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# **CONTENTS**

Sr.				
No.	TITLE & NAME OF THE AUTHOR (S)			
1.	CUSTOMER PREFERENCE ON BRANDED FAST FOOD RETAIL	1		
	OUTLETS IN KERALA			
	Dr. T. SUBASH & PARVATHY R. NAIR			
2.	AN OVERVIEW AND IMPACT OF GOODS AND SERVICE TAX (GST) IN			
	INDIA			
	Dr. PRAGYA PRASHANT GUPTA			
3.	THE ROLE OF SELF HELP GROUP IN PROGRESS OF NRLM AND	13		
	FINANCIAL INCLUSION			
	JAI CHAND			
4.	AN EMPIRICAL STUDY ON CURRENT HUMAN RESOURCE	17		
	MANAGEMENT PRACTICES OF HINDUSTAN AERONAUTICS LIMITED			
	AND ITS IMPLICATIONS			
	RICHA VERMA			
5.	A STUDY ON EMPLOYEE INDUCTION PROGRAM AT PRIVATE	21		
	ORGANIZATION			
	AISHWARYA VAKHARIYA			
	REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK & DISCLAIMER	27		

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#### THE ROLE OF SELF HELP GROUP IN PROGRESS OF NRLM AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION

# JAI CHAND RESEARCH SCHOLAR DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE KURUKSHETRA UNIVERSITY KURUKSHETRA

#### **ABSTRACT**

National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) is a poverty alleviation project implemented by Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India. This scheme is mainly focused on promoting self—employment and organization of rural poor peoples. Financial Literacy and financial inclusion have been important policy goals of India for quite some time. Inclusive financing or Financial inclusion is the delivery of financial services at reasonable costs to vast sections of low income population with the provision of equal opportunities. GOI (2008) defines Financial inclusion as the process of ensuring access to financial services and timely and adequate credit where needed by vulnerable groups such as weaker sections and low income groups at an affordable cost. The main aims of Microfinance to providing financial services to the rural poor for the socio economic development though SHG. Financial inclusion means provided the financial services to the very rural poor people at a reasonable cost. It is a financial service that offers like loan, saving, insurance, fund transfer to providing very poor small entrepreneurs. The main objective of this study to examine the role of SHG in the development of NRLM and financial inclusion. The present study is a conceptual framework and based on secondary data. This study revealed that the SHGs played an important role in the progress of NRLM and Financial inclusion. During the year 2016-17, 37.44 lakh SHGs were savings linked to banks under NRLM. This represents a growth of 8.3 % over the previous year. These SHGs had savings to the tune of ₹7,552.70 crores which is growth of 17.3 % over the previous year. Under NRLM, in 2016-17 credit was disbursed to 8.86 lakh SHGs, indicating a growth of 8.6 % over the previous year. The self Help Group (SHG) plays a significant role in the financial inclusion. The subscriber base of Atal Pension Yojana has reached 55.60 lakhs as on 30th June, 2017 from 53.33 lakhs as end of May 2017. Contribution under APY has increased from ₹2,012 crore as on M

#### **KEYWORDS**

SHGs, microfinance, rural credit, financial inclusion, poverty alleviation, socio and economic development.

#### **JEL CODES**

R51, I38.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

ational Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India in June 2011. The main aim of financial inclusion is delivery of banking and financial services in a fair, translucent, and impartial manner at a reasonable cost to the vast sections of disadvantaged and low or rural poor peoples. Financial Inclusion refers to a process of providing the financial products/services to weaker section of the society at affordable cost.

In India, Self Help Groups or SHGs represent a unique approach to financial intermediation. The approach combines access to low-cost financial services with a process of self-management and development for the women who are SHG members. A self-help group (SHG) is a village-based financial intermediary committee usually composed of 10–20 local women or men. Members make small regular savings contributions over a few months until there is enough capital in the group to begin lending. Funds may then be lent back to the members or to others in the village for any purpose. In India, many SHGs are 'linked' to banks for the delivery of micro-credit. For the rural women, economic empowerment can be harvested through the concept of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) based on group approach to rural development. SHGs are indeed a boon to the rural poor women who undertake viable economic activities on their own. SHGs are voluntary association of people formed to attain some common goals.

