

APPENDIX

APPENDIX - I

MANDAL-WISE INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES

S.No	Mandal	Activities
(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	Razole	Provisions, vegetable vending, fruits vending
2.	P.Gannavaram	Milch cattle, provisions shop, money lending, agriculture, coir ropes, rearing of goats, pigs, hen for meat.
3.	Ravulapalem	Tailoring, selling clothes, milk vending
4.	Rajahmundry	Fashion designing, petty business, coir work, tailoring, selling sarees, lending money for interest, marketing fish, hotel, provisions, milk, papad business, laundry business.
5.	Rajanagaram	Milch cattle, money lending, vegetables and fruits vending, tailoring, cloth business, cashew seeds separation, grading of pulses, provision, fancy and sale of country liquor.
6.	Korukonda	Provisions, cycle shop, milch cattle, hawkers, pickles, country liquor, basket weaving with palm leaves to protect fruits in the grooves, money lending
7.	Peddapuram	Goats rearing, weaving baskets with palm leaves, rolling tobacco cigars, cloth business(Sarees and Blouses), milk vending, fancy, manufacturing iron almarahs
8.	Jaggampeta	Country liquor, plastic disposal business, selling bangles, fish marketing, lending money, cloth business
9.	Rangampeta	Rearing goat, weaving palm baskets, selling ground nuts, pickles

Source: Field data.

BANK WISE NUMBER OF BANKER PERCEPTIONS OBTAINED

S.NO	NAME OF BANK	NO.OF RESPONSES
1	Andhra Bank	15
2	Bank of Baroda	2
3	Bank of India	2
4	Corporation Bank	2
5	Indian Bank	4
6	Indian overseas Bank	2
7	State Bank of Hyderabad	4
8	Syndicated Bank	2
9	Vijaya Bank	1
10	State Bank of India	5
11	Chaitanya Grameena Godavari Bank	3
	Total	42

Source: Field data.

QUESTIONNAIRE

**WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH MICROFINANCE
A STUDY OF SHG BANK-LINKAGE PROGRAMME IN EAST GODAVARI DISTRICT,
ANDHRA PRADESH
QUESTIONNAIRE -I**

FOR SHGs

Revenue division: _____

Mandal: _____

Village: _____

1. Name and Designation of the respondent: _____

2. Name of the SHG: _____
3. Date of SHG formation : ___/___/___
4. Date of account opening: ___/___/___
5. Total number of members in the group:
6. Number of BPL members:
7. Number of members belonging to : SC ST BC
PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED OTHERS OC
8. Name of the SHG promoter: A. Bank B. NGO
9. What is the total monthly saving of SHG members: Rs. _____
10. Are meetings held? Yes No
11. If yes, how frequently are the meetings held?
A. weekly B. fortnightly C. Monthly
D. no fixed frequency

12. What is the educational status of members in the group?

Status	No. of members
Illiterate	
Literate	
Studied up to 5 th class	
Studied up to 8 th class	
Matriculate	
Plus 2	
Technically qualified	
Graduate and above	
Total	

13. What is the main occupation of members?

Activity	No. of members
Cultivator	
Animal husbandry	
Non-agriculture daily wage labor	
Collection of forest produce	
Household enterprise	
Shop	
Skilled labor (carpentry, masonry, blacksmith, etc)	
Unskilled manual labor	
Salaried employment	
Total	

14. Are the following books of record maintained by the group?

Name of the record	Maintained	Updated regularly
Minutes book	Yes / No	Yes/No
Attendance register	Yes / No	Yes/No
Cash book	Yes/No	Yes/No
Ledger (Savings & loan)	Yes/No	Yes/No
Members passbook	Yes/No	Yes/No

15. What is the average percentage of attendance in the meetings?

16. What is the inter loaning procedure adopted?

A. Loan amount distributed equally among all member.

B. Loan allotted to needy members

C. Any other (specify) _____

17. Bank loan details:

Sl	Ter	Mon	Month	Month	Amou	Amou	Disbur	Rate	Amou
.	m	th &	&	&year	nt of	nt of	sed	of	nt out
N	loan	year	year	disbur	loan	loan	amount	intere	standi
o	or	of	of	sal	applic	sanc-		st	ng
	Cas	loan	sancti		d for	tione			
	h		on			d			
	cred								
	it								

