

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the dissertation submitted to SOGDS at IGNOU in conformity with the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, is authentic record of my work carried out under the supervision of Prof. Savita Singh.

Research Scholar

(Mrs. Uma Nijhawan)

Delhi, INDIA

May, 2014

Assistant Prof. Economics

Bhagini Nivedita College

University of Delhi

S. No.	Table of Contents	Page No.
Chapter 1		
	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Statement of problem	1
1.2	Conceptual Model of Study	6
1.2.1	Conceptualization of Key Aspects	8
	Aspect 1: CHRONIC POVERTY	10
	Aspect 2: WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT	11
	Aspect 3: GENDER RESOURCE CENTRE	13
1.3	The objectives of the study	14
1.4	Research Questions	14
1.5	Hypothesis	15
1.6	The Engineering of "Evaluation of GRC from Perspective of Chronic Poverty in Delhi"	16
1.7	Significance of Study	17
1.8	An Overview of Steps for Research	17
1.9	Organization of the Study	18
1.10	Conclusion	18
1.11	Notes	21
1.12	References of chapter 1.	23
Chapter 2		
	Literature Review	26
2.1	Introduction	26
2.2	Section 1 - Chronic Poverty	26
2.3	Section 2 –Women's Empowerment	43
2.4	Section 3- Capacity Building through Gender Resource Centre	61
2.5.	Anti-Drivers, Anti-Maintainers and Active-Interrupters'	70
2.6	Significance of Information on Different Topics	73
2.7	Conclusion	78
2.8	Notes	78
2.9	References of chapter 2.	83

Chapter 3		
	Research Methodology	98
3.1	Introduction	98
3.2	Location of the Study	98
3.3	Unit of Application for Measurement of Empowerment	100
3.4	Identification of Chronically Poor	100
3.5	Criteria for inclusion of respondents for survey	101
3.6	Framework Required for Evaluation of GRC	101
3.7	Criterion for Selection of GRC Respondents (Sampling Unit)	102
3.8	Criterion for Selection of Non-GRC Respondents/Children (Sampling Unit)	102
3.9	Gestation Period	103
3.10	Indicators to Measure Women's Empowerment	103
3.10.1	Social Empowerment	104
3.10.2	Economic Empowerment	104
3.10.3	Household Empowerment	105
3.11	Methodology Used for Formulation of Interview Schedule	106
3.11.1	Interview Schedule	108
3.12	Statistical Tools Used for Data Analysis	111
3.13	Conclusion	112
3.14	References of chapter 3.	113
Chapter 4		
	Results and Discussions	115
4.1	Introduction	115
4.1.1.1	A Conceptual Note on Household	116
4.2.1	Three relevant questions related to first objective	118
4.2.2	Bird's eye view of the Profile of Respondents of Both the Groups	118
4.2.2.6	Highlights of Profile on Different Aspects	124
	Research Objective 1- To assess the role played by GRC as an enabler to women beneficiaries	124
4.2.3.1	Research question 1. Is GRC an effective source of information for generating awareness?	125
4.2.3.2	Research Question 2. Does Capacity Building Created by GRC as an Enabler, would Bring Perceptible and Measurable Changes in their Perception Regarding the Right Age of Marriage of their Children?	130
4.2.3.3	Research question 3. Does capacity created through GRCs help in bringing significant change in their lives in different dimensions?	133
4.2.4	Conclusion	135
4.3	Notes	136
4.4	References of chapter 4.	137

