

Oprinca, Raluca, “Hoy tengo más poder que ayer: empoderamiento en la organización rural “Asociación Mujeres Amazilia del Caribe”, Costa Rica.” Advisor: Ivelina Romagosa. Knox College. 2010. 53pp.

The group of organized women “Asociación Mujeres Amazilia del Caribe” from Pueblo Nuevo de Guácimo, Costa Rica was investigated in May 2010. The organization is made up of eight rural women who manufacture organic chocolate in an artisanal way. Methods such as field research and techniques such as questionnaires were used. The objectives of the study were: 1) to determine the level of empowerment of the women since they formed the group and 2) compare this with the degree of empowerment of other women in the village who work as employees or only as housewives. The most relevant information of the informal discussions, of the semi-structured interviews and of the questionnaires was analyzed based on Schuler’s (1997) signs of empowerment. The members of Amazilia had more intention of participating in classes offered in their community ($P = 0,086$), in non-familiar groups ($P < 0,0001$) and in activities at the community level ($P = 0,025$) than the women from the two other groups. The women members of Amazilia had a higher degree of empowerment than the women from the other two groups. The participation in an organized group helped the members develop on a personal, economic, social, familiar and educational level.