

Empowerment of Tribal Women through Micro Finance

Author; 1) Dr . M. Venkata subbaiah, M.Com, M.BA, M.Phil, Ph.D,

Lecturer in Commerce

Govt Degree College, Rapur, SPSR Nellore District

Andhra Pradesh.

Abstract

Tribal Women empowerment is a continuous process of enabling them to fight the forces that oppress them, provide them equal access to the resources and opportunities and control over the resources. Micro finance has emerged as powerful tool for poverty alleviation, empowering women puts the spotlight on education and empowerment which are an essential element to sustainable development. This paper seeks to examine the impact of microfinance on poverty alleviation and Socio economic conditions of Tribal women.

Key Words;- Empowerment , Microfinance , Self Help Group , Socio economic conditions, poverty alleviation.

Introduction

Credit is a crucial input contributing to the success of any development activity, under micro finance scheme; small amounts are advanced to the poor along with other service the emphasis is on group lending. The terms micro finance is commonly used in addressing issues related to poverty alleviation. Micro finance has been defined as the provision of thrift, credit and other financial services and products of very small amount to the poor in rural, semi urban areas for enabling them to raise their income levels and improve living standards. Micro Finance has assumed importance with the success of Bangladesh Grameena Bank. The origin of the B.G.B can be traced to the year 1976 when Prof.Muhammad yunus of university of Chittagong launched an action research project to examine the possibility of designing a credit delivery system to provide banking services targeted at the rural poor. The bank believes in “Credit for the poor by the poor” it believes in the principle of cooperation. The aim is to free the poor from the clutches of land lords and money lenders. It has evolved as a need based policy and programme to cater to the needs of neglected group’s i.e, women, poor, rural and deprived sections of society. It was started to provide employment, help in poverty reduction and serve as livelihood earner and is now focusing on the empowerment of women, of course there are many ways and

means to have used to tools to eradicate the poverty in India. But in recent past, Micro finance SHG Linkages approach is often considered as one of the most effective and flexible strategies to fight against poverty from third world countries to developed countries.

Self help groups-an innovative system of financial intermediation.

The need for an innovative system of financial intermediation to provide micro financial assistance to the rural poor was felt in view of the above inadequate of the credit scenario in the country. Self help groups are an out come of near liberal paradigm of development where the poor take charge of their lives and fashion a new and improved future through self reliance and socially sustainable efforts. The distinctive aspects of S.H.Gs relate to the fact that they are fully democratic autonomous and thrift based organization.

SHGs act as the forum for the members to provide space and support to each other. They enable the members to learn to cooperate and work in a group environment. SHGs provide savings mechanism which suits the needs of the members. SHGs provide a cost effective delivery mechanism for small credit to its members. SHGs initially manage their own fund. They take care of the financial needs of the members and develop their skills of financial management and intermediation as well.

Objectives of the study

1. To study the socio economic impact of Micro finance on Tribal women SHGs members.

Research methodology

The study is confined to the Tribal women self help groups promoted by Velugu scheme in Rapur Mandal of SPSR Nellore District. As on September 2020, the total number of Tribal women self help groups are 100. In order to study the impact of micro finance on SHGs member, the groups completing two years period were selected for the purpose of the study. Out of 100 SHG's 20(20%) SHGs were selected by simple random method. As far as the selection of group members is concerned, three members were deliberately selected from each group, and the number of the selected members was 60.

Collation of data

For the purpose of data collection a well structured questionnaire was used to obtain the responses.

Socio-Economic Impact

Self help groups have been providing their significance in entrepreneurship development, marketing and active participation in Social welfare campaigns, fighting against alcoholism, child marriages, dowry and superstitions, saving is the principal activity of self help groups. It was observed

that after taking loan from the SHGs the Tribal women members had increased Socio Economic conditions. The table explains the impact of micro finance on SHGs members.

Table 1: Socio-Economic Impact of micro finance on Tribal SHG members.

