

PRADHAN MANTRI UJJWALA YOJANA: A PILOT STUDY TO PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY

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Abstract: The objective of the study was to assess the impact of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMMY) on promoting gender equality in the rural part of Kandhar taluka in Nanded district of Maharashtra. The present study was conducted in the rural part of Kandhar Taluka during the year 2023-24. Gender equality means that the rights, responsibilities and opportunities of individuals do not depend on whether they are male or female or from rural or urban environments. Women deserve to live with dignity, safety and security. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMMY) was launched in May 2016 by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas with the objective of ensuring availability of clean cooking fuels like LPG to rural and underprivileged households, who are otherwise using traditional cooking fuels. These were firewood, cow dung cakes, and coal etc. The scheme aims to empower women and protect their health by providing them free LPG cylinders. Survey was conducted from 150 beneficiaries of PMUY. Gender equality variables for the study includes Increase the Access to education, Increase the opportunity in decision-making, Increase the Participation in social events, Increase the Participation in social events, Freedom from social bounding, Self-respect, *Political participation*. The data was collected through demographic information and interview schedule from women residing in the rural sector in Kandhar Taluka. Descriptive statistics (By using SPSS) was used for data processing. In this study, results found that there is positive Impact of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) on gender equality by increasing opportunity in decision-making, Participation in social events, Participation in social events, Freedom from social bounding, Self-respect and *Political participation*

Keywords: PMUY, Rural, Gender, Equity, decision making.

I. INTRODUCTION

'Gender equality' is the 5th goal among the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations [1,2]. The Constitution of India also recognizes the principle of gender equality under its Preamble, Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy (3,4). One of the most important provisions in the Indian Constitution is Article 15(3) which empowers the State to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favor of women [1,2,3]. Gender equity means ending all forms of violence against women and girls, including prostitution and other forms of exploitation [1,2,3,4]. To eliminate all practices and traditions that may harm the physical, mental and sexual health of women and girls. To give recognition and importance to women's work at home [1,2,3,4,5,6]. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMMY) was launched in May 2016 by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas with the objective of ensuring availability of clean cooking fuels like LPG to rural and underprivileged households, who are otherwise using traditional cooking fuels [6,7]. These were firewood, cow dung cakes, and coal etc. The scheme aims to empower women and protect their health by providing them free LPG cylinders [7,8,9].

Pradhan mantri ujawaja schemes not only strengthened women financially but also taken care of their health and well-being. Improvement in the status of women- With the passage of time, the government made many laws to improve the status of women [110,11]. Women's education was made mandatory. A ban was imposed on marriage without the girl's consent. Divorce was given legal status [12,13]. Now women could take training for any skill as per their wish. Gender equality said to be the social and Legal rights, responsibilities in society and opportunities of persons do not depend on whether they are male or female or from the persons of rural or urban [14,15]. Women deserve to live with equality, dignity, safety and security. Empowering women is an essential tool to advance development and improve the gender Equality [16,17]. Women who are healthy, educated, and in charge of their lives contribute to the health and wealth of entire families, groups, and their nations [18,19,20]. Equality means making sure everyone in your environment has the same opportunities, no matter [1,2,3,].

II. METHODS

Study areas and sampling

The research sample consists of beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) scheme living in Kandahar taluka of Nanded district. A total of 150 beneficiaries of PMUY were the target population of the study.

Source of Data

The study mainly depends on the primary source of data. The sampling method was a purposive method of sampling design for the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) scheme, the sample size of the study was 150 women. This study will involve a descriptive study in a descriptive study design.

III. TOOLS OF THE STUDY

The following tools were used for present study are as:

a. Socio-demographic interview schedule :

The demographic information about, Financial status, current disease, age, drug use, risk factors before taking the benefits of Scheme, horrified feelings before taking the benefits of Scheme, apprehensive due to lack of PMUY and helpless feelings due to lack of PMUY, forms of abuse and monthly income of the population was obtained before seeking responses.

