

Empowering the Women of India through the Bhartiya Mahila Bank: An Assessment

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ABSTRACT: The paper is an effort to have an insight into the attitude and perception of university students towards the economic empowerment of women through opening up of Women Bank of India (Bhartiya Mahila Bank). To achieve the objectives of the study, a sample of 100 female students was selected from the campus of Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak; and the data were collected with the help of a questionnaire. The researchers found that majority of the respondents do not face discrimination on the basis of gender both at home and university; but they face eve-teasing as and when. It was also observed through the study that a very significant number of respondents know about establishment of Bhartiya Mahila Bank in India and feel that the bank is a great step towards women empowerment; and all women employees and all women account holders is a great idea. Majority of the respondents favored that it is good that the bank will provide financial assistance to women only for making them self-dependent, but they feel that the discrimination against women can be controlled with the help of the bank and hence, such more programmes are needed to empower women, economically. Contrary to that a sizable respondents took the idea of establishing the BMB as a non-sense step resulting into the widening of gap between men and women. The study exposed the fact that women empower mentis essential to make India a developed country.

INTRODUCTION

Women's economic empowerment is a process that at its core has two dimensions: resources and opportunity. Productive resources are all the assets women need to achieve economic advancement. These range from tangible assets such as financial resources (income, savings, credit) and physical resources (land, housing, technology) to intangible assets such as skills, technical expertise, and social standing. But even when women are equipped with productive resources, this does not automatically mean that they are economically empowered. They must also have the opportunity to use those assets in any way that they choose. Opportunity refers to a woman's power to make and act on decisions that would allow her to obtain valuable outcomes from economic activity. All people have the opportunity to engage in economic activity to some degree or another, but women's chances are often relatively diminished compared to those of men across countries and societies. Empowerment allows individuals to reach their full potential, to improve their political and social participation, and to believe in their own capabilities. Economic empowerment of women sets a direct path towards gender equality, poverty eradication and inclusive economic growth. Women Empowerment is most vital structure to strengthen the future of women and women's empowerment is particularly hard to achieve without financial support. Access to a bank account is essential for women's economic empowerment as it provides a safe place to save money and opens up a channel to credit which can be used for investing in education, property or in a business.

The Finance Minister announced setting up of all-women bank i.e. 'Bhartiya Mahila Bank' with an initial capital of Rs 1,000¹ crore in Budget 2013-14 aiming at economically empowering millions of women across the country who do not have access to basic financial services such as bank accounts or loans. Bank credit is expected to grow at a compounded annual growth rate of 16.5 percent during the twenty year period from 2010 to 2030. The deposit base is expected to grow at a compounded annual growth rate of 14.6 percent that is 14 times the level of deposits in 2010. There is, therefore, an opportunity to reach more credit to more women. BMB would initially set up branches in all state capitals across the country to have a hub with the objective of financial inclusion. All these banks will be managed by women professionals and will increase the employment opportunities for women in various departments like finance, accounts, operations, information technology and human resources.

¹ The Hindu, November 14, 2013 18:46 IST

In fact, most of the banks will not satisfy all the needs of women. Millions of women lack access to finance across India not only due to illiteracy, remote locations, lack of documentation, but also because men still often control family budgets. Women who wish to start small businesses often do not have the financial expertise. More than 1.3² billion women worldwide remain largely outside the formal financial system, according to the World Bank's Global Financial Inclusion (Global Findex) database. Only 26³ percent of Indian women have an account with a formal financial institution, compared to 46 percent of men. Since fewer women than men have bank accounts, fewer women are able to get loans and also per women capita credit is 80 percent lower than in the case of men. Hence, India needs a bank that predominantly serves women. In the countryside, where banks are scarce and women face more problems opening an account, the number is likely to be much lower. Typically, Indian women give their earnings to their husbands, although many women in the country start and run their own small businesses.

The Government of India has been working towards empowerment of women in the country. The flagship programs for rural employment and for universalizing education and health-care provide equal access for both men and women to help the cause of women empowerment. Women are getting employment under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment happen to be women. In addition, schemes have been started for taking care of the special needs of women for example; 'Janani Suraksha Yojana', which supports pregnant and nursing mothers, the 'Sabla' scheme, empowers adolescent girls.