18. Has the bank graded or rated the SHG at the time of sanctioning loan?

- a. Yes b. No

19. Do members submit a written application to obtain loan? Yes / No

20. Is there any credit policy regarding the use of group fund, amount of loan sanctioned

- to a member, bank loan etc? a. Yes b. No

21. Do you pass any resolution in the meeting when the loan is sanctioned?

- a. Yes b. No

22. How much grants / subsidy is received by the group?

Sl. No	Source	Amount	Month & Year	Utilization

23. Who decides the amount of loan to members?

- a. SHG b. Leader/office bearer c. Member
d. fixed

22. Who decides the duration of repayment ?

- a. SHG b. Leader/office bearer c. Member
d. fixed

23. Is any penalty charged from member for failure to repay? Yes / No

24. If yes, what is the amount of penalty?

a. fixed amount Rs. _____ b. Depending on the loan amount

25. No. of delayed repayments allowed? _____

26. How are the funds generated through interest, penalty and other sources used by SHG?

a. Added to group fund b. Used for group activities

c. Shared among members d. any other (specify) _____

27. Is there a provision for rotation of leadership among member of group?

a. Yes b. No

28. Are there any drop outs in your group? a. Yes b. No

29. If yes, what are the reasons? _____

30. Who writes the book of accounts? _____

31. How do you resolve conflicts in the group? _____

32. How are decision taken in group? _____

33. What steps are taken to credit link the group to bank?

34. Who goes to bank? _____

35. Have you invested the amount of loan in any income generating activity?

a. Yes

b. No

36. If yes, give details:

a. What is the activity?

b. When was it started and at which level? Month _____ Year _____

i) Individual level

ii) Group level

c. what is the total cost of the project?

d. Were you trained for this? Yes / No

e. What the amount of loan availed for this?

f. What is the source of investment? 1. Bank 2. Savings

3. Others

g. What is the share of own capital?

h. Any difficulty in providing capital?

Mention _____

i. Is there any difficulty in procuring raw material? Mention

j. Is there any difficulty in marketing your product? give

details _____

- k. What is average monthly expenditure of the activity? Rs. _____
 - l. What is the average monthly income from the activity? Rs. _____
 - m. What is the approximate monthly profit from the activity? Rs. _____
 - n. Any specific problem faced relating to the activity? _____
 - o. How is the profit shared among the participants?
5. Is it beneficial to join in SHG? Why? _____

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH MICROFINANCE
A STUDY OF SHG BANK LINKAGE PROGRAMME IN EAST GODAVARI DISTRICT,
ANDHRA PRADESH.

QUESTIONNAIRE II
FOR SHG PARTICIPANTS

Revenue division: _____ Name of the Bank: _____

Mandal : _____

Village : _____

Section I: Individual information

1. Name of the respondent: _____

2. What is your age? : _____

3. Name of the SHG : _____

4. No. of years with the SHG : _____

5. What is your marital status?

Married Unmarried Widow Separated Divorced

6. What is your religion?

Hindu Muslim Christian Others

7. What is your caste? Mention category

SC ST BC OC Minorities

Category: _____

8. Educational Qualification of the respondent:

Illiterate literate Up to 5th class

Up to 8th class to 10th class Up to plus 2

Graduation Post graduation technically qualified Others

9. Number of family members: Total _____

Adults: Male: _____ Female: _____

Children: Boys: _____ Girls: _____

10. Nature of the family : Nuclear Joint:

11. Status of the family : BPL APL

12. How many members of your family are members of SHG?

13. Details of family membership in SHGs:

Sl.No.	Name of member	Age	Year of joining	Name of the SHG	Promoter

14. What is the reason for taking membership in so many groups?

a. More Credit Available c. To repay loan from previous SHG

b. Friends in different groups d. Any other (specify) -----

15. Are family members continuing membership in SHGs?

a. Yes b. No

Section II: Economic Empowerment:

16. How many earning members are there in the family?

Give details:

Sl. No.	Relationship	Age	Male / Female	Education	occupation

17. What is the main source of household income?

- (i) Farm activities :
- Agriculture
 - Animal husbandry
 - Agricultural labor
- (ii) Non Farm activities:
- Salaried Employment
 - Shop Keeper
 - Itinerant
 - Non agriculture
 - Daily Wage Labor
 - Other