Chapter 5		
	Measuring Women's Empowerment	139
5.1	Introduction	139
5.2	Research Objective 2: Measure Women's Empowerment by adopting Indicators of the Autonomy of Women	139
5.2.1	What Is the Impact of GRC Activities on Social Empowerment?	140
5.2.1.1	Autonomy of Respondents on the Visits to Family and Friends (GRC and Non-GRC Groups)	140
5.2.1.2	Area of Independent Decision Making for the Number of Children (GRC and Non-GRC Groups)	141
5.2.1.3	Use of the Condom	142
5.2.1.4	Experience of Respondents Regarding Domestic Violence	143
5.2.1.5	Reaction of Respondents on Domestic Violence	144
5.2.1.6	Comparison of Overall Social Empowerment Between GRC and Non-GRC Respondents	146
5.2.2	Impact of GRC activities on Economic Empowerment	146
5.2.2.1	Autonomy of Respondents on Keeping Money for the Self (GRC and Non-GRC Groups)	147
5.2.2.2	Comparison of both the Groups of GRC and Non-GRC Groups regarding their Participation on the Topic of Availing the credit	148
5.2.2.3	Respondent's Participation Required for the Purchase of Assets (GRC and Non-GRC Groups)	149
5.2.2.4	Respondent's Participation for the Sale of Assets of GRC and Non-GRC Groups	150
5.2.2.5	Personal Expenditures of Children of Respondents of GRC and Non-GRC Groups	150
5.2.2.6	Autonomy of Respondents in Minor Purchases of GRC and Non-GRC Groups	152
5.2.2.7	Personal Expenditures of Respondents of GRC and Non-GRC Groups	153
5.2.2.8	Savings by Respondents of GRC and Non-GRC Groups	153
5.2.2.9	Women's Labor Participation of Respondents of GRC and Non-GRC Groups	154
5.2.3	Comparison of Overall Economic Empowerment between GRC and Non-GRC Respondents	156
5.2.4	What is the impact of GRC activities on Household Empowerment?	156
5.2.4.1	Independent Decision Making in the Area of What to Cook (GRC and Non-GRC Groups)	158
5.2.4.2	Who Eats First?	159
5.2.4.3	The Autonomy of Respondents in the Area of Education of Son (GRC and Non-GRC Groups)	160
5.2.4.4	Comparison of the Autonomy of the Respondents in the Area of Education of the Daughters (GRC and Non-GRC Groups)	161

5.2.4.5	The Autonomy of Respondents in the Area of Medical Care and Hospitalization (GRC and Non-GRC Groups)	163
5.2.4.6	Activities Performed by Husbands of Respondents (GRC and Non-GRC Groups)	164
5.2.4.7	Habit of Alcohol/Smoking of Husband (GRC and Non-GRC Groups)	165
5.2.4.8	Comparison of Overall Household Empowerment between GRC and Non-GRC Respondents	166
5.2.5	Relationships among three Empowerment Indicators	167
5.2.6	Conclusion	168
5.2.7	Notes	169
5.2.8	References of chapter	170
Chapter 6		
	Outcomes and Discussions	172
6.1	Introduction	172
6.2	Research Objective 3	172
6.2.1	By comparing the outcomes at the household level of GRC respondents with Non-GRC respondents with regard to factors	172
6.2.1.1	Income	172
6.2.1.2	Developmental Consumption	174
6.2.1.3	Borrowings / Availability of Credit	176
6.2.2	By comparing the outcomes at the individual level of GRC respondents with Non-GRC respondents	177
6.2.2.1	Body Mass Index of Women	178
6.2.3	By Comparing the Outcomes on Children of GRC Respondents with Non-GRC Respondents	179
6.2.3.1	Immunization	180
6.2.3.2	Breastfeeding (GRC and Non-GRC Groups)	180
6.2.3.3	The Education of Children	181
6.2.3.4	Measurement of Nutritional Status/ Anthropometric dimensions of Children under Five	183
6.2.3.4.1	Indicator of Nutritional Index: HAZ (refers to stunting)	184
6.2.3.4.2	Indicator of Nutritional Index: WAZ (refers to Underweight)	186
6.2.4	Identified ‘Anti Drivers, Anti Maintainers, and Active Interrupters’	188
6.2.5	Conclusion	190
6.2.6	References of chapter 6.	191
Conclusion		
	Relationship between reduction in child poverty and women’s Empowerment	195
	Research methodology	195
	RO. 1: To Assess the Role Played by GRC as an Enabler to Women Beneficiaries	196

