

IMPACT OF SELF HELPGROUPS: AN ECONOMIC APPROACH TOWOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN INDIA

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Abstract:Self-help groups play an important role in the economic growth and development of India. Sustainable development is a remote key of rural and semi urban areas, and they start economic activities in the development of the society, through the awareness among the people. In India, SHGs supported by the National Bank for Agricultural Rural Development (NABARD) through non-government organizations, Regional rural banks, etc. To promote and facilitate credit linkage of these groups with banks. These groups are spread across the country and 85.77 lakhs SHGs present in country as in march 31, 2017. According to Aloysius Fernandez, Executive Director MYRADA: “SHGs are for holistic development of poor and building the social capital on the pillars of affinity, trust and mutual support will be the key for its success”. Therefore practices and the procedures which undermine the group approach are too guided. Empowerment is significant development foundation of the country, it is not only for society it is also continuous processes of economic, social and political development. It provides a greater access to knowledge and resources, more autonomy in decision making, greater ability to plan lives and freedom from customs, beliefs and practices. Thus, Empowerment of women is holistic concept. It is multidimensional approach in income increase and poverty elimination in socio & economic aspect. This paper discusses in detail about the concept of empowerment of women along with SHGs linkage microfinance growth and also explains current position of women empowerment in India.

Key words - SHGs, Women Empowerment, NABARD, Progress BLP, Microfinance.

I. INTRODUCTION

India is the second largest in population in the world next to china. It has 121 crore people, where 83.3 crore living in rural areas and the rest stay in urban areas. 22 percent of the population is reflectively to be below the poverty line. Constantly urbanization has been providing bear a part to creating more opportunities for the people. On the other hand some sectors link agriculture, small scale industries have also been for the supporting. Overall concept of the women development is totally out of mind and their critical conditions. In the alterative scenario , people to thinking has been changed due to educational awareness, the problems of women in Indian of socio economic welfare and must be taken very seriously and ultimately solved in the form of many steps particularly in the past more than 15 years . through the development of new policies, programmes and projects, the status of women has been overall changed as they provide assistance to the low income level of women’s requesting has simultaneously in the way with recognition of their importants role in development. Various intervention approaches have been developed in order to address the needs on the women which ultimately reveal modifications not only in social policy approaches to third world development , state policies relating to women but also in the overall economic growth and development of the country as a whole. The empowerment approach is the most important of aimed to empowering women through greater self-reliance and internal economic growth.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Jisha S. Kumar (2017) “Women Empowerment: Role of Self-Help Groups “focus on self-Help groups key elements for the empowerment of women, which helped them to improve their socio-economic conditions. The availability of easy credit facility boosted the income levels, increases employment and thereby leads to the process of empowerment of women. Owing to the importance of SHGs in the empowerment of the women attempt is made to analyze the role of SHGs in empowering the women.

Udai Bhana Singh and Tanushree Gupta (2017) “Does Self – Help Group-Bank linkage Programme lead to the women empowerment” study on the conclude everyone needs finance as it is necessary for the socio and economic development of the rural and poor and people especially for women and self-help groups programs has the positive impact on women empowerment rather than the non-participants because participation in the self-help groups programs engross women in house hold action.

Dr. Dev Raj Jat (2016) “Evaluation of the Progress of Microfinance through Self –Help Groups Bank Linkage Model” study on the microfinance through Self-Help Groups is considered as most successful, promising and widely accepted model in India. Self-Help Group -Bank linkage programme a pilot project started by NABARD is widely accepted model as one of the largest and successful one in the world. The objective of the study is to evaluate the progress of the Self-Help Group Bank Linkage Model Microfinance. This however requires that all the concerned stockholders introspect seriously and bring in the necessary changes required to make the Self-help groups-bank linkage program a truly vibrant and responsible model for low-income clients at the bottom of the pyramid.

Vikrant Sharma and Preeti Sharma (2014) “Impact of Self-Help Groups on Women Empowerment”, the participation of women in Self-Help Groups made a significant impact on their empowerment both social and Economic aspects. Women participation in Self-help groups have obviously credited tremendous impact upon the life pattern and style of poor women and have empowered them at various levels not only as individuals but also has members of the family members of the community and the society as whole. They come together for the purpose of solving their common problems through self-help and mutual help. This study address women empowerment through self-help groups. The result of the study revealed that the self-help groups have had greater impact on economic social and political aspects.