2. Women empowerment interview schedule.

For measure the gender equality , Self-administered Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana Interview Schedule (Marathi version) was used to measure women empowerment of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana beneficiaries. The interview program reflects the life experiences of the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana. The **interview schedule** includes, six components such as Increase the Access to education, Increase the opportunity in decision-making, Increase the Participation in social events, Increase the Participation in social events, Freedom from social bounding , Self-respect, Political participation.

Scoring

Responses to the 6 questions were given on a 3-point Likert scale, with 1 = agree, 2 = indifferent, and 3 = disagree. The values for each question were added together to score PMUY-gender equality. This was followed by a summary of the values for each category. Then the values from each of the six, categories were added together The next values for each category were added together. Finally, summing the values across categories resulted in a total Gender equality score. Pearson's product moment coefficient was used to determine the correlation between interview schedule categories and initial overall perceived response ratings. Percentage was calculated for all demographic variables.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results concerning this are presented in the form of tables and also illustrated with the help of suitable figures where ever necessary. For the sake of convenience and methodical presentation of the results, following order has been adopted.

Table –1. Monthly Income of the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

Sr.No.	Income (Monthly)	Percentage (%)
1	Less than 3000	32.00%
2	More than 5000	26.00%
3	More than 7,000	20.66%
4.	More than 9000	21.33%

Table -1 Shows the monthly income of the respondent of beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana regarding Gender equality components of women

Figure -1 Shows the monthly income of the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

