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MICRO FINANCE AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN THROUGH SHGS IN KANYAKUMARI DISTRICT

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MICRO FINANCE AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN THROUGH SHGS IN KANYAKUMARI DISTRICT

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Abstract:

Micro finance is emerging as a powerful tool to make the target group as self-sufficient. Women empowerment, self reliance and sustainability are the widely discussed topic all over the world. The SHG micro credit programme has been successful not only in meeting financial needs of the marginalized women but also in strengthening the collective self help capacities of the poor, leading towards self-dependency and economic empowerment. It has been acknowledged in enumerable studies that the economic empowerment of women has a significant positive impact on the poverty alleviation and sustainable economic growth in the country. Therefore the Government of India has implemented various schemes for poverty alleviation, empowerment of poor women folk, creation of self-employment opportunities and promotion of small scale industries. In fact this showed the way to SHGs formation, mobilization and organization in India. The scheme of micro financing through Self Help Groups (SHGs) has transferred the real economic power in the hands of women and has considerably reduced their dependence on men. This has enhanced empowerment of women, promoted gender equality, built self-confidence and created self-employment opportunities. A sample study has been carried out to capture the realistic experiences and observations from the beneficiaries of SHG (under NGOs) of Kanyakumari District and particularly from 9 blocks and 4 municipalities.

KEYWORDS:

Micro finance, Economic Empowerment, Self-reliance, Women Empowerment.

INTRODUCTION:

Micro finance and empowerment of women has been accepted and recognized universally as the medium tool to alleviate poverty and to promote sustainable development. It is obvious that women are caught in the vicious cycle of object poverty, acute unemployment and lack of economic freedom. Women are not involved in decision making and there is very low recognition for their efforts and leadership. However, it is evident that women play a crucial role in the growth of a society and it has been proved by history that no development is possible without the active involvement of women in this world. It has been acknowledged in various studies that the social and economic empowerment of women have a significant role on the economic development. In India even though women enjoy equal constitutional and legal status with men, they are still suffering to sustain in the social and economic vitality. (Siva Prakash C.S., 2012). Micro finance and SHGs are effective participatory tool in alleviating poverty, generating self employment opportunities, empowering poor women, creating awareness in all spheres of life and creating sustainable development which results in economic empowerment of the nation. Self Help Groups (SHGs) come from

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the people's desires and aspirations to meet their personal and social needs and determine their own future through the principle "by the people, for the people and of the people".

In India, at the end of ninth five year plan 26.1 percent of the population was living below poverty line (Abhekumar Jha, 2000). In the rural area 27.1 percent of the population was living under poverty. The overall unemployment rate is estimated to 7.32 percent (Jeyaraman, E.et.al., 2000). The female unemployment rate is 8.5 percent. The rate of growth of women unemployment in the rural area is 9.8 percent (Rajamohan, S., 2003). At the end of IX plan the rate of growth of various implemented schemes to reduce poverty and to promote the gainful employment is very less. But the more attractive scheme with less effort (finance) is Self-Help Group" (Sabyasachi Das. 2003).

CONCEPT OF SHGS:

The SHGs (Self Help Groups) movement is the brain child of Gramea Bank of Bangladesh, which was founded by Mohammed Xunus and SHGs were established in 1975. In India the SHG movement has been initiated by NABARD in 1986-87. SHG is a small economically homogeneous affinity group of the rural poor, voluntarily coming together to save small amount regularly, which is deposited in a common fund to meet the emergency needs of the members and to provide collateral interest free loans decided by the group. (Abhaskumar Jha 2000). They have been recognized as useful tool to help the poor and as an alternative mechanism to meet the urgent credit needs of the poor through thrift (V. M. Rao 2002) SHG is a media for the development of saving habit among the women (S. Rajamohan 2003). SHGs enhance the status of women equal to men as participants, decision-makers and beneficiaries in the democratic, economic, social and cultural spheres of life. (Ritu Jain 2003). The basic principles of the SHGs are group approach, mutual trust, organization of small and manageable groups, group cohesiveness, spirit of thrift, demand based lending, collateral free, women friendly loan, peer group pressure in repayment, skill training, capacity building and empowerment (Lalitha N., 2000).

