CHAPTER - V

SUMMARY AND SUGGESTIONS
CHAPTER -V

SUMMARY

Chapter I
Introduction

Women were treated as weaker sex from the time immemorial and as such several rights were denied to them. Never in the past women were treated on a par with men. Gradually women were treated on a par with men by giving certain rights such as voting right, property right, participation in Government, participation in all Government services, defence service etc., Still there is a problem to define whether women are enjoying equal right on ancestral properties. Women are not given property right on a par with men because most of the women in the past were mere housewives. They were not given opportunity to have formal education. Without property right, formal education etc., but as housewives, as poor and down trodden, as widows... etc., women were not in a position to be financially empowered. Among other things, financial empowerment may be given to women when they are capable of making money and capable of saving money to meet future financial requirements. Several measures were taken by the Central Government, State Governments, local bodies, to develop women as financially and managerially empowered. One such measure is creation of Women Self Help Groups [WSHGs]. By way of joining in a WSHG an 'eligible women' can acquire training, can start a business on her own and can make money through profit.
STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Any 20 women of 18 years and above consisting of women, widows, divorcees etc can form a WSHG. In a village or in a town there can be any number of SHGs.

The maximum number in a SHG is fixed at 20 with a view to empower all women in the group. The proposed empowerment for women may be Financial empowerment, Managerial empowerment, Marketing empowerment, Entrepreneurial empowerment, Skill empowerment etc., The formation of WSHG is being done in accordance with Tamilnadu Government rules.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

In Tamilnadu 5207 SHGs with 1,20,960 women members accumulated a total saving corpus of Rs.22.89 crores under the IFAD scheme. The SHGs were promoted from the year 1989 and an unexpected growth in forming SHGs takes place after 2001. Both the State Government and Central Government give importance in forming as well as assisting in the SHGs.

IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY

The proposed study on financial empowerment of women through WSHG is important in the present scenario of women upliftment. Before WSHGs the Central and State Governments have numerous proposals for women upliftment. The present WSHGs are also one such measure for the
upliftment of women with a significant distinction in uplifting women. The significant distinction is that a woman with the minimum qualification of age and without any financial resource, educational qualification etc., can be a member.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The study is limited to WSHGs in Namakkal town. The results of the study are based upon the information provided by the sample respondence.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

WSHGs are formed among other things, with a view to empower women and especially to empower the women of illiterate and resourceless. As such any number of WSHGs can be formed with maximum of 20 women in a group. There is every possibility for more and more groups. Therefore the broad objective of the study is to examine the financial empowerment of women through WSHGs in general. However, the specific objectives of the study are as follows.

v. To examine the procedure involved in forming WSHGs.

vi. To examine the rationale behind WSHGs.

vii. To examine empirically the financial empowerment of women through WSHGs.

viii. To make suggestion for a better role of a WSHGs to make women financially more empowered.
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The survey method of research is adopted. The methodology for proposed study is meeting women members in WSHGs in various places of Namakkal town.

SAMPLING TECHNIQUES

As this scholar belongs to Namakkal town, her native town is chosen for the study as a convenient place for the proposed studies. However random sampling technique is adopted.

PROFILE OF NAMAKKAL TOWN

Namakkal district was bifurcated from the larger Salem district in the year 1997. Namakkal district comprises of four Municipalities, fifteen Panchayat Unions and three hundred and thirty one Panchayat. Namakkal district is gifted with different climatic conditions and soil types. The economic development of this newly constituted district is mainly depends upon the agriculture and agro based activities. The northern part of the district has many kinds of non-farm activities.

Tiruchengode, Namakkal, Rasipuram and Paramathi Velur are the four taluks of this district. The districts of Perambalur and Trichy are the eastern boundaries of this district; Erode and Salem are located in the western and northern sides of Namakkal district. Karur district is situated in the southern side of the Namakkal district.
The 2001 Census indicates the total population of Namakkal district as 1495661. Out of these, the male population constituents 760409 and female population of 735252. Majority of the people of Namakkal district (75%) are residing in the rural areas and a smaller percentage (25%) of them are living in the Urban and Semi-Urban areas.

DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

Data are collected by means of a questionnaire. Apart from primary data, secondary data is also used widely.

Chapter II

FORMATION OF WSHGS

A. Eligible (or) Qualified Women as Member of WSHGs

(a). Group formation will be preceded by a village level, household survey which will provide the base line data. This should be conducted by the Non-Governmental Organizations.

(b). To facilitate sustainability the size of the groups should be in the range of 12-20. In no case should the group size exceed 20. The age group for the membership will be 21 to 60. The members should all be married women. Preference will be given for widows, divorcees, deserted and handicapped women and women belonging to SC/ST community. In any case all members must be below the poverty line.
B. Name of the Group

Name of the SHG is chosen by the members of SHG to their pleasure and will. There is no condition is imposed by the government in naming the self-help Groups.

C. Head Quarters Structure

At the Corporation’s Chennai office there is a Project Management Unit (PMU) with the organizational structure.

D. District Structure

The district level Project Implementation Unit (PIU) is headed by a Project Officer, assisted by Assistant Project Officers (APOs) in the various functional areas of training and communication, monitoring, schemes, marketing, administration and credit.

E. Block Structure

The PIU has a minimal block level set up with a Block Project Coordinator. There is also a Block Level Coordinator Committee at every block which is headed by the Project Officer / Asst. Project Officer.

F. NGOs Organization Structure

The participation NGOs are important project partners providing quality and commitment to the project.
G. Banks

The SHGs can have access to credit from any bank convenient to them. They can also have access to any government schemes or any other source of funds from the NGO. They can also set up their own local area banks, after getting necessary permissions.

H. Cluster Level

There is no staff at cluster level from the government. However, the NGOs are expected to have cluster co-ordinators. A cluster would consist of 5 village panchayats.

I. Animators

The animators will be from the local village and must necessarily be a resident of the village. The animator should preferably be literate and must possess certain leadership qualities. She must be in a position to take on the role of a trainer for the group members in certain aspects of their daily life and group functioning based on the training that would be given to her. In short, she must be a role model and a change agent for the groups and for the village as a whole.

The animators position must be rotated amongst the representatives once every two years. She will facilitate a smooth switch over of responsibilities in the above process. She will also assist the representatives to learn the role of the animator to facilitate take over as and when required.
J. Self-Management

Self-Management is the kernel of SHGs and wherever as SHG exists it has to manage its various activities, be it financial management, savings/loan management, resource management of income generating activities, organizational management, conflict management, bank transaction etc.

FUNCTIONS OF WSHGs

A. Group Meetings

The group must meet every week for savings and repayment collections and every fortnight for discussing all other matters in addition to savings and repayment. In certain cases, the meetings can be once in 10 days for both savings and repayment and other matters, instead of weekly and fortnightly. In no case must group meetings be held less frequently than once in 10 days.

B. Group Savings

The group members must be encouraged to save as much as each can without it being a uniform amount for all. Hence, savings must be optional amounts as against fixed.
C. Opening of Accounts and accessing institutional credit

The SHGs may open bank accounts in any bank of their choice depending upon their convenience and proximity. Since the service areas norms are not applicable to the SHG loans being advanced by nationalized banks with NABARD re-finance assistance.

D. Books and Registers to be maintained by the SHGs

The following books and registers have to be maintained in every group.

1. Attendance Register
2. Minutes Book
3. Savings Ledger
4. Loan Ledger
5. General Ledger and Cash Book
6. Individual Pass Book
7. Subscription Register

E. Annual Auditing

Groups accounts should be audited annually by engaging a local qualified auditor at the village/cluster itself. The groups should meet the audit cost.

F. Training

Since this project is basically a human resource development project, training is being given top priority. Certain topics of training will be
imparted through the animators/representatives to the groups while some other topics will be imparted directly to the groups. Training of NGO staff, PUI staff, block level staff has also been provided for.

