CHAPTER - VII

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

“The poor are left in poverty, not because they are lazy,
But because they lack access to capital.”

Milton Friedman

The present study is based on role of microfinance on women empowerment, with special reference to Madhya Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir. The researcher comes to the conclusion that Microfinance is a small source of financial services for poor people and small entrepreneurs lacking access to banking and related services. It is worldwide movement whose object is “a world in which as many poor and near poor households as possible permanent access to an appropriate range of high quality financial services” including not only credit but also insurance and savings. The major objective of microfinance for policy planners in India is to search products and strategies for delivering financial services to the poorer and small entrepreneurs mostly women mainly of backward areas in a sustainable manner that generally lack banking related services. Microfinance in India has been viewed as a development tool which would empower women, alleviate poverty and enhance growth of the country through financial inclusion. Because Women face gender specific barriers like access education, health, employment etc. Micro credit are available solely and entirely to this target group of women.

The first organization to introduce the concept of microfinance to enhance the agriculture and rural development activities in India was NABARD. After that microfinance was steadily improved growing through SHGs. Presently Government of India with RBI have done wonderful job for easy accessibility of financial services to poorer and small businesses. Microfinance sector has made substantial progress over the past few decades and brought number of people above
poverty line in India. This sector play a very important role in beginning and expanding the micro business by offering micro loans to lower income groups which generate income and employment to local communities.

The present study deals with Empowerment of Women through Microfinance. Empowering of women pre-supposes a drastic, dynamic and democratic change in the perception and expectation from women in our society. To help women to attain economic independence is the first priority for such a change. When a woman attains economic independence, she naturally becomes the mistress of her own body and author of her own decisions. A scientific perception of women needs is essential for the process which leads to the empowerment. Now-a-days economic development is one of the factors that have changed the entire scenario of social and cultural environment within the country, especially for the women. The rural women are engaged in small-scale entrepreneurship programme with the help of SHGs. Through that they were economically empowered and attaining status in the family and community. The microfinance is strengthening the women empowerment and remove the gender inequalities. Self Help Group’s microfinance mechanism makes the members to involve in other community development activities. Micro credit is promoting the small scale business enterprises and its major aim is to alleviate poverty by income generating activities among women and poor. Therefore, they could achieve self-sufficiency. The role of women in India is most intimately related to the goal of comprehensive socio-economic development. Any development strategy, which neglects the need for enhancing the role of women, cannot lead to national prosperity. Women are the vital human infrastructure and their empowerment would accelerate the pace of development. Women comprise half of human resources of the country. They have been identified as key agents of sustainable development. Women equality is central to a more holistic approach towards stabilizing new
patterns and process of development that are sustainable. The contribution of women and their role in the family as well as in the economic development and social transformation are pivotal. Empowering women, particularly, rural women are a challenge. Microfinance in rural area can help to meet these challenges. Microfinance not only enhance national productivity, generate employment but also help to develop economic independence, personal and social capabilities among rural women. Economic empowerment of women through microfinance led to the empowerment of women in many things such as socio-economic opportunity, property rights, political representation, social equality, personal rights, family development and market development, community development and at last the nation development.

After independence India faced an underdeveloped rural economy, high levels of indebtedness and a lack of efficient financial services. Microfinance is not anything new its origin is very old. Over the past centuries practical visionaries from the Franciscan monks who founded the community oriented pawnshops of the fifteenth century, to the founders of the European credit union movement in the nineteenth century and the founders of the Micro-credit movement in the 1970s have improved their practices and built institutions designed to bring the kinds of livelihood opportunities and risk management tools that financial services provide to the doorsteps of poor people. While the success of Grameen Bank has attracted the world, it has proved difficult to replicate this success in practice. According to data there are about 1400 MFIs across the world, the number of users of credit services from the sector was estimated at 86.2 million. The number of who used microfinance for savings exceeded the number of borrowers at 95.8 million. Among all the MFIs, Latin America had large share of 28 per cent followed by Eastern Europe and Central Asia region with 21 per cent. As for borrowers, South Asia had a share of more than 50 per cent in barrowing, and in terms of savers, the share of South Asia was highest at more than one-third.
The total loan volume of the sector across the globe as of March 2009 was of the order of US$ 44.2 billion. Latin America had a lion share of 38 per cent of loan volumes and South Asia had minimum loan that is about 10 per cent which is less considering the sheer number of clients in the region. South Asian loans were typically small in size and will remain same for some time.

Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of Nation stated that ‘India lives in its villages’. Economic Development of the country is possible only when there is development of villages. The percentage of rural population is more than the urban population as per the census 2011. According to the census reports, the rural population in India is sixty five per cent and urban population is thirty five per cent. Agriculture is the main occupation for the rural people which include farmers and agricultural labor. It is important to note that agriculture is a seasonal activity and its operations are short that is two hundred and seventy days in a year. For the remaining part of the year, the wage earner has to idle and without earnings there by cannot help their family. Various schemes introduced by the government to combat rural unemployment were not successful. The role of Indian women is peculiar in the family. They are the custodians of family maintenance and they don’t have any financial support. The male member of the family controls the financial aspects in the family they don’t leave any scope for women to participate in financial decision-making. During off season of agricultural sector, rural women finds it very difficult to maintain the family in an orderly manner because that time she remain dependent on the earnings of male members for meeting the day to- day needs. Her desires, wishes and ambitions remain unsuccessful in the absence of adequate money available at her disposal. This situation called for providing the average Indian women with an opportunity to earn money on her own and empower herself financially and to make her independent. Considering the need for women empowerment, the government has introduced several schemes to give financial freedom and earning opportunities
to them. The SHGs are mainly concentrated on the poor and are for the people, by the people, and of the people. Its focus is only on the weaker sections particularly women for their social defense. Self Help Groups help in creating information on day-to-day affairs, improving savings habit, developing self and community assets, income level, promoting social power etc. The also generates self-confidence, security and reliance.

India has taken steps to provide financial services to the poor and underprivileged. After nationalization of commercial banks in 1969, they were directed to lend forty per cent of their loanable funds at a concessional rate to the needy sector with the aim to provide financial assistance to help the poor to attain self-sufficiency. The priority sector includes agriculture and other rural activities and the weaker section of society in general. To further support and supplement the credit assistance, Integrated Rural Development Program (IRDP) was launched in 1980. But these supply-side programs were not successful as they ignored demand-side of the economy and also due to corruption and leakages. The village money lenders provide financial assistance by charging interest rates of two to three per cent per formation of pockets of informal SHGs engaging in micro activities financed by SHGs, the activities of SHGs started in India in 1980. India’s first SHG was set up as an urban co-operative bank, by the Self Employed Women Association (SEWA) after that the group was formed in 1974. The first official effort of SHGs is started by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). Under the direction of NABARD, the Mysore Resettlement and Development Agency (MYRADA) launched project on “Savings and Credit Management of SHGs which was partially financed by NABARD during 1986-87. The status of women in India has been subject to vast changes over the past few millennia. In ancient times, Indian women used to enjoy equal status with men. Many reformers and social workers raise voice for the rights of women either because of the role of women in the society or their
special character as described in Upanishads. But during the medieval period, the rights of women have been reduced in spite of arguments and support from many reformers.

After independence of India, women have been holding high level position in administration, corporate sector and politics. They achieved highest positions such as President of India, Prime Minister of India, Speaker of Lok Sabha, etc. In spite of these, things in modern India are exposed to various social problems and issues. According to a global study conducted by Thomson Reuters, India is the "fourth most dangerous country" in the world for women. In terms of World Bank empowerment is "the process of increasing the capacity of individuals or groups to make choices and transform those choices into desired actions and outcomes. Central to this process is action which build both individual and collective assets and improve the fairness and efficiency of the organization and institutional context which govern the use of these assets." Economist Bina Agarwal defines empowerment as a process that enhances the ability of the persons and powerless individuals or groups to challenge and change in their favor, existing power relationship that places them in subordinate economic, social and political position. Empowerment can manifest itself in acts of individual resistance as well as mobilization of groups. Empowerment is multi-dimensional it not only refers to the expansion of freedom of choice but action in all spheres-economic, political, social/cultural, personal and familiar to change the one’s life”.

