

**A study on the Impact of Gruha Lakshmi Scheme on
Rural Women's Empowerment in Karnataka:
The Case Study of Shivamogga District
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ABSTRACT:

The Gruha Lakshmi Scheme, implemented by the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Karnataka, is designed to empower women by offering financial assistance to female heads of households. Under this program, eligible women receive ₹2, 000 per month through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), enabling them to meet household expenses and enhance their standard of living. The beneficiaries include women listed as heads of families in ration cards belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) categories.

KEYWORDS:

Gruha Lakshmi Scheme, Women Empowerment, Household Savings, Gender Equality, Karnataka.

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Introduction

The Government of Karnataka introduced the Gruha Lakshmi Scheme on June 6, 2023, as part of its commitment to promote gender equality and empower women across the state. This flagship welfare initiative provides financial assistance to women who are recognized as the heads of their households. Under the scheme, each eligible woman receives ₹2, 000 per month through a Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system, ensuring transparency and accessibility.

The scheme acknowledges the economic contribution of women, particularly homemakers and those engaged in unpaid domestic labor, by offering them financial recognition and independence. Its core objectives include promoting economic self-reliance, enhancing gender equity, and improving the dignity and social status of women.

Gruha Lakshmi is one of the "Five Guarantees" announced by the

Karnataka Government to enhance the well-being of residents. The other four schemes include:

- **Shakti:** Free bus travel for women
- **Gruha Jyothi:** Free electricity up to 200 units
- **Anna Bhagya:** Free food grains for households
- **Yuva Nidhi:** Unemployment allowance for youth

Together, these programs represent a comprehensive social welfare framework, with the Gruha Lakshmi Scheme standing out for its direct focus on women's empowerment through financial support.

Eligibility Criteria

To ensure that benefits reach deserving recipients, the government has specified the following eligibility conditions:

- The applicant must be a woman and a resident of Karnataka.
- Her name must appear as the head of the family on the ration card (BPL or APL).
- Priority is given to women from BPL households.
- In the event of the death of the registered head, another eligible female member may apply.
- Women who pay income tax or GST are not eligible to receive benefits.

The financial assistance of ₹2, 000 per month is directly credited to the beneficiary's Aadhaar-linked bank account through DBT or via RTGS for non-Aadhaar-linked accounts. As of July 2024, approximately 1. 28 crore women have registered under the program. The scheme also extends support to housewives, landless laborers, and women agricultural workers, thereby contributing to their financial stability and improved livelihood.

Methodology and Database

This study adopts a mixed-method approach by utilizing both primary and secondary sources of data to ensure a comprehensive understanding of impact of griha lakshmi scheme on empowerment of rural women role.

Primary data were collected through structured questionnaires and field interviews conducted with women across different taluks in Shimoga district.

Secondary data were sourced from published research articles, government reports, books, academic journals, and reports of govt of

Karnataka griha lakshmi website

Sampling Design

A simple random sampling technique was used for respondent selection. The sample consisted of 100 farmers, with 20 participants selected from each of the five taluks in Shimoga district. The sample was designed to include diversity in terms of age, gender, education level, income group, and landholding size, ensuring a representative demographic profile.

Objectives of the Study

- To analyze the socio-economic conditions of women beneficiaries and the improvements achieved through the scheme.
- To identify the limitations and shortcomings associated with the implementation of the program.
- To explore the challenges faced by beneficiaries and administrators in the execution of the scheme.

Hypotheses of the Study

- The Gruha Lakshmi Scheme has significantly contributed to the empowerment of women.
- The Government of Karnataka is actively working toward enhancing women's empowerment through this initiative.
- The scheme provides benefits not only to women but also to the entire family, improving overall household welfare.