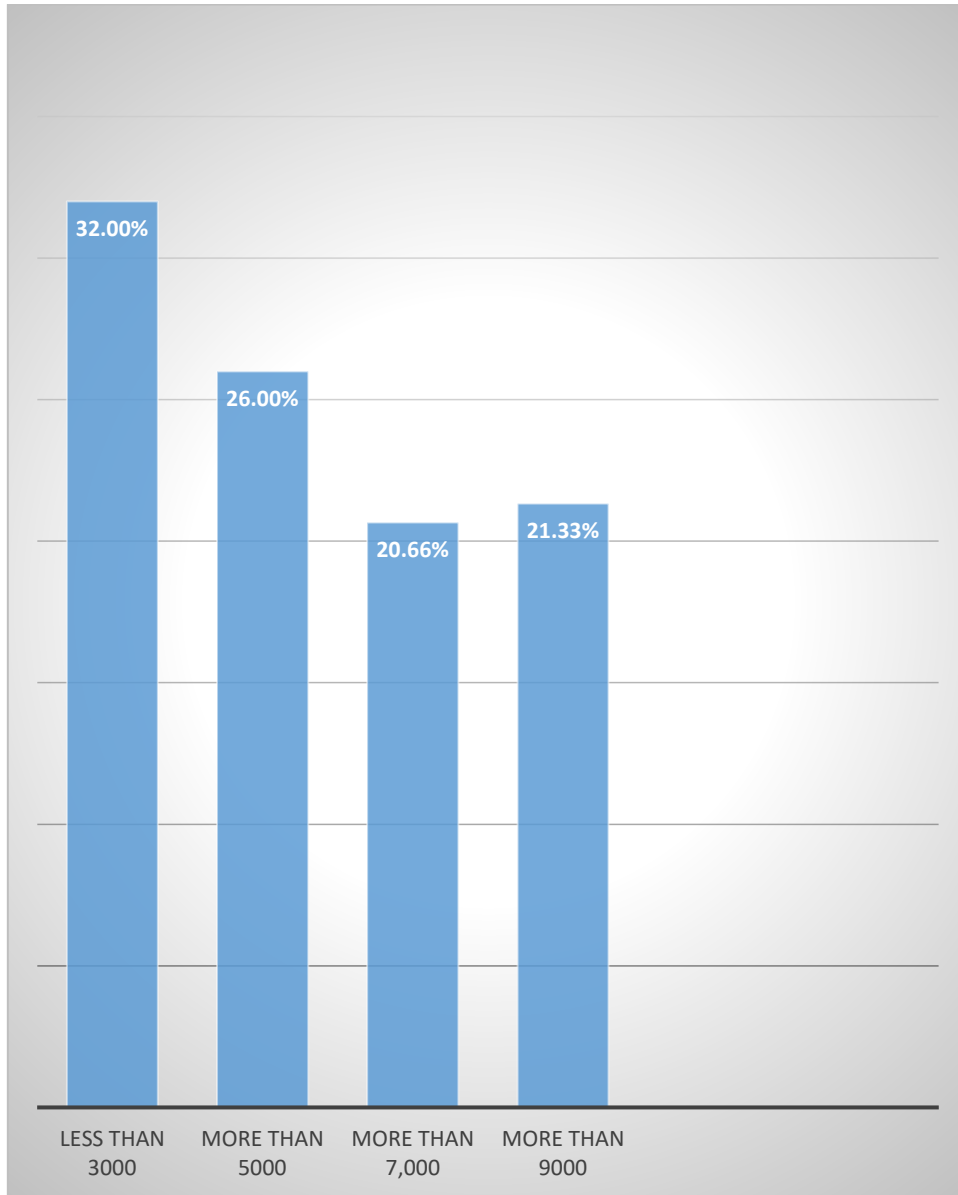


Table 02- shows the percentage of responses of beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana regarding Personal Demographic Information of women

Sr.No.	Personal demographic Information	Percentage
1	Chronic disease	10.66%
2	Drug use	9.00%
3	Smoking	12.66%
4	Use of Mobile phone	49.33%
5	Knowledge of ICT	7.33%

Table 2- shows the percentage of responses of beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana regarding Personal demographic Information of women.

Figure- 2 shows the percentage of responses of beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana regarding Personal demographic Information of women