Madhya Pradesh is one of the poorest and undeveloped state of India. This region ranks among the lowest areas of public health, gender equality and nutrition issues and about 37% of the population in the state lives below the poverty lines as compared 26% of national average. Old traditions, caste system are still present in Madhya Pradesh. About 20% of population belong to a scheduled tribe. The government of Madhya Pradesh has reached several programmes to the people through the formal financial intuitions. The banks also play a major role to reach the
financially excluded through the branch networks ultra-small branch or business correspondent networks. The microfinance sector in the state of Madhya Pradesh at the end of 2014-15, it is about 3.23 lakh of various groups & about 40, 00 lakh clients (the SBLP and other government agencies 24lakh and MFI 15.30 lakh after reducing the overlapping) with “no-frill’’ accounts created for 11.50 lakh clients by the banks. The state got point of attention on the world map primarily due to significant strides made by its SHGs. The microfinance playing an important role on optimization of natural and human resources with the help of participation and achieving the goals of vision 2020. Women empowerment is considered as one of the main strategies to tackle its socio-economic poverty. Women have taken microfinance movement through savings as mass movement, this used by them to shape their dignity for the better. Madhya Pradesh government making efforts to assist microfinance by providing funds under various program. Due to massive self-help movement, there is much more improvement in the socio-economic status of the rural women. Due to constant efforts by the government, women have become active concerned with their best standard of life. Right from the beginning, NGOs in the state of Madhya Pradesh are working for the cause of women empowerment and for their improvement more than 120-committed NGOs have been involved in facilitating the formation of self-help groups and efforts for their substance. Microfinance programme is working in collaboration with DRDA in training and capacity buildings skill development training programme building self-help group centered organizations.

Microfinance in Jammu and Kashmir is still in its initial stage. The Jammu and Kashmir bank has been playing a major role for the upliftment of poor people, to raise their living standard and to improve their socio-economic condition it could be only improved by the creation of increasing productive employment opportunities, development of basic infrastructure and other
social economic conditions. Microfinance regarded as the dignified way of crossing the poverty line by the weakest section of the society. It is an antipoverty tool and has been used in many parts of the world.

OUTCOME FROM STUDY

• The outcome of the study was taken from use of both primary and secondary data. The study shows that in M.P 96(54.85%) and in J&K 148(80.43) beneficiaries come from general category, About 32(18.28) in M.P and 17(9.23%) in J&K comes from OBC and 47(26.85%) M.P and 19(10.32%) in J&K respondents comes from SC/ST category. So the study shows that in Jammu and Kashmir the general class population working in microfinance is high than Madhya Pradesh. Only 20% (SC/ST and OBC) women respondent in J&K women respondent get benefit from microfinance and in Madhya Pradesh about half of socially backward class population benefited from micro finance programme.

• The age group of women respondents in Madhya Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir shows that 45% SHG members belong to the age group of 18 to 30 and 55% belong to the age group of 31 to 45 in M.P and on the other hand in J&K 26% belong to age group of 18 to 30 and 74% belong to age group of 31 to 45. The data shows that the average ratio of women below 30 and above is almost same in Madhya Pradesh but in Jammu and Kashmir the ratio of women workers above 30 years is high than low age group women. The main reason behind comes that social status of women decrease after joining self help group.

• The educational status of women respondent is almost same in both states. About 65% in M.P and 76% in J&K are either illiterate are primary educated. Other 35% in M.P and 24% in J&K women beneficiaries are either secondary or graduate educated. The data shows that maximum women respondents in both states are either primary educated are illiterate.
- As per date about 26% in M.P and 13% in J&K Kashmir women beneficiaries are unmarried and about 72% in M.P and 83% in J&K women respondent have married status. The data shows that maximum women workers in microfinance in both the states are married but, the unmarried women respondent status is high in Madhya Pradesh than Jammu and Kashmir. The reason behind is late marriage and decreasing social status of women after joining microfinance programme in Jammu and Kashmir.

