

# Impact of Self Help Groups on Empowerment of Women: A Study in Krishnagiri District, Tamilnadu

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**ABSTRACT----** *Women empowerment is a process in which women challenge the existing norms and culture, 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 economical aspects. This study addresses women empowerment through self help groups in Krishnagiri district of Tamilnadu. The information required for the study has been collected from both the primary and secondary sources A multistage random sampling method has been followed. Average and percentage analysis was carried out to draw meaningful interpretation of the results. Garret ranking technique was used to find the reasons for joining the Self help group. Factor analysis was used to measure the determine the relationship between the observed variables The results of the study revealed that the SHGs have had greater impact on both economic and social aspects of the beneficiaries.*

**Keywords---** Woman empowerment, SHG, krishnagiri , Tamilnadu

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Women constitute around fifty percent of the total human resources in our economy. Yet women are the more poor and under privileged than men as they are subject to many socio-economic and cultural constraints. The situation is more severe in the rural and backward areas. Women development activities must be given importance to eradicate poverty, increase the economic growth and for better standard of living.

Self Help Group (SHGs)-Bank Linkage Programme is emerging as a cost effective mechanism for providing financial services to the “Unreached Poor” which has been successful not only in meeting financial needs of the rural poor women but also strengthen collective self help capacities of the poor ,leading to their empowerment. Rapid progress in SHG formation has now turned into an empowerment movement among women across the country. Investing in women brings about a multiplier effect.

Stories of women who not only are better off economically as a result of access to financial services, but who are empowered as well, SHG by mobilizing women around Thrift and Credit activities have resulted in economic self reliance there by changing their social attitude and status in the family and society SHG has emerged as a key programming strategy for most of the women development activities.

## 2. LITERATURE SURVEY

During the course of the study, the study of several authors were referred and it is imperative that an outline of the literature survey is put to note and the following references are worth mentioning.

**Rekha Goankar**(2001)in her study concluded that the movement of SHGs can significantly contribute towards the reduction of poverty and unemployment in the rural sector of the economy and the SHGs can lead to social transformation in terms of economic development and the social change.

**Naila kabeer** (2005) in a study apparently concludes that while access to financial services can and does make important contributions to the economic productivity and social wellbeing of poor women and their households,it does not “automatically”empower women – any more than do education, political quotas, access to waged work or any of the other interventions. It has been observed by

**M.Anjugam** (2007) that socially backward, landless and marginal farm house holds participate more in the self help group programme. Possession of livestock and consumer goods by the member households has been found to deter the joining of group.

**Gladis Mary John** (2008) found that membership in SHG inculcated a great confidence in the mind of majority of women to succeed in day to day life. Positive change was found in the attitude of relatives and friends towards the women in self help groups.

### 3. STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Several studies indicate that self help group programmes often in the form of credit or micro credit schemes and savings have succeeded in changing the lives of poor women by making way for enhanced income and increased self esteem. This is evident from the mushrooming growth of self- help groups in the state. This study is undertaken to analyse the structure, conduct and performance of self help groups and their impact on the women in krishnagiri district, Tamilnadu.

### 4. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this study are:

1. To study the socio-economic profile of SHG women in Krishnagiri Dt.
2. To evaluate the structure conduct and performance of self help groups in the study area.
3. To analyze the impact of SHGs in women in Krishnagiri Dt.

### 5. METHODOLOGY

The study is analytical based on collection of data from both primary and secondary sources. Primary data is collected from well structured questionnaire, Secondary data is obtained from various published and unpublished records, books ,journals and information given by the Mahalir thittam office krishnagiri. Multi stage purposive and random sampling has been adopted for the present study. At the first stage all the five taluks have been selected for the study. 20 women self help groups (WSHG) established in not less than 1 year have been randomly selected from each taluk. 6 respondents who are member of the group for at least one year and taken at least one loan have been randomly selected from each group. Thus 100 respondents are selected for the present study.

### 6. WORKING OF SHGs

The SHGs in India are small, informal and homogenous groups of not more than twenty members each. Among them a member is selected as an “animator” and two members are selected as representatives. The animator is selected for a period of two years. Members of the group meet every week. They discuss social and community programmes, group savings, rotation of funds, bank loan and repayment of loan. The group members are encouraged to make voluntary thrift on a regular basis. These pooled resources are used to make small interest bearing loans to their members. The process helps them imbibe the essentials of financial intermediation including prioritization of needs, setting terms and condition, and accounts keeping. This gradually builds financial discipline in all of them. Once the groups show this mature financial behavior, banks are encouraged to make loans to the SHG in certain multiples of the accumulated savings of the SHG. The bank loans are given without any collateral and at market interest rates.

### 7. SHGs IN THE STUDY AREA

Present study has been conducted in krishnagiri district of Tamil Nadu. This district has been chosen, as it had the history of SHG movement being started in a small way in krishnagiri district in 1989 in the entire state. The success of the Project encouraged extending the project to other areas. The Tamil Nadu Corporation for Women Development.TNCDW is the nodal agency implementing the SHG programme in Tamil Nadu. Its main aim is to empower the women economically, socially and also ensure skill development through training.The self help groups in the district are formed through NGOs, who help in the formation of SHGs, provide training and monitor the SHGs. The NGOs are provided formation cost and monitoring cost for the above activities. The NGOs who are interested in partnering with TNCDW for implementation of Mahalir Thittam are affiliated. There are more than 20 NGOs affiliated in this scheme in the district, the number of groups being formed increases day by day. Apart from the NGO the District rural development agency (DRDA) and the TNCDW also assist in the formation of SHGs.

