CHAPTER - SIX
IMPLICATIONS

Self-Help Group or in-short SHG is now a well-know concept. It is now almost two
decade old. It is reported that the SHGs have a role in hastening country's economic
development. SHGs have now evolved as a movement. Mainly, members of the SHGs are
women. Consequently, participation of women in the country economic development is
increasing. They also play an important role in elevating the economic status of their families.
This has led boost to the process of women's empowerment.

We can trace the origin of the concept of SHGs in Bangladesh. Bangladesh has
been acknowledged as a pioneer in the field of micro-finance. Dr. Mehmud Yunnus,
Professor of Economics in Chitgaon University of Bangladesh, was an initiator of an action
research Project “Grameen Bank‘. He is bestowed with Noble Prize for his stupendous work.
The project started in 1976 and it was formally recognized as a bank by the government in
1983.

India has adopted the Bangladesh's model in modified from. To alleviate the poverty
and to empower the women, the micro-finance has emerged as a powerful instrument in the
new economy. With availability of micro-finance, self-help groups (SHGs) and credit
management groups have also started in India. And thus the movement of SHG has spread
out in India. The number of SHGs linked to banks has increased from about 500 in the early
1090s to more than 1.6 million in 2006.

Nearly more than 560 banks like NABARD., Bank of Maharashtra, State Bank of
India, Cooperative Banks, Regional Rural banks, the Government institution like
Maharashtra Arthik Vikas Mahamandal (MAVIM), district Rural Development Agency
(DRDA), Municipal corporations and more than 4000 NGOs are collectively and actively
involved in the promotion of SHG movement.

Self help groups have been found helpful to provide a and reducing cost in certain
production processes including various agricultural and allied occupations. Among them,
processing, vegetables growing, vermin-compost, dairying, goat keeping, making bamboo
baskets and selling of dry fish important adopted SHG members. The self help group
movement has a greater vision of empowerment of rural women for human development. In
the light of the findings of the study and from the personal experience of the research at the
time of personally interviewing the members of SHG following implications are made for
improving welfare of the members of the SHGs and to guide the concerned extension and field level personnel, administrators and policy makers.

The study has succeeded in portraying the personal and socio-economic profile of the members of self help group. The socio-economic profile indicates their living standard. An understanding of this profile by the extension agencies would help them in locating the prospective beneficiaries and increasing the number of SHGs in the region. This indicates that Training and technology transfer support was inadequate and it needs improvement. The extension and development agencies may be geared up for remedial measures.

The study indicated that majority of the respondents families had not crossed poverty line even after becoming the member of SHG. It thus, calls for the attention of District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), Non-Government organizations (NGOs), agriculture personnel and bank officials to strengthen the linkage of SHG with bank and promote all round development, so that rural people will increase their income and thereby improve their standard of living.

In order to get desired results, the study also pointed out the need of developing leadership ability. Application of simple management techniques with the help of experts from different organizations will help members to enhance their information input, and thereby, develop their leadership ability for making the groups more efficient.

Socio-economic members was measured terms of change in the parameters namely, behavior, social status, assets, annual income, borrowing, employment status and monthly thrift. The results pertaining to these parameters indicated that the members of SHG were at medium level. It calls for intensification of educational efforts and policy support to the members by the field extension workers of the development departments, NGOs and bank officials to make them more enterprising.

The study also brought out that highest change in impact parameters was noticed with artisan groups, followed by trading groups and agriculture groups. This suggests that financial agencies need to help guide. The, market demand may the proper. It was observed that members of SHG had made low degree of technological change in agriculture and allied occupations. The extension agencies will have to make sincere efforts for increasing the extent of adoption, for convincing the members of SHG about the utility of technology. Demonstrations will have to be arranged on an extensive scale.
Impact of micro-finance and technological change were found to be influenced by the SHG. These variables are significant importance in enhancing SHG Members income and employment status. Therefore, the strategies and approaches may be centered and based on these variables, and provision of inputs and resources for creating maximum impact on SHG members.

The important difficulties faced by the beneficiaries while paarticipating in group activities and in running the enterprises were lack of co-ordination, no regular participation, lack of interest no training facilities and lack of financial support. Therefore, may for, planning of group activities, social assessment and the study has brought out certain beneficiaries improving performance and running of their enterprises, which need to be followed on priority by the implementers of this scheme.

The researchers in agricultural extension and agricultural economics interested in understanding multi faceted behavior of the members of self help group may use the scale developed in the present study for that purpose.

SHGs are to be viewed focusing more on farm women. Therefore, all out efforts need to be made by the planners, administrators, development workers, financial institutions as well as NGOs to encourage, mobilize and promote SHGs and actively involving them in development process.

Women Entrepreneurship development in India is essential to empower weaker section of economy. Programs and policies of Govt. and NGO's women's and online help lines field.

Though the income generating activities like bamboo products, trading of dry fish and mango, agriculture animal husbandry and processing undertaken by SHG members, have contributed satisfactorily in enhancing production, productivity, income, as in generating employment, the member need to be helped wholeheartedly for financial, technological, extension, infrastructural and service support. The financial and development agencies' intervention will pave a way for improvement and deriving more benefits by the SHG members.

It is a voluntarily formed group. The member size is 10-20. The group is basically homogenous in nature. They save in regular basis. The amount for savings is within the range rs20-rs100. They rotate this common pooled resource within the members with a very small rate of interest.
Each group has a leader who is called as the president and secretary. They usually maintain records of transaction in daily basis in written format and this has been kept with the president or secretary. Not only from internal resource, but the members also get loan in back amount from mainstream banks, different governmental and non-governmental organizations and donor agencies through MFIs.

Rural poor are keen prepared to contribute their labor. They have some knowledge, skill and experience in various enterprises. They need to be assisted under various government sponsored schemes. The form in which it could be done should be found out so that they can earn their livelihood on a sustained basis. Livestock and other sectors have wide scope and potential so, all the avenues need to be fully explored and utilized for strengthening the SHG movement.