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A Study on Socio-Economic Empowerment and Loan Repayment of Women SHG Members

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Abstract

This paper is designed to study the extent of the role of SHGs, who are playing significant role in socio-economic transformation among poor and weaker section of the society. For the purpose of study, the researcher has selected 120 respondents of SHG. The study covers different aspects in respect to socio-economic status, barriers in improving the income level, savings habit of women, utilization of loan disbursed and whether the SHGs has significance in improving the standards of women SHG members. Further the study would highlight the socio-economic empowerment and loan repayment of women SHG Members. All category of women were surveyed by using questionnaire and the extent of improvement in their social and economic status is studied. Finally the detail information about the benefits they had received were also considered. A small attempt have been made to understand the benefits of the SHG's, and also how SHG's help in transformation of the poor and weaker section of the society.

Keywords: Self-help group, socio economic empowerment, sustainable development, venture capital.

Introduction

It is known that one stick is easy to break but it is difficult to break a bundle (group) of sticks. SHG'S show how unity is strength they show us how self-help could be best help.

THE SHGs have been established with the mission to make people in rural places socially viable and economically independent. They particularly aim at making women socially, economically, and politically a powerful force. SHGs are voluntary, small group structures of mutual aid for accomplishment of special purpose. Persons who have come together for mutual assistance in satisfying a common need overcoming a common handicap, usually from SHGs to bring about the desired social and the personal changes. SHGs also enable social interaction and assuming responsibility by members. They provide material assistance as well as emotional support. They are frequently cause-oriented and promulgate an ideology of values through which members may attain an enhanced sense of personal identity.

Generally, SHG may consist of 10 to 20 individuals. However, in different areas like high altitude areas and areas with scattered population and in case of minor irrigation facilities and disabled persons this number may vary from 5 to 10. Self- help group focus on empowerment of women i.e. to be independent and equal both economically and socially. They also bring about a change in the mindset of women and encourage them to plan for future. The people specially women in rural India who are living in stark poverty have been able to change their lives and enhance their levels through self-help groups.

In India, the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) represent a unique approach to financial intermediation. It makes possible for the SHG members to access to low-cost financial services with a process of self-management and development for the women who are SHG members.

Review of Literature

The literature on the subject of Self Help Groups and Women Empowerment is abundant. An attempt is made here to touch upon a select review of literature at the global, national and at regional levels, as a prelude to the present study.

Sanjay Kanti Das (2014) conducted a study on “**Micro finance and women empowerment: Does self-help group empowers women?**” and suggested that empowerment policy makers should address gender issue as the role of women is important for policies aimed at 1) supporting of women’s movement and 2) with respect the education rising awareness of women and men in gender issues women are very interested in education and improving their personal skills and competencies. This offers more scope for policy makers to devise new education program to help women improving the level of farm and technical and economical business skills required by them

Durga Das (2014) in his research entitled, “**Socio-economic empowerment of women through SHGs (IKP): A case study of West Godavari District in Andhra Pradesh**”, concluded that the socio-economic activities of the SHGs have generated enormous collective strength among the women beneficiaries in a locality which women were covered under SHGs. The women acquired awareness and a new organizational strength which found expression in having more participation in political affairs. The study founded that the SHGs have provided a forum for women to discuss social matters that are happening around. In some groups it is compulsory to read newspapers in its meetings and to discuss the important news of the week. It enables them to see and know what is happening outside the house. He also observed that, the formation of women in to SHGs in still a new sense of self-confidence in the women, which will ultimately lead them to work hard and earn for a livelihood.

M. Saravanan (2016) The study emphasizes towards the Women empowerment as a process in which women challenge the existing norms and cultural, to effectively promote their well-being. The participation of women in self-help group (SHGs) made a significant impact on their empowerment both in social and economic aspects this study addresses women empowerment through self-help groups in TamilNadu. The SHGs have had greater impact on both economic and social aspects of the beneficiaries. SHGs have a role in hastening country’s economic Development. SHGs have now evolved as a movement. Mainly, members of the SHGs are women. Consequently, participation of women in the country’s economic development is increasing. They also play an important role in elevating the economic status of their families. Women constitute around fifty percent of the total human resources in our economy. This has led to boost the process of women’s Empowerment.