Techniques of Analysis

Data collected from field surveys were systematically organized and presented in tabular form for effective analysis. The following statistical tools were employed to interpret and validate the research findings:

- Percentage analysis
- Mean (average) values
- Chi-square test for identifying relationships and testing hypotheses

These analytical tools facilitated the identification of trends, comparisons, and patterns, enabling the formulation of meaningful conclusions based on both quantitative and qualitative data.

Chi - square test :

$$\chi^2 = \frac{\sum (O - E)^2}{E}$$

Where, χ^2 = Chi - square value
O = Observed frequencies

E = Expected frequencies

Period of the study: the present study was conducted during 2024–25

Funds released from Griha Lakshmi scheme

Years	Funds released (Rs in Crore)
2023–24	17000. 00
2024–25	28608. 40

The socio-economic condition of women through this scheme.

Enhanced Household Well-being:

Most beneficiaries utilize the financial assistance to meet essential needs such as purchasing nutritious food, accessing healthcare services, and supporting their children’s education, leading to noticeable improvements in overall household welfare.

Greater Financial Independence and Confidence:

The scheme has enabled women to exercise greater control over household expenditures, resulting in increased self-confidence, autonomy, and financial decision-making capacity.

Improved Decision-Making Authority:

Beneficiaries have reported a rise in their participation in family-level decision-making processes, marking a significant step toward achieving gender equality within households.

Positive Indirect Outcomes:

Beyond direct financial benefits, the scheme has contributed to strengthening women’s bargaining position within families and has indirectly boosted local economies through higher household consumption and spending.

Impact of griha lakshmi scheme on empowerment of rural women

This section presents the findings of the field-based empirical research carried out to evaluate the impact of griha lakshmi scheme on empowerment of rural women in in the Shimoga district of Karnataka. The study is based on a structured survey conducted among 100 women, identified as beneficiaries.

The analysis of primary data is organized into the following two sections:

- **Section I:** Socio-economic profile of the respondents
- **Section II:** Utilization and perceived benefits of Griha lakshmi scheme

SECTION I – Socio-Economic Profile of the Respondents

Sample respondents

Simple random sampling method was used for surveying the respondents. The number of sample respondents interviewed and response were collected. The data has been collected from the 100 sample beneficiaries, 20 beneficiaries have been selected from each selected taluks.

Age Group

Tabl-1 shows that majority 39(39) of the respondents are belongs to the age group of 46 – 55. Also about 25 (25 percent) of the respondents belong to the age group of 36–45 which could be utilized for their education and building up ones personality. The education and building up ones personality. The date shows that the age of the respondent is in the range between 18 to 65 years and the average age is calculated as 35 years.

Table – 1: Age – Wise Classification of Sample Respondents Interviewed

Age Group	No. Of Respondent	Percentage
25-35	13	13
36-45	25	25
46-55	39	39
56-65	17	17
66-75	6	6
Total	100	100

Source : Survey data

Note : Figures in the brackets represent percentage.

Educational status of the Respondents

Level of education which is categorized as illiterates, primary, high school to PUC and Degree and above education which is reflected in table-2

Table – 2: Educational Status of the Respondents

Level of education	No. Of Respondent	Percentage
Illiterate	20	20
Primary	17	17
High school to PUC	45	45
Degree and above	18	18
Total	100	100

Source: Survey data

Note: Figures in the brackets represent percentage.

The table-2 reveals that out of total 100 sample respondents, large number of respondents 45 (45 percent) have completed their high school to PUC. Only 20 (20) respondents were illiterate. Where as only 18 (18 percent) respondents have educated up to Degree and above. This was due to the poverty of their parents.

Family Size

Family size is an important socio-economic determinant. Table- 3 reveals that out of the 100 sample respondents in selected villages 69 (69 percent) were having an average family size of 4 – 6 numbers : where as the 4 (4 percent) were having an average family size of above 6 members. The rest of the members stated that family size to be 1-3 (27 percent)

Table – 3: Family size of the Respondents

No. Of Member in family	No. Of Respondent	Percentage
1 – 3	27	27
4 – 6	69	69
Above 6	4	4
Total	100	100

Source: Survey data

Note: Figures in the brackets represent percentage.

