



An Analytical Study of Women Empowerment through Self-help Groups in Delhi Region

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ABSTRACT

In India, Self Help Groups (SHGs) dominate the microfinance scene as an essential tool for providing financial services to the "Unreached Disadvantaged" and improving their collective self-help capacity, contributing to empowerment. Rapid progress in creating SHGs has now been transformed into a national initiative for women's empowerment. Microfinance is needed to overcome exploitation and build confidence in the rural poor's economic self-sufficiency, especially among rural as well as urban women. Though they are not a "silver bullet," they may be a useful contribution to women's empowerment and gender equality. These policies create a sequence of 'virtuous spirals' of economic empowerment and greater social and political empowerment by contributing to women's ability to earn an income. These self-help groups (SHGs) have shown positive results. They have come under much attention because they have proven to be a healthy way to reduce poverty and stimulate the economy. Based on primary data analysis, this paper aims to highlight the role of microfinance and SHGs in empowering women in Delhi, India. Based on data from 300 SHG members and 300 non-members, this paper offers a comparative analysis of SHG members and non-members.

KEYWORDS: Self-Help Group, Microfinance, Women's Empowerment etc.

I. INTRODUCTION

Microfinance institutions (MFIs) are financial institutions that provide financial and non-financial products and services to low-income workers who would otherwise be unable to enter formal financial institutions. India has a large number of registered financial institutions. In Delhi, there are a few hundred micro-financial institutions. The Women Entrepreneur Programme is one of the microfinance organizations operating in the country.

It offers financial products and services to the poor, especially women.

Microfinance exists to help individuals and micro-enterprises unable to access mainstream financial service providers' services for a variety of reasons, including a lack of initial financing, a lack of experience and skills, a lack of collateral, or the possibility of becoming more risky customers. Microfinance institutions' distribution of loan products to insufficiently low-income individuals results in income and employment opportunities for disadvantaged households and communities. The Grameen Bank model in Bangladesh, established by the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize winner, Professor Mohammed Yunus, who has been recognized as the founder of the world's most renowned microfinance institution, with the highest number of registered members and borrowers, and the highest effective rate of repayment, has been used to define microfinance institutions and their operations. Almost all developing countries have copied and expanded on their pioneering work, positioning themselves as the best instruments for alleviating poverty by providing small, low-cost loans to the poor through solidarity and lending procedures. This paper presents An Analytical Approach to Women Empowerment and Development Through Financial Institutions in Delhi, India.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Rogaly, B. (1996), Microfinance institutions consider women to be more creditworthy than their male counterparts, thus improving their financial viability and sustainability. Microfinance increases women's income-generating capacity, making them less reliant on money from their husbands and allowing them to quickly pay for necessities such as food, children's education, and health care.

Mosedale, S. (2005), Microfinance institutions have been shown to have positive macroeconomic effects and reduce extreme poverty



in one cross-country study, which is more apparent in countries with more extensive per capita microfinance loan portfolios. A rise in women gaining power gives them more bargaining power in troubled and violent marriages. It may also help reduce violent domestic behaviour by husbands; several studies have found a correlation between low income/poverty and domestic violence.

Tabachnick, B. G., & Fidell, L. S. (2007), Microfinance, according to some academics, has little effect on healthcare. Around the same time, several other researchers have discovered that microfinance has mixed effects on its recipients' welfare. Microfinance has grown rapidly and efficiently in developing countries in recent decades.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research paper, relies heavily on primary data gathered from SHG member and non-member women who completed pre-tested questionnaires. For assessing the Microfinance Program's impact on women's empowerment, comparative analysis method has been adopted. Comparing two or more items to learn something about one or more of the things being compared is known as comparative analysis. The study compares and contrasts empowerment metrics among SHG members and non-members with similar socio-economic backgrounds. Given the time and resource constraints, a cross-sectional sample design was deemed the most appropriate for the study.

Sample Area

The study is located in the Delhi, India. The members of the SHG were selected from the Delhi, SHG programmes.

