

DEVELOPMENT AND VALIDATION OF AN INSTRUMENT MEASURING QUALITY OF LIFE OF WOMEN MICRO ENTREPRENEURS

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ABSTRACT-- *Researcher has gone through the published scale. Through a series of revisions and validation processes, identified eight dimensions of Quality of life of women micro entrepreneurs of Kudumbashree each measured with eight, thirteen, and seven items for a total of twenty-five items. Extensive literature review was conducted to identify factors within quality of life. Pilot study was conducted to measure reliability and validity of the instrument. As a result, eight factors were identified. Confirmatory Factor Analysis was done to determine if the data would fit the eight factor structure.*

Key words-- *Quality of life, Validation of an Instrument.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Women micro entrepreneurs of Alappuzha are interested to establish their own business as professionally through Kudumbashree. Through micro entrepreneurship, women are able to empower socially, economically, politically and personally to enable them to stand in society on their own with confidence. As they are having multiple roles in home and at work place, they have to face a lot of problems. But the management training gained from kudumbashree, support and care from family, support and co operation of fellow entrepreneurs there by the acquirement of confidence and inspiration, savings and asset creation help them to have an increased standard of living. The hike in quality of life enables them to have control over their lives, self-efficacy, self-reliance, self-determination and way to achieve for themselves. Also, women micro entrepreneurs are able to enhance their personal capabilities and increase decision making status in the family and society as a whole.

OBJECTIVES

- *To develop psychometric instrument for the measurement of quality of life of women micro entrepreneurs.
- *To study the inspiration and support of family members towards women micro entrepreneurs to achieve confidence.
- *To know how women micro entrepreneurs gain success at the cost of family life.
- * To compare the asset creation strategies before and after getting training assistance from Kudumbashree.

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*To analyze how team members support the micro entrepreneurs to improve their strength.

*To study the change in life of women micro entrepreneur after becoming an entrepreneur.

II. METHODOLOGY

Internal consistency, reliability of the instrument was assessed using Cronbach's alpha. The construct, content and face validities were checked. Confirmatory factor analysis was done to verify the fitness of the data. Literature review was conducted to identify factors within management of stress. As a result eight factors were identified.

III. ITEMS DEVELOPED

In order to collect the primary data from women micro entrepreneurs, 25 questions were prepared with a basic knowledge from the questionnaire of Sivakumar.K (2012). After becoming an entrepreneur, Kudumbashree micro entrepreneurs have a very good improvement in their capabilities, recognition in society and way of life. So it is essential to know how they achieve confidence, the way in which team mates and family supports them and their success in life.

In working with others, women micro entrepreneurs have to co operate with each other, mutual understanding and support must be there. Good marketing & training from Kudumbashree and free time enable them to acquire confidence. Support and care from husband and family give them strength and are become more empowered. Taking into account these factors, questions were modified.

IV. METHODS OF INSTRUMENT REVISION AND VALIDATION

Pilot study was conducted with 60 women micro entrepreneurs of Kudumbashree program in Alappuzha District. It revealed that the revised instrument was reliable. The reliability and validity of the questionnaire were tested using Cronbach's alpha and construct validity ratio.

Table 1: KMO and Bartlett's Test Results

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling		.901
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Approx. Chi-Square	3216.666
	df	300
	Sig.	0.000

As per Kaiser classification any Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin value greater than 0.60 is considered adequate sampling adequacy. In this case a KMO measure of sampling adequacy of 0.901 is considered marvellous sampling adequacy for each variable in the model and for the complete model. The Bartlett's test of sphericity is used to test the null hypothesis that the original correlation matrix is an identity matrix. The Bartlett's measure of Chi-square of 3216.666 at 300 degree of freedom, with a significance value of less than 0.05, rejects the null hypothesis at 5 per cent significance level. Thus, it can be concluded that with a marvellous sampling adequacy and absence of identity correlation matrix, the data is well suited for the principal component analysis.

The content validity is measured by submitting the measurement tool to subject matter experts and are asked to provide feedback. From their feedback, it is clear that the tool is valid. Face validity involves the expert looking at the items in the questionnaire and agreed that the tool is subjectively viewed as covering the concept it proposed to measure and it is a valid measurement.

V. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Questions were developed to measure the way in which women micro entrepreneurs make improvement in their lives, gain support of team members in acquiring confidence, time spent for societal activities, children and family members, care from family to provide inspiration.

To analyze the data, a confirmatory factor analysis was used, to test relationship between variables. As the theoretical examination generated eight sub-constructs, confirmatory factor analysis was properly chosen to examine if the data would fit the eight factor structure of Quality of Life.

