CHAPTER-VII
SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

7.1 BRIEF SUMMERY:

This chapter presents on the brief summary of the study, important conclusions drawn by the researcher and important suggestions made by the researcher based on the study. Testing of hypotheses and future direction of research also presented in this chapter. The main aim of the present study is to make an in-depth analysis of source of income generating activities and examine socio-economic development of women through SHGs.

A most remarkable thing noticed during the study is that the paradigm shift that has taken place in the empowerment strategy due to the introduction of SHGs through SGSY, DRDA and MAVIM in Maharashtra. According to the present study the formation of women Self Help Groups created a new sense of self-confidence, self awareness, and Self reliance in the women, which will certainly lead them to work hard and generate income for a livelihood. Once women come in to group become aware of their rights and responsibilities that effect socio-economic empowerment automatically follows.

No doubt Micro finance recognized as a conspicuous tool to eradicate poverty, generating income activities and employment opportunities especially in the developing countries. Indeed micro finance in recent times has recognized as a powerful tool for socio-economic empowerment of rural poor women in the world.

Microfinance is recognized and accepted as one of the new development paradigms for alleviating poverty through social and economic development leading to empowerment of rural poor people, with a main objective of empowering the rural poor women. The concept micro-finance was introduced
for overcoming the existing constraints and providing significant credit supply to the poor by following a simple procedure. The system of micro finance has been viewed as a powerful and result oriented tool for uplifting the economic condition of the asset less poor people through group approach that ensures greater involvement of beneficiaries in programme implementation.

The sampling design is formulated for the purpose of collection of primary data. Jalna district in Marathwada region of Maharashtra is selected purposively because Jalna district is one of the backward district of Maharashtra state in terms of the levels of female literacy, female employment and other socio-economic parameters.

The district is divided into two revenue divisions namely Jalna and Partur revenue divisions. At the time of sample selection i.e. in the year 2010, there were 3,524 self help groups functioning under the S.G.S.Y. scheme in the district. Out of them 1,832 were in Jalna revenue division and 1,692 were in Partur revenue division.

Multistage cluster stratified sampling method was adopted for collection primary data by designing the sample from population. Self help groups are functioning in almost all the Talukas of Jalna district. It is not possible to cover all the villages in this inquiry and to keep the study within manageable limits without in any minimizing its significance of two revenue divisions. Therefore two revenue divisions, and eights talukas have been selected for the study they are mentioned follows.

01). Jalna Revenue Division
   1. Jalna
   2. Badnapur
   3. Bhokardan
   4. Jafrabad

02). Partur Revenue Division
   1. Partur
   2. Ambad
   3. Ghansawangi
   4. Mantha
Within the study area again five villages from each taluka, have been selected. Total samples of 240 beneficiaries (At the rate of 120 samples from each revenue division) have been selected on purposive sampling basis. The total 240 beneficiaries, out of them 200 SHGs members and 40 SHGs president are selected on the basis of purposing sampling for the study.

7.2 Major Conclusion of the Study:

The major conclusions of the present study are:

1) It is clear from the study that, (SHG-BLM) Self Help Group-Bank Linking Model is mainly developed for providing micro finance to SHGs, with the help of formal financial system, achieving social-economic empowerment of rural poor women, leading towards economic development of the country.

2) It is obvious that out 37,603 SHGs in the region, merely 19 percent SHGs introduced their own business activities, this indication unsatisfactory performance of SHGs in the Marathwada region.

3) It is observed that there are two Government agencies (DRDA and MAVIM) are engaged in promoting and development of SHGs in the Jalna district, as well as NGOs are also play an important role in development and promotion of SHGs, in the Jalna district.

4) With regards industrial development of Jalna district. The study inferred that the Jalna district is one of the industrially backward districts in the Marathwada region.

5) It is revealed from the study that, infrastructure development of Jalna district is very poor and inadequate.
6) The overall observation of the study is that the financial progress of the SGSY programme for development of SHGs during the period is satisfactory in the Jalna District.

7) The study also indicate that the growth and performance of the SGSY Scheme are goes to right way to their main motive provide to credit to unbanked poor households, through SHGs in Jalna district.

8) The study pointed out that, most of the sample respondents, (N = 94) 42 % belong to the age group between 31-40 years, whereas only (N = 05) 2.08 % of the sample respondents belong to the age group below 20 years.