Sample Population

The sample population consisted of female SHG member women and non-member women with the same socio-economic background. Data was taken from a sample population of SHG women members and non-members in the Delhi, who shared the same socio-economic background.

Sampling Technique

The Stratified Random Sampling Approach is used to collect samples from SHG-Members. Stratified sampling is a probability sampling technique in which we divide the entire population into subgroups and then randomly select the final subjects proportionally from each subgroup.

Sample Size

A total of 300 SHG representatives from the Delhi region were chosen for the comparative study. Non-

members enumerated to 300 women who were not involved in any microfinance projects and came from the same socio-economic context as SHG members. As a result, the survey is conducted on a total of 600 people.

Primary Data

This analysis's data collection method was primarily a survey, so primary data was the primary source of information. Primary data was collected from 300 SHG members and 300 non-members using two questionnaires, each organized differently for each group.

For this research study, two questionnaires were created to collect the required data from the two groups. Questionnaire 1 was designed to gather information from 300 SHG participants. This survey aimed to gather information about how people's levels of empowerment improved after joining the SHG. Questionnaire 1 included background questions about the respondent's experience, relevant SHG membership details, and questions about four empowerment dimensions measured on the Likert Scale [15]. Questionnaire 2 was created to gather information from 300 non-members. The survey aimed to gather information on non-members' levels of empowerment. This survey included questions about respondents' backgrounds and questions about four empowerment dimensions measured using the Likert Scale.

The analysis used in this study provides a broad overview of the data, and socio-economic characteristics of the groups studied. Frequency tables is used to categorize and summarise the data.

Secondary Data

Although the study' results are heavily reliant on primary data, secondary information is also required to comprehend the theory and its implications. As secondary statistics, numerous surveys, articles, books, published and unpublished theses, and internet sources were used to obtain adequate material.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Data related to the study were collected, organized and analyzed using the scientific methodology. In this research study, the analysis method applied to categorize and analytically summarize the results. The sampled data of SHGs-members and NON-members based on age, educational level, number of family members, house information, income and savings. The same is shown in the below tables.



AGE:

The following tables show the age-wise classification of both NON-Members and SHGs-Members.

Table 1: SHG-Member Frequency Distribution and Age-Related Percentages

AGE	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Less than 30	81	27.0	27.0	27.0
30-39	117	39.0	39.0	66.0
40-49	66	22.0	22.0	88.0
50 & ABOVE	36	12.0	12.0	100.0
Total	300	100.0	100.0	

Table 2: Frequency Distribution and Age-Related Percentages of Non-Members

AGE	Frequency	Percent	ValidPercent	CumulativePercent
Less than 30	78	26.0	26.0	26.0
30-39	102	34.0	34.0	60.0
40-49	78	26.0	26.0	86.0
50 & ABOVE	42	14.0	14.0	100.0
Total	300	100.0	100.0	

EDUCATION:

The tables and bar charts below display the classification of both SHG-members and NON-members in education.

Table 3: SHG-Member Frequency Distribution and Percentages of Education Level

Education	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
ILLITERATE	153	51.0	51.0	51.0
PRIMARY(5th)	45	15.0	15.0	66.0
MIDDLE (8th)	18	6.0	6.0	72.0
METRIC (10th)	39	13.0	13.0	85.0
10+2	9	3.0	3.0	88.0
Graduate	36	12.0	12.0	100.0
Total	300	100.0	100.0	

Table 4: Frequency Distribution and NON- Members' Percentage of Education Level

Education	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
ILLITERATE	219	73.0	73.0	73.0
PRIMARY (5 th)	45	15.0	15.0	88.0
MIDDLE (8 th)	21	7.0	7.0	95.0
METRIC (10 th)	15	5.0	5.0	100.0
GRADUATE	0	0	0	100.0



10+2	0	0	0	100.0
Total	300	100.0	100.0	

Interpretation

SHG-Members

The table 3, shows that 51 percent of the total number of respondents are illiterate, 15 percent have completed primary education, 6 percent have completed middle-level education, 13 percent have completed metric, 3 percent have completed 10 + 2, and about 12 percent are graduates. It can be concluded from above that more women are educated when involved in SHG as a member. This is certainly leading to equality and empowerment.

