

Self-help groups –A boon for economic empowerment of rural women

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■ **ABSTRACT** : Women are being increasingly seen as an important index of the social health of the nation. In spite of their active participation, they suffer from deprivation. Constant efforts are being made by the government to improve the status of rural women and paving a way towards economic empowerment, especially those living below the poverty line. One amongst such programme is SGSY, launched from 1st April 1999, covering all the aspects of self-employment such as organization of self-help groups, training, credit, technology, infrastructure and marketing. A study conducted at Girwpanchayat of Udaipur district with randomly selected 100 respondents from women SHGs formed under SGSY. The findings of the study indicated that most of the respondents gained economic benefits to high extent were increase in overall family income and get-off worries from every day employment with MWS from 1.57 to 1.61. Further mean income increased from Rs. 588.50 to Rs. 2888 which was found to be highly significant.

■ **KEY WORDS**: SGSY, Employment, Income generation, SHGs

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