The various financial services include credit, savings, insurance, payments and remittance facilities. Financial inclusion goes beyond opening of bank accounts; it is a comprehensive set of services that needs to be offered to the clients so that they can choose based on their needs from the services. Aided in part through investment support by the World Bank, the Mission aims at creating efficient and effective institutional platforms of the rural poor enabling them to increase household income through sustainable livelihood enhancements and improved access to financial services. NRLM has set out with an agenda to cover 7 Crore rural poor households, across 600 districts, 6000 blocks, 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats and 6 lakh villages in the country through self-managed Self Help Groups (SHGs) and federated institutions and support them for livelihoods collectives in a period of 8 -10 years.

There are four components of the NRLM (World Bank – Government of India project). The first component of the project is institutional and human capacity development. The objective of this component is to transform the role of the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) into a provider of high quality technical assistance in the field of rural livelihoods promotion. The second component of the project is state livelihood support. The objective of this component is to support state governments in the establishment of the necessary institutional architecture for the implementation of the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) activities from the state to the block level. The third component of the project is innovation and partnership support. The objective of this component is to create an institutional mechanism to identify, nurture and support innovative ideas from across the country to address the livelihood needs of the rural poor. The fourth component of the project is project implementation support. The objective of this component is to establish an effective project management unit at the national level that develops key systems and processes for coordination and management of the project and the NRLM.

According to the latest report of DAY-NRLM, NRLM has now been rolled out across 30 States/UTs, Number of Districts with intensive blocks in NRLM States stood at 557, Number of Blocks identified for intensive approach in NRLM States is 4066, Number of Blocks where intensive implementation has commenced is 4049, Number of villages in which intensive implementation has started is 2,65,325, Number of households mobilized into SHGs (in Lakh) is 365.7, Number of SHGs promoted (in Lakh) is 36.2, Number of Village Organizations promoted is 161350.

#### **PRINCIPLES OF NRLM**

- > Poor have a strong desire to come out of poverty, and, have innate capabilities.
- > Social mobilization and building strong institutions of the poor is critical for unleashing their capabilities.
- > An external dedicated and sensitive support structure is required to induce social mobilization.
- Providing employment opportunities to people.
- > To create livelihood opportunities through Self Help Groups.
- To give opportunities to marginalized sections to have some avenues to lead life with dignity.

#### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

Dr. Gomathy and jyoti nair (2016) studied a review of financial inclusion in India. the study indicated that the This study is an attempt to integrate the results of existing literature on financial inclusion in India, role played by Government, RBI and the banks in promoting inclusive growth and barriers and challenges on the demand as well as supply aspects of financial inclusion. It has been observed that Government, RBI and banks have adopted various policy measures and innovative tools to ensure access of financial products and services to weaker and under privileged sections of the society.

Paramjeet kaur (2014) studied on the financial inclusion highlighted the role of banks in implemented a scalable and sustainable financial inclusion. The banks encouraged the financial inclusion through various government schemes.

Zahid Hassan Kharuri (2014) studied based on the savings' mobilization initiative by the Government of India through means of financial inclusion. It has been intended to explore and suggest increased savings mobility to SHG's, so as to enhance the governments' initiative in mobilizing savings. Bank linkage schemes like saving linked SHG's and fresh loans to SHG's by banks have been analyzed. Further, measures have been suggested to banks to strengthen SHG-Bank linkage programme.

Sonu Garg, Dr. Parul aggarwal (2014) this studied explained the financial inclusion in india with a review of initiatives and achievements. This study focuses on approaches adopted by various Indian banks towards achieving the ultimate goal of financial inclusion for inclusive growth in India and analyses of past years progress and achievements. The relevant data for this study has been collected with the help of from various Research journals, Articles, reports of RBI, reports of NABARD and online resources.

Gadamsetty Sai Arun (2013) studied explained the financial inclusion and role of ICT in ICT. Significant progress towards financial inclusion has been made through various initiatives taken by the Government, RBI, Banks and ICT has been the key driver in implementing these initiatives. Various models have been tested for financial inclusion, however BC model has emerged out to be the most effective model for the financial inclusion so far and has managed to reduce the transaction costs and tackle the barriers of financial inclusion.

#### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

- 1. Analysis the SHGs with saving linked to banks under NRLM.
- 2. Analysis the SHGs having Credit –Linked to banks under NRLM.
- 3. Analysis the SHGs having Credit Outstanding to banks under NRLM.
- 4. Analysis the various schemes of financial inclusion.

