

ROLE OF SELF HELP GROUPS (SHGs) IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN TAMILNADU

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Abstract: Women empowerment is one of most significant aspect for socio-economic, political and cultural development in any country. Many ways are available to achieve this empowerment, and it's one of the way is through Self-Help Groups. This group is called as Swarnajayanthi Gram Swarjohar Yojana (SGSY). It was functioned from 1999. It is a credit-cum-subsidy programme. It deals with all characteristic of self-employment, such as organise the deprived into SHGs, training, credit technology, basic facilities and marketing. Main purpose of this scheme is (a) to generate income and employment opportunities for the rural poor; (b) to establish the micro enterprises and it recommended that this enterprise must utilise the locally available materials (c) to envisage that every family assisted under SGSY will be eradicate below poverty line within three years of period. This study is based on the following objectives (a) to understand the ways to support from SHGs. For this study, totally 75 women respondents in Aruppukottai block in Virudhunagar district are selected to collect the data. These respondents are chosen on the basis of simple random samples.

Index Terms: Self-Help Groups, Swarnajayanthi Gram Swarjohar Yojana.

1. Introduction:

In earlier period, Government of India implemented several rural development programmes. From these programmes, six poverty alleviation programmes were selected and certain programmes are: Integrated Rural Development Programme, Training for Rural Youth for Self-Employment, Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas, Supply of Improved Tool Kits to Rural Artisans, Ganga Kalyan Yojana and Million Wells Schemes (**Sunkari Satyam, 2014**). It was merged in the name of 'Swarnajayanthi Gram Swarjohar Yojana'. This Yojana plays an important role to change and improve the socio-economic status of rural residents (**Planning Commission, 2000**). It mainly targeted on those who are living in Below Poverty Line or Low income groups. It is focusing on group approach (**Bhumika Bori, 2014**). It helps to meet (a) credit needs, (b) face emergency expenditures, (c) mobilise their funds within the groups, (d) improve their savings and income capacity, (e) quicken the rate of capital formation, (f) women empowerment and (g) standard of living. (f) Capacity building for group members. It must be relate to skill development and technological up gradation. (g) Coverage of SC/ST, women and physically challenged persons who constitute vulnerable section of the society (**Government of India, 1999**)

NGOs and banks are closely related to this group. In the following ways: (a) planning and preparation of project reports, (b) identification of activity clusters, infrastructure planning as well as capacity building and choice of activity of the SHGs and selection of individual swarozgaris. Banking sectors are providing micro finance to improve rural populations' economic status. It aids to establish the micro enterprise in local areas. SHGs are an essential part of a planned policy for obtain the balanced economic group of poor women. Women in the Self Help Group emerge as leaders or entrepreneurs. It is providing marketing assistance with highlights on market investigation, up gradation, expansion / diversification of commodities, packaging, and creation / improves the market infrastructure facilities (**Garg,S.K.etal.,(2012)**).

2. Objectives:

Main objectives of this article are (a) to understand the ways to support from SHGs (b) to find out the respondents' availed advantages after joining the SHGs.

3. Methodology:

This study is based on primary and secondary data information. Primary data collected from those who are involving in SHGs activities. For this data, totally 75 respondents are selected to collect the data. These respondents are women and they are from Virudhunagar district and a particular study area is Aruppukottai block is chosen to collect the primary information. This data analysed through percentile analysis and it tabulated in the form of multi-way tables. These respondents are selected on basis of simple random sample method. Secondary data collected from various books, journals and government reports.

4. Analysis:

This part of the study is classified in to two major parts:

- 4.1. Ways to Support from SHGs
- 4.2. Availed benefits after joining the SHGs

4. 1. Ways to Support from SHGs:

These groups are supporting the respondents in four different ways and they are as follows: (1) providing credit facilities (2) initiating new professional activities (3) providing awareness and finally (4) providing training facilities.

Table No. 1.
Types of support from SHGs

Sl. No.	Purpose	Yes		No	
		Freq.	%	Freq.	%
1.	Providing Credit Facilities	75	100	0	0
2.	Initiating New Professional	50	66.6	25	33.3
3.	Create Awareness	68	90.6	7	9.4
4.	Providing Training Facilities	33	44	42	56

Source: Primary Data. Freq. – Frequency & % - Percentage

Above table represents that understand the kinds of support from SHGs in this study area.

4.1.1. Providing Credit Facilities:

All the respondents are accepted that they are availing credit facilities from this group. They are mainly obtaining this facility for fulfil their family needs and emergency expenditures.

4.1.2. Initiating New Professional:

Two-third percentage of respondents is looking for new and expanding businesses. They acknowledge the financial and other assistance they received from this group.

4.1.3. Creating Awareness:

More than 90 per cent (90.6 %) have some of personnel views on creating awareness and it follows (1) It helps to know about the functions of NGOs, banking, central and state government (2) It helps to attain the women empowerment in the way of social, economical and political.

4.1.4. Attending Training Facilities:

Thirty three persons accepted that this group helps to attend the training programmes from government, private and NGOs. It is related to participation in banking activities, preparation of accounts of the group and its members, and to prepare financial statements. Remaining are not interested to participate this type of training programmes and it main reason is to their family commitments.