The total variance explained and eigen values associated with the initial eight linear components or factors identified in the data set before extraction as well as eight principal components extracted after extraction and after rotation are shown in Table

Table 2: OLS Regression Results Summary

Dependent Variable: QL_Satisfaction				
Method: Least Squares				
Sample: 1 300		Included observations: 300		
Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
QLPC1	0.0257	0.0051	4.9853	0.0000
QLPC2	0.0296	0.0077	3.8228	0.0002
QLPC3	-0.0017	0.0153	-0.1084	0.9137
QLPC4	-0.0024	0.0090	-0.2608	0.7945
QLPC5	0.0145	0.0101	1.4336	0.1528
QLPC6	0.0132	0.0109	1.2044	0.2294
QLPC7	0.0056	0.0105	0.5305	0.5962
QLPC8	0.0128	0.0152	0.8448	0.3989
C	2.1488	0.2057	10.4441	0.0000
R-squared	0.3465	Durbin-Watson stat		1.8388
Adjusted R-squared	0.3285	F-statistic		19.2876
S.E. of regression	0.3640	Prob(F-statistic)		0.0000

The coefficient of QLPC1 and QLPC2 besides the intercept term C were found to be significant since the null hypothesis that coefficient is zero gets rejected, at 5 percent significance level due to the p values of their t-statistic being lesser than 0.05. The model is considered valid since the less than 0.05 probability of F statistics rejects the null hypothesis that the fit of the specified model is as good as the intercept only model.

A R-squared of 0.3465 and adjusted R-squared of 0.3285 indicates a reasonably good fit of the model. The near two value of Durbin Watson Statistic indicates the absence of first order serial correlation.

Table 3: Measurement mode of Quality of Life of Women Micro Entrepreneurs

1	Self confidence is the basis for the success of my enterprise.	Confidence & Inspiration
2	After attending training classes, I am able to give proper attention in my personal life as well as in business.	
3	Success stories of entrepreneurs influence me to start the micro enterprise.	
4	I have started the enterprise to achieve self reliance.	
5	I feel free with my co workers and family members after attending awareness classes.	
6	Though the enterprise is little away from home, I use two wheeler for transportation	Own conveyance
7	I am able to construct new house for us, by taking loan from the bank through enterprise	Improved standard of living
8	I have enough savings for the education of my children.	
9	I am able to improve my standard of living with the help of the enterprise	
10	I am able to give proper attention in life and in business after attending training classes.	Marketing &
11	Training from SHG helped me to acquire skill for running the enterprise.	
12	I have no worries on marketing as whole sale market is established by our SHG.	
13	We have participated in trade fairs which gives us more confidence.	Training assistance
14	Marketing of products poses no difficulty for women entrepreneur.	
15	Management training is must for women entrepreneur.	
16	I have become a successful entrepreneur with the support of my family and fellow mates.	Savings & support
17	Women entrepreneur can compete with men due to support from family and society.	
18	My husband give support to utilize my savings	
19	I am dedicated to my work from 7 to 10 hours per day.	Success at the cost of Family life
20	I have advancement in business due to support from family.	
21	It is difficult for women to survive as entrepreneur if there is no support from family	

22 .	Women will success at entrepreneurial career only with familial care.	
23 .	Availing technical know how is a problem for women entrepreneur.	Lack of management training
24 .	Management training is must for women entrepreneur.	
25 .	Availing financial assistance from support agencies is a problem	Lack of financial assistance

Confirmatory factor analysis and reliability tests for Stress Management provided statistical support for a reliable and valid measure, confirming the eight dimensions of Quality of Life.

VI. MANAGERIAL IMPLICATIONS

The scale can be utilized for researchers planning to have their studies in stress management, support and care from family, ways to manage stress both at home and enterprise, support and care of fellow members and utilization of leisure time related to women micro entrepreneurs of Kudumbashree. This instrument provides a valid tool for further research on stress management of women micro entrepreneurs of Kudumbashree. So far there have not been many measures of Quality of Life. It can also be used as an assessment tool and evaluation tool.

VII. CONCLUSION

This study revised Sivakumar. K (2012) instrument to measure quality of life and provided additional validity evidence. First, an extensive literature review was conducted to examine the theoretical foundation of Quality of life. Specifically, the study identified eight dimensions. After discussion with experts and a pilot study followed. After revision and administration, a confirmatory analysis was conducted that confirmed the eight factor structure of Quality of life. The eight factors are Confidence & Inspiration, Marketing & Training assistance, Own conveyance, Saving & support, Lack of financial assistance, Improved standard of living, success at the cost of family life and Lack of management training.

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