



## ISSUES UNRESOLVED IN THE PATH OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

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### Introduction

Power means control over material assets, intellectual resource and ideology. In Webster's English Dictionary, the verb empowers means to give the means, ability and authority. Empowerment is a multi-dimensional social process that helps people to gain control over their own lives and in their society, by acting on issues that they consider as important. Empowerment occurs within sociological, psychological and economic spheres and at various levels such as individual, group and community and challenges our assumptions about the status-quo, asymmetrical power relationships and social dynamics.

Family system is also an influencing factor in the sector of women empowerment. Two type i.e., joint family and nuclear has got its own implications. In the modern era most of the families are nuclear, but problems are still prevailing in these families. The present article intends to analyze the sector of women empowerment by interviewing 250 SHG respondents in the rural parts of villupuram district.

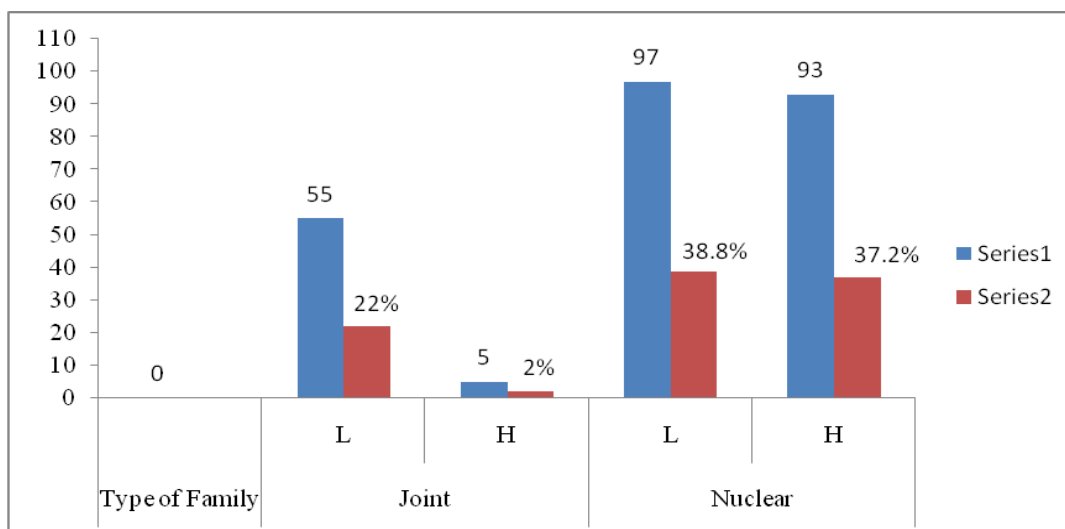
Among 250 respondents 60 belongs to Joint and 190 belongs to nuclear family type.

### Types of Family

| Types of Family          | Joint        |               | Nuclear        |                | Total         |
|--------------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
|                          | L            | H             | L              | H              |               |
| Exercise Basic Rights    | 55<br>(22%)  | 5<br>(2%)     | 97<br>(38.8%)  | 93<br>(37.2%)  | 250<br>(100%) |
| Awareness of Crime Laws  | 50<br>(20%)  | 10<br>(4%)    | 156<br>(62.4%) | 34<br>(13.6%)  | 250<br>(100%) |
| Domestic Violence        | 6<br>(2.4%)  | 54<br>(21.6%) | 10<br>(4%)     | 180<br>(72%)   | 250<br>(100%) |
| Dowry Related Violence   | 16<br>(6.4%) | 44<br>(17.6%) | 47<br>(18.8%)  | 143<br>(57.2%) | 250<br>(100%) |
| Working place Harassment | 50<br>(20%)  | 10<br>(4%)    | 170<br>(68%)   | 20<br>(8%)     | 250<br>(100%) |
| Total                    | 60           |               | 190            |                | 250           |

22% of the Joint family type exercised low level of rights and 2% only high level. Regarding nuclear family it is 38.8% exercised low level and 37.2% high level.