OBJECTIVES OF WSHGs

A. Objectives for the Women and Groups (Individual and Group)

a. Development of strong, cohesive, self-help women's groups.

b. Improved access of SHG members of various governmental development schemes and bank credit schemes.

c. Development of leadership qualities.

d. Self-Confidence building.

e. Increasing social awareness.

f. Improved status of the women in the family and society.

g. Improvement in health and family and society.

h. Functional Literacy.

i. Awareness of legal rights and access.

B. Objectives for the Village as a whole (Expected spin off benefits in the village)

a. Active participation and collective action for development.

b. Improved health and family welfare.

c. Education and literacy.

d. Information, awareness, demand and problem solving.
e. Knowledge of various welfare programme of Government and banks in villages.

f. Settlement of local dispute in groups.

g. Voicing and acting against social industries to women and children.

h. Women become vocal and gain confidence.

i. Economic development.

j. Abolition of bonded labour.

k. Eradication of child labour.

l. Protection of environment and natural resources.

m. Commercial harmony, caste harmony.

n. Eradication of evils of alcohol.

o. Eradication of dowry.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

A. Aims of Monitoring and Evaluation

The main objective of monitoring is to have ready information on the project's progress and administrative matters to enable effective implementation on planned path and strategy. So, that the objectives are achieved and not lost sight of in the run for targets and short term gains.

Evaluation aims to access the project's impact on economic and social empowerment of women, sustainability of its institutions and other project objectives.
B. Monitoring

Monitoring will permit a 2-way flow of information

a). Feed back to the management on progress and process and

b). Communication from head office to the district offices and field.

C. Evaluation

Evaluation would encompass the activities like,

a. Baseline surveys of village and individual group members has to be
taken up in the village under the project area at the time of taking up work in
that village without fail.

b. Formats for baseline surveys would be given/are to be obtained from
the PMU/PIU.

c. The group grading exercises to be taken up regularly after year
1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 would be not only an assessment of the level at which
the groups are, on a gradation scale of A to D, but it would also be a
self-evaluation exercise by the groups and NGOs for its performance/
contribution to the groups.
Chapter III

ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN

Accordingly, a Women Entrepreneur is defined as "an Enterprise Owned and Controlled by a Women having a minimum Financial Interest 51 Percent of the capital and giving at least 51 percent of the Employment generated in the Enterprise to Women".

FUNCTIONS OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

As an Entrepreneur, a Women Entrepreneur has also to perform all the functions involved in establishing an Enterprise. These include idea generation and Screening, Determination of Objectives, Project Preparation, Product Analysis, Determination of forms of Business Organization, Completion of Promotional Formalities, Raising Funds, Procuring Men, Machine and Materials and Operation of Business.

The fact remains that, like the definition of the term 'Entrepreneur', different steps of functions performed by an Entrepreneur whether Men or Women. All these Entrepreneurial functions can be classified broadly into three categories.

1. Risk - bearing
2. Organizations
3. Innovations
GROWTH OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Women in India constitute around half of the Century’s Population. Hence, they are regarded as the “Better Half of the Society”. In the Official Proclamation, they are at par with men. But, in real life, the truth Prevails Otherwise. Our Society is still made – Dominated and Women are not treated as Equal Partners both inside and outside four walls of the house. In fact, they are treated as able, ie weak and Dependent on Men. As such, the Indian Women enjoy a disadvantageous status in the Society. Let some facts be given. The much low Literacy Rate (40%), Low Work Participation Rate (28%), and low Urban Population Share (10%) of Women as compared to 60%, 52% and 18% respectively of their male counterparts well confirm their disadvantageous position in the society. Our age old socio - cultural traditions and taboos arresting the women within four walls of their houses also make their conditions more disadvantageous. These factors combinely serve as non – conductive conditions for the emergence and development of women Entrepreneurship in the country. Given these unfavourable conditions, the development of women Entrepreneurship is expectedly low in the country. This is well indicated by a dismally low level of women (5.2%) in total self – employed persons in the country. Further, women Entrepreneurs in India Accounted for 9% of the total 1.70 Million Entrepreneurs during 1988 – 89.
A Cross-Country Comparison reveals that Emergence and Development of Entrepreneurship is largely caused by the availability of supporting conditions in a Country. These supporting conditions, the share of Women owned Enterprises in the United States has risen from 7.1% in 1977 to 32% in 1990. It is likely to reach to 50% by the turn of the 20th century.