4.2. Availed Benefits From After Joining SHGs:

This group is most important to come out from exploitation. It provides confidence for rural poor women to attain the economic and self sustainability. Main function of this scheme is (a) to collect the resources like natural and financial for individual members for their collective economic growth (b) proper utilisation of locally available resources and increase the saving habits of group members (c) to generate understanding and awareness about constitutional rights to public (d) Often, these types of problems should address through training and workshops. It has doing through NGOs, private and government sectors (e) to identify the problems of entrepreneurs and to find out the ways to rectify the problems. and finally (f) helps to improve the rural women's leadership quality

The following part of the study is mainly concentrating on know about availed benefits from after joining SHGs. According to this study, benefits are classified into two major parts and (1) economical benefits and (2) After joining this group, it helps to learn about various awareness and it is needed for their real life. In this study, the following points are economic aspects of advantages (a) income increased (b) improvement in employment opportunities (c) asset creations. Second aspects of awareness and they are as follows: (a) Awareness in Education (b) Awareness in Social Issues (c) Awareness in Health Issues (d) Awareness in Training Programmes (e) Awareness in Welfare Schemes.

Table No. 2.
Availed Benefits From After Joining SHGs

Sl. No.	Aspects	Purpose	Yes		No	
			Freq.	%	Freq.	%
1.	Economic	Income Increased	52	69.3	23	30.7
		Employment Generated	43	57.3	32	42.7
		Asset Creation	37	49.3	38	50.7
2.	Awareness	Education	8	10.7	67	89.3
		Social Issues	49	65.3	26	34.7
		Health Issues	52	69.3	23	30.7
		Training Programmes	65	86.7	10	13.3
		Welfare Programmes	71	94.7	4	5.3

Source: Primary Data. Freq. – Frequency & % - Percentage

Above table represents about respondents' availed benefits from after joining SHGs.

4.2.1. Economic Aspects:

4.2.1.1. Income Increased:

Nearly 70 per cent of the respondents are accepted that their income increased after joining this group. According to this study, respondents' income increase is directly related to the following factors (a) purchasing power (b) Savings (c) Standard of living (d) Loan repayment capacity (e) eradication of Below Poverty Line

4.2.1.2. Employment Generation:

About 57 per cent of the respondents are felt that after employment opportunities are increased joining this group. Because, they may be avail the credit facilities from this group. It helps to improve and switch over from one activity to another. Most of these respondents are working in agricultural sector and this group member wants to do additionally on agricultural allied activities, business and industrial activities.

4.2.1.3. Asset Creation:

Almost 50 per cent (49.3 per cent) of respondents are acknowledged that their asset creation level improved. Asset creation is one of the indications of development processes and overcomes from socio-economic constraints. According to respondents, property creation involves buying livestock, jewellery, land, housing, machinery and etc.

4.2.2. Awareness Aspects:**4.2.2.1. Awareness on Education:**

More than 10 per cent of respondents are accepted that they are sending their children to schools after joining this group. Remain respondents are more aware of education and they send their children before joining this group. This analysis shows that all the respondents are well knowledge about the importance of education and they are mostly sending their children to government schools.

4.2.2.2. Awareness on Social Issues:

About two – third of respondents have more familiarity in some of social issues and they are as follows: (a) Children Marriage, (b) Community Inequalities (c) Corruption (d) Population (e) Starvation (f) Religious Violence (g) Bonded Labour (h) Dowry (i) Gender Inequality (k) Domestic Violence Against Women. According to respondents' view, these issues will be talk about eradicating only through proper education for all the people.

4.2.2.3. Awareness on Health Issues:

About 69 per cent of the respondents are acknowledged that SHGs conducting meeting for this women member for the discussion about Health related issues. Further, they said that awareness on immunisation and polio drops are conducted through this group. This is clearly shows that majority of the respondents are aware of some of healthiness linked issues even before becoming this member.

4.2.2.4. Awareness on Training Programmes:

According to SGSY Guidelines, it gives more importance for capacity building process for the members. It must be related to skill development and entrepreneurial developmental activities. This training programme should conduct at the later stage of group formation. Nearly 90 per cent of the respondents aware about training programmes after joining this group. They wants more training programme on cottage industries and marketing online and offline practices.

4.2.2.5. Awareness on Rural Development & Welfare programmes:

Almost all the respondent has proficient knowledge about the rural development and welfare schemes, because they are attending various meeting in Panchayati Raj Institutions, Collector office and stare and central government offices.

5. Findings & Conclusions:

All the respondents want to borrow loan from this group. Because, interest rate is very low and easy way to repay the loan here and most of the loans spend for unavoidable and emergency family and medical expenses. Most of the agricultural oriented respondents wish to shift occupation from primary sector to other sector like business, small and cottage industries, These members are well aware about education, social, health, training programmes and welfare schemes. After joining this programme, they are benefited in many ways particularly income, employment and new asset creations.

6. Suggestions:

- (1) Both governments (Central and State) had lot of modus operandi to function the SHGs. It must be reduced and to identify the simple way to run it.
- (2) Implementing agencies should identify the new innovative ideas and training programmes.
- (3) This agency should provide awareness on social, economical and political related issues.
- (4) Government should encourage and establish co-operative oriented cottage industries between the group members.

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