S.Thangamani,S.Muthuselvi(2013) their research article “AStudyonwomen empowerment through self-help groups with special reference to taluk in Coimbatore District” has focus on it’s found that the socio economic factor has been changed after joining the self-help groups, but the saving in increasing at earlier stage of life. There are emerging issues that need to be addressed to make the role of women in the long run. It is the clear that by involving voluntary organization in social mobilization and creating an enabling policy environment, micro finance can achieve a vast scale and cane become a rational movement. The SHGs is important in re-strengthening and bringing together of the human race. We make conclude that the economic activities of SHGs are quite successful in this way SHGs in Mattupayam taluk the very successful development women empowerment and rural.

Vinodhini(2016) study on “ self-help group and socio economic empowerment of women in rural India” observe that among rural women’s , which in turn increased the livelihood of the rural people. Self-help group and socio economic empowerment.

III. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Following are the objectives of the present study:

- A. To study the trends of SHGs women empowerment in India.
- B. To analyze the SHGs progressive Bank linkage credit in India.
- C. To assess growth in microfinance sector, SHGs women empowerment in India.

IV. METHODOLOGY

The study is purely based on secondary data. The data obtained from various Articles, Journals, Books, Newspaper, NABARD, reports, websites and economic survey.

V. LIMITATION OF STUDY

The research article has been a major important concept for the contribution on issues related to impact of Self-Help Groups an economic approach women empowerment in India. Even own limitation and the study has a narrow structure in India.

VI. WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Empowerment is an enabling continuous process of the capacity construction leading to greater participation to greater decision making Sampson control and transformative action. It’s also points out approaches regarding other marginalized gender in a particular socio-economic and political context. This approach to empowerment is partly informed feminism and employed legal empowerment by building on international human rights.

Women empowerment as one of the prime goals in the eight millennium development goals underscores the relevance of this fact. Thus, in order to achieve the status of a developed country, India needs to transform its colossal women force into an effective human resource and this is possible only through the empowerment of women. Noble Laurent’s malala yousazai says, “We cannot all succeed if half of this are held back”. Regarding to World Organization Chairman Kofi-Annan, “there is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women.”

Empowerment as a concept was introduced at the international Women's Conference at Nairobi in 1985. The conference defined empowerment as "A redistribution of social power and control of resources in favor of women .It is the process of challenging existing power relations and of gaining greater control over the sources of power. Creating opportunities for women requires ensuring women's empowerment in the economic, political and cultural spheres (Human Development Report 2016, pp.111)

VII. WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN INDIA

The government of India declared 2001 as the year of women empowerment. To focus on a view where women is equal to men. Because the constitution of India grants the equality to women in various fields of the society. In the past, the position of women was miserable in the society and even women were not ready to undertake any assignment or job due to many reasons like fear, shyness, male dominance in the society and the 'parda' system but now time the has changed.

Now way days women wish to participate in many fields of society and improved their economic status, own identity, equal achievements opportunities are provided to uplift the women status in the society. So the SHGs should give the proper attention through self-employment, entrepreneurial development etc. SHGs have been emerged as a powerful instrument to eliminate poverty and for the empowerment of women in the rural areas and further upgrading their status in the society. In this way SHGs are important not only to reduce rural poverty, but also to increased gain employment. The World Bank is helping to Indian government to scale up women's empowerment initiative in one of the poorest regions of India to bring transformational changes in their life styles and scio economic status.

According to A.P.J.Abdul Kalam,ex-president president of India "Empowering is a prerequisite for creating a good nation, when women empowered society with stability is assured empowerment of women essential as their value system leads to the development of a good family, society and ultimately a good nation". Women empowerment refers to an increase in the strength of women such as spiritual, political, social and economic activity. The important common explanation of "Women's Empowerment" is the ability to excise full control over one's actions. Thus, women empowerment occurs in real sense when women achieve increased control and participation in decision making that leads to their better condition to resources it often involves the empowered development confidence on their own ability.

