CHAPTER II
REVIEW OF LITERATURE

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CHAPTER II
REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1. INTRODUCTION

The present study is an attempt to review the past literature in the same area. Poverty alleviation through Self Help Groups in Tamil Nadu is a subject which people have scarcely touched upon. The dearth of literature in this area has made the researcher attempt a review of the available material.

2.2. EARLIER STUDIES

The Researcher has made an attempt to review the earlier studies on SHGs at both National and international levels.

2.2.1. INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

"Fighting Poverty with Micro Credit: Experience in Bangladesh" by Shahidur, R. Khandker1 discussed how providing the poor with access to financial services would help increase their incomes and productivity. Micro-credit and co-operative programmes help the poor to become self-employed and thus escape poverty.

In "Poverty and Micro Finance in Bolivia", Sergib Navajas pointed out that a major accomplishment of development finance in recent years had been the expansion of the financial service of the poor. These organizations reach many rural and urban poor, but not the poorest of the poor. Group-based lenders reach a poorer clientele than those organizations making individual loans.

P. Subrahmaniyam in his article, "The Role of Civil Society Organizations and SHGs in decentralized Rural Development: South Asian Experience", pointed out that though very significant, as in Bangladesh, regarding poverty alleviation, NGOs may not replace Government efforts. Their principal contribution lay in being able to demonstrate participatory approaches and models that Government’s might follow and they could continue mobilizing the poor to bring pressure on Government, to see that the poor people harvested their benefits.

Dunford, Christopher in his article, "What’s wrong with Loan size?", stated that in a microfinance industry, driven purely or principally by profits, the very poor would not get sufficiently lucrative returns to register effective market demand and as a result, they would once again be marginalized as a legitimate market for financial services.

2. Sergib Navajas, “Poverty and Micro Finance in Bolivia” http://ideas.repec.org/
E.M. Haryadi ⁵ [Indonesia] in his article, “People-based approach: A basis for decentralized Rural Development for SHGs Promotion”, pointed out that there was a range of challenges and opportunities from which Indonesia would benefit if they were responded to. The survival response for decentralized rural development and the role of SHGs were challenging. Reforming the economic model from capital-centred to people-centred, characterized by development, based on people’s need; optimizing needs and benefits of the people as basic requirements and people organizing themselves into SHG to undertake their own development for sustainable livelihoods were some steps recommended by the author.

Eric Maino ⁶ in her article, “SHGs empower women: Kenya”, said that women in Kenya were finding their strength in numbers as they pooled their resources together in SHGs of their own creation. They radically changed their lives and the lives of their families and communities. They formed co-operative groups all across the country to deal with social and economic problems that particularly engulfed the rural areas.

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Fazle Hasan Abed in his article, “Micro Finance NGO’s in Bangladesh: Growth impact and challenges”, pointed out that Bangladesh could be considered the birth place of the current concept of Micro Finance. This country provided models of recognized global significance in several aspects of Micro Finance namely scale of operation, modes and practices of Micro Finance, wider financial services and poverty alleviation.

Kilayuka I.M. in his paper, “A comparative study of the socio – economic implications of rural women, men and mixed SHGs: a case of Kakamega District” examined the differences between mixed sex, women – only and men only SHGs in Kakamega District, Kenya and concluded that the presence of mixed groups had a positive influence on the development and performance of the SHG movement in Kakamega District.

Marguerite S Robinson in his article “The Micro Finance Revolution: Lessons from Indonesia”, found that Bank Indonesia and several ministry were involved in rural credit project and programmes in different ways. Bank Indonesia implemented the Government micro credit projects as well as the linking bank with SHG programmes, a subsidized credit programmes, partly funded by the German agency for technical co-operation.


Padek in his article, “Saving, Solidarity and Self-Help”, concluded that self-help groups were part of an integrated community development approach. SHG activities were complimented and strengthened by other support, such as agricultural extension, skill and literacy training, provision of clean water and health care. This support maximized the benefits that saving and credit provided.

Mohammad Yunus in his article, “Banker to the Poor” – micro lending and the battle against world poverty – pacific affairs – New York, highlighted the importance of SHG bank linkage to fight against poverty. Micro finance is the provision of thrift credit and other financial services and products of very small amounts to the poor in rural semi-urban or urban areas for enabling them to raise their income level and improve living standards.

Zaman in his article, “Assessing the poverty and vulnerability impact of micro credit in Bangladesh – A case study of BARC”, stated that Micro Credit, as defined by Grameen Bank symbolize small loans extended to the poor for undertaking self-employment projects that would generate income and enable them to provide for themselves and their families. The scheme of Micro Credit as conceived by Grameen Bank had been based on innovative financial practices.

10. Padek, “Saving, Solidarity and Self-Help”, a research study at Kompong Speu [Cambodia]


K Bain in his study, "Building on burning bridges: the accountability of transnational NGO network in policy alliances with the world bank", pointed out the importance of NGOs in the promotion of SHGs. The Government had given basic impetus for women's empowerment as the starting point to tackle rural poverty and socio economic issues. Through self management technique women were brought together to shape their future destiny by forming SHGs.

S Guhan in his study, "Rural poverty alleviation in India; policy, performance and possibilities", highlighted the experiences of the schemes during the IX Five year plan, the foundation on which the future policy towards rural poverty alleviation programmes were laid. While economic development of the country provided a lasting solution to the problem of poverty, the target oriented intervention through different programmes to deal with the problem of poverty could not be dispensed with immediately. Obviously self-employment programmes accounted for a major role in the Government's effort for poverty alleviation in the country.


“Building financial services for the poor”[^15] [Consultative group to assist the poor] Washington DC pointed out that Micro Finance allowed poor people to protect, diversify and increase their sources of income, to get rid of poverty and hunger. It provided safeguards for poor households against their extreme vulnerability. Loans, savings and insurance helped smooth out income fluctuations and maintain consumption levels even during lean periods. The NGO-based Micro Credit Programmes improved upon the original methodologies and discouraged conventional wisdom on financing the poor.

“Convergence of programmes by Empowering SHGs and PRIs” by D. Bandhyo Pandhyay B.N. Yugandhar and Amitave Mukherjee[^16] stressed that the effectiveness of SHGs would be considerably enhanced if a symbiosis could be worked out between them and Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) the key to this is the integration of self-help groups with the democratically elected and empowered panchayat when the requisite devolution of power function and authority to the latter takes place.