#### **METHODOLOGY**

The present study is a conceptual framework. This study based on secondary data. The source of data article, journal paper, NABARD report etc.

#### **DISCUSSION & RESULT**

FIGURE 1: SHGs WITH SAVINGS-LINKED TO BANKS UNDER NRLM

	No. of SHGs (in Lakh)	Saving Linked to Banks (amount in Cr.)
2014-15	30.52	4424.03
2015-16	34.57	6244.97
2016-17	37.44	7552.70
Total	102.53	18221.70

Source: The Bharat Microfinance Report 2017

**CHART 1: PROGRESS WITH SAVING -LINKED TO BANKS UNDER NRLM** 

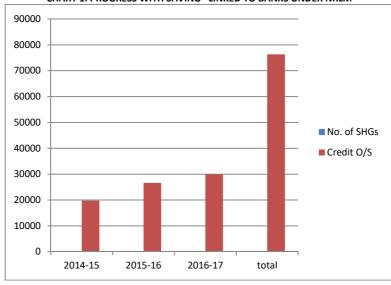


FIGURE 2: SHGs HAVING CREDIT-LINKED TO BANKS UNDER NRLM

	No. of SHGs (in Lakh)	Credit-Linked to Banks (in Cr.)
2014-15	6.43	9487.70
2015-16	8.16	16783.80
2016-17	8.86	17336.20
Total	23.45	43607.70

Source: The Bharat Microfinance Report 2017

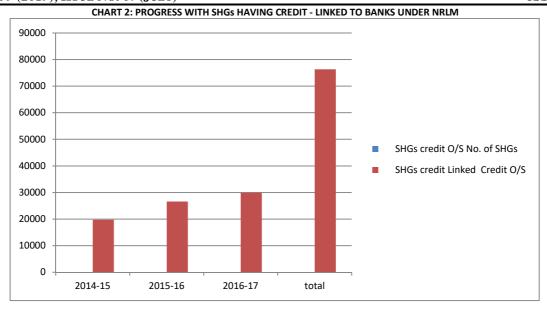
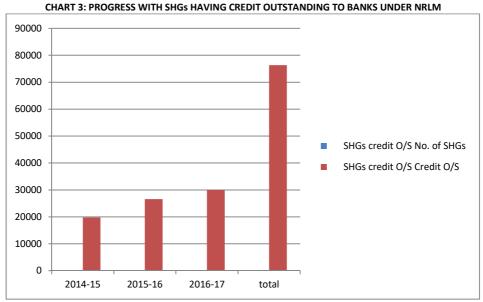


FIGURE 3. SHGs HAVING CREDIT OUTSTANDING TO BANKS UNDER NRLM

	No. of SHGs (in Lakh)	Credit outstanding to Banks (in Cr.)
2014-15	18.46	19752.70
2015-16	21.91	26610.20
2016-17	24.91	29994.40
Total	65.28	76357.30

Source: The Bharat Microfinance Report 2017



The Figures 1, 2,3, indicate above the progress of SHG linkage under NRLM.

In the year 2016-17, 37.44 lakh SHGs were savings linked to banks under NRLM. This represents a growth of 8.3% over the previous year. These SHGs had savings to the tune of ₹7552.70 crores which is growth of 17.3% over the previous year. Under NRLM, in 2016-17 credit was disbursed to 8.86 lakh SHGs, indicating a growth of 8.6% over the previous year. The amount disbursed was ₹17,336 crores which represents a growth of 3.3% over the previous year.24.91 lakh NRLM groups had credit outstanding of ₹29,994.4 crores in 2016-17 which indicates a growth of 14.1% and 12.7% respectively.