M. Shanthi and R. Ganapathi (2013) in their research paper on, “**Impact of microfinance towards empowerment of women Self Help Groups with special Reference to Coimbatore District**” and suggested, that, the government should come forward to provide minimum entrepreneurship program through district industries center 2) Income generating activities should be based on the available local resources and reasonably assured market with profit, 3) Goods produced should be either for local needs or to facilitate traditional manufacture, 4) The process of the SHGs formation has to be systematic whether it is formed by a bank or by a NGO. 5) Every group should frame a policy that how to manage the savings of the members who leave the group voluntarily or are ask to leave for some unavoidable reasons, 6) Banks should encourage the groups for getting the loans and subsidy, 7) The government, the NGOs and the financial agencies should help the SHGs in selecting the projects or the ventures.

R.Krishnavwni and P. Geetha (2015) their study enlighten towards Women’s who comprise half of human resources they have been identified as key agents of sustainable development and women’s equality is as central to a more holistic approach towards establishing new patterns and process of developments that are sustainable. The contribution

of women and their role in the family as well as in the economic development and social transformation are pivotal. The role of micro-credit is to, improve the socio and economic development of women and improve the status of women in households and communities. Self – Help Group is widely used as an instrument to empower women socially and economically. Once socio – economic empowerment is achieved, it would have implication on the overall development women. The economic contribution of women has been found to be related her role and status in the society.

Gagan Gautam& Roshni Chettri (2016) in their study stated that SHGs are the major tools for women’s empowerment. Their participation in the economic activities and decision-making at the household and societal levels are increasing. In their study attempted to evaluate the performance of SHGs with special reference to social and economic empowerment. Their findings indicate that SHGs, having institutional arrangements can positively contribute to the economic and social empowerment of the poor. They also state that older groups have relatively more positive social impacts than younger groups, due to the maturation of experience.

Sanjay Kanti Das (2013) in his article on “Socio-economic empowerment of women through SHG Banking linkage programme: A Boon for development”, pointed out that the microfinance is emerging as a powerful tool for poverty alleviation and gender empowerment in the economy. The SHG bank linkage programme has been successful not only in meeting financial needs of the rural poor women but also to strengthen the collective self-help capacities of the poor, leading to their empowerment. The study concluded that the role of microfinance through SHG for women empowerment is praiseworthy.

Rabin Das (2015) in his study shows that the budding social consciousness from corner to corner of the globe has brought a number of issues to the fore among which gender impartiality and empowerment of women are very noteworthy. Discrimination against women in the form of male-female segregation reflects the core of the gender-biased structure. The education is the biggest therapeutic power and the rise in the levels of education which nourishes progressive stance and

the beginning of industrialization and modernization have affected a sea change in the attitudes and thinking prototype of the citizens. The empowerment is not fundamentally political single-handedly in fact; political empowerment will not be successful in the deficiency of economic, socio-cultural and environmental empowerment.

Research Gap

An overview of literature states that a numbers of studies have been undertaken related to Self Help Groups and Women Empowerment. However, in India most of these studies were conducted by the central and state governments and private bodies. The determinants of these studies were similar but methodologies varied. But a few studies been conducted focused only on the awareness level, services provided etc. But, there is no evidence that any of the earlier research has not studied on the object and scope of the topic which is chosen in this present study. Therefore, keeping this in view, the present research has been taken up to study the current knowledge and awareness level of people regarding their perception towards SHG and A small attempt have been made to understand the benefits of the SHG’s, and also how SHG’s help in transformation of the poor and weaker section of the society.