Non- Members

The table 4 shows that 73 percent of the total numbers of respondents are illiterate, 15 percent have completed education up to the primary level, 7 percent have completed education up to the middle level, and 5 percent have completed the metric education level. Furthermore, among non-member respondents, there are no graduates and 10+2 level education. Thus, non- members are clearly less empowered and lead more to equality.

OCCUPATION:

The tables below show the SHG-Members and NON-Members wise occupation classification.

Table 5: Frequency Distribution and Percentages Non-Members occupation classification

Occupation	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
SELF-EMPLOYED	165	55.0	55.0	55.0
EMPLOYED	105	35.0	35.0	90.0
NOT WORKING	30	10.0	10.0	100.0
Total	300	100.0	100.0	

Table 6: Frequency Distribution and Percentages of SHG-members Occupational classification

Occupation	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
SELF-EMPLOYED	228	76.0	76.0	76.0
EMPLOYED	54	18.0	18.0	94.0
NOT WORKING	18	6.0	6.0	100.0
Total	300	100.0	100.0	

The table 5 and 6 clearly shows that the pattern of employment is better in SHG member women with 76 % self employed and only 6 % not working. For non-members only 55 % are self employed and 10 % are not working. The employment pattern also indicated that SHG leads

to empowerment in terms of employment and leads to economic growth.

MARITAL STATUS:

Based on their marital status, the table below shows SHG embers and NON- members' classification.

Table7: Frequency Distribution and NON- Member's Percentages Regarding Marital Status

Marital status	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
MARRIED	210	70.0	70.0	70.0



OTHERS	66	22.0	22.0	92.0
UNMARRIED	24	8.0	8.0	100.0
Total	300	100.0	100.0	

Table 8: Frequency Distribution and SHG Percentages-Marital Status Members

Marital status	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
MARRIED	219	73.0	73.0	73.0
OTHERS	42	14.0	14.0	87.0
UNMARRIED	39	13.0	13.0	100.0
Total	300	100.0	100.0	

HOUSE DETAILS:

The tables below present the Members and NON- Members classification based on their details.

Table 9: Frequency Distribution and NON-Member Percentages-House Details

House details	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
OWN	72	24.0	24.0	100.0
RENTED	228	76.0	76.0	76.0
Total	300	100.0	100.0	

Table 10: Frequency and percentage SHG-Members distribution-House Details

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	OWN	189	63.0	63.0	63.0
	RENTED	111	37.0	37.0	100.0
	Total	300	100.0	100.0	

The table 9 & 10 shows that 63% members of the SHG own their house and the non-group members own only 24% house. This indicates the prosperity and economic development as an outcome of self-employment that leads to investment in own assets. This is clearly empowerment.

THE NUMBER OF FAMILY MEMBERS:

The tables below show the classification of SHG members and NON-members based on the number of members of the family.

Table 11: Frequency and Percentage Non-Members Distribution in Respect of Family Members

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1.00	12	4.0	4.0	4.0
	2.00	21	7.0	7.0	11.0
	3.00	45	15.0	15.0	26.0
	4.00	66	22.0	22.0	48.0



	5.00	69	23.0	23.0	71.0
	6.00	48	16.0	16.0	87.0
	7.00	21	7.0	7.0	94.0
	8.00	12	4.0	4.0	98.0
	9.00	6	2.0	2.0	100.0
	Total	300	100.0	100.0	

Table 12: Frequency and Percentage Distribution of SHG-Members Concerning Family Members

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1.00	3	1.0	1.0	1.0
	2.00	6	2.0	2.0	3.0
	3.00	66	22.0	22.0	25.0
	4.00	57	19.0	19.0	44.0
	5.00	63	21.0	21.0	65.0
	6.00	51	17.0	17.0	82.0
	7.00	33	11.0	11.0	93.0
	8.00	12	4.0	4.0	97.0
	9.00	9	3.0	3.0	100.0
	Total	300	100.0	100.0	

The above table indicates that the SHG members have less members in their family that can lead to better standard of living. The non-members however have more members.

