PREFACE

Micro finance and micro enterprises have gained popularity today in the third world countries as instruments of women empowerment through self employment, income generation and development of entrepreneurship. Self Help Groups have been instrumental in developing entrepreneurship among women. In India in general and in Andhra Pradesh in particular Self Help Groups were found growing in huge number and successful in triggering the growth and development especially among women, though on a modest scale, by shifting the loaning pattern away from consumption to production purposes leading to savings, generation of income through business ventures empowering thousands of women. Moreover, Self Help Groups showed positive impact on member households in respect of building self-confidence and socio-economic development, skill formation and empowerment of members.

The programme of linking Self Help Groups with banks initiated by NABARD in the year 1992 seems to have taken off in terms of coverage of Self Help Groups and their ultimate group members. The development of micro finance over time has thrown up several issues concerning its efficacy. First, the cost effectiveness compared to formal banking with the poor. Second, the improved outreach through banks linkage with Self Help Groups. Final, the comparison among formal sector agencies, regarding their impact on their attitude, savings and borrowing pattern, the economic and social well being of the poor. No doubt a number of impact studies were conducted covering a number of micro finance institutions and Grameen Bank in other countries. In the Indian context, however, there is no comprehensive study dealing with the impact of Self Help Groups programme on a large scale. The present study is therefore contemplated, conceived and completed to evaluate impact of Self
Help Groups in developing entrepreneurship among women and also enquire into the women entrepreneurship dimensions, implications and challenges with a focus on SHG women.

The present study examines how in the existing frame the magic of women group synergy can ensure promotion, development and sustainability in the growth of women entrepreneurship. The study focuses on how the SHG as a movement has transformed the lives of many poor women especially at the grass root level in India by developing them into confident, empowered entrepreneurial women capable of handling business venture. The SHGs have proved that these women are bankable based on their honesty and integrity. To ensure the smooth flow of earnings, the sustainability of income generating activity is of paramount importance. The initial support would kindle their spirit to engross them into entrepreneurial activity at the micro level derived from the basic potential skills. The study emphasises the need for withdrawing the support after a certain time frame to make them independent and self reliant for marching towards sustained growth. These women should take up income generating activities for the sustained flow of earnings through a successful business ventures.

VISHNU VADDE