CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Many researchers have undertaken to study Self-Help Groups and their impact on the women in rural areas. It has added more knowledge to the particular field and the existing review of literature has been vast. It consists of SHG’s development, Micro-Finance, women empowerment through SHG and developing socio-cultural value.

Self-Help Groups

Mehrotra, C.K. (1997)\(^1\) has made a comparative study of the State Bank’s performance linkage with Self-Help Groups. In his view, the State Bank of India’s financing scheme for Self-Help Groups have been quite encouraging. The branch officials themselves encouraged the poor to form Self-Help Groups in a number of centers. They also utilized the services of Non-Governmental Organizations for the same purpose. The study pointed out that with the help of the reputed Non-Governmental Organizations in states like Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh good progress had been made possible by the State Bank in the promoting Self-Help Groups schemes. It stated that the Self-Help Groups have promptly repaid 80 to 90 per cent of the loan received. The study asserts that Self-Help Groups may eventually be the only viable units of

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source on account of low transaction cost, high percentage of recovery and mobilization of rural savings through the informal system.

The study of Moin Qasi’ (1997)\(^2\) on “Self-Help Groups – A Novel Approach to Rural Development,” indicates the reasons for the linkage of members of Self-Help Groups in rural development. According to the findings, a common bond like caste, sub-caste, blood, community, and place of origin or activity linked the members of Self-Help Groups. The study stated that women Self-help Groups are more effective than others and have more chances of survival. It is further insisted that while providing support to Self-Help Groups it is necessary to keep in mind the sentiments and emotional values of rural women. The support provided must be sensitive to their feelings, appropriate and timely.

Karmakar, K.G. (1997)\(^3\) attempted to analyze the performance of the credit linkage of all the Self-Help Groups, Non-Governmental Organizations and Banks in Orissa up to March 1995. Eight Non-Governmental Organizations, eleven banks and fourteen Self-Help Groups from the entire state were taken as sample for the study from the entire state in the year 1996. One of the findings showed that a few Non-Governmental organizations started savings and credit programmes to the marine fishing folk through the Self-Help Groups. For lending, they relied mostly on mobilization of savings. Since the amount of saving is very small, the credit from the savings to the community was not at all adequate to meet their requirements, particularly for assets. Loans were provided for growing crops,

blacksmith’s work making of hill brooms, trading and business. Repayment was 100 per cent among the woman self-help groups. The choice of the members of the self-help group was limited to a few activities only because the amount of micro-credit available was small in the initial years of the linkage programme.

**K.R.Lakshmikandan (2000)**\(^4\) in the study entitled “Self Help Groups in the Life of Rural Poor – A Philibhit Case study,” stated that most of the members of the Self-Help Groups consisted of small landholders and agricultural labours. Out of the 74 Self-Help groups studied, 57 were women groups and 17 men groups. The strength varied from ten to twenty and weighed heavily towards the larger figure.

**K.G Karmakar (2000)**\(^5\) analyzed “Rural Credit and Self-Help Groups: Micro Finance Needs and Concepts in India” and the study examined the existing credit delivery system in India with special reference to the credit needs of the rural poor. The importance of the micro-credit needs for tribal women in rural areas and the micro-enterprises in the non-farm sector in Orissa was carried out. It focused on the availability of credit requirements and the problems faced by the tribal people in availing it. It is felt that the setting up of micro-enterprises particularly in the non-farm sector would go a long way in reducing poverty in rural areas. It is concluded that the micro-credit approach through Self-Help Groups would be the only best mechanism to deliver credit to the rural poor.


A. Suriakanthi (2000)\textsuperscript{6} assessed “Literacy-Essential for SHGs” and insists the need for literacy of the Self-Help Group members. A random survey of 120 groups shows nearly 95 per cent of the members and 75 per cent of the office bearers are illiterate. The female office-bearers manage to carry on the activities with the help of their husbands and educated wards. People narrated the incidents that happened in the meetings to their husbands/wards and prepare the report. Fifty per cent of the groups’ survey shows that only literate members prepare the minutes and accounts on behalf of the office-bearers who are illiterate. It is found that ten per cent of the illiterate members do not even know the amount saved by them. The study strongly insists on the necessity of imparting basic education to all members of Self-Help Group members.

