CHAPTER 6
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Conclusion & Recommendations

Microfinance and women empowerment go hand in hand. Same is the situation with SHG and women empowerment. We can therefore say that Microfinance through the channel of Self Help Groups (SHG) helps in contributing to women empowerment. Women feel empowered financially after joining SHG. SHG helps them in generating income through economic activities, saving their money as well as getting credit facilities for starting their own businesses.

This empowerment in women is due to various reasons, one of which is development of entrepreneurial qualities among SHG women. Women start their own enterprise with the help of SHGs which provide loans, training facilities etc and make them more confident and outgoing. This support, further leads to overall development of women along with development of entrepreneurial qualities in them. Women come together to work and understand the importance of team work and earning money for the wellbeing of their families. They can achieve many things as a group rather than on individual basis.

Innovativeness is an important quality of an entrepreneur. However, for developing this quality, women should be provided training and development facilities. In the current study, majority of the women prefer the business related to making chapatti bhaaji and preparing food articles through SHGs. Making food article and meals is a quality in built in women and doesn’t require any special kind of training.

Women, who do not get any financial help because of their current economic status, get financial help when they join SHG. Earlier it was difficult to get funds for starting up their businesses but now, through SHG, getting microfinance funds has become very easy.
Women who are poor and have seen lot of hardships in their life, are willing to give a better life style to their children and they know that income earned by a single family member will not suffice. Women are trying to be more productive financially.

It is also inferred from the given data that, women in the age group of 26 to 35 prefer to join the SHGs business. It is recommended that poor women at other age groups should also be encouraged to join SHG.

After joining the SHGs their individual income increased as compared to the past, their financial status improved and they feel that after joining SHGs they get the opportunity to come together and discuss their joys and sorrows which they cannot discuss with anybody else.

Before joining SHGs they are not getting any formal and vocational training and they get full support from all the members of the family. There is no peer group pressure for joining SHGs. It is advisable that peer group should support other women to join SHG by explaining them the benefits of joining SHG.

Entrepreneurial quality like working honestly, becoming independent, innovativeness in work, etc has increased after joining SHG. They are ready to accept challenges for increasing their income, they want to come out of poverty and improve the standard of living for better future of their children and they are trying to introduce innovativeness in their business activities. Thus, willingness to learn new things and improvement in their current status helps them become successful entrepreneurs.

They get loans from Co-operative banks, MFIs and Nationalized banks to start their own business through SHGs. Political parties, friends and NGOs encourage them to join SHGs. They are aware of the benefits of SHGs before joining them. So we
should motivate them to start involving more and more poor women in SHGs so they can become more independent and confident.

For the benefit factors like ‘SHG provide financial and social support’, ‘SHG can be helpful for Building self respect’, ‘after joining SHG money saving and generating income is possible for them’, ‘women come together and discuss their joys and sorrows which they cannot discuss with anybody else’, ‘they feel empowered’, ‘they understand the importance of working together and benefits of team work’, ‘they know that women also have to earn along with men in the family to earn a better standard of living’ and ‘in majority of cases, women are supported by their family members to join SHG’ , women do not have any opinion. Women join SHG because they think that SHGs encourage them to trust each other with respect to money in a group which is one of the benefit factors for joining SHG. And the factors like ‘after joining SHG money saving and generating income is possible for them’ and ‘independence (financial and social)’ are not the encouraging factors. So, we should tell them the advantages of how SHGs will help them to save/generate money and it will provide them the financial and social support to sustain.

There was no opinion for the factors - entrepreneurial Qualities like ‘they are willing to do business even if risk is involved’, ‘they are willing to make limited opportunities fruitful ’, ‘they are ready to accept challenges for family income’, ‘women are attracted to microfinance funds for business’, ‘SHG support each other for microfinance’, ‘they want to come out of poverty and improve the standard of living of their children’, ‘more open minded’, ‘they love their work and do it passionately and they are determined to work harder’. After joining SHGs they think that their entrepreneurial qualities like ‘they feel more independent financially’ and ‘they have realised the importance of finance’ are developed. And the factors like they are ‘trying to be innovative in their business’ and ‘they tend to be more ethics oriented ’, do work honestly are not showing positive outcome. In order to achieve these qualities, training should be provided. They should understand the qualities
which contribute to being a successful entrepreneur and SHG should try to bring out these qualities in them.

Whether the training was provided or not, the benefit factors like ‘joining SHG money saving and generating income possible for them’, ‘women come together and discuss their joys and sorrows which they cannot discuss with anybody else’ and ‘they know that women also have to earn along with men in the family members to join SHG’ remains unaffected. And the benefit factors like ‘SHG provide financial and social support’, ‘SHG can be helpful for Building self respect’, ‘women in group trust each other in respect to money and they feel empowered’ the perception of women entrepreneurs who are getting formal or vocation training is positive as compared to women who have not undergone through any type of training. And the remaining benefit factors like ‘asset building’, ‘important working together’ and ‘family member support’ the insight of women entrepreneurs who are not getting formal or vocation training is not positive as compared to women who are getting any type of training. Whenever training is provided special importance should be on the factors like ‘asset building’, ‘importance of working together’ and ‘family member support’. Women should get such type of training which helps in asset building, gives importance to team work and gain family support.

For the factors like ‘SHG provide financial and social support’, ‘Women in group trust each other in respect to money’, ‘asset building’, ‘earn with men, family member support’ and ‘they feel empowered’ the perception of women entrepreneurs who are under the peer pressure group is positive as compared the women who are not encouraged by peer group to join SHG.

For ‘building self respect’, ‘trust respect’, ‘discuss joys’ and ‘importance of working together’ the opinion of SHG women entrepreneurs who are not under the peer pressure group is not positive as compared to the women who are under the pressure of peer group. So we recommend that the senior SHG women can motivate other women by explaining them the benefits factors like ‘SHG provide financial and
social support’, ‘Women in group trust each other with respect to money’, ‘asset building’, ‘earn with men, family member support’ and ‘they feel empowered’.

There is a relation between education (formal or vocational training) and type of business chosen by SHGs. So formal or vocational training should be provided to the SHG women which will help them to select different type of business available.

There is an association between education (formal or vocational training) and family support. But there is no association between the peer group pressure and the family support.

There is no relationship between the financial organization and individual income of Women working SHGs. So we can conclude financial organization does not play any important role on the individual income of women working with SHGs.

There is no relationship between the education (formal or vocational training) and individual income of SHG Women. So we can conclude that education does not improve the individual income of the women.

There is no association between the family support and individual income of SHG women. So we can conclude family support does not play any role in the individual income of women after joining SHGs.

The peer group pressure and individual income of women working with SHGs are independent. So we can conclude peer group pressure does not play any role in the individual income of women after joining SHGs. Family background and individual income of women working with SHGs are independent.

The benefit factors and entrepreneurial qualities of the women working with SHGs are positively related with each other. So, if the women understand the benefits of joining SHG, their entrepreneurial qualities will also improve.
6.2 Limitation of study

Data has been collected from 7 districts of Maharashtra. Due to various reasons like limitation of time, resources, etc. Data could not be collected from other states of India. In the current research study, only SHG model has been studied and other models could not be studied. The study is specific to women entrepreneurs. Low income male entrepreneurs have been ignored in the study. In this study, various women SHGs have been studied but there are certain male SHGs which have been ignored herein.

6.3 Scope for future research

In this study, attempt has been made to study whether microfinance helps developing successful entrepreneurs. However further research can be done in the field of microfinance to know the impact of microfinance institutions on entrepreneurial development. Research can also be done in the role of NGOs in training and development of SHG women in becoming successful entrepreneurs.