

## **CHAPTER - II**

### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

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*“Gender equality is more than a goal in itself. It is a precondition for meeting the challenges of reducing poverty, promoting sustainable development and building good governance”.*

*(Kofi Anman, 2016, p.17)*

This chapter reflects on the SHGs as a micro-enterprise and its effect on the quality of life of rural women. The main purpose is to review the theoretical and empirical information available from studies. Formation, functioning and impact are the broad issues examined in the studies.

#### **National Studies**

**Bhayani S., Kanjiya D. (2016).** Conducted study on Effectiveness of Mission Mangalam in Rajkot District, Gujarat: This study was basically done to examine the impact of Mission Mangalam on women empowerment in Rajkot District and to get a detailed insight into various socio-economic aspects for women empowerment. 200 women beneficiaries were examined from three Talukas of Rajkot namely Gondal, Jasdan and Vinchhiya by adopting structured questionnaire by following random sampling method.

Impact of Mission Mangalam has been measured in light of various socio-economic aspects such as education, income, standard of living, savings, social security, increase of economic services, self-employment, participation in social activity, and increase in social status. After joining the “Mission Mangalam”, the rural women have been up-graded economically and socially and they have been able to raise their income and have been significantly empowered. This scheme has an assertive on income generation, savings, self-employment, and improvement in health, education, social security, status in society, easy economic services and participation in social activity. “Mission Mangalam” tends to improve economic and social conditions of beneficiaries. The study given valuable contribution in DRDA of Government, Micro- finance institutions for framing further strategies or rules for “Mission Mangalam”.

**Sunny D., Bertha P. (2016).** Women Self Help Groups and the Millennium Development Goals: This study explained the role of such groups in reaching the Millennium Development Goals

(MDGs) by getting rid of severe hunger and Poverty by providing self-employment opportunities by micro-credit through such groups.

To study the role of such groups in reaching the MDGs, Thane in Maharashtra was selected for five Talukas named Dahanu, Talasari, Jawhar, Vikramghad and Wada by Simple Random sampling. Self reliance of women is essential for steady development.

The respondents are found to earn Rs. 501/- to Rs. 1000/- per month which increased three times more, that is 213(19.96%) to 656(61.48%) and those of Rs. 1001/- to Rs. 3000/- almost doubled, from 37(03.47%) to 73(06.84%).

The area comprised mostly in remote villages before joining the SHGs, food was in short supply and not easily available. People survived mostly on a diet of basic cereals, roots, and some salt fish with a dash of tamarind water. Many social reformers have raised an issue of the immense diet shortage in remote villages in Maharashtra especially in Thane District. After joining the SHG, all respondents consumed dal sometimes.

Out of all the 1067 respondents, only 6(00.56%) respondents consumed vegetables daily which increased significantly by eight times to 47(04.41%). After becoming SHG members, those who consumed vegetables mostly increased spectacularly by around six times from 67(06.28%) to 395(37.02%). Daily as many SHGs adopted dairying as their group activity was an important increase in milk consumers.

Before joining SHGs most of respondents fell ill once in a month while after joining the SHGs, they fell ill once in three months. Taking all the Five Blocks together, 96 women respondents became literate due to 'Proudh Shikshan Programmes' conducted through SHGs. In this case, literate respondents mean those who can read and write.

From this study, it can be seen that the SHGs women played a remarkable role in achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals. SHGs could be pre micro-enterprises for a most of village women and there was existence of strong synergies between micro-savings, micro-credit and micro-enterprises.

**Sarania R. (2015).** In his paper entitled Impact of Self-Help Groups on Economic Empowerment of Women of Assam made a comparison between pre-and post-SHG members' condition with a view to find out the effect of SHGs in empowering women. The required secondary data was mostly collected from books, journals, DRDA, Block offices and from various publications and reports of concerning agencies.

The researcher used multi-stage random sampling method to select the sample respondents. In the District, two development blocks, named, Baska and Jalah have been selected for the study. Then, total 50 SHGs were randomly selected for the study. Two members from each SHG were selected for interview especially the president and secretary of the SHGs.

The SHGs have reformed the living standard of the members and facilitated in changing their point of view and approaches. The occupation-wise classification points out that the group members are involved in various self-employment activities such as handloom and weaving, agricultural farming and nurturing of cattles as their livelihood. However, there are still 1/4<sup>th</sup> of women are yet not engaged in economic activity who are either unemployed or perform their household activity.

The study area shows that most of the respondents' income, employment and savings have been increased in post-SHG than pre-SHG position. This is an important institution for improving the life of women on various social, political and economic components. It was found that the SHGs help for the economic empowerment of its members.

It was suggested that different micro-finance organizations should closely supervise the use of credit by the group members and should encourage them to use the credit on productive activities for sustainable income.

**Kumar S. (2015).** Women Empowerment through Micro-Finance: An Empirical Study of Women Self Help Groups in Patiala District of Punjab: The study was to see the impact of micro-credit on the women empowerment. Researcher had taken 50 respondents and officials using judgment and convenience sampling method.

As far the occupation is concerned, 30% of the respondents were housewives, 30% were from agriculture and 24% were from other activities. The study pointed out that the group members

were young to improve the condition of the family and themselves and did educational backgrounds which limit their improvement to the facilities and resources.

The members showed that empowerment that is in taking decisions (80%), self - confidence (92%), problem solving (64%), and improvement in economics status (86%), change in living standard (60%) and delegation in social functions/activities (58%).

It was suggested that members should increase the level in participating the social activities which would be more beneficial and best tool to access power to empower themselves.

The participation and the status of women in the family and society increased day by day. The study recognized that microfinance had an improving affect on women self - reliance and benefiting to their micro-enterprises with financial - credit help.

**Parwez S. (2014).** Published a paper on Sustainability and Impact of Self Help Groups for livelihood: The aim was to examine the role of SHGs in development of village women in Jharkhand. Data was gathered through questionnaire and 225 sample respondents were selected by using purposive sampling method.

This study revealed that formal education does have much impact on earnings or business sense of SHGs members. Being part of a group, regular communication, socialization, experiences etc. have raised confidence and courage among the SHGs members.

The SHGs have brought a social consciousness among the group members. Now SHGs members are more outgoing. Women joined the SHGs because of exploitation and unbearable interest rate on loan charged by moneylenders.

Most of SHGs did not possess much of knowledge about group business. The financial status of women had reformed due to credit agencies since the SHGs - banks linkage. The income of the families raised from Rs. 1000/- to Rs. 3000/- per annum from micro-enterprises.

Increase in income has been mainly spent on better nutrition of children and on health of the family. Credit - assessment has enabled women to undertake income generating activities.

**Juja S.V. (2014).** In a paper entitled Self Help Groups: A Tool for Sustainable Development: The major purpose is to point out the improvement in economic condition of the members. On field-survey, several findings were that 19250 SHGs that are linked to banking system in Bidar District. The social and financial position of the members has increased after joining SHGs. There is a significant improvement in savings of the group members from Rs. 3555.5 lakhs in 2007 to Rs. 7335.05 lakhs in 2012, more than doubled and the beneficiaries increased from 2,07,401 in 2007 to 3,06,45 in 2012.

It has been pointed out that micro-finance through SHGs is a proper approach and an effective mean to alleviate poverty and to empower the group members. SHGs have made a revolution among rural women by enabling them in self-dependence, self-reliance and self-employment.

**Mishra S. (2014).** Conducted a study on “Self Help Group: Change agent for rural women empowerment and entrepreneurship development in rural Odisha: The study talks about empowerment of women by micro-enterprises depended on the position, tradition of family, literacy level and number of members in the family in Odisha.

Most of village women in Odisha were busy in enterprise of producing Chhatua, that is a mixture of wheat, groundnut, bengal gram and sugar powder. Maximum women engaged in this activity to start this business because it is riskless of marketing their products and purchasing of raw materials.