Sheokand (2000)\textsuperscript{7} discussed the evolution of Indian banking and its failure to provide credit facilities to poor people. NABARD started Self-Help Group-Bank Linkage Programme in 1992, which was considered as a landmark development in banking with the poor. It was observed that Regional Rural Banks’ security-oriented individual banking system was replaced by the delivery of credit to focused groups. The government sponsored programmes had occupied much of the economic space but did not achieve the objective of alleviating poverty. Self Help Group- Bank Linkage Programme had proved very successful for the socio-economic empowerment of hard-core poor, providing financial services to them and preparing them to take up economic activities for poverty alleviation.


Saundariya Borbora and Ratul Mahanta (2001)\(^8\) assessed the role of SHGs in inculcating saving habits among the poor and the contributions of the programme in the social and economic empowerment of the poor. 80 per cent of the beneficiaries could also expand their income generating activities.

Denville N J. and Phyllis Silverman (2002)\(^9\) contributed to the “Understanding Self help groups” The self-help groups may better be described as "Mutual Aid Self-Help" groups because they derive their energy from members helping one another, without forms or fees. Hundreds of national organizations, societies and foundations that exist for different illnesses, addictions, parenting and other stressful life situations and transitions, were examined to identify those organizations that provide these mutual help opportunities.

Gaonkar’s (2004)\(^10\) study aimed at evaluating the role of SHGs in the empowerment of women. Primary data was collected from the state of Goa, India. Out of total 500 SHGs functioning in Goa, 100 groups were promoted by National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI). Twenty-five women SHGs promoted by NCUI from Bardez and Bicholim talukas were selected on the basis of random sampling. Comparison was made before and after joining SHG technique. The study concluded that the microfinance programme had made a long lasting impact on the lives of women particularly in rural areas of Goa. There were increase in


\(^10\) Gaonkar, Rekha R. , “Role of Self-help Groups in Empowerment of Women”, Paper Presented in ISTR Sixth International Conference, Toronto, Canada, pp.11-14, July 2004
income, savings and consumption expenditures. It was also found that with improvements in socio-economic opportunities for women and their ability to take collective action, there had been a significant decline in gender based problems such as domestic violence, dowry and polygamy. Interestingly, the members were motivating other women to form SHGs so that they can also reap programme benefits.

**Sridhar Seetharaman (2005)**\(^\text{11}\) assessed the socio-economic impact of SHGs through field level data. The study revealed that the creation of income-generating activities through loans availed from banks have made a significant impact on the overall economic status of the group members. Additional employment generated through the collective functioning of the groups has provided scope for the further increase in the household income.

In the words of **Ramanathan A (2005)**\(^\text{12}\) ‘Paradigm shift in rural banking’ is a case of microfinance movement in India through SHG-bank linkage program. NABARD is trying to free the small rural borrowers from the clutches of local money lenders by providing loans to them at affordable rates through 750 NGOs and 3,64,000 client managed self help groups. Average loan size provided by these SHG is less than $22. Recovery performance is good. These savings led Self-Help group program of NABARD is really an innovative one.

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\(^{11}\) Sridhar Seetharaman, ‘Quick study on performance of SHGs and DWCRA implemented by NGOs and Government, NIRD, Hyderabad, 1998

\(^{12}\) Ramanathan, ‘A Paradigm shift in rural banking a case of microfinance movement in India through SHG-bank linkage program’, Professional Banker, 2005
**Banumathy (2006)**\(^{13}\) has explained in the article “Self Help Groups and Bank Linkages” that the initial role played by the SHGs, prompted NABARD to venture linkage of the SHGs with the banks in February, 1992. It was also stated that RBI has advised banks to initiate action for the adoption of the SHG village program as a part of the corporate strategy.

A Case Study of Madurai by **Chittaranjan Mishra (2007)**\(^{14}\) has explained that two types of Self Help Promoting Institutions (SHPI), namely, government and NGOs are active in the garment sector. The DRDA (District Rural Development Agency) promoted SHGs are organized and have better infrastructure to carry out the activities relating to the garment sector. The study showed that capacity building and credit availability are complementary inputs to the growth of the SHG based garment sector.

