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Role of self-help groups (SHGs) in women education and entrepreneurship development

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Abstract

This paper belongs to study about the SHGs functioning in darmaha panchayat of east champaran District. The basic occupation of the district is agriculture, there are different major crops of the district such as rice, paddy, sugar cane, Jute and lentils. Animal husbandry is also one of the key sectors which is important for income and employment. It contributes about one-fifth of the total rural income, and provides large scale employment to women, belonging to the marginalised sections of society. There are some small scale industry like pearl button industry, fishery development which are popular in East Champaran. The women in rural areas are showing interest to become independent due to SHGs. SHGs mainly focus on financial independence. Financial independence through self-employment has many externalities such as improved literacy levels, better health care and even better family planning. It also improves well-being and status in society. Self-help groups (SHGs) try to build the functional capacity of poor and marginalized sections of society in the domain of employment and income generating activities. The study reveals about the inability to manage business, lack of basic knowledge among SHG members due to their illiteracy, frequent changes in formalities for availing loan, lack of adequate training etc. are the major problems faced by SHG members.

Keywords: Self-help groups, women education, women entrepreneurship

Introduction

Self Help Groups are groups of ten to twenty people in a locality formed for social or economic purpose. It can be defined as self-governed, peer controlled information group of people with similar socio-economic background and having a desire to collectively perform common purpose. In India there is a substantial percentage of rural and urban poor, who if tried individually cannot break their chains of poverty, and hence collective action is required. For self-employment and financial independence, poor sections needs credit. Self-help groups (SHGs) offer collateral-free loans to sections of people that generally find it hard to get loans from banks. Thus the chances of successful income generation is high with SHGs than individual attempts. According to the emerging composition, women can genuinely commit to entrepreneurial development (Noguera *et al.*, 2013) [4] and financial new development (Hechevarría *et al.*, 2019) [2] regarding making new positions and extending the Gross domestic product (GDP) (Ayogu and Agu, 2015) [1], with beneficial outcomes on decreasing dejection and social forbiddance (Rae, 2015) [5].

Review of literature

According to Sammaiah (2022) ^[6], self-help empowerment is examined. Groups were made up of impoverished rural residents who decided to group together in order to end their own poverty. The Self -Help Group program boosted rural people's general knowledge and awareness as well as their ability to bargain. Their economic status has significantly improved, indicating that rural women are adequately prepared for empowerment in every way. According to Elam *et al.*, 2019 ^[7] found that the degree of women who decide to seek an entrepreneurial livelihood is, regardless, lower than that of men. Samisetty, & Ch, (2022) ^[8], study found that several rural Indian women have created SHGs ever since SHGs first emerged in order to engage in independent economic activity and advance themselves. The findings of the field survey are used in this research to evaluate how bank connection affects social change and the socioeconomic development of SHGs.

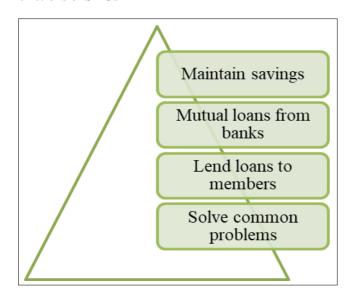
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M.Sc., College of Community Science, Department of Home Science Extension Management, College of Community Science, Dr. RPCAU, Pusa, Samastipur, Bihar, India The research focuses on the opinions of SHG participants on social change and socioeconomic advancement following SHG participation. Vermani & Sihag, 2022 [9] study found that the self-help groups (SHGs) as a practical tool for promoting women's economic empowerment. Empowering women is essential to laying the groundwork for change and to the economic success of a country. The outcome showed that joining the SHG had a beneficial impact on measures of income, employment, and savings. Thus, the study came to the conclusion that SHGs have been essential to rural women's empowerment in the studied region. Leelavathi, & Murugesan (2020) [3], the study's objectives include examining at socioeconomic information as well as self-help organizations' employment and income-generating options. The general state of SHG in rural areas, including their reputation as a family, the rearing of their children, their schooling, managing domestic issues, their finances, and numerous activities, may be something for which one can be satisfied after the research is finished. In support of the SHG as a path to freedom, the women are now speaking out more.

Objectives of the study

- 1. To study the income generating activities adopted by women entrepreneurs.
- 2. To study the impactful factors of women entrepreneurship.
- 3. To study the problem faced by the women entrepreneurs.