“Micro finance and Global Poverty” by May Oux[^17] noted that micro finance was promoted in Africa as the grass root dimension of the “human face” of structural adjustment policies which had created widespread unemployment and pushed up the cost of basic amenities.


[^17]: May Oux, “Micro finance and Global Poverty” Economic & Political Weekly 2002
Christen Rober Peck\textsuperscript{18} in his study, “commercialization and mission drift: the transformation of micro finance in Latin America”, stated that savings mobilization is the most important thing the micro finance industry could do to bring financial services down to the poorest.

Hossain \textsuperscript{19} in his study, “Credit for Alleviation of Rural poverty: the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh”, pointed out that Micro Credit was a very effective tool for combating poverty. Mohammad Yunus of Bangladesh focused on credit to remove poverty from the surface of the earth, if banking institutions were redesigned.

Khandkar, Shahidur R and Osman H Chaudhury \textsuperscript{20} in their study, “Targeted Credit Programmes and Rural Poverty in Bangladesh”, explained that in the 1990’s, Grameen Bank expanded its operations in terms of the number of beneficiaries and disbursement of credit in Bangladesh. By November 2000, it had branches in 40,21 villages, which spread across 46.7 per cent of the total villages in Bangladesh. The number of borrowers of Grameen Bank had increased to 2.4 million by November 2000.

\begin{quote}
\textsuperscript{18} Christen Rober Peck, \textit{“commercialization and mission drift: the transformation of micro finance in Latin America"}, CGAP occasional Paper No. 5 Washington DC consultative group, to assist the poorest.

\textsuperscript{19} Hossain, \textit{“Credit for Alleviation of Rural poverty: the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh"}, \texttt{<http://www.grameenfoundation.org>}

\textsuperscript{20} Khandkar, Shahidur R and Osman H Chaudhury \textit{“Targeted Credit Programmes and Rural Poverty in Bangladesh"}, Discussion paper 336.
\end{quote}
Khandkar, Shahidur, R. Baqui Khalily and Zaheed Khan in their study. "Grameen Bank; performance and sustainability", that among Grameen Bank borrowers in their study village, it was noted that 34 per cent of the loans from Micro Credit institutions were spent for households food consumption and 32 per cent in repaying other Micro Credit loans. The high costs of credit amounted to transferring high administration cost on to the poor borrowers.

“Micro Finance Regulation in Bangladesh : A long path to progress” by D Cracknell concluded that commercialization could be appropriate for some micro financial institutions and many of the steps taken towards creating a regulatory frame work were in the interest of all stake holders.

J Morduch in his article, “Does Micro Finance help the poor?”, New Evidence from flag ship programmes in Bangladesh HIID, pointed out that Micro Finance was an enabling, empowering, bottom-up tool for poverty alleviation that had provided considerable economic and non-economic externalities to low – income households in developing countries.


Bibhudutt Padhi 24 in his article, “Mainstreaming Micro Finance”, have pointed out that NGOs have a crucial role in group formation nurturing SHGs in pre micro enterprise stage capacity building and enhancing credit absorption capacity. He has also stated that SHGs provide effective coping mechanism and peer pressure acts at the best collateral.

W Wijewardena 25 in his article, “Micro Finance and poverty alleviation”, pointed out that micro finance is the powerful tool in the alleviation of poverty. It can reach the poorest sections of the society given that pre-requisites such as conducive credit cultured, market based practice and empowerment of the target group are met.


2.2.2. NATIONAL STUDIES

“Impact of SHGs in income and employment: A case study”, by C. Gangaiah, B. Nagaraja and C. Vasudeva Naidu 26 revealed that the SHGs had mobilized thrift deposits and received timely matching and revolving funds to generate employment activities to earn their livelihood.

“Poverty removal Vs the rural poor” by Janki S Uyal and Kamla Suyal 27 pointed out that a lot of money was being spent by the Government on anti poverty programmes but the crop of benefit was not being harvested by poor villagers because of the corruption prevailing in the process of loaning.

“Rural development through participatory approach” by Debabrata Das and Uttam K. Baruah 28 concluded that NGOs, banks, SHGs and state machinery should open up the possibilities to the process of fastest rural development. Participatory learning described an interacting learning process that enhanced the cooperation and problem-solving capacities of the poor. It required a two-way communication, from top-to-bottom and from bottom-to-top and it addressed participants at all levels, from local to national.


In “Sustainable learning for women’s Empowerment: ways forward in Micro Finance”, Linda Mayoux and M Sengupta\(^{29}\) stated that SHGs formed as vehicles for women empowerment. One of the most glaring and dominant outcomes of the development process in developing societies had been the general by-passing of the poor in getting the benefits of development. The consequence had been the bulging of incidence of poverty and galloping of absolute number of poor people socially and economically deprived. Therefore providing access to Micro Credit schemes involving SHGs was considered a precondition for poverty alleviation.

“Women Entrepreneurs and micro credit”, written by Jeyanth K. New Port and Godfrey G. P Jawahar\(^{30}\) pointed out that in order to make the women improve their economic status and to reduce the level of dependence on the whims of male heads in the family and local money lenders, micro credit programmes should be given priority for women empowerment. They advocated systematic need-based training programmes which would disseminate knowledge on specific enterprises and also on basic skills, needed in any enterprise.


Amal Mandal in his article, "Swaraj anti-gram Swarozgar Yojana and SHG – An assessment", stressed that among the various programmes launched for poverty alleviation, the SGSY seemed arguably the most viable, comprehensive and bold initiative. He further added that the SGSY was a single cell self-employment programme which focused on the setting up of micro enterprises to eradicate poverty. The SGSY focused on group approach, by organizing the poor into SHGs through social mobilization.

B. Vijaya Chandran Pillai and V. Harikumar in their study, "Self-Help Groups in Kerala", stated that the very existence of SHGs was highly relevant to make the people of below the poverty line hopeful and self reliant. SHGs enabled them to increase their income, improve their standard of living and status in society. They acted as a catalyst for bringing this section of the society to the main stream ultimately and the nation reaped the advantages of socialism.

C. Beena and B. Sushma in their article, "Women entrepreneurs managing petty business: A Study from Motivational Perspective", stressed that a large number of Governmental and non-Governmental institutions were engaged in conducting training activities directed towards developing entrepreneurs.