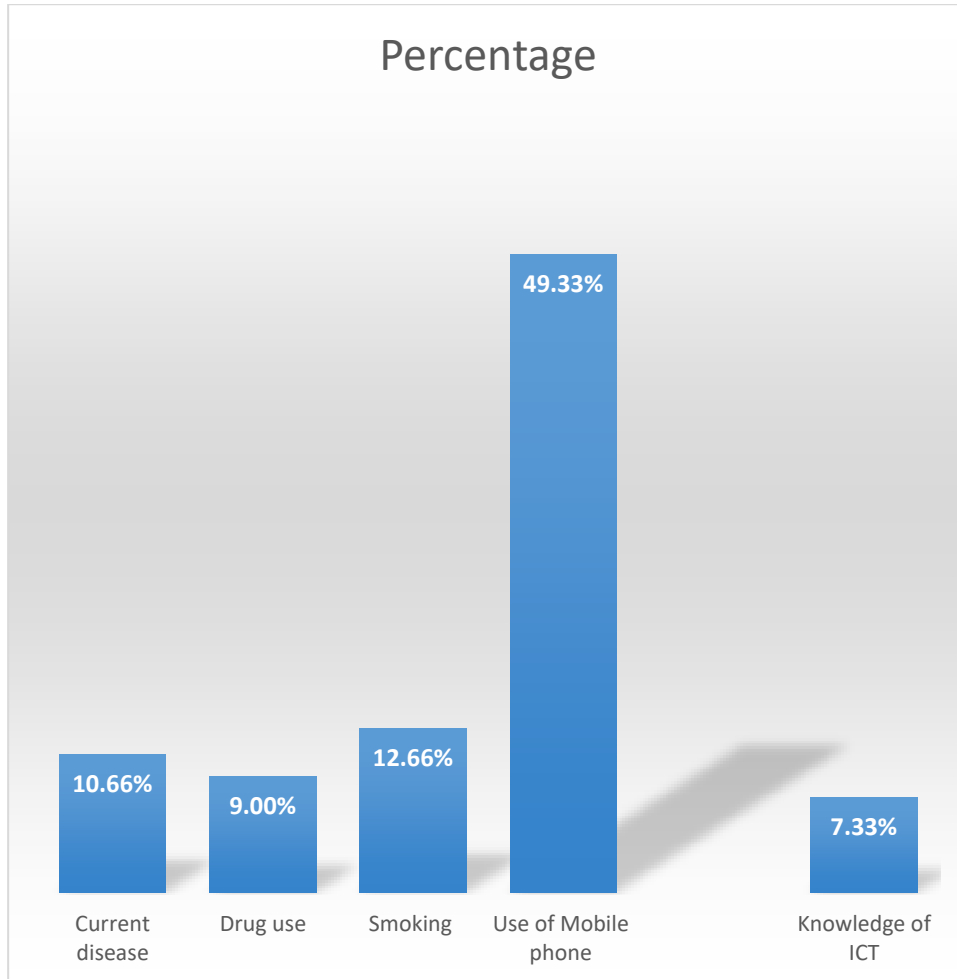


Table 03 shows the percentage of responses of beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana regarding Gender equality components of women

Sr.No.		Agree	indifferent	Disagree
1	Increase the Access to education	61.24%	26.20%	12.30%
2	Increase the opportunity in decision-making	55.46%	33.30%	11.66%
3	Increase the Participation in social events	32.80%	34.30%	33.40%
4	Freedom from social bounding	66.27%	29.09%	12.97%
5	Self-respect	28.16%	23.30%	18.33%
6	Political participation	43.29%	33.60%	22.81%

Figure 03 shows the percentage of responses of beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana regarding Gender equality components of women.