It is revealed that 78% respondents were just homemakers before they joined this programme. Most of them were self-motivated to join the training programme. Near about 42% of participating women join the programme, because, they felt do something for the family is and they can earn if they get training. 34.39% of respondents were encouraged by that their family to join such programme. Through interview, it was found that the family heads of the participating women were mostly farmers. Income from this farming is not sufficient to help their family expenses. The expenses are also on the rise. Therefore, the family heads wanted the female to join micro-enterprise programme. Women set-up their new identity through such training programmes regarding different trades in rural Odisha.

After training, about 81% of respondents raised their earnings from Rs. 1500/- to Rs.5000. However, after training it is found that near about 81% of the respondents earn through micro-enterprises and has added an income from Rs. 1500 - 3000/- up to Rs.3000-5000/-.

After training, Most of the participants started to participate in decision-making. Thus training was effective in bringing the change in decision-making capacity.

It is fact that when the women engage in income generation programme and start sharing in family expenses then enjoying the family-respect. This change implies that the status and respect of the SHG members in their family are raised.

The study revealed that micro-enterprises have proved successful in improving the social and financial aspects of the village women in Odisha.

**Abraham D. (2013).** In a thesis on Performance of Micro-Enterprises of SHG Entrepreneurs, brings outperformance of group operated micro-enterprises. Performance is measured mainly in aspects of sale-receipt - earnings, its improvement and the average income, the enterprise has generated to individual members. The researcher had chosen state of Kerala purposively as it was active in forming of SHGs and in the growth of microenterprises. In Kerala, the Ernakulum District was purposively chosen for the study.

The village and the city area enterprises were chosen as a sample in this study, under the poverty eradication mission of Kerala.

These enterprises were running about 30 different activities, from dairy to food processing and data entry. 250 enterprises were selected, 125 each from Village and City areas. All 250 enterprises selected were those that had been in existence for more than one year.

The rural enterprises were randomly chosen from fifteen blocks in Ernakulam District, while in the urban from seven municipalities and the corporation area of Kochi.

The enterprise activities selected were grouped under five broad sectors, small scale manufacturing, services, animal husbandry, handicrafts and food processing. Several activities selected were, paper products, soaps, umbrellas, candle making, catering, tailoring, restaurants,

canteens, direct marketing, waste management, provision stores, data entry, ethnic food items, bakery, fish processing, dairy, goat rearing, bamboo products and paper bags.

It was pointed out that service activities were dominant in the area and therefore taken as sample. It was also pointed out that only 69.2% of enterprises were active during the survey that is 72.8% in rural areas, while only 65.6 % were from urban area.

The numbers of active units in urban areas were less but their average earnings were higher as compared to rural micro-enterprises. The observation was that larger proportion of enterprises remained active in cattling (87.5%), followed by 72% in food processing by 72% in food processing. From 2205 respondents, only 50.4 % continued to remain active.

Status of business depended on activity varied like, canteens, dairy, waste management etc, remaining operational while 83.3% units remained active in tailoring and flour milling. It was also noted that, enterprises engaged in paper products were struggling to remain operational primarily due to competition from imports. The earning made by the members from sales turnover was declining in 70% of enterprises active in such activity. Even though, 20% of respondents had dropped out in 70% of these enterprises. One reason for this was that the loan repayment by these units, was yet to be completed which mandated the members to continue in the activity group and also the enterprise. In certain other activities like hand-made paper bags and catering, majority of the units became inactive though they were receiving subsidy and loan support.

Aspects concerning to the initial capital also differed between active and inactive enterprises. 81.8% of the inactive enterprises, the total initial project cost was supported by the 'eligible maximum' subsidy amount, while only 57.8% of the active enterprises were receiving similar subsidy. Thus, subsidy as such may not help group enterprises to be continued in business or ensure members a stable monthly income.

The increase in sales turnover and the individual monthly income generated to members were considered as the two main criteria of performance. The factors that affected the performance were notified under four dimensions, namely 'group', 'enterprise', 'environment' and 'process'. The major positive affecting factors of performance were 'equal sharing of work' with moderate

levels of ‘work segregation’ among group members who also took up enterprise as a ‘full-time’ job.

It was also found that enterprises operating from non-home based locations and those with regular accounting of expenses performed better. In regard to financial variables, higher bank loans and its higher proportion in the production cost, positively influenced enterprise performance but receiving bigger subsidies did not a similar effect. The selection of enterprise activity and members were also critical elements in group operated micro-enterprises. Both influenced the performance, and the survival or sustainability of enterprises. If incorrect choice of enterprise activity or adverse selection of members happened at the formation stage, the enterprise had a greater risk of turning inactive.

From the results, it is obvious that to ensure the transformation of group operated microenterprises in to sustainable productive activities for SHG women, aid and support in the creation of enterprises are needed as innovative, meeting local need, or else have marketing support.

Kudumbashree has been pro-active in aiding group entrepreneurship and has helped many groups to bid for canteen contracts, digitization of government records, and even tied-up with the ‘Central Food Technological Research Institute’ (CFTRI) to develop a baby food formula (Nutrimix) that could be produced by group based enterprises for supplying to the ICDS in the state. The product has supported in providing a good income to group members, nutrient rich food to poor children, and most importantly, has plugged the leakage in the system a great extent. It is an example of an innovative product which has benefitted many and at the same time has utilized the best use of limited Government funds/resources. Though it is impossible to support all SHG women venturing in to group enterprises with winning enterprise ideas, they could be supported wherever possible.

**Nambiyar S. (2013).** Conducted a study at Saras Mela on Self Help Groups: Study pointed out the development of the SHG women after joining the group. After joining the group, the changes in women were found in terms of monetary gains, skill development, and social aspects. The weeklong event was organized by GLPC inviting SHG groups from various states of India.



There were different stalls. Different stalls were put up showcasing products made by SHG members.

64 stalls in Saras Mela were taken as sample of the study. The study gave clear view on the progress of the SHG member's position of pre and post SHG.

Majority of the stalls by the SHGs were from Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Punjab and Uttarakhand with the majority production of Handicrafts like Weaving, Embroidery and Pottery. Most of the respondents surveyed were married and were staying in joint family and had one or more children in their family.

On the financial aspect, majority of the respondents belonged to below poverty level and have joined the SHGs to improve their financial conditions. Very few members have joined the group for social aspects or both (social and economic) aspects. By the survey, it was found that less than 6% of the respondents had not been improved financially even in post SHG position, remaining members' financial conditions have enhanced after joining the groups. It was found that dependence for daily expenses of the respondents had reduced. After joining the SHGs, they are able to deal with bank related transactions on their own, majority of them have started to attend meetings of society and village.

**Reddy K., Reddy C., et.al. (2013).** Conducted a study on Quality and Sustainability of Self Help Groups in Bihar and Odisha - A comparative Analysis: The researcher made an effort to assess the standard of SHGs in Bihar and Odisha. The study covered 288 SHGs from 96 Villages in 24 blocks of 8 Districts in Bihar and Odisha (Gaya, Jamui, Muzaffarpur and Purnia in Bihar; Cuttack, Ganjam, Koraput and Sambalpur in Odisha).

The study of linking of the SHGs with the bank in Bihar and Odisha showed that many SHGs savings in banks are almost double in Odisha than in Bihar. In assessment of bank linkage and its effect, the SHGs in Odisha seem better than SHGs in Bihar.

By this study, it can be pointed out that the SHGs in Bihar are of better quality as 56% are of 'A' than in Odisha only 26% groups are having 'A' grade.

**Geethanjali. R and Prabhakar. K, (2013).** Writes on Economic Development of Women through SHGs which was in YSR District of Andhra Pradesh, India: The study mainly focuses on formation of the SHG, women micro-enterprise and economic empowerment after becoming the SHG member. The researcher studied about 200 SHG members by adopting convenient sampling method. Most of the respondents in the study joined the SHGs for family support and financial security.

Joining of women in the SHGs obviously created tremendous effect upon their life style and their empowerment at individual and community level.

SHGs are giving credit as and when needed for their basic requirements. They have injected a notable improvement in their socio-economic behavior and enhanced their status and value. The group members have risen in terms of self-management. They have realized their importance and have become capable of asking for their right entitlements like equal wages, better working condition, health, literacy and nutritive food etc.

Thus, the SHGs have emerged as an effective mean in making women to come forward collectively and becoming efficient to be developed on substantial base.