Impact of members	NO of Respondent	Percentage of total 60 Respondents
A) Economic		
Expansion of Business Activities	36	60
Increased in Employment	32	53
Increased in Income	31	52
Increased in assets	28	47
Regularity in Savings	55	92
Increased in awareness in financial matters	25	42
B) Social		
Status in Society improved	22	37
Increased Social Relations	24	40
Feeling of Social Security	43	72
Social awareness	37	62
Active participation in social activities	48	80
C) Political		
Increased political awareness	30	50
active Participates in Local Politics	21	35
D) Personality Development		
Increased Self confidence	47	78
Communication skill	31	52
Leadership Qualities	19	32
Regular attendance in Meetings.	53	88
E) Participation in government Programs		
Mid Day meals	15	25
Pulse Polio	47	78
Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan	14	23

Adult Education	16	27
-----------------	----	----

Source; Primary data

Tables: 1 Explain that 60 percent of respondents had expanded their business activities whereas 53 percent women are had got gainful employment after joining the SHGs. It was observed that 52 percent of the women's had more earning then earlier and it was noticed that 92 percent of women's Savings was increased, and had become well acquainted with financial matters such as, record keeping, savings and interest computation etc., However majority of the Women members had not shown interest in such matters: This led to dominance of some group members on group activities.

One of the significant observations of the study is that women self help groups, as social groups, had created social security i.e. 72 percent. Whereas 80 percent of the respondents had fought successfully against alcoholism and enforced the shop keepers to close down their wine shops.

As a result of political awareness created by the groups, more than 35 present of the respondents had Participated in Panchayat and primary credit co-operative Societies elections and some members working as Panchayat members and presidents however, it was noticed that majority of them were being represented either by their sons, or husbands. In order to ensure equal access and increased participation of women in politics, Panchayat raj institutions are expected play an active role.

With regard to the personality development of the members, the impact observed was positive, more than 52 percent respondents had interaction with bank officials and others and 88 percent of the women's had been attending the meeting regularly. However in spite of rotation system, a few members were leading the group activities and meetings.

It observed that women participation in government Sponsored programs, which was almost negligible earlier, had increased because of group activities. The study reveals that participation of Tribal women members in midday meal 25 percent and pulse polio 78 percent, Sarva shikha Abhiyan 23 percent and adult education programme was 27 percent there is need for encouraging active participation of more and more women in social welfare programmes.

Conclusion:-

Considering the vast number of poor, discriminated and underprivileged women and the need of financial services, there is tremendous scope for micro financing through Women SHGs in India. The commercial banks and voluntary organizations are supposed to play a crucial role in the micro-finance market. In order to achieve the objective of poverty eradication, every poor person should have easy access to credit for starting small economic activities based on local resources. Tribal Women SHGs, as it is evident, have been instrumental in promoting women entrepreneurship. So, conducive environment is needed to be created in the country to give boost to Tribal women self – help groups. Majority of the

Tribal women do not have their own property and even earning women. In order to empower women economically, there is need of providing easy access to credit on one hand and promotion of women entrepreneurship on the other side. As it is evident from Gramin Bank project of Bangladesh, women and poor, if provided with small amounts of loan (micro credit) for small economic activities (micro enterprises), can be effective for eradication of unemployment and poverty. Tribal Women self help groups can play a very positive role in socio-economic empowerment of poor women.

References

- Malhotra, Naresh (2009), *MARKETTING RESEARCH- AN APPLIED ORIENTATION*, Prentice Hall Of India Private Limited, New Delhi.
- NABARD (1989), 'Studies of Self-Help Groups of the Rural Poor', Bombay.
- Puhazhendi, V and Satyasai, K.J.S (NABARD) (2000), "Microfinance for Rural People: An impact evaluation", Mumbai, India.
- Puhazhendi, V and K C Badatya (2002), "SHG-Bank Linkage Programme for Rural Poor- An Impact Assessment" Paper presented at seminar on SBLP at New Delhi, 25-26 November, NABARD, Mumbai.
- MYRADA (2002), 'Impact of Self Help Groups (Group process) on the Social/Empowerment status of Women members in Southern India', paper presented at the seminar on SHG-bank Linkage Programme at New Delhi on 25th and 26th November 2002.