C.K. Gariyali and S.K. Vettrivel, "Women's Own – The Self-Help Movement of Tamil Nadu", concluded that a silent economic revolution had taken place in rural areas of Tamil Nadu following empowerment of women with the formation of SHGs. They also found that the SHGs gave women a top place in the society and they did not depend on men any more.

H.D. Dwarakanath in his article, “Rural credit and women SHGs”, stressed that the women led SHGs had successfully demonstrated how to mobilize and manage thrift, appraise credit needs and enforce financial self discipline.

Punithavathy Pandian and R. Eswaran in their article, “SHGs mobilizing Women at the Grass roots”, concluded that SHGs had inculcated the habit of savings in the minds of women. The credit linkage programmes with the banks had to be expanded still further. The rural women hitherto a stranger in the field of decision-making, felt the power of decision-making in the household and at community level, and the efforts taken by the SHGs are yet another mile stone on the path of women’s development.

Dwarakanath conducted a study, “Women self-help groups in Andhra Pradesh”, and revealed the effectiveness of these


groups with linkage programme and awareness among the rural folk on the significance of women empowerment and rural credit. The women-led self-help groups had successfully demonstrated how to mobilize and manage thrift, appraise credit needs and enforce financial discipline.

“Economic status of Rural women SHGs in Nagapattinam District”, [with special reference to Elumagalir Village] – A study by R. Asokan and T.Sudha 38 stressed that SHGs were fast emerging as a powerful tool for socio-economic empowerment of the poor in rural areas.

“Foreign aid to NGOs in India” an analysis by P.A. Rego 39 examined the role and importance of NGOs in rural appraisal for drawing up development plans at a very low cost and involving the rural community.

K.K. Kundu, K.S. Suhag, U.K. Pandey and Kusum Jain, 40 in their article, “sustainable Micro Financing through SHGs in Gurgaon District [Haryana]”, pointed out that through SHGs the poor had developed courage and confidence and served as decision makers. SHGs inculcated the habit of savings among women.


K.R. Lakshmi Kantan in his article, "SHGs in the life of rural poor – A case study", concluded that the SHGs were very effective in meeting the credit requirements of the members for conventional needs. But the use of credit for income generation schemes and improving livelihood was yet to be demonstrated.

K.R. Sharma and N.K. Sharma, in their article, “Determining Success of Non-Governmental organization in Micro Financing to SHGs of Rural poor in Himachal Pradesh”, pointed out that the NGOs played a crucial role in formulation, linkage and stabilization of SHGs: they rendered training guidance for record management and loan disbursement for the success of the group.

Kamal Vata and Parminder Singh, in their article, “The performance of SHGs in Punjab”, pointed out that the SHGs were promoted by district rural development agencies and other institutions including non-governmental organizations, commercial banks, regional rural banks and co-operative banks.


Mandal Amal in his article, "Poverty eradication in Rural India: Reflection on Methodology", pointed out that the hunger, malnutrition and occasional cases of starvation deaths in rural areas caused grave concern. In order to ensure food security and to maintain the appropriate nutritional level among the populace the Government had put in place the public distribution system [PDS] which was supposed to make available the monthly rations to the people below the poverty line.

Baijus and Gabriel Simon Thattil, in their study, "Managing human resources at the grass root level: A study on the functioning of SHGs," explained that SHGs played an important role in the socio-economic development at the grassroot level. It was emerging as a popular and effective means of assisting the poorest among the poor. The main feature of the Indian poverty profile was that over 80 per cent of the poor lived in rural areas and the bulk of them depended upon agriculture with its low productivity and allied activities for their livelihood. These house-holds would be able to cross the poverty line only when they could organize themselves into SHGs.

44. Mandal Amal, "Poverty eradication in Rural India: Reflection on Methodology", Kurukshetra, August 2003, p. 20

Puhazhendhi and KJ.S. Satyasai, \(^\text{46}\) in their article “Economic and Social Empowerment of Rural Poor Through SHGs”, evaluated the SHGs performance with special reference to social and economic empowerment as members. It was observed that majority of the sample respondents had crossed the poverty line and socially empowered, which was reflected in their improvement in confidence, communication skill and other behavioural changes. The impact of SHGs was relatively more pronounced on the social aspects than on the economic aspects.

RadhaKrishnan Rao \(^\text{47}\) in his study, “Women’s groups herald a wind of change in rural Uttaranchal”, explained that the forces of community awareness and social mobilization for development unleashed by the UNDP- sponsored project motivated the rural community of Garhwal to move ahead on the already created path of development. The all-women SHGs took upon themselves the task giving a fresh thrust to developmental activities and community empowerment. Rightly and appropriately, this programme was christened as “Prekriy” meaning a process of change for the rural community.

S. Kanthimathinathan \(^\text{48}\) in his article, “Micro financing – A Study”, revealed that banks were one of the most important elements in the economy. The SHGs, availing Micro Finance had shown an excellent record of loan repayment.


As the amount repaid was recycled for giving fresh loan to the same or new members, the beneficiaries developed a sense of involvement. The members of the group felt that the repayment was being made to their own group and not to any outside agency. This had made timely repayment a prestige issue.

S.K. Gupta and M.C Athavale, in their study “Characteristics and impact of Rural Self-Help Groups in Hoshangabad District of Madhya Pradesh”, pointed out that the SHGs got the benefits of better technical, economical and administrative knowledge available in banks and had access to greater resources. The bank credit was available on better terms as compared to the credit available from informal sources, particularly from money lenders. They finally observed that men and women who used to leave the village in search of labour were now self-employed and self-sufficient.

“Functioning of SHG–A case study in T. Viralipatty village – Viralipatty panchayats, Madurai District”, K. Sethupandi concluded that the study found a great potential among the women who formed into groups with Self-Help through mutual help to become micro enterprises.


V.S. Ganesamurthy in his article, “Study on thrift and credit utilization pattern of SHG in Lakshmi Vilas Bank, Suryampalayam Branch, Erode”, examined the socio-economic conditions of members before and after the formation of groups. The respondents after formation of SHGs had become economically viable and attained improvement in their living status, thus escaping from the clutches of money lenders.

Vasudeva Rao in his article, “Grass Root Women’s Group in Andhra Pradesh”, highlighted the fact that the benefits were not uniformly shared by all the members in a group because of the composition affordability and repayment capacity.

“Role of NABARD in promoting rural development”, A study in Dindigul District, Tamil Nadu – by R. Dayanandan pointed out that NABARD has acted as an apex refinance institution as well as development institution in the field of rural development.