Statement of the Problem

SHGs now a day, are playing significant role in socio-economic transformation among poor and weaker section of the society. Social invisibility, on the other hand, is the result of the general second-class treatment given to women. In the light of these happenings, it was decided to conduct a study on the SHGs. Hence, this work entitled A Study on socio-economic empowerment and loan repayment of women SHG members.

Objectives of the Study

1. To find out the SHGs group has led to reduce socio-economic barriers of women’s.
2. To know how the women SHGs members utilize the loan.
3. To study the performance of women SHGs with respect to financial sustainability.

4. To examine have the SHGs succeeded in empowering women.
5. To offer the suggestions to improve loan repayment ability of women SHG Members.

Research Methodology

The research design is an exploratory study, based on using multiple sources of evidence, namely structured interviews using a questionnaire. The study is based on both primary and secondary data. The primary data is collected through face to face interview with women SHG Members in shimoga. Secondary data is collected from the website, Documents, journals, Articles.

Survey Method

The study makes an attempt in order to make a systematic and comprehensive study of a particular group of women working in SHG and how it has brought changes to their socio- economic aspects, women empowerment and income generation by using survey method.

Sample size of respondents is 120 which has been taken by using random sampling technique, deliberate sampling was used select each person who is a women SHG member and are residing in the district of shimoga.

Tools and Techniques

The present study uses tables, charts, and chi square tests for analyzing and interpreting the collected data

Scope of the Study

The scope of the study is confined to the socio-economic empowerment and loan repayment of women self-help groups with reference to shimoga District. The study covers different aspects in respect to socio- economic status, barriers in improving the income level, savings habit of women, utilization of loan disbursed and whether the SHGs has significance in improving the standards of women SHG members. Further the study would highlight the socio-economic empowerment and loan repayment of women SHG Members. The study is confirmed to the period 2018-2019

Limitations of the Study

1. The study is confined only to the shimoga district.
2. Generally, most of the respondent were rural women and most of them were uneducated, so it is difficult to get their responses.
3. Time factor is a limitation for the effectiveness of the study.
4. The study is limited to few number of SHG groups.

Self Help Groups – An Overview

Introduction

Self Help Group is a small group of poor people. The members of an SHG face similar problems. SHGs promote small savings among their members. The savings are kept with the bank. This is the common fund in the name of the SHG. The SHG gives small loan to its common fund. After six months, if the SHG satisfies the bank as per check list for quality, bank can give loan to SHG. Very poor people can save small amounts like the little drops of water making an ocean. Their saving will slowly grow into large sums. In some branches such savings have become lakhs of rupees.

Self Help groups can broadly be defined as constituting a group of individuals/families who join each other to initiate and promote activities both economic and non-economic a necessary to secure their subsistence and well-being. Normally, mutual exchange of views, skills, constitutes such activities. The idea is not to seek profit but to adhere to interpersonal and social communities.

Voluntary agencies/Self Help promotional institutions should satisfy the following criteria for availing bank finance.

1. They should have a good track record/proper system of book keeping and audited financial statements for the last 3 years.
2. They should have basic financial management capability.
3. They should have an approach of promoting and working with groups of people belonging to weaker sections.

100% NABARD refinance is available for SHG projects. Loans to SHGs for group enterprises be discouraged in the initial stage as they have usually failed. Exception should be very carefully examined and supervised.

The purpose for which loans are to be given by SHG should be determined by the SHG and its members. SHG should be strongly encouraged to use loans for productive purposes. However, internal savings of SHG may be made use for meeting emergent needs of its members.

The Objectives of Promoting SHGs

- To reduce poverty in rural community.
- To make rural women economically, Socially and Politically viable.
- To provide regional balances in rural circumstances.
- To make the rural population in India Self-Sufficient

Characteristics of Self-Help Groups

1. All the initiatives for the management of finance (assets and liabilities) are undertaken by the poor at the micro-level (group) itself.
2. Funds are mobilized at micro-level itself and credit is extended to the group members by themselves.
3. Selection of borrows for availing credit is also done at micro-level /group level.
4. Identification of the activity, unit cost, loans size, norms and procedures for repayment is also done at micro-level.
5. Recovery of loan and recycling of funds for repeat at lending (reciprocity) to the group members (group/sangha loan) are all autonomous decisions.

