The women's movement in India is a rich and vibrant movement which has taken different forms in different parts of the country. Women Empowerment means to inspire women with the courage to break free from the chains of limiting beliefs, patterns and societal or religious conditions that have traditionally kept women suppressed and unable to realize their true beauty and power. "Entrepreneurship among women is an emerging recent phenomenon. It is the process of creating value by attracting together a unique package of resources to exploit an opportunity. The bank has major role to play to provide economic and social empowerment of women.

The first Mahila Sahakari Bank (SEWA Bank) was established in India in 1974. Recently, a few urban banks have been established by women. The membership of these banks is generally restricted to women. These banks can render a very useful service, especially in promoting habits of thrift among women and providing credit facilities to them for purposes such as education purchase of household articles and cottage industries.

These banks are operating for over 3 decades. Therefore, the researcher has considered it appropriate to evaluate the performance of the Mahila Sahakari Banks working at Pune as well as in Nanded over a period of 2004-05 to 2008-09. These banks are operating in two different districts are also having different environment. The banks under study are performing well but at the same time there is a room for improvement in their performance.

The researcher is aware of the limitations of this study. However, to the extent possible the researcher has collected the primary and secondary data and has
presented the same duly analyzed. He has recorded his observations and has offered useful suggestions.

The chapter one has been devoted to Introduction of the topic under research. In the second chapter the researcher has stated the research methodology adopted for this study. The third chapter covers the review of related literature, while the fourth chapter gives the broad profiles of the banks under study. Chapter fifth presents the analysis and interpretation of the data collected. Chapter sixth covers the comparison of the Mahila Sahakari Banks in Pune and Nanded city. Chapter seventh narrates the problems and prospects of the Mahila Urban Coop. Banks. The chapter eighth is devoted to record the observations and suggestions and is followed by the Bibliography.

Banking is an on going continuous process. There are changes in the banking processes day in and day out. Since 1991 the banking sector in general and urban cooperative banks in particular has undergone a sea change. Reserve Bank of India has introduced CAMEL rating in the assessment of the cooperative bank's performance also. For small cooperative banks as well as Mahila Sahakari Banks this is a new area. Banks are in the process of adjusting to the new situation and in course of time they will be settled. Once the new system of assessing the performance of the cooperative banks is stabilized the researcher is of the view that this area is a potential area for further research.