9) The study reveals that, 88.75 % of the sample respondents are married, followed by 1.66 % are unmarried, 7.08 % are widowed and 1.25 % are Divorced.

10) The analysis shows that, majority of the sample respondents studied up to secondary and higher secondary level, whereas only 1.67 % sample respondents are post graduates.

11) It is portrayed from the study that, majorities of the sample respondents belong to reserve category. About 53.50 percent sample respondents were related to reserved category out of them only 2.67 percent of the sample respondents belong to S.T. category.

12) As regards to religion, it is found from the study that, majority of the sample respondents are Hindu, followed by 8.50 % are Boudh and only 2 % are Muslim.
13) As concerns to mother tongue, 98 % of the sample respondents’ mother tongue is Marathi, whereas only 2 % is Hindi.

14) Regarding family nature the study inferred that, majority of the sample respondents belong to Nuclear family, whereas 36.50 % belong to Joint family. The traditional joint families are last declining and nuclear families are on the rise even in rural areas. This is the impact of social transformation that is taking place in the society.

15) Regarding occupation, majority of the sample respondents are working as Agriculture workers, while only 2.92 % respondents are Service women.

16) It is noticed that, 44.97 % of the sample respondents had no supportive sources for their livelihood particularly before joining SHGs.

17) The study inferred that, 75.83 % of the sample respondents reside in own house, followed by 11.67 % reside in rental house and 12.50 % reside in Govt. scheme house. Housing facilities are the main determinants of standard of living. Unfortunately housing facilities in rural areas are of poor quality.

18) The study revealed that, 88 % of the sample respondents have the decision making power on their important issues. It is indicates that women become more aware about their decision making especially after joining the SHGS.

19) It is clear from the study that most of the sample respondents are either landless or possessing small and marginal land.

20) According to the study, majority of the sample respondents are earning a monthly income ranging from Rs 1,000 /- to 2,500 /-, particularly before joining the SHGs. It is disclosed from the table 6.14 that, out of 240
respondents 120 sample respondents [50.00 percent] family monthly income were up to 3000. The comparatively study of after and before joining SHGs the monthly income of the sample respondents are significantly growth especially after joining the SHGs.

21) It is revealed from the study that, majority of the sample respondents have the authority on earning both wife and husband. It is interesting to note from the study that 63 (women) sample respondents [26.25 percent] have the authority to use their earning. It indicates that women become have more aware about their earning especially after joining the SHGs.

22) It is concluded from the study that before joining the SHGs the average income of the sample respondents was 2760.42, but after joining the SHGs the average income are 3897.92. It indicates that there is significant income growth of the respondents especially after joining the SHGs.

23) It is observed from the data that, [41.25 %] majority of the sample respondents have taken loans from SHGs.

24) The study pointed out that, the dependency of the sample respondents on the money lender was 21.66 %, before joining the SHGs, and after joining the SHGs is only 2.5 %. It is clear that, the dependencies on the money lender are reduced significantly after joining the groups.

25) The study revealed that before joining the groups more than 21 percent of the sample respondents used to borrow from money lenders which reduced significantly to 19.16 percent respondents after joining groups
26) Regarding opinions about adequacy of loan other than SHGs, the majority (55 percent) of the sample respondents are reply about inadequacy of the loan provide by other than SHGs.

27) The results of the analysis indicate that, the highest numbers of respondents’ reply regarding interest rate is that it is affordable.

28) It is noteworthy from the study that out of 240 respondents, 210 (87.5 %) are not as a loan defaulters, while only 30 respondents (12.5%) as a loan defaulters.

29) It is inferred from the study that 80.42 % of the sample respondents repays their debts by doing hard work and managing fund properly.

30) It is proclaimed from the study that, the majority of sample respondent joined in SHGs during 1995-2000.

31) It is revealed form the study that, most of the SHGs have 10-15 members.

32) As regards savings pattern, largest percentage of the sample respondents are savings money monthly, whereas only 1.25 % are saving money weekly.

33) Regarding monthly growth in savings, before and after joining the group, it is inferred from the study that after joining the group, the member are found more capable of savings as compare before joining the group. 64.21 % net increase in the average monthly saving of the respondents specially after joining groups.