INCOME:

The tables below show the SHG-Members and NON-Members classification based on their earned income.

Table 13: Frequency Distribution and Percentages of NON- Members Concerning Income Earned

Income	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
LESS THAN 4000	54	18.0	18.0	18.0
4000-7999	87	29.0	29.0	47.0
8000-11999	117	39.0	39.0	86.0
12000 & ABOVE	42	14.0	14.0	100.0
Total	300	100.0	100.0	

Table14: Frequency Distribution and Percentages of SHG-Members concerning Income Earned

Income	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
LESS THAN 4000	63	21.0	21.0	21.0
8000-11999	90	30.0	30.0	51.0
4000-7999	81	27.0	27.0	78.0



12000 & ABOVE	66	22.0	22.0	100.0
Total	300	100.0	100.0	

The table 13 & 14 shows that the earning potentials of SHG member women are more than those of non-members which is definitely a step towards empowerment.

Savings:

The tables below show how SHG-Members and NON-Members are classified based on their savings.

Table 15: Frequency Distribution and Percentages of SHG-Members Concerning Savings

Savings	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
LESS THAN 500	114	38.0	38.0	38.0
500-999	72	24.0	24.0	62.0
1000-1499	72	24.0	24.0	86.0
1500 & ABOVE	42	14.0	14.0	100.0
Total	300	100.0	100.0	

Table 16: Frequency Distribution and Percentages of NON- Members concerning Savings

Savings	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
LESS THAN 500	132	44.0	44.0	44.0
500-999	57	19.0	19.0	63.0
1000-1499	57	19.0	19.0	82.0
1500 & ABOVE	54	18.0	18.0	100
Total	300	100.0	100.0	

SHG-Members

The SHG-Member table shows that about 38% of respondents belong to the saving group of under 500 Rs. 24% belong to 500-999 Rs. And 1000-1499 Rs. Finally, 14 percent belong to the saving group of 1500 & above . It can be inferred that SHG is formed by individuals who belong to different savings groups and their saving potential is better in large saving (1000 Rs. and above). This can definitely lead to better consumption and investment and empowerment.

NON-Members

The data shows that about 44 percent of the NON-member belongs to the saving group of less than 500 Rs., 19 percent belong to the saving group of 500-999 Rs., again 19 percent belong to the income group of 1000-1499 Rs., and finally 18 percent belong to 1500 & above. The percentage of saving 500 Rs. And less in the pattern in non-member groups that shows that in future

consumption and investment can be hampered and lead to lesser investment and hence empowerment.

IV. CONCLUSION:

This study found that belonging to SHGs has helped women become more economically secure, self-assured with better saving and investment, and respected in society with better education. The economic activities of the SHGs are successful, according to this research study and observations. As a result, SHGs in backward or poor areas as well as urban areas significantly reduce poverty and helps to achieve women's empowerment. Microfinance has resulted not only in economic empowerment, but in psychological and social empowerment as well. Microfinance has a critical role to play in fostering trust, confidence, skill development, and empowerment. SHG participants feel free to fly (more investment in terms of owning their own house and saving more) because of their close-knit communities and representatives. It



enables them to participate in various social care programmes cooperatively. In future it is expected from the Non-Governmental Organizations to develop further training sessions on revenue-generating activities and help interactions among the respondents. They need to develop their skills and talents by participating in various training programmes. The position and value of Microfinancing Institutions and their contribution to women empowerment are demonstrated through a comparison of SHG-Members and Non-Members. Thus, Microfinance institutions are critical to the psychological, social, and economic empowerment of SHG-member women.

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