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OBJECTIVES

HYPOTHESES

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RESULTS & DISCUSSION

FINDINGS

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THE SPREAD OF SELF HELP GROUPS – BANK LINKAGE PROGRAMME IN INDIA

DR. V.DHEENADHAYALAN ASST. PROFESSOR ANNAMALAI UNIVERSITY CHIDAMBARAM

ABSTRACT

Women's development is directly related to national development. The effective management and development of interest, skills and other potentialities are of paramount importance. Today, the concept of Self Help Groups (SHGs) catching up as the most viable means to empower women, especially at the grass root level. Women have shown extraordinary dynamism in organizing themselves in group activities for income generating, better bargaining power and improvement in the quality of life. The predominant micro finance programme namely SHG bank linkage programme has become a supplementary channel for providing financial services from formal financial institutions to excluded category of poor segments of population. This paper discusses about the Spread of Self Help Groups – Bank Linkage Programme in India in terms of Growth, Models, Agency as well as Regional Distribution and Concluded with Recovery performance of Bank loan to SHGs.

KEYWORDS

SHGs, women development, Regional Distribution of SHGs, Models of SHGs, Spread of SHGs.

INTRODUCATION

illions of women in our hamlets know what unemployment means. Give them access to economic activities and they will have access to power and self-confidence to which they hitherto have been strangers".

Women's development is directly related to national development. The effective management and development of interest, skills and other potentialities are of paramount importance. Today, the concept of Self Help Groups (SHGs) catching up as the most viable means to empower women, especially at the grass root level. Women have shown extraordinary dynamism in organizing themselves in group activities for income generating, better bargaining power and improvement in the quality of life.

One of the successful ways through which microfinance services are being provided to poor people is through Self-Help Groups. It all started with experiments of some non-government organizations (NGOs) working in south India during early 80s and has now come to be known as Self-Help Group approach to microfinance. With intervention of RBI, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) and other organizations. The predominant micro finance programme namely SHG bank linkage programme has become a supplementary channel for providing financial services from formal financial institutions to excluded category of poor segments of population.

SHGs are a voluntary association of persons with common interests, formed democratically without any political affiliations. They are small and homogenous groups of 15-30 members. The uniqueness of these groups lies in the fact that to a large extent they are self supporting, self governing organization and politicization. The process empowers the poor and enables them to control direction of own development by identifying their felt needs.

The SHG bank linkage programme launched by NABARD has emerged as the largest and most cost-effective micro finance innovations. The principal objective of the SHG Bank linkage programme is `economic empowerment of rural poor by improving their access to the formal credit system through various credit innovations in a cost-effective and sustainable manner' besides promoting saving habits among the poor.

FEATURES OF SGH – BANK LINKAGE PROGRAMME

The following are the main features of SGHs – Bank Linkage Programme:

- 1. Supplementary credit delivery services for the unreached poor.
- 2. Create the habits of Savings.
- 3. Uplift the standard of living of the poor and promote the entrepreneurial development in rural areas.
- 4. On time repayment of loans to banks.
- 5. Reduction in transaction and monitoring costs of small lending for the banks as well as reach credit to the absolute poor.
- 6. Doorstep savings and credit facilities to the poor.
- 7. Exploitation of the untapped business potential in rural area.
- 8. To generate livelihood for poor women.
- 9. The group should be maintaining proper accounts and records.
- 10. Evidence of democratic setup in the group

OBJECTIVES OF THE PAPER

The main purpose of this paper is to examine the spread of The Self Help Groups – Bank Linkage Programme in India. The following are the specific objectives of the study.

- 1. To Analyses The Growth Of Self Help Groups Bank Linkage Programme
- 2. To Evaluate Models of Micro Credit Mechanisms in SHG- Bank Linkage Programme
- 3. To Study The Agency-Wise SHGs -Bank Linkage Position
- 4. To Study The Regional Distribution Of SHG s- Bank Linkage Programme
- 5. To Study The Recovery Performance and Outstanding Of Bank Loans to SHGs

DATA SOURCES & METHODOLOGY

The data has been collected from the secondary sources comprises of published reports of Reports on Trend and Progress of Banking in India, various journals, magazines and information from the related websites. The collected data was classified, tabulated and analyzed in a systematic manner.

THE GROWTH OF SELF HELP GROUPS - BANK LINKAGE PROGRAMME

The linkage of SHGs to banks has been promoted by NABARD in 1990 in rural credit delivery system. A pilot project introduced in 1992, has become a SHG movement and 22,39,000 SHGs have been linked with the banks during 2005-06. The SHGs – Bank Linkage model not only concentrates on the delivery of microfinance services but also aims for women empowerment.