34) It is observed from the study that majority of the sample respondents are availing loan amount ranged between Rs 5,001 - to 10,000 /-. 
35) With regards to adequacy of loan amount 69.17% of the sample respondents have agreed that their groups provide loan adequately.

36) It is noteworthy from the study that, huge percentages of the sample respondents use their loan amount for the purpose of business activities.

37) It is clear from study that majority of the sample respondents [i.e. 59.17 percent] paying interest on loan at the rate of 2 percent. The Majority of the sample respondents [i.e. 60.42 percent] opined that interest rate were adequate, while only 41 sample respondents [17.08 percent] opined that interest rate were inadequate.

38) It is found from the study that, almost all the group member got the benefit of financial services such as saving and loan from their respective group. Groups also provided Insurance, Health scheme and Training services to the group members.

39) As regards loan recovery practices, it was observed from the study that more than 52 percent respondents have been repaying the loan amount as per rate as per schedule. Whereas 29.17 percent of the respondents had been persuaded to pay their dues with in stipulated period. There were 15.83 percent respondents repaying their dues under peer pressure. About 2.92 percent respondents complained that they were enforced for repaying the loan amount.

40) It is clear from the study that majority of the sample respondents opined their minutes were maintained regularly, whereas only 5.83 percent of sample respondents opined that minutes were not maintained seriously.
41) The study revealed that out of 240, \([N=214]\) 85 % of the sample respondents have their saving accounts in the banks.

42) The study inferred that majority of the sample respondents know about the functioning of SHGs.

43) With regards to economic activities and income generated, it is revealed from the study that 46.25 % of the sample respondents were engaged in various business activities. The aggregate income generated is Rs 9, 35,500 /-. And average per activities is 8427.76 As compared to previous income average per activities there are significant growths in income generated activities.

44) Regarding employment generation, the study revealed that out of 240 respondents, 214 Job opportunities were created.

45) The study pointed out that, majority SHGs has conducted group meetings monthly and regularly.

46) The study indicates that, 54.58 % of the sample respondents have actively participation in the meeting.

47) According to the study, majority (47.92 %) percent of the sample respondent’s group meetings were held at the residence of the president.

48) The study inferred that most of the sample respondents joined SHGs for the purpose of regular savings, benefit of loan, and to supplement family income.

49) It is pointed out from the study that, 197 sample respondents [82.08 percent] expressed that they are satisfied after joining in the group. The rest of them
are not satisfied with internal differences, non co-operation of the members and leaders.

50) It is inferred from table 6.43 that 231 sample respondents (96.25 percent) opined that their Socio-economic status was lower in the society earlier, while only 9 sample respondents [3.75 percent] opined that their Socio-economic status was moderate particularly before joining the SHGs.

51) The study portrayed that, [N=231] 96.25 % of the sample respondents have agreed that their socio-economic status have improved after joining SHGs.

52) The study observed that the respondents/opinions regarding the help and cooperation extended by SHPIS. As per table 6.48 according to the data 65 percent of the sample respondents, stated that NGOs were very helpful whereas 19.77 percent sample respondents opined that NGOs helped them occasionally. However 15.83 percent of the sample respondents criticized the indifferent attitude of NGOs towards SHGs. They expressed that NGOs did not care about the difficulties and problems of self help groups.

53) Opinions regarding the help and cooperation by the banks, 140, [58.33 percent] sample respondents, were very much satisfied with banking services, while 70 [29.17 percent] sample respondents stated that banks were helpful occasionally. However 30 [12.5 percent] sample respondents had experience indifferent attitude of banks towards cooperation to SHGs.

54) When interacted to sample respondents and asked about the helpfulness of Government agencies, 159 [66.25 percent] sample respondents opined that the officers were very much helpful and 65 [27.08 percent] sample respondents found government agencies occasionally helpful. However only
16 [6.67 percent] of the sample respondents complained about indifferent attitude of government agencies.

55) It is noteworthy that after joining the groups, the members got opportunities of participation in various socio-political and skill development activities. Out of 240 respondents, 24.58 % respondents had participated in social gathering, 40.83 % respondents had joined anti dowry campaign, and 34.58 % participated in organization of social group marriages.

56) It is observed that sizeable number of respondents i.e. 56 out 240 had participated in anti alcoholic campaign and successfully enforced to close down wine shop in their villages.

