The main interest in doing this study was to critically examine the efficacy of SHG-based participatory development strategy of the Government of India. Undoubtedly it is advocated by the economic researcher and thinkers of the universe and international bodies that the SHG-based participatory development strategy is helpful in alleviating poverty, rural empowerment and rural development.

Self Help Groups in India established themselves as credible institutions for financial inclusion, livelihood promotion and social development and cultural changes. As a result many official agencies, civil society organisations and corporate bodies are adapting, and/or partnering with, SHGs in pursuing of their own agendas. Because of this all-round support from village level volunteers to the Government of India and from international NGOs to Multilateral and Bilateral Donors, SHGs are growing at an exponential rate. It is observed that different stakeholders have promoted SHGs with different expectations and understanding, and have sorted different parameters for assessing quality of SHGs. Thus, it is necessary to identify a common ground and set appropriate benchmarks for SHGs operation. Moreover, in defining the domain of standards for the quality assessment, several issues and questions present themselves.

While working with participatory development approach, to alleviate poverty, the SHGs has been used as the strategy and microcredit as an input get access to the resources. But it was not able to alleviate poverty on itself because of some underlying reasons like ‘subsidy culture’, lack of quality indicators and benchmark for quality assessment of SHGs, uneven growth of SHG, etc. The present research is one more effort towards that journey to access the perception of different stakeholders on Self Help Groups like the Promoter, Donors, Financer and the Groups members itself about quality parameters and other perceived opinion about some unresolved issues of quality assessment.

The findings of the present study shall provide micro finance sector with the strategic tool to design quality assessment of SHG. The promotion, nurturing and funding towards SHGs by the micro finance sector will necessarily be augmented by observing consequent perceptions.
of the different direct stakeholders of SHGs on different key quality issues of SHGs. The findings of the present study are expected to give an overall picture of the perception of the direct stakeholders of SHGs relating to quality assessment of SHGs they perceived. Thus, this shall act as a guide for different users of SHG as to future course of their action. The findings of the study is expected to benefit the government and its policy making, policy implementing and policy monitoring organs by providing insights as to how far quality assessment parameters to be considered for measuring quality of SHGs in the current changing environment.

It is expected to provide addition to the existing stock of knowledge by reducing the gap in the existing stock of knowledge and also by introducing a new approach of quality assessment for SHGs by means of a study pursued using interdisciplinary approach like Psychology, Financial management, Behavioural finance and Impact study based on certain specific theory and specific research approaches.

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(Sanjay Kanti Das)  
Research Scholar