

An Analytical Study On Micro-Entrepreneurs And The Role Of Tamil Nadu Corporations For Women Development With Reference To Self Help Groups

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ABSTRACT:

This paper highlights various issues of Micro Entrepreneurs. It is indispensable for modern and high tech enterprises to pay full concentration not only in products innovation, marketing channels, market and services, but also they need to improve the research and development ability on market and product. It is a knowledge based economy in which intellectual capital appears as the most important resources needed in entrepreneurs activities. The challenge of globalization has made it vital for India to move towards knowledge based economy in the fields of small, medium and micro entrepreneurs.

AB: ME-Micro Entrepreneurs; KBE-Knowledge based economy; SMME-Small, Medium, Micro Entrepreneurs, IC-Intellectual Capital

INTRODUCTION:

In the world, there are several business opportunities in different countries in which India is one of the fastest growing economies having a huge entrepreneurial potentiality for Micro-Entrepreneurs. (ME). What is ME? A Micro Enterprise is an

enterprise where investment in plant and machinery does not exceed Rs.25 lakh, the micro enterprises engaged in service sector need an investment of Rs.10 lakh. These types of micro enterprises are suitable for Women Self Help Groups (WSHGs) who are engaging in group activities. The Panchayat Level Federations (PLF) which consist of group of WSHGs are more suitable for group oriented Entrepreneurship on the basis of cooperative system. Tamil Nadu State Government's Mahalir Thittam has planned to promote employment opportunities to rural women through "ONE VILLAGE, ONE PRODUCT" concept; and 5 clusters will be promoted in each district..(www.tncwd.org.2012)

The actual facts of women SHGs are not having business skills and background. They need guidance and training in for suitable business ventures and profitable business ideas, marketing trends, accountability, investments and government policies. Training and skill developments are important techniques to develop any business units. They are a continuous process for sustainability in the competitive world. To overcome the problems in the micro entrepreneurship, group oriented business enterprises are suitable for Women SHGs to promote and sustain micro enterprises for their survival.

The necessity for women self help groups indispensable for the economic development in India. The number of poor people in India, according to the country's Eleventh National Development Plan, amounts to more than 300 million. The country has been successful in reducing the proportion of poor people from about 55 per cent in 1973 to about 27 per cent in 2004. But almost one third of the country's population of more than 1.1 billion continues to live below the poverty line, and a large proportion of poor people live in rural areas. Poverty remains a chronic condition for almost 30 per cent of India's rural population. The incidence of rural poverty has declined somewhat over the past three decades as a result of rural to urban migration.

Poverty is deepest among members of scheduled castes and tribes in the country's rural areas. In 2005 these groups accounted for 80 per cent of poor rural people, although their share in the total rural population is much smaller. On the map of poverty in India, the poorest areas are in parts of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal.

Large numbers of India's poorest people live in the country's semi-arid tropical region. In this area shortages of water and recurrent droughts impede the transformation of agriculture that the Green Revolution has achieved elsewhere. There is also a high incidence of poverty in flood-prone areas such as those extending from eastern Uttar Pradesh to the Assam plains, and especially in northern Bihar.

Poverty affects tribal people in forest areas, where loss of entitlement to resources has made them even poorer. In coastal fishing communities people's living conditions are deteriorating because of environmental degradation, stock depletion and vulnerability to natural disasters. A major cause of poverty among India's rural people, both individuals and communities, is lack of access to productive assets and financial resources. High levels of illiteracy, inadequate health care and extremely limited access to social services are common among poor rural people. Microenterprise development, which could generate income and enable poor people

to improve their living conditions, has only recently become a focus of the government.

Women in general are the most disadvantaged people in Indian society, though their status varies significantly according to their social and ethnic backgrounds. Women are particularly vulnerable to the spread of HIV/AIDS from urban to rural areas. In 2005 an estimated 5.7 million men, women and children in India were living with HIV/AIDS. Most of them are in the 15-49 age group and almost 40 per cent of them, or 2.4 million in 2008, are women (National AIDS Control Organisation

REVIEW OF LITERATURES:

According to **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 Women 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 intervene. In *developing* countries, **micro enterprises** comprise the vast majority of the small business sector. These micro entrepreneurs operate micro enterprises not by choice, but out of necessity. Micro enterprises add value to a country's economy by creating jobs, enhancing income, strengthening purchasing power, lowering costs and adding business convenience. Countries like India, the speedy urbanization leads to devastation to agricultural related activities. It causes rural unemployment and poverty. Micro enterprises in this scenario, is an essential element for rural women to get employed and earn for their livelihood.

Micro enterprises typically have a little to no access to the commercial banking sector, they often rely on "micro-loans" or micro credit in order to be financed. Microfinance institutions often finance these small loans, particularly in the Third World. Those who run micro enterprises are usually referred to as ‘entrepreneurs.’

Leo Paul DANA,(2006) entrepreneurship differs greatly across Asia. Cultural values, government policy and a variety of other factors, including a nation’s colonial experience, affect entrepreneurship.

In developing countries like India, macro economic problems like over-population, poverty alleviation, unemployment etc., can be solved using production made by “Masses Approach” than by “ Mass Production”(**Ganesan N.and Dr.Jaffar 2004**). Hence, the SHGs are more suitability to start micro enterprises by themselves.

Micro enterprises are employment generating sectors at low cost capital. It is true that micro and small enterprises are accepted as the engines of sustained economic growth for promoting economic development. Micro finance activities are economic activities in developing empowerment of women. SHGs are not only micro-credit groups but also a **Social Security** Groups with the motto of “SAVINGS

FIRST AND CREDIT NEXT.” It is vivid clear that the study reveals a truth that the income earned by women solely goes to the maintenance of their home when compare to men who's earning only a part is being spent for the development of the home. Women are real assets in the family. They are the builders of the home. Most of the family still lives in the earnings of women.

A female entrepreneur also faces several societal issues; harassment is a major problem for them in many countries. Sexual harassment remains a common **complaint (Mordi et al., 2010).**

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.

The SHGs have been recognized as useful tool to help the poor and as an alternative mechanism to meet the urgent credit needs of poor through thrift (**N. Thalavai pillai and S. Nadarajan 2010**)

Laoyan Chen (1999) The study shows that Chinese women in rural areas have increasingly adopted co-operatives as a form of organization in their effort to address the problem for their lack of access to resources including land, credit, jobs,, training and information and to participate in the main stream economy as an organized force.

