

Role of SHGs in empowering tribal women among farming communities of Gajapati district of Odisha

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■ **ABSTRACT** : Women face gender specific barriers to access education, health, and empowerment etc. The study addresses women empowerment through self-help groups in Gajapati district of Odisha. Three of the tribal blocks *i.e.* Nuagada, Rayagada, R.Udayagiri consisting of 150 SHG members among tribal farming community were selected for the study. The information related to the study was collected using a well-defined and pre-tested questionnaire by the personal interview method. The mean age of respondents was 33 years and among them 45.33 per cent were functionally literates. Regarding mean income of the respondents, 53.33 per cent of the total respondents were in semi-medium group and only 10.00 per cent of the total respondents were in high income group. In general, the background information informed that the women of the sample area were economically poor and their status was low and down trodden. The profit utilization pattern was found to be statistically significant ($P < 0.01$ and 0.05) *i.e.* meeting necessity and saving for future. The education was highly correlated ($P < 0.01$) with C.Own Inc and it was significant at 5 per cent level ($P < 0.05$) with C.Farm. Inc. However, other assets were positively correlated with savings and cash income ($P < 0.05$). In the study it was evident that most of the SHG women have been involved only in the micro credit savings.

■ **KEY WORDS** : Woman empowerment, SHG, Farming community, Saving

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