	RO.2: Measure Women's Empowerment by Measuring its Impact on Autonomy of Women	197
	RO.3: To access the outcomes of capacity created by GRC, by comparing the outcomes of GRC respondents with Non GRC respondents.	203
	Notes	210
	Bibliography	221
Annexure		
Annexure 1:	A Comparative Study Of District Wise Distribution Of The Population Of Delhi Viz. Density Of Population District-Wise	226
Annexure 2:	Formula For Constructing Body Mass Index	226
Annexure 3:	Formula To Construct Z-Score	226
Annexure 4:	(Section I) WAZ and HAZ Score for male child (NON-GRC)	227
	(Section I) WAZ and HAZ Score for female child (NON -GRC)	227
	(Section II) WAZ and HAZ Score for male child (GRC)	227
	(Section II) WAZ and HAZ Score for female child (GRC)	227
Annexure 5:	Consent Form	230
	Interview Schedule For Individual Household	230
Annexure 6:	Section I & Section II	236

List of figures

1.1	Percentage of Region-Wise Distribution of Slum Cluster	4
1.2	Region wise percentage share of slum population	4
1.3	Conceptual Model of Study	6
2.1	Institutional Structure for Mission Convergence	65
2.2	Capacity Building	67
2.3	Ensuring Outreach to the Community	68
3.1	Research objectives	99
3.2	Location of The Study	100
4.1	The relative importance of GRC in awareness generation on different topics in comparison to other institutions	130
4.2	Percentage of respondents of both the groups who lack information	130
4.3	To Determine the difference created by GRC as an enabler in the lives Beneficiaries	135
5.1	Social Empowerment	141
5.2	Indicators of Economic Empowerment	148
5.3	Indicator of Houseold Empowerment	158
6.1	To Assess The Outcomes of Capacity Created By GRC Measurement of Nutritional Status of Respondents (CED)	180
6.2	Indicator of Nutritional Status of Boys in terms of HAZ–Score for Stunting	186
6.3	Indicator of Nutritional Status of Girls in terms of HAZ–Score for Stunting	187

List of Tables

Table No.	Title	Page no.
4.1.1	Duration of Enrollment	121
4.1.2	Source of Information about GRC	121
4.1.3	No. of Children under Five in a Household	122
4.1.4	Per Capita Income of the Household	122
4.2	A comparative Study of Different Source of Information with GRC on Different Topics for Change in Perception of Women	127
4.2a	Percentage of Unaware Respondents of Both the Groups on Topics of Information	128
4.2b	Relative Importance of GRC as a Source of awareness Generation in Comparison to Other Institutions	128
4.3	Women's Perception of Marriage of Sons	132
4.4	Women's Perception of Marriage of Daughters	132
4.5	Significant Change in the Lives of Respondents in Different Dimensions	134
5.8.1	Autonomy of Respondents on the Visits to Family and Friends (GRC and Non-GRC)	141
5.8.2	Area of Independent Decision Making for the Number of Children (GRC and Non-GRC)	142
5.8.3	Use of the Condom	143
5.8.4	Comparison of Experience of Respondents of Both the Groups regarding Domestic Violence	144
5.8.5	Reaction of Respondents on Domestic Violence	146
5.8.6	Comparison of Overall Social Empowerment Between GRC and Non-GRC Respondents	147
5.9.1	Comparison of Autonomy of Respondents on Keeping Money for the Self of GRC and Non-GRC Group	148
5.9.2	Comparison of both the Groups of GRC and Non-GRC Group Regarding Their Participation on the Topic of Availing the Credit	149
5.9.3	Comparison of Respondent's Participation Required for Purchase of	150