- The annual income of respondents experience less than six months and more than six months in Jammu and Kashmir and Madhya Pradesh. As per data about 93% in M.P and 71% in J&K women beneficiaries have income less than one lakh only 6% in M.P and 22% in J&K SHG members have income 100001 to 20000 and above two lakh with the experience less than six months. The Self Help Group with the experience of more than six month 58% in M.P and 30% in J&K women respondent have annual income less than 1lakh. On the other hand 42% in M.P and 70% in J&K women beneficiaries have income 100001 to 20000 and above two lakh with the experience of more than six months. The data shows that among experienced respondent with the experience of more than six months income have high than women respondent with the experience of less than six months. So the income of experienced self-help group is improved after joining microfinance programme in both states Jammu and Kashmir and Madhya Pradesh. In overall 70% in M.P and 47% in J&K women respondents have income less than one lakh and remaining 30% in M.P and 53% in J&K have income income 100001 to 20000 and above two lakh. So it shows that the income of SHG members in Jammu and Kashmir is high than in Madhya Pradesh.
• The consumption pattern of sample respondent with experience of less than and more than six months in Jammu and Kashmir and Madhya Pradesh. About 74% in J&K and 77% in M.P women SHG member with the experience of less than six months respond come that they have less attained consumption expenditure and on the other hand their comes only 24% in M.P and 18% in J&K women respondent with the experience of more than six months which shows that we have less attained consumption expenditure. About 75% in M.P and 87% in J&K women beneficiaries working in SHG with experience of more than six months shows that they have either moderately or highly achieved consumption improvement after joining Self Help Group. The consumption achievement of sample respondent both in Jammu and Kashmir and Madhya Pradesh is almost same.

• Major activities involved women respondents after joining Self Help Group. Because as per guidelines of NABARD bank give loan to SHG only after they enter in income generating activities. The data shows that about 84% in M.P and 73% in J&K women respondent are involved in income generating activities and 27% in J&K and only 16% in M.P women beneficiaries are not involved in income generating activities. So the data shows that ratio of women in income generating activities in Madhya Pradesh is high than Jammu and Kashmir.

• To measure the social economic condition of sample respondents the reliability test was taken on data and the obtained values of Cronbach’s Alpha are Greater than to Standard Value of Cronbach’s Alpha i.e. 0.7, it mean data is reliable and provide us necessary information as we want from data side.

• The socio-economic empowerment of sample respondents with the experience of less than six months in Madhya Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir. The data divided into two parts,
part first shows economic condition of sample respondents and part second shows the social condition of the respondents. For economic empowerment data was collected to know the decision making, power over utilization of resources, impact on income, gain of employment opportunity in income earning activities, family empowerment in society, some help by microfinance, improvement of personal and family health through availability of better facility after joining self-help group and cooperation in social progress. In decision making process about 85% people with the experience of less than six month in both state show that they are not yet benefited. The ratio was also same for increase in income and power over utilization of the resources. In employment generating status 76% in M.P and 70% in J&K show that we have not gain employment status and the remaining 24% in M.P and 30% in J&K respond that we have either partly or fully benefited to prepare ourselves in income generating activities. This shows that after joining SHG, members prepared plans for income generating activities. In family empowerment the respondents with the experience of less than six months 75% from M.P and 86% in J&K shows that they have not attained family empowerment in society, but about 25 in M.P shows that they have moderately or highly attained family empowerment after joining SHG. For the improvement of personal and family health the ratio was almost same 87% in both J&K and M.P not improved health. In cooperation build progress of society only 1.28% in J&K and 4.76% in M.P shows that they have not yet improved progress in society, the remaining 98.70 in J&K and 95% in M.P has improved cooperation in building social progress. So as per data for the build of economic progress among women beneficiaries all responds comes negative expect improvement in employment opportunity and cooperation in society progress, in first six months group work for income generating activities and
take regular meeting to improve their group this shows new confidence among Self Help Group members. The part second shows the social empowerment of sample respondent’s data was collected about flow of information, social status, got importance in family and community, better relations and more friends and increase in awareness about society. In social progress the variable flow of information shows that in M.P 29% and in J&K 11.53% respondents less benefited, remain 71% in M.P and 88% in J&K shows that they have either fully or partly benefited from flow of information, the reason behind this is one restricted life become fully liberalized life. In social status and got importance in family as well as community it shows the positive change even for a group with the experience of less than six months in Madhya Pradesh. On the other hand in Jammu and Kashmir about 90% of sample respondents shows that they have not improved their social and community status after joining Self Help Group. In Jammu & Kashmir the social status of women decline after joining Self-help group. The other two variable better relation in society and increase knowledge level shows positive change among respondent in both states. In economic empowerment the data shows that there is not the positive improvement expect cooperation in social progress. On the other hand in social status all variables shows positive change in Madhya Pradesh but in Jammu and Kashmir the variables like improve status in society and got importance in community shows negative impact on women respondents working in microfinance.