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Micro credit system and economic empowerment of women were addressed by various researchers. Some important regional, national and international studies are presented here to examine the suitable literature on this issue. National Commission for Women, (2004), reveals that 30 percent of the household reported increase in assets after joining SHG mainly in Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. Lalitha N. (2000), has stated that poverty alleviation forms the integral part of the rural development strategies in India. Micro credit is considered as a push factor that enables the poor to come out of poverty. Her study shows that there exists no symbiotic relationship between the SHGs and the micro enterprise development. Wadiniale (2004), reported that slum women are empowered by saving credit programme in Baroda city. The study also reported that SHG programme has increased monthly household income, 66 percent women converted their houses into permanent structure and there were many positive impact on health, social and cultural values. Meher (2003) and Ravi & Venkataramana (2002), reported that SHGs have a positive impact on elimination of poverty and act as an instrument for empowerment of women through economic intervention. Fernandez (2001) has argued that the potential benefit of credit to the SHGs as an empowering tool declines if the strategy of credit management, process of savings, lending and repayment are not developed and controlled by the group. It is not credit per se, but the management of credit and the quality of governance of the institutions set up by the people to manage credit that empowers. Siwa, (2008), reported that the 'Kudumbashree' initiative of the Govt. of Kerala has positive impact on economic empowerment and development of micro enterprise among the rural women. Gurumoorthy (2002), reported that SHGs have the power to create a social- economic revolution in the rural areas of the country and can act as an important tool for socio-economic empowerment of the poor, particularly women Roy (2011). Mahendra Varman (2005) found that banking habits were a positive function of the years of experience of micro finance programmes through the SHGs. The leadership experience in the SHGs greatly influences the bank account holding. It is also reported that the members of SHGs are prepared to undertake entrepreneurial activities at a smaller level with minimum capital requirements, Kamaraj (2005) and it can promote self employment opportunities to the rural women, Manimekalai and Rajeswari (2000). Meetei (2011), reported that micro finance through SHGs promoting during the last 10 years in Manipur increase average monthly income earning capacity and in turn saving capacity and effective productivity of SHG members and has ensured better economic life among the rural women in Manipur. Centre for Micro Finance & Livelihood (2009), in a survey in Arunachal Pradesh, reported that though the Micro finance, through SHGs has a positive impact due to low population density, lack of information and training, the progress of the movement is not up to the mark. Malik and Srilatha Vani (2006) mentioned that the SHGs

micro enterprises fulfill four objectives namely poverty reduction, employment generation, enterprise development and empowerment of women. SHGs Micro enterprises contribute to an increased diversification of household economic activities, increased relevance on productive activities, and improved economic security. Micro enterprises had significant relevance in the empowerment of women. Rajendra and Raya (2010), reported that the micro finance through SHG has brought higher psychological and social empowerment than economic empowerment. The study reveals that there is a definite improvement of managerial skills, psychological well being and social empowerment among rural women as a result of participating in SHG linkage programme in Tamil Nadu.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To study the financial resources of SHG members.
2. To analyze the impact of Micro-credit system through SHGs.
3. To understand the importance of women empowerment.
4. To bring out the sustainable remedial measures based on findings.

METHODOLOGY

Field of Study:

The Study is conducted in four Revenue Taluks - Vilavancode, Kalkulam, Thovalai and Augustheeswaram of Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu. The samples are drawn from nine Developmental Blocks and Four Municipalities that come under the purview of the above four Revenue Taluks. Kanyakumari District has nine blocks and four Municipalities of which all blocks and all Municipalities are included in this study. In order to have a better understanding of the phenomenon thirteen Non Governmental Organizations which are active in these Blocks and Municipalities are brought into this fold.

Developmental Blocks: (1) Thuckalay, (2) Kurunthancode, (3) Killiyoor, (4) Munchirai, (5) Melpuram, (6) Thiruvattar, (7) Thovalai, (8) Vilavancode, (9) Augustheeswaram
Municipalities: (1) Padmanabhapuram, (2) Kuzhithurai, (3) Colachel, (4) Nagercoil

Non Governmental Organizations working among women in these Blocks and Municipalities 1 .

