

IMPACT ON EMPOWERMENT OF WEAKER SECTION'S THROUGH INCLUSIVE GROWTH IN TAMIL NADU

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Introduction

In recent times more emphatically in the immediate contemporary context, empowerment of weaker sections has become a buzzword for political leaders, policy makers, academicians, social activities etc. It has been regarded as (in structural sense) a viable alternative to Weberian mode of nation building that rationalizes the bureaucratic system of procedures in order to deliver good to the society. Empowerment of weaker section establish its credentials by enabling the local people to participate in the decision making process at grassroots level. The strategy of United Nation favouring an equitable distribution of income and wealth for promotion of social justice and efficiency of productive system proved god to understand and promote empowerment of weaker sections. As many development theorist argued, greater equality in the distribution of income and wealth required expansion of facilities for education, health, nutrition, housing and the safeguard of human environment and habitat. This argument essentially advances the importance of empowerment of the weaker sections to capture the socio-economic and political cleavages through qualitative and structural changes in the society.

In the process of establishment of real democratic and the state, it has become necessary to create conditions favourable to social justice, and specifically the elimination of poverty. The ultimate objective of such process of elimination of poverty was to empower the people with the help of change in the power structure and granting powers to those who are socially, politically, weak. The relevance of empowerment of the Weaker Sections was supported by the belief that granting powers to those who are weaker accentuates democratization and development of all sections of the population. It was felt that, empowerment as per the demographic composition of the society could only be attained through special measures and provisions intended to grant substantial socio-political space to the weaker and vulnerable sections of the society. Hence, in this paper, an attempt has been made to analyse

economic, social, political and decision making empowerment of sample respondents of weaker section in region East (R1), West (R2), North (R3) and South (R4) of Tamil Nadu. Empowerment attained by them has been discussed under following heads.

- i. Economic Empowerment
- ii. Social Empowerment

The Analytical Framework

In order to quantify the economic and social impacts on weaker sections, the Economic and Social Empowerment (ESE) index the computed for each respondents combining the social and economic empowerment parameters using the scoring technique applied by Singh Padan and Rattan Chand (2000).

The index of social empowerment indicators of hth respondent Sth is given by

$$= \frac{\sum S_i}{\sum S_i (\text{Max})}$$

The index of economic empowerment indicator of hth respondent Eth is given by =

$$= \frac{\sum E_i}{\sum E_i (\text{Max})}$$

Where S_i and E_j respondent ith social and jth economic empowerment indicator.

S_i (Max) and E_j (Max) are the Maximum scores ith and jth social and economic empowerment indicator respectively. The values of $\sum S_i (\text{Max})$ and $\sum E_j (\text{Max})$ worked out of 7 and 20 respectively.

Economic Empowerment of Weaker Sections

Here, the economic empowerment has been measured with the help of increase in per capita income, family assets value savings, and by the amount borrowed by the respondents. The indices of economic empowerment indicators of each respondent are prepared at before and after stages of schemes under inclusive

growth and given in Appendix. These indices are classified as upto 20, 21-40, 41-60, 61-80 and 81-100. The distribution of respondents according to their economic

empowerment index at before and after stages is shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Distribution of the Respondents According to Economic Empowerment Indices (Percentage)

Index	R1		R2		R3		R4		Overall	
	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A
upto 20	16.21	9.81	21.42	8.40	23.69	7.12	29.12	9.01	22.61	8.59
20-40	28.12	16.21	36.72	15.92	29.32	15.64	23.74	16.01	29.47	15.95
40-60	36.41	29.25	29.38	30.54	36.72	30.65	31.09	32.96	33.40	30.85
60-80	13.66	30.72	8.68	31.47	6.15	32.74	12.36	28.11	10.21	30.69
80-100	5.61	14.01	3.8	13.67	4.12	14.14	3.69	13.91	4.31	13.92
Total	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	320	320
Percentage	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Average value of Index	42.87	54.58	37.34	55.21	37.54	56.17	37.55	54.38	38.83	55.08

In region R1, 16.21 percent of the respondents have an index upto 20 in before inclusive growth that has been declined to 9.81 percent after inclusive growth stage. The percentages 13.66 percent and 5.61 percent of the respondents have an index of 60-80 percent and 80-100 percent respectively during before inclusive growth. After the inclusive growth, the figures have been increased to 30.72 percent and 14.01 percent respectively.

The percentage of respondents who have an economic index upto 20 in region R2 has declined from 21.42 percent to 8.40 percent during two periods. At the same time, the percentage of respondents who have an index of above 80 percent has increased from 3.8 percent to 13.67 percent during the two periods.

In region R3, the percentage of the respondents who have upto 20 percent have been declined from 23.69 percent to 7.12 percent during the two period. The percent of respondents in region R3 that have an index value of above 80 percent at before inclusive growth stage has been increased from 4.12 percent to 14.12 percent after inclusive growth.

In region, R4, the percentage respondents (29.13 percent) in before inclusive growth stage has been declined to 9.01 percent at the stage of after inclusive growth. The percentage of the respondents above 80 percent of economic index has been increased from 3.69 percent of 12.91 percent after the inclusive growth.

In overall, upto 20 index, the percentage of the respondents has been declined from 22.61 percent during before the stage to 8.59 percent after the inclusive growth.

At the same time, the percentage respondents who have an index 80 percent has been increased 4.31 percent and 13.92 percent during the inclusive growth schemes.

