

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH SELF HELP GROUPS- A CASE STUDY 11 SHG'S WHICH SITUATED IN CHANNARAYAPATNA TALUK, HASSAN.

Riyaz¹, Priya S Bohara², Priyanka K S³, Kishor A M⁴

¹ *HOD of Commerce, Jnanasagara PU College Channarayapatna, Hassan.*

^{2,3,4} *Jnanasagara PU College Channarayapatna, Hassan.*

Abstract:

A self-help is a small, economically homogeneous and attractive group of 10-20 rural poor people which comes together to save small amounts regularly. It generally performs various types of economic activities with the help of their small savings. Women Self-help groups are informal association of women. The main purpose of such an association is to enable members to gain economic benefits out of mutual help, solidarity and social responsibility. Generally, the economic benefit includes mobilization of savings and credit facilities and to pursue group based economic activities. SHG approach is the group based approach, which helps the poor women members of each SHG to accumulate capital by way of small saving and helping them to get credit facilities from their funds. Presently, the poor women of the society are facing the financial problem to start business or to undertake different economic activities to become self-employed and self-reliant. The SHG can empower poor women by providing facilities like savings and credit in the economic development process of the society.

Keywords: *Microfinance, SHGs, Poverty, Poor Women, Women empowerment.*

INTRODUCTION

Micro-finance is a new banking concept to the unbankable people of the world. It brings credit, Savings, and other essential financial services within the reach of the millions of people globally, who are too poor to serve by regular banking network. Micro-finance is an innovation in credit market for the developing countries. It is a service provider for poor people who are unemployed; who are poor entrepreneur's component of financial sector for the development and alleviate poverty. It is treated as an important approach to poverty alleviation programs and enhancement of living standard, particularly, of women, in developing countries, like India. It has come to be regarded as a supplementary development paradigm which widens the financial service delivery system by linking the large rural population with formal financial institution. Micro-finance is the provision of providing very small

loans that are repaid within short periods of time, and is essentially used by low income individuals and households. This type of finance enables and empowers to alleviate poverty. It is also a tool, which provides considerable economic and non-economic externalities to low-income households in developing countries. Further, its importance has been increased, because, it becomes a tool to exercise development priorities for governments in developing countries. Self-help Group plays an important role in developing rural women in self employment. Micro-finance through the self-help groups developed the entrepreneurial skills among rural women community and to get self employment Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said, "To awaken the people, it is women who much be awakened; once she is one on the move, the family moves, the village moves and nation moves." Now the women are awakened by the self-help group (Angel anila, 2012). Therefore, women are underprivileged section in the development process. They are economically, socially and politically deprived Self-Help Groups mobilize women latent-energy and teach them to earn their own livings. Micro-finance with self-help group plays an effective role for promoting women empowerment. It is not only an efficient tool to fight against poverty but also as means of promoting the empowerment of the most marginalized sections of the population especially, women.

The study is taken place on 11 SHG's which are within the boundary of Channarayapatna taluk.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Mansuri B. B. (2010) stated that micro-finance has gain a lot of significance and momentum in the last decade, India now occupies a significance and niche in global micro finance through promotion of self help groups (SHGs) under SHG-Bank Linkage Programme (SBLP) and the micro finance institution model. The Indian model offers greater promise and potential to address poverty as it is focused on building social capital through access financial services through linking with the mainstream. In its simplest term it means banking for poor.

Ankita Deka (2011) in her study titled, "Determinants of Women's Empowerment in India: Evidence from National Family Health Survey "taken the data for this study from National Family Health Survey (NFHS) which is a large-Scale, multi-round survey conducted a representative sample of households through-out India. Her research is in specific way able to quantify the nature and extent of gender discriminatory practices in India. The study demystifies popular projections in mass media of India's burgeoning economy and how it has transformed the economic and social milieu. It also provides a framework for social workers in India about how gender discrimination operates and also illuminates the loopholes in policy practice. Social workers will be advocate for progressive policy legislation as well as able to design interventions to bring about necessary change.

Saravana Kumar (2012) made an attempt to study empowerment of women and the inculcation of financial training and discipline amongst the poor will undoubtedly have long-term socio-economic benefits. The principles

of self help and microcredit thus hold the key to economic and socio-cultural freedom for India's millions of poor, opening the gates of a hitherto untapped reservoir of human enterprise. All the above the studies do not provide sufficient information about women SHGs involved in various economic activities.

OBJECTIVES AND HYPOTHESIS

Objectives of the study:

- ✓ To evaluate the performance of selected women SHGs in Channarayapatna.

Hypothesis:

- ✓ Rural credit helps members of women SHGs to start new business.

METHODOLOGY

The present study is covering 11 SHG which is in the boundaries of Channarayapatna. The Primary data are collected from personal interviews, schedules and questionnaires. The secondary data are collected from Panchayath, government publication, books and journals, etc. The various statistical methods such as, tables, figures, average, percentage and other related statistical techniques are used to analyze the collected data and information. The simple random sampling method chosen for the above research design in total of 11 SHGs which are existed in Channarayapatna by simple random sampling method. From each SHG, 5 members are taken for interview. The sample sizes of 55 SHG members.

FINDING AND ANALYSIS

The Women Self Help Groups have played a dynamic role in the economic development of Channarayapatna. They are engaged in agriculture operations, household industries, trade and commerce and other related economic activities. It has been observed in field survey that women are hard workers, adventurous; self determined and are willing to take risks in setting up new business. It is a tradition on the part of women to make efficient management of household affairs, but now-a-days, women are equally interested in setting up their own business enterprises to become independent and self-reliant through SHGs. The Governments of developed and developing countries are taking measures for women empowerment, providing them better education, employment opportunity and conferring women rights.