**Uma. G, Fatima D. (2013).** Published a paper entitled Economic Emancipation of Women through SHGs: The study was made to examine the effect of the SHGs on employment, income, expenditure, savings, indebtedness, housing conditions and utilization of consumer durables.

The SHGs provided essential help to poor women to make them able to control their personal and social life. Not being a static body; rather it grows in its resources and management skills of poor women.

The impact is measured in the levels of income, employment, expenses, thrift and borrowings after joining the SHGs. The 300 sample respondents were selected from different NGOs using proportionate random sampling method for this study. The respondents were varied in the sense of their experience with the SHGs. The study indicates that there is a considerable improvement in the employment, income, expenditure and savings, of the group members after joining the SHGs.

**Productive activity and earning level of the Respondents:**

At the pre-SHG stage, out of 300 respondents only 51 members were involved in small enterprise and has increased by 156, processing units increased from 31 to 41 and in some businesses increased from 137 to 300 at their post-SHG stage.

**Impact on Savings:**

The number of group members' saving capacity has increased from 4.38% to 29% after joining SHG thus there is a considerable increase in savings after joining SHGs.

**Impact on Household Indebtedness:**

The percentage of borrowers among the SHG members has been reduced to 44.66% because of their considerable improvement in earning capacity after joining the SHGs.

**Impact on Expenditure Pattern:**

Considerable improvement in the household expenses of the group members was seen after joining SHG. The respondents who had expenditure below Rs.3000 per annum had decreased to 6% from 67% and their expenditure category of Rs.3000 and above had increased from 33% to 94%.

**Kumari V. (2012).** In a study on Economic Empowerment of Women through Micro-Enterprises in India; the intension behind the study was to identify the role played by the micro-enterprises in the financial empowerment of women in India and the role of promotional agencies for the same purpose.

Most of the micro-enterprises promoted in Kerala-480 promoted by SGSY, 620 by NGOs and 850 by the state Government, in south India are concentrated and selected at random for the study. From each sample unit 5 beneficiaries have been selected. Thus, from Kerala 10 units were set up under SGSY Scheme, 17 units under Kudumbashree (State Government) and 12 units promoted by NGOs and 195 beneficiaries have been selected as samples.

Through the field survey, it is pointed out that all the members are forced by the poverty to join the SHGs and thereby were entrepreneurs of micro-enterprises.

Majority of the respondents wanted to start business or any productive activity to supplement the income of their families. As the training is necessary, the number of respondent-entrepreneurs attending the trainings increased from 43.1% to 100% after joining enterprise through SHG.

The study also revealed that the respondents' family income have increased from Rs.3038 to 4453 per month after joining the enterprise through SHG. SHGs promoted by all the three SHPIS brought significant improvement in monthly income of the group members after joining the enterprise.

The highest increase in income of 56.6% was found in entrepreneurs belong to SGSY and lowest in State promoted enterprises. But the entrepreneurs of State promoted enterprises earned the highest average income (Rs.4,750) after becoming entrepreneurs followed by NGO promoted (Rs. 4,445) and SGSY (Rs.3,960).

Monthly savings, on an average, increased from Rs.58 to Rs.232. The increase in percentage was 298. In savings of micro entrepreneurs of all categories based on promotional agencies, the highest percent (456.8 %) increase was seen in those promoted by NGOs and the least (242.9%) increase was in SGSY. The low average income earned by micro entrepreneurs from SGSY, compared to other two categories, may be the reason for low savings by entrepreneurs of SGSY.

Increase in the earnings and savings is of no use unless it is accompanied by reduction in debt. It is found out from the field survey that an amount of borrowings decrease from Rs.4284 to Rs.2,163 that is 49.6%. The highest percentage (60%) of decrease can be found in the entrepreneurs of State Government micro-enterprises followed by 38.9% decrease in NGO promoted and 35.7% in SGSY.

Expenditure on consumption reflects the standard of living of the people. Here, consumption expenditure is divided into six heads that is food, clothing, education, health, festival/recreation and other items. Analysis depicts increase in each of the six components of consumption expenditure after joining the enterprise. It reveals that, among the components of consumption expenditure the highest proportion (61.98%) was spent on food followed by education (12.57%), health (9.7%), clothing (7.25%), other items (4.5%) and festivity (3.96%). It was also noticed

that, though there was a change in the percentage spent on each component after joining the enterprise, the rank or priority assigned for each component remains the same.

Amenities in the house though enhance the cost of living, provide better standard of living. Amenities identified for this purpose include radio, T.V, refrigerator, telephone, cooking gas, sewing machines and any other house hold assets. Pre-post comparison shows after joining the enterprise, the percentage of respondents possessing the above amenities have increased considerably except radio.

Thus, the study reveals that micro enterprise in India leads to the economic empowerment of rural poor women. This allows them to express and impose their views because if women make adequate economic contributions to the family, they are bound to be treated at par with men.

**Kumar V. (2011).** Empowerment of women through SHGs- A case study of Warangal District of Andhra Pradesh: The study analyzed, the economic gains, social benefits, the functioning of SHGs, credit access, handling of group fund, loan recovery, enabling of leadership, and setting up linkage with banks. Researcher adopted multi-stage purposive random sampling method and the number of the respondents is 1/3 of selected sample villages i.e. 877 (3Villages).

It was pointed out that 43.33% of respondents joined the groups for loan, 14.82% of the members joined for raising their earnings and 32.83% respondents for achieving social status, Group members have moved to higher income group.

The group members after joining the SHGs are earning reasonably as they have become economically independent and contribute to total family income. As a result the family expenses have been raised because of the raising of family income of the SHG members.

It is pointed out that the loan borrowing capacity of the group members has increased from 5000-20,000 Rs. with regular repayment of loan in time. Along with this, after becoming SHG member, all the 30 respondents have decision making power, reduction in domestic violence, about 50% of respondents felt economic independence while majority of the respondents have gained self-confidence. 60% of members voted for social cohesion and habit of saving.

**Usha P., Rao S. (2011).** writes on Role of SHGs in meeting credit needs of the poor women of Andhra Pradesh, with the specific purpose in mind to assess micro-credit needs and the access of loan to the group members and to analyze utilization of credit, to study the intension of borrowings and repayment of group credit and to examine the effectiveness of SHGs approach to credit assistance in making the rural women powerful. Here, it has been surveyed 800 respondents of two Districts by using purposive random sampling method.

Credit in villages especially for women is beset with number of constrains. These include insistence on collateral security, distance between village and banks and refusal of assist once to women because of default of by male members.

Further, the requirements of the poor villager are so complex that the dividing line between credit for 'consumption' and productive purposes, is blurred. The central Government and several State Governments implemented various programmes to provide credit through nationalized banks. However, in many of these programmes women are either bypassed or given lesser emphasis. Women generally need credit for household expenditure and supplementary productive activities. The SHG is an answer to the challenge of the poor women's credit needs.

It is found that much of group credit loans were used for non-productive expenditure like house repairs, repayment of other debts. A few members used the amount for earning activity like crop expenses and petty business investment.

Major proportion of group credit was used for unproductive yet necessary household consumption expenditure. In the absence of SHGs, poor women depend on private sources. Thus, SHGs are successful in relieving the poor free from the money lenders. Recovery of loans, both group fund and bank linkage is very encouraging.

This study makes it clear that the formation of SHG enabled its members to have increased the credit by recognized organizations. The data established the truth that rural women not only have saving potential but are also credit worthy if organized into groups.

**Mehta S., Mishra H. & Singh A. (2011).** Writes on role of self help groups in socio-economic change of vulnerable poor of Jammu region: This study is a theoretical study of the promotion of the SHGs by Gram Udyog Hastakala Kendra and the NGOs in Kathua District of Jammu in

India. 162 respondents from 10 SHGs have been taken to study different approaches of the SHGs like literacy, financial status and business status of pre and post SHG formation.

It is noted that 48% of the SHG members have become able to talk and express their thoughts and feelings in the meetings and inspired the people to become more confident. The SHGs have brought out the talent and leadership qualities of their members. As a result there has been increase of 45.6% of the SHG members in becoming more confident. SHG members have improved their status, financial help in family as well as to others also. Especially the SHGs have minimized the violence that was often occurred because of the financial scarcity.

