

## **PREFACE**

The social and economic growth of a country cannot be fully realized if women are confined to lower position and their talents remain unexplored. Mahatma Gandhi states that the position of women in the society is an index of its civilization'. "Train a man and you train an individual, Train a woman and you build a nation". The SHGs are the main source of inspiration for women's welfare. In India, large amount of the SHGs are run by women.

The SHGs have created the opportunity to the rural women for economic sustainability and liberty. The rural SHG members are involved in Small Scale Enterprises. The SHG women are not only developing with the economy but also able to develop other women to be financially sustainable by providing job opportunities. The rural women entrepreneurs are able to contribute to the family, community and the nation.

In the recent past, sustainable development of women has come out as an important issue. Now a days, sustainable development of women is considered as a land mark of progress for any country; so the financial sustainability of women is of at most importance to social scientists, economists, policy makers, reformers and NGO's.

This study is undertaken to examine the contribution of microenterprises in the sustainable livelihoods of the women involved in SHGs registered at DRDA under Mission Mangalam Project.

The study employed interview schedule and in-depth case study to elicit the required data from the SHG members & leaders. An effort has been made to study economic empowerment, social empowerment, political empowerment and overall experience of being with SHG as a member and leader.

Micro-enterprises have contributed to the sustainability of their livelihood by providing sufficient income that supports them against the financial problems. This study has brought out that women's sustainable development is inevitable and possible with some helping hand.

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