SECTION : II: Utilization of Griha Lakshmi

The section reveals the utilisation of griha lakshmi on empowering women. Many respondents empowered from this.

Table – 4

Utilization of Benefits of Griha Lakshmi

Utilization / Respondents	Yes	No	Total
Empowered	75 (93. 75)	05 (6. 25)	80 (100)
Not empowered	05 (25)	15 (75)	20 (100)
Total	80 (80)	20 (20)	100 (100)
Chi-square test: $\chi^2 = 0.935$; d. f = 1: significant at 5% level			

Source: Survey data

Note: Figures in brackets represent percentage

Table-4 revealed that there is a difference between empowerment and not empowerment of women in utilizing griha lakshmi scheme benefits. Out of 100 respondents, 80 (80 percent) both respondents are empowered and 20 (20 percent) both respondents of are not empowered. 75 (93. 75 percent) of respondents are fully empowered from this scheme and 5 (6. 25 percent) respondents are said not empowered.

The Chi-square test of significance is applied for the testing the hypothesis “griha lakshmi guarantee scheme helps to empower women do.” This hypothesis accepted because the calculated value is 0. 935 which is less than the table value 3. 84 at 5% level of significance (degrees of freedom is 1).

Conclude that utilization of advantages of this scheme is very high.

Present government is working to empower the women

Present government is working to empower the women. Working level is high according to women than male in uneducated farmers compared to educated sector

Table – 6:

Respondents / working level	High	Low	Total
Male	15 (33. 3)	30 (66. 6)	45 (100)
Female	25 (45. 4)	30 (54. 5)	55 (100)
Total	40 (40)	60 (60)	100 (100)
Chi – square test: $x^2=1. 5$; d. f=1: significant at 5 % level			

Source: Survey data.

Note: Figures in the brackets represent percentage.

Table –6 revealed that. Working level is high according to women that is 25 when compared to the male that is 15. This Hypothesis is accepted because calculated value is 1. 5 which is less than the table value 3. 841 at 5% level of significance

8. Major findings

There is a difference between empowerment and not empowering women in utilizing griha lakshmi scheme benefits. Out of 100 respondents,

80 (80 percent) both respondents are empowered and 20 (20 percent) both respondents are not empowered. 75 (93.75 percent) of respondents are fully empowered from this scheme and 5 (6.25 percent) respondents are said not empowered.

The Chi-square test of significance is applied for the testing the hypothesis “griha lakshmi guarantee scheme helps to empower women do.” This hypothesis accepted because the calculated value is 0.935 which is less than the table value 3.84 at 5% level of significance (degrees of freedom is 1). Conclude that utilization of advantages of this scheme is very high.

Working level is high according to women that is 25 when compared to the male that is 15. This Hypothesis is accepted because calculated value is 1.5 which is less than the table value 3.841 at 5% level of significance.

Conclusion

The Gruha Lakshmi Scheme represents a transformative step in Karnataka’s social welfare landscape, aiming to promote women’s empowerment and financial inclusion. By providing direct financial assistance to women recognized as heads of households, the scheme has enhanced their economic independence, reduced financial dependency, and strengthened household security. Beneficiaries have reported improved confidence in managing household finances, greater involvement in decision-making, and enhanced social recognition within their families and communities.

Although the monthly assistance of ₹2,000 may not be sufficient to meet all household needs, it has proven instrumental in alleviating financial stress and ensuring a basic level of economic stability. The study concludes that the impact of the Gruha Lakshmi Scheme can be further enhanced by linking it with skill development programs, micro-savings initiatives, and entrepreneurship opportunities, which would help sustain and deepen the empowerment of women, especially in rural areas.

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Conflict of interest:

The Authors have no conflict of interest to declare that they are relevant to the content of this article.

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