The government of India understood the necessity and the need for women banks in India and set up Bharatiya Mahila Bank - a small step towards economic empowerment of women. The specialty of the women banks is that, the employees who work in these banks are also women and women-run businesses and also employs predominantly women. The bank will focus on lending predominantly to women and companies that focus on women's activities/products. The bank will achieve the goal of economic empowerment of women by creating job opportunities for women and paying special attention to certain segments of the female population, particularly those living in the more rural areas in India, who face difficulties in society. The bank plans to open 771 branches over the next year and hopes to enter rural areas before March 2014. Availability of finance makes women economically independent by putting capital and financial resources in their hands. Economic independence results in higher bargaining power for women in their households and communities, and subsequently results in higher prestige and self-esteem. The present study throws light on this issue.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Deshpande, Sunil and Sethi, Sunita (2010)

Sarkar and Baishya (2012) suggested that women's access to credit has a role in improving the household decision making capacity, workforce participation rate and control over resources and even political and legal awareness, thereby opening/ opportunity for greater empowerment of women

Makandar (2011) stated in his research, Women have been actively participating in decision making process after becoming members of SHG in the areas like consumption of house hold items, education of children and their marriage, number of children, family finance etc.

Noreen, Sara (2011) analyzed the various determinants of women empowerment and the role of microfinance in improving decision making power of women at domestic level as compared to other social determinants. The study concluded that women empowerment were influenced by age, education of husband, father inherited assets, marital status, number of sons alive and microfinance, a key explanatory variable had some positive role in empowerment but not as much as was expected. The study suggested that education facilities and family protection must be provided in proper way and microfinance institutions should strengthen and expand their support to resource poor women.

Kulkarni, Vani S. (2011), analyzed the debate on the empowerment of women through the functions of microfinance institutions (MFIs). The study focused on the economic, organizational, political and cultural challenges and analyzed the linkages between MFIs and women's empowerment and suggests areas of enquiry for informed policymaking like poverty reduction, microfinance and microcredit programmes.

² Nita Bhalla, Reuters, Tue Nov 19, 2013 9:58pm IST

³ Kubo, **Angela Erika**, "India Fights Gender Discrimination with All-Women Bank", The Diplomat, November 22, 2013.

Rajeshwari, k. and Priya, S. Guru (2013) conducted a comparative study on women empowerment through self help groups in rural and urban areas of district of Madurai. The study concluded that there was high level of leadership empowerment among women than economic empowerment and there was a poor level of social empowerment. The study also found that women moved independently to other places without the support of male members of the family.

Kato, Mushumbusi Paul and Kratzer, Jan (2013) examined the effect of women's participation in microfinance institutions (MFIs) on various indicators of women's empowerment using quantitative and qualitative data collected from three regions of Tanzania in 2011/12. The study found that women members of microfinance institutions (MFIs) were more empowered as compared to non-members in non-program areas and a significant difference between the women members of MFIs and non-members in the dependant variables.

Nagaraja, B (2013), dealt with empowerment of women in India and thrown light on particularly agency approach to measure women empowerment. This divergence tells us that there is a need for identification of some cultural factors having bearing on empowerment and autonomy. There is a need to understand that the concepts of empowerment and autonomy are sufficiently different. As the results of the study exhibited, still a large part of women do not have sufficient autonomy regarding the value choices for their own life. The data also makes us to infer that there is a necessity to look beyond economic resources or material prosperity and into cultural and social influences, which are playing a significant role in shaping the women's autonomy and agency. Again, it is also true that though not the women's empowerment and autonomy have a link with women's access to resources or material well-being, it is to be accepted that there is a variety of potential connections and there exists various forms of linkages among these variables. Hence, the answer for the question "Are women really empowered in India" is nothing but "not yet to the desired level".

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

To study the perception of female students of M.D. University, Rohtak, Haryana towards women empowerment in India.

JUSTIFICATION OF THE STUDY

"Empowerment of women and gender equality are prerequisites for achieving political, social, economic, cultural, and environmental security among all peoples⁴." The concept of promoting women's economic empowerment has gained greater attention over the last three decades. However, progress in promoting empowerment of women at country and local levels has been troubled by various constraints. When women build assets and achieve better economic status, they develop higher self-esteem, are more visible in their communities, more mobile, and their children are better fed. women's empowerment is particularly hard to achieve without financial support. Access to a bank account is essential for women's economic empowerment as it provides a safe place to save money and opens up a channel to credit which can be used for investing in education, property or in a business. The government of India understood the necessity and the need for women banks in India and set up Bharatiya Mahila Bank - a small step towards economic empowerment of women. So, the researchers choose the topic to look keen on the attitude and perception of female university students towards the economic empowerment of women through opening up of Women Bank in India (Bhartiya Mahila Bank).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In the study the following research methodology is used:

Research Design

The research design of the present study is exploratory as the purpose of exploratory study is to achieve new insight into a phenomenon and generate new ideas.