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 (Karl,1995).

Women entrepreneurs, who were confined to traditional areas like food, fruits, vegetables, pickles, papads, tailoring etc., have shifted to non-traditional areas like engineering, jewellery, handicraft, electronics, manufacturing etc. (**Choudhary.N, 2009**)

Entrepreneurship development can be taken up in three ways. (**Shashi.V etal. 2009**)

1. Promotion of agricultural oriented entrepreneurship
2. Promotion of Non-Agri-entrepreneurship.
3. Development of SHG Promotion of Agri entrepreneurship

The essence to empower rural women lies in catalyzing appropriate economic activities at the grass root level and creating new opportunities for them to earn higher income in order to improve their standard of living. (**Srivaman.V.P 2007**)

Sathiyabama K, (2010), in her research on “ Rural Women empowerment and Entrepreneurship Development ”, points out “ The economic empowerment of women is being regarded these days as a Sine-quo-non of progress for a country; hence, the issue of economic empowerment of women is of paramount importance to political thinkers, social scientists and reformers. The Self Help Groups (SHGs) have

paved the way for economic independence of rural women. The members of SHGs are involved in Micro – Entrepreneurships”

Micro enterprises not only increase national productivity, generate employment but also help to develop economic independence. **(Impact of micro-finance-www.ijrcm.org.in-2012)**

” **Shivaji Sengupta (2009-10)**, in his deliberations on “ Fostering Empowerment through Entrepreneurship ” suggests “ There are couple of ways in going about the empowerment of youth. The first is of course by encouraging our agricultural sector which has enormous potential to be more efficient in supply chain thereby providing more benefit to the farmers and the second being in terms of enhancing the output of our farmlands thereby helping our small farmers be more self reliant.

Cantillon (1755) described entrepreneurs as absorbing uncertainty caused by changing conditions, and thus contributing to the welfare of society. The aristocrat industrialist, Jean Baptiste Say, defined the entrepreneur as the agent who “unites all means of production and who finds the value of the products...the re-establishment of the entire capital he employs, and the value of the wages, the interest, and the rent which he pays, as well as the profits belonging to himself (Say, 1816, pp. 28–29).”

Dzisi (2008) gives the definition of entrepreneurship from the economic point of view, quoting the definition given by Schumpeter and Kirzner. “**Schumpeter (1934)** described the entrepreneur as the innovator who introduces something new into an economy” and “...**Kirzner (1997)** – authors” own addition) stressed the fact that the entrepreneur is the decision maker in a particular cultural context, who commands a range of behaviours that exploit these opportunities wards becoming laborers.”

Jean Baptiste Say, in his book, entrepreneurship refers to economic undertaking; this is based on the classical definition of the word, which can be traced to the German *unternehmung* literally translated as undertaking. The agents of entrepreneurship are entrepreneurs, from the **French *entre preneurs***, literally meaning “between takers.” The flagships of entrepreneurship are small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

Nitin Arora explained in the article the entrepreneur life cycle, prospecting and experiences about entrepreneurship venture capital starting up of an entrepreneurial journey entails a process where one has to deal with ambiguities at regular basis. And these ambiguities remain even after the so called scaling up process only the nature of challenges change. Transparency, commitment and passion are important in all stages of entrepreneurial life cycle and help to keep the flock together and energized.

Numerous authors have recognized entrepreneurship as important to small business enterprises (**Ligthelm, (2008)**; **Kongolo, (2010)**; **Sebikari, (2014b:12)**. **Kongolo (2010)** suggested that both small business and entrepreneurship form the hub of economic development by absorbing productive resources at all levels of the economy.

Acs and Armington, (2006) define entrepreneurship as "the process by which agents transform knowledge into wealth through new firm formation and growth, and then reconstitute wealth into opportunity for others".

According to **Marlow, (2002)** entrepreneurship is not just confined to any one gender, the multi-faceted economic pressures borne by women have forced them to retrospect and realize that the survival of their families and their own potential is possible only if they move shoulder to shoulder with the men.

The Institute of Development Alternatives, in their livelihood assessment report (2004) on " Tamil Nadu Empowerment and Poverty Reduction Project (TNEPRP) " states that " The tenth five-year plan identified the priority and thrust area for attaining the goal of reducing rural poverty, organizing the rural masses into self-help groups and the establishment of micro-enterprises, training, credit linkages, market support etc. The tenth plan also identified strengthening of Grama Sabha, (Village Meeting) the governing body of village assembly as an agency of social audit and to review the implementation of rural poverty reduction programmes. As a special strategy for developing women and children, empowerment of women through self-help groups has been identified as a thrust area during the tenth plan.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The present study has objectives, to know the Women Entrepreneurship Development in Kanchipuram District of Tamil Nadu, to assess the role played by SHGs in Women Entrepreneurship Development, to find the answer for women backwardness and various issues to suggest measures on it. The study also highlights the role of Tamil Nadu government in promoting women entrepreneurship.

Methodology of the study:

The present paper is based on primary and secondary data collected from different sources and specially focus on women entrepreneurship. For collecting primary data, the questionnaire has been used. Cronbach's Alpha Test conducted for the Reliability of the data. **Value (.884)**

The researcher also used observation and note making techniques to complete primary data. The collected data has been analyzed through statistical techniques i.e. SPSS, EXCEL and conclusion were down. For Sample design, a Non-Probability sampling technique of Convenience Sampling methods is used. Hence, the possibility of sampling error is inevitable.

LIMITATION OF THE STUDY:

The study is limited to only one District which has large numbers of Women SHGs and samples are selected only 600 out of 13 blocks which consists total numbers of 29,268 as on in 2012-13 Ref: Table:1.

Table:1. Distribution of sample size in Block level at Kanchipuram District:

Sl.No.	Taluk	No.of SHGs	No.of Respondents	%	Average
1	Kanchipuram	2450	50	8.3	49
2	Uthiramerur	2250	45	7.5	50
3	Kattankulathur	2868	60	10	47.80
4	Achirapakkam	1940	40	6.7	48.50
5	Thirukazhukundram	2106	40	6.7	52.65
6	Chithamur	1126	20	3.3	56.30
7	Sriperumbathur	2303	50	8.3	46.06
8	Madurantakam	2956	60	10	49.27
9	St.Thomas Mount	2153	45	7.5	47.84
10	Thirupporur	2670	60	10	44.50
11	Lathur	1340	25	4.2	53.60
12	walajabad	2755	55	9.2	50.09
13	Padappai	2351	50	8.3	47.02
	Total	29,268	600	100%	

Source: primary data: and secondary data from BDO offices.