- 1 . KODI Trust, Colachel
- 2 . KIDSS, Thuckalay
- 3 . KSSS, Rajakamangalam
- 4 . Palmyrah Workers Development Society, Munchirai
- 5 . Malar, Nagercoil
- 6 . MIDSS, Melpuram
- 7 . YMCA, Killiyoor
- 8 . ESAF, Thiruvattar
- 9 . Centre for Hope, Kurunthancode
- 1 0 . St. Joseph Social Service Centre, Thovalai
- 1 1 . GRACE, Augustheswaram
- 1 2 . Seva Bharathi, Padmanabapuram
- 1 3 . Vidivelli, Kuzhithurai

3 . 1 .Research Design:

In this Study the researcher used Descriptive Design to describe the phenomenon as it is. The researcher developed a questionnaire with necessary guide lines to draw data with the help of participatory observation.

Sampling Procedure:

The Researcher applied Stratified Proportionate Random Sampling Method in this study. It is a scientific method of sampling that utilizes some form of random selection. In order to have a random selection method, wherein the different units in the population have equal probabilities of being chosen.

Pilot Study:

The researcher wanted to know the feasibility of conducting this study with the active participation of 13 Non Governmental organizations in Kanyakumari District. During the interaction the researcher briefed the heads and chief executives of these NGOs the purpose of the visit and the objectives of the Research Study. Their response was encouraging.

Pre-Testing:

The Researcher conducted actual pre-testing with 5 groups, 50 SHG members. During the time of pre-testing the researcher identified the irrelevant questions, repetitive questions and the complex questions. The researcher removed all the irrelevant questions and made the interview schedule into simplified form.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:**Table – 1: Income of the respondents compared with Personal profile**

Personal Profile	Income of the Respondent					Chi Sq.	DF	P
	N	No Income	Upto Rs.5000	Rs.5001 – 15000	Above Rs.15000			
Age								
18 - 28	46	37.0	56.5	6.5	0.0			
29 – 38	176	41.5	50.6	5.7	2.3			
39 – 48	201	40.3	48.8	9.0	2.0			
49 – 58	74	43.2	44.6	10.8	1.4			
59 – 68	23	43.5	52.2	4.3	0.0			
Total	520	41.0	49.6	7.7	1.7	5.579	12	0.936
Education								
Primary	103	41.7	45.6	9.7	2.9			
Middle	105	43.8	42.9	11.4	1.9			
High School	197	38.6	55.8	4.1	1.5			
HSC	86	39.5	47.7	11.6	1.2			
Diploma / Graduate	29	48.3	51.7	0.0	0.0			
Total	520	41	49.6	7.7	1.7	15.193	12	0.231
Marital Status								
Married	475	40.6	49.7	7.8	1.9			
Single	10	40.0	60.0	0.0	0.0			
Widowed	29	48.3	41.4	10.3	0.0			
Divorced / Deserted	6	33.3	66.7	0.0	0.0			
Total	520	41.0	49.6	7.7	1.7	3.799	9	0.924
Type of Family								
Nuclear	372	41.4	48.1	8.3	2.2			
Joint	148	39.9	53.4	6.1	0.7			
Total	520	41.0	49.6	7.7	1.7	2.680	3	0.444
Community								
FC	35	25.7	54.3	14.3	5.7			
BC	337	40.1	51.0	6.8	2.1			
MBC	127	45.7	45.7	8.7	0.0			
SC & ST	21	52.4	42.9	4.8	0.0			
Total	520	41.0	49.6	7.7	1.7	12.994	9	0.163
Years of Experience								
Up to 7	111	45.0	47.7	7.2	0.0			
8 – 14	230	37.8	53.9	7.0	1.3			
Above 14	179	42.5	45.3	8.9	3.4			
Total	520	41.0	49.6	7.7	1.7	8.161	6	0.227

Income is an indicator of the economic empowerment of the members of the Self-Help Groups. The measurement of income of the members of SHG is a formidable task as the members have multiple sources of income and they do not keep proper accounts of their income. There is every possibility of over estimation and under estimation of income at different levels. In spite of all these constraints, a sincere attempt is made here to analyze the size and sources of the income of the members of the SHG.