Salient Features of Self Help Groups (SHGs)

1. It is a homogeneous group in terms of economic status and interest and an affinity group.
2. It is small in size and membership of one Self Help Group is in the range of 12-20 people.
3. It is non-political and voluntary and follows democratic culture.
4. Self Help Groups maintain the transparency among themselves and they have the collective accountability of financial transactions in the group.

Functions of Self Help Groups

1. Self Help Groups hold meetings weekly or fortnightly.
2. Promote thrift habit among members.
3. Build common-fund slowly and systematically.
4. Establish network with financial institutions and various government departments.
5. Provide alternative regular credit delivery system.
6. Act as purveyor of development of credit.

Major Functions of an SHG

a) Savings and Thrift

- All SHG members regularly save a small amount, the amount may be a regular and continuous habit with all the members.
- “Saving first, Credit later” should be the motto of every SHG member
- SHG members talk a step towards self-dependence when they start small saving. They learn financial discipline through saving and internal lending (Advantage: This is useful when they use bank loans).

b) Internal Lending

- The SHG should use the saving amount for giving loan to member.
- The purpose amount, rate of interest, scheduled of repayment etc. are to be decided by the group itself.
- Proper accounts to be kept by the SHG

c) Discussing Problems

- In every meeting, the SHG should be encouraged to discuss and try to find solution to the problems faced by the member of the group individually. The poor people are weak and lack resource to solve their problems, when the group is there to help its member, it becomes easier for them to face the difficulties and come with solutions.

d) Taking Bank Loan

- The SHG takes loan from the bank and gives it as a loan to its members

Advantages of financing SHGs

1. Externalization of part of work load related to credit cycle.
2. Reduction in transaction cost.
3. Peer pressure influences better recovery/recycling of funds lent.
4. Ensues better quality lending and need based credit.
5. Loans given exclusively and independently to SHGs will treated as weaker section advances under priority sector.
6. Loans granted to SHGs through NGO for on-lending to SHGs/ members of SHGs individuals will be classified as advances to Self-Help groups under priority sector.

Analysis and Interpretation

Table 1 Classification of Respondents on the basis of Age

Age (in years)	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Below 20	18	15
20 to 35	36	30
35 to 50	43	35.83
50 & above	23	19.17
Total	120	100

Source: field survey

From the above table it is drawn that among 120 respondents 35.83% of the respondents belongs to the age group of 35 to 50 year, and likewise 30%, 19.17%, 15% of the respondents are belongs to the age group of 20 to 35, 50 and above, Below 20 years respectively. It is interpreted that majority of the respondents are belonging to the age group of 35 to 50 years that means they are having much interest towards SHGs and their socio-economic development through SHGs.

Table 2 Classification of Respondents on the basis of marital status

Marital Status	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Married	67	55.83
Un married	36	30
Widow	11	9.17
Divorced	6	5
Total	120	100

Source: field survey

From the above table it is clear that among 120 respondents 55.83 of the respondents belongs to the group of Married and likewise 30%, 9.17%, 5% of the respondents are belongs to the group of Unmarried, Widow & Divorced respectively. It is interpreted that most of the respondents belong to the group of Married which indicates that this group is having a higher interest towards the saving's and financial requirement of the members through SHGs.

Table 3 Classification of respondents on the basis of educational Qualification

Educational qualification	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Illiterate	35	29.17
Primary	26	21.66
High school	18	15
PUC	24	20
Degree	17	14.17
Total	120	100

Sources: field survey

From the above table it reveals that out of 120 respondents 29.17% of the respondents are illiterate, 21.66% of the respondent have studied up to primary level, 15% have studied up to High school, 20% of them have studied up to PUC and 14.17% are graduates. It is interpreted that a minimal of respondents are belonging to the criterion of illiterates and it has been recognized that the there is a need for higher level of education among the SHGs members. And in the present scenario education is very necessary to survive in this competitive world.