THE ROLE OF TAMIL NADU GOVERNMENT FOR WOMEN SHGs::

It is very encouraging to note down the Tamil Nadu Government's notification on SHGs' one product and one Logo. The Tamil Nadu government has lined up several initiatives to encourage more women entrepreneurs in the state, the most significant being increasing lending through co-operatives, launching a new, common brand name and logo for products made by self-help groups (SHGs), and reservation of 30 per cent of plots for women entrepreneurs in upcoming industrial estates. The Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of women (TNCDW) was established in 1983 with the prime objective of bringing about socio-economic development and empowerment of women. The Corporation implements Mahalir Thittam, IFAD assisted Post Tsunami Sustainable Livelihoods Programme and also SGSY, a major anti-poverty programme meant for self employment of rural poor.

In order to bring about greater synergy and better coordination in implementing various schemes for Self Help Groups, Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women Ltd was brought under the control of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department from July 2006. Further the Board of TNCDW was broad based and reconstituted vide G.O.Ms.No:148, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (CGS-II) Department, dated 12.10.2006 to include representatives from industry, NGO sector, Banks and Specialists who can positively guide the Corporation with their valuable inputs.

The state government has decided to bring all SHG products under one brand name and logo, to capture urban niche markets for SHG-made products. At present, producer-SHG use their own labels and market the product on their own. This hinders the marketing of SHG products on a larger scale owing to fragmented availability under various labels.

Mahalir Thittam' (which means 'women's scheme') is a SHG-based programme whose aim is poverty reduction among women, is fully funded by the state government. Under this project, women are grouped into SHGs, offered systematic training and provided with bank credit for taking up income generation activities. In the state, the Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women has promoted SHG-made products by providing market intelligence, conducting product surveys, providing exhibition space, and advising on value addition and packaging. In 2012-13, more attention was paid to creating new avenues for marketing of SHG products through brand promotion, standardisation, labeling, e-commerce, campus exhibitions and promotion of an institutional framework for marketing.

So far, 5,56,000 SHGs have been formed under Mahalir Thittam across the state and around 8.5 million women are members,. The SHGs are provided adequate and timely credit at reasonable interest rates to further their economic activities and prevent them from falling into a debt trap. SHGs, if they are given a satisfactory credit rating by the rural development department, become eligible for credit from banks.

So far, Rs 19,417.57 crore has been provided as credit to SHGs in the state, with more than Rs 8,000 crore of this having been loaned in the last two years alone. The state government has also decided to offer an additional capital subsidy of five per cent (over and above the regular subsidy), subject to a maximum of Rs 2,00,000, to enterprises set up by women.

Mahalir Thittam is implemented in partnership with NGOs who help in formation of SHGs, provide training and monitor them. The NGOs are given funds for providing the above services. Interested NGOs are affiliated as partners with Mahalir Thittam if they satisfy the norms for affiliation. The hallmark of the SHGs promoted by Mahalir Thittam is the systematic training provided to the SHG members and the office bearers. This capacity building brings about qualitative changes in the attitude of the women and promotes cohesion and effective functioning of the group.

All the SHG members are imparted training in 4 modules for 4 days to orient them to the SHG concept. The office bearers of the SHGs (Animator and Representative) are given training in 3 modules for 6 days. This training enhances the leadership quality, team building spirit and capacity to maintain books of accounts. In addition, SHG members who are interested in starting economic activities or develop skills to get self employment are provided skill training. The skill training includes a 5 day capsule on entrepreneurial development.

Women and Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship refers to a creative approach in business. Exploring and discovering new business opportunities, managing the enterprise exactly, taking risks and successfully introducing innovations are the entrepreneurial function. Women entrepreneurs may be defined as a woman or groups of women who initiate, organize and run a business enterprise. Women entrepreneurship makes them economically strong and gives the freedom to take decisions since women entrepreneurs initiate, organize and operate the business enterprise. The Government of India has defined women enterprise as an industrial unit where one or a group of women owned at least 51 per cent share in the capital and at least 51 per cent employment generated by the

enterprise should be for women only. Women entrepreneurs, who were confined to traditional areas like food, fruits, vegetables pickles, papads, tailoring etc., have shifted to non-traditional areas like engineering, jewellery, handicraft, electronics, manufacturing etc. (Choudhary.N, 2009)

SHG-banking linkage model is an important model of micro-finance which helps their members to start their own business. SHGs in rural area have empowered illiterate and poor women by linking them to the main stream banking system. Most women remain deprived of employment opportunities as wage workers because of their family responsibilities, social and cultural barriers. In this context, self-employment or setting up enterprise of their own may become an opportunity for women, to get an income and to acquire financial security in this regard Self Help Groups can play major role and development of entrepreneurship can help reduce the problem of unemployment and several social problems in the society that go with it. It ultimately helps in women entrepreneurship. It is the process where women take lead and organize a business or industry and provide employment opportunities to other

Table:2. Women Entrepreneurs Aailed Loan From Banks for Business Purpose:

Sl.no	Business Venture	No. of women Entrepreneurs and Individual share in Rs.	Amount Sanctioned. Rs	%	Average
1	Dairy Farming	62	12,40,000	22.42	20,000
2	Vegetable Vendors	74	3,70,000	6.69	5,000
3	Incense sticks and Candle making	36	1,80,000	3.25	5,000
4	Petty shop	46	4,60,,000	8.31	(10000)
5	Small scale industries	20	2,00,000	3.61	10,000
6	Flower vendors	46	2,30,000	4.16	5,000
7	Phenoil, Surf making	30	3,00,000	5.42	10,000
8	Tailoring	30	3,00,000	5.42	10,000
9	Fish Vendors	56	2,80,000	5.06	5,000
10	Goat rearing	42	4,20,000	7.60	10,000
11	Handicrafts	34	3,40,000	6.15	10,000
12	Catering and Tiffin shop	32	6,40,000	11.57	20,000
13	Clothe reselling	22	2,20,000	3.98	10,000
14	Papad and pickle	23	1,15,000	2.07	5,000
15	others	47	2,35,000	4.25	5,000
	Total	600	55,30,000	100	

Source: Field Study.