Functions of SHGs



Need for SHGs

- One of the major reason is lack of access to credit and financial services in our country.
- According to C Rangrajan committee report, financial inclusion as "the process of ensuring access to financial services and timely adequate credit where needed by vulnerable groups such as weaker sections and low income groups at an affordable cost. It laid focus on four reasons for lack of financial inclusion.
 - 1. Lack of collateral security.
 - 2. Weak community network.
 - 3. Poor credit absorption capacity.
 - 4. Inadequate reach of institutions.
- The reserve bank of India had constructed the financial inclusion index (2021) to measure the extent of financial inclusion, which is based on three dimensions of financial inclusion.

- 1. Access.
- 2. Usage.
- 3. Quality.
- In rural areas, the most important factor of credit linkage is community network. It play a vital role in poverty alleviation and improve social status through the promotion of self-employment.
- In our society, it empowers women and also give them greater voice.

Benefits of SHGs

- Financial inclusion.
- Enhancing the efficiency of government service.
- Social integrity.
- Gender equality.
- Women empowerment.
- Active participation in democracy.
- Changes in standard of living.
- Increase employment opportunities.
- Bank literacy.

Materials and Methods

The Study is related to entrepreneurship development through SHGs in east champaran district of Bihar, the study constitutes all the SHGs constituted by Women. It has twenty seven Blocks. Out of the twenty seven blocks, one block i.e. Kalyanpur block has been selected.in kalyanpur block there are 24 panchayats, out of twenty four one panchayat i.e. Darmaha has been drawn out for the purpose of drawing samples for this study keeping in view of achieving the objectives of the study. It deal with the rural women entrepreneur who are adopted different income generating activities. The respondents are taken from the member of SHGs through which women are engaged themselves in different income generating activities .Twenty five SHGs from darmaha panchayat has been selected for the purposive random sampling method. From this thirty SHGs, five members from each SHG are selected for the present study. 125 women entrepreneurs are selected from darmaha panchayat to study. The primary data for collecting the information is a set of structured interview schedule and face to face interview.

Results and Discussion

Income generating activities adopted by women entrepreneurs: On the basis of local resources, there are different economic activities which are undertaken by SHG members.

Table 1: Income generating activities adopted by respondents

Sl. No.	Income generating activities	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	Tailoring	12	6
2.	Agricultural farm	58	29
3.	Animal husbandry	55	27.5

From the above table it has been seen that out of total respondents highest 58 sample respondents i.e. 29% have taken agriculture farm activity as their income generating activity. Another activity under taken by the sample respondents is animal husbandry where 27.5% are engaged. Tailoring activity by 6%. It is found from the study that agriculture is the primary occupation of the most of the women entrepreneurs.

 Impactful factors of women entrepreneurship: The present study focuses on various impactful factors of women in rural areas that influence their entrepreneurial choice

Table 2: Impactful factors of women entrepreneurship

Sl. No.	Impactful factors	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	For self-employment	51	25.5
2.	For socio economic status	31	15.5
3.	Family responsibility	43	26.5

From the above table it has been seen that out of total respondents highest 51 sample respondents i.e. 25.5% have taken self-employment as their impactful factor. Another factor under taken by the sample respondents is family responsibility where 26.5% are engaged. Socio economic status by 15.5%. It is found from the study that though self-employment is the impactful factors of the most of the women entrepreneurs.

Problem faced by women entrepreneurs: In recent time, women are interested in entrepreneurial activity. A variety of problems are faced by the entrepreneurs in establishing and running their business. The following table shows the major constraints faced by women entrepreneur.

Table 3: Problem faced by women entrepreneurship

Sl. No.	Problems faced by women entrepreneurship	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	Social problems	18	9
2.	Financial problems	76	38
3.	Other problems(lack of resources)	31	15.5

From the above table it has been seen that out of total respondents highest 76 sample respondents i.e. 38% have financial problem faced by women entrepreneurs. Another problem is lack of resources where 15.5% are engaged followed by social problems by 9%. It is found from the study that financial problem is the major problem faced by the most of the women entrepreneurs.

Conclusion

SHGs play a vital role in giving credit access to the poor and this is extremely crucial in poverty alleviation. They also play a great role in empowering women because SHGs help women from economically weaker sections build social capital. Financial independence through self-employment opportunities also helps improve other development factors such as literacy levels, improved healthcare and better family planning.

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