Table 4 Classification of respondents on the basis of geographical background

Particulars	No. of respondents	Percentage %
Rural	55	45.83
Urban	47	39.17
Semi urban	18	15
Total	120	100

Source: field survey

From the above table it is drawn that among 120 respondents 45.83% of the respondents belongs to the group of Rural background, and likewise 39.17%, 15% of the respondents are belongs to the group of Urban & semi Urban respectively. It is found that most of the respondents are belongs to the

group of Rural background that means that majority of the women SHG members are prevailing in the Rural Area and there is a need for socio-economic empowerment of women and the locality.

Table 5 Classification of respondents on the basis of occupation

Occupations	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Agricultural labour	46	38.33
Labour	27	22.5
Business	23	19.17
Own form	6	5
House wife	18	15
Total	120	100

Sources: field survey

From the above table it's clear that among 120 respondents 38.33% respondents are agricultural labour, 22.5% are daily labour, 19.17% are carrying their own business activity, and 5% are having their own form and 15% are Housewife. Here we can interpret that majority of the respondents are agricultural labour they are earning their income through their agricultural activities as most of the women SHGs members are from Rural area with a minimum education.

Table 6 Classification of respondents on the basis of annual income

Particulars	No. of respondents	Percentage %
Below 50,000	67	55.83
50,001 to 1,00,000	28	23.33
1,00,001 to 1,50,000	18	15
1,50,000 and above	7	5.84
Total	120	100

Source: field survey

From the above table it is drawn that among 120 respondents 55.83% of the respondents are belongs to the annual income group Below 50,000 and likewise 23.33%, 15%, 5.84% of the respondents are belongs to the annual income group of 50,001 to 1,00,000, 1,00,001 to 1,50,000, 1,50,000 & Above respectively. It is found that majority of the respondents are belongs to the annual income group of Below 50,000 which depicts that income earning capability of the women SHG members is quite low which shows the need for loan requirement and

significantly affects loan repayment.

Table 7 Classification of respondents on the basis of reasons for joining in SHGs

Reasons	No. of respondents	Percentage %
Improves social status	28	23.33
Obtaining financial support	24	20
Improves economic status	36	30
Promote saving habit	12	10
Initiate group activity	9	7.5
Influenced by friends & family	5	4.17
Community development activities	6	5
Total	120	100

Source: field survey

From the above table it is found that among 120 respondents 30% of the respondents joined SHG due to it improves economic status and likewise 23.33%, 20%, 10%, 7.5%, 4.17%, 5% of the respondents are opined towards it improves social status, obtain financial support, promote saving habit, initiate group activity, influenced by friends and family, for community development activities respectively. It is interpreted that majority of the respondents joined SHG with the reason that it improves economic status followed by social status of the women in the society.

Table 8 Classification of respondents on the basis of loan taken in bank or other financial institutions

Particulars	No. of respondents	Percentage %
Yes	103	85.83
No	17	14.17
Total	120	100

Source: field survey

From the above table it is clear that among 120 respondents 85.83% of the respondents belongs to the group that they have taken loan in bank or financial institutions and rest of the respondents are not taken loan in any bank or financial institutions. It is interpreted that most of the respondents have taken loan from banks and financial institutions

for the financial requirement of the women SHG members.

Table 9 Classification of respondents on the basis of amount of loan taken

Amount of loan in	No. of respondents	Percentage %
10,000 to 50,000	38	31.67
50,000 to 1,00,000	41	34.17
1,00,000 to 1,50,000	28	23.33
1,50,000 & Above	13	10.83
Total	120	100

Source: field survey

From the above table it is clear that among 120 respondents 34.17% of the respondents belongs to the group that amount taken from loan 50,000 to 1,00,000 and likewise 31.67%, 23.33%, 10.83% for the 50,000 to 1,00,000, 1,00,000 to 1,50,000, 1,50,000 & Above amount of loan taken. It is interpreted that most of the respondents have taken loan amounting to 50,000 to 1,00,000 for various economic activities and personal consumption.