**Shiralashetti and Hugar (2008)**\(^{15}\) made an attempt to examine the progress of SHGs and their linkage with bank. The study was based on the secondary data collected from annual reports of the NABARD. The main objectives of the study were to examine the progress of SHGs and bank linkage and to study the district-wise and bank-wise linkage of SHGs in Karnataka State. It was concluded that SHG movement is a powerful tool for alleviating the poverty of the people.

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Ganesan G, (2008)\textsuperscript{16} has focused in the article “Rural Transformation through Self - Help Groups (SHGs)” said that the SHGs have limited capital. They consist of self employed individuals, the lack of advanced skills or technology and poor ability to corner the market and most often operate outside the limits of regulation and the formal market mechanism. The study indicated that all the works started by SHGs are eco- friendly and would not affect the soil, water and air.

Sharma H C (2008)\textsuperscript{17} in the work “Forest Policy -Role of SHGs”, studied the role of Self-Help Groups in the development of the tribal people. As per the study, Self-Help Groups have a flexible approach and working but have failed to develop a work culture, which is acknowledged by the tribal themselves. The study suggests that better co-ordination is required from the voluntary agencies and the government departments for the better performance of SHG.

Kamaraju S, (2009)\textsuperscript{18} has examined “Self-Help Groups-Emerging Rural Enterprises” in rural areas and indicating that the SHGs utilized the loan for purchasing milch animals, goat and for meeting personal urgent needs. Some SHGs have purchased power tillers for agriculture purpose on hire basis. Investment in power tiller would increase their income both individually and collectively. Hiring out power tiller to peasant is an important entrepreneurial activity of self-help groups. It was indicated that the Self-Help Groups should

\textsuperscript{17} Sharma H.C, ‘Forest policy – Role of SHGs’, Co-operative Perspective, Vol.34, No.4, January-March 2000, pp. 26-33
function as a non-political and non-controversial one. Political and religious neutrality paves the way for their healthy growth. It is also expressed that the SHGs gain momentum now-a-days, because of its many fold efforts in the economic empowerment of poor women.

Kumar et al, (2010)\(^{19}\) state that SHG-Bank Linkage program (SBLP) has been instrumental in the economic empowerment of the rural poor in Kerala. Members associated with the programme have enriched themselves and improved their savings capacity. It is obvious from the significant incremental savings between pre and post SHG situations. SBLP has been successful in mobilizing higher volume of savings from rural areas.

Das B.C (2010)\(^{20}\) studied the performance of fifty SGSY-SHG linked to RRBs in the state of Karnataka and financed income generating Activities prior to 2007. It was found that the study sample performed very satisfactorily on twenty performance indicators, and they scored around 75 out of maximum 100 marks. However, a large proportion of the SHG members were found to be ignorant about the amount of loan, rate of interest, quantum of subsidy, mode of delivery of subsidy and term of loan repayment.

The study by Sudhin Kumar Bera (2011)\(^{21}\) considered the annual household expenditure of majority of members has increased due to increase in their annual income. Thus, it is plausible to conclude that SHGs definitely helped

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\(^{19}\) Kumar et al, ‘Impact of SHG-bank linkage program on savings of rural poor’, Professional Banker, 2010

\(^{20}\) Das B.C, ‘Performance of SGSY-SHGs linked to RRB’s, Karnataka Economic Affairs, Vol. 55, 2010 pp. 3-4

in improving the purchasing power of the rural households. It is found that besides economic improvement the social outlook of rural women has undergone a radical change. The involvement in the group significantly contributed in improving the self-confidence of the members.

**Amutha D. (2011)**\(^{22}\) attempted a study on ‘Socio-Economic Impact Through Self-Help Groups’ The overall objective of the study is to analyse the economic empowerment of women though SHGs in three villages of Tuticorin district of Tamil Nadu. Totally 238 respondents were selected from 18 SHGs of three villages by using simple random sampling method. The analysis shows that 66 per cent beneficiaries reported decisions are being taken by their husbands, yet more than 34 per cent respondents accepted that they do participate in decision-making process. Thus, the socio-economic conditions of women have demonstrated that their status has improved since the joining of SHGs and availing microfinance. The result of chi-square test revealed that there is significant difference between participation in decision-making in family and SHG by women members in Tuticorin district.