Personal profile of the respondents and the individual income is assessed (refer table 1) and the result shows that a higher proportion of SHG members (49.6 percent) in the age group of 18 – 68 earn upto Rs. 5000 per month and it is very important to note that almost an equal number of members (41.0) do not earn anything by way of wages or business. The minimum level of above middle age group is 10.8 percent. Among them 74 respondents earn Rs. 5001 to Rs. 15000/- and 2.3 percent of adults earn above Rs. 15,000/- per month. The adults aged 18-28 years, do not earn above Rs. 15,000/-. No one in the age group of 59 – 58 earns above Rs. 15,000/- Therefore the Chi Square Test of significance shows no significant correlation between age of the SHG members and their income.

A higher proportion of 197 respondents are educated up to the high school level. Among them 55.8 percent earn up to Rs. 5,000/- and only 1.5 percent earn above Rs. 15,000/- 103 respondents are educated up to the primary school level and among them 45.6 percent earn up to Rs.5,000/- and 2.9 percent earn above Rs.15,000/-. 29 are educated diploma holders or graduates. Among them 48.3 percent earn nothing and the remaining 51.7 percent earn only up to Rs.5000/-

Statistics on marital status of respondents' shows that 475 respondents are married and 49.7 percent earn up to Rs.5,000/- 1.9 percent earn above Rs.15,000/- and among them 40.6 percent earn nothing and remaining as house makers.

Data on type of family shows that 372 respondents live in nuclear families and 48.1 percent of respondents earn up to Rs.5,000/- and only 2.2 percent earn above Rs. 15,000/-. 148 respondents live in joint families and 53.4 percent earn up to Rs.5,000/- and only 0.7 percent earn above Rs. 15,000/-.

The community of respondents reveals that 35 members among 520 members belong to F.C. community. Among the 54.3 percent earn up to Rs.5,000/- and only 5.7 percent earn above Rs.15,000/- per month. The majority of the 337 respondents belong to B.C. community and 51 percent earn up to Rs.5,000/- and only 2.1 percent earn above Rs.15,000/-. The number of S.C. & S.T. members are very low – 21 members. 42.9 percent earn up to Rs.5000/- per month and no one earn above Rs.15,000/-.

The years of experience and their income is co-relative. 280 respondents have SHG experience from 8 year to 14 years. Among them 53.9 percent earn up to Rs.5,000/- and only 1.3 percent earn above Rs.15,000/-. 179 respondents are having more than 14 years of experience and among them 45.3 percent earn up to Rs.5,000/- and 3.4 percent able to earn above Rs.15,000/-.

TABLE – 2 : Percentage distribution of women according to the Purpose of Loan and Usage of Loan

PURPOSE OF LOAN	USAGE OF LOAN										Total
	Building Construction	Marriage	Medicine	Education	Business	Expansion of Business	Vehicle	Festivals	Loan Not Availed	Others	
Building Construction	78.2	4.6	2.9	9.8	1.1	1.1	0.0	1.7	0.0	0.6	174
Marriage	20.3	71.9	0.0	7.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	64
Medicine	3.7	1.9	75.9	7.4	3.7	0.0	1.9	0.0	1.9	3.7	54
Education	8.9	9.7	4.0	66.1	5.6	2.4	0.0	1.6	1.6	0.0	124
Business	0.0	6.7	3.3	13.3	63.3	6.7	0.0	3.3	3.3	0.0	30
Expansion of Business	6.7	13.3	0.0	20.0	13.3	46.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15
Vehicle	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	80.0	0.0	10.0	0.0	10
Festivals	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	75.0	8.3	0.0	12
Loan Not Availed	0.0	7.7	3.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	88.5	0.0	26
Others	9.1	9.1	0.0	18.2	0.0	9.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	54.5	11
Total	31.7	14.2	10.2	22.9	6.2	2.9	1.7	2.9	5.6	1.7	520

The table-2 indicates that 174 respondents borrowed loan for building construction. 78.2 percent of them utilized the loan for the same purpose. 124 respondents borrowed loan for their children's education and 66.1 percent of them utilized it for the same. 64 respondents borrowed loan for their

children's marriage and 71.9 percent of them utilized it for the same. But, only 15 respondents borrowed loan for the expansion of business and 46.7 percent of them utilized it for the same. The major deviation is found in business. It clearly shows the risk and uncertainties in business.

This felt need and utilization of loan very clearly depends on their credibility. Association with SHG motivates women for achieving their goals in ethical ways. Though there are little deviations between the purpose and utilization of loans, it has been spent mostly for the development purposes such as education of their children, building houses and modification of houses.

