Volume : 3 | Issue : 10 | October 2014 • ISSN No 2277 - 8179

Research Paper

# Impact of A Micro Finance on Self-Help Groups: A Case Study of Kadapa District

Economics

**KEYWORDS :** free radicals, reactive oxygen species (ROS), super oxide (O2-) anion, per oxyl (ROO-)hydroxyl(OH-)

| | |
|---|---|
| **Dr.G.Prathap** | Post-Doctoral Fellow, Dept. of Economics, S.V.University, Tirupati, India AP. |
| **Dr. P. Siva kumar** | UGC – Post Doctoral Fellow, Dept. of Commerce, S.V.U, Tirupati-517 502, Andhra Pradesh, India |

**INTRODUCTION**

Women and children representing more than two thirds (67.70 %) of the country's population, constitute the most important target groups in the context of the present day developmental planning. Thus, their concerns are placed on the priority list of the country's developmental agenda. Needless to say, they have the strength and support of the constitution. As per 2011 Census, women as a separate target group, account for 494.8 million and constitute 49 per cent of the country's total population. Depending upon the developmental needs of the individual age groups, the entire female population has been categorized into five distinct sub-groups, viz.

The Indian women in general are poor, rural women in particular are relatively powerless with no control over resources and little decision-making power. Often the decisions are imposed on them. The prevailing patriarchal ideology which demands values of submission, sacrifice and silent suffering often undermines their capability and deprives them of their share of resources. The forces of power may be termed as empowerment. Empowerment of women must be an integral part of sustainable human development.

**WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT**

Development today is human development. It is a process of enlarging the choice for all people not just for one section at the society. Such developmental process becomes unjust and unfair if women are excluded from the benefit of participation. The concept of women's development in the earlier phase of developmental planning was mainly 'welfare-oriented'. Women's education during sixties received utmost priority along with the measures to improve maternal and child health and nutrition services. There was a definite paradigm shift in the holistic approach from 'welfare' to 'development' during the seventies, which started recognizing women as participants of development. The eighties adopted a multi-disciplinary approach with special thrust on the three-core sector of health, education and development. Accordingly, priority was given for implementation of programmes for women under different sectors of agriculture and its allied activities of dairying, poultry, animal husbandry, handlooms, handicrafts, small scale industries etc. Recognizing the role and contribution of women in development the nineties made a beginning in concentrating on training-cum-income generation programmes for women with the ultimate objective of making them economically independent and self-reliant. The bulk of women workers have all along been engaged in agricultural and allied activities.

**DETAILS OF DWCRA GROUPS IN KADAPA DISTRICT**

- The rural women should be organized into viable self-reliant groups evolving strategies for their empowerment.
- Kadapa is the pioneering district in organizing DWCRA groups being one among the 3 districts selected for implementation of the pilot project during the year 1982-83 and the other 2 districts were Srikakulam and Adilabad.

The DWCRA and SHGs Groups were formed in every Mandal of the district from 1982-1983 onwards. At present there are 34785 DWCRA groups covering 345562 members. In the district DWCRA groups are actively functioning and are regularly following all the DWCRA norms. The total savings of these groups are Rs. 85.48 Crores. Their savings are being used by themselves for inter lending as per their requirements. From 1984-1997 onwards 1000 groups consisting 10560 members were benefited under IRDP loans.

**A) Training and Orientation Programmes**

It is observed that the DWCRA women in this district are quite active. To improve the group dynamics and their performance, the DRDA, Kadapa has organized regular training programmes. In this programme, the following views on poverty alleviation programmes the following items were discussed.

a) Overview on poverty alleviation programmes.
b) Objectives of SHGs
c) Introduction of volunteers.
d) Formation of groups.
e) Leadership in group.
f) Thrift and credit management

It was observed that the flow of financial assistance to women was too marginal to enable them to cross the poverty line, though women, as members of the target group, had been entitled to certain benefits under the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP). It was felt, therefore, that a separate scheme, which would motivate women to come together and engage themselves in economically viable activities, should be drawn up. With this end in view, the Union Government in September 1982 launched Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) as a sub-scheme of IRDP on a pilot basis. The Indian Government adopted the approach of SHGs to uplift the rural poor women. The empowerment of women through SHGs would lead to benefits not only to the families and community as a whole through the collective action for development in general, and women groups in particular.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The broad objective of the study is to evaluate the role and performance of SHGs in promoting women's empowerment in the study area. However, the study has the following specific objectives:

- To study the Socio- economic conditions of the sample beneficiaries in the Study area
- To study the income of the beneficiaries
- To study the saving position of the sample beneficiaries in the study area

**METHODOLOGY:** The primary data has been collected through the structured questionnaire schedule.

**Sample Design**

A multi-stage purposive random sampling was adopted. There are four stages. The first Stage District has been selected and second stage mandal, third stage three villages have been selected and final stage in each village 40 beneficiaries have been selected. The total number of beneficiaries is 120.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The age group of members, reasons for respondents joining the SHGS, yearly incomes of the beneficiaries before and after joining SHGs and the year-wise employment of the beneficiaries before and after joining SHGs are discussed below.

