

## PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF WOMEN SELF HELP GROUP IN SIDDHARTH NAGAR DISTRICT

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### ABSTRACT

*In recent times, innovative efforts are happening within the direction of institutionalizing the agricultural people especially the weaker and therefore the marginalized sections of the community and micro enterprise promotion. People within the development field feel that it's a pre-requisite for empowering the agricultural poor, promoting sustainable development of rural economy and to scale back the rural-urban disparities. The present SHG strategy is therefore mobilization of village women for saving and credit, and economic empowerment of rural women through micro- enterprises. The efforts put in by different promotional agencies are expected to end in starting of micro- enterprises which open the avenues for profitable livelihood opportunities to the poor women households within the country.*

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**Keywords:** SHGS, Performance Evaluation, Self-Reliance, Social and Economic Development.

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### Introduction

Finance is indispensable to any economic activity. The essential philosophy of rural finance is that the dispensation of loans at a concessional rate through administrative control targeting the underprivileged sections of the society, especially the ladies. There have been 58.74 crores women living in India out of the entire population constituting 121.05 crores as per 2011 census of India ([www.census2011.co.in](http://www.census2011.co.in)). Though women constitute a big number within the total population, still remain outside the ambit of institutional finance. So as to offer a replacement approach to rural finance, commercial bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) had introduced the 'Self Help Groups' (SHGs) in 1992 which is usually treated as finance to a little group. This new approach, in other words, is understood as 'microcredit'.

Self-Help Group (SHG) may be a financial intermediary committee usually composed of 10 to twenty local women or men between 18 to 40 years. SHG is nothing but a gaggle of individuals who are on daily wages, they form a gaggle and from that group one person collects the cash and provides the cash to the one that is in need. SHGs group members make small regular savings contributions over a couple of months until there's the enough money within the group to start lending to villagers and any of the group members. In India, many SHGs are linked with banks for the delivery of micro credit. Within the SHGs group usually there are women from similar social and economic backgrounds, all come voluntarily to save lots of some amount on regular basis. They take loan at the time of emergency from their collective savings. Use that fund in any life events or to get assets or the other particular reason on a decided rate of interest. SHGs offer poor women a platform for building their life. They permit women to return forward and act on issues associated with their own lives including nutrition, health, gender justice and governance. SHGs are seen as instruments for goals including empowering women, developing leadership qualities among poor people. Self help groups are informal groups of individuals where have

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common problems are arises. While self help group main focus is on individual, one important features of self help group is mutual trust and support- people helping one another. Self help groups can help for several different purposes counting on circumstances. Self help groups can facilitate empowerment. Empowerment is that the process that makes power in individuals over their own lives, society and in their communities. Empowerment includes the activity of upbringing the extent of girls through education, raising awareness, literacy and training. Empowerments originate from self-respect. Self-help group gives economic empowerment also means ability for ladies to enjoy their right to regulate and enjoy resources, assets, income also because the skill to manage the danger and improve economic status and wellbeing. Rural development department has roped in self-help groups (SHGs) in rural parts of the state for the assembly of over 11 lakh khadi face masks and nearly 9000 personal protection equipment (PPE) kits which might be provided to health and police officials at the time of coronavirus pandemic.

### **SHGS and Myrada Experience**

The emergence of the concept of Self Help Groups (SHGs), as we all know it today in India, is an outcome of several experiments conducted at the Savings and Credit Management Groups (SCMG), sponsored by Mysore Resettlement and Development Agency (MYRADA) ([www.myrada.org](http://www.myrada.org)). After experimentation with the cooperatives in some projects, MYRADA felt that a shift to an alternate system for the poor was required along side the efforts to form the prevailing delivery system, not only more appropriate and effective but also willing to simply accept and relate to an alternate system with its own rules and management.

It had been during this MYRADA project, that commercial bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) experimented the pilot program for the event of the SHG system in India. In 1986-87, NABARD supported and funded an action-research project on SCMG of MYRADA, for assessing its adequacy as an instrument to assist the target groups. The most objective of this pilot program was to evolve supplementary credit strategies for meeting the credit needs of the poor by combining flexibility, sensitivity, and responsiveness of informal system with the financial resources of the formal credit institutions. Government, financial institutions and therefore the NGOs made efforts, often in partnership, to develop new financial delivery approaches combining the security and reliability of formal finance with the convenience and adaptability that are typically related to informal finance.