**Ramanujam, V. and Arivazhagan, G (2011)**\(^{23}\) analyzed the Self-Help Groups bank linkage programme which was initiated in 1992 with the motive of providing a formal financial access to the needy. From then this model has grown from 500 SHGs (1992) to 4.8 million (2010) SHG beneficiaries. It is pertinent to periodically assess the effectiveness of this model and one measure of scaling the


effectiveness of this model would be by measuring the bank literacy of the members of SHG’s. This paper focused on identifying the factors that determine the bank literacy among the SHG members.

Sabharwal, Sachin et al, (2011)\(^{24}\) analyzed SHGs in order to evaluate the role played by these institutions towards financial inclusion of the groups/regions excluded from the formal financial system. In this connection, the study also discussed the geographical spread of micro-finance institutions, access and affordability of micro-finance for poor borrowers and movement of poor borrowers out of SHGs. The findings of this study reflect the significantly limited scale and spread of micro-finance in India.

The research of Uma Narang (2012)\(^{25}\) on “Self-Help Groups: An Effective Approach to Women Empowerment in India” shows that Women Empowerment refers to an increase in the overall strength of women such as spiritual, political, social and economic. The most common explanation of Women’s’ Empowerment is the ability to exercise full control over one’s actions. Thus, women empowerment occurs in real sense when women achieve increased control and participation in decision making that leads to their better access to resources. It often involves the empowered developing confidence in their own capacities.

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Micro-Finance

Rutherford (2000)\textsuperscript{26} analyzed the difference between microfinance and micro-credit. Micro-credit referred specifically to small loans given to the poor people but microfinance was a broader term that embraced efforts to collect savings from low-income households, provide consumption loans and insurance along with micro-credit. It also helped in distributing and marketing clients’ output. Microfinance companies offer a range of financial services that seek to meet the needs of poor people, both protecting them from fluctuating incomes and other shocks and helping to promote their incomes and livelihood.

S. Sundari and N. Geetha (2000)\textsuperscript{27} tried to examine in their work “Poverty credit and Micro enterprises”. The Study considered gender disparity in access to institutional credit. The disparity is gradually narrowing down over a period of time. Hence, the empowerment of poor rural women will be possible only if they are trained and imparted skills for a certain employment. According to them, skill training includes enterprise development, increased access to credit, new approach to markets and social, economic and political strategies.

D. Nagayya (2000)\textsuperscript{28} states that microfinance for Self-Help Groups would alleviate the poverty among the poor with a special focus on women. The study analyzed the various measures at the national level for a few institutional arrangements.

\textsuperscript{26} Rutherford, “The Poor and their Money”, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2000
\textsuperscript{27} Sundari, S and Geetha, N “Poverty Credit and Micro-Enterprises”, Kurukshetra, Vol.49, No.2 November 2000, pp. 26-32
\textsuperscript{28} Nagayya D. ‘Micro Finance for Self-help groups’, Ministry of Rural Development, Kurukshetra, Vol.48, No.11, August 2000, p.10
Jay Anand (2000) in the research entitled ‘Micro-Finance in Kerala’ studied the Community Development Society model in 1993 for the emancipation of the poor women of Alappuzha in Kerala State. It is evident from this survey that those members who have some unit of activity earlier could use the micro-credit effectively for expansion or modification and they reaped the maximum benefit. In some cases, the failure of group activity has led to a financial crisis and imbalance for all the members, while it is not complex in individual activities. It is observed that a few women dominated the groups.

Zaman Hassan (2001) has opined about the extent to which micro-credit reduces poverty and vulnerability through a case study. This has made a significant impact on the overall economic status of the group members. Additional employment generated through the groups collective functioning of groups has provided scope for increase in the household income.

Gurumorthy, T.R. (2002) assessed the micro-credit funding agencies and the amount sanctioned by them. Out of the 27,000 Self-Help Groups in Tamil Nadu, 5,400 were linked with banks and the banks advanced credit to them to the extent of Rs. 9 crores. The study states that Self-Help Groups have the power to create a socio-economic revolution in the rural areas of the country. It indicates that members of Self-Help Groups must be prepared to undertake entrepreneurial activities at a smaller level with minimum capital requirements.

