inclusion, adequate financial support, and development of new markets. It is found that 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.

Chapter-VIII entitled “MAJOR FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS” deals with the factor specific major findings, followed by conclusions and suggestions.

Chapter-II
REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

INTRODUCTION

2.1 A modest attempt is made in this chapter to review the earlier studies in order to identify the aspects covered and to identify the gaps if any the said studies.
2.2 REVIEW OF EARLIER STUDIES

T. Chiranjeevulu\(^3\) has analyzed how Srujuna Mahilabhivridhi Upadi mutually aided cooperative society, Warangal, through its chilli processing unit (CPC) has harvested women’s collective strength for poverty alleviation. The CPC proved that women have tremendous energies to start their own enterprises given the right opportunities. It is found that women have developed abundant self confidence and self-esteem through SHG movement. Not only economic poverty but also social and gender issues can be tackled effectively through this process.

D. Padmavathi\(^4\) has found that women’s participation in outside home economic activities are governed by ideas and values of the society where she lives and her behavior movements are controlled and restricted by her religious community rules and regulations. The later are upheld and strengthened and repeated through economic political, social, legal structures. Gender relations are institutionalized and systematized in a regular fashion so that violation is difficult if not impossible. She has suggested an empowerment strategy.

H.D. Dwarakanath\(^5\) has observed that women lead SHGs, having confidence among them have mostly created the attitudinal change and transformed the social outlook of its members. SHGs in the study area emerged as a new paradigm for eradicating poverty. Credit needs of rural women are fulfilled totally through women groups. These groups enhance equality of status of women as participants,

\(^3\) T. Chiranjeevulu – “Empowerment of women through SHG’s Experiences in Experiment”; Kurukshetra March 2003, Page 16-19.

\(^4\) D. Padmavathi; “Agent women empowerment”; social welfare March 2004 – P.P 8-12.

\(^5\) H. D. Dwarakanath, ‘Rural Credit and women SHG a Profile of Rangareddy dist. In Andhra Pradesh”, Kurukshetra Nov 2002, Pp 9-15
decision makers and beneficiaries in the democratic, economic, social and cultural spheres of life and sensitized women members to take active part in socio economic progress of rural India.

P.S. Rangi and others\textsuperscript{6} have found that the amount of loans taken from the banks was high as compared to the internal borrowing from the SHGs, but the rate of interest was high in the later category. Loans from both the sources have benefited the members of SHGs directly and indirectly for their economic empowerment. It is also found that these rural women have been saved from social and economic exploitation by money lenders, big landlords and others like. The additional income generated in this way with the help of SHGs have provided them with big moral support and will to bring new changes in the rural economy of the state as well as to the country in future.

Jos Chatukulam\textsuperscript{7} has opined that SHGs in the study area not only provide a means of survival for poor women, but also serve as nascent institutions for the building up of women’s specific social capital, which can serve a long term sustainability function in poverty reduction. Although it is true that some sections of the poorest of the poor find it difficult to participate in SHGs, the overall impact of the SHG movement in enabling women to arrest the increasing feminization of poverty is considerable. Evolving and working the self help groups are also yielding complementary spin-off. Apart from increasing women networks and fostering


trust, it enables them to acquire skills in conflict management and organized participation in forums like the *Gram Sabha*, which will also have a long term effect on enhancing women’s overall ability to address poverty.

V.M.S. Perumal\(^8\) has conducted a study with an objective of studying the income expenditure and savings behavior of the members after joining the SHGs and to know the role of SHGs in providing rural credit. The study revealed that the income of the SHGs members has increased after joining the SHGs. The family expenditure has increased due to positive change in the income of SHGs members. SHGs became a boon to the rural people, because instead of approaching banks as individuals, SHG members can easily approach the banks and other institutions to get loan.

M.L. Gupta and Namita Gupta\(^9\) have observed that organized working of the women through SHGs has increased the income of the families involved. Most of them are now able to repay their old debts and started asset building. The existing enterprises of beneficiaries are better managed now. Success of the SHGs not only improved the economic status of the women concerned but there is also a drastic change in their social status.


Vijay D. Kulkarni\textsuperscript{10} has categorized the indicators of women empowerment into 1) Personal 2) Family 3) Group. He has identified barriers to women’s empowerment. He concluded that the SHG activity is a win-win situation, where in the poor women get access to credit as well as make profit. When the poor organize themselves and adopt various programs and strategies they are actual participants of and a subject in the whole process. While evolving into self help groups, they gradually learn to take decisions for themselves and also develop the capacity to exercise certain amount of control over the social, economic and political conditions that determine their immediate lives.

K.Kalpana\textsuperscript{11} has pointed out to the constraints that impede the capacity of micro finance programmes to keep the poor households to above poverty line status. It is argued that protect ional financial services ( easy access emergency loans, soft loans as consumption loans, easily- with- drawable savings, insurance facilities that protect against death, disability, etc) work better for core poor sections by smoothing income and consumption fluctuations and strengthening coping strategies in the event of crises.