### **Initiatives of NABARD**

During 1991-92, NABARD launched 92 pilot projects on linking SHGs with Banks, in various parts of the country. In July 1991, RBI advised the banks to participate within the pilot program and to increase finance to SHGs as per the norms and guidelines of NABARD. In February 1992, detailed guidelines were issued to the commercial banks, explaining the modalities of the pilot program. Later the scheme was made applicable to RRBs and Cooperative Banks in May 1993. The NABARD guidelines to banks for implementation of the pilot program allowed ample flexibility to the participating banks to innovative responses and observed variations within the grassroots level situations. It aimed toward providing credit to the informal SHGs of rural poor, through the banking industry, with minimal documentation and simplified procedures. NABARD's mission under SHG - Bank linkage program aimed toward the economic empowerment of the agricultural poor by improving their access to the formal system through various credit innovations during a cost effective and sustainable manner ([www.nabard.org](http://www.nabard.org)).

### **Review of Literatures**

Keshava, A. K. Mehta and Gill H. K. (2010) indicated that about 37 per cent members had either started new economic activities or expanded the economic affairs after joining the groups. Average monthly income obtained from new activities was Rs. 2600. About 59% respondents started economic activities associated with agriculture and allied sector. Around 53% of group members, who started new activity, did all the arrangements of procuring raw materials to marketing of ultimate product. About 82 % respondents, who faced financial problems in running the activity, relied on group savings for taking loans.

Rajendran K. and Raya R.P. (2010) viewed that micro credit initiatives brought psychological and social empowerment than economic empowerment. The respondents of Natrampalli block were well empowered than their counterparts in Nemili block albeit both the blocks have same level of socioeconomic conditions. Age and education weren't having any influence on empowerment also as on managerial skill development among rural women. Impact of micro finance was appreciable in bringing confidence, courage, skill development and empowerment but there was no positive impact in

sustainable rural development especially reduction of poverty, creation of employment opportunities and creation of assets in rural areas. There was appreciable development in planning, coordination, deciding and financial skills among the leader respondents. But the effect of micro finance on communication, competency, technical, marketing and entrepreneurial skills were moderate only. There was a particular improvement of managerial skills, psychological wellbeing and social empowerment among rural women as a results of participating in micro credit through SHG programme.

Sushil Kumar Mehta et al. (2011) revealed that the agricultural people are vastly benefited by microfinance. it's helped them in their socio-economic upliftment. The agricultural poor now feel that they will even be partners within the process of rural development by joining within the SHG movement. The training of the members by the NGOs had increased their confidence, restored self-worth and improved their social concern about the neighbours. This study has also indicated that albeit the members have joined the SHGs for various reasons, all of them have one common goal, which is seeking a far better standard of living via a far better organization that works for his or her benefits. Hence, it had been concluded that the SHGs have proved that they might function an alternate instrument of monetary intermediation for the poor.

Sahu Lopamudra<sup>1</sup> and Singh Suresh (2011) highlighted that SHGs were the key instruments in women's empowerment which were generally facilitated and supported by NGOs. NGOs advised and trained during a sort of on and off farm income-generating activities. SHGs had played vital role in supporting women by strengthening their earning ability, boosting their self-confidence and promoting regular savings. Thus the participants had economic security, easy credit accessibility, better deciding in family, improved family environment (relative freedom from domination), increased mobility and improved political and legal knowledge. SHGs have provided women a standard platform to debate and solve their individual and community problems.

Anita Makkar and Sharmila Kumari (2012) revealed that SHGs are identified because the potential pathway to alleviate poverty. The numbers of poor women enrolling in SHGs are increasing remarkably everywhere rural India. SHGs have all the potential to bring powerful impact on women's empowerment. to scale back poverty by enabling the poor household to access gainful self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities, leading to appreciable improvement in their livelihood on a sustainable basis, through building strong grass-root institutions of the poor (SHGs) were the foremost motive of the most of the utilization schemes. Thus SHGs are showing the way ahead to alleviate the poverty of India along side women empowerment.