In a number of cases the group members realized that their husbands should also join in SHGs. Before joining the SHGs, the group members had less chance to interact with banks, Government officials and NGOs while after joining the SHGs the group members' interaction with outsiders, helped them to solve problems and to become self-confident, that have remarkably increased from 49% pre-SHG to 91% of post-SHGs.

It can be seen that in post-SHG position, the group members have been provided more access to facilities like medical, sanitation, education, market, water supply, transport etc. It is seen that about 80% of the SHG members are now saving in banks, post-offices and SHGs. It can be pointed out that the SHGs have encouraged the group members to save their hard earned money.

About 74% of SHG members are now saving more than Rs. 2000 per month. Thus, the SHGs have positively affected the savings of the members.

It can be pointed out that expect 15% of the SHG members, about 85% of them have began to take loans from SHGs to run their daily household expenses. The linking of the SHGs and banks improved the economic-access-services to the poor that has considerable effect on socio-economic condition and has also reduced poverty of the group members.

Joining of the SHGs empowered the group members considerably regarding self-confidence than that of pre-SHG stage.

**Narendrakumar, Reddy B. (2011).** Conducted a research on Women Empowerment in Rayalaseema Region of Andhra Pradesh, with the specific purpose in mind to observe the role of

SHGs in ensuring the empowerment poor women, the need and dimension of linking between the SHGs and Banks. For the study, 150 women were selected from Rayalaseema region of Andhara Pradesh as respondents, adopting simple random sampling method. The data for the research was collected through questionnaire.

The loans are most important factor for the group members, especially the loan utilization play a key role for the groups. The loans are utilized by them for different purposes. They availed loans for agriculture, consumption purpose, petty business, house-hold industry and others (Marriage and health). It is found that the most of the groups utilized loans for business purpose that is 24%, 16% for consumption purpose, 14% for house hold industry and 16.66% for others.

It is indicated that 56% of the group members generate monthly income below Rs. 1500, only 32% generating monthly income of Rs. 1500-3000 and 9.33% generate Rs. 3000 and above.

It had also been found that the surveyed group members 54% could save monthly below Rs. 100, only 30% SHGs reported to save between Rs.100-200 and 16% SHGs reported to save above Rs.200.

It is concluded that the majority of the respondents are literate. They especially lack business acumen, experience about economical and other issues. It is suggested that group members be provided good training based on requirements and need of the SHGs.

**Rao J. (2011).** writes on Empowerment of Women through Self Help Groups in a study conducted in Vizianagaram District of Andhra Pradesh: The research aimed to evaluate income, expenditure and repayment position of the respondents in the study area and to suggest suitable measures for strengthening of SHGs in the study area. 180 respondents taken from 36 SHGs (720 total members) of four villages adopting simple random sampling method.

It is seen that, after joining SHGs as the income increased, women's monthly family expenses has also been increased considerably. But the savings is increasing at slow rate, because the incremental expenditure is higher. They spend mostly for present consumption which should change. A good thing is found that SHGs in the study area are most regular in repaying the loans in time. About 73.33% of the respondents paid their monthly installments with in the time; even



some members 7.78% paid their dues in advance. A few members do not pay in time but this is not affecting the further credit of SHGs.

Since the recovery of loan is regular, the conclusion is that economic validity of the groups are absolute successful. In this way, SHGs in Vizianagaram District of Andhra Pradesh is very successful and develop women in all the areas.

**Tarakumari P., Masenamma Ch. (2011).** Conducted study on Impact of SHGs on Empowerment of Rural Women - A Case Study of Bheemunipatnam, Andhra Pradesh: This study examines the socio-economic conditions of women and the impact of SHGs on their empowerment in the study area. The four groups which were taken randomly, are Bhramramba group, Dhanalakshmi group, Jayalakshmi group and Muthyalamma group. All the 50 members were taken as a sample for the study with an exclusive questionnaire method for data collection. Besides the, researcher interviewed all the sample respondents personally by using interview schedule.

It is observed that socio-economic conditions are generally similar in all groups, with few exceptions. The age group of 25-30 years has remained with high numbers of women respondents. Most of them were living in own 'pucca' houses. The Group members are better in earning more income; most of them are able to earn an annual income ranging between Rs. 20,000 to 30,000. These hints are necessary for undertaking programmes like upliftment of poor rural women to make them all-round developed and empowered and for that SHGs have become an effective and impressive groups for the empowerment of such women.

**Naidu V., Ramappa P. (2011).** Conducted a study entitled Micro-Finance through Self Help Groups and its Impact on Employment and Income Generation in Anantapur Districts of Andhra Pradesh: This study evaluates effect of micro-finance to empower the women with particular objective to examine growth and working of SHGs, the effect of the groups on employment and productive activities and the reasons for success and failure of SHGs.

A list of villages where SHG's function was prepared by adopting of stratified sampling method. These villages were Rapthadu, Hampapuram, Boginepalli and Gandlaparthu. Three SHGs operating for a year from each selected village were selected with the help of stratified sampling

method. In this way, 12 SHGs were taken up for investigation. Three SHG's were selected in one village sample of 184 respondents from the selected villages.

It is found that by post-SHG stage, the members have improved their saving capacity. Of course, nearly all the members are availing the credit ranging from Rs. 5000 to 20,000. Access to credit has enabled them to undertake various economic activities like dairy, petty business, live stock, horti-culture. Women earned an additional monthly income from Rs.600 to Rs.1200.

The incremental income has been spent on children education, nutritious food, for family-health. Even though there are some defects in the implementation of the programme, this could be overcome by constant counseling efforts of the authorities and people. The basic requirement is that the authorities should identify the women who have self confidence and aspiring for progress which take them to a higher level. It is recommended that Government, policy makers, bankers, executives and operatives at the ground level, should make sure that the women members become more self-dependant and achieve the implied objectives of SHG programmes.

By analysis, it is found that the SHGs movement in Anantapur District brought some improvement in employment and economic development of the poor village women.

**Bhoi A., Singh Y. (2011).** Conducted a study entitled Impact of Self Help Group on Empowerment of Women in Mandi District in Himachal Pradesh: Here, the researcher stressed on the pre & post SHG status of women and the impact of SHGs in empowering them. 150 beneficiaries have been taken for the research by using stratified random sampling.

The findings of the study were that the respondents' occupational engagement increased from 8% to 32% after joining the SHG, means there is a increase in occupation percentage that is from 68% to 92% of the group members.

The productive activities are selected by the members relies upon the availability of skill and resources and the demand. After joining SHG, most of the respondents contributed their share as supplementary family income.

Membership in the SHG, has given benefits to its members like raising of saving habit, spirit of organization and voicing out against grievances, increase in income, status improvement,

decision making power, accesses to various promotional assistance, access to resources and to better technology.

**Kachari S., Sahoo D. (2009).** Conducted a study on SHGs for Poverty Alleviation in Titabor Sub-Division of Jorhat District of Assam: The Titabor sub-division has three development blocks i.e. Baghchung development block, Jorhat development block and Titabor development block. The data included information on fund size, group size, and volume of savings, occupational status and functions of the groups.

From three development blocks, the groups were selected on the basis of their grade. Grade A and B is given to them and from each grade. 20 SHGs were selected randomly from each development block. Total 120 sample SHGs were selected.

The field survey indicated that SHGs promote awareness among the women members and provide enough opportunities to fight with poverty, becoming an important factor in income generation and occupations of the respondents, which also requires conditions like better disbursement of the micro credit to get more active success in the business.

The analysis and the observation of the study indicate that SHGs are functioning well in organizing the poor women into a self-employed economic forum and create more chances to participate them into different earning activities and also facilitate them with micro-credit facilities from the bank and other financial institutions. The credit benefits to the members in this area still far behind than the assuming level of the members for operating micro-enterprises.

It is concluded that the SHGs are proved successful to alleviate poverty through various income generating trades and shifting their occupational status.