Ashutosh Jinda\textsuperscript{12} has opined that all those agitating their minds on the problems of development in Indian villages would identify “scaling up the successful interventions” as the biggest challenge for India. There are innumerable success stories of projects involving SHGs, poverty alleviation initiatives or community participation, access to drinking water and sanitation, but for these interventions to


\textsuperscript{11} Shifting Trajectories in Micro finance Discourse, Economic and political Weekly, December 17,2005

\textsuperscript{12} Micro finance and SHGs, Role of Government Institutions, Economic and political Weekly September 17,2005
make a meaningful impact on the lives of the rural poor, they have to be replicable across the length and breadth of the country. Meera Lal\textsuperscript{13} has noted that Knowledge and life-long learning policy-makers should pay special attention to leveraging full benefits of ICT’s for rural communities, in particular SHGs in conjunction with existing development imperatives. At this crucial juncture, when benefits of such revolutionary new technologies seem within the grasp of rural community, care must be taken to seemingly accommodate the needs and aspirates of the very downtrodden, the neediest and marginalized-the poorest of the poor within the unfolding of knowledge age. The so-called” digital divide” requires bridging. Government agencies and rural communities themselves have to come forward with openness to wide spectrum of ides in the knowledge-gap. Innovations, efficiencies, merit analysis, professionalism and evidence based decision-making should become the hallmark of national culture and be embraced by rural ICT. Commitment to mainstreaming of gender parity issues, greater involvement of women SHGs need to be incorporated at all levels.

Archana Sinha\textsuperscript{14} has concluded that micro-finance can contribute to solving the problem of inadequate housing and urban services as an integral part of poverty alleviation programmes. The challenges lies in finding the level of flexibility in the credit instrument that could make it match the multiple credit requirements of the low-income borrowers without imposing unbearably high cost of monitoring its end-use upon the lenders. A Promising solution is to provide multipurpose loans or

\textsuperscript{13} Information technology initiatives: impact of self help groups in India, Visiting professor, department of Economics, Punjabi University, Patiala.

\textsuperscript{14} Micro Finance for women’s Empowerment, Kurukshetra, April 2004.
composite credit for income generation, housing improvement and consumption loan is found to be especially important during the gestation period between commencing a new economic activity ad deriving positive income. Careful research on demand for financing and savings behavior of the potential borrowers and their participation in determining the mix of multi-purpose loans are essential in making the concept work.

Priya Basu and Pradeep Srivastava\textsuperscript{15} have observed that in large part, the success of the SHG-bank linkage may be attributed to the fact that it is well aligned with Indian history and circumstances, and capitalizes on the country’s vast network of rural bank branches. The Idea of local savings and loan clubs enjoying access to formal financial services by becoming corporate customers of banks is a good one and is practiced in a small way in many countries.

Nalla Kabeer\textsuperscript{16} suggested the need for caution in talking about the impact of microfinance, in general, and the need to talk about the impact particular organizations have had in particular contexts. MFIs vary considerably in the contexts in which they work, the sections of the population they work with, their analysis of the problem of financial exclusion, the strategies they adopt to address this problem and the commitment they bring to bear in the implementation of their strategies. Organizations with apparently similar approaches may nevertheless report very different benefits because of variation in some of these factors. The success of MFIs in building up the organization capacity of poor women provides the basis for their

\textsuperscript{15} Exploring Possibilities, Micro finance and Rural Credit Access for the poor in India, Economic and Political Weekly, April 23, 2005.

\textsuperscript{16} In Micro finance a ‘Magic Bullet’ for Women’s Empowerment ? Analysis of Findings from South Asia, Economic and Political Weekly, October 29,2005
social mobilization that many other development interventions have not been able to achieve.

Sabyasachi Das\(^{17}\) has observed that the Micro credit – SHGs model has got tremendous attention in recent years. Micro credit is an alternative source of credit for the poor who earlier were considered as non-bankable. This system not only provides credit, most important input for development, to the poorer section of the society, but also aimed for their capacity building. It has also been observed that group lending has distinct advantage in the form of excellent recovery rate and improvement in income level. The Phenomenal growth of SHGs indicates that the weaker sections of the society are also capable to sharpen their micro-entrepreneurial skills with the help of their own savings and additional bank credit, as needed.

S.K. DHAMEJA & Others\(^{18}\) have made an attempt to study the general profile of women entrepreneurs, the extent of fulfillment of expectations of women entrepreneurs with regard to various supporting agencies and attitude towards the supporting agencies. They found that the age between 26 to 35 years is found to be appropriate for venturing and becoming entrepreneur ship. It is also found that experience is not a necessary pre-requisite for venturing into the business. Women entrepreneurs are found to be ill informed about the facilities given by supporting agencies.

\(^{17}\) Self Help Groups & Micro credit Synergic Integration, Kurukshetra, August, 2003.