57) It is pertinent from the study that more than 34 percent respondents had actively participated in Nirmal Gram Program in order to maintain cleanliness in their villages. It is to be noted that rural women who were absolutely away from such social programs come together through groups and initiated the process of development.

58) Regarding participation in political activities, it is obvious from the study that 19.17 % of the sample respondents had attended political meetings, 22.92 % of the sample respondents participated in election and campaigning, 15 % respondents contested election and 10.42 percent respondents got elected as members of village Panchayats, ZPs and Primary Credit Cooperative Societies.

59) With regards to skill development activities, it is observed from the study that majority of the sample respondents had got the benefit of entrepreneurship development programmes, whereas rest 32.5 % of the sample respondents
learnt book keeping of the groups, and 15.83 % respondents had participated in numerical skills development programme.

60) Regarding the co-operation extended by SHPIs, it is delineated from the study that, 58.33 percent of the sample respondents stated that NGOs are very helpful. In case of bank 54.17 percent of the sample respondents are very much satisfied with banking services. In case of Government agencies, 39.17 % of the sample respondents state that the officers are very much helpful.

7.2 Suggestions of the Study :

Following suggestion are made for the improvement and sound functioning of SHGs

1) The state Government should take hands and contributes intensive efforts for ensuring adequate credit flow to SHGs having balanced district wise growth of SHGs and people from the district take initiative in the same direction.

2) Government should see that no SHGs will discontinue from economic activities. Hence immediate steps to be taken to extend bank credit at least in equal proportion of increase in number of SHGs, ensuring efficient and effective working of SHGs having for reaching impact on economic development of the country.

3) It is obvious from the study that out of 37,603 SHGs in the Marathwada region, merely 19 percent SHGs introduced their own business activities, this
indication unsatisfactory performance of SHGs in the Marathwada region. Hence, the Government of Maharashtra should contribute special efforts to introduce and develop more SHGs especially in backward region like Marathwada and ensure women participation in the development of region.

4) The study observed that Jalna district has low female sex ratio comparing per thousand males sex ratio. Hence, intensive efforts are essential to maintain gender balance resulting towards social rest.

5) With regards to literacy rate in the Study area, it is observed from the study that the male literacy rate is higher as compared to women's literacy rate; it means the women's literacy rate is not satisfactory in the Jalna district. Hence study suggested that immediate steps to be taken up by the government to improve women literacy rate in the district.

6) Industry plays a pivotal role in the economic development of country. However the Jalna district is one of the industrially backward districts. Therefore the study suggests that, the provision of adequate infrastructure facilities is essential to boost the development of industrial sector in the district.

7) The study reveals that 42.08% of the sample respondents are in the age group between 31 to 40 year, whereas only 2.08% below the age group of 20 years. Hence the study suggested that the government should take steps to join young women in SHGs. It will help to improve the functioning of the SHGs.

8) The study shows that 31.67% of the sample respondents have study only up to primary school level, and 25% of the sample respondents are illiterate.
Hence the study suggested that Govt. should provide education facilities for illiterate members by informal education system.

9) The study observed that number of women belonging to ST community is very low [only 2.67 %]. Therefore, the special focus should be given to create awareness among ST women about the benefits of micro finance programme for the involvement of in SHGs.

10) Govt. should formulate scheme especially to attract more people from Muslim community towards SGHs.

11) Govt. should provide special funds, especially for widows and divorcée group members. This will help them to overcome poverty.

12) The study found that, most of the sample respondents [49.16 %] are Agriculture labour. Hence the provision of micro finance is not utilized for productive purposes; they utilize the micro finance fund for their daily needs. Hence SHGs members should be encouraged utilizing the micro finance fund for income generation activities. It is also helpful in prompt repayment of the loan.

13) Government and Non-government Organization should arrange more number of training programmes for the members of the SHGs to start their own economic / business activities.

14) The study suggested that Government and Non-government Organizations should provide adequate training to undertake innovative, productive, economic activities in their interested area.
15) SHGs should always maintain transparency in every activities, it may help to meet the objective of the groups.

16) Government and Non-government Organizations should take responsibility of marketing and selling the product of SHGs by organizing food stalls; trade fairs and sells centers at local or urban level.

17) It is required effective participation of all members and decisions are taken democratically on consensual basis after in-depth discussions in the group meetings.

