INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF RESEARCH IN COMMERCE, IT AND MANAGEMENT

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- Hunker, H.L. and A.J. Wright (1963), "Factors of Industrial Location in Ohio," Ohio State University.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO BOOKS
- Sharma T., Kwatra, G. (2008) Effectiveness of Social Advertising: A Study of Selected Campaigns, Corporate Social Responsibility, Edited by David Crowther & Nicholas Capaldi, Ashgate Research Companion to Corporate Social Responsibility, Chapter 15, pp 287-303.

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- Schemenner, R.W., Huber, J.C. and Cook, R.L. (1987), "Geographic Differences and the Location of New Manufacturing Facilities," Journal of Urban Economics, Vol. 21, No. 1, pp. 83-104.

CONFERENCE PAPERS
- Garg Sambhav (2011): "Business Ethics" Paper presented at the Annual International Conference for the All India Management Association, New Delhi, India, 19–22 June.

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- Kumar S. (2011): "Customer Value: A Comparative Study of Rural and Urban Customers," Thesis, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra.

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WEBSITE
- Garg, Bhavet (2011): Towards a New Natural Gas Policy, Economic and Political Weekly, Viewed on July 05, 2011 http://epw.in/user/viewabstract.jsp

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A STUDY ON ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN THROUGH SELF HELP GROUPS IN MAHABUBNAGAR DISTRICT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

M V S MAHENDRA
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT STUDIES
BHAVAN'S VIVEKANANDA COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, HUMANITIES AND COMMERCE
SECUNDERABAD

S ANANDA REDDY
PROFESSOR & COURSE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT STUDIES,
BHAVAN'S VIVEKANANDA COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, HUMANITIES AND COMMERCE
SECUNDERABAD

M S BHAT
PROFESSOR & HEAD
DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT STUDIES
CVR COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
HYDERABAD

ABSTRACT

Women comprise of half the country's Population yet they have limited control over income. Most women remain confined to a narrow range of female low-income activities resulting in gender discrimination. Several initiatives are taken by the government both at central and state level to improve the status of women. The micro finance and self help group model is playing a vital role in the empowerment of women. This paper explores the role of self help groups in economic empowerment of women. The present study is conducted in Mahabubnagar district of Andhra Pradesh. The study results that economic empowerment can be achieved through self help group model, as a member of self help group it was found that there is an increase in the income and the savings level among the members of the group.

KEYWORDS
Self Help Group, Economic Empowerment, Income, Savings.

INTRODUCTION

The micro finance institutions are playing a dominant role in empowerment of women. The expansion of micro finance through self help group model is high in south India and it has been largest in Andhra Pradesh. Empowerment (Bashin & Dhar, 1998) is an ongoing and dynamic process, which enhances women's and any other marginalized and alienated group abilities to change the structures and ideologies that keep them subordinate. It is the process of making present power structures more inclusive, including all women and men, senior citizen, dalits, indigenous people and people with disabilities. Empowerment is therefore clearly concerned with power and particularly with the power relations and distribution of power between individuals and groups
There are different SHG Models:
1. Banks deal directly with SHG, providing financial assistance for on-lending to individual members.
2. Banks give direct assistance to the SHG while the NGO provides training and guidance to the SHG for effective functioning.
3. The NGO can be financial intermediary between the bank and a number of SHGs with the NGO accepting the contractual responsibility for loan repayment to the bank and the linkage between bank and the SHG is indirect.
4. Banks give loans directly to individual SHG members on recommendations of the SHG and NGO. The NGO assists the bank in monitoring, supervising and recovery of loan.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Aruna M and Rema Jyothirmayi(2011) in their study on "The role of microfinance in women empowerment; A study on the SHG Bank Linkage Program in Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh), the main objective of their study is to study and analyze the relationship between (Self Help Group) SHG-Bank Linkage programme participation and women empowerment. The study comprises of 150 female participants of SHG who availed microfinance loan and another 150 female participants of self help group who were not availed any micro finance loan. Woman Empowerment Index (WEI) is constructed for the purpose of comparison and understanding impact of micro finance on participants. The study reveals that self help group participation improved the income level of the respondents. Asset position of women has a significant impact on their empowerment level. Women empowerment is the process that allows one to gain the knowledge, skill-sets and attitude needed to cope with the changing world and the circumstances in which one lives. The women empowerment index is calculated by averaging of four standardized indices; economic score, knowledge, decision making and self worthiness. Their results shows that women empowerment level is significantly improved by availement proper utilization of micro finance loans. Their analysis indicates that microfinance activities and self help group participation has a positive impact on the income, assets, occupation, savings, access to loans, bank connectivity, knowledge, self worthiness and decision making level of the participants.
Dhavamani P (2010) a study on "Empowerment of Rural Women through SHG in Sattur Taluk of Virudhunagar District", the main objectives of her study is to enumerate the growth of SHG and to analyze the empowerment of women through SHGs. The study has been conducted in Sattur Taluk, tools such as percentages; mean, Z test and Garrett's ranking technique were used for the purpose of the study. From the study it has been observed that there is a significant difference in the family income, bank savings and loan received by the members of the SHG before and after joining the groups. The study concludes that the respondents mainly get loan to educate their children, start business, to meet medical expenses, to meet marriage expenses, redeem other loans, to maintain house expenses and to meet festival expenses respectively. The study concludes that SHG model paves the way for the empowerment of women and builds confidence in them to stand on their feet. Thus the concept of SHG moulds women as responsible citizens of the country achieving social and economic status.