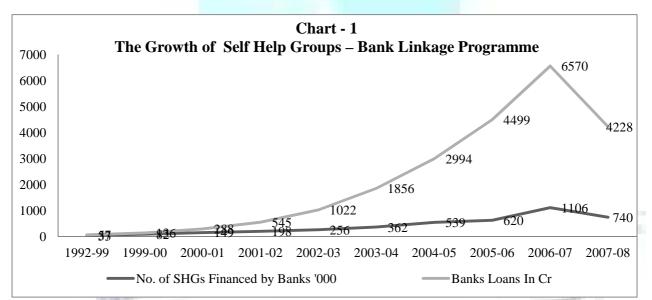
Year	Total SHGs financed b	Bank Loans		
	During the year	Cumulative	During the year	Cumulative
1992-99	33	33	57	57
1999-00	82	115	136	193
	(147.9)	(247.9)	(138.1)	(238.1)
2000-01	149	264	288	481
	(82.3)	(129.9)	(112.0)	(149.2)
2001-02	198	461	545	1,026
	(32.6)	(74.9)	(89.0)	(113.4)
2002-03	256	717	1,022	2,049
	(29.5)	(55.4)	(87.0)	(99.6)
2003-04	362	1,079	1,856	3,904
	(41.4)	(50.4)	(81.0)	(90.6)
2004-05	539	1,618	2,994	6,898
	(49.1)	(50.0)	(61.0)	(76.7)
2005-06	620	2,239	4,499	11,398
	(15.0)	(38.3)	(50.3)	(65.2)
2006-07	1,106	-	6,570	-
2007-08 P	740	-	4,228	-



Source: RBI Trend and Progress 2007-08

P : Provisional

The highlights of overall progress of SHG Bank Linkage Programme are shown in the table I from 1992 to March 2008. The percentage of growth of SHGs, bank loans to SHGs and Refinance by NABARD has shown tremendous increases over the years; both in terms of the number of SHGs credit linked with banks as also the bank loans disbursed by SHGs. infact a significant growth on SHG, bank loans to SHG and refinance was exhibited during the year 1999-00.



The analysis of the data reveals that, the significant progress was made during the year that witnessed sustained expansion of the programme with credit linkage of 0.6 million new SHGs (during 2005-06) by the banking system, taking the cumulative number of such SHGs 2.2 million in the year 2005-06. The credit extended by the bank raised from Rs.4, 499 crore to Rs.6,570 crore during the year 2006-07 registering the growth rate of 46.03 percent. The cumulative bank loans disbursed to SHGs also witnessed a sharp increase from Rs. 57 crore in 1992-99 to Rs.481 crore in 2000-01 and further to Rs.11,398 crore in 2005-06. The correlation between the bank loan and number of SHGs financed by the bank also showed a positive correlation 0.987.

It is revealed that, during the last two decades the huge growth has been registered during the year 2006-07 in terms of number of SHGs, bank loans to SHGs and refinance. This was due to government interest on alleviating the poverty from the gross root level.

The SBLP has made considerable progress since its inception in the early 1990s, both in terms of the member of SHGs credit linked with banks as also the banks loans disbursed by SHGs. At end-March 2008, a total of 3.6 million SHGs were having outstanding bank loan of Rs.17,000 crore were credit linked with the banks under the SBLP programme.

_	TABLE 2: CORRE	LATION				
	-	No_SHG_fin_Banks	Bank Loan			
No_SHG_fin_Banks	Pearson Correlation	1	.987(**)			
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000			
	Ν	10	10			
Bank Loan	Pearson Correlation	.987(**)	1			
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000				
	Ν	10	10			
Source: Computed Data						

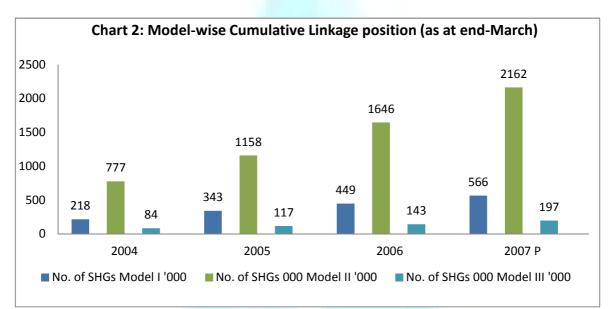
** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

MODELS OF MICRO CREDIT MECHANISMS IN SHG- BANK LINKAGE PROGRAMME

There are three different models of linkage in delivery of micro credit mechanisms being followed in India, they are:

Model-I, The banks themselves assume the role of promoting the formation of SHGs and extending credit to them. Up to March 2007, 13.2 per cent of the total numbers of SHGs financed were in this category.