Sample design

Under Graduates, Post Graduate students of M. D. University Rohtak constitute the population of this survey study. Sample was selected from students of M. D. University Rohtak, who were categorised according to age, residential status and family income. The required data were collected from 100 female respondents. In the present study convenient sampling technique was followed, while getting questionnaires filled from different University Students.

Data collection

⁴Beijing Platform for Action, Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995)

The study entirely based on primary data. The primary data was collected through structured questionnaires duly filled by University students.

Statistical techniques

Crosstab technique of SPSS was used to analyse available data and to reach at the conclusion of the study. Data was also analysed, interpreted and evaluated with required statistical tools like tabulation, graphic presentation, and percentage.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

An analysis of total 100 female respondents was made with the help of crosstab technique of SPSS to achieve the objectives of the study. The perception of the sampled respondents towards women empowerment through women bank in India. The analytical Table 1 revealed the perception of sampled respondents of various categories towards women empowerment through women bank in India.

The analytical table 1 exhibited that out of total 38 rural and 62 urban female respondents approximately 90 per cent rural respondents agreed that they do not face discrimination on the basis of gender at home. Only 10 per cent respondents agreed that they face discrimination on basis of gender at home. Out of total urban respondents 80 per cent respondents opined that they feel discriminated at home and only approx. 12 per cent respondents denied. On statement II, 100 per cent rural respondents agreed that they do not face discriminated in university. Only 16 per cent urban respondents agreed that they face gender discrimination at university. A very significant respondents, 27 rural (71 per cent) and 43 urban (approx. 70 per cent) perceived that they face eve-teasing as and when. A very significant number, 28 rural (73 per cent) and 46 urban (74 per cent) respondents already know about the establishment of women bank in India.

As far as age-wise classification was concerned, the results showed that out of total 33 students below age group 20 and 67 students above age group 20, a majority of respondents (84 per cent below age 20 and 83 per cent above age 20) do not face discrimination on the basis of gender at home and 93 per cent respondents below age 20 and 88 per cent respondents above age 20 do not face discrimination on the basis of gender at university; but they face eve-teasing as and when. Further, study observed that a very significant number of respondents 60 per cent below age 20 and 81 per cent respondents above age 20 know about establishment of Bhartiya Mahila Bank in India.

Table 1: Responses of the sampled respondents

Basis of Responses		Do you feel discriminated at home			Do you feel discriminated at university			Do you face eve-teasing			If yes...				Have you heard about Women Bank		
		Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total	As & when	Always	N.A.	Total	Yes	No	Total
Residential Status	Rural	4 (10.52)	34 (89.47)	38 (100)	0	38 (100)	38 (100)	27 (71.05)	11 (28.94)	38 (100)	22 (57.89)	5 (13.15)	11 (28.94)	38 (100)	28 (73.68)	10 (26.31)	38 (100)
	Urban	12 (19.35)	50 (80.64)	62 (100)	10 (16.12)	52 (83.87)	62 (100)	43 (69.35)	19 (30.64)	62 (100)	33 (53.22)	10 (16.12)	19 (30.64)	62 (100)	46 (74.19)	16 (25.80)	62 (100)
	Total	16 (16)	84 (84)	100	10 (10)	90 (90)	100	70 (70)	30 (30)	100	55 (55)	15 (15)	30 (30)	100	74 (100)	26 (26)	100
Age	Below 20	5 (15.15)	28 (84.84)	33 (100)	2 (6.06)	31 (93.93)	33 (100)	22 (66.67)	11 (33.33)	33 (100)	13 (39.39)	9 (27.09)	11 (33.33)	33 (100)	20 (60.6)	13 (39.39)	33 (100)
	Above 20	11 (16)	56 (83)	67 (100)	8 (11)	59 (88)	67 (100)	48 (71)	19 (28)	67 (100)	42 (62)	6 (8.9)	19 (28)	67 (100)	54 (80)	13 (19)	67 (100)