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Lakshmi Ramachandar and Pertti J Pelto(2009) their study on "Self Help Groups in Bellary: Micro finance and Women's empowerment", their study concentrates on (i) the family planning and population policies can make little headway unless there is significant improvement in women's economic and social status within the national socio-cultural system and (ii) that development of women's empowerment through micro finance and income generating projects can have important positive effects on health programme and other improvements in the quality of life in rural areas. The study was conducted in Bellary district of Karnataka. The data was collected through in depth interviews with groups. The study resulted that SHGs have benefitted women, their family and the communities in which they live in more than one way. The increased access to money, ability to buy consumer goods, release from the dependence on daily wage labour and improved housing have show a positive effects on the women's lives.

Purna Chandra Parida & Anushree Sinha their study on "Performance and Sustainability of Self Help Groups in India: A Gender Perspective", The existing literature on self-help group (SHG) bank linkage programs portrays them as an effective tool being used in various countries to approach a range of socioeconomic issues. This paper explores the performance and sustainability of this type of program in India at the group level. Because income-generating activities and other characteristics vary with the gender composition of self-help groups, their performance and sustainability vary. The analysis in this study is based on data from a survey carried out in six states in India. Overall, the performance analysis reveals that all-female SHGs perform best. The female SHGs are doing particularly well in terms of recovery of loans and per capita saving. The econometrics results indicate that only all-female SHGs are sustainable. The factors that determine the sustainability include recovery of loans, per capita savings, and linkage with an SHG federation.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY
1. To analyze the impact of self help groups on economic empowerment of women.
2. To study the changes in the income level and savings of the women as a member of self help group.
3. To study and analyze the factors that influences the economic empowerment of women.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY
The study is confined to economic empowerment relating to women in mahabubnagar district of Andhra Pradesh.

METHODOLOGY
The study has been conducted using a questionnaire. A sample of 147 members of the Self help group were selected for the purpose of the study. The data has been analyzed using SPSS 17.0; tools like Percentages, paired t test and Factory analysis were used for the purpose of analysis of the data.

PROFILE OF MAHABUBNAGAR DISTRICT
The district derived its name mahabubnagar from the Nawab Mir Mahabub Ali Khan, the VI Nizam of Hyderabad. There are four municipalities in the district namely mahabubnagar, Gadwal, Wanaparthy and Narayanpet. The district is broadly classified into five revenue divisions namely Mahabubnagar, Narayanpet, Nagarkurnool, Gadwal and Wanaparthy.