Thus, it may be concluded from the analysis that there is a significant increase in own income and the power to retain or save such income and use it at the their direction. It reduced vulnerability of the weaker sections to crisis situation and promote self reliance of weaker section both in the households and in the external environment.

The economic empowerment indices of the respondents are compared at before and after stages of inclusive growth. The average economic indices of the respondents at two different stages are calculated. From that the incremental index is drawn. In order to test the significant difference between the two mean values of economic index in four regions and overall, the "t" statistics is also computed and shown in Table 2.

Table 2 Economic Empowerment Indices at Before and After Stages

Region	Average Economic Index		Incremental index	't' Statistics
	Before	After		
R1	42.87	54.58	11.71	5.11*
R2	37.34	55.21	17.87	4.98*
R3	37.54	56.17	18.63	4.01*
R4	37.55	54.38	16.83	5.41*
Overall	38.83	55.08	16.25	6.01*

* Significant at 5 percent level.

According to table 2, the average economic empowerment indices of the respondents in regions R1, R2, R3 and R4 and overall increased by 11.71, 17/87, 18.63, 16.83 and 16.25. The differences in average economic empowerment indices are statistically significant at 5 percent level of evidenced through 't' statistic. Thus, it may be concluded from the analysis that after inclusive growth, worker sections attained economic empowerment.

Social Empowerment Index

The social empowerment of the respondents has also been measured with the help of social index, which is prepared on the basis of seven questions related to seven social variables which are binary in nature (vide App.) The social indices of the respondents are classified as upto 20, 20-40, 40-60, 60-80. The average value of social empowerment index for each group is also calculated. Table 4 depict the details.

Table 4 Distribution of the Respondents According to Social Empowerment Indices

Index	R1		R2		R3		R4		Overall	
	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A
upto 20	18.61	2.20	12.97	3.96	11.98	4.69	13.21	5.27	14.20	4.03
20-40	27.32	3.80	31.42	22.36	16.32	11.36	30.82	21.38	26.47	14.73
40-60	16.21	19.28	32.41	24.18	26.91	28.14	31.12	24.74	28.61	24.09
60-80	22.2	32.81	15.38	38.63	38.16	46.21	16.71	35.32	21.14	38.23
80-100	15.54	41.91	7.81	10.87	6.83	9.61	8.14	13.29	9.58	18.92
Total	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	320	320
Percentage	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Average value of Index	47.77	71.69	44.72	56.02	50.71	58.93	45.15	56.00	47.27	60.66

Source: Primary Data

As per table 4, region R1, 18.61 percent of the respondents have an index upto 20 at before the inclusive growth, it has been declined to 2.20 percent at after the inclusive growth. The percentage of respondents that have an index value above 80 at before the inclusive growth is 15.54 percent and the percentage has been increased to 41.91 percent at after the inclusive growth.

In region R2, the percentage of respondents who have the social empowerment index of upto 20 has declined from 12.98 percent to 3.96 percent during the two periods. At the same time, the percentage of respondents who have an index of above 80 has increased from 7.81 percent to 10.87 percent during the two periods.

In region R3, 11.98 percent of the respondents have the social, empowerment index upto 20 at before the inclusion growth whereas the figure declines to 4.69 percent at after the inclusive growth. The respondents who have above 80 percent of social index is 6.83 percent and it has been increased to 9.60 percent during the two period.

It is found from Table 4 that the percentage respondents who have the social empowerment index upto 20 in region R4 is 13.21 percent. It has been declining to 5.27 percent during the two periods. Above 80 percent of social index, the percentage of respondents has been increased from 8.14 percent at before the inclusive growth to 13.29 percent at after the inclusive growth. Overall, the percentage of respondents who have social empowerment index of upto 20 has declined from 14.20 percent to 4.03 percent during two periods. At the same time, the percentage of respondents who have an index of above 80 percent has increased from 9.58 percent to 18.92 percent.

The social empowerment indices of the respondents are compared to before the after the inclusive growth. The social empowerment indices of the members in two groups at different periods are calculated and the incremental index is drawn. In order to test the significant difference between two mean values of social index in the regions R1, R2, R3, R4 and overall, the "t" statistics has been computed. The results are shown in Table 5.

Table 5 Social Empowerment of Respondents at Before and After Stages

Region	Average Economic Index		Incremental index	't' Statistics
	Before	After		
R1	57.77	71.69	23.92	3.39*
R2	44.72	56.02	11.30	4.01*

R3	50.71	58.93	8.22	5.12*
R4	45.15	56.00	10.85	4.98*
Overall	47.27	60.66	13.39	4.32*

* Significant at 5 percent level.

The average social empowerment indices of the respondents before the inclusive growth the 47.77 percent, 44.72 percent, 50.71 percent, 45.15 percent and 47.27 percent in R1, R2, R3, R4 and overall regions respectively. After the inclusive growth, the average social empowerment indices are 71.69 percent in region R1, 56.02 percent in R2, 58.93 percent in R3, 56.00 percent in and R4 and 60.66 percent in overall. The change in social empowerment index during the two periods (incremental widen) are statistically significant at 5 percent level as evidenced its respondent 't' statistics. Thus, it may be concluded that after inclusive growth, weaker sections attained social empowerment.

Conclusion

Socio-Economic Empowerment (SEE) index has been measured and the results revealed that both social and economic empowerment of weaker sections after the inclusive growth has been remarkably increased in the study area. The 't' Statistic showed 2 after inclusion growth, weaker sections have attained both social and economic empowerment. Now they fell so secured and more

confidence as compared to the periods before inclusive growth schemes in the study area.

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