		41)	58)	0)	94)	05)	00	64)	35)	0)	68)	5)	35)	00	59)	40)	00
	Total	16 (16)	84 (84)	100	10 (10)	90 (90)	10 0	70 (70)	30 (30)	100	55 (55)	15 (15)	30 (30)	10 0	74 (100)	26 (26)	10 0
Inco me	Below Rs. 1,00,0 00	5 (18. 51)	12 (44. 44)	27 (10 0)	0	27 (10 0)	27 (1 00)	17 (62. 96)	10 (37. 03)	27 (10 0)	17 (62. 96)	0	10 (37. 03)	27 (1 00)	19 (70. 37)	8 (29. 62)	27 (1 00)
	1,00,0 1- 3,00,0 00	2 (6.2 5)	30 (93. 75)	32 (10 0)	1 (3.3 2)	31 (96. 87)	32 (1 00)	23 (71. 87)	9 (28. 12)	32 (10 0)	17 (53. 12)	6 (18. 75)	9 (28. 12)	32 (1 00)	24 (75)	8 (25)	32 (1 00)
	Rs. 3,00,0 01- 5,00,0 00	4 (20)	16 (80)	20 (10 0)	5 (25)	15 (75)	20 (1 00)	14 (70)	6 (30)	20 (10 0)	11 (55)	3 (15)	6 (30)	20 (1 00)	16 (80)	4 (20)	20 (1 00)
	Above Rs. 5,00,0 00	5 (23. 8)	16 (76. 19)	21 (10 0)	4 (19. 04)	17 (80. 95)	21 (1 00)	16 (76. 19)	5 (23. 90)	21 (10 0)	10 (47. 61)	6 (28. 57)	5 (23. 80)	21 (1 00)	15 (71. 42)	6 (28. 57)	21 (1 00)
	Total	16 (16)	84 (84)	100	10 (10)	90 (90)	10 0	70 (70)	30 (30)	100	55 (55)	15 (15)	30 (30)	10 0	74 (100)	26 (26)	10 0

Source: Authors' calculations

When income wise classification was made, analytical table 1 exhibited that approx. 81 per cent and 100 per cent respondents below income Rs. 1,00,000; 93 per cent and 96 per cent respondents between income Rs. 1,00,000 to 3,00,000; 80 per cent and 75 per cent between income Rs. 3,00,000 to 5,00,000; and 76 per cent and 80 per cent respondents above income Rs. 5,00,000 do not face discrimination on the basis of gender both at home and university they face eve-teasing as and when. Further, table revealed that 70 per cent respondents below income Rs. 1,00,000; 74 per cent respondents between income Rs. 1,00,000 to 3,00,000; 80 per cent between income Rs. 3,00,000 to 5,00,000; and 71 per cent respondents above income Rs. 5,00,000 heard about establishment of Bhartiya Mahila Bank in India.

The analytical table 2 exhibited that perception of female respondents on the basis of residential status. The results showed that out of total 38 rural and 62 urban respondents 55 per cent rural and 51 per cent urban respondent agreed and 31 per cent rural and 12 per cent urban respondents strongly believed that BMB is a great step towards women empowerment. Contrary to that only 2.6 per cent rural and 9.67 per cent urban respondents were agree and 2.6 per cent rural and 9.67 per cent urban respondents were strongly disagree with the statement. Further, the table showed that out of total female respondents 31 per cent rural and 19 per cent urban respondents strongly favoured the statement that all women employee in BMB is a good idea.

Approx. 31 per cent rural and 19 per cent urban respondents agreed the statement. Converse to that 10 per cent rural and 12 per cent urban respondents were indifferent with the statement. 21 per cent rural and 29 per cent urban respondents opposed the statement that all women employee in BMB is a good idea but a less significant number of respondents (5 per cent rural and 11 per cent urban) strongly opposed the statement. Further, the table showed that out of total female respondents 18 per cent rural and 16 per cent urban respondents strongly favoured the statement that all women account holder is a good idea. Approx. 42 per cent rural and 24 per cent urban respondents agreed the statement. Contrary to that 13 per cent rural and 20 per cent urban respondents were indifferent with the statement. 21 per cent rural and 30 per cent urban respondents opposed the statement that all women employee in BMB is a good idea but a less significant number of respondents (5 per cent rural and 8 per cent urban) strongly opposed the statement.

