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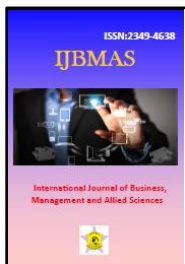
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**PROBLEMS OF SELF HELP GROUP MEMBERS --- A STUDY IN GUNTUR  
DISTRICT OF ANDHRA PRADESH**

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**ABSTRACT**

Women's role in economic development, in most countries of the world, cannot be undermined. Although women constitute almost half of the total population of the world, their social, economic and political status is lower than that of men and they are subjected to the tyranny and oppression of a particular order for centuries and de facto even today. This paper aims to study the problems of self help group members in Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh. Descriptive Research design was adopted for the study and both primary and as well as secondary data were utilized to drawing conclusions. Statistical tools like Simple Percentage Analysis, GARRET ranking, Weighted Average, Chi Square Test and Analysis of Variance(ANOVA) were applied for data analysis and interpretation. The study concludes that the income of the women has been increased after joining the SHGs. Since the repayment of loan is regular and within the time, we may conclude that the economic activities of SHGs are quite success.

**KEYWORDS :** Rural Women , Self Help Groups, Women Empowerment

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**INTRODUCTION**

A Self Help Group (SHG) is a financial intermediary committee usually composed of 10-20 local women. Most self-help groups are located in India, though SHGs can be found in other countries, especially in South Asia and Southeast Asia. SHG is nothing but a group of people who are on daily wages, they form a group and from that group one person collects the money and gives the money to the person who is in need. Members also make small regular savings contributions over a few months until there is enough money in the group to begin lending. Funds may then be lent back to the members or to others in the village for any purpose. In India, many SHGs are 'linked' to banks for the delivery of micro-credit.

Poverty and unemployment are the major problems of any under developed countries, to which India is no exception. In the rural area 27.1% of the population is living under poverty. The overall unemployment rate is estimated to 7.32%. The female unemployment rate is 8.5%. The rate of

growth of women unemployment in the rural area is 9.8%. In Andhra Pradesh, to eradicate women unemployment more attractive schemes are introduced, one of which with less effort is Self Help Group, hereafter called as SHG. SHG is a group of rural poor females who have volunteered to organize themselves into a group for eradication of poverty of the members. They agree to save regularly and convert their savings into a Common Fund known as the Group corpus. The members of the group agree to use this common fund as a group through a common management.

The SHG will collect the minimum voluntary saving amount from all the members. The group will devise a code of conduct to bind itself. This will be in the form of regular meetings (weekly or fortnightly), functioning in a democratic manner, allowing free exchange of views, participation by the members in the decision making process.

The SHG corpus fund should be used to give advance to the members in the form of loans. The group should develop financial management norms covering the loan sanction procedure, repayment schedule and interest rates. The study focuses on the functions and performance of self help groups in Guntur district.

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Rekha Goankar (2001) analyzed that the movement of SHGs can significantly contribute towards the reduction of poverty and unemployment in the rural sector of the economy and the SHGs can lead to social transformation in terms of economic development and the social change.

M. Nandhini, M. Usha, V. Krishnaveni and Dr. P. Palanivelu (2011) reveals that Self Help Group helps them to increase their status and aids to raise the standard of living of them. Women are becoming entrepreneurs with the help of SHGs which avoids the exploitation of women and helps empowering them.

V. Krishnaveni, R Haridas, M Nandhini and M Usha (2013) in their research self help group is highly relevant to make the people of below poverty line " says the very existence of SHGs is highly relevant to make the people of below poverty line hopeful and self reliant. SHGs enable to increase their income improve their standard of living and status in society to the main stream ultimately, the nation reaps the advantages of socialism.

### OBJECTIVES

1. To study the functions and performance of SHG in Guntur district.
2. To analyze the reasons for joining SHG.
3. To find out the problems faced by the members in self Help Group
4. To find the impact of SHGs on the increase in income levels of women

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study adopts Descriptive Research Design . Both primary and secondary data were utilized for drawing conclusions from the study. Scheduled method was employed to extract the primary data from the selected rural women respondents. The sampling area selected for the study was Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh. The sample size comprises 150 women respondents. The nature of the sample was that of the women members of self help groups. The statistical tools applied for the data analysis were Simple Percentage Analysis, GARRET ranking, Weighted Average, Chi Square Test and Analysis of Variance(ANOVA)

## DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

Table1: Table showing the Demographic Details

Category	No of respondents	Percentage
<b>Age</b>		
Below 20 Years	Nil	Nil
20-30 Years	15	10
30-40 Years	75	50
Above 40 Years	60	40
<b>Educational Status</b>		
Literate	135	90
Illiterate	15	10
<b>Place of Residence</b>		
Rural	15	10
Urban	75	50
Semi-urban	60	40
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Married	135	90
Unmarried	15	10
<b>Monthly Income</b>		
<b>Upto Rs.5000</b>	45	30
<b>Rs.5000- Rs.10,000</b>	30	20
<b>Rs.10,000- Rs.15,000</b>	45	30
<b>Above Rs.15,000</b>	30	20

The above table clearly explains the demographic details of the respondents.

Table2: Reason for Joining SHG

S.No.	Reasons	Mean	Rank
1	Promote Savings	45.6	VI
2	To raise status in society	64.7	IV
3	To repay debts	55.6	V
4	To Meet household expenditure	71.2	I
5	Easy access of loans	65.3	III
6	Saving Money for the future	44.2	VII
7	To increase income generating activities	70.5	II

It is clear from the above table to meet household expenditure most of them have joined in SHG.