VIII. SELF –HELP GROUPS

Self-Help Groups are formed to full fill the basic economic needs of the people among themselves. In the initial stages, the main aim of the SHGs was to full fill the self needs of the group members only but in the long run the activities of the SHGs transformed to full fill the economic needs of the dependent members of the group. To give women visibility, they must get organized into Self-Help Groups. SHGs through women empowerment economic approach is a viable set up to empower women economically, socially and technologically improved life. "Grouping together is the beginning, Standing together is the strength, Thinking together is the success, and working together is the development. Role of self-help group is emerging as a promising tool in the context". (V.Girija Devi, 2008, pp.312)

According to Aloysius Fernandez, Executive Director MYRADA: "SHGs are for holistic development of poor and building the social capital on the pillars of affinity, trust and mutual support will be the key for its success". Therefore, practices and the procedures which undermine the group approach are too guided. A self –Help Group for women is a small volunteer association of pitiable people mostly from the similar socio-economic background. The small amount of credit SHGs are small informal association created for the purpose of enabling members of reap economic benefit out of mutual help solidarity and join responsibility.

IX.THE ORIGIN AND GROWTH OF SHGS IN INDIA

Self- Help Groups help overall economic growth and development of India. Sustainable development is a remote key for rural and urban areas and start economic activities in the development of the society. The concept of SHGs came in to the force on 1975, at Bangladesh by Prof. Mohammed Yunus. In the 80's it was a serious attempt by the government of India to promote an apex bank to fulfil the needs of the poor people informal sectors and rural areas. The ministry of rural development has taken the steps to remove the poverty and the living standard of rural, semi urban and urban areas. In India SHGs first emerged in Mysore as MYRADA in 1985. It is quick timeline of the journey of SHGs in India. In 1987 the NABARD, provided a million of grants to MYRADA, to enable the investment to identify the affinity groups, build their capacities and match their savings after a period of 3-6 months. In 1990, RBI accepted the SHGs strategy as an alternative credit model. 1992 NABARD issued guidelines to provide the framework for SHG that would allow banks to lend directly to SHGs. And the 1992 SHGs bank linkage programme was also launched. The Tamilnadu women's empowerment project an IFAD-supported implemented through the Tamilnadu women's development corporation. It was the first project in the country. In 1990 the state sponsored programme also held to incorporate the SHG concept.

The growth of Self- Help Groups in India

Numbers of SHGs in India (2010-11 to 2015-2016) in Lakhs

| Year | Number of SHGs | Growth Rate |
|-----------|----------------|-------------|
| 2009-2010 | 69.53 | 13.6 |

| | | |
|-----------|-------|------|
| 2010-2011 | 74.61 | 7.3 |
| 2011-2012 | 79.60 | 6.7 |
| 2012-2013 | 73.18 | -8.1 |
| 2013-2014 | 74.30 | 1.53 |
| 2014-2015 | 76.97 | 3.59 |
| 2015-2016 | 79.03 | 2.68 |
| 2016-2017 | 85.77 | 8.53 |

Source: NABARD REPORTS 2010 -2011 TO 2015-2016.

It has been observed from the table; 1, that the growth of SHGs in India during the period from 2009-10 to 2016-17 March 31st. The number of SHGs increased to 79.60 lakhs from 69.53 lakhs during the period 2009-10 to 2011-12. Again it was declined to 79.03 lakhs from 73.18 lakhs during the period from 2012-13 to 2015-16. Then after it was found increased trend to 85.77 lakhs from 79.03 lakhs during the period from 2015-16 to 2016-2017. Similarly, growth rate of SHGs is concerned it is clearly indicates that, there is negative growth rate of SHGs in the year 2012-13, it was -8.1 percent. Highest than the growth rate of SHGs registered during the period 2009-10 and 2016-17, 2010-11, it was 13.6 percent, 8.53 percent and 7.3 percent. In the remaining period 2011-12, the growth rate of SHGs was 6.7 percent, 1.53 percent in the year 2013-14, 3.59 percent in the period of 2014-15 and 2.68 percent was found in the year 2015-16.

