ABSTRACT

This study begins with a background discussion about status of women and why participation in Self help groups is a viable option towards empowerment of rural women to work towards poverty alleviation. It moves on to a discussion of a quantitative analysis of the impact of SHGs on individual members, their family, and social life, changes in knowledge, and attitudes, and their development as a whole. For this, a comparative survey was conducted on 500 rural women in the 13 Panchayat Samitis of Jaipur. This research study explores the Effectiveness of SHGs in women empowerment in rural parts of Jaipur, Rajasthan, India Utilizing these findings, effectiveness of Self Help Groups (SHGs) in the promotion of rural women empowerment is discussed, suggesting that participation in SHG is a viable option for rural women in their development, and community development. No doubt, SHG as a system has pervaded synergy among its members to move up in the socio-economic ladder from passive observer into an active partner in the development process. SHGs have become a likely tool for the empowerment of women, social harmony and betterment of the rural women in their own setting.

However, there are certain areas where more work needs to be done by the agencies especially in enhancing the social and the economic status of women. This study will, therefore, help the financial institutions like NABARD, Directorate of Women and Child development, RAJEEVIKA, various voluntary organisations to see the viability of the different approaches being adopted by them in the social, political and economic growth of rural women.

This study will also help agencies to know the problems faced by women while approaching the agencies in getting during entrepreneurial activities. Also during the field visit, the researcher witnessed that women are keen to get more vocational training so that they can move further and hence, the government can seriously look into this matter.

To sustain the success of SHG movement and effectiveness of microfinance it is important to provide some production, marketing and business-related training, with a
focus on improving productivity and income earning capacity of rural women, so that the borrowers can improve their livelihood further.