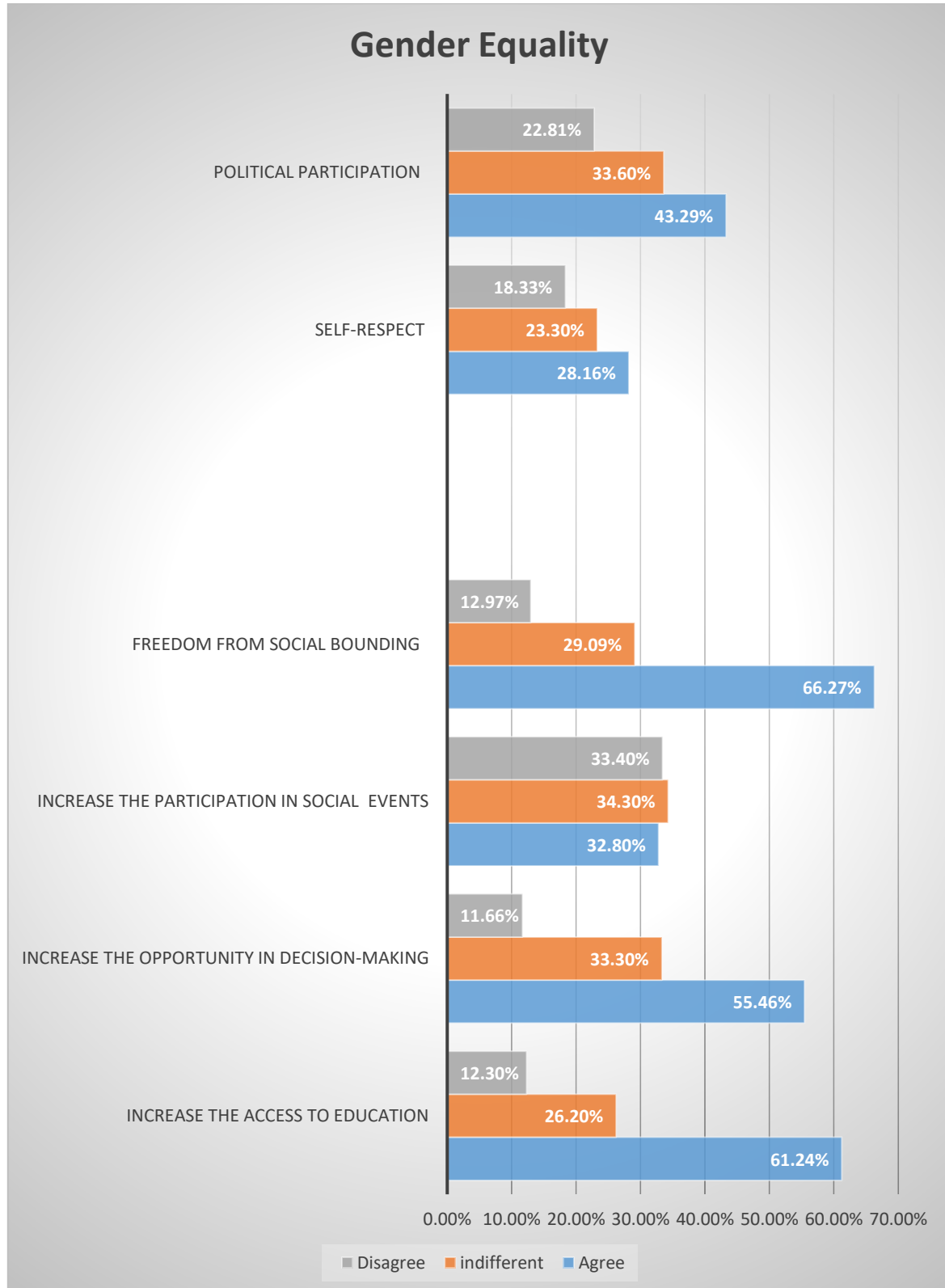
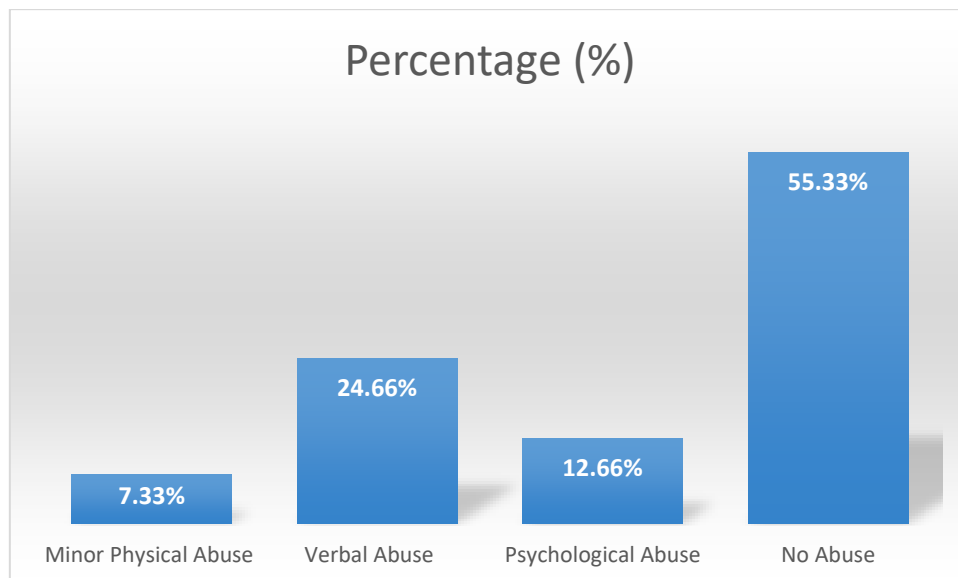


Table –4. Forms of Abuse after getting of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

Sr.No.	Forms of Abuse	Percentage (%)
1	Minor Physical Abuse	7.33%
2	Verbal Abuse	24.66%
3	Psychological Abuse	12.66%
4	No Abuse	55.33%

Table -4 Shows the abuses against women after getting benefits of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana.

