CHAPTER-VIII

MAJOR FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

An attempt is made in this chapter to present major findings followed by conclusions and suggestions.

8.1 MAJOR FINDINGS

- 69.3 percent of SHG women entrepreneurs are drawn from rural areas and 30.7 percent of the respondents are drawn from semi-urban areas.
- 24 percent of SHG women entrepreneurs are in the age range of 24 years, 66.7 percent are from 26-40 years age range, and 9.3 percent are from 41-60 years age range.
- Majority of the SHG women entrepreneurs are equipped with low level of education.
- Majority of the respondents are drawn from socially downtrodden communities.
- Majority of the respondents were involved in traditional occupations.
- 11.3 percent of SHG women entrepreneurs were very poor, 51.3 percent were poor, 37.3 percent were from middle income classes. Thus, majority of the respondents were from the range of very poor and poor.
- The level of innovative behavior is found to be low for 15 percent of the SHG women entrepreneurs, and the same is moderate for 57 percent and high for 28 percent of the women entrepreneurs.
• The level of risk taking behavior is found to be low for 16 percent of the SHG women entrepreneurs, and the same is moderate for 60 percent and high for 24 percent of the women entrepreneurs.

• The level of technology inducement behavior is found to be low for 10 percent of the SHG women entrepreneurs, and the same is moderate for 75.3 percent and high for 14.7 percent of the women entrepreneurs.

• The level of management orientation is found to be low for 14 percent of the SHG women entrepreneurs, and the same is moderate for 61 percent and high for 25 percent of the women entrepreneurs.

• 23 percent of the SHG women entrepreneurs are drawn from joint family system and 77 percent are drawn from nuclear family system.

• The highest numbers of respondents from socially advanced castes are from Mahabubnagar district, the highest numbers of respondents from backward castes are from Krishna district, the highest numbers of respondents from scheduled castes are from Kurnool district and the highest numbers of respondents from scheduled tribes are from Mahabubnagar district.

• 81.3 percent of the SHG women entrepreneurs have opined that they have opted membership in SHGs due to the ‘learning benefits’ that SHGs offer to their members and 18.7 percent of the respondents did not endorse the said opinion.
65.3 percent of the SHG women entrepreneurs have opined that they have opted membership in SHGs ‘to fill the resource gap’ and 34.7 percent of the respondents did not endorse the said opinion.

76 percent of the SHG women entrepreneurs have opined that they have opted membership in SHGs ‘compulsions of the program’ and 24 percent of the respondents did not endorse the said opinion.

78.7 percent of the SHG women entrepreneurs have opined that they have opted membership in SHGs ‘achievement motivation’ and 21.3 percent of the respondents did not endorse the said opinion.

69.3 percent of the SHG women entrepreneurs have opined that they have opted membership in SHGs ‘inclusive growth’ and 30.7 percent of the respondents did not endorse the said opinion.

77.3 percent of the SHG women entrepreneurs have opined that they have opted membership in SHGs ‘to develop the saving habit’ and 22.7 percent of the respondents did not endorse the said opinion.

53.3 percent of the SHG women entrepreneurs have opined that they have opted membership in SHGs ‘to become an entrepreneur’ and 46.7 percent of the respondents did not endorse the said opinion.

25.3 percent of the SHG women entrepreneurs have opined that they have opted membership in SHGs ‘loan at concessional rate of interest of interest’ and 74.7 percent of the respondents did not endorse the said opinion.

76 percent of the SHG women entrepreneurs have opined that they have opted membership in SHGs ‘for a better future’ and 24 percent of the respondents did not endorse the said opinion.
• 73.3 percent of the SHG women entrepreneurs have opined that they have opted membership in SHGs ‘state’s encouragement’ and 26.7 percent of the respondents did not endorse the said opinion.

• 59.3 percent of SHG women entrepreneurs are managing Agri-business units, 12.7 percent are managing manufacturing units and 28 percent of the entrepreneurs are managing services units. Thus, the category of the business is predominant with agri. business units.

• 25.3 percent of the enterprises could generate an average employment of up to 200 man days, 66.7 percent units could generate an average employment of 201-300 man days and 8 percent of the units could produce employment to the extent of above 300 man days on an average.

• 13.3 percent of the SHG women entrepreneurs did not use the resources at all followed by 60 percent of the entrepreneurs have utilized the resources partly and 26.7 percent of the entrepreneurs have fully utilized the resources.