Frances Sinha (2005)\(^{32}\) studied that impact of microfinance services on clients dependence on informal sources of credit. The study found a lower incidence of borrowing from informal sources and the percentage households borrowed at high interest rates is comparatively lower.

Raj Smitha (2005)\(^{33}\) examines ‘Micro credit: Self-Help Groups an Alternative Development paradigm’. Credit market problems of moral hazard, adverse selection, enforcement, and information asymmetry are related to borrower vulnerability and market inaccessibility. Three possible channels for Micro-credit deliverance have been discussed. The group structure of Micro-credits self-Help Groups such as the SHG-bank Linkage projects are shown to generate profit from poor clients. The project also exhibits the problems of regional concentration, meager loans, debt trap, high interest rates, and questionable benefits. The promises of micro credit are concluded to be myopic in the refusal to recognize that financial services do not create opportunities, but only allow people to take advantage of this opportunity.

Sarangi (2007)\(^{34}\) evaluated the impact of microfinance programme on rural poor households in some backward regions of Madhya Pradesh in India. The findings suggested that on the one hand, many of the very poor households were excluded from the programme, and on the other, the gains from participation of the programme were mostly observed for the better-off section of households.

\(^{32}\) Frances Sinha, ‘Access, use and contribution of microfinance in India; finding from a National Survey’, Economic and Political Weekly2005, p. 40


\(^{34}\) Sarangi, Niranj, ‘Microfinance and the Rural Poor: Impact Assessment Based on Fieldwork in Madhya Pradesh, India’, in Conference on Sustainable Development & Livelihoods, Delhi School of Economics, Delhi, February 2007, pp. 6-8
particularly those with high per capita income or the large land holders. The study concluded that credit to serve as a sole instrument of poverty alleviation did not seem to be plausible, without other corroborative mechanisms that help in increasing the potential of credit use by the poor or the small farmer.

Sharma (2007) 35 examined the impact of participation in microfinance programme on women’s autonomy and gender relations within the household. For this purpose, participants of the programme were surveyed in Hill and Terai areas of Nepal during the period 2004-2006. The microfinance institution participants who had adopted Grameen model for at least four years were selected. Comparison of pre and post-SHG participation showed that programme led to women greater participation of women in household decision-making, greater access to economic resources, wider social networks and freedom of mobility. Female credit had increased spousal communication about family planning and parenting concerns. It was also found that microfinance institutions had reached only a tiny fraction of the population and the challenge was to expand the existing services. The study suggested that the government should build conducive environment to develop microfinance services.

Vasanthakumari (2008) 36 studied the role of micro-enterprises in empowering women in Kerala. The author took a sample of 328 micro entrepreneurs. The study revealed that these enterprises helped in empowering

rural women economically, socially and individually. The study suggested in
giving priority to commercial viability of enterprises.

**Sarawathy et al, (2009)**\(^\text{37}\) made a study to analyze the role of micro finance in
Krishnagiri district. The study highlighted the role of Government of India,
NABARD, NGO and banks. The questionnaire was prepared and presented to 75
members of 16 SHGs of 9 NGOs. The studies revealed that majority of members
have agreed that their income has increased after joining SHG. It concluded that
SHGs have become the development ambassadors of villages.

**Pallavi Chavan and Bhaskar Birajdar (2009)**\(^\text{38}\) examined the study
‘Micro Finance and Financial Inclusion of women’ by geographical spread of
micro finance institutions, access and affordability of micro finance for women
borrowers. The findings of this study reflect the significantly limited scale of
spread of micro finance in India. The continued dependence of women members
belonging to mature SHGs on informal sources, as revealed from the primary data,
further corroborates the point regarding the limited spread of micro finance. The
relatively high rates of interest on SHG loans, which are comparable with the rates
of informal sector, underline the issue of affordability of micro finance for poor
borrowers. Further, an issue related to interest rates is that of dropouts of
members. The most commonly noted cause for dropouts among SHG members is

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\(^{38}\) Pallavi Chavan and Bhaskar Birajdar, “Micro Finance and Financial Inclusion of Women”,
the irregular repayments of loans. The members complain of their inability to repay their loans on time and subsequently drop out.