18. What is your occupation? Mention Income there from.

Before Joining S.H.G : _____ Rs- _____

After joining S.H.G : _____ Rs _____

19. What is the average monthly income of family? (In Rs.)

Particulars	< 500	500 – 1000	1000- 2000	2000 - 3000	3000 – 4000	> 4000
Before joining SHG						
After joining SHG						

20. What is the average monthly expenditure of the family? (In Rs.)

Particulars	< 500	500 – 1000	1000– 2000	2000- 3000	3000- 4000	> 4000
Before joining SHG						
After joining SHG						

21. What are the assets possessed by your family?

Particulars	Before joining SHG		After joining SHG	
	Yes/no	Measurement	Yes/ no	measurement
1. Land: With title / without title				
2. Gold ornaments				
3. House: a) kutcha b) semi pucca c) pucca				
4. Financial assets				
a) Bank deposits				
b) Postal deposits				
c) Chit funds				
d) Insurance				
e) Informal savings				
f) Others				

22. What is the debt status of your family?

a) Before joining SHG

Source of debt	Purpose	Amount	Rate of interest	Outstanding amount

b) After joining SHG (other than SHG-Loan)

Source of debt	Purpose	Amount	Interest rate	Outstanding amount

23. Who motivated you to join in SHG?

- A. Neighbors B. SHG member Friends
 D. Bank official KP official Others: _____

24. Why did you choose to become a member of SHG?

25. What is your monthly saving in SHG? RS. _____

26. What is the source of thrift? _____

27. Have you received any training? A. Yes B. No

28. If yes give details: .

Topic of training	No of days of training	Usefulness

29. Have you availed loan from SHG / Bank? A. Yes B. No

30 If yes give details:

Month and year of loan from SHG / Bank	Amount of loan (Rs.)	Rate of interest	Duration of repayment	Outstanding amount

31 How the loan amount was utilized each time?

Sl. No.	Purpose of loan	Total amount of loan	No. of times	Repayment status Paid/paying/to be paid
1.	Consumption:			
	Food and clothing			
	Education			
	Marriage			
	Festival needs			
	Others (specify)			
2.	Income generation:			
	Agriculture			
	Animal husbandry			
	Petty business			
	Cottage industry			
	Others (specify)			
3.	Purchase and maintenance of assets:			
	Purchase of land			
	Construction/maintenance of well			
	Construction / maintenance of house			
	Construction / maintenance of sanitary toilets			
	Repayment of old loans			
	Others (specify)			

32 What is the source of fund for repayment of loan?

A. Own income B. Family income C. Borrowed amount

33. Are there any conflicts among group members? A. Yes B. No.

34 Is it beneficial to join in SHG? Why? A. Yes B. No

Because _____

Section III: Social empowerment

35. Are you a member / chairperson in any organization in your locality?

A. Yes B. No

36. Who takes decision in your family about education, health, children, marriage, religion, finance etc.,

	Male	Female	Both
Before joining SHG			
After joining SHG			

37. Is there any change in your status in the household and community before and after joining SHG?

	Before joining SHG		After joining SHG	
	Household	community	household	community
Improved				
Deteriorated				
Same				

38. Are you aware of?

Sl. No.	Programmes	Knowledge		Source of knowledge	
		Yes	No	SHG	others
1.	A daughter, widow and mother can inherit paternal property				
2.	Widow and divorced can marry				
3.	18 and 21 are the age for marriage of girl and boy				
4.	Dowry is prohibited				
5.	Willful abortion by women is legalized				
6.	Trafficking women and girls is punishable				
7.	Woman can divorce				
8.	Right to education is a right of the child				
9.	Domestic violence Act				
10.	About right to information act				

39. Have you ever made use of RTI Act? A. Yes B. No

40. If yes mention the instance:

41. After joining SHG can you:

1.	Speak in SHG meeting?	Yes	No
2.	Teach or train others?	Yes	No
3.	Speak during public meetings?	Yes	No
4.	Take up leadership position in SHG?	Yes	No
6.	Write minutes of SHG meeting?	Yes	No
7.	Keep accounts of SHG?	Yes	No
8.	Perform bank transactions?	Yes	No
9.	Go to government office/police station?	Yes	No
10.	Talk to government officials / police?	Yes	No

Section IV: Political Empowerment:

42. Have you ever attended any grama sabha / ward convention? Yes / No.
43. If yes when? Before joining SHG / After joining SHG
44. Have you ever contested in panchayat election? Yes / No
45. If yes when? Before joining SHG / After joining SHG
46. What was the result of contesting? Won / Lost
47. If won are you a chairperson of any standing committee/working group?
Yes/No
48. Have you caste your vote during the last election?
A. Assembly B. Parliament C. Panchayat
49. Have you ever canvassed in favor of any political party? Yes / No
50. Do you have personal access to the resources and services made available by the Panchayat / Government?