The above table depicts that the loan availed by the Dairy farmers are larger than other entrepreneurs.(22.42%),the entrepreneurs who run catering business got more credit followed by the dairy farmers.(11.57%) and the people who run petty shop got adequate loan from the bank to run the business.(8.31%). Others mean the people who got the loan but not entered into entrepreneurship activities which constitute (4.25%).

Table.3. Women Entrepreneurs' Monthly Income and Expenditure on Average basis.

Sl.no	Business Venture	No. of women Entrepreneurs	Amount of monthly income Rs.	Amount of monthly Expenditure Rs.	Savings per
1	Dairy Farming	62	57,000	37,000	20,000
2	Vegetable Vendors	74	12,000	7,000	5,000
3	Incense sticks and Candle making	36	12,000	7,000	5,000
4	Petty shop	46	18,000	8,000	(10000)
5	Small scale industries	20	22,000	10,000	10,000
6	Flower vendors	46	7,000	2,000	5,000
7	Phenoil, Surf making	30	22,000	11,000	11,000
8	Tailoring	30	15,000	5,000	10,000
9	Fish Vendors	56	18,000	6,000	12,000
10	Handicrafts	34	22,000	10,000	10,000
11	Catering and Tiffin shop	32	38,000	20,000	18,000
12	Clothe reselling	22	25,000	15,000	10,000
13	Papad and pickle	23	7,000	2,000	5,000
14	others	89	Not involved in regular income based activities		2,000
	Total	600			

Source: Field Survey.

Table: 3 give an encouraging result in women entrepreneurship activities. If the women members successfully involve in entrepreneurship activity, it is very clear that they can get good income and develop economic activity. It gives sustainability in group oriented ventures.

Dairy farming is high income generating venture, in which the members are the owners of having nearly three to four buffaloes and cows. (Rs.20,000. savings)

They supply to local milk producers which are basically run by co-operatives. Investment in flower shop, fish vendors, papad making and candle making are in expensive and high income yielding ventures.(Rs.5,000, savings) and investment where ever needs more the income also seem to be increasing.. It is also noted that there are 89 members (14.8%) not involved in any regular entrepreneurship activities, but they do household and labour works. Some go for MGNREGS (*Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme*)

Tabel:4.. IMPACT ON SHG MEMBERS' LIFE STYLE:

IMPACT IN LIFE STYLE	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DIS-AGREE	NUETRAL	TOTAL
Improvement in Quality life	324 (54)	228 (38)	12 (2)	00	36(6)	600 (100%)
Improvement in Economic status	316 (52.6)	236 (39)	10 (1.6)	00	38 (6.3)	600 (100%)
Improvement in Decision making	328 (54.6)	244(40.6)	8(1.3)	00	20 (3.3)	600 (100%)
Improvement in Leadership quality	312 (52)	264 (44)	6(1).	00	18(3)	600 (100%)
Improvement in Social participation	332 (55)	248(41)	4(0.6)	00	16 (2.6)	600 (100%)
Improvement in Respect and Recognition in the family	286 (47.6)	260 (43)	14(2.3)	00	40 (6.6)	600 (100%)

Source: PRIMARY DATA:

According to the Table:4. It seems that the SHGs' schemes have influenced the individual members' standard of living. Most of the members of the SHGs strongly agree (more than 50%) that total improvement in quality life, economic status, decision making, leadership quality and recognition in the family. It shows a positive outlook on the impact on SHG Members' life. As per the study, SHGs provide multiple opportunities for women empowerment in rural areas.

Table:5. Age Composition of Women SHG Members;

Sl.No.	Age Groups	No.of Respondents	%
1	18-30	264	44
2	31-40	208	35
3	41-50	84	14
4	51-60	44	07
	Total	600	100

Source: primary data.

The age of the women members are mostly 18 to 30 years old. They are very active in functioning.

Table:6. Mode of Repayment

Sl.No.	Mode of Repayment	No.of Respondents	%
1	Prompt repayment in time	420	70
2	Delay in repayment	165	27.5
3	Defaulters	15	2.5
	Total	600	100

Source: primary data.

A great success of SHGs is on the prompt repayment culture by the members. 98% members are repaying the loan. Only 2.5% are defaulters due to migration. The Govt. gives subsidies for the members who are repaying the loan along with savings in time.

Findings and Suggestions:

Researchers were found many problems in women entrepreneurs development. Some of which are discussed as follows and the relevant measures to overcome these problems are also discussed herewith.

1. Women have many restrictions and social taboos, they are not supported much to undertake entrepreneurship by their family members.
2. Women entrepreneurs are always seen with suspicious eyes, particularly in rural areas, they face more social barriers.
3. Banks should, based on field studies, develop loan products considering duration, frequency of repayment, moratorium and supported by adequate working capital.
4. Women lack self-confidence and always feel that they may not be successful and hence hesitate to take risks. Their risk-bearing capacity is always less..
5. Low-level risk taking attitude is another factor affecting women folk decision to get into business.

6. Improvement in Quality life when they joined in the SHG movement
7. Women entrepreneurs have low-level management skills but they have less achievement motivations.
8. Government should create Institutional infrastructure to help microfinance-clients generate additional income
9. SHGs should undertake skill development and training to involve in income generating activities
10. Women entrepreneurs have lack of knowledge about availability of raw material, financial facilities and Government help and subsidy etc. they have lack knowledge of advanced technology also.
11. It is necessary to establish Microfinance Bank in public sector to assist only the SHGs as is in some countries of Asia and Africa.
12. Loans for non-income generation cannot help borrowers repay high-cost loans but add financial burden and incr.
13. Most microfinance loans should be for income-generating activities to enable borrowers to acquire income generating assets and supported by adequate working capital and moratorium period eases rate of delinquency
14. It is very essential to educate the SHG members on money management, importance of savings with banks and availing other financial services including bank loan products, timely repayment of loan with interest, restructuring of debt etc.
15. SHGs have increased in asset creation of its members after joining.
16. There are considerable impact on increase of average annual net income, savings, employment generated per household.
17. Members have a good repayment performance
18. There is a reduction in availing multiple loans and loans from informal sources with higher interest rates.
19. There is a degree of social empowerment of women in terms of self-confidence, participation in decision-making in matters related to family welfare, economic activities etc.
20. It is essential to assess the total loan requirements of an SHG for a period of say 3 years through a business plan.
21. SHGs that are successfully running the business enterprises for more than three years are entitled to get Government subsidies.
22. Many entrepreneurs used to borrow from informal money lenders on high interest rates.
23. Local money lenders collect the loan amount from the clients on the weekly basis.
24. Many entrepreneurs get multiple loans from different money lenders. It leads inability to save and develop the business enterprises.
25. It seems that increased level of defaults on repayment of loan from the small entrepreneurs who availed loan from the bank.