Arabi. U (2010)\textsuperscript{39} informs that Micro-Finance Institutions (MFIs) become players in the financial system and financial markets act differently with regard to different types of institutions. Thus, access to a well-functioning financial system can economically and socially empower individuals, in particular poor people. This research paper examined the performances of the micro-finance initiatives experimented in India. In the light of the recent growth in the SHGs, NGO, and increased inclusive banking services and credit delivery methods and their inter-linkages, the performances of the models experimented in India have been appraised in this study.

Das, Sanjit Kumar, (2010)\textsuperscript{40} states that Micro-Finance plays the role of a catalyst in livelihood generation and enhanced income for the low-income households. Micro-Financing can have a positive role to play in combating poverty and bolstering an entrepreneurial spirit that can have long lasting positive effects. The state of West Bengal has a dynamics where awareness and the level of literacy have made the Micro-Finance interventions easier, mainly through Self-Help Groups. This paper argues that the government supported micro-finance programme under the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) Scheme in West Bengal, is able to reach the poorest of poor and vulnerable section of the rural population of particularly the rural women.

\textsuperscript{40} Das, Sanjit Kumar, ‘Expansion of Micro-Financing though Swarnajayanti gram Swarojgar Yojana’, Economic Affairs, 55 (2), 2010
Mansurib. B (2010)\textsuperscript{41} says that poverty is everywhere but the third world countries are the main sufferers. Even after more than 50 years of planning and employing various poverty alleviation programmes, official estimate shows that 26.1 per cent of total population lives below poverty line in India. Since independence government has taken several initiatives to tackle the scourge of poverty through area development approach, sectoral approach. But all the initiatives failed to achieve the target due to faulty planning and improper implementation and lack of will. Formal banking sector also ignored the poor due to risk involved in lending to poor as they do not have collaterals and apprehension of non-bankability. After 1990’s microfinance has had increased momentum and now it has become the largest microfinance movement in the world.

Pokhriyal, A.K et al, (2011)\textsuperscript{42} examined the progress of microfinance and financial inclusion critical analysis of SHG bank linkage program in India” whereas India is leaping high towards advancement, Bharat is retreating with a big chunk of the population still poor and under privileged both socially and economically. Microfinance has been introduced and promoted to bridge this gap and it has been successful to a great extent. This paper studied examines the progress of microfinance in terms of the successes and failures of SHG-Bank linkage program.


The study by **Mahalaxmi Krishnan (2011)**\(^{43}\) shows Micro finance has brought many poor people above the poverty line. But, the study portrays that Micro-Finance has not entered into the rural area. It suggests that economic, developmental and infrastructural issues along with NGOs and Government agencies should be taken for the upliftment of rural women.

**Dhiraj Jain and Bhagyashree Jain (2012)**\(^{44}\) analysed the empowerment of women through micro finance, the Microfinance program in India is growing rapidly and receiving increasing attention from the financial institutions, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and the Government, as an instrument that can transform lives of the poor. Microfinance is considered as a development tool to alleviate poverty in Asian, African and South American countries. Microfinance gives quick and tangible results to the poor people, especially women. Microfinance, when extended to people, especially women, in rural areas coupled with supporting activities like training and raw material supply will help them. The marketing of products leads to investment in micro enterprises. Women may become entrepreneur and generate main or additional income to the family. This would reduce poverty and development of the women get self confidence to carry out a number of activities such as Social, economic and political environment. This also increased the knowledge and awareness of people. People as a group should be helped to have better socio-economic development in holistic and suitable manner.

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Women empowerment

Albee (1994)\textsuperscript{45} studied that economic empowerment projects usually independently focused on income-generating activities, which allow women to acquire their income. Income-generating activities encompass a wide range of area, such as small business promotion, cooperatives, job creation schemes, sewing circles and credit and savings groups.

Kurtz (1997)\textsuperscript{46} opines that empowerment is the process of increasing personal, interpersonal or political power so that individuals or collectives can take action to improve their life situations. A closer look at this definition indicates that empowerment is about helping one to help him/herself, thus clarifying the interaction between the structure of Self-Help Groups and process of empowerment.

