Micro finance in the sense of small loans to the poor, is of ancient origin in India. Moneylenders have been injecting small doses of credit to the rural poor, usually at exorbitant rates of interest leading to considerable hardship and impoverishment of borrowers. Micro finance to-day does not include such exploitative practices, but rather resorts to lending to the poor at reasonable but sustainable rates. In recent times, it has been recognized and accepted as one of the new development paradigms for alleviating poverty of the rural poor.

Keeping in mind the above factors, it is my endeavour to study the impact of micro finance on economic empowerment to the rural poor, especially the weaker sections in a particular Block of Kamrup district, Assam. In this study, to know the impact of micro finance on economic empowerment of weaker section, we have selected parameters like income, saving, employment, asset, quality of life, financial independence and loan availability to the selected Self Help Group(SHG) members. The study proved that the most efficient method of micro finance is to link SHGs to banking sector to have direct access to credit facility for the poor. Since it is a indebth study in an particular block, it is expected that the findings of the study will help the planners, policy makers, financial institutions and NGOs in formulating an appropriate plan and strategy for the proper development of micro finance which have crippled the rural economics in general and rural lending scenario in particular in the developing economy.

Date: 

( Namita De /I )