Table 2: Residential Status-Wise responses of the sampled respondents

Basis of response	BMB is a great step towards women empowerment						All women employee in BMB is a good idea					
	SA	A	I	D	SD	Total	SA	A	I	D	SD	Total
Rural	12 (31.57)	21 (55.26)	3 (7.89)	1 (2.6)	1 (2.6)	38 (100)	12 (31.57)	12 (31.57)	4 (10.57)	8 (21.05)	2 (5.26)	38 (100)
Urban	8 (12.90)	32 (51.61)	15 (24.19)	6 (9.67)	1 (1.61)	62 (100)	17 (27.41)	12 (19.35)	8 (12.90)	18 (29.03)	7 (11.29)	62 (100)
Total	20	53	18	7	2	100	29	24	12	26	9	100
Basis of response	All women account holder is a good decision						Only women will be financed by the bank					
	SA	A	I	D	SD	Total	SA	A	I	D	SD	Total
Rural	7 (18.42)	16 (42.10)	5 (13.15)	8 (21.05)	2 (5.2)	38 (100)	8 (21.06)	15 (39.47)	2 (5.26)	10 (26.31)	3 (7.89)	38 (100)
Urban	10 (16.12)	15 (24.19)	13 (20.96)	19 (30.64)	5 (8.06)	62 (100)	15 (24.19)	23 (37.09)	11 (17.74)	10 (16.12)	3 (4.8)	62 (100)
Total	17	31	18	27	7	100	23	38	13	20	6	100
Basis of response	It will abolish women discrimination						More such programme are needed to empower women in India					
	SA	A	I	D	SD	Total	SA	A	I	D	SD	Total
Rural	1 (2.63)	8 (21.05)	5 (13.15)	17 (44.73)	7 (18.43)	38 (100)	23 (60.52)	9 (23.68)	2 (5.26)	2 (5.26)	2 (5.26)	38 (100)
Urban	3 (4.83)	12 (19.35)	9 (14.15)	24 (38.70)	14 (22.58)	62 (100)	33 (53.22)	17 (27.41)	5 (8.06)	6 (9.67)	1 (1.61)	62 (100)
Total	4	20	14	41	21	100	56	26	7	8	3	100
Basis of response	It is a non-sense idea and further widens the gap between men and women						It is possible to make India a developed country only through women empowerment					
	SA	A	I	D	SD	Total	SA	A	I	D	SD	Total
Rural	10 (26.31)	13 (34.21)	2 (5.26)	9 (23.68)	4 (10.52)	38 (100)	15 (39.47)	12 (31.57)	2 (5.26)	5 (13.15)	4 (10.52)	38 (100)
Urban	18 (29.03)	13 (20.96)	11 (17.74)	16 (25.8)	4 (6.45)	62 (100)	16 (25.8)	16 (25.8)	8 (12.9)	7 (11.29)	11 (17.74)	62 (100)
Total	28	26	13	25	8	100	31	28	10	16	15	100

Further, the table confirmed that 21 per cent rural and 24 per cent urban respondents strongly favoured and 39 per cent rural and 37 per cent urban respondents favoured that it is good that the bank will provide financial assistance to women only for making them self-dependent. Contrary to that only 5 per cent rural and 17 per cent urban respondents were indifferent with the statement. 26 per cent rural and 16 per cent urban respondents opposed the statement that all women employee in BMB is a good idea but a less significant number of respondents (7 per cent rural and 4 per cent urban) strongly opposed the statement. Further, results showed that 44 cent rural and 38 per cent urban respondents felt that the discrimination against women can't be controlled with the help of the bank and hence disagreed with the statement and 18 per cent rural and 22 per cent urban respondents strongly opposed the statement. Contrary to that only 21 per cent rural and 19 per cent urban respondents favoured the statement. A mainstream of the respondents (60 per cent rural and 53 per cent urban) believed that such more programmes are needed to empower women, economically, but a very less significant number of respondents

disagreed with the same and hence total 60 per cent rural and 50 per cent urban respondents strongly agreed and agreed with the idea of establishing the BMB and supposed that it is a non-sense step resulting into the widening of gap between men and women. At last study exposed the fact majority of respondents (39 per cent rural and 25 per cent urban) strongly believed that women empowerment is essential to make India a developed country, contrary to that only 10 per cent respondents strongly disagreed with the same.