“Impact of SHGs on income and employment: A case study” by C. Gangaiah, B. Nagaraja C. Vasudeva Naidu they have also found out that the SHGs have mobilized thrift deposits and received timely matching and revolving funds to generate employment activities to earn their livelihood.


53. R. Dayanandan, “Role of NABARD in promoting rural development”, A study in Dindigul District, Tamil Nadu – [Project]

N. Lalitha in her study, “Women in poverty alleviation programme” – A study in selected blocks of Dindigul District”, concluded that NGOs should involve themselves not only in monitoring but also in providing technology support and quality control of the product.

V. Manikandan in his study, “Causes for failure of Murugan Magalir Mandram – A SHG in Muruganpatti Ambathurai Panchayat, Athoor Block, Dindigul District, Tamil Nadu”, pointed out that the group was performing well in its infancy and could perform well in the future as the group was in harmony under an efficient leader but various factors like the inability of the first NGO to handle the group, fraudulent activities of the NGO, and lack of awareness among the group members, led to its failure.

“Value added products from banana waste – A case study of Jhansirani women SHG promoted at Sevanakaryanpatty,” by K. Pandimuruga Chinnan concluded that Micro Financing or group lending was being looked upon as the instrument that could be considered the golden stick for poverty alleviation vis-à-vis rural development.


56. V. Mani Kandan, “A study on causes for failure of Murugan Magalir Mandram – A SHG in Muruganpatti Ambathurai Panchayat, Athoor Block, Dindigul District, Tamil Nadu”, – project submitted to the Department of Rural Industries, Gandhigram.

57. K. Pandimuruga Chinnan, “Value added products from banana waste – A case study of Jhansirani women SHG promoted at Sevanakaryanpatty”, – project submitted to the Department of Rural Industries, Gandhigram
O.P. Opplilli in his study, “SHGs put women on their feet”, pointed out that the life of SHG members had changed today, after joining the SHGs launched by the State Bank of India in association with Sarva Seva farms [ASSEFA] a non-governmental organization in Kancheepuram District. He had authentically proved the economic enlistment attained by the true SHG women members.

A.Das Gupta in his article, “SHGs and Micro Credit: Rural banking for Women”, concluded that micro credit had ushered an era of hope to the poor and women. Although the performance of co-operative, commercial and rural banks is not much encouraging, the RBI and NABARD had provided new guidelines for Micro Credit. Apart from this other organizations were planning to provide massive support to make available Micro Finance to poor women in a bid to strengthen the country’s economic base.

Shylendra in her study, “The role of regional Rural banks in achieving institutional reforms in rural credit in terms of loan diversification in South India”, found that there was a larger coverage of the poorer households under poverty alleviation schemes which were household-based and these paved the way for the current innovative SHG-based lending, to supplement the formal credit agencies in reaching the rural poor more effectively.


60. Shylendra, “The role of regional Rural banks in achieving institutional reforms in rural credit in terms of loan diversification in South India”, www.nabard.org.
K.K. Tripathy in his study, “Poverty alleviation making micro - finance sustainable”, stated that micro credit reached the million poor in India through the Self-employment Scheme, namely, Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana [SGSY]. The NABARD envisaged making banking services reach one-third of the very poor in India, through one million SHGs by 2007-08. It had been estimated that India had the world’s largest Micro Finance programme in terms of outreach, with 7.8 million households accessing credit through 17,085 branches of the formal banking system under the Micro Credit finance programme.

T.R. Gurumoorthy in his article, “Self-Help Group empower rural Women”, revealed that empowering women contributed to social development. Economic progress in any country whether developed or under-developed could be achieved through social development. Women constituted equal share with men in total population of the country. Hence women empowerment could not be ignored while devising various policies for rural and social economic development. He further stated that SHG was a viable alternative to achieve the objectives of rural development and to get community participation in all rural development programmes.

H.S. Gopal Rao in his article, “Experience in Agricultural Marketing in India”, explained the importance of training to beginners and the schemes like Prime Minister Rojgar Yojana [PMRY], Integrated Rural Development Programme [IRDP],

Cell for Entrepreneurship Development [CED], Tamil Nadu Rural Youth for Self Employment [TRYSEM] and Village and Khadi Commission [VKC].

"Towards sustainable economic development" by Y.A. Panditrao, stressed that sustained economic development was necessary to ensure steadily rising standard of living of the people. It was necessary for effective utilization of human and material resources and also for achieving human welfare.

U.K. Ramachandran and Madhura Swaminathan, in their research paper, "Rural Banking and the poor Institutional Reform and rural credit markets in India," stressed that micro credit programmes brought about a marginal improvement in the income of beneficiaries. He had also stated that the District Rural Development Agencies [DRDAs] should be adequately equipped for the implementation of the self-employment programme in particular and other programmes in general to achieve sustainable growth. Primacy to self employment and desired credit linkage through SHGs should be the focus for poverty alleviation.

Soma Basu in his article, "Empowerment through self employment," stated that today's women could be agents of change and economic development through SHGs.


Empowerment as a strongly articulated goal of development had become very attractive, in the poor countries of the world. Many development agencies realized that the key to long term poverty alleviation was development.

Malhotra Rakesh, in his article, “Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana,” an improvised anti-poverty programme, pointed out that the SHG dispensation under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana [SGSY] was one channel for distributing poverty-alleviation grant. Thus, special kind of grant, supposed to be an enabling component has been made available to SHG.

“SHG bank linkage programme in India”, by Hema Bansal pointed out that the rural credit system needed a fresh approach that could induce a rationalization of the processes, policy and regulation and consequently increase returns. Asian countries like Bangladesh, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand and Latin American countries like Bolivia, Cambodia, Chile were effectively adopting the new micro finance approach.

Manimekalai and G. Rajeswari in their article, “Empowerment of Women through SHGs”, indicated that two strategies are of special importance for increasing women’s economic participation namely, increasing access to the credit and capacity-building regarding organizational and work skills together with information provision.


"Welfare of weaker section" by Vaikunth L. Mehta\(^{70}\) stated that the rich, the high caste and the powerful must show greater sensitivity towards the condition of their unfortunate brethren and be prepared to make the necessary sacrifices.

Velu Raj\(^{71}\) in his article, "Self-Help Groups – An Alternative Approach to Empower Rural Women", viewed SHGs as an unregistered body of people preferably the disadvantaged, who willingly contributed an agreed sum of money periodically, based on mutual trust, with the understanding that the moneys contributed would be lent at a price for a short period, as fixed by the group itself.