#### **Statement of the Matter**

In recent times, innovative efforts are happening within the direction of institutionalizing the agricultural people especially the weaker and therefore the marginalized sections of the community and micro enterprise promotion. People within the development filed feel that it's a pre-requisite for empowering the agricultural poor, promoting sustainable development of rural economy and to scale back the rural-urban disparities. The present SHG strategy is therefore mobilization of village women for saving and credit, and economic empowerment of rural women through micro- enterprises. The efforts put in by different promotional agencies are expected to end in starting of micro- enterprises which open the avenues for profitable livelihood opportunities to the poor women households within the country (Ravichandran K. & Revathi Bala .M (2008). It has been the dream of the voluntary agencies and bankers to develop the standard women in our rural areas and within the urban slums in to citizens with dignity and capable of earning breads. These people of small means are most times, at the control of the landlords, moneylenders and other men of means, who always exploit instead of helping them to return up in their life. The SHGs promoted with the main object of extricating the vulnerable from the clutches of those merciless people. The SHGs become strong and vibrant social and economic movement within the country. As a result, programmes targeting these women are being formulated and implemented both by government and non-government organizations with the active support from the national level financial institutions and therefore the international donor agencies. They encourage these groups to market micro entrepreneurial activities. Some made success in their endeavour et al. are striving to achieve their attempt. This study is conceived to determine the factors contributing to the success or failure of the SHGs based enterprises promoted by NGOs.

#### **Research Gap**

Women's empowerment through Self-Help Groups (SHGs) plays a crucial role within the advancement of girls so as to assist the agricultural poor tribal, particularly women in securing inspirational and supportive services from such groups. From the overview of the prevailing literature

review on the Self Help Groups (SHGs) and empowering women, it's clear that none of the research conducted in Siddharth Nagar District. To fill the gap present study would be conducted particularly within the district Siddharth Nagar. Therefore, the study aspires to look at the role of women's SHGs on social, economic and psychological development of poor women in district Siddharth Nagar.

### Proposed Research Methodology

To analyze the objectives of the study and to check the hypothesis, basic statistical tools are going to be used. And a few advance econometric tool and softwares also will be used as per the need and nature of the collected data.

Moreover the study is predicated on both- collection of primary data from field survey and secondar data obtained from authentic sources.

For the gathering of primary data following blocks of Siddharth Nagar are selected as sample blocks.

- Naugarh
- Bansi
- Uska Bazar
- Lotan
- Birdpur

The selection of sample could also be said to be justified because the aforementioned blocks jointly represent almost 75 percent population residing within the Siddharth Nagar District.

### The Problems Faced by SHG Women Entrepreneurs

Though the NGO trained and assisted women, the ladies were facing many difficulties in running the enterprises. SWOT analysis depicted that the strengths and opportunities of the ladies entrepreneurs were as a results of the strong support of NGO. But the weaknesses were thanks to the low level of competencies of girls involved within the micro enterprises. If they exerting with higher need for achievement, surely they will begin of all weaknesses and shake all threats in future and substitute the market in their own skill and capacity.

### SWOT Analysis

<p><b>Strengths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monetary and moral support of NGO</li> <li>• Ability and skill development</li> <li>• Free initial capital support</li> <li>• Assured regular wages</li> <li>• Revolving fund to SHGs</li> <li>• Constant motivation</li> <li>• Proper keeping and maintenance</li> <li>• Technical support</li> <li>• Quality maintenance</li> <li>• Marketing linkages with all groups</li> </ul>	<p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High level of awareness</li> <li>• Separate identity</li> <li>• Communication</li> <li>• Linkages with all groups</li> <li>• Socio-cultural changes</li> <li>• Increase in standard of living</li> </ul>
<p><b>Weakness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hesitation for door-to-door sales</li> <li>• Family tie-ups and tradition</li> <li>• Low level of literacy</li> <li>• Ignorance and lack of capabilities</li> <li>• Poor socio-economic milieu</li> <li>• Lack of social independence</li> <li>• Opposition for free of charge mobility from relations to find out more skills</li> <li>• Fear to handle machineries</li> <li>• Poor observation and learning capacity</li> </ul>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Withdrawal of NGO support</li> <li>• Stoppage of assistances through projects</li> <li>• Competition</li> <li>• Innovative Products</li> <li>• Lack of advertisement</li> <li>• Physical inabilities to handle machineries</li> <li>• Increasing technology</li> </ul>

**Conclusion**

From the above it are often concluded that the involvement of girls within the SHG activities help them to urge exposure in several trades, avail necessary financial assistance, guidance from the NGOs within the starting maintaining and sustaining the entrepreneurial activities. Self-initiative and self-motivation were found because the important traits for becoming a successful entrepreneur. the ladies who preferred non-farm sector trades were now successful in earning sufficient income to beat their poverty.

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