

A Detailed Study On Micro Finance As A Tool Of Woman Empowerment**D. Satish Shrivastav**

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Abstract

In globalization era along with increasing global disparity between rich and poor people, it shows that the world has seen the ups and down with rise of a new poverty-fighting strategy. The world over at its culmination of the growing identity of micro finance as an instrument of poverty alleviation in the society at large. After this, micro finance role in poverty eradication as well as empowerment of the poor and weaker sections has gained excellent recognition in many countries and then even in a few developed nations too.

As per above meaning Microfinance organizations, by definition, small loans to help poor individuals/entrepreneurs to start or grow their businesses. It also includes various provisions of their other services such as micro-insurance, savings and other opportunities to the poor. Since micro finance beginnings in the late 1970s, it has spread exponentially worldwide and backing with countless governments along with influential international world organizations such as the United Nations-UN and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Keyword: Globalization, Micro finance, Empowerment, Organizations

Introduction

Now women cover almost 63% of the population in the world and if we see Gender discrimination it is distinct and common in all developed and developing countries in the globe. After independence government has taken various attempts and steps to fulfill their basic amenities for their standard of living still women are in disadvantage mode for their survival, related to their health, nutrition, literacy and productivity.

Women are vital part of the Indian economy, constituting (34%) of the national labour force and forming a major contributor to the survival of family too. It is observed that eighty nine percent (89%) of total female labour are involved in agriculture and allied industrial sector. More than 90 per cent of rural women in India are unskilled, restricting them to low paid occupations-LPO. Due to women's dual responsibilities and their heavy and pressurized work load they generally don't have no control over productivity and assets, which ultimately results into excluding them from dependent on their high cost formal as well as informal sources of credit to secure enough capital for various purposes like consumption and productive.

The Reserve Bank of India-RBI has defined microfinance as provision of thrift and credit services in a very less manner to the poor for raising capital in rural, semi-urban and urban areas for their income levels and improves standards of living at the same time. Microfinance

Institutions are those that provide these types of facilities. A major concern of microfinance in this is to increase, penetrative and outreach which automatically get credit institutionalized and a large number of people can take benefit through improved access to credit for enabling them to raise their income level and thereby improve their living standards too.

The positive aspects of formal financial system in India are that under this system, microfinance is available at very low interest rate income generation with easy and timely and by period repayments and moratorium period-MP. But at the same time, it has been identified the fact that micro finance facilities from recognized financial institutions with their system is not easily available. It has complex legal and operational procedures which exacerbated by the limited influence of poor people who require microfinance. The poor people are unable or fail to inform formal markets about their creditworthiness or about their demand for savings, services and loans. It is irony in this that those who hold power do not understand the demand and those who understand demand do not hold power vice versa. A significant feature of the micro-finance movement in India and their process obviating the need for a new institutional set-up due to less banking facilities. Most of the leading practitioners of micro finance activities follow the Grameen model and is also very much convenient. Bank to local MFI have contacts in small villages. India's bank-SHG link program is now the biggest in the world.

Literature Review

Kabeer. N 26, 2001, asserts that, in order for a woman to be empowered, she needs access to not only have women been historically disadvantaged in access to material resources like credit, property, and money, but they have also been excluded from social resources like education or insider knowledge of some businesses and the material, human, and social resources necessary to make strategic choices in her life. Access to resources alone does not automatically translate into empowerment or equality, however, because women must also have the ability to use the resources to meet their goals. In order to empower women, they must be able to use resources for a purpose they choose.. Women who have been excluded from decision making for most of their lives often lack this sense of agency that allows them to define goals and act effectively to achieve them. However, these goals also can be heavily influenced by the values of the society in which women live and so may sometimes replicate rather than challenge the structures of injustice. First you shouldn't speak because you are a girl, then later you shouldn't speak because no one will marry you, then later you shouldn't speak because you are a new bride. Finally, you might have the chance to speak but you don't speak because you have forgotten how to."

Batliwala and Srilatha, opine that, **Limited Access** "Women have comparatively less control over such resources than men. Women's subordinate position is perpetuated and reinforced by their limited access. While it is true in relation to those who own productive assets, Women thus get doubly marginalized - by virtue of being poor and being women. Unless and until women are empowered to fully participate in national programmes and projects they will not be able to challenge patriarchal ideology and transform the structures and institutions that reinforce and perpetuate gender discrimination and social inequality.