- The socio-economic empowerment of sample respondents with the experience of more than six months in Madhya Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir. The data is divided into two parts, part first shows economic condition of sample respondents and part second shows the social condition of the respondents. For economic empowerment data was collected to
know the decision making, impact on income, power over utilization of resources, gain of employment opportunity in income earning activities, some help by micro finance, family empowerment in society, improvement of personal and family health through availability of better facility after joining self-help group and cooperation in social progress. In social empowerment variables was taken flow of information, social status, got importance in family and community. In economic empowerment about 88% in J&K and 86% in M.P shows that they are fully or partly benefited through microfinance programme in generating their income and remaining 11.31% in J&K and 13.39% in M.P shows that they have not improved their income. In decision making about 48% in M.P and 46% in J&K women respondents give information that their decision making has fully or partly improved after joining Self Help Group but, the remaining more than half of SHG member shows that their decision making process has not improve after joining Self Help group. The variable power over resources show that about 85% in J&K and 84% in M.P have moderately improved power to control power over resources, because decision making process is distributed in both husband and wife and it is not possible that woman get fully benefited to utilize whole resources of family. Their positive change employment status above 90% in both states among women beneficiaries after joining Self Help Group, because aim of SHG is to work for income generating activities. About 94% in J&K and 93% in M.P women respondents show that they have considerably and moderately improved their saving. The experienced Self Help Group wants to improve their saving rate to repayment loan and take next time big loan as compared to previous one. There was also improved family empowerment in both Jammu and Kashmir and Madhya Pradesh among the sample respondents. As per data 83% in J&K and 80% in M.P sample respondents shows positive
change in their personal and family health. At last in economic empowerment about 95% of women respondents shows that their cooperation in social progress has improved.

- In the part second of it shows the social empowerment among the Self Help Group respondents, its first variable flow of information shows about 89% in J&K and 94% in M.P women respondents are partly and fully benefit from microfinance programme to improve their information level and the respondents also give positive response that they get importance in family. The variables like improve social status and got importance in community about 94% of women respondents in Madhya Pradesh shows that they are fully or partly benefited. On the other hand in Jammu and Kashmir about 95% of women beneficiaries shows that through microfinance social status decline. Because society not prefer work of women outside home, especially when women takes loan from bank. For the variables like better relation and more friends and increase in awareness level the result for both Jammu and Kashmir and Madhya Pradesh shows the positive change. So as per data shown that the experienced people more than six month sample respondents has gain positive social economic empowerment than the sample respondents with the experience of less than six months. But the social status of sample respondents in Jammu and Kashmir decrease after joining Self Help group.

- The regression and correlation analysis was also taken on data. The comparison was taken on the basis of sample respondents with experience of less than six months and more than six months. The first analysis was taken on sample respondents with experience of less than six months and more than six months for economic empowerment in Madhya Pradesh it shows only 2.0% effect with each other which mean the economic condition of sample
respondents with experience of less than six months is different from respondents with experience of more than six months.

- The second relation was seen on sample respondents with experience of less than six months and more than six months for social empowerment in Madhya Pradesh, it shows only 1.6% effect of independent variable on dependent variable. So it shows social condition of sample respondent with experience of less than six months is altogether different from respondent with experience of more than six months through microfinance programme.

- The third Regression model was taken on sample respondents with experience of less than six months and more than six months Economic empowerment in Jammu & Kashmir. The model summary table indicates that Above Six Month economic Empowerment (J&K) has 8.9% effect on Below Six Month economic Empowerment (J&K) since the r square value of table is .077 which means Above Six Month economic Empowerment (J&K) has direct but low relationship with Below Six Month economic Empowerment (J&K). so the economic condition of sample respondent with experience of less than and more than six month is different from each other, because more than six month sample responds is already benefit through microfinance programme.

- The fourth Regression model of respondents with experience of less than six months and more than six Months Social empowerment in Jammu & Kashmir. The model summary table indicates that Above Six Month Social Empowerment (J&K) has 6.5% effect on Below Six Month Social Empowerment (J&K) since the r square value of table is .065 which means Above Six Month Social Empowerment (J&K) has direct but low relationship with Below Six Month Social Empowerment (J&K).
The fifth regression model was taken on the basis of compares of respondents with experience of less than six months Economic empowerment in Jammu & Kashmir and Madhya Pradesh. The model summary table indicates that Below Six Month Economic Empowerment (M.P) has 42.5% effect on Below Six Month Economic Empowerment (J&K) since the r square value of table is .425 which means below Six Month Economic Empowerment (J&K) has direct relationship with Below Six Month Economic Empowerment (J&K).