Sl.no.	Resource/service	Yes	No
1.	Water supply		
2.	Public distribution system		
3.	Old age pension		
4.	108 / 104 services		
5.	Vaccination for mother and children		
6.	Primary education		
7.	Mid-day meal programme		
8.	SGSY-subsidized self employment scheme for SHG members		
9.	Employment guarantee scheme		

QUISTIONNAIRE – III

BANKERS' PERCEPTION OF SHG-BANKING

Name & address of the Bank:

Name and designation of Banker:

Note: There are 23 statements in the schedule. Each statement is followed by five responses indicating varying strength of perception. Tick (✓) mark in the cell revealing your response.

S. No	Statement	Perceptual scale				
		Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Viability and Sustainability of SHG-Bank Loans					
2.	SHG-Bank Linkage as Instrumental In The Advent o Savings-Deposit-Loan Virtuous Cycle					
3.	SHG savings-credit linkage results in broad banding of banking services to SHG members					
4.	Bank-linked SHG leaders/ treasurers being aware of operational procedures and associated documents of savings-credit linkage					
5.	Bank-linked SHG members being aware of operational procedures and associated documents of savings-credit linkage					
6.	SHG-Linked bank employees being mentors of leaders/ treasurers/members on operational procedures and associated documents in savings-credit linkage					
7.	SHG-Bank linked Micro-credit delivery model reduces transaction costs both to bankers and SHG member customers					

8.	Bringing socially and economically marginalized woman SHG members into the ambit of banking is effective banking strategy in women empowerment					
9.	Bankers are sensitized to the credit needs of Bank linked SHG members through micro-credit, operational manuals and special training programmes					
10.	In each bank branch linking SHGs, an exclusive position/cell needs to be created for SHG banking activities					
11.	Being involved in SHG banking activities you feel your position in the bank significant					
12.	Your achievement in SHG banking area is adequately Accounted for in periodic employed performance appraisals					
13.	There is an adequate staff in bank branch to handle work load with regard to SHG banking activities					
14.	There is no fund shortage in extending credit to SHGs					
15.	SHG bank is faced with a problem of receiving subsidized interest portion of SHG loans from the state government.					
16.	Scale of credit to SHG is rationally decided by the bank in consultation with the concerned government agencies like DRDA and local bodies					
17.	Government agencies and local bodies involved in SHG-micro-credit programme create enabling environment					

18.	NABARD's refinancing is critical in micro-credit to marginalized social group					
19.	SHG bank loans are utilized for purposes they are given without being diverted					
20.	Mechanisms are in place in a bank branch to monitor SHG-bank loan cycle					
21.	SHG-bank loans carries low risk when compared to other loans					
22.	SHG-Bank loans have empowered women SHG members					
23.	Better credit to SHG members has built brand loyalty to your bank					

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH MICROFINANCE

(A case study of East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh)

Ajjarapu Alimelu Annapurna¹

¹ Sri Venkateswara University,
Tirupathi, Andhra Pradesh, India
behara.anu@gmail.com

Abstract: - A well designed microfinance program will prove to be an effective tool for policy makers in empowering women with its associated benefits. Women represent 50% of the world population, they receive only 10% of the world income and own even less than one percent of the world's property. Unless women progress on par with the economic prosperity of the world, inclusive growth cannot be ensured. The idea of SHGs has its origin from Olson's theory of group behavior. According to which human beings have an intrinsic propensity to form and work in groups if they are organized to further their common interest. (NABARD1995). The housewives traditionally confined themselves to home making, are now entering new vistas where they engage themselves in productive activities. Small household savings and supportive credit from SHG-Bank Linkage programme are used to augment family incomes and consequently consumption, investment activities increased. There is transformation going on around under SHGs through microfinance. Yet there is a lot to be done to make this transformation visible.

