

A Study on Women Empowerment Through SHG – Realities And Challenges.

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Abstract:

Nations developing is different from that of women in developed countries, the empowerment of women is a significant issue as the condition of rural women is still very pathetic in India. Government of India is taking various initiatives decision for the growth of women empowerment and for improving their financial condition. Self-help group (SHG) programme has proved to be an effective programme for empowerment of women. SHGs provide financial facilities to rural women which helps in starting entrepreneurial activities and motivating women for establishing new small businesses. Women are participating in training and capacity building programmes and are utilizing the loan amount for their improving financial conditions and self-empowerment. Secondary sources of data were used for achieving the purpose of the paper. This discuss the government invites to development of women entrepreneurship through the SHG and what are the reality and challenges of women entrepreneurs.

Keywords: Women entrepreneurship, development, SHGs, Women Empowerment, Government initiatives, Financial statues.

Introduction:

There are half of the population are women of India and in that most of the population are involve in primary sector. Women involvement are more in primary sector or rural area. India can't have overruled to the world to ignore development or empowerment of women. SHGs is the best way to reach and change the condition of women of among the country. Its much better way to development of women empowerment through the SHGs.

Women are the by born economist. They are very well knowing the way of how to use limited sources for maximum utilization. This is routine part of her life. She saves the money in given budget and help the family in needed time and help the family for upliftment. It means women is natural saver and investor. I think these qualities are made to her more powerful. Self-help groups are promoting these kind of qualities of women that's why women participation are increasing in Self-help group. Therefor the study has been carried out to see the involvement of SHGs for development of women empowerment. This study also discussed the realities and difficulties faced by the women to become an entrepreneur.

Research Methodology:

Objectives of Studies:

- 1) Trend and Pattern of women employment in entrepreneurship
- 2) Challenges faced by women entrepreneurs.
- 3) Government schemes analyses for women empowerment

Women Entrepreneurship

The number of women entrepreneurs is increasing all over the world but the condition of women in developing nations is different from that of women in developed countries. In India, the

empowerment of women is an important issue as the condition of rural women is still very pathetic. Government of India is taking various initiatives for the development of women and for improving their economic condition. Self-help group (SHG) programme has proved to be an effective programme for empowerment of women. SHGs provide financial facilities to rural women which helps in starting entrepreneurial activities and motivating women for establishing new small businesses. Women are participating in training and capacity building programmes and are utilizing the loan amount for income-generating activities. SHG members take mutual decisions related to production and marketing. Secondary sources of data were used for fulfilling the purpose of the paper. This paper attempted to explain the role of SHGs in women entrepreneurship development. It highlighted the opportunities provided through SHGs as well as through different schemes of government for entrepreneurship development. The challenges in the way of women entrepreneurs are also discussed. The result of the study will help policymakers in framing policies for the development of women entrepreneurs and provide future direction to researchers.

Entrepreneurship Development of women Through SHG

Strength and weakness, both are the different sides of the same coin. Hence, all involved group members of SHG must realize that they all work with their own individual strengths and weaknesses. No one should be blamed for one's weakness i.e. all SHG members are equally responsible for success and failure of their entrepreneur. Self-help group can take a lead in any of the income generating activities by which group members can get employment and enhance their

family socio-economic status. The group provides a platform to women for income generation with co-operative and mutual helping attitude.

Characteristics of Ideal SHG According to MARADA [2000] well-functioning SHG should have following structural features:

- An ideal SHG comprises 15-20 members.
- All the members should belong to the same socio-economic strata of society.
- Rotational leadership should be encouraged for the distribution of power and to provide leadership opportunities to all the members.
- Member should regularly attend meetings, save money and participate in all activities voluntarily.
- The procedure of decision-making in SHG should democratic in nature.
- The group frames rules and regulations, which are required in its effective functioning.
- Transparency in account keeping and accounts should be maintained and updated regularly.
- An SHG should be socially viable institution.

Role of SHG to Empowering Women

The self-help groups empower women and train them to take active part in the socio-economic progress of the nation and make them sensitized, self-made and self-disciplined. The SHGs have inculcated great confidence in the minds of rural women to succeed in their day-to-day life. SHGs enhance the quality of status of women as participants, decision makers and beneficiaries in the democratic, economic, social and cultural spheres of life. The SHGs bring out the capacity of women in moulding the community in right perspective and explore the initiative of women in taking the entrepreneurial ventures. SHGs also organize women to cope with immediate purposes depending on the situation and need. Participation of women in SHGs makes a significant impact on the empowerment in social aspect also. Participation helps women come out in open and discuss their problems. It also helps to bring about awareness among rural women about savings, education, health, environment, cleanliness, family welfare, social forestry, etc. Researches also reveal that increased participation of women in decision making at all level will help to adjust the goals pursued through development. Empowerment should be extremely induced so that women can exercise a level of autonomy. There should also be 'self-empowerment' so that women can look at their own lives. The process of 'learning by doing

and earning' would certainly empower rural women. More and more rural women need to be involved in self-employment. Self-employment in agriculture, village and small industries and retail trade and services should be expanded. Self-employment is also conducive to the development of individual initiative and entrepreneurial talent and offers greater personal freedom. The added advantage is that the institution of family remains undisturbed. The emergence of self-help groups in this context is a welcome development.

The Economic Survey 2022-2023, presented by the Union finance minister to Parliament January 31, has a special mention of India's little-known but high-impact banking operation: the women-led self-help groups (SHG) disbursing billions of rupees every year.

