

Study on Rural Women Empowerment Through Self Help Groups

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Abstract: *Gender equality and Women empowerment have emerged as topics of debate and have grabbed great attention recently because socio-economic and gender inequality are all noticeable presently not only in the third world but also in the developing world. Economically disempowerment of women is among the major reasons for the problem of gender inequality in the third world. With the objective to reduce gender inequality by economic empowerment of women the Self-Help Group (SHG) movement is well-known and important among the several initiatives taken up and measures adopted in the third world countries. With the objective to help poor escape from poverty Muhammad Yunus provided loans on terms suitable to them and taught them a few sound financial principles so that they could help themselves. Muhammad Yunus a Bangladeshi social entrepreneur, banker, economist, and civil society leader who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for founding the Grameen Bank and pioneering the concepts of microcredit and microfinance. Thereafter the importance of SHG movement was then internationally recognized. SHG is now universally accepted as a great tool which empowers women to become self-sufficient, self-reliant and to actively participate in taking decision themselves in their day-to-day life. The objective of this research is to collect information regarding impact, success, failure and development of SHGs in district Jaunpur of Uttar Pradesh, India.*

Keywords: *SHG, Women empowerment, Economical empowerment, Role of SHG, Microcredit.*

1. Introduction

The initial scheme Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) was launched in 1999. It was renamed as National Rural Livelihood Mission in 2011. Finally they were merged into DDU-AY. The SGSY was somewhat intended to provide self-employment to millions of villagers. The programme aims at bringing the assisted poor families above the poverty line by organising them into self-help groups (SHGs) through a mix of bank credit and government subsidy. The main aim of these SHGs was to bring these poor families above the poverty line and concentrate on income generation through combined effort. The Swarna Jayanti Swarozgar Yojna (SGSY) has been renamed as National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM). With this the scheme was planned to be made universal, more focussed and time bound for poverty alleviation by 2014. [1]

National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) is a poverty alleviation project implemented by Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India. This scheme is focused on promoting self-employment and organization of rural poor. The basic idea behind this programme is to organize the poor into SHG (Self Help Groups) groups and make them capable for self-employment. In 1999 after restructuring Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) launched Swarnajayanti Grameen Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) to focus on promoting self-employment among rural poor. SGSY is now remodeled to form NRLM thereby plugging the shortfalls of SGSY programme. This scheme was launched in 2011 with a budget of \$5.1 billion and is one of the flagship programmes of Ministry of Rural Development. This is one of the world's largest initiatives to improve the livelihood of poor. This programme is supported by the World Bank with a credit of \$1 Billion.



The scheme was succeeded by Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana on 25 September 2015.

In view of the above, it was felt that there is a need for a critical examination of the strategies adopted, the interventions sought, funds flow and its utilization, organizational structure and the mechanism of implementation by the implementing agencies in sampled states to understand the impact, failures and success. Voluntary Operation in Community and Environment (VOICE) has been entrusted to undertake a detailed study of the funds released by the Central and State Governments and utilization of the same by line departments so as not only to assess the extent to which it has been possible to achieve the aims and objectives of the SHG's beneficiaries, but also to review the scheme itself and suggest policy measures to improve the situation. [2]

About 59 percent of the sample women SGSY beneficiaries are observed to be women, which is considerably higher than the targeted 40%. Over 69 per cent members belonged to SC, ST caste groups, about 21 per cent to OBC caste group and only about 8 per cent to the forward caste group. The minority community has just registered its presence by about 2 per cent membership.[3]

2. Related Work

Kappa Kondal (2014) conducted a study of women empowerment through Self-Help Groups in Gajwel Mandal of Medak District in Andhra Pradesh. In the present study, simple statistical tools adopted. Based on the analysis of women empowerment through self help groups in Gajwel, the major findings of this study revealed that, there is a positive impact of Self Help Groups on Women empowerment in Gajwel Mandal of Medak District in Andhra Pradesh.

Dhanalakshmi and Rajini (2013) looks at the literature around the self help groups (SHGs) movement in India. It is hoped that it will be useful to fellow researchers who are undertaking studies in this area. It exposes the historical background of self help groups in Indian context. This paper reviews literature on the subject's empowerment process in relation to a self-help group as well as related literature. It is important to note that most literature has been focusing on empowerment as the outcome not as the process. There have been limited studies that explore the relationship between a self-help group and the process of empowerment.

According to Ramakrishna, et al (2013), Self-Help Groups are formed for addressing their common problems. They make regular savings habit and use the pooled savings for the benefit of their members through a structured process

of essential financial intermediation like prioritization of needs, setting self-determined terms for repayment and keeping records. It builds financial discipline and credit history that then encourages banks to lend to them in certain multiples of their own savings and without any demand for collateral security. The present study is based on secondary data source and considered as the powerful instrument for women empowerment and eradication of poverty. The SHG Bank Linkage has made an adventure in the economy by transforming the formal banking services to rural poor and needy people particularly women group. Yadav (2013) conducted a study, the objective of which is to understand women empowerment through self-help-groups of Nagthane village. The primary data has been collected through questionnaire instruments and secondary data consists of books, journals, and websites. Thus the paper emphasizes that the SHGs are the effective instruments of women empowerment, and to make suggestions for well functioning of SHGs of women in general and Nagthane village.