In India, women enjoy into business is a new phenomenon. Women entry into Business, or say, Entrepreneurship is traced out as an Extension of their kitchen activities mainly to 3 Ps, Viz, Pickles, Powder and Pappad. Women in India plunged into Business for both Pull and Push Factors. Pull factors imply the factors, which Encourage women to start an Occupation or Venture with an urge to do something Independently. Push factors refer to those factors which compel Women to take up their own business to tide over their Economic Difficulties and Responsibilities. With growing Awareness about Business and spread of Education among Women over the period, Women have started shifting from 3 Ps to engross to 3 modern Es, Viz, Engineering, Electronics and Energy. They have excelled in these activities. Women Entrepreneurs manufacturing Solar Cookers in Gujarat, Small Foundries in Maharashtra and T.V. Capacitors in Orissa have proved beyond doubt that given the Opportunities, they can excel their make counterparts. Smt. Sumathi Morarji (Shipping Corporation), smt. Neena Malhotra (Exports) and smt. Shahnaz Hussain (Beauty Clinic) are some exemplary names of successful and accomplished women Entrepreneurs in our country.
PROBLEMS OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

Women Entrepreneurs encounter two sets of problems Viz., general problems of Entrepreneurs and problems specific to women. These are discussed as follows:

1. **Problem of Finance**

   Finance is regarded as “Life – Blood” for any enterprise, be it big or small. However, Women Entrepreneurs suffer from shortage of finance on two counts. Firstly, Women do not generally have property on their names to use them as collateral for obtaining funds from external sources. Thus their access to the external sources of funds is limited. Secondly, the banks also consider women loss credit-worthy and discourage women borrowers on the belief that they can at any time leave their Business.

2. **Scarcity of Raw Materials**

   Most of the women enterprises are plagued by the scarcity of raw material and necessary inputs.

3. **Stiff Competition**

   Women Entrepreneurs do not have organizational set – up to Pump in a lot of Money for Canvassing and Advertisement. Thus, they have to face a Stiff Competition for marketing their products with both organized sector and their male counterparts.
4. Limited Mobility

Unlike men, women mobility in India is highly limited due to various reasons.

5. Family Ties

In India, it is mainly a women’s duty to look after the children and other members of the Family.

6. Lack of Education

In India, around Three – Fifths (60%) of women are still literate. Illiteracy is the root cause of Socio – Economic Problems. Due to the lack of education and that too Qualitative Education, Women are not aware of Business, Technology and Market Knowledge.

7. Male – Dominated Society

Male chauvinism is still the order of the day in India. The constitution of India speaks of equality between sexes. But in practice, Women are looked upon as abla, i.e. weak in all respects.

8. Low Risk – Bearing Ability

Women in India lead a protected life. They are less educated and economically not self-dependent. All those reduce their ability to bear risk involved in running an enterprise. Risk-bearing is an essential requisite of a successful Entrepreneur.
DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS — RECENT TRENDS

Days are gone when women in India remained confined to within four walls of their homes and their immense strength and potential remained unrecognized and unaccounted for. Now, they are increasingly participating in all spheres of activities. The fact remains that the citadels of excellence in academic, politics, administration, business and industry are no longer the prerogatives of men in India. The general consensus that is emerging in all discussions relating to the development of women Entrepreneurs should form an integral part of all development efforts. The experience of the United States where the share of women owned enterprises is continuously on increase, strengthens the view that the future of small-scale industries depends very much on the entry of women into industry. Several national and international organizations and agencies have appreciated the need for and importance of developing women Entrepreneurs in recent years. A brief review of it is given here.