India boasts of some 12 million SHGs, of which 88 per cent are all-women-member ones. These groups usually consist of 20-25 members, mostly residents of villages. In 1992, these groups were linked to banks for disbursement of small loans — called SHG Bank Linkage Project, SHG-BLP — for taking up livelihood options, like livestock rearing or setting up a tailoring unit.

By 2022, these groups operate a financing operation that is regarded as the world's largest microfinance project. According to data cited in the Economic Survey 2022-2023, SHG-BLP covers 142 million families with saving deposits of Rs 47,240 crore.

"The number of SHGs credit linked has grown at a CAGR of 10.8 per cent during the last ten years (FY13 to FY22), while credit disbursement per SHG has grown at a CAGR of 5.7 per cent during the same period," notes the Economic Survey 2022-2023.

Through the Economic Survey 2022-2023 report, it has been mentioned several times how India's commercial banks have healthy balance sheets. This is mostly due to massive waiving off of non-performing loans.

But for the loans under SHG-BLP, there are hardly any loans turning into bad ones that are to be waived off. "Notably, SHGs' bank repayment is more than 96 per cent, underscoring their credit discipline and reliability," says the Economic Survey 2022-2023.

Across the country, states have been declaring special economic packages for SHGs as part of overall livelihood development programmes. Under the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), the government has set a target of increasing each SHG's income to Rs 1 lakh by 2024. To do so, microfinance linked to livelihood development is the key strategy.

In 2021, the government, under its COVID-19 pandemic stimulus package, increased SHGs' limit for collateral-free loans to Rs 20 lakh from Rs 10 lakh. This reportedly benefited 6.3 million women SHGs and 68.5 million households.

The Economic Survey, a statement on the state of the economy and recommendations on key development policies, argues that the women SHGs must be made the centre of rural development as they have already been demonstrated as an effective local community institution.

"It may be noted that more than 75 per cent of rural female workers are employed in the agricultural sector. This implies a need to upskill and create employment for women in agriculture-related sectors such as food processing. Here, the self-help groups (SHGs) can play a crucial role in shaping rural women's potential into concrete developmental outcomes of financial inclusion, livelihood diversification, and skill development," it says while recommending that these groups be further strengthened with access to loans and markets for their produce.

According to Ministry of rural Development Report Des.2022 that the Loans are sanctioned by the banks in the name of Self Help Groups(SHG). The distribution of loan to individual SHG members is done by the SHG, which is used by them for various activities. It is stated in the written reply that the loans outstanding to Self Help Groups (SHGs) as on 30th November, 2022 is Rs. 1,68,920.11 Crores. The Loan repayment rate by SHGs to Banks is 97.71% as on 30th November, 2022. And Impact of the Deendayal Anthodia Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM). An impact evaluation study of DAY-NRLM was conducted during 2019-20 by the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie) with the support of the World Bank. The assessment covered 9 states with around 27,000 respondents and 5,000 SHGs across Bihar, West Bengal, Odisha, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The evaluation indicates that an additional exposure to the Mission for 2.5 years led to:

- I. Increase in income by 19% over the base amount.
- II. Decline in share of informal loans by 20%
- III. Increase in savings by 28%
- IV. Improved labour force participation - proportion of females reporting secondary occupation is higher (4%) in treatment areas.
- V. Improved access to other Schemes - Significant increase in number of social schemes availed by treatment households

(6.5% higher over the base value of 2.8 schemes)

According to a 2021 government press release, around 70 lakh SHGs, engaging 7.66 crore women, are functioning across India

Problems And Constraints

a) Social barriers

In our man dominating society women entrepreneurs are always seen with suspicious eyes, situation in rural areas is too worse.

b) Caste and Religions

Though India is a secular country, so many castes and religions dominate with one another and it restricts women entrepreneurship.

c) Lack of self-confidence and risk bearing capacity

Women have lack of self-confidence and always feel that they may not be successful and hence hesitate to take risk. Their risk bearing capacity is always less than man.

d) Psychological factors

Mostly women feel that she is 'women' and less effective than man. Secondly, Family and home maintenance is her moral duty if she is engaged in work than how can she manage both or play dual role? She has to strive hard to balance her family life with care and hence feels better to be housewife.

e) Lack of family support

Due to some taboos and restriction, which are still prevalent in our society woman is not getting enough support by her husband and family members to undertake any entrepreneurship.

f) Marketing problem

Market for a small enterprise in a developing country can be quite a problem considered that the small entrepreneur will be in competition not only with locally mass-produced goods but even imports. Small enterprises must therefore prove that in quality and price of their product they are comparable. Small enterprises can brand together and sell their products as one body through closely-knit associations or organizations. The Government too can take an active part in marketing specific products or assisting small groups of entrepreneurs in selling their products.

g) Lack of information

Women entrepreneurs have lack of information regarding advance and innovative technology. Even they lack of knowledge regarding govt. policies and subsidy to permute women entre

Conclusion:

In India Women empowerment is a process in which women challenge the existing situation to effectively promote their well-being. The participation of women in Self Help Groups (SHGs) made a significant impact on their empowerment both in social and economic aspects. Government at centre and states has organized specific programs for promoting women entrepreneurship and getting their talent useful to the society. But still, rural women are not getting benefits, due to ignorance and marketing problems. is an urgent need to popularize these programs and proper marketing strategy should be planned and implemented, which will provide scope for women entrepreneurs? The women only 8 percent of the small scale-manufacturing units are run exclusively by women entrepreneurs which are proportionately very small as compared to others developed and developing countries. In USA about 50 percent of the business is owned by women

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