Vijay D. Kulkarni,\(^{72}\) in his article, "Empowerment of Women through SHGs", pointed out the difference between the members and the non-members of the SHGs from the study village. It was found that empowerment had taken place across caste/class and it brought them together as women. The women had the decision-making and controlling power in their lives.

Rekha R. Gaonkar,\(^{73}\) in her article, "Working and Impact of SHGs in Goa", pointed out that SHGs had made a lasting impact on the lives of poor women. She concluded that the movement of SHGs could significantly contribute towards the reduction of poverty and unemployment in the rural sectors of the economy.

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Their quality of life had improved which was revealed in terms of increase in the family income, savings, consumption expenditure, gain in self confidence, productive use of time and improved women’s talent.

Swaminathan\textsuperscript{74} in his article, “Thiruvarur Women SHGs, Help in Recovery of Farm Loans”, pointed out the involvement of women SHGs in land based activities which changed chronic defaulting areas into good recovery performance areas. He pointed out that after involving SHGs which comprised mostly farm women, good recovery was possible.

S.B. Hosmani, S.R. Balappa and S.N. Megeri\textsuperscript{75} in their article, “Self Help Groups in Karnataka Trends and implications”, emphasized the need to have greater accessibility to the credit delivery structure. The SHGs bank linkage programmes has made rapid strides in Karnataka with the help of co-operative banks, regional rural banks and commercial banks.

M.S. Kallur \textsuperscript{76} in his article, “Empowerment of women through NGOs”, highlighted the vital role played by NGOs in the promotion of SHGs. The group approach brought to the surface many operative latent traditional values like group support, group action, thrift and empowerment of women.

\textsuperscript{74} Swaminathan, “Thiruvarur Women SHGs, Help in Recovery of farm loans”, \textit{The Hindu, dated July 23, 2001}.


S. Nedumaran, K. Palanaisami and L.P. Swaminathan\textsuperscript{77} in their article, "Performance and impact of SHGs in Tamil Nadu", found that the interventions of NGOs in SHGs emanated from prevailing situation of mass poverty, high level of illiteracy and social discrimination. The inability of the official delivery mechanism to promote social and economic development of the weaker sections of the rural society was due to lack of commitment.

N.V. Namboodri and R.L. Shiyani\textsuperscript{78} in their article, "Potential Role of SHGs in rural financing deepening", pointed out that the repayment performance of SHGs promoted by the Self-Help Promotion institutions was superior to that of NGOs. It was also found that self-sustainable system of community organization free from Government guidance, training, teaching on basic accounting principles, created better recovery performance.

Jeyaram\textsuperscript{79} in his article, "Indian policy on micro credit as relationship banking against parallel banking in other countries", stated that public banks adopted the approach of group lending and peer monitoring for lending to the SHGs.


\textsuperscript{79} Jeyaram, "Indian policy on micro credit as relationship banking against parallel banking in other countries", \textit{a paper by NABARD, Mumbai 2001}
“NGO Initiatives at the grass roots” by Ganesh Bhat stated that the greatest of all the deficiencies was the lack of emotional attachment between the training institution and the entrepreneurs the NGO had developed. There were a large number of small NGOs spread across Tamil Nadu State which were mobilizing and organizing SHGs with little or even no funds. Their only strength was commitment to the SHG programme. The organizations of these NGOs worked as frontline workers.

“Co-operation – A Social movement” by T.R. Gurumoorthy pointed out that SHG was a testimony of the Co-operative spirit, active and willing co-operative of the sensitized women created SHGs.

E.W. Kropp and B.S Suran in their article, “Linking Banks and Self Help Groups in India”, pointed out that some of the design features, were small and fixed savings at frequent intervals, self selection, focus on women savings first and credit later, intra group appraisal systems and prioritization.

K.N. Vijayanthi in her article, “Women’s empowerment through SHGs: A participatory approach”, concluded that group cohesiveness, a group integration among the members was a positive impact of SHG.


She also added that economic dependence of women on their husbands or other male members was reduced to a large extent because of SHGs.

"Micro credit not charity" by S.C. Joshi concluded that strengthening women's economic activities required positive linkages and support for access to raw materials, skill-training marketing opportunities and most of all credit. Poor women were adepts at managing their micro-enterprises very efficiently because of the sheer pressure of survival. Thus Micro Credit was not merely a financial business but a strategy or tool for empowerment of the poor, particularly the women. Micro Credit was not a charity, but a loan facility in a convenient manner without procedural constraints and bureaucratic delays.

"Types of SHGs and their work" by Archana Sinha pointed out that SHGs could be categorized depending upon the size and basic structure of the group. Categorization could also be done based on the model of credit programme taken up. Micro finance programmes provided credit for Self employment and other financial services to very poor persons. Further, the country's response to the challenges of equality, development and peace was the "empowerment Strategy". The challenge before people was to evolve strategies to break the stereotypes of the past by solving problems of poverty, illiteracy, environmental degradation, violence, gender inequality and the like.


Sudha Rani, D. Umadevi and G. Surendra in their article, “SHGs. Micro Credit and empowerment”, stressed that multidimensional process of empowerment required awareness, access to education and training, participation in decision making and politics and the mobilization of women for economic self-reliance. The micro credit movement in India was gathering momentum as women at the grass roots organized themselves into SHGs. The important component of SHGs was mobilization and organization of women on the basis of solidarity, strength and collective action.

T.R. Gurumoorthy in his article, “Economic empowerment through self – reliance”, noticed that the outreach of SHG could become an important link for formal credit institutions as an entry point. The loan recovery system of the SHG depended on social peer pressure and bankers could learn a few lessons in recovery from the SHGs. The link between banks and SHGs brought formal credit within the reach of illiterate and disadvantaged rural women. Such women would ordinarily never have the courage or motivation to approach the portals of a bank.

H.R. Sudhindra in his article, “Devadasis Reform into SHG members”, pointed out that the devadasi system was nothing but the exploitation of poor women in the villages. They were encouraged to participate in income generation activities through this programme.


Rehabilitated devadasis joined the SHG movement and were engaged in a variety of productive activities. Matted hair was thought to be one of the characteristic signs that was interpreted as a signal for dedication of the women to the goddess Yellamma. This superstition was being dispelled and women with matted hair are encouraged to have it cleaned.

