



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF RESEARCH IN COMMERCE, ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT

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- Bowersox, Donald J., Closs, David J., (1996), "Logistical Management." Tata McGraw, Hill, New Delhi.
- Hunker, H.L. and A.J. Wright (1963), "Factors of Industrial Location in Ohio," Ohio State University.

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- 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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- Kelkar V. (2009): Towards a New Natural Gas Policy, Economic and Political Weekly, Viewed on February 17, 2011 <http://epw.in/epw/user/viewabstract.jsp>

MICRO FINANCE AND SELF- HELP GROUPS – AN EXPLORATORY STUDY OF SHIVAMOGA DISTRICT**MAHESHA. V****LECTURER****DEPARTMENT OF POST GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH IN COMMERCE****KUVEMPU UNIVERSITY****SHANKARAGHATTA – 577 451****DR. S. B. AKASH****ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR****DEPARTMENT OF POST GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH IN COMMERCE****KUVEMPU UNIVERSITY****SHANKARAGHATTA – 577 451****ABSTRACT**

Micro Finance Though Self Help Groups has been able to score over the weakness of formal tending institutions, since the commercial banks were urban and profit oriented their inclination towards rural poor was limited. Women led self Help Groups in many parts of the country have achieved success in brining women into main stream of decision making, hence, it is evident that Self Help Groups have become a viable organisational set up to disburse micro credit to women and encourage them to enter into entrepreneurial activity. SHGs contributed significantly to the development of women entrepreneurs and also for overall development of the economy. After independence from colonial economic explosion, primarily the national primary in Nation's planning programme was premising aimed at uplifting of the poor through their integration with nation's development, the public sector was provided a commanding position in the industrial policy adopted in the year 1956. The process of poverty eradication by providing gainful employment to the rural mass got strengthen.

KEYWORDS

Micro finance, Self help groups, Microfinance and self help groups

INTRODUCTION

Commercial banks are one of the important elements of the economy and normally referred as its mirror. Social banking is also considered as an economic activity as it involves social desirable investments for achieving development goals with a particular focus on the poor was observed at the mid sixties as industrial sector was accounting for about 25% of national output using tow – third of commercial banks credit and agriculture sector with the contribution to the national output at above 80% was virtually reflected by the commercial banks. Huge credit gaps were observed with respect to less section of the economy and a study group of the National Credit Council was formed in the year 1969.

After independence from colonial economic explosion, primarily the national primary in Nation's planning programme was premising aimed at uplifting of the poor through their integration with nation's development, the public sector was provided a commanding position in the industrial policy adopted in the year 1956. The process of poverty eradication by providing gainful employment to the rural mass got strengthen.

EMERGENCE OF MICROFINANCE IN INDIA

The post-nationalization period in the banking sector 1969, witnessed a substantial amount of resources being earmarked towards meeting the credit needs of the poor. There were several objectives for the bank nationalization strategy including expanding the outreach of financial services to neglected sectors (singh2005). As a result of this strategy, the banking network underwent an expansion phase without comparables in the world. Credit came to be recognized as a remedy for many of the ills of the poverty. There spawned several pro-poor finical services, support by both the state and central government, which included credit packages and programs customized to the perceived needs of the poor. Support by both the state and central governments, which included credit packages and programs customized to the perceived needs of the poor.

While the objectives were laudable and substantial progress was achieved, credit flow to the poor, and especially to poor women remained low. This led to initiatives that were institution driven that attempted to converge the existing strengths of rural banking infrastructure and leverage this to better serve the poor. The pioneering efforts at this were made by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), which was given the tasks of framing appropriate policy for rural credit provision of technical assistance backed liquidity support to banks, supervision of rural credit institutions and other development initiatives.

In the early 1980s, the government of India launched the Integrated Rural Development Program (IRDP), a large poverty alleviation credit program, which provided government subsidized credit through banks to the poor. It was aimed that the poor would be able to use the inexpensive credit to finance themselves over the poverty line. Also during this time, NABARD conducted a series of research studies independently and in association with MYRADA, a leading non-governmental organisation (NGO) from southern India, which showed that despite having a wide network of rural bank branches servicing the rural poor, a very large number of the poorest of the poor continued to remain outside the fold of the formal banking system. These studies also showed that the existing banking policies, systems and procedures, and deposit and loan products were perhaps not well suited to meet the most immediate needs of the poor. It also appeared that what the poor really needed was better access to these services and products, rather than cheap subsidized credit. Against this background a need was felt for alternative policies, systems and procedures, savings and loan products, other complementary services and new delivery mechanisms, which would fulfill the requirements of the poorest, especially of the women member of such households. The emphasis therefore was on improving the access of the poor to microfinance rather than just micro – credit. To answer the need for microfinance from the poor, the past 25 years has seen a variety of microfinance programs promoted by the government and NGOs. Some of these programs have failed and the learning experiences from them have been used to develop more effective ways of providing financial services. These programs vary from regional rural banks with a social mandate to MFIs. In 1999, the government of India merged various credit programs together, refined them and launched a new programme called Swarnajayanti Gram Swarazagar Yojana (SGSY). The mandate of SGSY is to continue to provide subsidized credit to the poor through the banking sector to generate self-employment through a self – help group approach and the program has grown to an enormous size.