#### FINANCIAL INCLUSIONS SCHEMES

In India, RBI has initiated several measures to achieve greater financial inclusion, such as facilitating nofrills accounts and GCCs for small deposits and credit. Some of these steps are:

Financial inclusion is not an Indian specific problem; it is global one. So now financial inclusion is a topic of increasing interest on the international policy agenda. But in India, home to the second largest population in the world, with huge mass of people below the poverty line spread across nearly 600,000 villages in 600 districts, it assumes utmost importance. India's government has a long tradition of promoting financial inclusion. For more than 40 years, the Reserve Bank of India has been operating priority sector lending mandating a portion of banks' loan portfolios to be in the agriculture sector and to small and micro enterprises. In 2005, it required banks to offer basic no-frills accounts with no, or very low, minimum balances and affordable charges. However, use of these accounts has been very low. In 2011, banks were advised to provide at a minimum four products: (a) a savings or overdraft account, (b) a remittance product for electronic transfer of government benefits and other remittances, (c) a pure savings product (ideally a recurring-deposit scheme), and (d) entrepreneurial credit. In a parallel initiative, in 2010 the government and the central bank set goals to provide by 2015 all villages in India with a banking outlet (either by a branch or a retail agent, in India known as a business correspondent), with stipulated annual targets along the way. While these targets were not specified by law, the Reserve Bank of India requires all banks to report progress regularly and closely monitors their achievements. It is still too early to say how successful the implementation of these ambitious goals will be. Some banks have risen to the challenge and opened numerous new outlets (mostly business correspondents). Others have complained that the financial inclusion targets hurt their profits.

#### PRADHAN MANTRI JAN DHAN YOJNA (PMJDY)

The Government of India announced "Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna," a national financial inclusion mission which aims to provide bank accounts to at least 75 million people by January 26, 2015. To achieve this milestone, it's important for both service providers and policy makers to have readily available information outlining gaps in access and interactive tools that help better understand the context at the district level.

MIX designed the financial inclusion Lab India FI workbook to support these actors as they craft strategies to achieve these goals. Several Startups are working towards increasing Financial Inclusion in India by organising various large unorganised sectors where payments primarily happen in cash, instead of a bank transaction.

#### MICRO PENSION

The National Pension System (NPS) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY)'s subscriber base has seen gradual growth during the last five years. As of 1st quarter of this year, NPS had a subscriber base of 163.55 lakhs. The number of subscribers under NPS and APY increased from 160.43 lakhs as at the end of May, 2017 to 163.55 lakhs as at the end of June, 2017. The main contributor to the growth is Atal Pension Yojana in which the number of subscriber increased from 53.33 lakhs as at the end of May 2017 to 55.60 lakhs as at the end of June 2017, registering a growth of 4.26 %. All citizen subscribers have increased by 2.39% during the same period and Corporate Sector subscribers have increased by 1.65 % during the same period. The overall growth has been 1.94 % in the month of June, 2017.

#### NATIONAL PENSION SYSTEM (NPS): SWAVALAMBAN

There are 29 states under NPS. Various State Governments have adopted NPS architecture and implemented NPS with effect from different dates. Tamil Nadu has adopted pension scheme under National Pension System (NPS), though it does not contribute towards the employees' pension account under NPS. Besides, West Bengal and Tripura have not adopted the NPS so far, and PFRDA is in discussion with both the states to take them on board. As end of June 2017, Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of subscribers enrolled under NPS followed by Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh.

#### ATAL PENSION YOJNA (APY)

The subscriber base of Atal Pension Yojana has reached 55.60 lakhs as on 30th June, 2017 from 53.33 lakhs as end of May 2017. Contribution under APY has increased from ₹2,012 crore as on May' 2017 to ₹2,152 crore as on June, 2017.i.e by 6.95%. AUM under APY has increased from ₹506 crore as at the end of March, 2016 to ₹1,885 crore as at the end of March 2017 and further ₹2,161 crore as on May, 2017 to 2,354 crore as on June, 2017.

#### **CONCLUSION**

It is found that the Self Help Group (SHG) played a very important role in the progress of National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) and the Financial Inclusion. Figure 1, 2, 3, show that indicated the progress under NRLM. In the year 2016-17, 37.44 lakh SHGs were savings linked to banks under NRLM. This represents a growth of 8.3 % over the previous year. These SHGs had savings to the tune of ₹7552.70 crores which is growth of 17.3 % over the previous year. Under NRLM, in 2016-17 credit was disbursed to 8.86 lakh SHGs, indicating a growth of 8.6 % over the previous year. The amount disbursed was ₹17,336 crores which represents a growth of 3.3 % over the previous year. Financial inclusion also shows that the progress through various schemes of Government of India side by side Reserve Bank of India (RBI). So we can say that the overall progress of NRLM and Financial inclusion it is growing very fast and increase positively year to year.

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