The performance of women SHG's in Channarayapatna depend on a number of variables. These variables are as follows.

Reasons for Joining SHGs:

The aim of the SHGs is to promote savings and to provide credit facilities among the members for the productive and consumption purposes. There are three reasons for joining SHG. These reasons are (a) to improve living standard, (b) to start business and (c) social status. The following table.1 shows the reasons for joining SHGs

Table .1

Reasons for Joining SHGs

Reasons for joining	Numbers of respondents	Percentage
To improve living standard	32	58
To start new business	14	25
Social status	9	17
Total	55	100

The data analysis reveals that the highest no. of respondent's .i.e. 58% joined SHG to improve their living standard. 25% of respondents joined SHG to start business. Very lowest percentage i.e.; 17% of respondents joined for social status. In the SHG's, women are lacking in the business because of poor economic condition as well as due to lack of entrepreneurial skill.

Year of Establishment of SHGs:

An attempt has been made in this survey to know the year of establishment of SHG to indicate the length of the survival of the unit. For this purpose, data have been collected on the year of establishment of SHG's which are within the boundaries of Channarayapatna. It is depicted in the table .2

Table .2

Year of Establishment of SHGs

Year of establishment	No. of SHG's
2006-2007	0
2007-2008	1
2008-2009	1
2009-2010	0

2010-2011	2
2011-2012	3
2012-2013	1
2013-2014	0
2014-2015	2
2015-2016	1
2016-2017	0
2017-2018	0
Total	11

Rural credit and SHGs:

Rural credit is one of the most essential inputs to accelerate the development process in the block. Its timely availability in right quantity, at a reasonable rate of interest, provides gainful economic activities in the rural sector. The people of low income groups are deprived of rural credit. Banks generally decline to provide finance to small farmers, marginal farmers, landless labourers, petty artisans, and other landless people as they cannot provide adequate mortgage to the banks. The need of rural people for rural credit is satisfy by the formation of SHG. It has been observed during field survey that the government contribution to SHG is very small, it is very small, and it is represented by the table .3

Table .3

Rural credit and SHGs

Amount of Loan	No of SHG's	Percentage
25000	7	64
50000	1	9
185000	1	9
250000	2	18
Non-loan received	0	0
Total	11	100

It is found in field survey that 64% women SHGs received Rs.25, 000 amount of loan from government, i.e., DRDA and the lowest 9% received Rs.50, 000 and 25,000..

Types of Loan

The SHG provides various types of their members. The various types of loans provided by SHG are business loan, marriage loan, medical loan, housing loan, cattle loan, agricultural loan. The various types of loan provided by SHG to their members are depicted in the table .4 below.

Table .4

Types of Loan

Types of loan	No of respondents	Percentage
Business loan	9	16
Marriage loan	4	7
Medical loan	6	11
Housing loan	5	9
Cattle loan	14	26
Agriculture loan	14	26
Non-loan receiver	3	5
Total	55	100

There is a great demand for credit among the members of SHG in cottage industries and agricultural purpose. The SHGs in the study area provide loan to their member for various purposes. The highest percentage of loan, i.e., 26% is provided by SHG to their members for cattle business and agricultural purpose. The lowest percentage of loan, i.e., 7 %, is provided by SHG to their members for marriage purpose. It is the general body meeting of SHG which decides the loan disbursement procedure. It is observed in data analysis the all members in the SHG are in need of credit. The 5% of respondents shows that they have not received infact they have not applied for any loans and advances facility.

Table .5

The distribution of loans

Distribution amount	No of respondents	Percentage
2000-5000	6	11
5000-10000	7	13
10000-15000	4	7
15000-25000	4	7
25000-50000	27	49
50000 and above	7	13
Total	55	100

.It is found that the highest percentage, ie.49%, SHGs members received loan amounting to Rs.25000-50000. The lowest percentage, ie.7%, SHG members received loan amounting less than 10000-15000 and 15000-25000. The SHGs sanction loan to its members at a reasonable rate of interest. The interest rate of SHGs varies from group. They generally change rate of interest Rs.1% to 4% per month. The members of SHG make repayment of loan by two ways, such as, repayment in time, repayment in advance.

Training of the SHG's Members

Training of the SHGs members: all the SHG's which are taken in the study of Channatayaptna has been conducting training programme on various economic activities at regular intervals with the help and guidance of DRDA. The training has changed the outlook of the people and they are motivated to undertake economic activities to improve their economic conditions. It has also helps to reduce poverty and unemployed in the block. Because trained people have started taking economic activities like food preparation, fish and poultry faming, textile and handloom business etc.

CONCLUSION

From the study through primary sources it was clear that the women SHGs in bought rural and urban areas are very active in providing income generating activates in SHG's of Channarayapatna. It can be clear that of the women SHGs are more vital in eradication of poverty for the BPL family. The sample beneficiaries, are gaining employment by adopting own personal skills and home based activities. The micro-finance system is playing a significant role in empowering women through SHGs by the sources of NABARD. The overall analysis of this variable establishes that women empowerment of the block was above average and the hypothesis set that the rural

credit helps members of women SHGs to start new business. It is found that majority of women SHGs have taken loan for various economic activities, such as, Cattle rearing, poultry rearing, fishery, textiles and handloom works, Weaving and embroidery, food processing, agriculture etc. The women of Channarayapatna are providing rural credit to women members of the SHGs. Therefore, hypothesis is accepted. It would be fruitful to accelerate the development process of the panchayath at a faster rate, if mindset of the people is changed. In this era of liberalization, privatization and globalization, women are more conscious for their liberty, rights and freedom, security, social status etc, but till date they are deprived from same; hence, they should be provided with their deserving rights and liberties with dignity. We can conclude that women are part and parcel of our society so, it is essential to empower them.

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