The most acceptable definition of micro finance is the provisions of first credit on other financial services and products of very small amount to the poor in rural, semi-urban and urban area to enable them to raise their income level and improving standard of living. The micro finance services unlike direct credit to weaker sections and loan under survey banking institutions have discretion to determine rate of interest on micro credit.

MICRO FINANCE AND SHGS

The programme of micro finance through Self Help Groups with the support from the government has shown many positive impacts on rural poor women. It has become a powerful instrument in providing access of banking services to poor and also in mobilizing their small savings. Many studies like Rajashekar (2000), Kumaran (2001), Kakadhar (1997), Maunder (1997), NABARAD (2002) highlights the Self Help Groups have circulated the savings habits among the poor, enable the rural household to take up larger productive activities, empower the poor women, decrease the dependency on exploitative local money lenders. A study NABARD shows that there have been perceptible and of assets, borrowing capacities, income generating activities, income level and increase in savings.

DEVELOPMENT OF SELF HELP GROUPS IN SHIVAMOGA DISTRICT

Self Help Groups are established in the 2000-01. Karnataka State has got 175 taluk areas these Self Help Groups has been established in all the taluks and it has become mandatory for all Self Help Groups to come under the Montessori which are in that area. The main aim of the Self Help Groups is to uplift the women who are in the rural and backward areas and the works for the development of women entrepreneurs which further helps in increasing the income of women in rural areas and its going to save huge amount of money and it also help in increasing the standard of living of the people living in the rural areas. The main intention was to establish 4400 Self Help Groups in the year 2006-07 in 6 taluk areas and has been achieved by government of Karnataka and has been achieved by government of Karnataka and in the year 2007-08. They wanted to establish 333 Self Help Groups in these areas.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Self Help Groups playing a very important role in the economic development. SHGs are formed for the purpose of empowerment of women. In this study we found that the several problems faced by the SHGs like lack of financial support, lack of education, lack of good management, lack of training and motivation programmes and there is no well family support to the women'. To offer suggestions to these problems the study has been conducted.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To examine the working of SHGs in Shivamoga District.
2. To analyze the savings and credit dimensions of the SHGs
3. To examine the functioning and performance of SHGs

METHODOLOGY FOR DATA COLLECTION

For the purpose of successful completion of this research paper the study aimed to gather information from both primary and secondary data.

Primary Data: The required primary data has collected from distributing the structured questionnaire to SHGs and by visiting some Self Help Groups in Shivamogga for conducting direct interview to gather information.

Secondary data: The related secondary data has collected and gathered from the published sources like books, journals, newspapers and internet sources etc.,

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The present study has been restricted to working of SHGs in Shivamoga District. Among these only small Self Help Groups have been taken into consideration for this study.

ANALYSIS**TABLE1.1: CLASSIFICATION OF THE RESPONDENTS BASED ON AGE GROUP**

Age (in years)	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
20-25	20	13.79
26-30	45	31.03
31-35	25	17.24
36-40	30	20.68
40 and above	25	17.24
Total	145	100

Source: Field survey

From the above table it is clear that among 145 respondents 13.79% belongs to the age group of 20-25 years, 31.03% belongs to the age group of 26-30 years, 17.24% of the respondents are belonged to the age group of 30-35 years and above 40years and 20.68% belongs to the age group of 36-40 years.

TABLE1.2: CLASSIFICATION OF THE RESPONDENTS BASED ON THEIR EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION

Education	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
SSLC	63	43.44
PUC	48	33.10
Degree	20	13.79
Post graduation	4	2.75
Others	10	6.89
Total	145	100

Source: Field survey

From the above table it's clear that majority of respondents are belongs to SSLC level it account for 63 its works out to 43.44%, 48 respondents are belongs PUC level educational background its works out 33.10%, 13.79% of the respondents are post graduates and finally 6.89% of the respondents are belongs to other qualification

TABLE1.2; CLASSIFICATION OF THE RESPONDENTS BASED ON THEIR OCCUPATIONAL BACKGROUND

Occupational Background	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Agriculture	39	26.89
House wife	73	50.34
Business	14	9.65
Others	19	13.10
Total	145	100

Source: Field Survey

From the above table it's clear that among 145 respondents 26.89% of respondents are belongs to agricultural background, 50.34% of the respondents are belongs housewife, land 33 respondents are belongs to business and others.