Vasudeva Rao, in his article, "SHGs and social change" analyzed the impact of the group on the member’s perceptions as important social indicator between two points of time [before joining the group and the present status]. He noticed appreciable improvement on the following parameters: sending girl child to school, reduced family size, improvement in individual income and increased working days.

B.K. Gopalakrishnan \(^90\) in his article, “SHGs and social defence”, stated that SHGs played a very crucial role in resolving problems and in strengthening the group members. All rallied around the SHG with their individual problems unable to fight them as individuals. The main expectations for the beginners was economic betterment but as they remained for a long time in the SHG they aspired for status improvement, capacity building in the form of skill development or training.

Tessy Kurian \(^91\) in his article, “Economics as if people matter”, highlighted the fact that people needed a format of development that kept people in the centre state. The poor of the world, whether they were individuals or nations, or discriminated against by policies, experienced resources flowing from the poor to the rich instead the other way. For the emergence of a truly global economics, all barriers to the moment of people in search of work are to be removed and the work should become a single market for both.

T. Chiranjeevellu\(^92\) in his article, “Empowering women through SHGs”, stressed that the Government had been vigorously pursuing the micro finance agenda for empowering poor women. Organization of women in to SHGs had really taken the shape of a movement in the district.

“Sustainable Rural Development” by I. Satya Sundaram \(^93\) found that the new approaches to rural development laid emphasis

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on popular participation, grassroot organizations like SHGs and micro level planning. Poverty among rural women was growing faster than among rural men. Over the past 20 years, the number of women in absolute poverty rose by 50 per cent as against some 30 per cent in the case of rural men.

"Micro Finance in Economic empowerment of weaker sections" by S.K. Panda\textsuperscript{94} stated that the major challenge before the nation today was to evolve an appropriate strategy for mobilizing human resources for optimizing the use of the available financial resources.

"Poverty Alleviation under new Economic policy", by B. Ramachandran\textsuperscript{95} revealed that inequality and poverty were associated with each other and a different distribution system might cure poverty even without an expansion of the country's productive capabilities.

"New Generation co-operatives through SHGs", by V. Raheshwari\textsuperscript{96} pointed out that SHGs enhance equality of status of women as participants, decision-makers and beneficiaries in the democratic economic social and cultural spheres of life.

"Housing Micro finance – a key to improving habitat and the sustainability of micro finance institutions" by Bnice ferguson\textsuperscript{97} revealed that from a public policy perspective Housing Micro Finance


[HMF] had the potential to transform habitat programmes in developing countries.

A.N. Sarkar in his article, "Innovations in SHG – led micro finance development programmes: Sharing of Global experience”, stated that credit played a vital role in economic empowerment of the poor and the disadvantaged. Micro Finance was an innovative credit delivery mechanism that ensured viable financial services for the needy. It had the potential to address the issues of life actualizing equitable gains from development on a sustained basis. It could play a vital role in developing nations in fighting poverty.

Lakshmi Narasaiah in her article, “Prevent social polarization, reduce poverty”, found that the opening of social and economic opportunities to the poor, offered the possibility of more stable and sustainable change.

R. Ramakrishna and B.C. Krishnamoorthy in their article, “Micro Credit for the Rural Poor through SHGs”, pointed out that with the implementation of economic and financial sector reforms, there was an imperative need for supporting farm sector development through provision of credit and empowering of rural poor households, more importantly women, through micro credit.


Amrit Patel, in the study, "Micro - Credit and Role of Banks", also stressed the successful operation of micro finance programme in Indonesia and other countries sharply focused on adoption of flexible area-based operating procedure, devising loan product, loan approval and disbursement system, loan collection policy and procedure, loan forfolio management and design saving instruments as part of best practices for sustainable institutional Micro Finance.

J.S. Mishra and R.K. Thanvi in their article, "Indian banking system and micro finance", stated that micro finance had emerged as one of the most sustainable and effective tools for enabling the poor and disadvantaged sections of the society to access institutional credit.

P. Purushotham in his article, "Marketing support to the SHGs" revealed that the Government had been implementing several income-generating programmes for the working poor with the objective of creating sustainable and productive employment and safeguarding their livelihood support system.


Rimjhim Mousumi Das\textsuperscript{104} in his article “Micro Finance through SHGs; a boon for the rural poor”, found that Self-realization and self-initiative were the two most powerful weapons to wash poverty out from the world map. Micro Finance through SHG had become a ladder for the poor to bring them up not only economically but also socially, mentally and attitudinally. It also provided opportunity to the poor for getting sufficient amount of credit easily to start any income-generating activity. Micro Finance not only dealt with the credit part but also dealt with savings and insurance part which brought the poor rural people into the mainstream.

L. Thara Bhai, C. Karuppijah and B. Geetha\textsuperscript{105} in their article, “Micro Credit and social capitalism in rural Tamil Nadu”, stated that when the women moved out of their homes and participated in group activity, it was the first indicator of their movement towards Socio – Economic development.

D. Sunder Raj\textsuperscript{106} in his article, “SHGs and women’s empowerment”, revealed that SHGs were a potential source to empower and institutionalize participatory leadership among the marginalized and to identify, plan and initiate development activities.

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\textsuperscript{104} Rimjhim Mousumi Das, “Micro Finance through SHGs”, Kurukshetra, February 2004, pp. 43 – 45.
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Leelamma Devasia and Jancy Antony\textsuperscript{107} in their article, “Social development issues in Self Help Groups”, stressed that the women’s SHGs had become a movement in India and considered them as the most powerful means to strengthen the socio-economic development of women through an integrated approach.

“Regulation of MFIs” by K. Muralidhran Rao\textsuperscript{108} General Manager, NABARD Mumbai, stressed the importance of Micro Financial Institutions (MFIs) in the delivery of financial services to the poor and their potential for expansion of services in remote and lesser-banked areas. NABARD had been extending technical and fund support to this sector.

“Emerging Financial Scenario in India” by Ranhana Kumar\textsuperscript{109} pointed out that one of the paramount achievements by NABARD that revolutionized the access level of rural poor especially women to institutional credit was the emergence of micro finance innovations. NABARD was an apex institution accredited with all matters concerning policy, planning and operations in the field of credit for agriculture and other economic activities in rural areas.