The above problems can be solved by undertaking following measures; With increasing educational opportunity among women, giving financial assistance and market facilities, developing of self employment programmes and training, new schemes and subsidies and organizing workshops, conducting research programme etc.,

Frequency Table

Table:1. Age Group in years

Age Group in years		Frequency	Percent
Valid	18-25	62	10.3
	26-35	163	27.2
	36-45	239	39.8
	46-55	81	13.5
	Above 55	55	9.2
	Total	600	100.0

Most of the Women SHG members are at the age group of 36-45 which constitutes nearly 40%, 26-35 are representing 27%, 46-55 are 14%, young age group members mostly are unmarried representing 10% and 9% represents the age group of above 55 and above. In these categories, 40% members who belong to the age group of 36-45% are active group members and they are the leaders and promoters of the groups.

Table:2 Marital status

Marital status of the members		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Married	523	87.2
	Unmarried	77	12.8
	Total	600	100.0

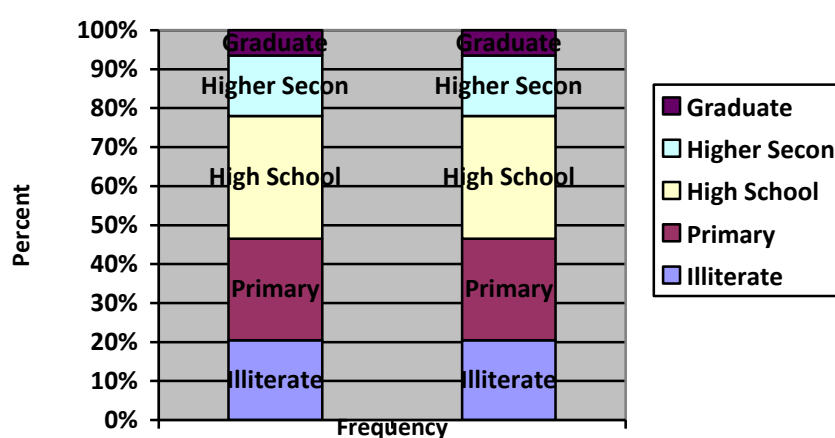
From the above table, out of total respondent, 87% of respondent are married and only 13% are unmarried. The unmarried are usually the age group of below 24 years. They usually well educated and help the illiterate members to fill up the application forms and lead them to the banks and other related activities.

Table:3 Educational Qualification

Educational Qualification		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Illiterate	123	20.5
	Primary	156	26.0
	High School	189	31.5
	HSc	93	15.5
	Graduate	39	6.5
	Total	600	100.0

Out of the total respondent, 21% are illiterate persons, 26% of Women SHG members are primary level and 32% of respondent are High School and below 10th standard, 16% are Higher secondary level and Graduates are 7%. Thus, most of the respondent are High School and primary level. The SHGs run by the educated members are better performing than the non-educated members

Educational Qualification

**Table: 4. Occupations of the Women SHG Members**

Occupation of the Women SHG Members		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Housewife	247	41.2
	Agriculture	192	32.0
	Self Employed	92	15.3
	Industry/Govt Employee	69	11.5
	Total	600	100.0

Out of the total respondent 41% are housewives who are active members and devote more time to develop their groups. 32% represents from agricultural labors. 15% are self employed and mostly on small scale micro entrepreneurs. 12% respondent is industry laborers and Government employees. SHG Members are mostly form the housewives who can devote more time to participate in the group activities.

Table: 5 Land Owners

Land Owners		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Yes	199	33.2
	No	401	66.8
	Total	600	100.0

The table shows that out of the total respondent, 69% of the SHG members are non-land owners and 33% respondent belong to land owners. The formation of Women SHGs is more suitable to Non-Land owners, which will be a substitute to their livelihood.

Table: 6. Live Stock owners

Live Stock owners		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Yes	135	22.5
	No	465	77.5
	Total	600	100.0

Out of total respondent, 78% is non-live stock owners. 22% respondent is having cattle for their livelihood. The joining of SHGs is helping the members to earn for their income.

Table. 7 Savings habit

Savings habit		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Yes	466	77.7
	No	134	22.3
	Total	600	100.0

Out of total respondent 78% of the members are savers. Only 22% are non-savers. The SHGs pave a way for saving habit.

Table: 8 Loan availed before joining SHG

Loan availed before joining SHG		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Yes	260	43.3
	No	340	56.7
	Total	600	100.0

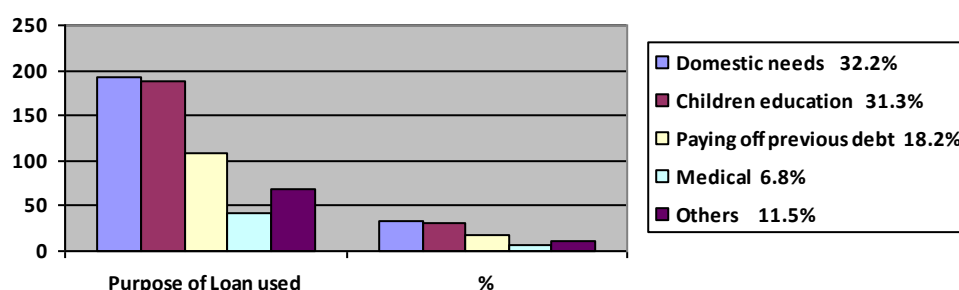
From the above table, 57% of respondent do not avail loan from the bank. Only after joining SHGs they used to get loan from the bank. However 43% of respondent availed loan from bank and other sources. Group activities enable the members to have accessibility to banks.

Table:9 Purpose of loan fully used

Purpose of loan fully used		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Domestic needs	193	32.2
	Children education	188	31.3
	Paying off previous debt	109	18.2
	Medical	41	6.8
	Others	69	11.5
	Total	600	100.0

From the above table, 32% of the respondent utilizes the loan for domestic needs, 31% uses the loan for children's education, 18% of the respondent uses the loan amount for repayment of previous debt. 7% spends the loan for medical purposes and 12% of the respondent utilizes the loan amount for various purposes.