The sixth Regression model was on respondents with experience of less than six months Social empowerment in Jammu & Kashmir and Madhya Pradesh. The model summary table indicates that Below Six Month Social Empowerment (M.P) has 16.7% effect on Below Six Month Social Empowerment (J&K) since the r square value of table is .167 which means Below Six Month Social Empowerment (M.P) has direct relationship with Below Six Month Social Empowerment (J&K).

The seventh regression model shows relation of respondents with experience of more than six months Economic empowerment in Jammu & Kashmir and Madhya Pradesh. The model summary table indicates that Above Six Month Economic Empowerment (M.P) has 41.8% effect on Above Six Month Economic Empowerment (J&K) since the r square value of table is .418 which means Above Six Month Economic Empowerment (M.P) has direct relationship with Above Six Month Economic Empowerment (J&K). This shows that economic status of sample respondents is going in same way through microfinance in both states.

The eight regression model was taken on sample respondents with experience of more than six months Social empowerment in Jammu & Kashmir and Madhya Pradesh summary
The table indicates that Above Six Month Social Empowerment (M.P) has only 2.8% effect on Above Six Month Social Empowerment (J&K) since the $r^2$ value of the table is .028 which means Above Six Month Social Empowerment (M.P) has direct but very low relationship with Above Six Month Social Empowerment (J&K) and the $R$ Value 0.190 show positive correlation but very low between Above Six Month Social Empowerment (M.P). The reason behind low relationship among respondents in both states is that in Jammu and Kashmir the status of women in society decrease after joining Self Help Group.

- The decision making status of women respondents with the experience of less than six months in Jammu and Kashmir and Madhya Pradesh. As per data it shows that about 67% in J&K and 40% in M.P respondent’s family decision is taken by their husband, around 25% in J&K and 51% of respondent in M.P shown response about that they decide any plan jointly and only 8% of women respondent in J&K and 9% in M.P take decision herself. As per data it shows the respondent with the experience of less than six month have not much decision making opportunity in their family. As per data it shows that in most families in Jammu and Kashmir decision is taken by family head and in Madhya Pradesh half of sample respondent with the experience of less than six months decision of the family is decided by both.

- The decision taken by sample respondents with the experience of more than six months in Jammu and Kashmir and Madhya Pradesh. As per data shown 43% respondents in J&K and 55% in M.P decision of the family taken by both husband and wife, about 52% of respondent in Jammu and Kashmir and 26% in Madhya Pradesh the decision of the family is taken by husband. Remaining 5% in J&K and 19% in M.P shows that they take their decision themselves. As per data it shows that the decision making authority of women
increase in J&K but not much after even working in income earning activities. In Jammu and Kashmir the maximum decision is taken by men as compared to women. On the other hand in Madhya Pradesh decision making of women over the utilization of resources of family has improved through micro finance.

- That about 58, (54.71%) in J&K said they never failed to repay the bank loan followed by 48, (45.28%) women respondents said that they failed to Repay the bank loan. On the other hand in Madhya Pradesh 77.67% women beneficiary said that never feel any default in repayment of bank loan and remaining 22.32% of respondents shows that they are not capable to pay bank loan. The ratio shows that the default system in repayment in bank loan is high in Jammu and Kashmir than Madhya Pradesh. Because of irregular meeting, lack of awareness on legal harassment of loan default, lack of peer pressure, unwilling to improve themselves and higher interest rate of private sector banks. In Jammu and Kashmir it has shown that the reason behind default in repayment of bank loan is that more SHGs get their loan from private sector banks they charges high rate of interest on SHGs. Bank loan is essential for economic development that’s why bank loan must be refunded within timeframe so that another loan could be availed later on. It concludes that respondents who takes loan from private banks fails to repay bank loan. It is important to improve microfinance rate of interest should be very low.

- The literacy rate in India is measured through census method, the census of India is taken after every ten years. So the new ratio of literacy comes after every ten years. Last ratio about literacy rate comes in 2011. In India as per data 2011 the total literacy rate was 74.04, in which male literacy rate was 82.14% and female 65.46%. Both Madhya Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir lies at the bottom in terms of literacy rate in the country. In census
2011 the total literacy rate of M.P and J&K was 70.63 and 68.74 respectively. Male literacy rate in Madhya Pradesh was near 80.50% and that of female literary it was 60%. On the other hand the male literacy rate of Jammu and Kashmir was 78.45 and female population was 56%. In overall ratio of literacy rate both the states comes down than national average. The literacy ratio of Madhya Pradesh is high than Jammu and Kashmir in allover literacy rate. Madhya Pradesh lies about 2% in male and 4% in female upper hand than Jammu and Kashmir.