Table – 3 : Family Monthly Savings

Savings	Frequency	Percent	Mean
Up to Rs.2000	342	65.8	
Rs.2001 – 3000	142	27.3	
Above 3000	36	6.9	
Total	520	100.0	1652

The above table shows the monthly family savings of the members of the SHG. It reveals that every member of the group saves a part of their income thanks to the effective intervention of SHGs in their economic development. Out of 520 members 342 (65.8 percent) save up to Rs.1000 per month. 142 members (27.3 percent) save Rs.2001 to Rs.3000. A very few respondents 36 (6.9 percent) save above Rs.3000/-. The average monthly savings of members is estimated at Rs.1652/-.

Table – 4: Monthly family income compared with monthly family savings

Monthly Income	Monthly Family Savings			
	N	Upto Rs.1000	Rs.1001 - 3000	Above Rs.3000
Upto Rs.5000	187	71.1	19.8	9.1
Rs.5001 - 15000	310	31.9	61.9	6.2
Above Rs.15000	23	13	26.1	60.9
Total	520	45.2	45.2	9.6

The monthly family income is compared with the monthly family savings. The income of 310 respondents is between Rs.5001 and 15000 per month. 61.9 percent of respondents save Rs.1001 to 3000 and only 6.2 percent of respondents save above Rs.3000. Only 23 respondents earn above Rs.15000/-. Among them 60.9 percent are able to save more than Rs.3000/-.

Table – 5 : Places of saving

No.	Places of Saving	Frequency	Percent
1.	SHG	494	95
2.	Nationalized Bank	120	23
3.	Post Office	107	20
4.	Private Bank	17	3
5.	Chit & Others	83	16

The above table states the place of savings of the members of the SHG. The vast majority of the respondents that is 95 percent of the respondents invest their money in SHGs. 20 percent saves in Post office, 2.1 percent saves in private banks and 16 percent saves money in chit funds.

Table – 6 : Percent distribution of Women according to Monthly Family Savings and Places of Saving

Places of Saving	Monthly Family Savings			
	N	Upto Rs.1000	Rs.1001 - 3000	Above Rs.3000
SHG	494	68.2	22.6	9.1
Nationalized Bank	120	60.0	38.3	1.7
Post Office	107	66.7	26.1	7.2
Private Bank	17	50.0	50.0	0.0
Chit & Others	83	50.0	50.0	0.0

Table 6 reveals that 494 respondents save money in SHGs. 68.2 per cent save up to Rs.1000/- and 9.1 per cent save above Rs.3000/- in SHGs. 120 respondents save in Nationalized Banks and 107 save in Post offices. 83 respondents save in chit fund and others.

Table – 7: Monthly savings in the SHG

Saving Amount	Frequency	Percent	Mean
Rs.1 to 100	161	31.0	
Rs.101 to 200	225	43.3	
Rs.201 to 300	37	7.1	
Rs.301 to 400	43	8.3	
Rs.401 to 500	18	3.4	
Above Rs. 500	10	1.9	
Not saving in SHG	26	5.0	
Total	520	100.0	165

Table 7 shows that 161 respondents (31.0 per cent) save up to Rs.100/- and the majority of the 225 respondents (43.3 per cent) save between Rs.101 and Rs.200/- per month. Of the 10 respondents (1.9 per cent) save money above Rs.500/- and 26 members (5.0 percent) are not saving in SHGs. The mean value is Rs.165/-.

Table – 8: Annual Family Income

Income Sources	Frequency	Percent	Mean
Wages			
No Wages	105	20.2	
Up to Rs.50,000	95	18.3	
Rs.50,001 – 1,50,000	305	58.7	
Above Rs.1,50,000	15	2.9	87,350
Business			
No Income from Business	469	90.2	
Up to Rs.50,000	16	3.1	
Rs.50,001 – 1,50,000	33	6.3	
Above Rs.1,50,000	2	0.4	81,373
Salary			
No Income from Salary	433	83.3	
Up to Rs.1,20,000	65	12.5	
Rs.120,001 – 3,00,000	18	3.5	
Above Rs.3,00,000	4	0.8	106,667