TABLE1: TABLE REPRESENTING THE NUMBER OF SELF HELP GROUPS IN MAHABUBNAGAR DISTRICT

Year	No of SHGs
2000-01	18785
2001-02	18785
2002-03	25720
2003-04	28870
2004-05	29507
2005-06	29981
2006-07	30789
2007-08	30789
2008-09	32706
2009-10	41015

Source: SERP, Andhra Pradesh

GRAPH1: REPRESENTING THE GROWTH OF SELF HELP GROUPS
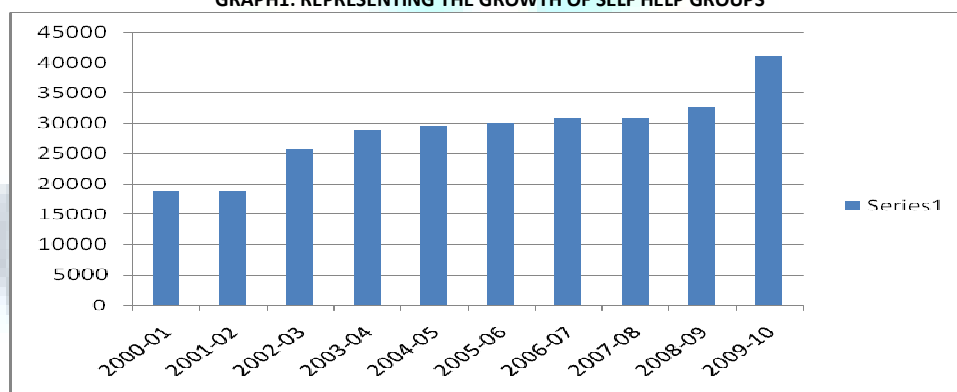
DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE SAMPLE RESPONDENTS

TABLE 2: TABLE REPRESENTING THE AGE OF THE SAMPLE RESPONDENTS

Age of the respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Less than 20	1	0.7
20 and less than 30	31	21.1
30 and less than 40	99	67.3
40 and above	16	10.9
Total	147	100

Source: Primary Data

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From table2, it is observed that majority of the respondents i.e., 67.3% of the respondents are in the age group of 30 and less than 40.

TABLE 3: TABLE REPRESENTING THE EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF SAMPLE RESPONDENTS

Educational Qualification	Frequency	Percentage
Illiterate	82	55.8
Primary Education	47	32.0
Secondary Education	11	7.5
Intermediate	05	3.4
Adult Education	02	1.4
Total	147	100

Source: Primary Data

From the above table 3, it is found that a vast number of respondents i.e., 55.8 % of the sample respondents are illiterates and 32% of the sample respondents have pursued primary education.

TABLE 4: TABLE REPRESENTING THE MARITAL STATUS OF THE SAMPLE RESPONDENTS

Martial Status	Frequency	Percentage
Unmarried	08	5.4
Married	120	81.6
Widow	19	12.9
Divorced	00	0
Total	147	100

Source: Primary Data

It is observed from table4, that the large number of sample respondents i.e., 81.6 % of the sample respondents is married.

TABLE 5: TABLE REPRESENTING THE OCCUPATIONAL OF THE SAMPLE RESPONDENTS

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
Agriculture (Self)	42	28.6
Agriculture (lease)	04	2.7
Agriculture (daily labour)	47	32.0
Self Employed	12	8.2
Daily Labour (non agri)	33	22.4
Traditional work	06	4.1
Others	03	2.0
Total	147	147

Source: Primary Data

The above table states the occupation level of the sample respondents, it is evident from the above that 32% of the sample respondents are daily labour in agricultural sector followed by the respondents who are involved in the agriculture i.e 28.6%.

H_{01}: There is no significant difference in the income of the members of the self help group before and after joining the group.

TABLE 6: PAIRED SAMPLES STATISTICS OF MAHABUBNAGAR DISTRICT

	Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Income Before	1303.74	147	1156.312	95.371
Income After	2067.41	147	1547.833	127.663

Table 6, column 2 represents the mean income of respondents before and after joining the group. The mean income before joining the group was Rs.1308 and after joining the group is Rs. 2597.

TABLE 7: PAIRED SAMPLES CORRELATIONS OF MAHABUBNAGAR DISTRICT

	N	Correlation	Sig.
Income Before and Income After	147	.774	.000

TABLE 8 PAIRED SAMPLES TEST OF MAHABUBNAGAR DISTRICT

	Paired Differences					T	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
				Lower	Upper			
Income Before and Income after	-763.673	980.996	80.911	-923.582	-603.765	-9.438	146	.000

From table 8 and last column the 2-tailed significance value is 0.000, this is the 'p' value, and it is less than the level of 0.05 (the significance value which the researcher had set). If the 'p' value is less than 0.05 we reject our null hypothesis. Therefore we reject our null hypothesis and conclude that there is a significant difference between the savings level of the respondent before and after joining the group.