Model-II, The SHGs are formed and developed by the NGOs, and formal agencies but are directly financed by banks. This model continues to have a lion's share, with 81.1 per cent of SHGs financed up to March 2007, falling under this category.



Model-III, SHGs are financed by banks using NGOs and other agencies as financial intermediaries. In areas where formal banking system faces constraints, the NGOs are encouraged to approach suitable bank for bulk loan assistance. The share of cumulative number of SHGs linked under this model up to end-March 2007 continued to be relatively small it is only 5.7 percent.

In order to analyze the model-wise SHG- Bank linkage position in India the relevant data was presented in Table No.2.

Year	Model I – SHG	s promoted, guided	Model II- SHG	promoted by NGOs/	Model III- SHGs promoted by NGOs	
	and financed by banks		Government agencies and financed by banks		and financed by banks using NGOs/ formal agencies as financial	
			1.1.1		intermediaries	
	No. of SHGs Bank loans		No. of SHGs Bank loans		No. of SHGs	Bank loans
100 million (100 million)	('000)	(Rs. crore)	('000)	(Rs. crore)	('000)	(Rs. crore)
2004	218	550	777	3165	84	189
2005	343	1013	1158	5529	117	356
2006	449	1637	1646	9200	143	561
2007 P	566	2383	2162	14633	197	1024
CAGR	26.94	44.27	29.1542	46.64	23.75	52.57
Average	394	1396	1435.75	8132	135.3	532.5
STD	148.5	794.7	600.761	4995	47.72	361.3
Coefficient of Correlation	0.992**	•	0.993**		0.994**	

TABLE 2: MODEL-WISE CUMULATIVE LINKAGE POSITION (AS AT END-MARCH)

Source: 1) NABARD.2) RBI Trend and Progress

P : Provisional, Figures in parentheses are percentages to total,

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Under the SHG-bank linkage programme models over the years, 81.1 percentage of SHG were financed by banks under model II, under model I only 13.2% of the SHG were financed by banks as on March 2007. Over the years the model II (The SHGs are formed and developed by the NGOs, and formal agencies but are directly financed by banks) both in terms of the number of SHGs and the bank loans disbursed to SHGs showed a significant growth rate compare to other models by exhibiting the Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) and Average of 29.15 per cent and 1435.75 respectively.

AGENCY-WISE SHG -BANK LINKAGE POSITION

The SHG-Bank Linkage Programme has emerged as a major micro finance programme in the country. It is being implemented by commercial banks, RRBs and cooperative banks. The data relevant to the agency wise SHG -Bank Linkage Position was presented in table 3 for the year 2004-05 to 2007-08.

Agency	SHGs Cred	Bank Loan Disbursed						
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08P	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08P
Commercial Banks	843	1,188 (53.1)	572	312	4,159	6,987	3,919	2,043
	(52.1)		(52)	(42)			(60)	(48)
RRBs	564 (34.8)	740 (33.1)	381	241	2,100	3,322	2,053	1,599
			(34)	(33)			(31)	(38)
Co-operative Banks	211	310	153	187	640	1,087	599	586
	(13.0)	(13.9)	(14)	(25)			(09)	(14)
Total	1,618	2,239	1,106	740	6,898	11,398	6,570	4,228

TABLE 3: AGENCY-WISE SHG -BANK LINKAGE POSITION	(Amount in Rs. crore)
TABLE STAGENET WISE SITE DANK LINKAGET OSTITON	(Amount mins, croic)

Source: RBI Trend and Progress

P: Provisional data. Note: 1) Figures in parentheses are percentage shares in the respective total.

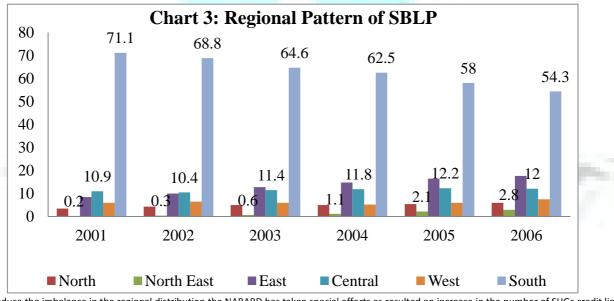
The table highlights that the commercial banks have maintain the share of distribution of micro finance to SHGs from 52.1 percent in the year 2004-05 to 52 per cent in the year 2006-07. In terms of Agency-wise SHG -Bank Linkage Position, commercial banks continued to account for the largest share, both in terms of number of SHGs credit linked and bank loans disbursed, followed by regional rural banks and co-operative banks in all the years from 2004-05 to 2007-08. Among the commercial banks, public sector banks accounted for the largest share of loans disbursed to SHG sector (88.8 per cent) in 2006-07. Out of the total loans disbursed by the commercial banks, 86.9 per cent of the loans were disbursed exclusively to women SHGs.¹

REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF SHG - BANK LINKAGE PROGRAMME

Regional Distribution of SHG - Bank Linkage Programme over the years was presented in the following table.