Agriculture			
No Income from Agriculture	500	96.1	
Up to Rs. 60000	18	3.5	
Rs.60001 – 120000	1	0.2	
Above Rs.120000	1	0.2	39,000
Livestock			
No Income from Livestock	504	96.9	
Up to Rs.10000	14	2.7	
Rs.10001 – 15000	1	0.2	
Above Rs.15,000	1	0.2	6,250
Interest			
No Income from Interest	511	98.3	
Up to 30,000	4	0.8	
Rs.30001 – 90,000	4	0.8	
Above Rs.90,000	1	0.2	45,000
Other Sources			
No Income from Other Sources	501	96.3	
Up to Rs.30,000	12	2.3	
Rs. 30,001 – 60,000	2	0.4	
Above Rs.60,000	5	1.0	37,895

Table 8 highlights the annual family income of the respondents under the study. The schedule reveals that 105 respondents (20.2 per cent) do not earn any income from wage sources. 95 respondents (18.3 per cent) earn up to Rs. 50,000 per annum from wage sources and 305 respondents (58.7% per cent) earn between Rs. 50,001 and 1,50,000 per annum and only 15 respondents (2.9 per cent) earn above Rs. 1,50,000 per annum from these sources. The annual mean income from wage is measured at Rs. 87,350/-. The table explains that 16 respondents (3.1 per cent) alone earn income up to Rs. 50,000 from business. 33 respondents (6.3 per cent) earn between Rs. 50,001 and 1,50,000 and only 0.4 per cent of the respondents earn above Rs. 1,50,000 from business sources. The above table also reveals that 469 respondents (90.2 per cent) do not have any income from business sources. The mean value of annual income from business is estimated at Rs.81,373/-.

The table shows that 65 respondents (12.5 per cent) earn up to Rs.1,20,000 per annum from salary sources. 18 respondents' (3.5 per cent) income earning from these sources lie in the income bracket of Rs. 1,20,000 - 3,00,000 and 4 respondents (0.8 per cent) earn above Rs. 3,00,000 from the same source. It is pertinent to register that 433 respondents (83.3 per cent) do not have any income from salary sources. The mean value of annual income from salary is measured at Rs. 1,06,667/-.

The table states that out of the 520 respondents, it is quiet surprising to find that 500 respondents (96.1 per cent) do not have any income from agriculture. 18 respondents (3.5 per cent) earn an income up to Rs. 60,000 per annum from agricultural sources. And only one respondent (0.2 percent) receives an income above Rs. 1,20,000 from these sources. The mean value of annual income from agriculture is estimated at Rs.39,000/-.

The table shows that 504 respondents (96.9 per cent) do not earn any income from livestock sources. 14 respondents (2.7 per cent) earn up to Rs.10,000 and one respondent earn an income above Rs. 15,000 per annum income from livestock sources. The mean value of annual income from livestock is Rs.6,250/-.

The table states that out of 520 respondents 511 respondents do not earn any income from interest sources. 4 respondents (0.8 per cent) receive an income up to Rs.30,000 per annum from interest sources and only one respondent (0.2 per cent) earn above Rs.90,000 per annum from interest sources. The mean value of annual income from interest is measured at Rs.45,000/-.

The table 8 explains that out of 520 respondents 501 (96.3 per cent) do not earn any income from other sources. 12 respondents (2.3 per cent) earn up to Rs.30,000 and only one percent earn above Rs. 60,000 per annum from other sources. The mean value of annual income from other sources is estimated at Rs.37,895/-.

