CHAPTER 4

OBJECTIVE AND HYPOTHESIS
4.1 OBJECTIVES

This study seeks -

1) to measure the level of empowerment of women participating in the microcredit programme through SHGs under different criteria – power, autonomy and self-reliance, entitlement, participation and awareness and capacity-building – and identify the important factors influencing their empowerment.

2) to examine the impact of empowerment of women participating in microcredit programme on their children’s nutritional status and protein-intake of their households.

4.2 HYPOTHESES

The study will test the following specific hypotheses:

1) The average empowerment level of women participating in the microcredit programme under core group is higher for both NGO-led and non-NGO-led programme than that of women among control group. No perceptible difference is expected at the level of empowerment between NGO and non-NGO led programmes.

2) Women participating in the microcredit programme (core group) have more favourable impact on empowerment in terms of decision – making power in general at the household level, asset management decision at the household level and mobility of the women compared with women under control group mainly due to women’s higher regular income from micro enterprises by the former.

3) Empowerment of women participating in the micro credit programme has a positive impact on their children’s nutritional status and protein-intake of their households.