Purpose of loan fully used

**Table: 10 No. of times loan sanctioned by the bank to the member**

No. of times loan sanctioned by the bank to the member		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1	50	8.3
	2	126	21.0
	3	256	42.7
	4	90	15.0
	>= 5	78	13.0
Total		600	100.0

From the above table 43% of the respondent has availed loan from the bank minimum three times since the inception of the SHG, 21% of the respondent has availed loan two times, 15% of the respondent has availed loan from the bank totally four times, 13% of the respondent availed loan from the bank more than 5 times. The members who have received the loan 15% and 13% are belong to the SHGs running for more than 5-8 years. 8% respondent has availed loan only one time. They are certainly new SHGs belong to 1 or 2 years old.

Table: 11. No. of times the member visited the bank

No. of times the member visited the bank		Frequency	Percent
Valid	<= 3	47	7.8
	4	255	42.5
	5	174	29.0
	6	80	13.3
	>= 7	44	7.3
Total		600	100.0

From the above table, 43% of the respondent has used to visit the bank at least four times to get the loan from the bank. 29% of the respondent visits the bank at least five times, 13% of the respondent visits the bank six times, 8% of the members visit the bank at least three times and 7% members visits the bank more than seven times to get the loan.

Table: 12 Amount sanctioned by the bank

Amount sanctioned by the bank		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Below 5000	102	17.0
	5000-10000	222	37.0
	10000-15000	184	30.7
	15000-20000	65	10.8
	Above 20000	27	4.5
Total		600	100.0

From the table, 37% of the respondent gets loan from the bank Rs. 5,000-10,000, 31% of the respondent receives 10,000 – 15,000, 17% of the members receive Rs.5,000 and 11% of the respondent gets Rs.15,000 – 20,000 and 5% of the members receive more than Rs.20,000. 5% of the respondent belongs to either the group leader or promoter of the group.

Table:13 Guidance of the bank

Guidance of the bank		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Very poor	17	2.8
	Poor	36	6.0
	Fair	159	26.5
	Good	246	41.0
	very Good	142	23.7
	Total	600	100.0

Out of total respondent, 41% of the respondent says the guidance of the bank is good, 27% mentions as fair, 24% of the members says very good, 6% of the respondents says the guidance of the bank is poor and 3% of the members mentions as very poor.

Guidance of the bank

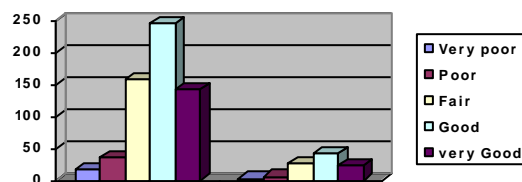


Table: 14. Problems in availing loan

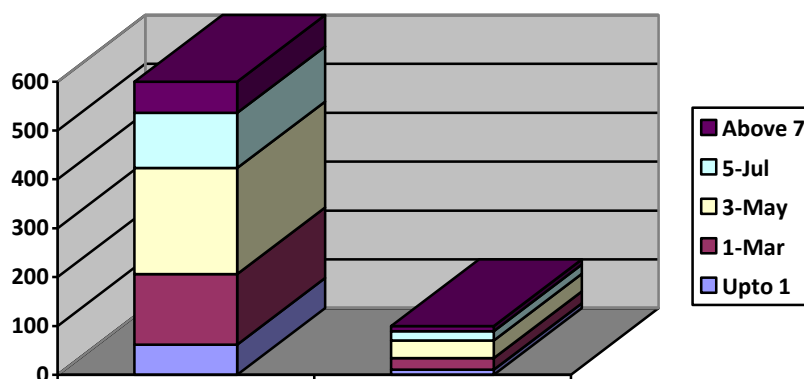
Problems in availing loan		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Yes	335	55.8
	No	265	44.2
	Total	600	100.0

From the above table, 56% of the respondent has accepted as there are problems in availing loan from the bank and 44% of the respondent says there is no problem in availing loan from the bank.

Table: 15. Number of months taken to avail the loan after applying

Number of months taken to avail the loan after applying		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Up to 1	62	10.3
	1-3	144	24.0
	3-5	217	36.2
	5-7	113	18.8
	Above 7	64	10.7
	Total	600	100.0

From the above table, 36% of the respondent says that they have to wait to get the loan from the bank at least three to five months. 24% of the respondent mentions one to three months, 19% of the respondent says that they have to wait to get the loan for five to seven months, 11% of the respondent says more than seven times and 10% are only one time.

Number of months taken to avail the loan after applying**Table:16 . Amount sanctioned by the bank is enough**

Amount sanctioned by the bank is enough		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Yes	135	22.5
	No	465	77.5
	Total	600	100.0

Out of total respondent, 78% of the respondent does not satisfy the amount sanctioned by the bank and 23% of the respondent says the amount sanctioned by the bank is enough.

Table: 17. Income before joining WSHG per month.

Income before joining WSHG per month.		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Below 1000	96	16.0
	1000-2000	164	27.3
	2000-3000	256	42.7
	3000-4000	62	10.3
	Above 4000	22	3.7
	Total	600	100.0

Out of total respondent, 43% of the respondent's income limit per month is Rs.2,000 to 3,000. 27% of the respondent's income per month is Rs.1,000 – 2,000, 16% of the respondent earns below Rs.1,000 per month and 4% of the members' income is above Rs.4,000 per month.

Table: 18 Income after joining WSHG per month

Income after joining WSHG per month		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Below 2000	70	11.7
	2000-4000	196	32.7
	4000-6000	111	18.5
	6000-8000	203	33.8
	Above 8000	20	3.3
	Total	600	100.0

From the above table, 34% of the respondent earns Rs.6,000-8,000 per month, 33% of the respondent earns Rs.2,000 – 4,000, 19% of the respondent earns Rs.4,000 – 6,000, 12% of the respondent earns below Rs.2,000 and 3% of the respondent's income is more than 8,000.

Table: 19. Where did you get the loan before availing from the bank?