Keywords: Empowerment in India, Micro-finance, Socio- Economic Conditions.

1. Introduction

Empowerment of women is a strategic tool to combat their problems viz., poverty, unemployment, gender bias etc., encountered in the process of furthering economic development. This concept is being tried extensively by many nations and the results there from are quite encouraging. Empowered women bring prosperity to their family specifically, to the community in general and whole universe at large. The world learnt lessons from the success of the Grameen Bank (1975) in Bangladesh founded by Dr. Professor Mohammad Yunus. A well designed microfinance program will prove to be an effective tool for

policy makers in empowering women with its associated benefits.

The fruits of development have not percolated evenly among men and women. Though women represent 50% of the world population, they receive only 10% of the world income and own even less than one percent of the world's property. Women are more vulnerable to poverty because of her dependence on men and social status. Unless women progress on par with the economic prosperity of the world, inclusive growth cannot be ensured.

Empowerment of women is multi-faceted to encompass their literacy, financial, health, social and political aspects. This can be made possible with the all round interventions of the agencies like state, community organizations and the women themselves.

Microfinance

Microfinance is the provision of small loan amounts to the willing poor to make investment in income generating activities without insisting on collateral security, along with other financial services to promote and sustain activities. Group liability is insisted upon members, for which women form into homogeneous groups to undertake group activities like savings and credit, meetings, book-keeping etc for the collective benefit of the group members. These groups are called Self Help Groups (SHG), Joint liability Groups (JLG) etc. These self help groups are informal groups without any registration, their membership being limited to a maximum of 20. The high recovery rate of loans to women prompted many nations to adopt SHG model of micro finance. The idea of SHGs has its origin from Olson's theory of group behavior. According to which human beings have an intrinsic propensity to form and work in groups if they are organized to further their common interest. (NABARD1995).

Since independence India has been striving for the economic upliftment of rural poor through its five year plans. Time and again priority sectors have been identified and schemes framed.

After nationalizing banks in 1969 and 1980, the vast network of banks in public sector, have been involved in the process of microfinance. The efforts of RBI and NABARD to strengthen and supplement the rural credit delivery system resulted in organization of National Level Consultants on 'Rural Credit' in September 1994 and the SHG programme launched in 1996. This step introduced a shift in rural lending of banks from mere distribution of credit to encouraging people's initiative by participation in development process through self help by promoting thrift and self employment. The number of SHG increased from 3,841 in 1997 to 69.53 lakhs in 2009-2010 covering about 97 million families. SHG are promoted in 362 districts of the Indian states and union territories. Of the SHGs more than 75% are women groups.

27 public sector Commercial Banks, 19 Foreign and Private Banks, 81 Regional Rural Banks, 318 Cooperative Banks and one Small industries development Bank of India participate in microfinance in India.

Since the financial reforms in 1991 the banks are using the following distinct linkage models to finance SHGs.

Model I: Intermediation of NGOs is sought for on lending to SHGs.

Model II: Direct finance to SHGs to lend to members for income generating activities.

Model III: Lending directly to SHGs for on lending to members with intervention of NGOs as social mobilizers and facilitators.

Model IV: Bank loans directly to individual members upon the recommendations of the SHGs and NGOs.

Two models of microfinance in vogue are

SHG – Bank linkage model: where direct finance is provided to SHGs by banks.

MFI – Bank linkage model: where banks finance micro finance institutions for on lending to SHGs.

Andhra Pradesh has been in the forefront in implementing welfare programs for the poor. It is ranked first in the country in mobilizing poor women into groups for their social, political and economic development. The formation and nurturing of SHGs is undertaken by the Government through Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty an independent organization under the Ministry of Rural Development. The Central and State sponsored poverty alleviation schemes are implemented through this well structured and full-fledged organization. At the District level District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), District collector, Banks and

other Non Government Organizations (NGOs) are involved in the implementation process. The massive literacy campaign in 1980's and the success of women groups in Nellore district in implementing prohibition of arrack paved way for the adoption of women empowerment as one of the strategies by the State Government. The Development of women and children in rural areas (DWCRA) programme has been successful in mobilizing women Self Help Groups throughout the length and breadth of the state. This programme has been renamed as Velugu and later on changed to **INDIRA KRANTHI PATHAM** funded by World Bank. There are about 8.5 lakh women SHGs in the State covering nearly 111.81 lakh rural poor women. The corpus mobilized by these groups amounted to Rs. 4025.55 crores as on March, 2009. More than 52% SHGs are financed by banks under SHG Linkages. This number is more than the all India figure excluding Andhra Pradesh. During 2008-2009 about 76% of the total SHGs in the state were provided with repeat finance by banks. The recovery of loans is around 95% in the state. It is found that there aren't enough empirical studies to find out the impact of these programmes on the socio-economic and political empowerment of women in the state. The present study is an earnest attempt to fill the gap.