\(^{18}\) S.K.Dhameja, B.S. Bhatia & Saini J.S: “Women entrepreneurs their perceptions, about business opportunities and attitudes towards entrepreneurial support agencies ( a study of Haryana State)”. Sedme. December 2000 pp 37 - 50
ARAVINDA CH & RENUKA S\textsuperscript{19} explained the process of women entrepreneurship. The objectives of their study include the study of socio-economic profiles, factors motivating and facilitating women entrepreneurship, role conflicts between work and home. They found that self interest was the foremost motivational factor followed by inspiration from others and self respect. Self-respect and experience were found to be in the important facilitating factors of women entrepreneurship. It is also observed that non availability of time to spend with the family is the source of conflict between work and home.

GANESAN. R AND OTHERS\textsuperscript{20} observed that the entrepreneurial inputs should help women develop skills to meet future challenges. Many of these have to do with global issues. Skill up gradation as an aspect like marketing strategies should be constantly upgraded through proper networking facilities. The training on marketing and information technologies would determine the success of enterprise.

MALLIKA DAS\textsuperscript{21} had classified the women entrepreneurs into three categories chance, forced and created or pulled. They study suggests that there is a rationale for focusing on created or pulled entrepreneurs as they seem to perform better and seem to view their success as resulting from the business skills that they possess. Women who were forced into entrepreneurship also did better than ‘chance’ entrepreneurs. It may, hence, be inferred that financial motivation can lead to success in entrepreneurial activities.

\textsuperscript{19} Aravinda CH & Renuka S “Women entrepreneurs : an exploratory study:. Sedme September 2001, pp 71 to 81


\textsuperscript{21} Mallika Das “Women entrepreneurs from southern India: An exploratory study The journal of entrepreneurship 8, 2 (1999)
COLETE DUMAS\textsuperscript{22} discussed the community entrepreneurs’ programme which is meant to help low income women start their own business. Evaluation results indicate that training provided to low income women had indeed accomplished its goals to help participants launch their own business, to empower then to achieve self sufficiently through entrepreneurship and job creation.

Anjali Ghosh\textsuperscript{23} has felt that starting and operating business involves considerable risk and effort, because the entrepreneur creates and builds everything on his/her own and assumes all the responsibilities. Moreover, this risk is perhaps even greater for a women entrepreneur, who has all the usual business problems as well as the problems associated with being a women in a male dominated society. Inspite of this, increasing number of women are entering into the business world. She observed that in North-Eastern India a large majority of tribal females are found to be engaged in agriculture. But now it is observed that some women from traditional tribal societies are taking up new roles and starting business which poses a threat to the traditional power structure in a male dominated society. The study showed that women in the middle ages have become entrepreneurs because they have already passed their child bearing and child rearing phases and can take some new roles which are productive in nature and which will also given them to establish their own identity. Most of them were first generation entrepreneurs who have stared their business on their own. It is also found that entrepreneurial task motivation is higher for the non tribal than the tribal group of entrepreneurs. It was observed that the success rate of the entrepreneurs was found to be positively

\textsuperscript{22} Colette Dumas; Micro enterprise training for low income women: The case of the community entrepreneurs programme\textsuperscript{3}: The journal of entrepreneurship 10, 1 (2001) sage publication, New Delhi.

\textsuperscript{23} Anjali Ghosh; Small business women entrepreneurs of North Eastern India: A socio-psychological study.
related with entrepreneurial task motivation. The study revealed that women entrepreneurs felt that they are empowered by creating something on their own efforts and view success by achieving a balance between work commitment and family needs. An encouraging note is that the women entrepreneurs are coming out from the traditional patriarchal power structure of their society and taking up new roles and sustaining even under adverse environmental conditions.

P. Narayana Reddy\textsuperscript{24} explained that women are no more cocooned in the age old social taboos. In the midst of opposition they are brazing new path to face the challenges of life. A study of women entrepreneurs in Goa brings forth many hidden facts which are associated with them and suggests if they are ensured the marketing of their products they can do miracles. This will invariably pave the way for many more to follow suit.

\section*{2.3 Aspects covered and focused in the earlier studies}

- Benefits to women through SHGs
- Social and economic abilities and energies possessed by women in SHGs.
- Women empowerment strategies.
- SHGs as solutions to the problem of poverty and unemployment.
- Positive implications of SHGs.
- Financial implications of various sources of finance for SHGs.
- SHGs as institutions for building up social and economic capital.

• Income effects of SHGs.

• Financial behavior of SHGs.

• Indicators of women empowerment.

• The role of various supporting agencies to promote entrepreneurship

• Factors affecting women entrepreneurship

• Skill upgradation

• Classification of entrepreneurs

• Community entrepreneurship programs

• The quotient of risk for women entrepreneurs

• The role of marketing in entrepreneurship development

2.4 GAPS IN THE EARLIER STUDIES:

1. Many studies have made an assumption those women economic well being is equal to women empowerment, which is far away from the truth.

2. There is no attempt to measure women empowerment attributable to SHGs.

3. Empirical analysis of women empowerment is not serious consideration for many studies.