- In Madhya Pradesh the sex ratio has improved to 931 in 2011 census from 918 in 2001 census. On the other hand the Sex of Jammu and Kashmir decline from 900 female to 883 female per 1000 male. The data shows that in J&K and M.P the sex ratio is lower than the national average. But there is improvement in sex ratio of Madhya Pradesh and in Jammu and Kashmir the sex ratio decline.

**SUGGESTIONS**

On the basis of major findings, following suggestions are made towards empowering the women through SHG and microfinance.

- As many women do not have adequate knowledge about SHG, they should be provided literature with case studies in regional language so that they could have at least theoretical knowledge about the SHG and not become burden on the SHG or vice-versa.
- As micro-credit gives women an opportunity to change their economic status through savings and credit policy but few commercial banks are reluctant to give loan to the mature SHGs. So that they could start their enterprise and can break the long chain of poverty and unemployment.
Member should be very analytical and logical while taking loan. They also have to be cautious about the proper selection of income generating activities. Otherwise they might become loan defaulters which make women more vulnerable.

Community based micro-enterprises like poultry farming, food processing, leaves plate making, batik fabric etc. would be most viable economic activities, which helps the beneficiaries drive out from the poverty trap. That’s why product should be produced according to local demand using local inputs. Entrepreneurial training and exposure visit would be added value to the SHGs for procuring quality of product.

Attending meeting should be made compulsory so that people should get benefit out of SHGs.

At least one leader of SHGs should be incorporated with the rural development programme to avoid the failure of the programme.

A block level federation of SHG members can strengthen the movement of a large extent as well as encourage the population to come forward and join active politics.

Periodical training at regular interval to the SHG members should be imparted so that they could enjoy the group thoroughly to reduce the drop out.

The NGOs and government should give them a fair amount of chance to market their product and help them to send their product in exhibitions and workshops.

The study reveals that majority of the group leaders are much informative and empowered than the general members and fair amount of chances are therefore nepotism, favourism and corruption taking place. So emphasis should be given to rotational leadership among the group members in an interval of two year.
The study also revealed that majority of general members are illiterate so non-formal education would be very much effective for understanding group activities specially group savings and credit policy which avoid unnecessary conflict among the group members. It also helps to retain members in the group.

Since Anantnag district is not agriculturally developed, therefore, emphasis must be given on promotion of horticulture with government support as their income generation activities.

Since majority of women does not have control over assets so government should take initiative to reduce the disparity between men and women in the matter of controlling assets. Only legislative would not be effective until and unless the SHGs are involved to campaign against the maladies and injustice against the women.

Empowering one means disempowering others so everybody should be brought to the periphery of SHGs.

Role of the media should be more proactive and should broadcast the news on SHGs now and again to make rural women aware and make the programme interesting.

Since SHG is the only option to inculcate social, economic and political development so SHG should be given more emphasis as a medium of rural development.

Government should take initiative to reduce the exorbitant rate of interest charged by the bank to the SHGs on bank loan. Since women belong to the poorest of poor, they should be given such type of relaxation.

Government should provide few incentives or rewards to the excellent SHGs like member of SGSY getting for sustainable development.

Further research should be encouraged to make the policies favoring women SHGs.
SCOPE FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

- The findings of the study can be used as a foundation to expand and continue the research in microfinance in both Madhya Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir State.

- The variables and sub variables used in this study process need to be further investigated. The research studies in future can further refine and strengthen the each indices of the study for better understanding.

- Future research works can also focus on the refinement of scale used to measure various indices of the study. The modification would also make it possible for the researchers to probe those areas as well and improved which were left by the scholar due to various constraints.

- Research focused on the availability, awareness and accessibility, impact and gaps in the provision of microfinance. This study indicates that there is lot of scope for further investigation regarding the institutional elements, sustainability, purposes and social dimensions of microfinance in both states.

- The future research can get lessons from the present study and highlight the lack of existing data, which will contribute to the overall improvement of information system on microfinance.

- This evidences that the research on microfinance is low, which itself indicates for further research in the area.