• 13.3 percent of SHG women entrepreneurs have invested an average of Rs. up to 10000, 48 percent entrepreneurs have invested an average of Rs.10001-20000 and 38.7 percent of the women entrepreneurs have invested an average of Rs. above 20000.

• 10.7 percent of the SHG women entrepreneurs have generated average revenue Rs Up to 20000, 42.7 percent of the SHG women entrepreneurs have generated average revenue Rs 20001-30000, 37.3 percent of the SHG women entrepreneurs have generated average revenue Rs 30001-40000 and
9.3 percent of the SHG women entrepreneurs have generated average revenue Rs above 40000.

- 25.3 percent of the SHG women entrepreneurs have earned an average profit Rs Up to 10000, 60 percent of the SHG women entrepreneurs have earned average profit Rs 10001-20000, and 14.7 percent of the SHG women entrepreneurs have earned an average profit of Rs above 20000.

- An increase in financial savings is low in the case of 8 percent of the women entrepreneurs, medium in the case of 60 percent and high in the case of 32 percent of the women entrepreneurs of the SHGs.

- An increase in real savings is low in the case of 36 percent of the women entrepreneurs, medium in the case of 40 percent and high in the case of 24 percent of the women entrepreneurs of the SHGs.

- Expenditure on education is low in the case of 13.3 percent of the women entrepreneurs, medium in the case of 46.7 percent and high in the case of 40 percent of the women entrepreneurs of the SHGs.

- Expenditure on health is low in the case of 14.7 percent of the women entrepreneurs, medium in the case of 74 percent and high in the case of 11.3 percent of the women entrepreneurs of the SHGs.

- An increase in their investment is low in the case of 20 percent of the women entrepreneurs, medium in the case of 38.7 percent and high in the case of 41.3 percent of the women entrepreneurs of the SHGs.

- The level of self image of the women entrepreneurs of the SHGs in pre- SHG setting was found to be low in the case of 26 percent, moderate for 66
percent and the same is high in the case of 8 percent of the women entrepreneurs.

- The level of self image of the women entrepreneurs of the SHGs in post- SHG setting was found to be low in the case of 5.3 percent, moderate for 62 percent and the same is high in the case of 32.7 percent of the women entrepreneurs.

- The level of knowledge and awareness levels of the women entrepreneurs of the SHGs in pre- SHG setting was found to be low in the case of 33.3 percent, moderate for 38.7 percent and the same is high in the case of 28 percent of the women entrepreneurs.

- The level of knowledge and awareness levels of the women entrepreneurs of the SHGs in post- SHG setting was found to be low in the case of 10 percent, moderate for 69 percent and the same is high in the case of 21 percent of the women entrepreneurs.

- The level of women group cohesiveness levels of the women entrepreneurs of the SHGs in pre- SHG setting was found to be low in the case of 22 percent, moderate for 69 percent and the same is high in the case of 9 percent of the women entrepreneurs.

- The level of women group cohesiveness levels of the women entrepreneurs of the SHGs in post- SHG setting was found to be low in the case of 13.3 percent, moderate for 58.7 percent and the same is high in the case of 28 percent of the women entrepreneurs.

- The level of ability to network of the women entrepreneurs of the SHGs in pre- SHG setting was found to be low in the case of 23 percent, moderate for
69 percent and the same is high in the case of 8 percent of the women entrepreneurs.

- The level of ability to network of the women entrepreneurs of the SHGs in post- SHG setting was found to be low in the case of 5 percent, moderate for 66 percent and the same is high in the case of 29 percent of the women entrepreneurs.

- The level of accessibility to resources of the women entrepreneurs of the SHGs in pre- SHG setting was found to be low in the case of 27 percent, moderate for 66 percent and the same is high in the case of 7 percent of the women entrepreneurs.

- The level of accessibility to resources of the women entrepreneurs of the SHGs in post- SHG setting was found to be low in the case of 7 percent, moderate for 54 percent and the same is high in the case of 39 percent of the women entrepreneurs.

- The level of ability to question various forms of exploitation of the women entrepreneurs of the SHGs in pre- SHG setting was found to be low in the case of 26 percent, moderate for 64 percent and the same is high in the case of 10 percent of the women entrepreneurs.

- The level of ability to question various forms of exploitation of the women entrepreneurs of the SHGs in post- SHG setting was found to be low in the case of 8 percent, moderate for 63 percent and the same is high in the case of 29 percent of the women entrepreneurs.