Pandey and Rini Roberts (2011) examined the impact of participation in Self Help Groups on the empowerment of women in Chamarajnar District of Karnataka using personal narrative method. The authors recommended that it is necessary to provide a convergence of inputs, ensuring a proactive involvement of women in the program, changing social norms and perceptions and anchoring with wider movements of social change. Tripathy and Jain (2011) assessed the distributional implications of the world's largest government operated micro-finance programme and examines the suitability of the Self Help Group (SHG)-micro-enterprise framework towards effective income generation and poverty alleviation. The statistical analysis indicates that while internal savings and group corpus have a positive and significant effect on the income growth of beneficiaries, bank credit does not have any such impact. The results also highlight that the socially and economically forward regions are more likely to benefit from this programme. This has policy implications towards effective governance of government operated micro-finance initiatives in developing nations.

3. Proposed Work

Paper is based on the study done by Voluntary Operation in Community and Environment (VOICE) in which they employed a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods and the data was collected from both from primary and secondary sources. The study was based on the inputs from 90 SHGs sampled from 15 villages of 2 blocks of Jaunpur district in Uttar Pradesh and data was



taken into account of only year 2004 to 2008. Collected data will be further compared in another research work with the recent developments of SHGs in the same location.

4. Data Analysis and Findings

In this section author need to describe experimental/simulation results with graphs and appropriate tables.

Table 1. SHG activities recorded in Jaunpur

District	Block	Activity
Jaunpur	Mariahu	Ressa Russi, Kalin & Dari
Jaunpur	Sahganj	Poultry farm, Diary

Table 2. Total Expenditure in Sampled Districts

Year	Total Expenditure in Sampled Districts - Jaunpur
2004	367
2005	583
2006	544
2007	511
2008	847

The following table gives a snapshot of the total expenditure incurred in the district studied. It must be noted that overall UP has spent the maximum fund on various activities.

Table 3. SHGs Trained in Jaunpur

Year	SHGs Trained in Jaunpur
2004	2768
2005	0
2006	3846
2007	1144
2008	33644

The following table gives a snapshot how the number of SHGs trained in Jaunpur increased in the span of 5 years.

Table 4. SHGs Trained in Jaunpur

Year	Expenditure on Infrastructure Development in Jaunpur
2004	2
2005	21
2006	24
2007	46
2008	60

Table 5. Expenditure on Subsidy in Jaunpur

Year	Expenditure on subsidy in Jaunpur
2004	321
2005	432
2006	446
2007	423
2008	640

UP was among the front runner in the studied states with maximum expenditure.

Table 6. Expenditure On Revolving Fund in Jaunpur

Year	Expenditure On Revolving Fund
2004	35
2005	73
2006	41
2007	21
2008	38

Table 7. Credit Disbursed By Commercial Banks

Year	Credit Disbursed By Commercial Banks as per sample
2004	533
2005	736
2006	679
2007	774
2008	979

Table 8. Sectorwise Investment

Year	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
2004	769	23	62
2005	1072	36	59
2006	962	45	118
2007	1110	22	64
2008	1333	51	236



Table 9. Allocation, Fund Available and Total Expenditure

Year	Allocation	Funds Available	Total Expend
2004	327	293	367
2005	405	543	584
2006	408	550	544
2007	452	609	512
2008	690	972	847

Table 10. Loan Application submitted, sanctioned and Disbursed

Year	No. of Applications submitted to banks	No. of Loans sanctioned by banks	No. of loans disbursed	No. of application pending in banks
2004	425	386	316	109
2005	569	549	531	38
2006	510	503	497	13
2007	492	488	480	12
2008	534	532	528	6

Table 11. Subsidy and credit to weaker section

Year	SC Total	ST Total	Women Total	Disabled Total
2005	585	0	531	4
2006	563	1	595	2
2007	599	2	530	0
2008	800	0	730	48

The following table gives a snapshot how the number of subsidy and credit to weaker section including women SHGs increased in the span of 5 years.

Table 12. Credit and Subsidy Disbursed to SHGs

Year	Credit Disbursed to SHGs	Subsidy Disbursed SHGs
2004	533	321
2005	719	420
2006	668	442
2007	774	423
2008	735	528

Table 13. Number of members of SHGs Trained

Year	Number of members of SHGs Trained
2004	2768
2005	0
2006	3846
2007	1144
2008	33644

Table 14. Status of SHGs

Year	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
2004	2392	529	423	316	558	71
2005	203	664	452	531	72	103
2006	0	507	428	497	0	189
2007	0	342	427	480	0	197
2008	565	441	467	528	178	149

I = No. of SHGs Formed

II = No. of SHGs Passed Grade I

III = No. of SHGs passed Grade II

IV = No of SHGs Taken up Economic Activities

V = No. of Woman SHGs Formed

VI = No. of Woman SHG taken up Economic Activities

Table 15. SHGs assisted for Economics activities

Year	No. of Member's of SHGs assisted for Economics activities
2004	3553
2005	5837
2006	5601
2007	5672
2008	5282

Table 16. Expenditure on NGOs/ Facilitators

YEAR	EXPENDITURE ON NGOs/ FACILITATORS
2004	5
2005	55
2006	18
2007	16
2008	45

5. Conclusion

This study has shown that, there is an increase in the development of SHGs in Jaunpur and further the concept



of SHG is a better strategy to uplift social and economic status of women and other weaker sections of the society. Due to which participation, mobility, knowledge and awareness of women and other weaker sections of the society is enhanced.

6. Limitations of The Study

Since the data was fetched from VOICE report which was submitted to planning commission. The major limitations of their study as reported by them were as follows: -

- The report has been prepared based on the data collected from the field and published secondary data
- The study findings and recommendation given are based on the limited coverage of 15 villages of 2 blocks of Jaunpur district in Uttar Pradesh
- The facts presented are based on the information provided and discussion held with the Stakeholders
- Poor availability of secondary sources of data

7. Future Scopes

This study will be further incorporated in another research paper to evaluate the further comparison and development of rural women empowerment through Self Help Groups in recent years.

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