

Original Research Article

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To Study the Development of Economic of Women Self-Help Group Members in the Bareilly District of Uttar Pradesh by the Role of Microfinance in Agriculture

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed at assessing the socio-economic status, cost and returns of income-generating activities, effects of micro-finance and empowerment of self-help group members (SHG) in Bithri Chainpur Block of Bareilly district of Uttar Pradesh. Primary data was collected from 80 SHG members and 30 non-SHG members with the help of structured schedule for the year 2012. The SHG members possessed assets like agriculture, poultry, piggery through SHG finance, while non-members created assets like agriculture, Farm laborer by loan utilization. The 6SHG members was total annual income higher in compare of non-SHG members. The credit amount borrowed per member of SHG member was Rs.25,000. The savings per member per year in SHG was Rs.5,326 compared to non-SHG Rs. 1,421. The Returns per rupee of cost from agriculture (in 3 SHG group), Poultry and Piggery was Rs 15,000, Rs 20,000, Rs 21,000, 30,000 and 35,000 respectively. In the SHG members about 74 percent of all economically active women are engaged in agriculture, 12 percent farm laborers. The SHG play a major role in empowering women in terms of social, economic and capacity building to encourage more of SHGs. The majority of women (more than 80.00 per cent) agree that there in better awareness and better communication skills due to participation in SHGs. Hence, the participation of NGOs should be encouraged to promote number of SHGs covering the entire women folks.

Keywords

Micro-finance, self-help group, Agriculture, women empowerment

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Introduction

The image of woman in the society is fast changing. But it is difficult to define clearly

the changing shape of the image. At this stage, it is the duty of every one to remember the words of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. “In order to awaken the people, it is the woman who has

to be awakened. Once she is on the move, the household moves, the village moves and a community moves.

The women in India who dominated this socio-economic phenomenon and have rendered it a promising vehicle for development vindicating Dr. Mohamed Yunus, Economist and Nobel laureate, founder of the Grameen Bank of Bangladesh observed decades earlier, that “Women are good social investigator and give more mileage to the rupee earned”.

The rural women are the marginalized groups of our society. Due to the presence of socio-economic constraints in the rural areas, women potential for development remained far from fully utilized and they have been pushed further back into the social hierarchical system. Working on co-operative basis in the form of Self-Help Group (SHG) is one of the remedies, to tap this potential.

“Self Help Group (SHG) is a group of people coming together voluntarily for attaining a common goal”.

The goal could be anything like saving habit or meeting emergent credit need. The new industrial policy of a country has specially highlighted the need for conducting special entrepreneurship programs for woman.

Microfinance, the current buzzword in the developmental sector, is often hailed as a panacea for the problems of community development.

Microfinance commonly worked through group systems like the Grameen Bank of Bangladesh, solidarity groups of Latin America, and self-help groups of India.

Self - help groups, the most common microfinance institutions in India, are small

voluntary associations of poor people from the same socio-economic background who come together for the purpose of solving their common problems through self-help and mutual help (NABARD, 2000).

Microfinance through SHG has become a ladder for the poor to bring them up not only economically, but also socially, mentally and attitudinally.

The microfinance initiative of NABARD, i.e. SHG-Bank Linkage Programmed has passed through various phases over the last two decades, viz. pilot testing during 1992 to 1995, mainstreaming during 1996 to 1998 and expansion from 1998 onwards. A self-help group is a group of about 15 to 20 people from a homogenous class who join together to address common issues.

Microfinance

Microfinance offers poor people access to basic financial services such as loans saving money transfer services and micro insurance. The people living in poverty, like everyone else need a diverse range of financial services to run their businesses, build assets, smooth consumption and manage risk.

Microcredit

Most terms and conditions for microcredit loans are flexible and easy to understand, and suited to the local conditions of the community.

Importance of the self-help groups in India

The self-help groups was mainly involved in come generating activities manufacturing of small item like candle, Diya, phenol, soup, handicraft, vermin compost etc. In Bihar, the rural area manufacturing of product liked vermin compost, diary product and khadi etc.

Salient features of SHG

Group membership was limited; it consists of 10-20 members. Group may be registered or unregistered.

Functioning of SHG

Group members must meet at specific interval. SHG must function in a democratic manner. The group should maintain simple basic records like attendance register, loan ledger, general ledger, cash books, bank pass book, etc.

Materials and Methods

To study the description of the study area, sampling design of the study and analytical tools employed. Bareilly located between 28°

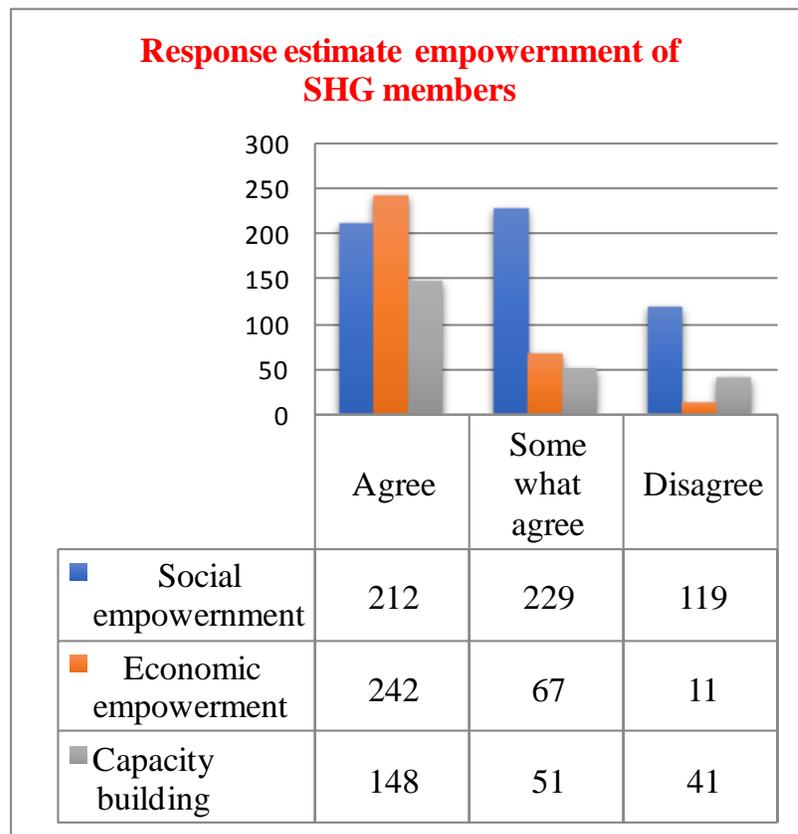
22°N to 32.4984°N Latitude and 79°26'9.4524"E longitude. It has a geographical area of 4120sq.km. area wise.

Results and Discussion

The data were collected and analyzed by following study-cum-survey method. Secondary data gathered from the records of the SHGs were supplemented by primary data which were collected from members of SHGs as well as micro-entrepreneurs of SHGs (Fig: 1).

This study concluded that the SHG groups as the main motive of the SHG to empower all the members and empowerment can be measured in terms of social, cultural, economic and political aspects.

Fig.1 Response estimate empowerments of the SHG and Non-SHG Members



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