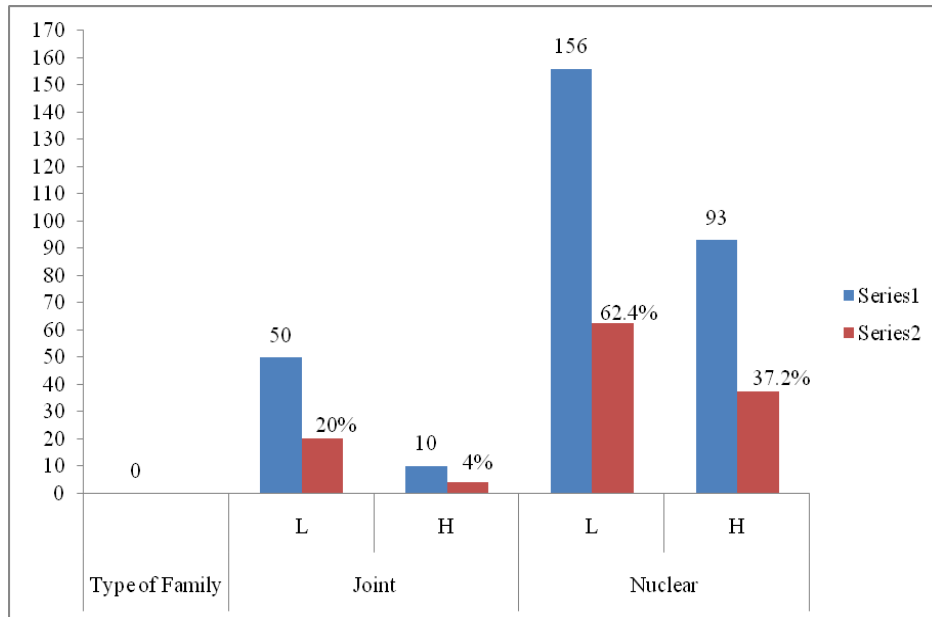
### Exercise of Basic Rights





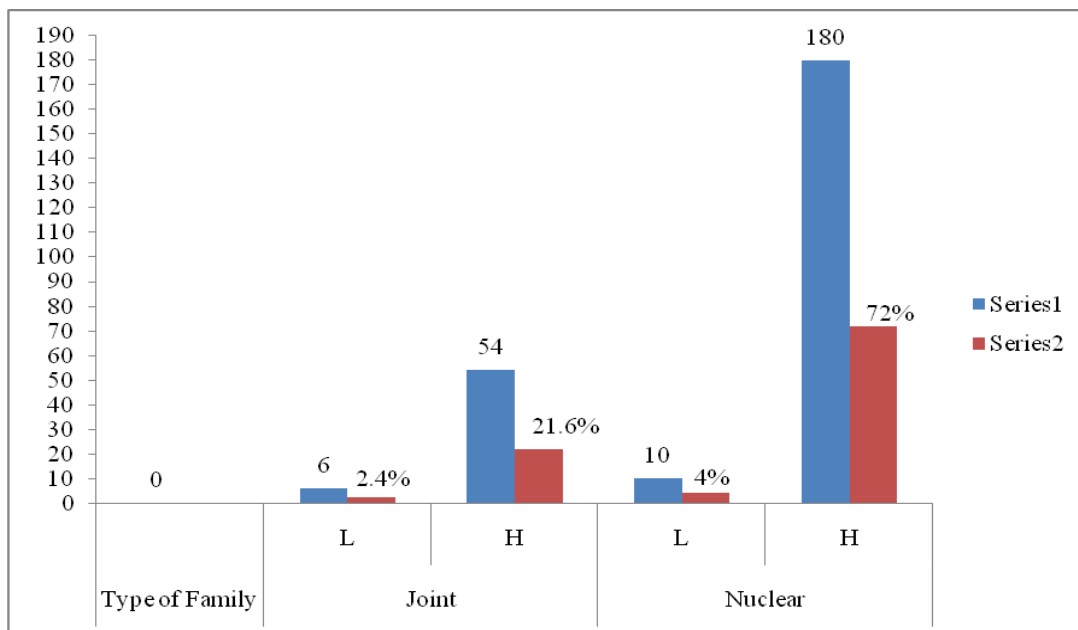
Questions related to crime laws was provided to the women leaders and 20% are less aware and 4% of the joint family are highly aware of crime laws for the protection of women. In nuclear family it is 62.4% who are less aware and 13.6% are aware of the criminal laws.

### Awareness of Crime Laws



2.4% of the women leaders come across low level of domestic violence in the home and 21.6% at high level. Among respondents in the nuclear family 4% come across low level and 72% of the women leaders come across a very high level of violence and harassment in their homes.