Table 10 Classification of respondents on the basis of purpose of loan

Purposes	No. of respondents	Percentage %
Group activities	16	13.33
Repay old debt	29	24.17
Individual economic activities	43	35.83
Personnel consumption/ other activities	32	26.67
Total	120	100

Source: field survey

From the above table it is clear that among 120 respondents 35.83% have taken loan for the individual economic activities, likewise 13.33% for group activities, 24.17% for to repay the old debt, and 26.67% for personnel consumption. It is interpreted that most of the loan taken is for the individual economic activities of the respondents for the development of socio-economic conditions.

Table 11 Classification of respondents on the basis of regularity of loan payment

Particulars	No. of respondents	Percentage %
Yes	81	67.5
No	39	32.5
Total	120	100

Source: field survey

From the above table it is drawn that among 120 respondents 67.5% belongs to the group payment of loan regularly and 32.5% do not pay the loan regularly. It is interpreted that majority women SHG members pay loan on regular basis and those are irregular in payments are further asked for reasons for irregularity.

Table 12 Classification of respondents on the basis of sources for loan repayment

Particulars	No. of respondents	Percentage %
Daily wages	38	46.91
Savings	13	16.05
Business activity	23	28.40
Others	7	8.64
Total	81	100

Sources: field survey

From the above table it is clear that out of 81 respondents 46.91% repay the loan with the source of daily wages, 16.05% through savings, 28.40% through business activity, and 8.64% repay through other possible sources. It is interpreted that most of the women SHG members are from rural background and repay their loan through daily wages.

Table 13 Classification of respondents on the basis of reasons for irregularity of loan repayment

Particulars	No. of respondents	Percentage %
Loan business failed	11	28.21
Used loan for personnel consumption	7	17.94
Loss of assets bought by loan	4	10.26
Used to repay the old debt	17	43.59
Total	39	100

Sources: field survey

From the above table it is found that among 39 respondents 43.59% resulting for irregularity of loan repayment due to loan used to repay the old debt , 17.94% used loan for personnel consumption, 10.26% irregular due to loss of assets bought by loan and it is interpreted that majority of irregularity is due to loan used to repay the old debt followed by loan used for personnel consumption which are not revenue generating activities .

Table 14 Classification of respondents on the basis of instalment period to repay loan

Instalment period	No. of respondents	Percentage %
Daily	28	23.33
Weekly	57	47.5
By weekly	22	18.33
Monthly	13	10.84
Total	120	100

Sources: field survey

From the above table it is clear that among 120 respondents 23.33% repay the instalment of loan on daily basis, 47.5% result for weekly basis, 18.33% for By-weekly .10.84% result on monthly basis And it is drawn that most of the instalment period to repay loan is on the basis of weekly due to the wages in rural area are made at the end of the week.

Table 15 Classification of respondents on the basis of status of loan

Status of loan	No. of respondents	Percentage %
Fully repaid	35	29.17
Repayment on schedule	57	47.5
Repayment in arrears	28	23.33
Total	120	100

Sources: field survey

From the above table it is clear that among 120 respondents 29.17% have loan status of fully repayment, likewise 47.5% are having repayment of loan on schedule, 23.33% are at the status of repayment due and it is interpreted that most of the respondents are repaying their loan on time.

Table 16 Classification of respondents on the basis of improvement in savings after joining SHGs

Particulars	No. of respondents	Percentage %
Yes	103	85.84
No	17	14.16
Total	120	100

Sources: field survey

From the above table it is clear that among 120 respondents 85.84% opined that there is a improvement in savings after joining SHG and rest 14.16% opined negatively in respect to improvement in savings. It is interpreted that most of the respondents savings has improved after joining SHG.