	Assets of GRC and Non-GRC Groups	
5.9.4	Comparison of Respondent's Participation For the Sale of Assets of GRC and Non-GRC Groups	151
5.9.5	Comparison of Personal Expenditures on Children of Respondents of GRC and Non-GRC Groups	152
5.9.6	Comparison of Autonomy of Respondents in Minor Purchases of GRC and Non-GRC Groups	153
5.9.7	Comparison of Personal Expenditures of Respondents of GRC and Non-GRC Groups	154
5.9.8	Comparison of Savings by Respondents of GRC and Non-GRC Groups	155
5.9.9	Comparison of Women's Labor Participation between GRC and Non-GRC Groups	156
5.9.10	Comparison of Overall Economic Empowerment Between GRC and Non-GRC Respondents	157
5.10.1	Comparison of Area of Independent Decision Making in the Area of What to Cook (GRC and Non-GRC Groups)	159
5.10.2	Comparison of Respondents of GRC with Non-GRC in the Area of Who Eats First ?	160
5.10.3	Comparison of the Autonomy of Respondents in the Area of Education of the Sons (GRC and Non- GRC Groups)	161
5.10.4	Comparison of the Autonomy of Respondents in the Area of Education of Daughters (GRC and Non- GRC Groups)	163
5.10.5:	Comparison of the Autonomy of respondents in the Area of medical Care and Hospitalization (GRC and Non- GRC Groups)	164
5.10.6	Comparison of the Activities performed by husbands of respondents (GRC and Non-GRC Groups)	165
5.10.7	Determining the Difference in the Habit of Alcohol/Smoking of Husband (GRC and Non-GRC Groups)	167
5.10.8	Comparison of Overall Household Empowerment between GRC and Non-GRC Respondents	168

5.11.1	Relationships among Three Categories of Empowerment Indicators	168
6.1.A	Comparison of Income of respondents of GRC and Non-GRC Groups	174
6.2.B	Comparison of Per Capita Income of the Household	175
6.3	Comparison of Monthly Household Expenditures of Respondents (GRC and Non-GRC Groups)	176
6.4	Comparison of 'Need to Borrow' By GRC and Non-GRC Households	177
6.5	Comparison of Body Mass Index of Respondents of GRC and Non-GRC Groups	179
6.6	Immunization of Children (Combined Children) of (GRC and NON-GRC Groups) A Comparative Study	181
6.7	Breastfeeding of Children (Combined Children)of (GRC and NON-GRC Groups) A Comparative Study	182
6.8	Education of children	183
6.9	A comparative study of Nutritional Index of Boys and Girls below five of GRC and Non-GRC groups (HAZ-Score for Stunting)	185
6.10	A comparative study of Nutritional Index of Boys And Girls Below five of GRC group and Non-GRC groups in terms of WAZ-Score for Underweighing	187
6.11	Identified 'Anti Drivers, Anti Maintainers, and Active Interrupters'	189
1	Indicators to Measure Social Empowerment with Qualitative Findings	199
2	Indicators to Measure Economic Empowerment with Qualitative Findings	200
3	Indicators to Measure House-hold Empowerment with Qualitative Findings	202
4	Malnutrition among boys and girls (O-60) Stunting (HAZ)	206
5	Malnutrition among boys and girls (O-60) Under weighing (WAZ)	207

Acronyms and Abbreviations

WHO.....	WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION
GRC	GENDER RESOURCE CENTRE
UNICEF.....	UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND
NFHS	NATIONAL FAMILY AND HEALTH SURVEY
VLSS.....	VIETNAM LIVING STANDARD SURVEY
BMI	BODY MASS INDEX
CED	CHRONIC ENERGY DEFICIENCY
WLP.....	WOMEN LABOUR PARTICIPATION
IGT	INTER-GENERATIONAL TRANSMISSION OF POVERTY
WB.....	WORLD BANK
J.J CLUSTER.....	JHUGGI JHOMPRI CLUSTER
HAZ -SCORE	HEIGHT FOR AGE -Z SCORE
WAZ-SCORE.....	WEIGHT FOR AGE-Z SCORE
DHS.....	DEMOGRAPUIC AND HEALTH SURVEY
DPT	DIPHTHERIA, PERTUSSIS, AND TETNUS VACCINE
MDG	MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS
UN.....	UNITED NATIONS
Kg.....	KILOGRAM
UNDP.....	UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
LSMS.....	LIVING STANDARDS MEASUREMENT STUDY
PGR.....	POVERTY GAP RATIO
FAO.....	FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION
IDRC	INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTRE

HO	HYPOTHESIS
UNESCO.....	UNITED NATIONS
UNFPA	UNITED NATIONS
MC.....	MISSION CONVERGENCE
SK.....	SUVIDHA KENDRAS
SSS.....	SAMAJIK SUVIDHA SANGAM
PMU.....	PROGRAM MANAGEMENT UNIT
DRC	DISTRICT RESOURCE CENTRE
WCD	WOMAN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
RO.....	RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

GLOSSARY

1. **Autonomy:** Ability to self determination, independence and control over one's life.
2. **'Gender':** Socially constructed roles
3. **Sex:** Biologically determined attribute
4. **Equity:** Equal opportunities available to an individual to lead a life to be free from extreme deprivation in outcome
5. **Malnutrition:** It is associated with lower scores in test of cognitive development.
6. **Under-nourished:** It refers to the one whose caloric intake is below the minimum dietary energy requirement (MDER)
7. **Underweight:** - It is used as a basic indicator of the acute malnourishment
8. **Stunted:-** It is a good indicator of growth retardation reflecting chronic mal-nutritional status
9. **'Well-being' :** refers to expanding people's real freedom- so that people can flourish
10. **'Well-becoming':** It is associated with the future welfare of children
11. **Hidden hunger:** refers to a person who consumes enough calories but may be deficient in intake of essential micronutrients.
12. **Gender mainstreaming:** A mechanism for achieving gender equality
13. **Social exclusion:** It refers to the differential in access to opportunities for economic resources, political privileges, organizational influence, cultural experiences and limited participation in normal activities of the society

Acknowledgment

Writing this thesis has not only allowed me to see the new area of human reality in terms of gender discrimination but also it has been an experience of great learning. It has involved meticulous gathering of data and its analysis. This could not have been accomplished without the support and affection of a lot of people whom I wish to thank.

My gratitude first and foremost to my research supervisor, Prof. Savita Singh of SOGDS , IGNOU, for nurturing my skills as a researcher, giving me full autonomy and providing ceaseless encouragement and invaluable guidance at different stages of my research work , despite her busy schedule. She has been an extraordinary mentor for me. Her contributions in terms of time and ideas have made my research experience productive and stimulating.

I am also grateful to Prof. Annu Thomas, present director of the School of Gender and Development Studies, IGNOU, for giving valuable inputs on using anthropometric dimensions Index, as a measure of malnutrition.

I wish to thank t committee members of the pre-submission seminar for making my defense a memorable and fruitful experience with their brilliant comments and suggestions.

My sincere thanks to my employer Bhagini Nivedita College (University of Delhi) and its principal Dr. Purbi Saikia, for not only granting me study leave but encouraging me to undertake this endeavour in the first place.

My special thanks to Dr. Rashmi Singh, Director, Mission Convergence, and her staff for providing me some detailed inputs on the subject.

I express my deep gratitude to Dr. S.S. Nagi for guiding me on evaluation, and analytical aspects of this research. His invaluable guidance in the area of research is appreciable.

I thank the staff members of various libraries viz. library of Chronic Poverty Research Centre, IIPA, New Delhi, Ratan Tata Library, IGNOU and JNU for their cooperation.

My journey towards this research started long ago when I was in my teens. It was my parents who taught me to follow passions, to dream about things which were worth pursuing, and my brother for imbibing in me the qualities to accept challenges. A special thanks to my family. Words cannot express how grateful I am to my mother-in-law, my husband and my children for all the sacrifices that they have made on account of my research work. Their prayers for me have sustained me thus far. Lastly I thank all my friends who supported me to strive towards my goal.