18) The study indicates that timely release of loan to the SHGs is essential, it helps to undertake productive activities with full of confidence.

19) The study suggested that the SHGs should properly repay their loan, within time, it help to maintain good relationship between bank and SHGs.

20) There should be good co-operation and co-ordination between SHGs and financial institutions for overall development of SHGs.

21) The attitudes of the bankers / financial institutions should be positive and helpful.

22) The NGOs should take active part and guide rationally to the member of SHGs, it may help to run the economic activities by the SHGs.
23) Government and Non-government Organizations should provide more information to SHGs on various aspects; it may help to sound functioning of the SHGs.

24) The study suggested that records and account should be maintained up to date and in good manner.

25) Knowledge about various policies and programmes should be given to women for their awareness.

26) The possibilities of conducting short term courses to develop entrepreneurs’ skill among the SHGs members by colleges and universities is also to be explored.

27) The study pointed out that 46.25 % of the sample respondents are using their fund/loan for business activities. Hence, study suggested that, all SHGs should encouraged their members to undertake economic activities either at their own or jointly.

28) The study indicates that the entire SHGs member should 100 % actively participate in the decision making.

29) In order to empower poor women members, there is need of covering all the members under health services scheme, insurance and training facilitates.

30) The study suggested that efforts should be made to avoid absenteeism in regular meetings and encourage them active participation and involvement in the SHGs functioning.

31) It is to be noticed that some NGOs in district have been organizing training programmers, awareness programmes and implementing health and insurance
scheme for the benefit of their member. However there is tremendous scope for extending these services to a large section of poor women in the district through group mechanism [SHGs].

32) Local MPs, MLAs, MZPs, MGPs, etc, should come forward and contribute for SHGs movement by allocating funds for development of SHGs.

7.4. Testing of Hypotheses.
Following hypotheses have been framed and tested.

- **Hypothesis:-I: Self help groups (SHGs) leads to socio-economic development of women.**
  The statistical data presented through table 6.42, the analysis indicates that, 96.25 % of the sample respondents have agreed that their socio-economic status have improved and high, particularly after joining SHGs. Hence hypothesis - I is proved and accepted.

- **Hypothesis:-II: Self help groups help in promoting socio-political and skill development activities among the beneficiaries.**
  The chapter –VI entitled, Impact of micro finance on socio-economic development of women through SHGs, is especially devoted for testing socio-economic, political and skill development activities among the beneficiaries. The statistical data presented through table 6.43 with charts, diagrams and its interpretation proves that after joining the groups, the member got opportunities of participation in various socio-political and skill development activities. Therefore the hypothesis –II has been proved and accepted.

- **Hypothesis:-III: Micro financing is viable system for the improvement of women SHG’s.**
The data presented and tabulated in chapter –I, with table -1.1. The overall observation is indicates that micro financing is viable system for the improvement of women SHGs. Hence as per the data analysis provided in the table 1.1 is sufficient to accept hypothesis –III.

• **Hypothesis:-IV: Government plays important role in SHG’s development.**
  
  In response to the question on the helpfulness of Government agencies in the development of SHGs, 66.25 % of the sample respondents stated that the officers were very much helpful .The statistical data given in table 6.44, and 5.5, in the chapter –VI and V, is sufficient to accept hypothesis –IV.

• **Hypothesis:-V: SHG’s helps to eradicate rural poverty.**
  
  Eradication of poverty can only be achieved by economic development [Empowerment] of women. The data analysis presented in the chapter No-VI, through table 6.16 is revealed that, before joining the SHGs, the average income of the sample respondents was 2760.42, but after joining the SHGs the average income are 3897.92. It is indicates that there is significant income growth of the respondents especially after joining the SHGs. Hence, the hypothesis –V has been proved and accepted.

❖ **7.5 Scope for Further Research.**
  
  The following areas are suggested for further research in Self Help Groups.

01. The researcher can also undertake study of the role of micro finance in socio-economic development of women through SHGs in other district and make comparison with Jalna district.

02. The study can be conducted throughout India.
03. Two or more districts of Maharashtra can also be taken for further research.

04. Total urban and rural population of Maharashtra Self help group can be taken for future study.

05. A study of micro finance in socio-economic development of men through men SHGs can be undertaken.

06. Comparison of APL and BPL SHGs in Jalna district can be taken for the further research.