

A STUDY ON MOTIVATIONAL FACTORS AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES OF SHG's IN ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA

Abstract

To Empower women and to alleviate poverty in the society SHGs are considered as an important strategy. The present study is exclusively about the empowerment through their entrepreneurial activities of women in East and west Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh through the self-help groups is the objective of this paper. SHG's play a very important role in improving the socio-economic conditions of women by developing savings and thrift habit, by providing them micro finance at the time of needs and also encouraging micro entrepreneurs. SHGs Bank Linkage Programme is one of the several alternative channels of financial inclusion which help extensively to strengthen the poor specially women folk. Through SHGs, women in rural areas are able to feel financial secured. They come forward by doing economic activities with self-employment like petty shops, tailoring, flower vending, embroidery work etc. The results of the analysis revealed that Economic activities like tailoring and selling of ready-made garments and sarees are mostly carried by women of SHG's. SHGs have organized many programmes relating to awareness of health and hygiene issues, importance of education for their children, acts pertaining to the safety of women etc.

Key words: Empowerment, Entrepreneurial activities, Economic activities.

Introduction:

The origin of Self Help Groups (SHGs) is the brainchild of Grameen Bank of Bangladesh, founded by Prof. Mohammed Yunus in 1975, who tried out a new approach to rural credit in Bangladesh. Grameen bank gave loans without asking borrowers either to provide collateral or to engage in paper work. In India, NABARD initiated SHGs in the year 1986-87. But the real effort was taken after 1991-92 from the linkage of SHGs with the banks.

A SHG is a small economically homogeneous affinity group of the rural poor voluntarily coming forward to save a small amount of money regularly, which is deposited in a common fund to meet the members of their emergency needs and to provide collateral free loans decided by the group. In other words, SHGs comprise homogeneous groups of poor people who have voluntarily came together mainly with the idea of overcoming their financial

difficulties. Self help groups can rightly be called a potent tool for human development **(Sarvanana, 2016)**.

Empowering may be understood as enabling weaker sections like poor women, especially tribal women to acquire and to possess power and resources, in order to make decisions of their own. Their primitive way of life, economic and social backwardness, and low level of literacy, out dated system of production and marketing, absence of value systems, demographic quality of tribal areas show urgency for empowering women. Though in the context of women development the word “empowerment” is used frequently , no clear process has been understood on how the women are empowered. Therefore, this chapter will be worthwhile, as it not only clarifies the concept of empowerment of women but also its various process and components, its aspects such as political, social, economic, and psychological. It also throws light on the ongoing approaches, existing demission’s, and various levels of empowerment**(Anna Lungbila,2016)**.

Today, Andhra Pradesh has accepted women’s empowerment as one of the important tasks for economic development. The State Government has been encouraging SHGs and micro enterprises by involving more women in the rural areas. Hence, there is a need to review the impact of these SHGs and micro enterprises to stabilise and improve their operations.

Objective of the study:

1. To identify the motivational factors of beneficiaries and economic activities of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of SHG’s for becoming more empowered.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

Specific steps has been taken by the government of India and NGO's in implementing SHG's plan specially with reference to Andhra Pradesh. But the target reached in empowering the rural women is not up to the mark.

There is a lag in implementing the SHG's plan by both government and NGO's. Therefore a study will be carried out to know the various aspects and to provide vital information about the impact of SHG's in Andhra Pradesh.

Need and Importance of the study:

Today, Andhra Pradesh has accepted women's empowerment as one of the important tasks for economic development. The State Government has been encouraging SHGs and micro enterprises by involving more women in the rural areas. Hence, there is a need to review the impact of these SHGs and micro enterprises to stabilise and improve their operations.

Limitations of the study

Like all social researches, this study is also subjected to certain limitations. These were,

- i. This study is ex-post facto nature and has its own limitation as the cause and effects already occurred before conducting study. Therefore, in depth study of this nature is very much required to analyze the lag of research study.
- ii. The study was restricted to only two districts of A.p i.e. only one district from each region with a total sample of 320 members.
- iii. Most of the data collected was based on the expressed opinion of the respondents. Though effort was made to get accurate information, the possibility of respondents giving biased information can be possible.