H_{02}: There is no significant difference in the savings of the members of the self help group before and after joining the group.

TABLE 9: PAIRED SAMPLES STATISTICS OF MAHABUBNAGAR DISTRICT

	Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Savings Before	203.20	147	223.668	18.448
Savings After	384.15	147	336.531	27.757

Table 9, column 2 represents the mean savings of respondents before and after joining the group. The mean savings before joining the group was Rs.203 and after joining the group is Rs. 384.

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TABLE 10: PAIRED SAMPLES CORRELATIONS OF MAHABUBNAGAR DISTRICT

	N	Correlation	Sig.
Savings Before and Savings After	147	.821	.000

TABLE 11: PAIRED SAMPLES TEST OF MAHABUBNAGAR DISTRICT

	Paired Differences					t	Df	Sig. (2-tailed)
	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
				Lower	Upper			
Savings Before and After	-180.952	199.284	16.437	-213.437	-148.468	-11.009	146	.000

From table 11 and last column the 2-tailed significance value is 0.000, this is the 'p' value, and it is less than the level of 0.05 (the significance value which the researcher had set). If the 'p' value is less than 0.05 we reject our null hypothesis. Therefore we reject our null hypothesis and conclude that there is a significant difference between the savings level of the respondent before and after joining the group

FACTOR ANALYSIS

Factor analysis is a very useful method of reducing data complexity by reducing the number of variables being studied. The researcher has identified 20 variables that would be determining the economic empowerment of women and the researcher has conducted a factor analysis to determine the major factors that would be affecting the economic empowerment of women.

KMO and Bartlett's Test: KMO and Bartlett's test is used in factor analysis. This is used for the initial estimation of the factor analysis. If the KMO and Bartlett's test is greater than 0.6 it is said to be good model. From table 12 below, it was clear to the researcher that the samples taken were absolutely accurate and sampling accuracy was 0.823.

TABLE 12: KMO AND BARTLETT'S TEST – MAHABUBNAGAR DISTRICT

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy.		.823
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Approx. Chi-Square	1923.520
	Df	190
	Sig.	.000

Cronbach's Alpha: To test the reliability of the data the cronbach's alpha can be used. If the Cronbach's Alpha is greater than 0.7 it is said to be highly reliable. The cronbach's alpha for the purpose of the study has resulted 0.914 which means it is highly reliable.

TABLE 13: RELIABILITY STATISTICS – MAHABUBNAGAR DISTRICT

Crobach's Alpha	N of Items
0.914	20

TABLE 14: TOTAL VARIANCE EXPLAINED

Component	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings			Rotation Sums of Squared Loadings		
	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %
1	7.944	39.721	39.721	7.944	39.721	39.721	4.267	21.335	21.335
2	2.761	13.803	53.523	2.761	13.803	53.523	3.498	17.489	38.823
3	1.622	8.108	61.631	1.622	8.108	61.631	2.947	14.734	53.557
4	1.150	5.749	67.380	1.150	5.749	67.380	2.764	13.822	67.380
5	.962	4.811	72.191						
6	.783	3.913	76.104						
7	.683	3.417	79.521						
8	.631	3.153	82.673						
9	.588	2.941	85.615						
10	.459	2.296	87.911						
11	.409	2.043	89.954						
12	.394	1.969	91.923						
13	.311	1.555	93.478						
14	.281	1.403	94.882						
15	.256	1.279	96.161						
16	.216	1.080	97.241						
17	.190	.948	98.188						
18	.155	.776	98.964						
19	.125	.624	99.589						
20	.082	.411	100.000						

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

The first step in factor analysis is the factor extraction process. The main objective of this test is to identify how many factors will be extracted from the data. The factor extraction process can be done using the Principal Component Analysis method. Factors will be extracted based on Eigen value. The higher the Eigen