Table – 9 : Annual Family Expenditure

Expenditures	Frequency	Percent	Mean
Food			
Up to Rs.50,000	264	50.8	
Rs.50,001 – 1,00,000	209	40.2	
Above Rs.1,00,000	47	9.0	54,135
Clothes			
Up to Rs.5,000	425	81.7	
Rs.5,001 – 20,000	88	16.9	
Above Rs.20,000	7	1.3	4,462
Education			
No Expenses *	64	12.3	
Up to Rs.25,000	406	78.1	
Rs.25,001 - 50,000	35	6.7	
Above Rs.50,000	15	2.9	16,475
Transportation			
No Expenses **	45	8.7	
Up to Rs.2500	460	88.5	
Rs.2501 – 5000	13	2.5	
Above Rs.5000	2	0.4	1,345
Medicine			
No Expenses ***	19	3.7	
Up to Rs. 15,000	471	90.6	
Rs. 15,001 – 30,000	24	4.6	
Above Rs.30,000	6	1.2	8,668
Entertainment			
No Expense ****	115	22.1	
Up to Rs. 2000	401	77.1	
Rs.2001 – 4000	1	0.2	
Above Rs.4000	3	0.6	1,042
House Maintenance			
No Expense *****	185	35.6	
Up to Rs.10000	302	58.1	
Rs.10001 – 30000	28	5.4	
Above Rs.30000	5	1.0	6,776
Social Functions			
No Expenses #	98	18.8	
Up to Rs.30000	368	70.8	
Rs.30001 – Rs.60,000	52	10.0	
Above Rs.60,000	2	0.4	18,981
Other Expenses ##			
No Expenses	388	74.6	
Up to Rs.25000	128	24.6	
Rs.25001 – 50000	3	0.6	
Above Rs.50000	1	0.2	13,542

* Their children completed their studies

** Aged and widowed respondents do not borrow as they do not want to move out or the communities restrict their movement.

*** Some people do not incur any medical expenses, because of good environment, cleanliness and health consciousness.

**** Some people do not spend money on entertainment, because of their traditional religious beliefs, vulgarism in mass media, violence and cultural taboos.

***** 35.6 percent people do not have house maintenance expenses; because they built new houses very recently or they do not feel the need of house maintenance or they live in rented houses.

18.8 percent people do not spend any money for social functions, because of poverty.

Total annual expenditure for the family for various items such as Food, Clothes, Education, Transportation, Medicine, Entertainment, House Maintenance, Social Functions and Other expenses are calculated and the total expenditure of the family is arrived.

Table 9 highlights the annual family expenditure of the respondents on food. Out of 520 respondents, 50.8 percent of the respondents spend up to Rs.50,000/-, 40.2 percent spend Rs.50,000 to 100,000 and 9.0 percent spend above Rs.100,000/- on food items.

The table shows that 81.7 percent of them spend up to Rs.5000 and 1.3 percent spend above Rs.2000 on cloth items. The mean value of annual expenditure on clothe is estimated at Rs.4,462/-.

The table states that 78.1 percent of the respondents spend up to Rs.25,000/- and only 2.9 percent spend above Rs.50,000/- on education.

It is evident from the table that 90.6 percent of the respondent spend up to Rs.15,000/- on medicine and 1.2 percent of them spend above Rs.30,000/- on this item. 3.7 percent of the respondents do not incur any expenditure on medicine.

The table explains that 77.1 percent of the respondents incur an annual expenditure up to Rs.20,000/- on entertainment and only 0.2 percent spend between Rs.2001 and 4,000/- on entertainment. The table reveals that 74.6 percent of the respondents do incur any expenditure under the head 'other expenses'.

The table shows that 70.8 percent of the respondents spend up to Rs.30,000/- per annum on social functions. Only 0.4 percent spend between Rs.30,001 to 60,000/- on social functions.

Table – 10 : Sources of Borrowing

No.	Borrowing Places	Frequency	Percent
1.	SHG	483	93
2.	Nationalized Bank	137	26
3.	Post Office	10	2
4.	Private Bank	33	6
5.	Money Lenders	80	15
6.	Cooperative Society	16	3
7.	Not Borrowing	4	1

Table 10 presents the sources of borrowing of the SHG members. SHG plays a vital role (63.3) percent, followed by 137 members (18) percent borrow from the Nationalized Bank, 80 members (10.5) percent from Money Lenders, 33 members (4.3) percent from Private Bank, 16 members (2.1) percent form Co-operative Society, 10 members (1.3) percent from Post Office and only 4 members (1) percent do not borrow from any sources.

CONCLUSION:

Women empowerment is possible when people are motivated, mobilized and organized to be independent towards achieving their fundamental rights. It helps women to attain equal status in the society. The Central Government has come up with a lot of innovative schemes every year and sufficient fiscal allocation has been made in union budget for empowerment of women. But the statistics shows that the utilization of schemes and central fund for empowering women is very limited from the source of various state governments. It is obviously evident that women are empowered through Self Help Groups by various financial activities such as savings, borrowings, budgeting and rotating funds. Women are becoming self reliant and self dependent because of various motivational programs and schemes organized by SHGs.

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