**Ramachandrudu G., Chudhari A. (2009).** conducted a study on Women empowerment through Self Help Groups-A Study on Management of Women Micro-Enterprises in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh, focused on income, expenditure, loans and savings of the members in pre and post SHG stage and to examine whether the ethics of management of micro-enterprises started by women are followed and to suggest appropriate measures for improving the performance of these units.

Three North Coastal Districts of Andhra Pradesh- Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam was selected for the study. Secondary data were collected from DRDA's of the respective districts on the micro-enterprises organized by the SHGs including petty business (either individual or group). The researcher selected the best performing groups for the study, having the following criteria: Year of establishment, Capital investment from bank Linkage programmes of the SHGs, and workers employed. A structured and pre-tested house hold schedule for the SHG members associated with the selected micro-enterprises was used to study 102 units in Vizianagaram District.

The study bring out where in petty business constitutes have glaring numbers with 35%. About 43% of the members are still using traditional methods of production and management in their enterprises while only 20% use modern technology.

The average annual income or net profit in the year 2008-09 is very low. Thus, the productivity of these microenterprises is not at all encouraging. But there is 141% increase in money incomes of the family during the last five years. It is obvious that the rural households give top priority for improving housing conditions and acquisition of economic assets like mobiles and phones, TV, Gold and Silver and two wheeler.

**Murthy K., Naidu V. (2009).** Conducted a study entitled Empowerment of the Women: A case study in Visakhapatnam District, Andhra Pradesh, with the aim to study the role of SHGs in creating awareness among its members on socio-economic issues which was measured by several index values of these variables.

He enlisted all the five years old SHGs that is between 2002-2003 in the chosen villages, villages are Gorapalli, Pinagadi and Rampuram from Pendurthi Mandal and then 20 SHGs are selected randomly. All the respondents and their households in the chosen 20 SHGs that is 205 SHG households.

Social problems like Child labour practices, increase in decision making in the family and in the group, awareness of Domestic Violence Act, increase in social equality, early marriage practices, better status in the family, in the group and status in the society are measured with the help of the following variables.

It was seen that respondents have a moderate level of awareness about child labour practices. The members' awareness on their role in decision making in the family matters is expected to improve after joining the SHGs. The SHG members' decision making capacity in the family has improved at moderate level. SHG members' participation in Group activities and Group discussions in decision making and awareness about the Domestic Violence Act are at moderate level. The SHGs are needed to create awareness among the members about evils of child marriage and existence of Child Marriage Act and it is gratifying to note that the index value of this variable is at a high level in all villages. Members' status in the family, group and society are at moderate level in every village.

As regards to economic awareness of the respondents they are aware of aspects like; Control over resources, increase in the credit worthiness, freedom from money lenders, improvement in banking habits, communication skills and increase in self-employment potential and this in turn has increased their confidence.

The SHG members control over the resources in the family since last five years is at a moderate level in every village. The financial transactions of respondents through SHGs increase their credit worthiness in the village and it is at high level in every selected villages. Generally, before joining to the SHG, the members used to depend mostly on money lenders for their credit needs. But, after starting their own SHGs, members get loans as an internal lending and bank linkages from the group. This reduces reliance of the respondents on money lender and its index value is at high level in the selected villages. Organization of the SHGs is supposed to make the SHG members aware about banking system. The level of awareness at high level selected villages indicating a better knowledge among the respondents on the banking activities. They are supposed to use the loans taken under the bank linkage programme for productive purposes and that too mostly for self employment purposes. All of them have borrowed under bank linkage in the study area and it is seen to be at a higher level in the chosen villages.

Most of the members were either housewives or laborers with little communication skills. But, after the creation of the SHG, these members conduct regular meetings among themselves, with Government officials, with bank officials and also with village level organization and this in turn helped them to improve their communication skill. The index value is at a moderate level in all

villages indicating a better perception and awareness among the respondents about their communication skills. Normally, development of SHGs has improved the borrowing capacity, investment pattern, communication skills and decision making power of the members. This in turn improves self confidence of these members. So the self-confidence level attained by them is at higher level in the study.

The awareness index on various items point out that the SHG members got a moderate level of awareness on different socio-economic issues. The rate of awareness is relatively better in these selected villages. There improvement is at a moderate level in the status of the SHG members in the family and in the society, indicating empowerment of the SHG members after joining SHGs. The SHGs in the study area have helped their members to attain awareness on various socio-economic issues thereby empowered them, and better status in the family and in the society.

**Behera A. (2009).** Conducted a study on Impact of SHG Programme in Rural Households: A Micro Level Study in Odisha, with the purpose to study the impact of SHGs on income and household expenditures of its members.

The comparative study between the More Developed Block (MDB) and Less Developed Block (LDB) of the District and a comparative study between the promoting institutions NGO and Government agency within the block revealed that average monthly income of the beneficiaries in MDB is more than the LDB in pre and post SHGs situation. Between the promoting institutions, the beneficiaries of the Government Promoting Institutions better than NGOs. The field survey pointed out SHG participation had considerable impact on household income, consumption, expenditure in both the blocks. But between the promoting agencies, in MDB the average monthly expenditure under NGO was found lower than those under government agencies, which is contradictory in case of LDB.

It is concluded from the study findings that the mean monthly income increased in MDB and LDB after membership of SHGs. However, between the Blocks, the increase was found higher in the case of MDB than LDB. Expenditure on almost all items increased because of improvement in income of the respondents in both the Blocks. The study suggested that while the SHG programmes in rural Odisha is a successful one, but the promoting institutions were not performing their duty properly. NGOs should redesign their policy to promote the SHGs. The

respective authorities need to monitor the functions and participations of NGOs in rural area, so that can perform better.

**Kumar B. (2009).** Writes on Participation of Women and Sustainable Development and the study was conducted in Patna District, Bihar: This study made an effort to know the status of women performing dual duty outside work to earn money and home management.

The study was based on primary and secondary data. A sample survey was conducted of village Indira Nagar of Mokama Block of Patna District. The researcher adopted simple random sampling method and sample size was 15 women, belonging to the age group of 15-40 years. The cream age of life exhausts in working hard for a very paltry sum to run the house without having any right in their own earning. Level of education was very low. Lack of education kept them ignorant about the methods of family planning, about health and sanitation and about their rights. They were unaware about the benefit of family planning and other contraceptives. Early marriage was very common among them.

On the whole, even though female's contribution is there in these households, there was a high work effort by women. The position of several women was very distressing. So an attitudinal change towards women is required. Women must themselves realize their crucial role in prevent infirmity and discrimination against them. Decisions related to food are generally taken by the females and in 20% cases man and woman jointly take food related decisions. In other 20% families even related decisions were taken solely by the male member of the family generally by the husband. Decisions regarding the amount to be saved and invested were taken by the husband in 60% cases. Only 20% females can take decisions regarding the savings of their own earned money. About expenditure on entertainment, i.e. going to cinema or circus or for outing was decided by the husband in 80% only 20% had the exclusive right to take decision regarding entertainment.

This is an irony that although they earn equal or some times more than their husbands, females had no say in mode of expenditure of their earned money.

**Sharma A., Roy B. and Chakravorty D. (2009).** Case study on Potential of Self Help Groups as an Entrepreneur: Writes that SHGs are becoming most important means for the empowerment

of rural women in almost all developing countries, including India with the objective to examine the functioning and entrepreneurial activities of different SHGs. 25 SHGs and a sample of 300 women members were chosen for the study.

Most of SHGs had started their micro enterprise from group savings while some had taken loan from bank. Profit earned by the enterprise was equally contributed among the members. It was found that all the SHG members had very low level of skills prior to different trainings, particularly in case of trainings on vermi-compost making, fabric printing and painting etc. Change in knowledge, skill and attitude was worked out on the basis of average scores obtained from pre and post exposures. Maximum percentage of respondents had medium change in knowledge, skill and attitude.

**Mishra C. (2005).** Writes on SHGs in the Unorganized Garment Sector: A Case Study of Madurai, Kurukshetra, has explained the role of two types of SHPIs namely, Government and NGOs in the household level garment sector. The SHGs promoted by DRDA are more structured and have better facilities to perform the activities relating to the garment sector. The SHGs promoted by NGOs have taken part in other development activities in the village more than that of the DRDA promoted SHGs. It is indicated that capacity building and easy access of credit are most important for the development of SHG-based garment sector.