“The promise and peril of micro finance commercialization” by Gary Woller,\textsuperscript{110} stressed that the micro finance industry was in the midst of a profound transition from its roots as a special movement to

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{108} K. Muralidhran Rao, “Regulation of MFIs”, paper presented in the APRACA Seminar at Manila, July 2004.
\end{itemize}
a commercial industry. Commercialization held out several promises; chief among them were the benefits for Micro Finance consumers that typically accompanied competition and, for transformed Micro Finance institutions, the ability to mobilize small-scale savings. But it also posed certain perils of which mission drift was the most prominent.

"NGOs and literacy campaign", by Aditya Keshari Mishra\textsuperscript{111} pointed out that the NGOs had been acting as alternative models and in many instances, as supplements to Government endeavours for development.

S.D. Naik\textsuperscript{112} in his article, "Micro Finance: preparing for a major thrust", concluded that the role of micro finance in poverty alleviation and empowerment of the weaker sections was mainly recognized in developing countries. In India, the programme of Micro Finance was heralded in 1992 as a pilot project. It was poised for a major expansion both in terms of scope and coverage. This programme could make a major dent in poverty and help in arresting the gradual impoverishment of the countryside.

P. Tamilselvi and T. Ratha Kirshnan\textsuperscript{113} in their article "Role performance of SHG leaders", stated that within the SHGs, the group leader was the key person on whom the success of the SHGs depended. To give rural women visibility and enable the society to come in contact with poor rural women, they should get organized into groups.

\textsuperscript{111} Aditya Keshari Mishra, "NGOs and literacy campaign", \textit{Third Concept, Vol. 18, No. 208, June 2004, pp. 39 – 40.}

\textsuperscript{112} S.D. Naik, "Micro finance: preparing for a major thrust", \textit{The Hindu Business Line, March 9, 2004.}

Kumar Venkat\(^{114}\) in his article, "Reducing poverty: choosing the right technologies", concluded that deliberately choosing the right technologies rather than just the biggest and most powerful technologies available might hold the key to livable future.

Umasah and Shantanu Kumar\(^{115}\) in their article "Towards technological empowerment of women farmers", pointed out that a number of services supportive of women's socio economic empowerment, like Support to Training and Employment Programme for women [STEP], Rashtriya Mahila Kosh [RMK] Indira Mahila Yojana [IMY] Mahila Samridhi Yojana[MSY] and Self Help Group [SHG] concentrated mainly on the issue of employment and social empowerment.

Ahmad Shamshad\(^{116}\) in his article, "NGOs and the development of rural entrepreneurship", stated that the development of rural entrepreneurship had gained the status of a national movement not only for industrial development but also for solving the problem of unemployment and the uplift of economically weaker sections in rural areas. It also emphasized that the role of NGO and its critical significance primarily at the grassroot level.

J.K. Stephen and A.Seilan\(^{117}\) in their article, "Role of NGOs in micro financing through SHGs", pointed out that the NGOs


were taking keen interest in providing micro finance through SHGs and thereby empowering poor women. The success of NGOs in helping rural poor to organize SHGs for credit delivery in a way highlighted the importance of NGOs.

Chittaranjan Mishra\(^\text{118}\) in his article, "SHGs in the unorganized garment sector", defined SHGs as an informal, voluntary grass root level institutional arrangement to meet the credit requirements of the poor.

S.S. Kavitha\(^\text{119}\) in her article, "Self – Help is the best, prove these groups", pointed out that within a few years, the SHG concept had proved to be one of the most successful ones, bringing wide-spread social and economic mobility among the people, especially women, who were slowly moving towards attaining economic empowerment.

B.K. Pattanaik\(^\text{120}\) in his article, "Poverty, basic needs and rural livelihood", pointed out that employment creation in the rural informal sector, creation of self-employment and increase in income through the diversification of agriculture and promotion of allied sector and small scale and cottage industries would be helpful in the eradication of poverty besides ensuring basic needs.

\(^{118}\) Chittaranjan Mishra, "SHGs in the unorganized garment sector", Kurukshetra, July 2005, pp. 31.

\(^{119}\) S.S. Kavitha, "Self – Help is the best, prove these groups", The Hindu, November 22, 2005.

\(^{120}\) B.K. Pattanaik, "Poverty, basic needs and rural livelihood", Kurukshetra, September 2005, pp. 33 – 35.
Y.S.P. Thorat and Graham A.N. Wright\textsuperscript{121} in their article, “Micro finance banks for the poor, not poor banking”, highlighted that access to financial services had allowed many families throughout the developing world to make significant progress in their own efforts to escape poverty.

Rasheeda Bharat\textsuperscript{122} in her article, “Micro Finance, the rural saviour”, explained that women’s SHGs had changed rural life styles for the better, dealt with social evils and helped stave off the crippling effects of drought. She added that with the SHGs taking up such issues as female foeticide, alcoholism, usurious lending and even dowry, though the last more cautiously, and playing a bigger role in gram sabhas, a tiny revolution was certainly taking place in her village.

“Empowerment of women through sustainability of microfinance” by R. Ramakrishna\textsuperscript{123} found that sustainability of SHGs was possible through application of modern information technology.

“Changing attitude of Rural Women towards Gender Equity through micro entrepreneurship” by Trilocham Tripathy\textsuperscript{124} observed that an increasing number of NGOs as well as Government, bilateral and

\begin{itemize}
\item[121.] Y.S.P. Thorat and A.N. Graham Wright, “Micro finance banking for the poor, not poor banking”, \textit{The Hindu}, March 14, 2005.
\item[122.] Rasheeda Bharat, “Micro Finance, the rural saviour”, \textit{The Hindu}, July 13, 2005.
\end{itemize}
multipart funding agencies had included micro finance component in their programmes to promote SHGs activities in poor and developing countries.

S.K. Lopoyetum in his article, "New strategies for Diary Cooperative development in the Era of Economic liberalization", stated that nearly all Self Help Groups were promoting socio-economic development in most of the districts by making a lot of contribution towards generation of income and employment opportunities.

"Poverty Eradication = Growth + Social Justice" by S.C.N Sinha indicated that young people should be assured of responsibility and produce substantial results for economic and social progress.

"Micro finance opportunities and challenges" by I. Satya Sundaram suggested that the poor were economically active and could contribute to the national economy. Hence, banking with the poor needed to be considered as a potential banking business and not as a welfare activity. Bankers should concentrate on forming more and more groups in clusters of villages than spreading their efforts too thin. If banks provided proper training for skill and entrepreneurship development, the SHG members would be able to diversify into income-generating activities, thus improving their credit absorption capacity substantially.