X. SHGS BANK-LINKAGE PROGRAMME IN INDIA

Self –Help group Bank Linkage Program is a step to bring the “Unbanked” poor in to the formal banking system and to inculcate thrift and credit habits. A natural corollary for the group numbers to graduate to seek better livelihood opportunities through access to credit from financial institutions. After extensive trail and research the pilot programme was launched 25 years ago in 1992. In recent times, various initiatives have been taken by the government, RBI, NABARD and banks to bring the poor into the fold of the formal financial system.

The SHGs –Bank Linkage Programme was an innovation harnessing the synergy of flexibility of informal system with the strength and affordability of formal system.

Table: 2.Progressive of Self Help Groups-Bank Linkages Programme in India

| Particulars | | 2014-2015 | | 2015-2016 | | 2016-2017 | |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| | | No of SHGs | Amount | No of SHGs | Amount | No of SHGs | Amount |
| SHGs Savings With Banks as on 31 st march | Total No. SHGs | 76.97 (3.59%) | 11059.84(1 1.74%) | 79.03 (2.68%) | 13691.39(2 3.79%) | 85.77 (8.53%) | 16114.23 (17.69%) |
| | Of Total, All Women SHGs | 66.51 (6.38%) | 9264.33 (15.61%) | 67.63 (1.68%) | 12035.78(2 9.92%) | 73..22 (8.26%) | 14283.42 (18.67%) |
| | % Of Women Groups to Total | 86.41 | 83.77 | 85.58 | 87.91 | 85.36 | 88.64 |
| Loans of disbursed to SHGs during the year | Total No of SHGs | 16.26(19. 03%) | 27582.31(1 4.84%) | 18.32(12. 67%) | 37286.90(3 5.18%) | 18.90(3.6 0%) | 38781.16(4. 01%) |
| | Of Total, All Women SHGs | 14.48 (25.69%) | 24419.75(1 6.07%) | 16.29(12. 50%) | 34411.42(4 0.92%) | 17.16(5.3 4%) | 36103.13 (4.92%) |
| | % Of Women Groups Total | 89.05 | 83.53 | 88.92 | 92.29 | 90.42 | 93.09 |
| | Of total, NRLM/SGSY | 6.43 (28.45%) | 9487.69(27 .26%) | 8.16(26.9 1%) | 16785.78(7 6.92%) | 8.86(8.58 %) | 17336.26 (3.28%) |
| Loans of Outstanding Agensist SHGs as on 31 st March | Total No.SHGs | 44.68(6.4 6%) | 51545.46(2 0.06%) | 46.73(4.5 9%) | 57119.23(1 0.81%) | 48.48(3.7 4%) | 61581.30(7. 81%) |
| | Of Total, All Women SHGs | 38.58(13. 27%) | 45901.95(2 6.97%) | 40.36(4.6 1%) | 51428.91(1 2.04%) | 42.84(6.1 4%) | 5644.24(9.4 5%) |
| | % Of Women Groups Total | 86.35 | 89.05 | 86.37 | 90.04 | 88.36 | 91.66 |

Source: NABARD Report 2016-2017.

Table.2, declare that Progressive of Self Help Groups-Bank Linkages Programme in India particulars shows that the current possession of women SHGs in India. The details shown on saving linked banks and loan outstanding for the last two years are given in the table. It may be seen that the total number of saving linked banks and credit linked SHGs, exclusive women SHGs addition of

6.73 lakh during the year increasing the number of SHGs having saving linked to 85.76(8.53%) lakh as on 31 march 2017. Similarly, the savings outstanding of SHGs reachable all time increase of Rs 16114.23 crore. During the year, banks have disbursed loan of Rs 38781.16(4.01%) recording increase over the last year despite the impact demonetization which slowed down loan of disbursement post October 2017. Similarly, total bank of outstanding to SHGs also 57119.23(10.81%) crore to 61581.30(7.81%) crore increase during the period on March 31, 2017.