- The level of ability to communicate and act of the women entrepreneurs of the SHGs in pre- SHG setting was found to be low in the case of 20 percent,
moderate for 69 percent and the same is high in the case of 11 percent of the women entrepreneurs.

- The level of ability to communicate and act of the women entrepreneurs of the SHGs in post- SHG setting was found to be low in the case of 6.7 percent, moderate for 53.7 percent and the same is high in the case of 39.7 percent of the women entrepreneurs.

- The level of ability to make decisions of the women entrepreneurs of the SHGs in pre- SHG setting was found to be low in the case of 22 percent, moderate for 69 percent and the same is high in the case of 9 percent of the women entrepreneurs.

- The level of ability to make decisions of the women entrepreneurs of the SHGs in post- SHG setting was found to be low in the case of 9 percent, moderate for 65 percent and the same is high in the case of 26 percent of the women entrepreneurs.

- The level of ability to enterprise management of the women entrepreneurs of the SHGs in pre- SHG setting was found to be low in the case of 28 percent, moderate for 63 percent and the same is high in the case of 9 percent of the women entrepreneurs.

- The level of ability to enterprise management of the women entrepreneurs of the SHGs in post- SHG setting was found to be low in the case of 5.3 percent, moderate for 62 percent and the same is high in the case of 32.7 percent of the women entrepreneurs.
74.7 percent of the women entrepreneurs of the SHGs have expected tailor made capacity building programs from the government and its organs concerned and 25.3 percent of the respondents did not expect the same.

77 percent of the women entrepreneurs of the SHGs have expected exposure to rich and proven experiences from the government and its organs concerned and 23 percent of the respondents did not expect the same.

72 percent of the women entrepreneurs of the SHGs have expected inclusive growth from the government and its organs concerned and 28 percent of the respondents did not expect the same.

72.3 percent of the women entrepreneurs of the SHGs have expected networking of similar SHGs from the government and its organs concerned and 27.7 percent of the respondents did not expect the same.

69.7 percent of the women entrepreneurs of the SHGs have expected SHG-Bank linkage must be strengthened by the government and its organs concerned and 30.3 percent of the respondents did not expect the same.

74 percent of the women entrepreneurs of the SHGs have expected market inclusion by the government and its organs concerned and 26 percent of the respondents did not expect the same.

67 percent of the women entrepreneurs of the SHGs have expected adequate financial support from the government and its organs concerned and 33 percent of the respondents did not expect the same.

76 percent of the women entrepreneurs of the SHGs have expected development of new markets by the government and its organs concerned and 24 percent of the respondents did not expect the same.
8.2 CONCLUSIONS

14. Majority of the women entrepreneurs with rural backdrop, relatively young, endowed with low level of education, drawn from socially downtrodden communities, involved in traditional occupations, drawn from poor economic category, drawn from nuclear families, endowed with moderate levels of innovative behavior, risk taking behavior, technology inducing behavior, and management orientation.

15. The determinants of SHG membership are found to be identified in the descending order of endorsement by the SHG women entrepreneurs which include learning benefits, achievement motivation, to develop the saving habit, for a better future, compulsions of the program, state’s encouragement, inclusive growth, to fill the resource gap, to become an entrepreneur and loan at concessional rate.

16. The relationship between the age of the SHG women entrepreneurs and perceptions about the determinants of SHG membership is found to be statistically independent except with reference to resource gap, achievement motivation, inclusive growth, to develop the saving habit, and to become an entrepreneur.

17. The relationship between the education of the SHG women entrepreneurs and perceptions about the determinants of SHG membership is found to be statistically independent except with reference to becoming an entrepreneur and for a better future.
18. The relationship between the social status of the SHG women entrepreneurs and perceptions about the determinants of SHG membership is found to be statistically independent except with reference to development of the saving habit, to become an entrepreneur, and state’s encouragement.

19. The relationship between the economic status of the SHG women entrepreneurs and perceptions about the determinants of SHG membership is found to be statistically independent except with reference to compulsions of the program.

20. Agri-business units are the major constituent of enterprises run by SHG women entrepreneurs. 66.7 percent of women entrepreneurs have got an average employment of 201-300 man days of employment. Majority of the women entrepreneurs (60 percent) have not utilized the resources fully. The average range of investment is found to be Rs 10001-20000 made by 48 percent of the women entrepreneurs. In case of 42.7 percent of the women entrepreneurs, revenue generation in average terms is found in the range of Rs. 20001-30000 and increase in profits is found to be in the range of Rs.10001-20000. It is further observed that a moderate increase in financial savings in case of 60 percent of women entrepreneurs, and real savings in the case of 40 percent entrepreneurs. A moderate increase in expenditure on education in the case of 46.7 percent of entrepreneurs, and expenditure on health in case of 74 percent of the entrepreneurs.