With a view to develop better half of the society, the United Nations declared the decade 1975-85 as the Decade for women. The UNIDO preparatory meeting on the Role of Women in Industrialization in Developing countries held at Vienna during 6-10 February, 1978 identified several constraints such as social, attitudinal and institutional barriers, inadequate employment opportunities, inappropriate and
inadequate training, insufficient information and so on which held women back from participating in industrial activities. The world conference of the United Nations decade for women held at Copenhagen in demark on 30th June, 1980 also adopted a programme aimed at promoting full and equal Opportunities and treatment of Women in Employment and their access to non-traditional skilled trades.

❖ To break women as specific target groups in all development programmes.

❖ To devise and diversify vocational training facilities for women to suit their varied needs and skills.

❖ To promote appropriate technologies to improve their efficiency and productivity.

❖ To provide assistance for marketing their products.

❖ To involve women in decision-making process.

Chapter IV

FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN THROUGH WSHGs AN EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS

The summary of the findings of the study are as follows:

➢ 100 percent of the respondents are aware of the SHGs.

➢ 100 percent of the respondents are members of the SHGs.

➢ The names of SHGs are not identical; the members can have their own names as they like.
No condition is imposed by the government in naming the SHGs.

52 percent of the SHGs were formed with the support of the government, 8 percent of the SHGs were formed with the support of non-government agencies and the remaining 40 percent of SHGs were started voluntarily by the members.

The members of SHGs were not forced to join in the group.

No fees shall be paid as member fees to join in the SHG.

No woman was permitted to join as member in more than one group.

100 percent of the respondents took training to carry a profession.

Only 74 members took training 32 percent of the members took training for teddy bear making, 5 percent for plastic handicrafts making, 24 percent for garments making, 22 percent for basket weaving, 12 percent for candle making and the remaining 5 percent for other trainings. So all the respondents are not taking trainings.

26 percent of the number of members took trains for Garments making, 29 percent for Teddy bear making, 26 percent for Candle making, 12 percent for Basket weaving and remaining 7 percent for other trainings.

Only 64 percent of the trained members had taken up the relevant profession. 36 percent of members have not used the training for profession.
- 12 percent of the members trade their products among the SHG, 68 percent of the members trade their product with the effort of other members and the remaining 20 percent of the members trade their products directly in the market.

- 100 percent of the respondents have their liberty to fix their own price for their product.

- 70 percent of the respondents were earnings upto Rs.2000 per month and the remaining 30 percent of the respondents earnings in between Rs.2000 and Rs.3000.

- 35 percent of the respondents were able to provide employment to others.

- 100 percent of the members needs were arranged by the SHGs.

- 28 percent of the members were very much agree that their economic status had been improved, 56 percent only agree to this view, 16 percent neither nor disagree with this view. No members of the SHGs disagreed with the view that the economic status of the members had improved after becoming members of the group.

- 44 percent of the members were of the view that the earnings were sufficiently only to meet the family expenditure and the remaining 56 percent of the respondents were of the view that the earnings were sufficient only to meet the personal requirements.

- 10 percent of the respondents have stated that they have achieved the financial empowerment, 62 percent of the respondents achieved the
financial respondents and the remaining 28 percent of the respondents have stated that they have neither achieved the financial empowerment. None had lost financial empowerment.

- 20 percent of the respondents age in between 20 and 30, 52 percent of the respondents age in between 31 and 40 and the remaining 28 percent of the respondents age in between 41 and 50.

- 12 percent education level of the respondents were illiterate, 28 percent education level of the respondents were below 5th standard and the remaining 60 percent of the members education level were in between 5th std and 10th std.

- 48 percent of members occupation are garments making, 6 percent for Xerox business, 22 percent for basket weaving, 4 percent for teddy bear making, 12 percent for tea shop and the remaining 8 percent for hotel business.