

A study on the economic impact of self-help groups in Kanchipuram district

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Accepted : September, 2010

ABSTRACT

The vicious cycle of poverty deprives women, the opportunities to have equal access to participate in many developmental programmes. Self Help Groups has been the most potent gross-roots movement in modern India. The Government recognized the necessity of the empowerment of women by involving them in the economic activity with the use of various voluntary organizations. One such voluntary Non –Government organization is Daughters of Mary Immaculate (DMI) a registered NGO promoted under the Mahilar Thittam scheme (Mathi) in Kanchipuram District. This study attempts to bring a real picture of Economic impact of women SHG’s in Kanchipuram District.

Key words : Self Help Groups, Empowerment, Economic Impact, Mahilar Thittam, N.G.O.’s

Women have not been treated on par with men in every aspect of life though their role is crucial for the substance of family, society as well as for the development of economy as a whole. So, women have to empower to make them literates and make themselves free from economic exploitation and oppression. The creation of employment opportunities for women has always been an important objective of various development programmes.

Even though there are many schemes for development of women, Self Help Group for women is one of the successful scheme, which is improving women empowerment and plays a major role to eradicate the poverty particularly in rural areas.

Sathya Sundaram states that self-help groups are voluntary associations of people formed to attain some goals. These are groups that have similar social identity, heritage, caste or traditional occupations and come together for a common cause and manage resources for the benefit of the group members.

Mahalar Thittam (Mathi) is a socio-economic empowerment programme for women implemented by Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of women Ltd. Mathi is based on SHG approach and is implemented in partnership with N.G.O.’s and community based organization. This approach was started in a small way in Dharmapuri District in the year 1989 and was

progressively introduced in all the districts of the state. Today the SHG movement is a very vibrant movement spread across all districts of the state it has been depicted in the Table – 8, 9 and 10 of the Annexure.

In the year 1992 NABARD introduced the linkage scheme for SHG with banks in order to strengthen the efforts of NGO’s and improvement of economic status of SHG’s. The various empowerment a women gets through Self Help Groups makes her confident to face the life and its problems. The linkage of self help group in promoting women has been clearly depicted in the diagram.

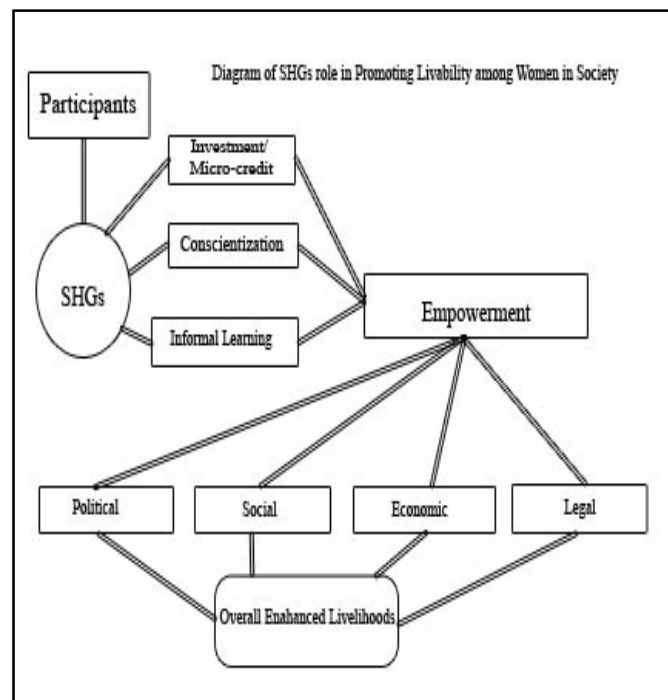


Fig. 1 : SHG’s role in promoting women empowerment

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