



Role Of Self-Help Group In Women Empowerment

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ABSTRACT:

Beginning of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) can be found in the Self-Employed Women's Association's constitution in 1970, which signalled the beginning of the enormous SHG bank connection project under the auspices of NABARD in 1992. SHGs are largely rural financial intermediary groups made up of 10–20 neighbourhood women. Self-help organisations have achieved notably significant progress in stopping the oppression of poor families at the hands of dishonest moneylenders. These organisations are focused on accelerating the availability of loan alternatives at an affordable interest rate. The way their organisational structure is set up periodically collects donations from each constituent member fosters financial restraint. When sufficient capital is reached, these individual savings are combined into a single fund to enable intra-group lending. An SHG can link itself to a bank in its zone to leverage microcredit if it maintains meticulous records, pays off loans on time, and manages its workforce with discipline. This paper reflects role of Self-Help group in Women Empowerment.

KEYWORDS: Self-Help Groups, financial intermediaries, accelerating, women, financial, microcredit

I INTRODUCTION:

A self-help group, or SHG for short, is a committee of 12 to 25 local women between the ages of 18 and 50 who act as financial intermediaries. Although they can be found in other nations, particularly in South and Southeast Asia, Self-Help organisations are most prevalent in India. A SHG is typically an informal union or collection of persons who create daily wage employment. Members who can contribute money are asked to do so, and it is then distributed to those in need.

Small, impoverished groups of people form Self Help Groups (SHGs). An SHG's members deal with similar issues. They assist one another in resolving their issues. SHGs encourage their members to make modest savings. The bank is where the savings are

maintained. This is the common fund under the SHG's name. The SHG uses its common fund to make small loans to its members.

The poor folks must first be assisted in organising into groups by a decently educated and helpful local. He or she educates them on the advantages of group formation and practicing thrift. This individual is referred to as an "animator" or "facilitator." The animator is typically someone who is well-known in the neighbourhood.

A SHG should have between 10 and 20 members.

Advantage: Active participation is impossible in a larger group. Additionally, it is mandated by law that informal groups cannot contain more than 20 members.

Registration is not required for the group.

Membership :

- Only one person from a given family may join a SHG. (By doing this, more families can join SHGs.)
- Normally, only males or just women make up the group. In general, mixed groups are not favoured. Women's organisations consistently outperform men's groupings. (They are better at saving, and they typically make sure that loans are used properly.)
- Members ought to come from similar social and economic backgrounds. (Benefit: This facilitates the members' ability to communicate freely with one another. The poor may not have many opportunities to express themselves if the group's members come from both the rich and the low classes.)

II SELF HELP GROUP AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT:

Empowerment is the process of giving people or groups more resources and skills so they can make more informed decisions and translate those decisions into desired actions and results (World Bank, 2002).

People who are empowered enjoy freedom of choice and action. They are then better able to shape their lives and the decisions that have an impact on them as a result.

Key Elements of Empowerment are :

Access to Information :

Well informed people are better able to take advantage of opportunities, use services, exercise their rights, bargain skillfully, and hold responsible both state and non-state actors.

Inclusion and participation:

To guarantee that the limited public resources build on local knowledge and priorities and to foster a commitment to change, it is essential to include low-income people and other previously excluded groups in priority setting and decision making.

Accountability:

It refers to the ability to call public officials, private employers or service providers to account, requiring that they be answerable for their policies, actions and use of funds.

Local organizational capacity:

It refers to the ability of people to work together, organize themselves, and mobilize resources to solve problems of common interest. Often outside the reach of formal systems, poor people turn to each other for support and strength to solve their everyday problems.

In order to solve issues of shared interest, people must be able to cooperate, organise, and mobilise resources. Poor people frequently rely on one another for support and strength to overcome daily challenges because they are frequently outside the purview of formal systems.

In addition to provide economic validation, SHGs significantly improve the usually deficient leadership abilities of a group of people who are typically vulnerable to the whims of tyrannical patriarchy. It also builds feminist solidarity as women from similar cultural backgrounds who are suffering from a variety of difficulties find support in their tiny group and work together to ease one other's burdens. The participatory approach that characterises their mode of operation takes the adage "no (wo)man left behind" to previously unreachable heights. SHGs have evolved as a workable economic solution for financing the entrepreneurial endeavours of socially disadvantaged women in this country's remote hinterlands where official credit institutions are lacking. Its current relevance can be assessed against the backdrop of an otherwise biased trend showing that in South Asia, a staggering 94% of credit is allocated to small and medium-sized firms run by men, giving women pitifully few incentives to realise their entrepreneurial dreams.

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