Objective

The objective of the present study is to analyse the socio-economic and political empowerment of women in East Godavari District. However its specific objectives include:

- To find out the socio-economic characteristics of SHG members
- To assess the economic impact of SHGs on their members.

Methodology

In the State East Godavari district tops in extending credit to women's self-help groups. The geographical area occupied by this district is 10,807 sq.kms and second richest district in the whole country. There are 58 rural mandals and two urban mandals in the district. Owing to its vast geographical stretch, constrained by time and manpower the present study covered 9 mandals selected randomly. SHGs linked to State Bank of India and Andhra Bank were surveyed in seventeen villages. The primary data is collected during the months of April and May 2012. Interview schedules are specially prepared for this purpose, incorporating questions relating to the general information of members, groups, occupation, income and expenditure, loan and savings, utilization of loan by SHG members. Totally 315 members were selected randomly from 150 groups (1593members).

Socio-economic conditions of the sample respondents

To understand the demographic and socio-economic characteristic of the respondents in the study area indicators like age, caste, educational status, occupation, income and expenditure before and after joining SHGs. utilization of loan from banks are focused on.

Profile of the respondents

Age marks the potential that is capacity to acquire work related skills; propensity to participate in socio-economic activities and capability to overcome hurdles confronted. Either too young and too aged are dependent segments of the population. As can be seen from the age distribution of the respondents in the preceding table 84% of them fall in the age group of 18 to 47 years. Thus, high proportion of SHG members being youth is a favorable demographic feature. Their energies can be harnessed for improving their economic status.

Table – 1 AGE

AGE	NO.OF.RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
18-27	50	15.9
28-37	112	35.6
38-47	102	32.4
48-57	32	10.1
58-67	19	06
TOTAL	315	100

Source: primary data

Table – 2 Caste Wise Categorization

Caste	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
SC	52	17
ST	05	2
BC	177	56
OC	80	25
TOTAL	315	100

Source: primary data

Note: BCs include 8% minority population.

In the sample of respondents, 56% are backward class, 25% belong to other caste, 17% are scheduled caste and 2% scheduled tribes. BCs, SCs and STs put together constitute as high as 75% of total SHG membership. Since these caste groups are economically and socially downtrodden, their inclusions in SHG fold improves chances of their well-being and improved socio-economic status

Table – 3 LEVELS OF EDUCATION

Educational Status	No. Of Respondents	Percentage
Illiterate	83	26.3
Literate	50	15.9
Up To 5 th	94	29.8
Up To 8 th	30	9.5
Up To 10 th	33	10.5
+2	11	3.5
Graduation	09	2.9
Post Graduation	05	1.6
Total	315	100

The literacy level of the sample respondents indicates that 26% are illiterates. 74% of them are literates. 16% have no formal education. They were educated through literacy campaigns to read and write. High literacy rate of the members is distinctive demographic feature, which is a positive sign in their socio-economic development process. About 50% of them have reached elementary education level. 8% of them have higher education that is plus 2 and beyond. Thus, sample respondents represents wide spectrum of education.

Table-4 OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE

Source	No. of respondents
Agriculture	50
Agriculture labour	101
Animal husbandry	15
Salaried Employment	32
Itinerant	03
Non Agricultural daily wage labour	56
Shopkeeper	25
Others(tailoring, Dhobi, saloon, driver, cook, carpenter)	33
Total	315

Source: primary data

Forty-eight per cent of the sample SHG members depend on agriculture, as peasants (16%) and agricultural labour (32%). Another 4% on animal husbandry for their livelihood. 18% of the members are Non-agricultural daily wage labour and others (10%) depend on tailoring, saloon, driving, cooking, carpentry etc. Business is the main occupation of 8% respondents.