Figure -4 Shows the abuses against women after getting benefits of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana



Results and Discussion

The Government of India has launched several schemes for women, which aim to ensure the survival, security and education of women by addressing the falling sex ratio, creating social awareness and enhancing the efficiency of welfare services developed for women.

Through initiatives such as the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao campaign, the Government of India is working to promote gender equality and change social attitudes towards gender roles and norms, but the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana is also working to promote gender equality.

The results indicates that, 32.00% of respondent reported that have less than Less than Rs.3,000 income per month, 26.00% of respondent reported that have more than Rs. 5000 income per month , 20.66% of respondent reported that have more than Rs. 7,000 income per month and 21.33% of respondent reported that have more than Rs.9000.

The findings of the study shows the 10.66% beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana suffered from chronic Disease, 9.00 % beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, 12.66% beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana smoked , 49.33% beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, Used Mobile phone and 7.33% beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana knowledge of ICT. The results show that 61.24% of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana beneficiaries have agreed to Increase the Access to education under the Gender equality components of women, while 26.20% of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana beneficiaries have expressed indifference towards Increase the Access to education. On the other hand, 12.30% beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana have expressed disagreement on Increase the Access to education

At the same time, 55.46% beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana have agreed that Increase the opportunity in decision-making under the Gender equality components of women, whereas 33.30% beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana have indifference that Increase the opportunity in decision-making. On the other hand, 11.66% beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana have expressed disagreement on Increase the opportunity in decision-making.

On the other hand, 32.80% beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana have agreed Increase the Participation in social events under the Gender equality components of women, whereas 34.40% beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana have indifference that Increase the Participation in social events. On the other hand, 34.40% beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana have expressed disagreement on whether there is any Increase the Participation in social events.

Further, 66.27% of the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana have agreed on the Freedom from social bounding under the Gender equality components of women, while 29.09% of the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana have expressed indifference on the Freedom from social bounding. On the other hand, 12.97% beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana have expressed disagreement over the Freedom from social bounding.

Moreover, 28.16% of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana beneficiaries have agreed on Self-respect under the Gender equality components of women, while 23.30% of the beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana have indifference on Self-respect under the Gender equality components of women. On the other hand, 18.33% beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana have expressed disagreement on the Self-respect Have expressed indifference

The results show that, 43.29% of the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana have agreed on Political participation under the Gender equality components of women, while 33.66% of the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana have indifference on the Political participation under the Gender equality components of women. On the other hand, 22.81% beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana have expressed disagreement on Political participation.

The results shows 7.33% , beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMYU) reported they Harmed Minor Physical Abuse , 24.66% , beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMYU) reported they received Verbal Abuse, 12.66% beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMYU) reported they received Psychological Abuse and 55.33% beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMYU) reported they not received any types of Abuse. Discrimination against women is prevalent everywhere in the world. India ranked 127th among 146 countries in the Global Gender Gap Index- 2023 [1,2,3,4,5,6]. From this it can be clearly estimated how strong and deep are the roots of gender discrimination in our country. Gender inequality arises between society and family. The findings of the study indicate that, gender equality of beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana has strengthened (PMYU). The findings of the study will provide some important evidence to help community health workers in India deal with the worsening situation, especially in rural areas. Furthermore, ultimately, the results of this study will lead to a better understanding of the factors associated with PMUY.

IV. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

There are a number of limitations restricting the generalize ability of this study are as.

1. The results of this study are limited to a relatively small preliminary survey of self-reported interview schedules rather than a study of actual behavior. Thus, participants may have answered questions in a socially desirable manner to avoid personal inadequacies.
2. Another limitation is that the level of acculturation of the beneficiaries was not examined.
3. A limitation of this study is that it reflects findings from only one taluka; The data was collected in one taluka, so the results cannot be generalized to other places in the country.

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