Literature Review

- **Kumararaja (2009)** study revealed that economic activities undertaken by the members are production and marketing of agarbathis, candles, soap, ready-made garments, pickles, pappad, and leather goods etc.
- **Gowda et al. (2011)** revealed in the study that majority (61.67%) of sugarcane growers had medium achievement motivation, whereas 24.16 and 14.17 per cent of sugarcane growers having low and high categories, respectively.
- **Meenakshi (2011)** conducted a study on participation and empowerment of rural women SHG and found that tailoring unit (71.67%), embroidering work (51.67%), dairy unit (50.00%) and goat rearing (30.83%) were the major unit of enterprises being taken up among more members of rural women.
- **Singh and Mehta (2012)** opined that 9 per cent of SHG members were below 18 years of age, 29 per cent were between 19-30 years of age, 51 per cent between 31-50 years of age and remaining 11 per cent above 50 years of age.
- **Geethanjali and Prabhakar (2013)** concluded that most of the Self Help Group members studied below 10th standard (45 per cent), 30 per cent were illiterate, 17.5 per cent studied up to 10th class, 6 per cent intermediate and only 1.5 per cent were graduate educational qualifications.
- **Meti (2013)** found that out of eight training programmes majority of farm women actively participated in trainings / demonstrations on vermiculture (91.67%), use of agricultural waste as organic matter (90.83%), vermi wash production (70.84%), dairy training (81.66%) and preparation of milk by-products (71.66%).
- **Savitha and Rajashekar (2014)** study depicted that 18.33 per cent of the respondents family income per month is Rs.2000/-. Where as 39.17 per cent and 26.66 per cent of the respondents family income is between Rs.2001/- to Rs.4000/- and Rs 4001/- to Rs.5000/- respectively. 9.17 per cent of the respondents family income is between Rs.5001/- to Rs.6000/-. Where as above Rs.6000/- is 6.67 per cent.
- **Das (2015)** reported that the motivational factors for joining self help groups was that majority were motivated by primary agricultural credit societies (38.9%), followed by

government (20.5%), friend's/relatives inspiration (16.3%), self interest (9.5%), NGOs/Others (9%) and Family support (5.8%).

- **Pal Subhadip (2016)** findings revealed that majority of the respondents (59%) were young women in the age group between 20 to 35 years. The samples were collected predominantly on nuclear families type. Most women respondents (98.5%) were from Hindu Scheduled Caste and tribe.
- **Simple Jain (2017)** study revealed that the training covered the information about SHGs, bank linkages, grading, government schemes and laws, health issues, participation in political process through Gram Sabha and Ward Sabha etc. The Institute has organised trainings for SHGs for the past six years but to date, impact of training was not assessed.
- **Lakshmi devi et al.(2019)** It is concluded that majority (59.17%) of the respondents had medium followed by high (25.83%) and low (15.00%) levels of extension contact. The possible reason may be that respondents in the course of executing the entrepreneurial activities had to contact DRDA officials, bank managers, KVK scientists, fellow entrepreneurs and marketing officials for seeking information, for registration, renewal of license and finance which resulted in majority of the respondents having medium to high level of extension contact. However, there exists a great scope to get updated on the new schemes launched by the State as well as Central Government.

The finding is in conformity with the findings of Venkatesan and Vijayalakshmi(2015) and Grandhi (2016).

- **Rakshitha et al. (2019)** Study concluded that Women Empowerment through Self Help Groups-Interventions towards Socio-Economic Welfare. Organizational base, pool of resource and technology has lead to generation of employment and income. Empowerment is a process of creating awareness about social realities and available rights, to build capacity through education, knowledge, skills and action to initiate participation to bring change. Participation of women in savings and economic attainment will improve the status and gives power to participate in decision making process.

- **Leela and Murugesan (2020)** study concluded that the self-help group members now have grown to be more vocal in choosing the path of freedom. SHG has furnished a platform for especially for women to earn themselves by using carrying out monetary activities. More number of financial intuition to provide training and motivation for business especially micro level business. Most part of self-help groups to increase the rural development and women self-fulfilment.

Methodology

Andhra Pradesh state was selected purposively as the researcher belonged to this state and well acquainted with the regional language i.e., Telugu which would help to build a good rapport and also facilitates for in-depth study through personal observation and interview.

The focus of the study is on “a study on Impact of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) on Empowerment of rural women in Andhra Pradesh”. Two districts had been selected from two region of Andhra Pradesh based on highest number of self-help groups. West and East Godavari districts from costal region. The research study was undertaken during the year 2021.

From the above selected mandals, villages have been selected by proportionate sampling method. Accordingly, Fourteen villages were selected. From East Godavari district of Rajahmundry mandal Dawaleshwaram, Rajahmundry (rural), Bommuru, Katheru , Hukumpeta and Kolamuru villages were selected. From Kadium Mandal Jegurupadu, Kadium, Veeravaram and Vemagiri villages were selected. And from West Godavari district of Kovvur mandal Dharmavaram, Maddur and Kumaradevam Villages were selected. From Chagallu mandal Chikkala and Unagatla Villages were Selected purposively.