Table 3: Age-Wise responses of the sampled respondents

Basis of response	BMB is a great step towards women empowerment						All women employee in BMB is a good idea					
	SA	A	I	D	SD	Total	SA	A	I	D	SD	Total
Below 20	5 (15.15)	17 (51.51)	9 (27.27)	2 (6.06)	0	33 (100)	18 (54.54)	4 (12.12)	2 (6.06)	8 (24.24)	1 (3.03)	33 (100)
Above 20	15 (22.39)	36 (53.73)	9 (13.43)	5 (7.46)	2 (2.99)	67 (100)	11 (16.42)	20 (29.85)	10 (14.93)	18 (26.87)	8 (11.94)	67 (100)
Total	20	53	18	7	2	100	29	24	12	26	9	100
Basis of response	All women account holder is a good decision						Only women will be financed by the bank					
	SA	A	I	D	SD	Total	SA	A	I	D	SD	Total
Below 20	5 (15.15)	5 (15.15)	7 (21.21)	15 (45.46)	1 (3.03)	33 (100)	10 (30.30)	11 (33.33)	4 (12.12)	7 (21.21)	1 (3.03)	33 (100)
Above 20	12 (17.91)	26 (38.81)	11 (16.42)	12 (17.91)	6 (8.9)	67 (100)	13 (19.40)	27 (40.29)	9 (13.43)	13 (19.40)	5 (7.46)	67 (100)
Total	17	31	18	27	7	100	23	38	13	20	6	100
Basis of response	It will abolish women discrimination						More such programme are needed to empower women in India					
	SA	A	I	D	SD	Total	SA	A	I	D	SD	Total
Below 20	3 (9.09)	17 (51.51)	5 (15.15)	6 (18.18)	2 (6.06)	33 (100)	24 (72.73)	4 (12.12)	2 (6.06)	2 (6.06)	1 (3.03)	33 (100)
Above 20	1 (1.49)	3 (4.48)	9 (13.43)	35 (52.24)	19 (28.36)	67 (100)	32 (47.76)	22 (32.84)	5 (7.46)	6 (8.96)	2 (2.99)	67 (100)
Total	4	20	14	41	21	100	56	26	7	8	3	100
Basis of response	It is a non-sense idea and further widens the gap between men and women						It is possible to make India a developed country only through women empowerment					
	SA	A	I	D	SD	Total	SA	A	I	D	SD	Total
Below 20	18 (54.55)	9 (27.27)	3 (9.09)	3 (9.09)	0	33 (100)	5 (15.15)	9 (27.27)	6 (18.18)	10 (30.30)	3 (9.09)	33 (100)
Above 20	10 (14.93)	17 (25.37)	10 (14.93)	22 (32.84)	8 (11.94)	67 (100)	26 (38.81)	19 (28.36)	4 (5.97)	6 (8.96)	12 (17.91)	67 (100)
Total	28	26	13	25	8	100	31	28	10	16	15	100

Table 3 exhibited the age-wise responses of female respondents towards the economic empowerment of women through opening up of Women Bank of India (Bhartiya Mahila Bank). The results showed that out of total 33 respondents below age 20 and 67 respondents above age 20, total 66 per cent below age 20 and 75 per cent respondents above age 20

thought that BMB is a great step towards women empowerment. Contrary to that only 6 per cent below age 20 and 9 per cent above age 20 disagreed with the statement. Majority of the respondents (total 66 per cent below age 20 and 46 per cent above age 20) agreed that all women employee in BMB is a good idea but 27 per cent below age 20 and 37 per cent above age 20 opposed the statement. 30 per cent below age 20 and 55 per cent above age 20 agreed that all women account holder is a good decision but contrary to that a very significant, 48 per cent below age 20 and 25 per cent above age 20 opposed the statement. 63 per cent below age 20 and 59 per cent above age 20 favoured that it is good that the bank will provide financial assistance to women only for making them self-dependent, but contrary to that significant, 24 per cent below age 20 and 26 per cent above age 20 opposed the statement. Interestingly, 60 per cent respondents below age 20 and it will abolish women discrimination believed that all women bank will abolish women discrimination but 80 per cent respondents above age 20 strongly opposed that it will abolish women discrimination and a majority of respondents (80 per cent respondents below age 20 and 79 per cent respondents above age 20) agreed that more such programmes are needed to empower women in India. Further, study observed that a mainstream of respondents believed that establishment of all women bank is a non-sense step further resulting into the widening of gap between men and women. At last 45 per cent respondents below age 20 and 66 per cent respondents above age 20 agreed that women empowerment is essential to make India a developed nation.