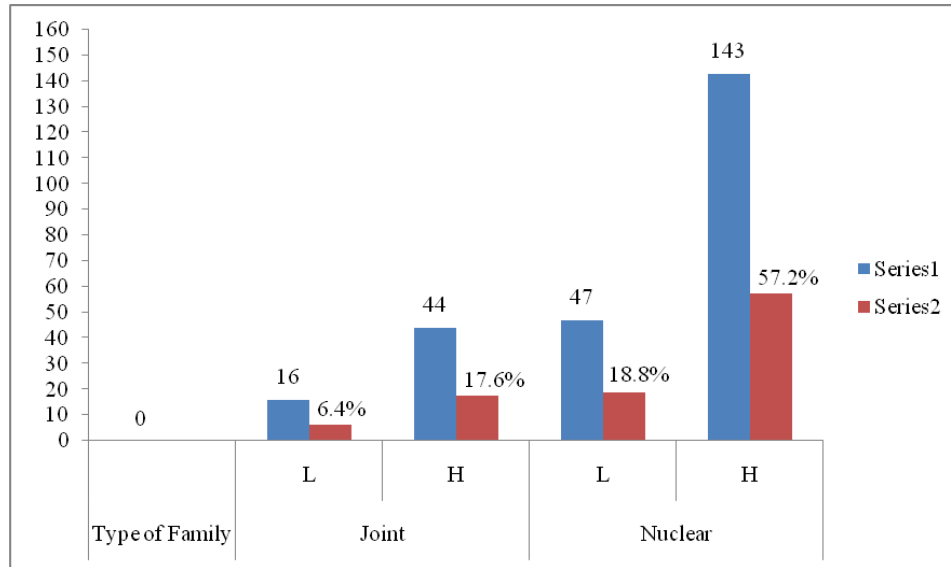
### Domestic Violence



6.4% of the joint family come across low level of dowry harassments and 17.6% come across high level. Among nuclear family classification, it is 18.8% of the respondents opted for low level and 57.2% of the women come across high level of harassment.

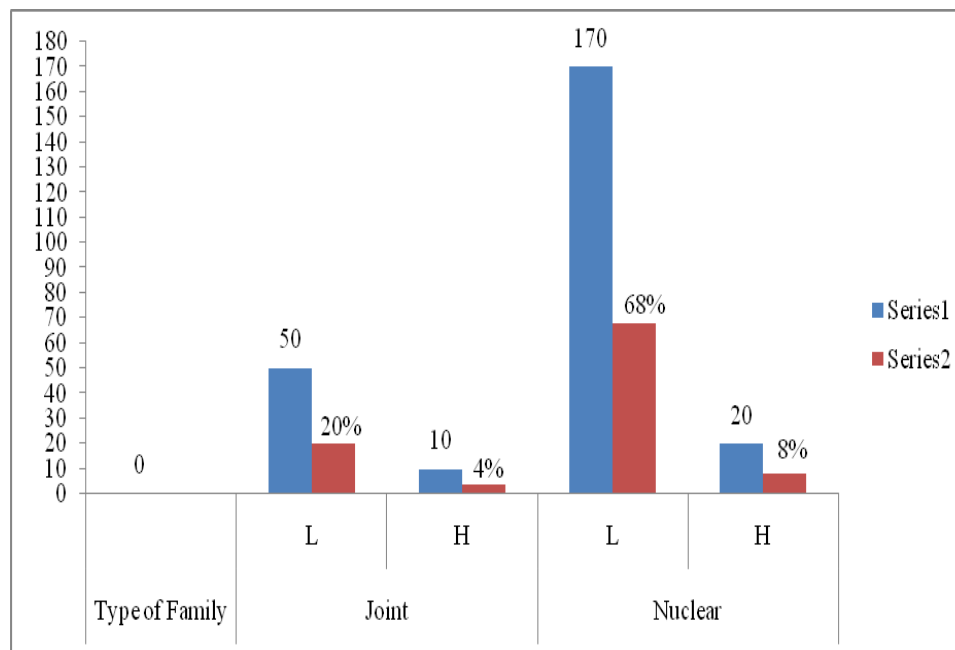


### Dowry Related Violence



Related to working place harassments among joint family 20% of the respondents come across low level and 4% come across high level of sexual harassments. In nuclear families it is 68% of women leaders are either Non-Job goers or come across low level of harassment and 8% of the leaders come across high level of workplace harassments.

### Work Place Harassment



### Conclusion

Empowerment means to make one powerful or to equip one with the power to face challenges of life, to overcome the difficulties, handicaps and inequalities. Empowerment is an active multi-dimensional process, which would enable women to realize their full identity and powers - in all spheres of life. It would consist in providing greater access to knowledge and resources, greater autonomy in decision making, greater ability to plan their lives, greater control over the circumstances that influences their lives and freedom from the shackles imposed on them by custom, belief and practice.



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