Objectives of the Study

- To study whether SHGs bank linkage are an effective for poverty alleviation, human development.
- To compare the living standard and expenditure of the people before and after receiving the loan.

Hypothesis of the Study

H0: Personal Empowerment of women have been unchanged after joining SHGs

H1: Personal Empowerment of women have been changed after joining SHGs

Data Analysis

To study the hypothesis H05 “Personal Empowerment of women have been unchanged after joining SHGs”, paired sample t test is applied on variables of personal empowerment like Ability to take decision before and after joining SHGs, Involvement in decision making before and after joining SHG, Improvement in health before and after joining SHG, educational improvement before and after joining SHGs, freedom to take economic decision before and after joining SHGs, freedom to take actions of own choice before and after joining SHGs, better exposure before and after joining SHGs and changes in skills and ability before and after joining SHGs where following results were obtained:

Paired Samples Test									
		Paired Differences					t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
					Lower	Upper			
Pair 1	Ability to take decisions before joining SHG - Ability to take decisions after joining SHG	-.34000	1.51237	.15124	-.64009	-.03991	-2.248	99	.027
Pair 2	Improvement in health before joining SHG - Improvement in health after joining SHG	-.80000	1.69372	.16937	-1.13607	-.46393	-4.723	99	.000

Pair 3	Educational improvement before joining SHG - Educational improvement after joining SHG	-1.14000	1.60819	.16082	-1.45910	-.82090	-7.089	99	.000
Pair 4	Freedom to take action of your choice before joining SHG - Freedom to take action of your choice after joining SHG	-.78000	1.63658	.16366	-1.10473	-.45527	-4.766	99	.000
Pair 5	Positive change in skills and ability before joining SHG - Positive change in skills and ability after joining SHG	-.30000	1.98224	.19822	-.69332	.09332	-1.513	99	.133

The above table shows that:

- Pair 1 studies the ability to take decisions before joining and after joining SHG, where significance value of paired sample t-test obtained in 0.027 which is less than the alpha value of 0.05 and hence it is concluded that women's ability to take decision has increased after joining SHG.
- Pair 2 studies the improvement in health of women participants before joining and after joining SHG, where significance value of paired sample t-test obtained in 0.00 which is also less than the alpha value of 0.05 and hence it is concluded that the health of women participants has improved after joining SHG.
- Pair 3 studies the effect on educational level of women participant before joining and after joining SHG, where significance value of paired sample t-test obtained in 0.00 which is also less than the alpha value of 0.05 and hence it is concluded that educational level of women participants have started increasing after joining SHG.
- Pair 4 studies the satisfaction on freedom to take actions of women participant's choice before joining and after joining SHG, where significance value of paired sample t-test obtained in 0.00 which is also less than the alpha value of 0.05 and hence it is concluded that satisfaction has increased after joining SHG.
- Pair 5 studies the satisfaction on change in skill and ability of women participants before joining and after joining SHG, where significance value of paired sample t-test

obtained in 0.133 which is more than the alpha value of 0.05 and hence it is concluded that satisfaction is unchanged after joining SHG.

This it is concluded from the above analysis that in most of the cases the personal empowerment of women participants have changed after joining SHG and hence null hypothesis i.e. *Personal Empowerment of women have been unchanged after joining SHGs* is **rejected** and alternate hypothesis i.e. *SHGs helps in Personal empowerment of the women* is **accepted**.

Conclusion

Microfinance (SHG-Bank linkage program) schemes have satisfactory conditions and many respondents have provided positive feedback regarding the schemes. Women participation under SHG have been obviously created great impact upon the standard of living of poor women and empowered them in not only as individual but also as member of family at various level of community and society as whole. SHGs have emerged as community institutions through which formal sector building system reaches the rural households which are earlier considered as unworthy of the bank lending. SHG-bank linkage offers triple benefits to banks. In specific there is better improvement in Increase in savings and income , Participation in political activities,, Making wise decisions, cautious while utilization of money , Poverty alleviation ,Self-Confidence, Political awareness, Contesting in Elections, Leadership qualities, open up ,Social Status and Involvement, Gaining Voice, Mutual Help & Support. At last SHGs and Bank linkage programme developed by NABARD provide only savings and credit services but this helps will further lead to the better empowerment of women through provide Technology support, capital funding and marketing support on SHG bank linkage programme.

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