**Amudha Rani A. (2003).** Conducted a study entitled Rural Women Owned Micro-Enterprise: A Stepping stone for Promoting Enterprises in Pudukkottai District, Tamil Nadu: The focus of the study was to evaluate the entrepreneurial role of women units in SHGs assisted under SGSY scheme and to find out that at what extent the self-employment programme in the rural areas inculcated the spirit of entrepreneurship among poor rural women and thereby improving the socio-economic status of women involved in SHGs.

The researcher obtained a list of 298 SHGs from DRDA, Pudukkottai which have availed assistance under SGSY during 1999-2003. In the District, all the SHGs have been promoted by the NGOs and from that sample of 20% of the SHGs chosen randomly, covering 60 women groups, 2 members from each group totally constituting 120 for an analysis.



The SHG members, run micro enterprises are termed as an entrepreneur in the study. By micro-enterprises, study refers to small undertakings run by individuals who have taken up the responsibility of managing and running a business venture.

The socio-economic profile of the women entrepreneurs reveals such that they are backward in terms of social indicators such as education, marital status, community and also economic status in terms of per capita income. Given the socio-economic background it is motivation that plays a major role in the life of women entrepreneurs.

The important factors which have positively influenced include the motive to earn money followed by economic independence and encouragement given by NGOs for emergence and promotion of grass root entrepreneurship. Other facts, such as family influence or training received matters.

Distribution of the SHG members on the basis of activity reveals that majority of them are engaged in agriculture (vegetable/flower cultivation) and animal husbandry related activities. Petty shops are also run by some of the members selling the petty grocery items, eatables etc which realize subsistence income.

The key finding is that women who were bonded laborers were released and organized into SHGs and supported with the tireless effort and organization of the women, supported by district administration. The age old practice of extending quarry lease to private contractors was broken for the first time and given to SHG women .Some of the quarry worker families with more than one earning member earning increased to Rs.7000/- per month. This has been the effort of the government to end bonded laborers turning bonded laborers into the self-employed owners of quarries. An analysis of capital investment outlays by SHG women reveals a wide range of income with a minimum of Rs. 10,000/- to a maximum of Rs. 1,25,000/-.

Thus, after becoming the member of SHG, the women become decision makers, received new skills, increased mobility etc. which is appreciable. Thus, women enterprise is a concrete step to women empowerment.

**Sudha Rani K., Uma Devi D. S et.al. (2002).** Conducted a study entitled SHGs, Micro-credit and Empowerment in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh: Here the researcher has made an attempt to

know the SHG members' empowerment in terms of confidence, about health consciousness, house management, in the interaction styles of women with development departments' officials or to know whether there is any kind of change before and after participation in the SHGs.

The Tirupati municipality has 32 slums. The slum area of Tirupati was selected for the study. The Padmavati Mahila Mandal an NGO working in the slums has established about 600 SHGs. From 600 SHGs, 50 SHGs were randomly selected for choosing the sample. From each group selected, 2 women members were selected randomly. Thus, 100 women were constituted as the sample of the study.

The social status of women in society was measured by the level of education, economic position and freedom in participation and role in family. Basically, the aim of the study was to know the impact of SHGs on women empowerment and how far they are utilizing their collective strength to upgrade their status in society.

There is significant difference in the empowerment in house management among the three age groups. The difference is very high in the age group of 31-40. The participants of this age group expressed that they already faced some problems with their family members and they don't want to depend on them. Their children being young, they assumed responsibility for taking decisions for the welfare of their families and be empowered in house management. The participants of the age group were 21-30 years (majority of them) are newly married and the period of participation in the self help groups is less. The difference among the age group 41-50 is lower than the other two groups, because they have already adjusted with their family members and now it is time for active participation of their children and house management.

Caste and education of the sample were not influencing the empowerment in house management. There is significant difference in the empowerment of women in health and sanitation aspects also. The empowerment of the age group 31-40 years is higher than the other two groups. This group is participating and attending the meetings of self help groups more than other two groups. They are aware about the prevention and care that should be taken for different diseases. The age group 41-50 expressed to that due to some health and personal problems, they are not able to attend the activities of SHGs. The age group 21-30 stated that they are facing some problems

from the in laws to attend the activities of SHG. There exists positive relation between health and sanitation and educational status.

From this study, it is clear that the women are empowered economically after participating in self help group and thus solve financial problems to some extent. The economic empowerment of age group 41-50 is lower than that of other two groups. From the findings it is clear that due to some health problems and other burdens like the education and marriages of their children, they are not able to save money.

In all the four aspects there is positive co-relation between the educational status and empowerment. This is point out that the education plays an important role in the empowerment of women.

The study concluded with the fact that involvement in the SHGs improved the empowerment of women in these four aspects. The extent of empowerment in all four aspects increases with the period of participation. When their participation is high in number of meetings, interaction with different officials, their decision making power also increased with the period of participation.

**MYRADA (2001).** Conducted a study entitled Impact of Self Help Groups (Group Processes) on the Social/Empowerment Status of Women Members in Southern India: The purpose of the study was to know that at what extent membership in SHGs have impacts on the social status and empowerment of the women members of such groups.

The researcher has decided to do the interactions with two groups that were over three years old and one group that was under one year old, that could permit comparisons to be made and conclusions to be drawn on the influence of group processes. In actual fact, 13 (thirteen) groups were interviewed.

It was found that in old Group, 89% of the members reported that their financial position had changed for the better. More members in the older groups than in the younger groups reported a positive influence on their share in the family income during this period. The researcher has tested the level of confidence of respondents on several tasks of varying difficulty. On all the 7 tasks specified, the old Group members expressed a higher level of sense of ease. In the old

Group, more members reported a positive influence on confidence level in dealing with people and institutions and also reported an increase in awareness about health and hygiene.

More, old Group members say that they themselves operated their accounts frequently, they themselves decided on the matters pertaining to general welfare of the family, their advice and views were *respected* more now than before. The old group members reported that they have learnt more managerial skills required for efficient operation of SHGs than the new groups.

Thus, the members of the old Group emerged as more confident, financially more secure, more in control of their lives, and in a stronger position. The process of empowerment started in the old Group, the reason for this could be that in the New Groups, 53% of the respondents had not yet turned earning members of their families, that is, their relationship with the SHG has not yet “matured”. There were certain areas in which the change had not been positive enough like they merely look at it as a means of mobilizing savings and loans.

**In a study entitled (2000).** SHGs as Agents of Change by Institute for Financial Management and Research in Tamil Nadu, investigated whether the Self Help Groups has created social capital and networks, increased the awareness of SHG members on rights related to issues like inheritance and education; increased the bargaining power of SHG members; changing attitude towards social evils; encouraged members to participate and lead social programs; increased political awareness and participation in the political process. To answer these questions the study focused on four Districts in Tamil Nadu; Kanchipuram, Tiruvallur, Krishnagiri and Dharmapuriand, 600 SHG members from these Districts were taken as sample for the study.

SHG movement in Tamil Nadu has resulted in improvement of social capital. More than 96% of SHG members indicate that the joint savings system has not only increased trust but have also resulted in a sense of strong ownership.

It is found that SHG memberships have expanded their networks. The networks now include a wide range of stakeholders’ means other members of SHGs, bank officials, Government officials and so the general level of confidence has gone up among SHG members.

98% of the respondents indicate that their confidence has increased after attending SHG related meetings. 62% of the respondents indicate that SHG movement has resulted in an upward

economic mobility for them. More importantly, higher proportion of the very poor, poor and lower middle class report economic improvement in comparison to middle class and well-off.

It is also pointed out that they do not pool their savings to establish a joint enterprise. There is lack of awareness about such joint initiatives and problems associated with marketing as some key reasons for this lack of initiative. SHG members also show high awareness about key government schemes and rights related to inheritance and property.

After becoming the members of SHGs they do understand the negative effects of social evils and voice their opinion against it. More than 80% of women indicated that they raise their voice against alcoholism, domestic violence and child marriage within their households.