AVERAGE MONTHLY FAMILY INCOME OF SHG MEMBERS Monthly income of respondents family before after joining SHGs

Table No 5: Average Monthly Income Of SHG Members Family

Income	Before joining SHG		After joining SHG	
	No. of respondents	(%)	No. of respondents	(%)
0- 500	05	2	01	1
500-1000	34	11	04	1
1000-1500	32	10	38	12
1500-2000	45	14	46	14
2000-2500	48	15	57	18
2500-3000	52	17	60	19
3000-3500	41	13	65	21
3500-4000	35	11	32	10
4000-4500	23	7	13	4
Total	315	100	315	100
Average	2408.7		2574.6	

Source: primary data

There is a definite increase in the average monthly income of the members forming groups, which is a motivation for other non-group members to form into groups. From the above table it is evident that there is a rise in the average income of SHG family after joining the SHGs, in lower monthly income groups and the corresponding rise in the number of families in the higher income groups. Average monthly income of the SHG families was Rs.

2,409 before joining SHG and Rs. *** after joining SHG. Preceding the analysis it can be firmly concluded that the economic status of families of SHG members showed definite improvement after joining SHGs.

Monthly expenditure of the respondents family before and after joining SHG

Table No.6: Average Monthly Family Expenditure Of Shg Members Before And After Joining SHG

Expenditure in Rupees	Before joining SHG		After joining SHG	
	No. of respondents	(%)	No. of respondents	(%)
0- 500	04	1	02	1
500-1000	24	8	07	2
1000-1500	28	9	18	6
1500-2000	42	13	51	16
2000-2500	48	15	54	17

2500-3000	56	18	66	21
3000-3500	47	15	58	18
3500-4000	38	12	35	11
4000-4500	28	9	24	8
Total	315	(100)	315	(100%)
Average	2551.5		2673.8	

Source: primary data

Table 6 reveals that the families of SHG members moved from lower monthly expenditure class to higher expenditure classes after joining SHGs. The average monthly expenditure of families was Rs.2552 before joining SHG. The same increased to Rs.2674 after joining SHG. Thus the families of SHG members could spend more after joining SHG as these families started earning more.

Respondents' occupation before and after joining SHGs.

Table No.7 occupation of respondents before and after joining SHGs

Occupation	BEFORE JOINING SHG		AFTER JOINING SHG	
	No. of respondent	Per cent	No. of respondents	Per cent
Housewife	215	68	160	51
Agriculture & allied	38	12	38	12
Daily labour	30	10	30	10
Self employed	20	6	65	20
Students	2	1	2	1
Salaried employment	10	3	20	6
Total	315	100	315	100

Source: Primary Data

Majority of the respondents (68%) are housewives before joining SHGs. 32% respondents were engaged in yielding income activities. There is a remarkable transformation of housewives into employed in the form of self employed or salaried employment after joining SHGs. The percentage of housewives is reduced to 51% and that of self employed women rose to 49%. Housewives invested the amount of loan in petty business like selling fish, tailoring, weaving palm baskets, provisional shop, cattle rearing like buffaloes and goats, fancy,

selling clothes sarees, dress materials, blouses, pickle making, vegetables and fruits vending, flowers vending, money lending etc.

Monthly income of employed respondents before and after joining SHGs is as follows:

Respondents income (in Rs)	Before joining SHG		After joining SHG	
	No. of respondents	Per cent	No. of respondents	Per cent
NIL	178	57%	91	29%
01 – 1000	19	6%	17	5%
1001 – 2000	71	23%	82	26%
2001 – 3000	33	10%	80	25%
3001 – 4000	11	3%	30	10%
4001 – 5000	03	1%	15	5%
Total	315	100	315	100

Table No. 8 Income of respondents

Source: Primary Data

Membership in SHG enabled women to undertake economic activities generating income to the tune of Rs. 500 to Rs. 5000. Credit from SHGs is used as investment. Women used this amount to start income generating activities well suited to their capabilities. Some of the women in SHGs gained opportunity to salaried income after joining in groups. Group members are offered priority in recruiting midday meal cooks, aganwadi teacher's, aayas, government schemes meant for the development of children and rural areas are by large involving SHG members thus enabling these women to add regular incomes.