TABLE 1.4: RESPONDENTS BASED ON THEIR MARITAL STATUS

Marital Status	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Married	94	64.82
Unmarried	35	24.13
Widow	15	10.34
Total	145	100

Source: Survey data

From the above table 64.82% of respondents were married, 24.13% of the respondents are unmarried and remaining 10.34% of the respondents are widow.

TABLE 1.5: RESPONDENTS BASED ON THEIR MONTHLY INCOME

Monthly income	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
Below 10,000	84	57.93
11,000-20,000	61	42.06
21,000-30,000	0	-
Total	145	100

Source: Field Survey

The above table shows that 57.93% of respondents have monthly income below 10,000 and 42.06% respondents have their monthly income of Rs.10,000-20,000.

TABLE 1.6: RESPONDENTS BASED ON LINKING WITH THE SELF HELP GROUP

No. of years they were link with SHGs	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Bellow 2 years	67	46.20
2-4 years	44	30.34
4-6 years	22	15.17
Above 6 years	12	8.27
Total	145	100

Source: Field survey

Analysis of the contents of the above table shows that 46.20% of Respondents are joined SHGs from lost 2 years back, 30.34% of respondents are working with SHGs from 2-4 years, 15.17% of the respondents are working with SHGs from 4-6 years and remaining 8.27% of respondents are working with SHGs from 6 years.

TABLE 1.7: RESPONDENTS BASED ON THEIR SAVINGS PER WEEK

Savings per week (in Rs.)	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
10-20	78	53.79
21-30	40	27.58
31-40	15	10.34
41-50	12	8.27
Total	145	100

Source: Field Survey

From the above table it's clear that 53.79% of members save Rs.10-20 per week, 27.58% of the members save Rs.20-30, and 10.34% of members of save Rs.30-40 per week and remaining 8.27% of members save Rs.40-50 per week.

TABLE 1.8: RESPONDENTS BASED ON INCOME LEVEL AFTER JOINING SELF HELP GROUP

Income level	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
Low	-	-
Medium	60	41.37
High	85	58.62
Total	145	100

Source: Field Survey

After Joining the SHGs the income level of the respondents are 41.37% medium income level and remaining 58.62% of respondents income level is high

TABLE 1.9: RESPONDENTS BASED ON LOANS/SUBSIDY TAKEN

Loans/ Subsidy	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	145	100
No	-	-
Total	145	100

Source: Field Survey

The above table clearly indicates that 100% of the respondents have taken loans in SHGs.

TABLE 1.10: RESPONDENTS BASED ON SUBSIDY UTILIZED

Subsidy Utilized	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Agriculture	34	23.44
Home industry	28	19.31
Dairy activities	18	12.41
Poultry activities	05	3.44
Jewellery	30	20.68
Home construction	20	13.79
Family expenses	10	6.89
Total	145	100

Source: Field Survey

From the above table it is clear that 23.44% of the respondents are utilizing subsidy amount for agricultural activity, 19.31% of the respondents are using subsidy amount for Dairy activity, 12.41% of the respondents using subsidy amount for Poultry forms activities, 20.68% of the respondents are using subsidy amount for purchase jewellery and remaining 30 respondents are using subsidy amount for construction of house and family expenses.

FINDINGS

1. 31.03% of the respondents fall in the age group of 26-30 years.
2. Majority of the respondent's Educational background is PUC.
3. Most of the respondents are house wife which accounts for 73.
4. 57.93% of the respondents are having monthly income of below 10,000.
5. 53.79% of respondents save their money for at least Rs.10-20 per week
6. Majority of the respondents are taken loans/subsidy from SHGs
7. Majority of the respondents are utilizing the subsidy or loan for agriculture and purchase of jewellery.

SUGGESTIONS

1. The Government and NGO's have to take necessary steps to create awareness in the minds of women especially the woman who are crossing 35 years.
2. The Government has to formulate the strategies and policies for the improvement of literacy rate.
3. The Financial institutions have to come forward to provide financial assistance to improve their income level.
4. A large number of self Help Group member are using subsidy for ;unproductive purpose like, purchase of jewellery, household expenses, marriage, festivals etc., but the banks and financial institutions have bring the strict rules and regulation stated that they should use it for the purpose of economic activities.

CONCLUSIONS

Micro Finance Though Self Help Groups has been able to score over the weakness of formal tending institutions, since the commercial banks were urban and profit oriented their inclination towards rural poor was limited. Women led self Help Groups in many parts of the country have achieved success in brining women into main stream of decision making, hence, it is evident that Self Help Groups have become a viable organisational set up to disburse micro credit to women and encourage them to enter into entrepreneurial activity. SHGs contributed significantly to the development of women entrepreneurs and also for overall development of the economy.

Hence, it is evident that sthree Shakthi Groups has significantly contributed for the development of women in a number of ways independence brought women and promise equal opportunity in all spheres to Indian women and laws for their equal rights of participation in political process and equal opportunities and rights in education and employment but the majority of the urban middle class women are still unaffected by changes and development activity.

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