Where did you Get the loan before availing from the bank?		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Local Money lenders	380	63.3
	Friends & Relatives	159	26.5
	Others	61	10.2
	Total	600	100.0

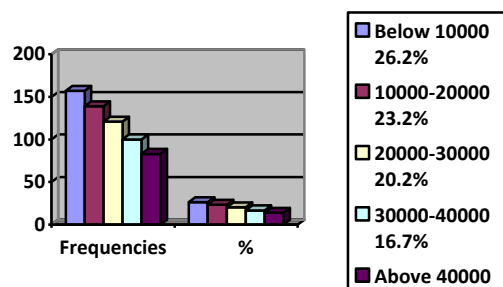
From the above table, 63% of the respondent gets loan from the local money lenders, 27% from friends and relatives, 10% of the respondent get loan from other sources like pawning and mortgaging.

Table: 20 Group Savings per month

Group Savings per month		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Below 10000	157	26.2
	10000-20000	139	23.2
	20000-30000	121	20.2
	30000-40000	100	16.7
	Above 40000	83	13.8
Total		600	100.0

From the above table, 26% of the group is saving below Rs.10,000 (individual's savings), 23% of the group is saving per month Rs.10,000 – 20,000, 17% of the group is saving per month Rs.30,000 – 40,000 and 14% of the group is saving above Rs.40,000

Group Savings per month

**Table: 21 No. of time conducting meeting per year.**

No.of time conducting meeting		Frequency	Percent
Valid	1-2	17	2.8
	3-4	181	30.2
	5-6	160	26.7
	7-8	104	17.3
	Above 8	138	23.0
Total		600	100.0

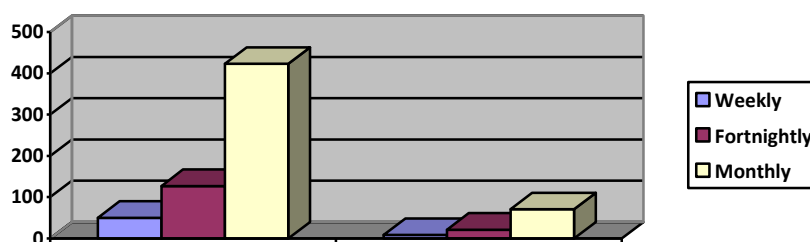
From the above table, 30% of the groups conduct meeting three to four times, 27% of the respondent states that their group is conducting meeting five to six times, 23% of the groups conduct meeting above 8 times in a year and 3% conducts meeting one to two times.

Table: 22 Mode of Repayment

Mode of Repayment		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Weekly	50	8.3
	Fortnightly	127	21.2
	Monthly	423	70.5
	Total	600	100.0

Out of total respondent 71% of the respondent prefers to repay the loan amount monthly, 21 % repay the loan fortnightly and 8% repays weekly.

Mode of Repayment

**Table: 23 Getting Assistance**

Getting assistance		Frequency	Percent
Valid	NGO's	134	22.3
	Banks	396	66.0
	MFI	70	11.7
	Total	600	100.0

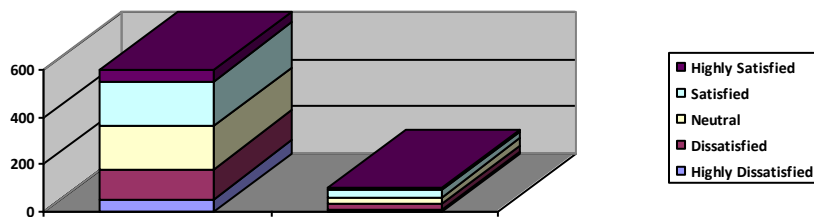
From the above table, 66% of the respondent stated that the banks are the best in giving assistance and guidance in getting loan, 22% of the respondent stated NGOs and 12% stated MFIs

Table: 24 Satisfied with the functioning of Bank

Satisfied with the functioning of Bank		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Highly Dissatisfied	53	8.8
	Dissatisfied	129	21.5
	Neutral	181	30.2
	Satisfied	191	31.8
	Highly Satisfied	46	7.7
	Total	600	100.0

Out of total respondent, 32% of the respondent stated that the functioning of the bank is satisfactory, 30% of the respondent stated that they are Neutral, 22% stated that they are dissatisfied, 9% stated that they are highly dissatisfied, and 8% stated that they are highly satisfied.

Satisfied with the functioning of Bank

**Table: 25 Amount sanctioned by the bank satisfactory**

Amount sanctioned by the bank satisfactory		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Highly Dissatisfied	101	16.8
	Dissatisfied	181	30.2
	Neutral	209	34.8
	Satisfied	67	11.2
	Highly Satisfied	42	7.0
	Total	600	100.0

From the above table, 35% of the respondent felt that they are neutral in deciding the satisfactory factor in the amount sanctioned by the bank, 30% stated that they are totally dissatisfied with the bank in regard to the amount sanctioned. 17% are highly dissatisfied. 11% are satisfied and 7% respondents are highly satisfied.

Table: 26..Husband supporting to join SHG

Husband supporting to join SHG		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Yes	529	88.2
	No	71	11.8
	Total	600	100.0

From the above table, 88% of the respondents' husbands are supporting to join the SHGs and only 12% do not support to join.

Table:27. Experienced problem in SHG

Experienced problem in SHG		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Yes	36	6.0
	No	564	94.0
	Total	600	100.0

Out of total respondent, 94% of the respondent didn't experience any problem in their SHGs, only 6% of the respondent experienced problem in their SHGs.

Table: 28. Quarrel with the family in sharing the loan amount

Quarrel with the family in sharing the loan amount		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Yes	42	7.0
	No	558	93.0
	Total	600	100.0

Out of total respondent, 93% of the respondents do not have any quarrel with the family. But 7% of the respondents have experienced quarrelling in the family.

Table: 29.Qualities are improved after joining SHG

Qualities are improved after joining SHG		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Leadership	123	20.5
	Communication skills	112	18.7
	Courageous	90	15.0
	Entrepreneurship	167	27.8
	Ornisational skills	108	18.0
	Total	600	100.0

From the above table, 28% of the respondent stated that their qualities like Entrepreneurship skills improved, 21% of the respondent stated that their leadership qualities have improved, 19% stated that their qualities of communication skill have developed, and 18% of the respondent stated that Organizational skills have improved.