**TABLE I - SOCIO ECONOMIC PROFILE OF SHG MEMBERS**

Age group	No.of respondents	Percentage
Below 20 years	13	10.4%
20-30 years	24	19.2%
30-40 years	56	44.8%
40-50 years	19	15.2%
50 – 60 years	10	8%
Above 60 years	3	2.4%

The study reveals that out of 125 respondents selected for the study, 10.4% of the members are below 20 years of age. 19.2% of the members are in between 20 to 30 years. 44.8% of the members are in the age group of 30 to 40 years. 15.2% of the members are in the age group of 40 to 50 years. 8% of them are in the age group of 50 to 60 years. 2.4% of them are above 60 years.

**TABLE – 2. EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS**

Educational qualifications	No.of respondents	Percentage
Illiterates	6	4.8%
informal education	7	5.6%
Class 1-5	12	9.6%
Class 5-9	20	16%
SSLC	41	32.8%
Upto +2	16	12.8%
Undergraduates	13	10.4%
Others	10	8%

4.8% of the members are illiterates. 5.6% of the members have no formal education but know to read and write. 9.6% of the respondents have education from class 1 to 5. 16% are in the category of 5 to 9 classes. 32.8% of them are educated to SSLC. Level. 12.8% of them have education up to plus two. 10.4% of the respondents are undergraduates. 8% of the respondents have other type of education like teacher training ITI and the like.

**TABLE -3 MARITAL STATUS**

Marital status	No.of respondents	Percentage
Unmarried	36	28.8%
Married	64	51.2%
Widow	18	14.4%
Divorcee	7	5.6%

28.8% of the respondents are unmarried. 51.2% of them are married. 14.4% of them are widow. 5.6% of the respondents are divorcee.

**TABLE -4 INCOME OF RESPONDENTS**

Income of respondents	No.of respondents	Percentage
Below Rs.30,000	31	24.8%
Rs.30,000-Rs.50,000	52	41.6%
Rs.50,000-Rs.75,000	22	17.7%
Rs.75,000-Rs.1,00,000	17	13.6%
Above Rs.1,00,000	3	2.4%

Regarding the family annual income 24.8% of the respondents family annual income is below Rs.30,000. 41.6% of the respondents family income is from Rs 30, 000 to 50,000 per annum. 17.7% of them have a family income between Rs 50,000 to 75,000 per annum. 13.6% of the respondents family income range is between Rs 75,000 to 1,00, 000 per annum. 2.4% of the respondents family annual income is above Rs1,00,000 (Source: primary data).

## 8. ANALYSIS OF DATA

Average and percentage analysis was carried out to draw meaningful interpretation of the results.

### STRUCTURE, CONDUCT AND PERFORMANCE OF SHGS DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONDENTS ON THE BASIS OF AGE OF THE GROUP.

TABLE-V Distribution of the Respondents on the Basis of Age of the Group

Age of the group No. of respondents Percentage

Age of the group	No of respondents	Percentage
Below 3years	24	19.2%
3-5 years	66	52.8%
Above 5 years	35	28%

Source: primary data

Majority of the respondents 52.8% belong to the groups which were established 3-5 years. 28% of the respondents belong groups with a age of above 5 years. 19.2% of the respondents groups were established less than three years ago.

### DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONDENTS ON THE BASIS OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE GROUP

Membership in a group	No of respondents	Percentage
Below 2 years	20	16%
2-3 years	56	44.8%
3-5 years	28	22.4%
5-7 years	13	10.4%
Above 7 years	8	6.4%

**Source: primary data**

16% of the respondents are members in the group of below 2 years, 44.8% of the respondents are members in the group for 2-3 years, and 22.4 % of the respondents are members in the group of 3-5 years. 10.4 % of the members are in the group for 5-7 years. 6.4% of the respondents are in the group for above 7 years.

### SIZE OF THE LATEST LOAN TAKEN

Size of loan	No.of respondents	Percentage
Less than Rs.5,000	13	10.4%
Rs.5,000 – Rs.10,000	67	53.6%
Rs.10,000-15,000	22	17.6%
Rs.15,000-Rs.20,000	5	4%
Above Rs.20,000	18	14.4%

**Source: primary data**

Regarding the latest loan taken by the respondents majority of them 53.6% have taken loan above Rs.5,000 – Rs.10,000. 17.6% of the respondents have taken loan from Rs.10,000-15000. 14.4% of the respondents have taken loan from above Rs.20,000. 10.4% of the respondents have taken loan from below Rs5000. Only 4% of the members have taken loan from Rs.15,000 – Rs.20,000.

### Results and Findings

1. The results indicate that to raise their status level in society is the prime reason for Respondents joining the SHG, followed by to promote income generating activities.
2. Majority of the respondents were experienced 44.8% belong to the groups which were established before 2-3 years.
3. Majority of the respondents 53.6% have taken Rs.5,000 to Rs.10,000 loans.

## 9. CONCLUSION

The study shows that the main reason for joining SHG is not be merely to get just credit, it in an empowerment process after joining the self help group the women are economically and socially empowered. This empowerment cannot be transformed or delivered it must be self generated such that it enables those who are empowered to take control over their lives. As cited by Karl Empowerment is a process of awareness and capacity building leading to greater participation, to greater decision making power and control, and to transformative action.

## 10. REFERENCES

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