“What does the Future hold for micro finance?” by Francisco Vazquez\textsuperscript{128} found that through group lending micro finance was able to provide credit, with minimal reliance on collateral, to group members who took turns borrowing and were jointly responsible for loan repayment.

“Watershed management and grass root institutions” by Sanjeev Kumar Sharma\textsuperscript{129} stressed on peoples participation and the role of grass roots institutions as hall marks of rural development in the present globalised world. PRIs and other social organization were instruments of socio-economic and political change as well as the agents of development. People’s participation empowerment and good governance were powerful tools that could give poor people a voice in the affairs of the state and Government. At the same time, building community assets could have a positive impact on poverty.

“Role of women in Rural development” by M.V.A.N. Suryanarayana and R. Nagalakshmi\textsuperscript{130} stated that there were two major approaches to women’s development, government and non-governmental organisation [NGO], for poverty alleviation and Development strategy. The Government programme for women development began as early as 1954 in India but the actual participation began only in 1974. Poverty alleviation and development strategy should address women’s practical as well as strategic needs.


\textsuperscript{130} M.V.A.N. Suryanarayana and R. Nagalakshmi, “Role of women in Rural development”, \textit{Kurukshetra}, Vol. 54, No.1, November 2005, p.32.
"Inter – District variations in the performance of Self Help Groups [SHGs] in Tamil Nadu", by R. Asokan, S. Ponnarasu and M.S. Kalavathi\(^{131}\) found that women empowerment depended on the success of women development programmes in terms of women Self Help Groups [SHGs]. These contributed significantly to the over-all development of women. The programmes of SHGs were introduced by several developing countries such as Philippines, Indonesia, and Bangladesh, and the experiments had proved successful. In India it was launched by NABARD in 1992.

Nava Thakuria\(^{132}\) in his article, “The growing mission of Self – Helping”, revealed that the Government of India had launched the scheme [SGSY] with the aim to bring about a paradigm shift in development strategy and for creating employment opportunities for the rural poor with the formation of SHGs and linking them to bank credit. SGSY covered all aspects of self employment such as organizing the poor into SHGs, training, credit, technology, infrastructure and marketing. The SHG approach was meant to help the poor build their self-confidence through community action.

“Promoting micro entrepreneurship for women’s development” by G. Sandhya Rani\(^{134}\) observed that formation of women into SHGs paved the way to develop women’s economic standards thereby building self-confidence.

\[^{131}\text{R. Asokan, S. Ponnarasu and M.S. Kalavathi, "Inter – District variations in the performance of SHGs in Tamil Nadu", Co-operative Perspective, September 2005, pp.17-24.}\]


Archana Jain\textsuperscript{134} in her article, “Micro credit-micro enterprises linkages in generating self-employment for women workers”, concluded that micro-credit facility could be treated as a strong support base for women empowerment and in achieving the long-term objective of reducing the dependence on farm sectors.

“Urban poverty in India: some issues”, by M.S. Sidhu M.S. Toor and T.K. Dhadli\textsuperscript{135} stated that additional financial resources should be mobilized by the Government for the upliftment of the poor.

“Economic Empowerment of women through SHGs” by M.L. Gupta and Namita Gupta\textsuperscript{136} considered SHGs as one of the most significant tools to adopt participatory approach for the economic empowerment of women.

Elina Mohanty\textsuperscript{137} in the article, “Banks willing to lend more to SHGs”, stated that good recoveries from self-help groups [SHG] had spurred banks to accept them as a main stream activity. Banks had set ambitious targets and planned innovation in this sector, even as the centre planned to credit link 3.85 lakh SHGs during 2006 – 07.

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\textsuperscript{135} M.S. Sidhu M.S. Toor and T.K. Dhadli, “Urban poverty in India: some issues”, \textit{Southern Economist, Vol. 44,, No. 21, March 2006, p. 7}

\textsuperscript{136} M.L. Gupta and Namita Gupta, “Economic Empowerment of women through SHGs”, \textit{Kurukshetra, Vol. 54, No. 4, February 2006, p. 23}

\textsuperscript{137} Elina Mohanty, “Banks willing to lend more to SHGs”, \textit{The Hindu Business Line, July 5, 2006. p. 6.}
“Trends in employment and poverty”, by S.D.Naik concluded that to tackle poverty, there was a strong need to foster the growth of rural enterprise by involving others, Self Help Groups and micro finance institutions on a much bigger scale, apart from stepping up public investment in agriculture on a big scale.

B. Kishor in his article, “Meeting developmental changes” wanted members of SHG to identify and resist the invasion of outsiders and exploit them rather than be exploited so that the SHG movement played an important role in poverty reduction through empowerment institutional support, ascertaining the cost of promoting organization to provide and maintain an effective service.

Asif Ahmed in his article, “12th wealthiest nation grapples with poverty”, mentioned that India had slipped down from the 10th position in 2004: the GDP — 12, Share in world export -29 Growth composition – 50, Human Development Index – 127. Perhaps, for India even US – 785 Billion wasn’t enough to qualify for the top slot.

In “SHGs women interact freely with Prime Minister ManMohan Singh” it was pointed out that the Prime Minister enquired with SHGs of Andhra Pradesh – Vishakapattnam regarding the planning and execution of their programmes. The SHGs women were trained to open information KIOSK, MS Office, Internet and maintenance of computers.


K. Kamalakannan in his article, "Rural industrialization and poverty alleviation", pointed out that 2 lakh SHGs were linked with banks under SGSY. The number would increase to 2.5 lakh in 2005–06. The Swarnajayanti Gram Swaraj Yojana [SGSY] has been allocated Rs.862.24 crores from the total central plan outlay for 2005–06. In order to give an impetus to the group, a revolving fund of Rs.25,000 was provided from banks. For groups of Swaraj, the subsidy was 50 per cent of the scheme cost, subject to per capita subsidy of Rs.10,000 or a total of Rs.1,25,000 which ever was less.

Manoranjan Sharma in his article, "Micro – Finance: creating value for the poor", pointed out that micro finance and poverty alleviation programmes were inextricably linked because of the potentiality of micro finance programmes to link the formal banking structures with the rural poor by the mobilization of savings and promotion of entrepreneurial endeavours.

“Empowerment of women in India” by C. Sivamurugan and V. Anbumani stated that nothing could be achieved without the all-round development of women and their involvement in national development through the formation of SHGs.

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143. Manoranjan Sharma “Micro – Finance : creating value for the poor”, www.gdrc.org