Table 3: Problem faced by the Self Help Group Members

Particulars	No of respondents	Percentage
Resistance from parents	5	7
Resistance from husband	50	71
Objection from the group members	15	22
Others	-	-
<b>Total</b>	70	100

It is evident from Table 3, 7 percentage of the member face resistance from their parents. 71 percentage of them face the resistance from their husband, 22 percentage of them face the objection from the group members.

**Table 4: Factors - GARRET RANKING**

S.No.	FACTORS	GARRET'S SCORE	GARRET'S RANK
1	Self Employment	12789	I
2	Increase in family income	11236	II
3	For children's education and marriage	11007	III
4	Improving the standard of living and social status	10456	IV
5	Economic Development	8766	V

It is inferred from the above table that, Garret's score is calculated, highest score is awarded to self-employment and least score to economic development.

**Table 5: EMPOWERMENT AFTER JOINING SHG**

S.No.	INDICATORS	WEIGHTED AVERAGE	RANK
1	Economic Independence	3.958	V
2	Increase in self confidence	4.234	I
3	Standard of Living improved	3.972	IV
4	Easy access to Bank Operation	4.211	II
5	Knowledge in risk, barrier and credit management	4.101	III
6	Able to suit with religious, cultural and social environment	3.512	VII
7	Upgrading skill and knowledge	3.912	VI
8	Leadership Qualities	3.452	VIII

It is clear from the above table that, after joining SHG their self confidence has increased and they felt easy in accessing the banking operations.

**Table 6: CHI SQUARE TEST**

INDICATORS	Calculated Chi Square Value	Table Value at 5% level of significance	S/NS
There is no significant association between monthly income and Increase in the member's own income	38.09.	21.0	S
There is no significant association between reason for joining SHG and empowerment of women after joining SHG	29.38	16.09	S

There is no significant association between problem faced by members in SHG and empowerment of women after joining SHG	44.59	16.09	S
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By applying the chi-square test, it is found that, monthly income and Increase in the member's own income are significantly related to each other.

### ANALYSIS OF VARIANCE

**Hypothesis:** There is no significant difference between the empowerment of women after joining SHG among various self help group members

**Table 7: Analysis of Variance**

Source of Variation	Sum of Squares	Degrees of Freedom	Mean Sum of Square	F Value	p Value	Sig./ Not Sig.
Between Groups	30818.51	2	15409.25	64.59	0.03	S
Within Groups	23857.85	100	238.58			
Total	54676.36	102				

S – Significant ( $p \text{ Value} \leq 0.05$ ); NS – Not Significant ( $p \text{ Value} > 0.05$ )

It is found from the above table that the hypothesis is rejected (Significant) at 5 percent level of significance, because its p value is less than 0.05. It is concluded that there is significant difference between the empowerment of women after joining SHGs among various self help group members.

### FINDINGS

- 50% of the respondents were in the age group 30 – 40 Years.
- 90% of the members were literate.
- 40% of the respondent's educational qualification is Higher Secondary.
- 90% of them were married.
- 50% of the members were from urban areas.
- 30% of the members' monthly income is Rs.4,000 – Rs.5,000.
- Due to the unemployment and poor income, 20 % of them joined in Self Help Groups.
- 80% of the respondents faced problem for joining the group.
- 71% of the respondents were resisted by their husband for joining in this group.
- 40% of the members engaged in manufacturing detergent soap and running cotton industries, and the other 40% of the respondents engage in selling of cloths and food items.
- 50% of the respondents maintaining transaction in State Bank of India.
- 40% of the members strongly agree that, Self Help Groups increases the Women's own income.
- 50% of the respondents strongly agree that, the Self Help Groups creating awareness among the members.

- 40% of the respondents strongly agree that, participation in these groups increasing the leadership skills.
- 80% of the members strongly agree that, participation in these groups increases the Self confidence.

#### **GARRET RANKING**

- In Garret Ranking Self Employment is having highest score and economic development is having least score.

#### **WEIGHTED AVERAGE**

- By applying weighted average the three indicators has scored the first three ranks Viz., Increase in self confidence, Easy access to Bank Operation and Knowledge in risk, barrier and credit management

#### **CHI SQUARE TEST**

- There is significant association between monthly income and Increase in the member's own income
- There is significant association between reason for joining SHG and empowerment of women after joining SHG
- There is significant association between problem faced by members in SHG and empowerment of women after joining SHG.

#### **ANALYSIS OF VARIANCE**

- There is significant difference between the empowerment of women after joining SHGs .among various self help group members.

#### **SUGGESTIONS**

- More training should be given to the members, so that they can run their own business efficiently.
- Members should be effectively utilize the training programs.
- Most of the members in the group were above 30 years, awareness should be created among the younger generation to participate in this group.
- Awareness programs should be conducted among the poor income group to participate in the SHG for improving their standard of living.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The study was undertaken for the women empowerment through SHGs in Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh. It is found that the income of the women has been increased after joining the SHGs. So that they can manage the monthly house hold expenditure which has risen to a considerable level. But the savings is increasing at slow rate, because the incremental expenditure is higher. Mostly they are spending for present consumption. The members should change it.

The good practice of the women SHGs in the study area is repayment of the loan in time. Nearly 64% of the debtor paid their monthly due within the time, even some members around 19% paid their due in advance. A few members do not pay in time but this is not affecting the further credit of SHGs. Since the repayment of loan is regular and within the time, we may conclude that the economic activities of SHGs are quite success.

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