Test Application - Chi square Test

H0: There is no sustainable development after joining SHG's						
H1: There is sustainable development after joining SHG's						
Responses	Observed	Expected	(O-E)	(O-E) ²	(O-E) ² /E	Values
Agree	40	25	15	225	225/25	9
Disagree	50	60	-10	100	100/60	1.67
Neutral	30	35	-5	25	25/35	0.71

Calculated Value = **11.38**

Degree of freedom n-1 i.e 3-1=2

Table value of chi square for 2 degree of freedom @ 5% level of significance is **5.99**

Since the calculated value is more than the table value, Null hypothesis is rejected.Hence alternative hypothesis is accepted .Hence proved that there is

sustainable development after joining SHG's

Findings

- The study revealed that most of women SHG members were in the age group of 35 to50 that is 35.83%.
- Majority of the women SHG members were having

the marital status of Married that is 55.83%.

- Most of the respondents are illiterate that is 29.17%.
- The study found that most of the respondents possess the geographical background pertaining to Rural Area that is 45.83%.
- The study revealed that 38.33% of the respondents are having the occupation of Agricultural labour.
- Most of the respondents are belong to the annual income group of Below 50,000.
- The study reveals that 23.33% respondents joining SHG with reason of improving economic status.
- Majority of the respondents have taken loan in banks or other financial institution's that is 85.83%.
- The study shows that 34.17% respondents have taken loan amounting to the range of 50,000 to 1,00,000.
- Most of the respondents have taken loan with the purpose of carrying individual economic activities.
- It is revealed that 67.5% of the respondents repay loan regularly.
- Most of the respondents that is 46.91 repay their loan with daily wages.
- The study reveals that most of the respondents are irregular in repayment of loan with the reason that used loan to repay the old debt.
- Most of the respondents repay the loan in the period of weekly instalment.
- 65% of the respondents were in the stage of 50% to 75% loan recovery.
- The study reveals that 60% of respondents believes SHGs leads to reduction in poverty.
- 52.5% of the respondents strongly agrees that SHGs increases self confidence
- Majority of the respondents that is 56.67% agrees that SHGs increases self-reliance.

Suggestions

- Literacy and numeric training is needed for the poor women to benefit from SHG.
- The members of the SHG should be more active, enthusiastic and dynamic to mobilize their savings by group actions. In their process, NGOs should act as a facilitator and motivator.
- Meetings and seminars may be organized where

the members will get a chance to exchange their views and be able to develop their group strength by interactions.

- Income generating activities should be increased.
- Communication and leadership skills should be given much importance to improve the personality development and group discussion skills.
- SHG members are properly trained and informed before their venture.
- Monitoring should be to make sure that people are on the path charted out and the members have the capacity to take the next step.
- Potential members of old groups can be taken to visit the new groups to clarify various aspects of SHG functioning.
- Able leaders from a few groups can be motivated resolution responsibilities.
- All the members in SHGs may not have the same caliber and expertise. The inefficiency members of the groups should be identified and can impart training to them in order to make them competent.
- Frequent awareness camps can be organized to create the awareness about the different schemes of assistance available to the participants in the SHGs.

Conclusion

Women's Empowerment has become a significant component of human development in India. The last decades have witnessed significant changes in the status and role of women in our society. There has been shift in policy approaches from the concept of welfare in the seventies to development in the eighties and now to empowerment in the current scenario. SHGs help the members to improve the socio-economic conditions, standard of living, women literacy level, decision making, participation of social awareness programs, participation of training programs, participation of political activities, offer employment opportunities to neighbors etc.

The study has revealed that SHG is an important tool which helps the rural women to acquire power for their self-supportive life and nation building efforts. The empowerment of women through SHGs would lead benefits not only to the individual women but also for the family and community as whole

through collection action for development these SHGs. Empowering women is not just for meeting their economic needs but also more holistic social development. The SHGs empower women and train them to take active part in socioeconomic progress of the nation.

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