Oakley (2001)\textsuperscript{47} made a study on the areas of empowerment people’s can manifest itself in three broad areas: (1) Power through greater confidence in one’s ability to successfully undertake some form of action (2) Power in terms of increasing and effecting relations that powerless people establish with other organizations and (3) Power as a result of increasing access to economic resources, such as credit and inputs.

\textsuperscript{46} Kurtz, L.H. Self-help groups: handbooks for practitioners, California: Sage Publications, 1997
Cheston and Kuhn (2002)\textsuperscript{48} attempted as to when, how and why women were empowered. For this purpose, 60 microfinance institutions and opportunity international’s 42 partners were surveyed. An in-depth research of Sinapi Aba Trust (SAT) located in Ghana was also undertaken. The study showed strong evidence of MFIs contributing to women empowerment. One important finding was increased self-confidence and self-esteem among women members. Another finding was increased participation of women in decision-making. Women participants had also experienced improved status and gender relations in their houses. At SAT, it was found that financial contribution of women helped them earn greater respect from their husbands and children.

Chiranjeevulu T, (2003)\textsuperscript{49} made a study on ‘Empowering women through self-help groups’. The study analyzed the micro-enterprises established by the Self-Help Groups in Warangal District of Andhrapradesh. This generated employment opportunity and empowered women belonging to deprived sections of the society.

Malhotra Anju, (2003)\textsuperscript{50} had investigated some basic and conceptual issues regarding women empowerment and had given a comprehensive framework of domains of women empowerment. The study included two essential elements for women empowerment, i.e. process and agency. Women empowerment was a process of progression from one stage to other and the agency element defined that

\textsuperscript{48} Cheston, Study; and Kuhn, Lisa, ‘Empowering Women through Microfinance’, Micro-Credit summit, UNIFEM, Published by UNIFEM for Micro-credit Summit, 2002


women themselves must be significant actors in the process of change that was being measured. In order to measure empowerment empirically, the economic, socio-cultural, interpersonal, legal, political and psychological dimensions of women empowerment at household and community levels were considered.

Tracey et al, (2006)\textsuperscript{51} did research on the personal and economic empowerment of rural Indian women through Self-Help Group participation. Data was collected from 100 rural women from the Udaipur district of the state of Rajasthan in India. These women were imparted a skill development training in stitching, embroidery, and patch work through a Sewa Mandir NGO working in Udaipur and Rajsamand districts of Rajasthan. The study was based on both the quantitative and qualitative data collected through questionnaires, informal interviews and discussions. The quantitative data found that working women reported enhanced meaningfulness in their daily lives, increased personal control over spending, enhanced social networks, reduced boredom, increased decision-making power in home and enhanced independence. The inclusion of women in income-generating activities gave support to their personal and economic empowerment. Micro-enterprises and employment provided women with the means for survival, security and growth.

Nayak Sudarshan, (2007)\textsuperscript{52} analyzed the empowerment of the poor through SHG and micro finance in Kalahandi district. The study found that 89194


\textsuperscript{52} Nayak Sudarshan , “empowerment of the poor through SHG and Micro Finance”, Cooperative perspective, Vol. 41, No.1, 2007
families of Kalahandi district benefited from SHGs and bank linkage program and suggested the strengthening of co-operative sector to empower the poor.

**Gudaganavar and Gudaganavar (2008)**\(^{53}\) analyzed the empowerment of rural women through SHG. The progress of SHGs in India from 1992-93 to 2006-07 was studied. The study highlighted the region wise progress of SHGs and employment of women through SHGs. It was concluded that no development was possible without empowerment of women.

**Bali, Swain Ranjula (2009)**\(^{54}\) informs that evidence from Self-Help Groups in India’. a few studies rigorously examined the link between microfinance and women’s empowerment. This article contributes to this discussion by arguing that women’s empowerment takes place when women challenge the existing social norms and culture to improve their well-being effectively. It empirically validates this hypothesis by using quasi-experimental household sample data collected from five states in India for 2000 and 2003. The results strongly demonstrate that on average, there is a significant increase in the empowerment of women in the SHG members group. No such significant change is observed, however, for the members of the control group. The elegance of the result lies in the fact that the group of SHG participants show clear evidence of a significant and higher empowerment, while allowing for the possibility that some members might have been more empowered than others.