					-	-	
Region	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	
Northern	3.4	4.2	4.9	4.9	5.3	5.9	
North-Eastern	0.2	0.3	0.6	1.1	2.1	2.8	
Eastern	8.4	9.9	12.7	14.7	16.4	17.6	
Central	10.9	10.4	11.4	11.8	12.2	12.0	
Western	5.9	6.4	5.9	5.1	5.9	7.4	
Southern	71.1	68.8	64.6	62.5	58.0	54.3	
All-India	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
Source: NABARD.							

From the table 4, it revels that the region-wise pattern of SHGs linked to banks showed greater concentration in the southern region from 2001 to 2006 and very between 71.1 per cent to 54.3 percent. This may be due to the strong initiatives taken by the respective State Government; the SBLP gained more important movement in southern states like Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu and Kerala. However, the programme has also been shown a greater growth rate in eastern and north- eastern region by registering the CAGR of 20.31 per cent and 93.43 per cent respectively.



In order to reduce the imbalance in the regional distribution the NABARD has taken special efforts as resulted an increase in the number of SHGs credit linked in the non southern Indian states to 1.4 million as on March 3, 2007 as compared to 100 thousand as on march 31,2002².

¹ Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India, 2007-08, p 211.

² Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India, 2007-08, p212.

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RECOVERY PERFORMANCE AND OUTSTANDING OF BANK LOANS TO SHGs

The performance of Indian banking sector have been worsening due to non recovery of loan assets which reflected in the decline in productivity, liquidity, solvency, and profitability. So it is a challenge for the banks to manage their NPAs more effectively so that the character of loan assets changes from non-performing to performing. In comparison with other form of financing under micro financing, bank loans to SHGs showed a remarkable recovery performance. The Agency wise recovery performance of Bank loans to SHGs was presented in the following table.

15	50-79 per cent	less than 50 per cent
-	10	0
(41 7)		0
(41.7)	(27.8)	(0.0)
35	13	5
(47.9)	(17.8)	(6.8)
55	35	15
(30.4)	(19.3)	(8.3)
105	58	20
(36.2)	(20.0)	(6.9)
	(47.9) 55 (30.4) 105	35 13 (47.9) (17.8) 55 35 (30.4) (19.3) 105 58 (36.2) (20.0)

TABLE 5: RECOVERY PERFORMANCE OF BANK LOANS TO SHGs (AS AT END-MARCH 2007)	(No of banks)

Source: Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India, 2007-08

The table 5, reveals that out of 290 reported banks 36.9 per cent of banks reported Recovery Performance of Bank Loans to SHGs of above 95 per cent under this programme, 36.2 per cent banks reported recovery in the range of 80-94 per cent and another 20 per cent banks reported recovery in the range of 50-79 per cent and only 6.9 per cent banks reported the recovery of SHGs Loans in the range of less then 50 percent. It should be noted that Individuals differences was found in the recovery rate between the Agency-wise recovery performances of Bank loans to SHGs during the year ended March 2007.

Under the SBLP, as on March 31, 2007, 2.9 million SHGs had outstanding bank loans of Rs.12,366 crore out of these 70.8, 22.7 and 6.5 per cent are the share of loan outstanding in Commercial banks, Regional Rural banks and Cooperative Banks respectively. The recovery mechanism in cooperative and RRB was good in respect of recovery of loans to SHGs. But in case of distribution of loan to SHGs linkage programme commercial banks take a lead in comparison to other.

CONCLUSION

SHG - Bank Linkage Programme is an alternative formal credit delivery channel for the unreached poor. It creates a trust and confidence between the bankers and the poor and encourages the banking activity. The SHGs bank linkage programme is an innovation in the field of rural development plays a major role in transforming the rural economy by fulfilling the credit needs and helps the rural poor women to improve their economic status of each and every house hold in the rural area. Therefore special efforts should be taken by the States Governments to spread the SBLP throughout India to increase the number of SHGs credit linked programme and thereby reduce the regional imbalances in the distribution of micro finance.

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