21. The relationship between the social status of the SHG women entrepreneurs and economic implications they were subjected which are attributable to enterprising activities is found to be statistically independent except with
reference to category of the business, employment generation, revenue, profit, increase in real savings, increase in expenditure on education and health and investment.

22. The relationship between the economic status of the SHG women entrepreneurs and economic implications they were subjected which are attributable to enterprising activities is found to be statistically independent except with reference to category of the business.

23. The women empowerment level is found to be high in post SHG setting in relation to that of women empowerment in pre SHG setting.

24. The relationship between the social status of the SHG women entrepreneurs and their empowerment levels is found to be statistically independent except with reference to knowledge and awareness levels in pre- SHG setting.

25. The relationship between the social status of the SHG women entrepreneurs and their empowerment levels is found to be statistically independent except with reference to ability to communicate and act in post- SHG setting.

26. The relationship between the economic status of the SHG women entrepreneurs and their empowerment levels is found to be statistically independent in pre- SHG setting.

27. The relationship between the economic status of the SHG women entrepreneurs and their empowerment levels is found to be statistically independent in post- SHG setting.

28. Majority of the women entrepreneurs of the SHGs have expected from the government and its related organs and their expectations arranged in the descending order of endorsement which include exposure to rich and
proven experiences, development of new markets, tailor made capacity building programs, market inclusion, networking of similar SHGs, inclusive growth, strong SHG-Bank linkage, and adequate financial support.

29. The relationship between the category of the business and the expectations of the SHG women entrepreneurs is found to be statistically independent.

30. The relationship between the social status of the SHG women entrepreneurs and their expectations is found to be statistically independent.

18. The first hypothesis “SHGs have positively contributed to economic development of women” is not rejected.

19. The second hypothesis “SHGs have a positive impact on women empowerment” is not rejected.

20. The third hypothesis “The relationship between the social status of the SHG women entrepreneurs and their empowerment levels is assumed to be statistically independent” is accepted partially.

8.3 SUGGESTIONS

On the basis of major findings and personal acquaintance in data collection, and interaction with the SHG women entrepreneurs, the following suggestions are made to strengthen both economic and non economic outcomes of SHGs attributable to women entrepreneurship. They include

1. Efforts must be made to enable SHG women entrepreneurs to become outsourcing centers for big business so as to make women entrepreneurs to reap the economies of scale. For example, SHGs can take active part in the supply chain management of organized private retailers.
2. Women entrepreneurs must focus on untapped markets and creation of new markets. SHGs must focus on untapped markets in non-farm sector of the rural economy especially in the arena of construction activities, grain milling etc.

3. Enriched consultancy services must be made available to them to take better decisions. Activity specific techno-managerial consultancy services may be provided leading to the development of first generation women entrepreneurship in rural areas.

4. Government must ensure that more and more number of women from marginalized segments of the society join the SHGs. The composition of SHG members must be specified by law in such a manner that women from all the castes must be represented in the group. Thus, the divergence in composition of members must be roped in leading to convergence of their goals.

5. The twin aims of SHGs and their activities must strive to effectively ensure economic and social inclusion as the structure of SHGs paves the ways smoothly for the said goals of inclusion.

6. Women entrepreneurs must also aim at sustainability of the growth of their enterprises because they not only want present growth but also future growth. The required degree of sustainability can be made possible only by undertaking viable and feasible economic activities.

7. Networks of SHGs of similar activities must be encouraged in order to reap the economies of scale.
8. Market support programs must be encouraged by the state in order to enable SHGs to reap the economies of scale. Input subsidy, stipulation of quota in State trading corporation purchases from the production made by the SHGs and provision of financial support to the SHGs to trade in agricultural inputs and outputs.
9. Venture capital flows to enterprises run by SHG women entrepreneurs must be encouraged with an aim at promotion of women entrepreneurship.
10. Fiscal incentives must be extended to those big entrepreneurs who can invest in the enterprises run by women entrepreneurs by resorting to differential rates of VAT, transfer payments etc.

8.4 AREAS OF FURTHER RESEARCH

1. Estimation of social capital developed in SHGs.
2. Repayment performance of women entrepreneurs of SHGs.
3. The problems and prospects of ensuring sustainability of enterprises run by women entrepreneurs.