XI. MICRO FINANCE AND SHGS WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN INDIA

Micro finance have become increasingly prudent to use financial innovations to enhance their income and reduce risk. Gender strategies in microfinance need to look beyond just increase women's access to savings, credit and organizing Self-Help Groups to look strategically at how programmes can actively promote women's empowerment.

According to Rabinson micro finance refers to small-scale finance services for both credits and deposits, they are provided to people who farm or fish or herd; operate small or micro enterprises where goods are produced recycled, repaired or traded; provide services; work for wages are commissions; gain income from renting out small amounts of land, vehicles, draft animals, or machinery and tools; and to other individuals and local groups in developing countries in both rural and urban areas(K. Vijayarani & G.Venkatasalam(2009),PP.143)

The Indian microfinance sector has witnessed a phenomenal growth over the past 15 years. The number of institutions providing microfinance services has gone up from a few to several hundreds. The quantum of credit made available to the poor and financially excluded clients have gone past Rs 33.500 crore and number of clients benefitted crossed 33 billion as of March 2014. The Self –Help Groups bank linkage programme has equally grown to touch the lives of individuals through Self –Help Groups with an outstanding loan portfolio of approx. Rs 43,000 crores.

Table: 3. Growth in Micro Finance Sector

| SI. No | Year | Outstanding Loan Portfolio(Rs Crore) | Loan of Disburshed(Rs Crore) | Client Outreach in laksh |
|--------|---------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | 2009-10 | 22.544 | 29.330 | 267 |
| 2 | 2010-11 | 24.332 | 35.176 | 317 |
| 3 | 2011-12 | 24.607 | 22.635 | 275 |
| 4 | 2012-13 | 25.699 | 25.635 | 275 |
| 5 | 2013-14 | 33.517 | 38.558 | 330 |
| s6 | 2014-15 | 48.882 | 56.860 | 371 |

Source:Sa -Dhan (2015),NABARD (2016) Status of Micro Finance in India.

It can be observe from table: 3, details of growth in micro finance sector during the period from 2009-2010 to 2014-2015. It is clear that Outstanding Loan portfolio are increased from 22.544 to 48.882 from 2009-2010 to 2014-2015. Also, Loan Distributed (Rs Crore) was increased 29.330 to 56.860 from 2009-2010 to 2014-2015.client outreach in lakhs was increased from 267 to 371 lakhs from in the period 2009-2010 to 2014-2015. Outstanding Loan Portfolio (Rs Crore) Loan Disbursed (Rs Crore) Client Outreach in Lakh growth of micro finance are showing increased trend. But client outreach in lakh constant during the period in respected year.

XII. RESULTS

- A. Self-help Groups emerge as an important strategy for women empowering women and poverty elimination.
- B. Self-Help Groups is pro poor people scheme and it is organization is significant step towards empowering women.
- C. SHGs each group has its individual mission.
- D. SHGs very powerful tool to the backward rural areas to develop the women empowerment.
- E. According to report of March 31st 2017, present the establishment of SHGs are around 85.77 lakhs in the country. SHGs are supported by NABARD, NGOs, and RRBs, to promote and facilitate credit linkage of these groups with banks. SHGs should give proper attention self-employment of women entrepreneurial. The intention SHGs is not only to reduce rural poverty but also increase the gainful employment in rural economy.
- F. It can be observed that the negative growth rate of SHGs -8.1 percent in the year 2012-13. Highest than the growth rate of SHGs 13.6 percent in the year 2009-10.

XIII. RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations could be mad from the recommendations of the study.

- A. In India SHGs are promoting women empowerment, but only educated and rich women are participating in SHGs. The poor illiterate women not showing interest to get register in SHGs. Perhaps, the government should take the steps through providing funds and education etc.
- B. Micro finance should provided to poor and working women in rural areas.
- C. SHGs and CSR in Partnership should encourage small scale sector for the development of rural work.

XIV. CONCLUSION

To improve the economic condition of India Self- Help Groups are the pathways. Self-Help Groups galvanize the energies of the poor women for productive purposes. It increase women's socio-economic and political visibilities and it provide space for self-help group's mutual cooperation and collective action for social and economic development, and also it promote savings to build on their own funds and act as a financial organization to improve economic status, provision of credit for consumption to the purpose of production.

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