From the selected villages SHGs have been selected Purposively based on a criteriaie the Self Help Groups, which have been functioning for more than five years. Accordingly, Fourteen villages and Fifteen self-help groups were selected. All the members of the selected SHGs constituted the sample for the study along with it 160 from same districts non-members were included to study the profile characteristics. Altogether, 160 SHG members and 160non-members constituted as the sample respondents for the study.

Results and Discussion

Table 1: Motivational factors for joining SHG's

S.no	Reasons to join the group	SHG's		Rank
		Frequency	Percentage	
1	To make good use of leisure time	9	6.00	X
2	To promote savings	16	10.00	IV
3	Financial Problems	17	11.00	III
4	For social security	11	7.00	IX
5	Employment generation	30	19.00	I
6	Getting loan	12	8.00	VIII
7	For improving living conditions	15	9.30	VI
8	To repay old debts	14	9.00	V
9	Availing loan	13	8.12	VII
10	To generate income	23	14.37	II

From the above table it is evident that majority of the SHG's motivational factor to join SHG groups is for employment generation i.e., (19.00%) followed by (14.37%) to generate income. It was found from the table that(11.00%) were motivated to join the SHG group because of financial problems. It was also found that(10.00%) were motivated to join the group to promote savings. (9.00%) were motivated to join the group to repay old debts. It was clear from the table that (9.37%) were motivated to join the group for improving their living conditions. And (8.00%) have joined the group for getting the loan. (7%) were joined the group for social security. And(6.00%) had joined the group to make good use of leisure time.

From the above table it could be concluded that based on frequency and percentage rankings were given.

The findings in conformity with the findings of Lakshmi devi *et al.* (2019) and Das (2015)

Table 2 : Economic activities of SHG's and Non-SHG's

S.no	Economic Activities	SHG's		Rank	Non-SHG's		Rank
		F	P		F	P	
1	Terracotta Articles	9	6.00	X	28	17.50	I
2	Embroidery Works	11	7.00	VIII	12	7.50	VII
3	Supply of vegetables to Hotels	12	8.00	VII	9	6.00	IX
4	Tailoring	31	19.30	I	14	9.00	VI
5	Papad making	18	11.25	III	11	7.00	VIII
6	Bangles selling	10	6.25	IX	5	3.12	X
7	Selling of ready made garments and sarees	21	13.00	II	15	9.37	V
8	Grading and packing	16	10.00	V	25	16.00	II
9	Dairy Farming	17	11.00	IV	19	12.00	IV
10	Grocery shop	15	9.37	VI	22	14.00	III

Table -2 Reveals that majority of the respondents belong to the economic activities of tailoring (19.37%) . It was found from the table that (13%) of the respondents economic activities were selling of ready made garments and sarees, followed by (11.25%) of the respondents were papad making. It was also found that (11%) of the respondents were dairy farming, which were followed by (10%) of the respondents belongs to Grading and packing. (9.37%) of the respondents economic activities were Grocery shopping , which were followed by (8%) of the respondents supply of vegetables to hotels. (7%) of the respondents economic activities were of Embroidery works, followed by (6.25%) of the respondents economic activities were bangles selling, and (6%) of the respondents were making of terracotta articles.

From the above table it could be concluded that based on frequency and percentage rankings were given for SHGs and Non- SHGs.

From the above table it could be revealed that incase of Non-Shg's majority of the respondents economic activities are terracotta articles and the least Economic activities of the respondents are bangles selling.

Similar findings were found in kumararaja(2009) and Meenakshi (2011)

Conclusion

SHGs have been identified as a way to alleviate poverty and women empowerment. Through the research it can be concluded that SHG's are helping the women to grow and become financially and socially independent. This study also concluded that SHG's have provided motivation for business especially Micro level business, It also helps to understand women through these SHG's have not only Empower themselves but also other women with similar condition. The SHG's not only help the women alone but also their families grow as a whole. Empowered women are not only beneficial for themselves but also the society. These empowered women further help the suppressed women to come out and fight for their rights. Real empowerment is possible only when a woman has increased access to economic resources, with more confidence and self motivation, more strength, more recognition, more involvement in the family matters through participation. Most of the studies show that Self-help group women have gained self confidence.

Consent

As per international standard or university standard, respondents' written consent has been collected and preserved by the author(s).

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