Qualities are improved after joining SHG

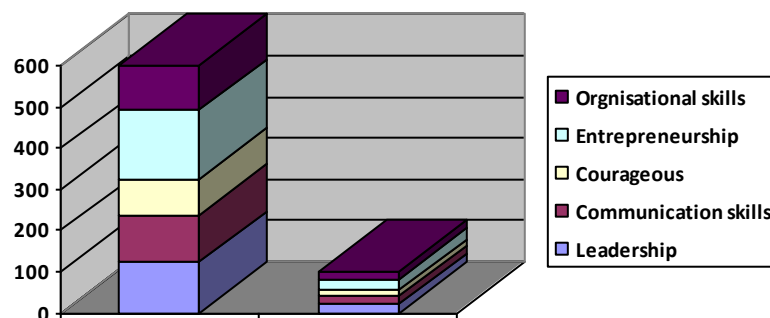
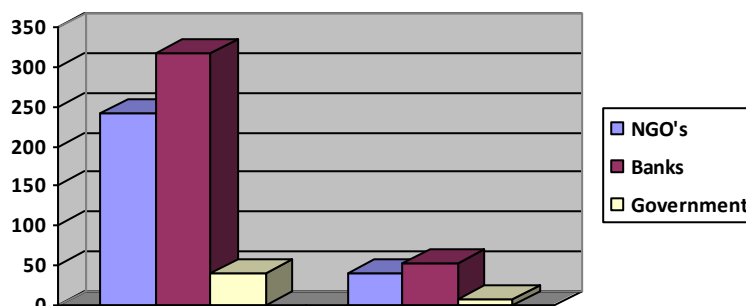


Table: 30 Person better for helping SHGs

Person better for helping SHGs		Frequency	Percent
Valid	NGO's	243	40.5
	Banks	317	52.8
	Government	40	6.7
	Total	600	100.0

From the above table, 53 % of the respondent stated that the banks are the better person in helping, 41 % of the respondent stated NGOs and 7 % stated Government.

Person better for helping SHGs**Table:31. Marketing product**

Marketing product		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Local village	238	39.7
	Town	281	46.8
	SHG Marketing Centre	8	1.3
	Exhibition	42	7.0
	Others	31	5.2
	Total	600	100.0

From the above table, 47% of the respondent are marketing their product in towns, 40% the members marketing their product at local villages, 7% of the respondent are marketing their product in exhibition centers which are promoted by the Govt, and NGOs, 5% of the respondent are marketing their product in other mode of operations like direct selling, weekly markets and customers.

Table:32 Satisfied with economic status after joining SHG

Satisfied with economic status after joining SHG		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Highly Dissatisfied	32	5.3
	Dissatisfied	128	21.3
	Neutral	169	28.2
	Satisfied	184	30.7
	Highly Satisfied	87	14.5
	Total	600	100.0

From the above table, 31% of the respondents have stated that they have satisfied with the economic status after joining SHG, 28 % are not sated any thing above the status, 21% of the respondent have mentioned that they have dissatisfied

with the economic status, 15 of the respondents have highly satisfied with the economic status and 5% only highly dissatisfaction.

Table:33 Satisfied with fully employment after joining SHG

Satisfied with fully employment after joining SHG		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Highly Dissatisfied	63	10.5
	Dissatisfied	120	20.0
	Neutral	157	26.2
	Satisfied	175	29.2
	Highly Satisfied	85	14.2
	Total	600	100.0

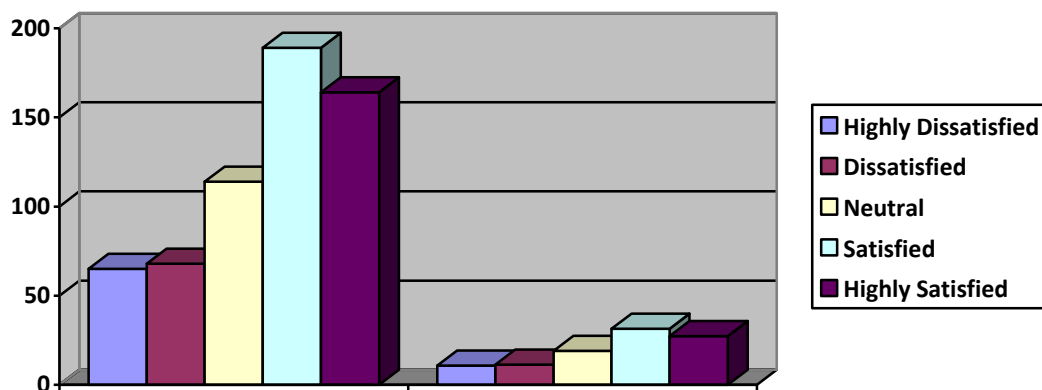
From the above table, 29% of the respondent stated that they are satisfied with fully employment after joining SHG, 26% are neutral in deciding the factor, 20% of the respondent are dissatisfied with the statement, 14% are highly satisfied with fully employment with this statement, and only 11% are highly dissatisfied.

Table:34 SHGs are really helping the women to be self-reliant

SHGs are really helping the women to be self-reliant		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Highly Dissatisfied	65	10.8
	Dissatisfied	68	11.3
	Neutral	114	19.0
	Satisfied	189	31.5
	Highly Satisfied	164	27.3
	Total	600	100.0

Out of total respondent, 32% of the respondent are satisfied to be self-reliant, 27% are highly satisfied, 19% of the respondent are neutral, and 11% and 10.8 % are dissatisfied and highly dissatisfied respectively.

SHGs are really helping the women to be self-reliant



HYPOTHESIS:

Null Hypothesis is accepted @ 5% level and to conclude that the size of membership and age in a group does not distinguish them on SHG Activities and impact on empowerment.

Influence on savings of the individuals to the group factor of Empowerment.

Formation of null hypothesis –H₀

There is no influence on savings of the individuals to the group on the factor of empowerment,

Null hypothesis is rejected @ 5% level when the individual savings is compared with micro – credit activities. But it is accepted @ 5% level when it is compared with other determinants.

CONCLUSION:

India is a country of 7 lakhs villages with more than 120 crore population. It needs sustainable growth to eradicate poverty. Poverty is a social disease. It should be uprooted from the soil. For which micro-credit model of promoting women self help groups play an important role in bringing them into financial inclusion. India's microfinance is still too small to create a massive impact on poverty alleviations. In reality, micro and small enterprises are job creating and eradicating rural unemployment. In this scenario, knowledge based economic activities are indispensable for economic development. Without proper economic activities social upliftment is impossible. The GDP at present in India is only 4.8%. It is expected to grow within three years to 8.5%. For which, micro and small enterprises will play a multiple role in economic growth.

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