Table 4: Income-Wise responses of the sampled respondents

Basis of response	BMB is a great step towards women empowerment						All women employee in BMB is a good idea					
	SA	A	I	D	SD	Total	SA	A	I	D	SD	Total
Below Rs.1,00,000	6 (22.22)	16 (59.26)	3 (11.11)	2 (7.41)	0	27 (100)	11 (40.74)	9 (33.33)	2 (7.41)	5 (18.52)	0	27 (100)
Rs.1,00,000-3,00,000	8 (25)	15 (46.88)	3 (10)	4 (12.5)	2 (6.25)	32 (100)	7 (21.88)	9 (28.13)	5 (15.63)	6 (18.75)	5 (15.63)	32 (100)
Rs.3,00,000-5,00,000	2 (10)	11 (55)	7 (35)	0	0	20 (100)	3 (15)	4 (20)	3 (15)	7 (35)	3 (15)	20 (100)
Above Rs. 5,00,000	4 (19.05)	11 (52.38)	5 (23.81)	1 (4.76)	0	21 (100)	8 (38.10)	2 (9.52)	2 (9.52)	8 (38.10)	1 (4.76)	21 (100)
Total	20	53	18	7	2	100	29	24	12	26	9	100
Basis of response	All women account holder is a good decision						Only women will be financed by the bank					
	SA	A	I	D	SD	Total	SA	A	I	D	SD	Total
Below Rs.1,00,000	8 (29.63)	9 (33.33)	5 (18.52)	5 (18.52)	0	27 (100)	9 (33.33)	5 (18.52)	4 (14.82)	9 (33.33)	0	27 (100)
Rs.1,00,000-3,00,000	5 (15.63)	7 (21.88)	5 (15.63)	10 (31.25)	5 (15.63)	32 (100)	5 (15.63)	16 (50)	2 (6.25)	6 (18.75)	3 (10)	32(100)
Rs.3,00,000-5,00,000	1 (5)	6 (30)	5 (25)	6 (30)	2 (10)	20 (100)	3 (15)	9 (45)	4 (20)	2 (10)	2 (10)	20 (100)
Above Rs. 5,00,000	3 (14.29)	9 (42.86)	3 (14.29)	6 (28.57)	0	21 (100)	6 (28.57)	8 (38.10)	3 (14.29)	3 (14.29)	1 (4.76)	21(100)
Total	17	31	18	27	7	100	23	38	13	20	6	100
Basis of response	It will abolish women discrimination						More such programme are needed to empower women in India					
	SA	A	I	D	SD	Total	SA	A	I	D	SD	Total
Below Rs.1,00,000	1 (3.7)	9 (33.33)	3 (11.11)	10 (37.04)	4 (14.82)	27 (100)	19 (70.37)	5 (18.52)	1 (3.7)	2 (7.41)	0	27 (100)
Rs.1,00,000-3,00,000	0	3 (10)	6 (18.75)	13 (40.63)	10 (31.25)	32 (100)	16 (50)	7 (21.88)	1 (3.13)	5 (15.63)	3 (10)	32 (100)

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Rs.3,00,00 1-5,00,000	2 (10)	3 (15)	3 (15)	6 (30)	6 (30)	20 (100)	8 (40)	10 (50)	2 (10)	0	0	20 (100)
Above Rs. 5,00,000	1 (4.76)	5 (23.81)	2 (9.52)	12 (57.14)	1 (4.76)	21 (100)	13 (61.91)	4 (19.05)	3 (14.29)	1 (4.76)	0	21 (100)
Total	4	20	14	41	21	100	56	26	7	8	3	100
Basis of response	It is a non-sense idea and further widens the gap between men and women						It is possible to make India a developed country only through women empowerment					
	SA	A	I	D	SD	Total	SA	A	I	D	SD	Total
Below Rs.1,00,000	10 (37.04)	8 (29.63)	2 (7.41)	7 (25.93)	0	27 (100)	10 (37.04)	8 (29.63)	2 (7.41)	4 (14.82)	3 (11.11)	27 (100)
Rs.1,00,000 1-3,00,000	6 (18.75)	9 (28.13)	4 (12.5)	8 (25)	5 (15.63)	32 (100)	12 (37.5)	11 (34.38)	0	6 (18.75)	3 (10)	32 (100)
Rs.3,00,000 1-5,00,000	5 (25)	6 (30)	4 (20)	4 (20)	1 (5)	20 (100)	4 (20)	2 (10)	4 (20)	4 (20)	6 (30)	20 (100)
Above Rs. 5,00,000	7 (33.33)	3 (14.29)	3 (14.29)	6 (28.57)	2 (9.52)	21(100)	5 (23.81)	7 (33.33)	4 (19.05)	2 (9.52)	3 (14.29)	21 (100)
Total	28	26	13	25	8	100	31	28	10	16	15	100