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value of a factor, the higher is the amount of variance explained by the factor. A thumb rule is followed for factor extraction using the Eigen value , we retain all the those variables whose Eigen value is greater than one. From table 14 we can conclude that the twenty variables can be reduced to four factors. The four factors extracted together account for 67.3 % of total variance.
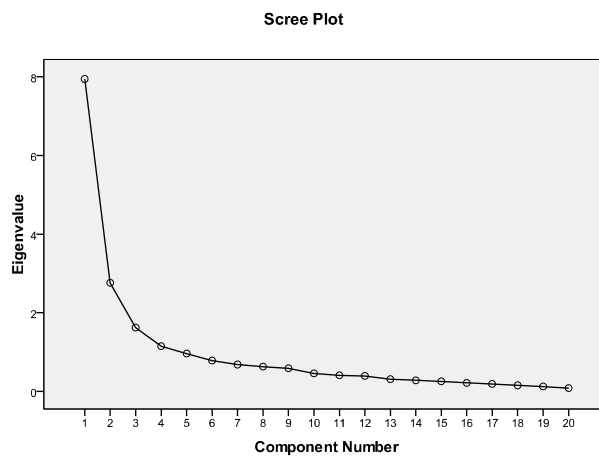
GRAPH 2: SCREE PLOT DIAGRAM

Scree Plot

TABLE 15: ROTATED COMPONENT MATRIX

	Component			
	1	2	3	4
I feel the standard of my family has increased	.289	.296	.325	**.559**
I am able to purchase the assets (Fan, Radio, TV, Refrigerator)	.261	.245	.013	**.724**
I am able to increase the land holdings	.174	.094	.030	**.810**
I am able to involve myself in financial decision making	.088	.382	.410	**.596**
I am aware of loan disbursement system	.470	.216	**.496**	.266
I am aware of interest rate on my loan	.210	.162	**.756**	-.129
I am aware of loan repayment procedure	.023	.178	**.808**	.030
I am aware of schemes available to self help group members	-.022	-.086	**.781**	.355
I am aware of insurance schemes available to members of SHG	.201	-.316	**.659**	.438
I am able to spend money for my children's education	**.790**	.029	.176	.131
I am able to spend money for festivals	**.606**	.327	.114	.287
I am able pay for the conveyance for mobility	**.817**	.330	.116	.160
I am able to buy the provisions required for my house	**.833**	.247	-.027	.127
I am able to increase the credit access	.405	**.578**	-.072	.298
I am able to buy the requirements of the children	.604	**.623**	.088	.156
I am able to buy the clothes for myself	.452	**.686**	-.058	.223
I am able to spend the money for Health & Hospital	.318	**.657**	.078	.161
I am able to increase the bargaining power	-.006	**.574**	.504	.259
I am able to help others in case of need (Money)	.297	**.664**	.167	.234
I am able to repay the loan on time	-.012	**.589**	.536	-.211

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.
Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.

a. Rotation converged in 13 iterations.

The next step in factor analysis is Principal Component Factor Analysis with varimax rotation. The researcher has conducted the principal component factor analysis with varimax rotation to group the variables. The principal component analysis along with varimax rotation is used for grouping the variables, variables with a factor loading greater than or equal to 0.5 are grouped under a factor (Component). A factor loading is the correlation between the original variables of specific factor and the key to understand the nature of that particular factor. From table 15 the factor 1 was loaded with the variables like ability to spend money for children's education, festivals, conveyance for mobility, able to buy provisions required for my houses. All the variables which are loaded under factor 1 can be termed as 'purchase power'. Factor 2 is loaded with variables like able to increase credit access, buy requirements for children, buy clothes for myself, able to spend money for health and hospital, able to increase bargaining power, help others in case of need and able to repay the loan on time. All the variables which are loaded on factor 2 can be termed as 'increased credit access. Factor 3 is loaded with the variables like loan disbursement system, interest rate of loan, repayment procedure and awareness of schemes of SHG. All the variables loaded on factor 3 can be termed as 'Loans of SHG'. Fourth factor is loaded with the variables like standard of living, increase in assets, increase in land holding and able to involve in financial decisions. The variables loaded on factor 4 can be termed as 'Standard of Living'.

FINDINGS & CONCLUSION

The self help group model is playing a vital role for the economic empowerment of the women. It is been observed that there is an increase in the income level and savings among the members of the self help group after joining the group. As a member of self help group she is able to able to increase purchase power,

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credit access, she is able to know about the loans available to SHG members and her standard of living has increased. As a member of self help group, women are able to increase their income, savings and standard of living. Thus we can conclude that being a member of self help group women is economically empowered.

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