Preface

The present study is concerned with the gender dimension of chronic poverty in India. Considerable research has been done prior to this one on the subject but its gendered character has allowed me to dig deeper into this problem. The fact that women's poverty gets transferred to their children in ways that are numerous and vicious, has been found to be invisibly present during the process of understanding its emergence and sustenance. But the question that crops up with some ferocity is if there is also parallel process in place aiming to reduce this poverty; rather a process capable of breaking the cycle of chronic poverty affecting women and children. It is in this context of poverty reducing model of empowerment of women that one has studied the ameliorating impact of institutions such as Gender Resource Centre (GRC) working in Delhi on the conditions of chronic poverty amongst the target group mentioned above. In other words, what provoked one to undertake this study was to understand the multi-dimensional deprivation of disadvantaged women due to gender discrimination prevalent in our society which contribute for their present condition affecting the well-being of their children.

My research studies various methods to differentiate chronically poor from the multi-layers of poverty by using non-monetary approach which renders the basis for the identification of forces that can reduce persistent poverty. I have focused on criticality regarding 'timing of poverty' in context of educating women in the household considered to be an integral part of decision making about the well-being of their children, which is also crucial for their capacity development.

The central idea of this study is to advocate women's empowerment through interventions to prevent intergenerational transmission of chronic poverty at an early age of children. The focal point of this study is to provide the insight for evaluation of GRC from a perspective of chronic poverty.

Capacity building for women's empowerment has been recognized as an effective instrumental means of creating interrupters to poverty by the United Nations General Assembly in early 1990s inspiring the genesis of Gender Resource Centre (GRC). GRC strives to focus on women's empowerment to lift women and their families out of poverty through the consolidated efforts of 'GNCTD', to achieve the desired Delhi Development Goals which are in tune with United Nation's MDGs (Millennium Development Goals, 2000). The goal of women's empowerment is to ensure equal distribution of power and resources for gender equity through gender-centric schemes, which act as 'Anti-Drivers, Anti-Maintainers and Active-Interrupters'; breaking the vicious cycle of disempowerment is associated with assurance of better education, health and nutrition for their children.

A conceptual framework for the evaluation of GRC, consists of different indicators to measure empowerment developed on the basis of non-monetary proxy indicators. It presents the backdrop of the beneficiaries along with special focus on the term 'household' in order to understand existing structure of asymmetries present in the household .

The interview schedule was preferred which was later modified after pilot survey, in order to collect qualitative and statistically useful quantitative data from the population. Therefore, to accomplish the first objective GRC as an enabler to women beneficiaries, it seeks to address three questions by making a comparative study to investigate the relative importance of GRC as an effective source of information for generating awareness and secondly, measuring changes in the perception of women regarding the age of marriage of their children including both sons and daughters. Lastly, it also documents through participatory approach, the significant changes (self reported) in the lives of beneficiaries in different areas to mark the effectiveness of GRC activities which is crucial in well-being of children. The study applied statistical methods (a quantitative technique) such as Chi-square test, along with qualitative inferences.

The objective of measurement of women's empowerment in three dimensions was accomplished by adopting indicators of the autonomy of women. It compares not only different fragmented components of empowerment in three domains but also of overall economic empowerment between GRC and Non-GRC respondents. In-depth study requires qualitative analysis which reveals the social, personal, institutional barriers in actualizing empowerment. The study concluded a positive impact of GRC's activities on social and economic empowerment; however, it does not find significant impact on household domain.

One has attempted here to identify 'Anti-Drivers, Anti-Maintainers and Active-Interrupters' in the course of quantitative and qualitative analysis. It can be concluded that the gender-centric activities of GRC helped in forming new perceptions about the marriage of a major child by crossing the socially constructed ideology that encourages child marriage. A new trend of eating practice (whosoever is hungry can eat therefore, no particular order is followed) is also reported. It is also interesting to note that GRC has become a support system through SHG (by means of savings and micro-credit services) in the absence of credit facilities especially for poor and disadvantaged women. By acting as facilitators, it enabled respondents to have autonomy (social, economic), by reducing their subordinate position (by seeking co-operation from husband) and also by thwarting domestic violence through conflict resolution. Respondents themselves reported about the improvements in their lives in terms of education, skill development, nutrition and health care.