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In view of Jain. L (2010)\textsuperscript{55} states that SHG may be a sustainable tool of entire development for the weaker section of society, if all its stakeholders will be capable to pay desired attention towards their role and potential initiatives. Thus, the system inculcates the existence of self-sufficiency, self-reliant and self-respect value based elements in the development process. So the challenge is to analyze the situation and causes of this people’s own organization to get appropriate solution of the burning problem of the system. The study is a pilot effort in this direction. This study is meant for understanding the nature and requirement of SHG for sustainable development as well as women empowerment in rural India.

Shiralashetti, A.S (2010)\textsuperscript{56} investigated Women empowerment through Self -Help Groups. The present study is based on the primary data collected from the 150 sample members of 15 SHGs from 10 villages of Bijapur district through questionnaires. The Self-Help Groups movement in India has been working in the right direction in empowering women and eradicating poverty in the rural and urban areas. No doubt, tremendous developments have been made in all sectors of the Indian economy. However, India remains a developing economy with low per capita, income, chronic unemployment, low capital formation and increasing trade deficit. Economic progress of a country in general and family in particular, depends on the working ability of all members of the family. Since, women constitute 48.15 per cent of the total population as per census of 2001, it is very essential to involve them in productive activities instead of confining them within


the four walls of the kitchen. Of late, the role of woman has changed considerably due to changing socio-cultural environment.

**Sibusiso Dumisani Mhlongo (2010)**\(^{57}\) made a study on process of empowerment through a Self-Help Group for divorced women. An attempt has been made in this study to understand the theoretical framework of the process of empowerment through extensive literature reviewing. The link between the Self-Help Group and the process of empowerment has been described from an empirical perspective as it is specifically pertained to women who have become vulnerable after going through a divorce process.

**Ravi M.N et al, (2011)**\(^{58}\) analyzed SHGs that are mainly concentrated by women. A sample survey was conducted through administering the structured questionnaire. The present study revealed that the micro-finance had given women in India an opportunity to become ‘agents of change’. The movement has made them more confident than ever, helping them to explore new possibilities in the generation of income leading to self-sustenance. It has also helped them to explore new horizons, new dreams, and new hopes.

**Andotra, Neetu et al, (2011)**\(^{59}\) made a study on ‘Impact of micro-finance initiatives for empowerment and inclusive growth’ This examined the impact of

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NGO-SHG micro credit as a tool for infusing significant behavioral changes leading to socio-economic empowerment among micro finance (MF) beneficiaries from Jammu division of J&K state. It is based on primary data collected from a random sample of 157 credit linked Self-Help Group (SHG) beneficiaries that was further analyzed using Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) and confirmatory factor analysis (CFA). The results supported positive impact of SHGs in bringing them within the ambit of growth, steps needed are intensive penetration and publicity of SHG-bank linkage programme. Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Co-operative Banks to act as Self-Help Promoting Institutions (SHIP), providing training for skill up gradation of group members, enhancing investment in agri-technology, rural infrastructure and encouraging indigenous innovations in various socio-economical and political institution.

Shanthi M. and Ganapathi R. (2012)\textsuperscript{60} stated that women constitute half of the total population in every society. They have been playing significant roles on both social and economic fronts. Women play multiple roles as wives, sisters, daughters and mothers. Therefore, women’s welfare, accessibility to development and participation in decision making process are imperative in the context of their multiple roles in society. Women empowerment is a global issue, which has gained momentum in recent decades. In India, besides ratification of International conventions there are provisions in the constitution. Several legislative Acts have been passed to ensure women empowerment.

Kenneth Kalyani and Seena P.C. (2012)\textsuperscript{61} studied the “Socio-economic Changes of Women through Kudumbasree”. The Economic development is the base for other development. Collective effort has been recognized as basic of women empowerment. Women empowerment leads to sustainable social development. Economic development of women leads to better living status in the family, educational, nutritional and the health needs of the children were well satisfied.

\textsuperscript{61} Kenneth Kalyani and Seena P.C, ‘Socio-economic changes of Women through Kudumbasree’ International Research Journal of Social Sciences vol. 1(2), 1-7, October 2012, p.4