The analytical table 4 presented the income-wise classification of the perception of the sampled female respondents. Out of total 27 respondents from the income group below Rs. 1,00,000; 32 respondents from the income group Rs. 1,00,000-3,00,000; 20 respondents from the income group Rs. 3,00,000-5,00,000; and 21 respondents from the income group above Rs. 5,00,000, 22 per cent, 25 per cent, 10 per cent, and 19 per cent female respondents respectively strongly agreed that feel that the bank is a great step towards women empowerment. Along with a majority of respondents (59 per cent from income group below Rs. 1,00,000; 46 per cent from the income group Rs. 1,00,000-3,00,000; 55 per cent from the income group Rs. 3,00,000-5,00,000; and 52 per cent from the income group above Rs. 5,00,000) agreed with the same. Table displayed that total 73 per cent from income group below Rs. 1,00,000; 50 per cent from the income group Rs. 1,00,000-3,00,000; 35 per cent respondents from the income group Rs. 3,00,000-5,00,000; and 47 per cent from the income group above Rs. 5,00,000 agreed that women employee in BMB is a good idea but 33 per cent respondents from the income group Rs. 1,00,000-3,00,000; 50 per cent respondents from the income group Rs. 3,00,000-5,00,000; and 42 per cent respondents from the income group above Rs. 5,00,000 disagreed with the same.

Approx. 62 per cent respondents from income group below Rs. 1,00,000; 36 per cent respondents from the income group Rs. 1,00,000-3,00,000; 35 per cent respondents from the income group Rs. 3,00,000-5,00,000; and 56 per cent respondents from the income group above Rs. 5,00,000 believed that all women account holder is a good decision but contrary to that a very significant number of the respondents disagreed with the same. Further, analytical table revealed that a sizable number of respondents (51 per cent respondents from the income group below Rs. 1,00,000; 65 per cent respondents from the income group Rs. 1,00,000-3,00,000; 60 per cent respondents from the income group Rs. 3,00,000-5,00,000; and 66 per cent respondents from the income group above Rs. 5,00,000 agreed that it is good that the bank will provide financial assistance to women only for making them self-dependent, economically. Interestingly, a majority of the respondents, 51 per cent respondents from the income group below Rs. 1,00,000; 71 per cent respondents from the income group Rs. 1,00,000-3,00,000; 60 per cent respondents from the income group Rs. 3,00,000-5,00,000; and 61 per cent respondents from the income group above Rs. 5,00,000 strongly opposed the statement that it will abolish women discrimination. Approx. 88 per cent respondents from the income group below Rs. 1,00,000; 71 per cent respondents from the income group Rs. 1,00,000-3,00,000; 90 per cent respondents from the income group Rs. 3,00,000-5,00,000; and 80 per cent respondents from the income group above Rs. 5,00,000 feel that more such programmes are needed to empower women in India.

A sizable respondents, 66 per cent respondents from the income group below Rs. 1,00,000; 46 per cent respondents from the income group Rs. 1,00,000-3,00,000; 55 per cent respondents from the income group Rs. 3,00,000-5,00,000; and 47 per cent respondents from the income group above Rs. 5,00,000 were of view that the idea of establishing the BMB as a non-

sense step resulting into the widening of gap between men and women. At very last the results of the study confirmed that 66 per cent respondents from the income group below Rs. 1,00,000; 71 per cent respondents from the income group Rs. 1,00,000-3,00,000; 30 per cent respondents from the income group Rs. 3,00,000-5,00,000; and 56 per cent respondents from the income group above Rs. 5,00,000 agreed that women empowerment is essential to make India a developed nation.

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