Impact of self help group on socio economic development in Parbhani district of Maharashtra

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ABSTRACT

The investigation was carried out in Parbhani District of Marathwada region of Maharashtra state to know the profile of SHG members and impact of SHG on socio-economic development of its members. Out of 2147 SHGs functioning in the district through DRDA, 12 SHGs organized exclusively by women were selected purposively from Parbhani, Purna and Gangakhed Taluks for the study. Ten members were selected from each SHG by making a sample of 120 respondents drawn by resorting to proportionate random sampling method. The data was collected personally with the help of structured interview schedule. Frequency and percentage were used as statistical tools for analysis. Finding showed that majority of SHG members were young, educated up to Middle school level, had Rs. 18001 to 40000 annual income level with medium family size. Regarding occupation, majority of them had business, service, labour followed by farming as a occupation with satisfactory family climate and low social participation. In respect of impact of SHG on socio-economic development of it's members, it was observed that majority of them stated that, there were change in their income level up to 35 per cent, education aspects, food habits, material possession, employment while medium change in thrift habit. Regarding overall impact of SHG, it was found low on its members.

Key words : Socio-economic development, SHGs, Impact, DRDA

Presently self-help groups (SHGs) are fast emerging as powerful tool of socio-economic empowerment of the poor in rural areas. SHG is a small body formed by the people for meeting their specific objectives, particularly credit. It is managed by the rules and regulations formed by them and functioned on democratic principles. In self-help groups, it is assumed that all poor household need to save and have the inherent capacity to save small regularly. Early access to credit is more important than cheap subsidized credit which involves intricate bureaucratic procedures. The poor are the best judge of their credit needs and are good users and repayres of credit when formed in group. SHGs are extremely useful in generating savings, ensuring successful delivery of credit to individual rural poor and effecting recovery. The concept of SHGs may serve as an alternative to some extent to the credit cooperatives. At present in Parbhani district, 2147 SHGs have been formed and started various kinds of income generating activities. Under this situation, it was felt to examine the impact of women SHGs functioning in the district. Therefore, study on "Impact of self help group on socio-economic development" was conducted with the following objectives to study personal, socio-economic and psychological characteristics of members of self help group and to study the impact of self-help group on its members.

METHODOLOGY

The present study is based on the successional experimental design (before and after) of social research to measure the impact of self-help group. This study was conducted in Parbhani district of Maharashtra state. Information regarding SHGs were obtained from district Rural Development Agency (DRDA) Parbhani. Out of total 2147 SHGs functioning in the district through DRDA, 12 SHGs organized exclusively by women were selected purposively from Parbhani, Purna and Gangakhed taluks. Ten members were selected randomly from each identified SHG and a sample of 120 members was drawn by resorting to proportionate random sampling method which constituted the sample respondents for the purpose of study. The data were collected personally with the help of structured interview schedule developed for this purpose. Statistical tests such as frequency and percentage were used for analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION.

Personal, socio-economic and psychological characteristics of members of self help group:

The data from Table 1 indicate that over two third of respondents (66.67 per cent) were young, followed by middle age to the extent of 23.33 per cent. One third of respondents (33.33 per cent) were educated up to Middle school level followed by 30.00 per cent of them having education up to High school level. While 30.00 per cent of the respondent had income between Rs. 18001 to 40000/- followed by 26.67 per cent of the respondents had income

above 65001/-. More than fifty per cent (56.67 per cent) of the respondents had medium family size consisting 4 to 6 members followed by 30.00 per cent of the respondents having big family size consisting above 6 members.

Further Table 1 also shows that the respondents were engaged as petty occupation and farming, which were 16.67 per cent and 13.34 per cent, respectively. As regards the social participation, it was indicated that 63.34 per cent of the respondents had participated in social organization to a lower extent followed by 33.33 per cent of them in middle category of social participation. These findings are in the line with the observations of Deshmukh (2000), Kotole (2001) and Mishra *et.al.*(2001).

Impact of self-help group:

Impact of self-help group on socio-economic

development of its members was studied with five dimensions and overall impact of SHG was also assessed by consolidating the impact of SHG on the five dimensions.

Change in income:

The results of change in income presented in Table 2 indicate that majority of the respondents (30.00 per cent) could have a change in their income up to 35.00 per cent, followed by 26.67 per cent of them appearing in highest level of change *i.e.* above 66.00 per cent in their annual income. Whereas 20.00 per cent of the respondents could change their annual income in the range of 36.00 to 66.00 per cent and 23.33 per cent of the respondents did not have any change in their income. Similar findings were also quoted by Kotole (2001).

