomy subscale, environment mastery, personal growth, positive relation, purpose of life, and self-acceptance have gained more empowerment. Because overall psychological wellbeing is the sum total of all the scores attained for six subscale items.

Another factor important in determining empowerment of women in the study is the social participation of the respondent. This study attempted an enquiry into women's participation in various social activities. Respondents meeting and interacting with people outside home helps them to gain much information and exposure. Regarding the social activities here activities of women out side home such as Kudumasree meetings and activities associated with that and Ayalkoottam, participation in meetings of kids in schools, participation in different type of associations etc. were considered. Participation of respondents in various social activities was enquired and documented. The researcher analyzed these aspects in the respondents by scoring their response in a five-point scale. The study result found that respondents with high social participation have more empowerment.

Family type is another important factor effecting empowerment. Family is an important institution which acts as a basic support system for the all-round development an individual. Family type can be divided into two that is joint family and nuclear family. Though both family types have its own positives and negatives, here in the study it was found that women living in nuclear families have more freedom. Women living in joint families have a higher level of restrictions than is experienced by women in nuclear families. Respondents living in nuclear families have more responsibility to be done by them. While in joint families there are many members to share with their responsibilities. And in nuclear families unlike joint family's women got an opportunity to participate and to take decisions in household matters. This may be due to the active participation in household activities like decision making, mobility and financial management leads to more freedom and status.

Occupational status of respondents found positively associated with women empowerment. Employment of the respondents is another important variable that influence women's empowerment. The earning capacity attributes economic independence to women. This economic independence is the key factor which determines women's empowerment. Age of respondents is another important factor influencing women's empowerment. With an increase in age of the respondents there is an increase in decision making, mobility, financial management and a decrease in spouse consultation leading to an increased empowerment. The study found education of husband positively influence wife's participation in household activities like decision making, mobility, financial management, and a less inter-spouse consultation in small household matters thus leads women to be more empowered. The level of educational attainment of respondent's husband does translate into greater freedom to women, indicating that there might be lesser intervening factors exerting a positive influence on the expected outcome of more liberal attitude with increasing level of education of husbands. Another influencing factor behind women's empowerment is respondent's family background. The study found a positive association between respondent's empowerment and respondent's mother's occupational status.