A key finding is that 95.47% of SHG members indicate that their voice and views related to household are respected more after joining SHGs even 86.43% of women say that the community respects them more today. Overall, all decisions related to households are taken in joint consultation with the SHG members.

It is found that though most SHG members exercised their democratic rights (more than 94%) by voting in elections, however, the awareness levels about their elected representatives were low. Participation of SHG members in village meetings is very limited and very few of them have contested in elections. From the study, it is understood that the activities of SHGs are considered more important for the overall development of the rural folk.

**Kumarceen, K. (2000).** Studied the role of SHGs in promoting Micro-Enterprises through micro credit in Pune, with the objective to study the promotion, financing and sustainability of micro-enterprises. The study had 15 sample cases of SHGs on a random basis. Among them, 10 groups were the promoted joints by NGO and banks, while the remaining five of them were formed by District Rural Agency from the selected SHGs 90 members were interviewed to study the structure and operation of the SHG. Further 29 enterprises selected from the group were interviewed.

The major findings in the study are that monthly meetings were regularly conducted by all the groups. Participation of the members in the meeting is very high in all the groups, in the monthly

meetings the main agenda for discussion included saving, follow of credit loan recovers and income generation programmes. However social issues are not discussed.

Savings were regular in NGOs and Banks promoted groups. The main source of money for savings for majority of the members was the labor wage earned by them. Some of them also get a share from their husbands wage towards savings while others depend on income received from livestock.

The cost of project taken up by the members varied about 45% of the enterprises was below Rs.500. 41% of the micro enterprises invested more than Rs.10, 000 in the project. A major share of credit for setting up micro enterprises at 45.23% was channelized through SHG groups' funds, 29.39% through banks while private and own sources contributed 5.87%.

Thus, the SHGs promoted by NGO and Banks were more viable and sustainable compared to those formed by the DRDA.

**Shylendra (1998).** Writes on Evaluation of the performance of eight women SHGs promoted in the Vidaj village, Mahesana District by the Institute of Rural Management, Anand (IRMA): Here, the SHGs failed to enable members to realize their potential benefits. The reasons for such failure were the incorrect method followed in the SHG formation by the team, misconceptions about SHG goal among the team and members and lack of knowledge about the concept. It is drawn from the study that the SHGs are created on the basis of the needs of different parts of the society, ensuring proper knowledge about SHG concept among the members involved in promoting SHGs and enhancing the relevance of SHGs to their members by enabling them to meet effectively their requirements, be it savings or credit or income-generating activities.

**Surekha Rao S., Padmaja G. (1998).** Conducted a study on Self Help Groups in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh: The main focus of the study was to evaluate the status of women involved in income generating activities, about their income, expenditure and saving pattern and also to understand nature of participation of the women in SHGs.

Rayalseema Seva Samithi in Tirupati(A.P.) is Non-Governmental Organizations promoting thrift among women. The income generating programme by RASS is operated for initiating savings among women through SHGs. This study was conducted in a voluntary organization that is

RASS, covering the entire Rayalseema region in Andhra Pradesh with its services. The researchers carried out the study on the involvement of women in income generating programme under RASS. Dhobhi colony which is situated in Tirupati is taken for selecting the sample as the oldest groups are operating in this colony from the starting of this project.

From 10 groups, 5 groups have been selected and from each group the researcher selected 10 women beneficiaries and altogether 50 women beneficiaries were selected for the sample by adopting the method of simple random sampling.

Majority of the respondents (24%) belong to the age group of 25 to 29 years and their (32%) family members occupation is business. Majority of the respondents' (24%) family members earnings are in the range of 500 to 1000 Rupees per month. Most (34%) of them have petty business. The respondents largely (86%) utilize savings from SHG's for urgent need.

Majority (74%) of the respondents came to know about self help group through RASS staff. All the respondents' family members co-operate with the respondents to attend meetings in the SHG's. All the respondents' replied that they attend the meetings regularly. Majority of the respondents (82%) save more than Rs.50. 15 members whose income is 200-400 per month a majority (73.3%) have savings more than Rs.50. This shows that there is no association between respondents' income and monthly savings. Most of the respondents (96%) have taken loans in the SHG's of which (36%) took loan for business purposes. Most of the respondents (90%) are properly repaying debts.

From this study it is clear that women were very active in participating in the group and saving money. Most of the women expressed that the programme staff are kind enough and they are co-operating very well to run their groups. Most of the women started self employment ventures like petty shops, canteens, tailoring units, milk business etc from the loans taken from the groups. All the women were very satisfied in being members of the group.

### **International Studies**

**Jamal N., Muhammad I. & Sasaki Y. (2015).** Paper published on Impact analysis of Self-Help Groups on women empowerment: a case study of SHG in Pakistan: The aim of the study

was to examine how the SHGs can lead to women empowerment and poverty alleviation, financial impacts of SHGs.

A case study was conducted in a rural area in Pakistan. By adopting simple random sampling method, researcher interviewed 190 women who had experience of joining SHGs in Gujranwala, Pakistan.

39% of the respondents are involved in handicrafts, which is followed by 36% working as embroidery workers. The others are working as farmer (22%) and educators (3%) workers.

**Monthly income of the respondents:** Before joining SHGs, 82% of the respondents got less than 8,000 PKRs per month (1 PKR=0.0098 USD as of May 2015), while after joining them, the proportion of people who earn less than 8,000 PKRs per month decreases to only 12%, and more than 85% earned more than 9,000 PKRs per month. Thus, their income level has been improved significantly through SHGs.

**Reasons for joining SHGs of the respondents:** 59% of them participated in activities of SHGs for family support, which is followed by 22% of the respondents getting money for business. 98% of the respondents feel positive impact in terms of economical, psychological and social change after joining SHG.

**Flynn, Rebecca (2013).** Writes a Case Study of Rural Finance SHGs in Uganda and their Impact on Poverty Alleviation and Development: The purpose of this study was to assess the impact of SHGs on poverty alleviation and improvement in rural areas and to assess their success, limitations, and potential for sustainability. This study was conducted in Kampala, Uganda and Masuliita.

The SHGs interviewed was started in 2009. The groups meet weekly and leadership roles within the groups are rotational. Weekly saving amounts typically range from 100 shillings to 1,000 shillings, usually with older groups saving more and new groups starting out saving less. Interest rates typically range from 3% to 10% per month.

None of the members had ever taken loans before joining the group and none of them had taken loans from outsider lenders after joining. The group initially started saving 200UGX per week



but they now save 500UGX a week. There is a 200UGX fine for coming to the meetings late and a 500UGX fine for not coming at all. The leadership is rotational and there is a different meeting moderator each week.

All members reported that being part of the group helped them economically. They reported that through borrowing and saving they were able to improve their living situations and were able to start profitable small businesses. These included opening small shops and rearing animals like chickens, goats, and cows. They all reported that their incomes have been raised. It is also reported that women are able to get more involved in the community, support development initiatives, especially in health and education, and improve their living situations. An SHG member reported that group membership resulted in improved hygiene in households. The group members supported each other in digging pit latrines, which some of them did not have before, and using rugs and dust bins in the houses. One member's goal when coming into the group was to build a permanent house. The house is now halfway completed. Group membership also improves the lives of the children. One member reported that the money from the group allows them to send some of their children to school. This was not possible before. Another woman's goal is to educate her children to the university level. Another reported that because of training about malnutrition received in the group they now grow nutritious food and their children are much healthier. On the basis of the findings it concluded that SHGs are successful in poverty alleviation in rural areas and the empowerment of the rural folk especially the rural women.

**Workneh N. (2010).** Writes on Contribution of Micro-enterprises to Sustainable Livelihoods in Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia: The purpose of the study was to examine the contribution of micro-enterprises to the sustainable livelihoods of the households in Woliso town. The study employed household survey and in-depth case study to obtain the required data from sample micro-enterprises selected from each sector.

The study has found out that micro-enterprise operators combined different livelihood assets/capitals (human, physical, social, and financial) to pursue different income generation activities, in different contexts, and realized such livelihood outcomes as increased income, reduced vulnerability, and improved food security.