Sr. No.	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
Table 1 : Distribution of respondents according to their profile N=120			
Age			
1.	Young	80	66.67
2.	Middle	28	23.33
3.	Old	12	10.00
Education			
1.	Primary school	20	16.67
2.	Middle school	40	33.33
3.	High school	36	30.00
4.	College and above	24	20.00
Family income			
1.	Upto Rs. 18000/-	28	23.33
2.	Rs.18001 to Rs.40000/-	36	30.00
3.	Rs. 40001 to Rs. 65000	24	20.00
4.	Above Rs. 65001/-	32	26.67
Family size			
1.	Small	16	13.33
2.	Medium	68	56.67
3.	Big	36	30.00
Occupation			
1.	Labour	28	23.33
2.	Petty occupation	20	16.67
3.	Business	28	23.33
4.	Farming	16	13.34
5.	Service	28	23.33
Family climate			
1.	Satisfactory	112	93.33
2.	Unsatisfactory	08	06.67
Social participation			
1.	Low	76	63.34
2.	Medium	40	33.33
3.	High	04	03.33

Sr. No.	Per cent change in income	Frequency	Per cent
Table 2 : Distribution of respondents according to their change in income			
1.	No change	28	23.33
2.	Up to 35	36	30.00
3.	36 to 66	24	20.00
4.	Above 66	32	26.67
	Total	120	100

Change in spending pattern:

It is observed from Table 3 that cent per cent of the respondents had changed their educational aspects. While 53.34 per cent of the respondents made change in their food habit, and 13.33 per cent of the respondents could change their clothing pattern. About one third as (33.33) per cent of the respondents made change in their dwelling pattern and only 40.00 per cent respondents changed their social obligation after involvement in the self-help group.

Change in material possession:

It is indicated from Table 4 that 26.67 per cent of

Sr. No.	Item of spending pattern	Frequency	Per cent
Table 3 : Distribution of respondents according to the aspects of spending pattern			
1.	Food	64	53.34
2.	Clothing	16	13.33
3.	Dwelling	40	33.33
4.	Educational aspects	120	100
5.	Social obligation	48	40
	Total	120	100

the respondents had change in material possession above 66 per cent change category, whereas 23.33 per cent of the respondents had change in material possession in the range of 36 to 66 per cent followed by 20.00 per cent of the respondents had change in material possession up to 35 per cent. Similar findings were quoted by Jadhav (2004).

Table 4 : Distribution of respondents according to their change in material possession

Sr. No.	Per cent change in material possession	Frequency	Percentage
1.	No change	36	30.00
2.	Up to 35	24	20.00
3.	36 to 66	28	23.33
4.	Above 66	32	26.67
	Total	120	100

Change in thrift habit:

It is observed from Table 5 that half (50.00 per cent) of the respondents could have change in thrift habit in the range of 36 to 66 per cent, followed by 30.00 per cent of them having change in the thrift habit up to 35 per cent. Only 20.00 per cent had the change in their thrift habit above 66 per cent.

Table 5 : Distribution of respondents according to their change in thrift habit

Sr. No.	Per cent change in thrift habit	Frequency	Percentage
1	Up to 35	36	30
2	36 to66	60	50
3	Above 66	24	20
	Total	120	100

Change in employment :

The data from Table 6 indicated that 43.34 per cent of the respondents could have change in the range of 36 to 66 per cent in their employment, followed by 20.00 per cent of the respondents could have a change above 66 per cent in their employment. Whereas 23.33 per cent and 13.33 per cent of them had no change and up to 35 per cent change in employment, respectively. Similar finding was reported by Kotole (2001).

Over all impact of self help group :

The data from Table 7 indicated that low impact of SHG could be noticed among the majority of its members (46.67 per cent). This was followed by 30.00 per cent of them appearing in medium category of impact. Whereas

Table 6 : Distribution of respondents according to their change in employment

Sr. No.	Per cent change in employment	Frequency	Percentage
1.	No change	28	23.33
2.	Up to 35	16	13.33
3.	36 to 66	52	43.34
4.	Above 66	24	20.00
	Total	120	100.00

Table 7 : Distribution of respondents according to the impact of SHG as a whole

Sr. No.	Impact of SHGs	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low (up to 35)	56	46.67
2.	Medium (35 to 66)	36	30.00
3.	High (above 66)	28	23.33
	Total	120	100.00

23.33 per cent belonging to high category of impact of SHGs.

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