Table No. 9-LENGTH OF SHGS MEMBERSHIP

Length of SHG membership in years	No. of respondents	Percentage to total
Less than 1	08	3
1-3	37	12
4-6	114	36
7-9	61	19
10-12	57	18
13-15	25	8
Total	315	100

Source: Primary Data

Table No. 9 shows since how long the respondents have been members of SHGs. Focus on the analysis it is clear that 85% of respondents have 4 and more years of membership in SHGs and 26% of them have 10 and more years of membership. Thus, long tenure of SHG membership are an indicator of sustainability of SHG. The financial discipline among members

and the entitlement of the members for augmented successive repeat loan facility as a consequence of prompt repayment are indicated by the length of SHG membership.

Table -10 Number of bank linkages and the age of SHGs

No of links/age	Less than 1 year	1-3	4-6	7-9	10-12	13-15	16-18	19-21	Total
No linkage	06								06
BL-1	04	16	12		03				35
BL-2		15	67	10	04				96
BL-3		04	35	21	17	06		01	84
BL-4			01	24	28	09	07		69
BL-5				05	08	04	01		18
BL-6					03	04			07
Total	10	35	115	60	63	23	08	01	315

Source: Primary Data

Sixty-three SHG members (20%) surveyed are members having length of the 10 -12 years and of them about 5% have been successful in obtaining loan from bank for six times which is the highest number of bank loans among members.

37% of the SHGs surveyed have length of membership of 4 to 6 years and the number bank loans availed by them are 3.

Of the 315 SHG members, 2% groups are yet to obtain loan from bank, 11% groups obtained a loan for the first time, 30% groups obtained loan for the second time, 27% obtained the loan for the third, 22% obtained loan for fourth time, 6% obtained loan for five times and 2% members obtained loan for six times.

Table No.11 Purpose of loan utilized by SHG members

Purpose	No. of respondents	Percentage to total members(315)
Consumption	188	60
Income Generating	122	39



Activity		
Maintenance and purchase of assets	95	30

Source: Primary Data

Sixty per cent of the members used the loan amount for consumption. Thirty-nine percent for income generating activities and 30% to maintain or purchase assets.

The economic empowerment of the SHGs surveyed in the district is showing a positive trend. Using measures to evaluate the degree of empowerment viz. income, expenditure, utilization of the loans economical transformation has well begun. The housewives traditionally confined themselves to home making, are now entering new vistas where they engage themselves in productive activities. Small household savings and supportive credit from SHG-Bank Linkage programme are used to augment family incomes and consequently consumption, investment activities increased. Thus the dependence on money lenders is reduced to a large extent. Among the poorest of the poor the loans are used in petty business yielding sufficient income to have subsistence and to make small investments to support the higher education of children. Among the other relatively better off economic strata, this amount is made available to increase the well being of the family besides generating regular earnings. It is used for purchase of gold, meeting consumption needs of education, marriage, festival expenses, make improvements or repairs to the assets especially house, toilets, etc. thus women from all strata of the society benefit from SHGs in different ways and improve their competencies for the advantage of their families.

Conclusion

The present study brings forth the fact that there is a gradual change in the economic status of women. When compared to what it was in the past, her role in the family and society has been transformed. Besides being housewife, she is now either primary or secondary bread earner. She has a say in her family and society. The dependency on local money lenders is reduced to a great extent after joining SHGs. The present microfinance programs have induced self confidence in women. Even women outside the fold of SHGs are coming forward to form groups to become the beneficiaries of the Bank loans. Thus it is evident

that there is transformation going on around under SHGs through microfinance. Yet there is a lot to be done to make this transformation visible. Well designed and executed microfinance program will ensure women empowerment in its true sense.

References

[1] Vikas Batra and Sumanjeet (2011), " The State of Microfinance in India: Emergence, Delivery Models and Issues" AIUB Business and Economics Working papers Series.

[2] Women Micro-Enterprises: A Case Study –Southern Economist March 1, 2012

[3]Sankar Datta and Vijaya Mahajan, Basix , "Savings and Credit Movement of Andhra Pradesh Lessons for the Rest of India

[4]www. Scrp. ap.gov.in

[5]NABARD report

[6]drda.east godavari district. ap.gov.in

[7]S.M.Feroze, A.K. Chauhan Micro Finance in India- A performance Evaluation