Industry, trade and service are the main sectors in which microenterprises engaged. Rising cost of living, loss of business, declining supply and rising cost of local raw materials, sickness and death of household heads were found to be the major shocks and stresses the sample households faced. In order to deal with these circumstances, they renting out their rooms, reducing consumption of staple grains with soaring price, and shifting to less nutritious food items.

Microenterprises through SHGs have contributed to the sustainability of their livelihood by providing sufficient income that helps them against all such problems by supplementing other sources of income.

## **Conclusion**

Thus, studies have revealed that women have been significantly empowered through Mission Mangalam. Mission Mangalam has a positive impact on income generation, savings, self-employment, and improvement in health, education, social security, status in society, easy access to financial services and participation in social activity. Thus, District Rural Development Agencies of Government, Micro-finance institutions have valuable contribution in framing strategies for Mission Mangalam with an objective to empower women.

SHGs have been instrumental in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by eradicating extreme hunger and Poverty by creating self-employment opportunities through microcredit channelized through SHGs.

Study of food consumption pattern reveals that consumption of vegetables and milk increased six activities. Thus, because of improvement in quality of food consumption occurrence of illness also decreased considerably with increase in income. Per capita household expenditure also increased considerably. Expenditure on consumption reflects the standard of living of the people. Consumption expenditure can be divided into six heads that is food, clothing, education, health, festival/recreation and other items. Analysis on current studies reveals that increase in each of the six components of consumption expenditure after joining the enterprise. Among the components of consumption expenditure, the highest proportion was spent on food followed by

education, health, clothing, other items and festivity. It was also noticed that, though there was a change in the percentage spent on each component after joining the enterprise, the rank or priority assigned for each component remains the same.

Amenities in the house though enhance the cost of living, provide better standard of living. Amenities identified for this purpose include Radio, T.V, and Refrigerator, Telephone, Cooking gas, Sewing machines and any other house hold assets. Pre-post comparison shows after joining the enterprise, the percentage of respondents possessing the above amenities have increased considerably. Increase in income has been mainly spent on better nutrition of children and on the health care for the family.

### **Economic Empowerment**

Improvement in saving capacity enabled women to undertake various economic activities like dairy, horticulture, petty business etc. Many housewives did not earn anything before joining SHGs, but after becoming a member of the SHGs, they are also earning reasonably, are now economically independent and contribute and supplement their household income.

SHG members reported that they have greater autonomy in house-hold decision making and reduction in domestic violence. Members generally, got lesser opportunity to interact with bankers, Government officials, NGOs and others in the Pre-SHG period. It can be seen that in the Pre- SHG period members were not interacting with officials whereas after associating with SHGs, members had interacted with the outsiders. The interaction helped them to articulate their problems and improved their self-confidence.

It is found that the income of the women increased after joining the SHGs. So also the monthly household expenditure also has been increased considerably. Savings increased at slow rate, because of higher incremental expenditure. They spend mostly for present consumption and in unproductive assets such as television, gold, silver, mobile etc. which is not so positive and should change gradually.

Thus, SHGs are functioning well in organizing the poor women section into a self-service economic forum.

### **SHG and Social Empowerment**

SHGs have not only improved living condition of members but also helped in changing much of their outlook and attitudes. Empowerment in decision making, self-confidence, problem solving and improvement in economic status, quality of life and delegation in social functions/activities.

This can be traced that the level of participation and the status of the members in the family and society increased day by day. Being part of a group, regular interaction, socialization, exposure etc. has raised confidence and courage among the SHGs members.

SHGs have among themselves inculcated social consciousness among the SHGs members. After joining SHGs, members have become more outgoing. The resultant consequences were that they became more conscious of issues such as high interest rate on loan charged by moneylenders. SHG member's participation in Group activities and Group discussions in decision making and awareness about the Domestic Violence Act are at moderate level. SHGs were expected to create awareness among the members about evils of child marriage and existence of Child Marriage Act.

Women mention that they have found a new identity through learning a new skill even if it is based on agricultural produce. Training not only increases their income but also was effective in bringing the change in decision-making capacity. It is fact that when the women engage in income generation program and start contributing to the family expenses, the women start enjoying respect of the family. This change implies that the status and respect of the women in their family are raised.

The rural women have risen to the levels of self-management. They have realized the importance of their own and have become capable of asking for their right entitlements like equal wages, better working condition, health, education, nutrition for their children etc.

Thus, Self Help Groups have become a powerful tool in bringing women together in the remote rural areas and thus helped to emancipate the once mute sufferers in silence to march forward towards collective community progress to a large extent.

The group formation brought out the hidden talent and leadership qualities among the members. It can be seen that there has been an increase with respect to confidence building factor.

### **SHG and Banking Behavior**

Credit in rural areas especially for women is beset with number of constraints. These include insistence on collateral security, distance between village and banks and denial of credit to women due to default by male family members. Further, credit needs of the rural poor are so complex that the dividing line between credit for 'consumption' and productive purposes is blurred. The Government of India and several State Governments implemented various programmes to provide credit through nationalized banks. However, in many of these programmes women are either bypassed or given lesser emphasis. Women generally need credit to meet household consumption expenditure and supplementary productive activities. The SHG is considered as an answer to the challenge of the poor women's credit needs.

SHGs have substantial increase in the thrift (savings) of SHG members, there has been significant increase in beneficiaries of the banking system and these women find linkages with the banking system.

Women joined SHGs for getting loan, for improving their savings and to get social status, because, SHGs give them identity. Group members have moved to higher income group after joining the SHGs.

SHG - Bank Linkage Programme has significantly improved the access to financial services for the rural poor and has considerable positive impact on the socioeconomic conditions and the reduction of poverty of SHG members and their households. It has also empowered women members substantially and contributed to increased self-confidence and positive behavioral changes in the post-SHG period as compared to the pre-SHG period.

The good practice of women SHGs in the study area is repayment of the loan on time. Majority of the SHG members paid their monthly installments within the time; even some members paid their dues in advance. A few members do not pay in time but this is not affecting the further credit of SHGs. Since the repayment of loan is regular and within the time for most of the SHGs, the conclusion is that economic validity of SHGs are quite successful. In this way, Self Help Groups are very successful and develop women in all the areas.

The field survey reveals that SHG memberships have expanded their networks. The networks now encompass a wide range of stakeholders - other members of SHGs, bank officials, Government officials. The combination of interaction with other SHG members and other stakeholders has meant that the general level of confidence has gone up among SHG members. 98% of the respondents indicate that their confidence has gone up considerably after attending SHG related meetings. The objectives of social banking are also easily achieved while helping SHGs.

### **Political Empowerment**

SHG members exercised their democratic rights by voting in elections, however, the awareness levels about their elected representatives were low. Participation of SHG members in village and district-level meetings is also limited and very few SHG members have contested in elections held for electing people's representatives at various levels.

Exercising one's political rights is the beginning of political empowerment. However, women's participation in local self-governance institutions like the panchayat is yet to improve.

Thus, Self Help Group is recognized as a tool to help poor women in a number of ways. It has served as an alternative mechanism to meet the urgent credit needs. Thus, enabling them to overcome exploitation, create confidence and thus empower themselves economically.

SHGs have also played a vital role in achieving UN Millennium Development Goals particularly, poverty eradication, Zero hunger, good health, quality education, gender equality and reduced inequalities. Research studies done on SHG show that they have been able to achieve economic and social empowerment. Political participation of women and political empowerment has not taken place yet.

Economic empowerment and Banking behavior has clearly occurred in the SHGs. The fallout of economic empowerment has lead to social empowerment. This is reflected in their awareness regarding social problems facing women particularly poverty, domestic violence and child marriages. However, political empowerment of women is yet not much visible. Thus, political empowerment will have to be boosted by encouraging women in public life at least in Local Governance Institutions. Poverty is a social handicap restricting development of not only women but the entire nation. Furthermore, poor women are a subset of this circle of poverty and even more vulnerable in this vicious cycle. SHG's have become a tool to empower poverty ridden women to empower economically and also uplifted their social status.