**Age Group of Members of SHGs**

The age group of members of SHGs has been elicited and presented in the Table 1.

**Table 1**
**Age Group of Members of SHGs**

| Sl. No. | Age Group (Years) | No. of respondents | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Less than 20 | 15 | 12.50 |
| 2 | 21-30 | 30 | 25.00 |
| 3 | 30-40 | 37 | 30.84 |
| 4 | 41-60 | 27 | 22.50 |
| 5 | 61 And above | 11 | 9.16 |
| Total | | 120 | 100.00 |

**Source: Primary Data**

The table presents that 37 respondents (30.84 %) are in the age group of 30 – 40 years, 30 respondents(25 %) are in the age group of 21 – 30 years and 27 respondents(22.50 %) are in the age group of 41 – 60 years and the remaining respondents limited in number who are less than 20 years of age and above 61 years of age. Above all, 68.34 of the respondents are below 40 years of age.

Yearly Incomes of the Beneficiaries before and After Joining SHGs

The Yearly Incomes of the Beneficiaries before and after joining SHGs are collected and presented in the Table 2.

**Table- 2**
**Yearly Incomes of the Beneficiaries before and After Joining SHGs**

| Before Joining SHGs | | | | After Joining SHGs | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sl. No. | Yearly Income Rs. | No. of Respondents | Percentage | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
| 1. | Less than 10000 | 40 | 33.34 | 15 | 12.50 |
| 2. | 10001-20000 | 33 | 27.50 | 41 | 34.16 |
| 3. | 20001-30000 | 27 | 22.50 | 36 | 30.00 |
| 4. | 30001-40000 | 12 | 10.00 | 16 | 13.34 |
| 5. | 40001 and above | 08 | 6.66 | 12 | 10.00 |
| Total | | 120 | 100.00 | 120 | 100.00 |

**Source: Primary Data**

The table shows that before joining the SHGs, 40 respondents(33.34 %) had the yearly income less than Rs.10000, 33 respondents(27.50 %) had the yearly income of Rs. 10001 - 20000, 27 respondents(22.5 %) had the yearly income of Rs.20001 - 30000, 12 respondents(10 %) had the income of Rs.30001 – 40,000 and mere 8 respondents(33.34 %) had the yearly income of Rs.40001 and above.

But after joining the SHGs, 41 respondents(34.16 %) have the yearly income less than Rs.10001 - 20000, 36 respondents(30 %) have the yearly income of Rs.20001 - 30000, 16 respondents(13.34 %) have the yearly income of Rs.30001 - 40000, 15 respondents(12.5 %) have the income of less than Rs.10000 and mere 12 respondents (10 %) have the yearly income of Rs.40001 and above.

It is observed from the table that the income of the respondents increased after joining the SHGs. It is concluded that SHGs have lot of impact on the income of the respondents.

Year-wise Employment of the Beneficiaries Before and After Joining SHGs

The Year-wise Employment of the Beneficiaries Before and After Joining SHGs has been identified and presented in the Table 3

**Table - 3**
**Year-wise Employment of the Beneficiaries Before and After Joining SHGs**

| Before Joining SHGs | | | | After Joining SHGs | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sl. No. | Employment of the Beneficiaries | No. of Respondents | Percentage | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
| 1. | Less than 100 days | 46 | 38.34 | 17 | 14.16 |
| 2. | 101-200 days | 39 | 32.50 | 48 | 40.00 |
| 3. | 201-300 days | 25 | 20.83 | 34 | 28.34 |
| 4. | 301 And above days | 10 | 8.34 | 21 | 17.50 |
| Total | | 120 | 100.00 | 120 | 100.00 |

**Source: Primary Data**

The table shows that before joining the SHGs, 46 respondents (38.34 %) had the year-wise employment of less than 100 days, 39 respondents (32.50 %) had.101 - 200 days, 25 respondents (20.83 %) had 201 - 300 days and 10 respondents (8.34%) had the employment of 301 days and above.

But after joining the SHGs, 48 respondents (40 %) have the yearly employment of less than Rs.101 – 200 days, 34 respondents (30 %) have 201- 300 days, 21 respondents (17.5 %) have 301 days and above and 17 respondents (14.16 %) have the yearly employment of less than 100 days.

It is observed from the table that the employment of the respondents increased after joining the SHGs. It is concluded that SHGs have lot of impact on the employment of the respondents.

**CONCLUSION**

Women and children who represent more than two thirds (67.70 per cent) of the country's population, constitute the most important target groups in the context of the present day developmental planning. Despite the fact that women constitute nearly 50 per cent of the Indian population and play a significant role both as housewives and also as workers, hardly any attention has been paid to assess their contribution to the economy. Above all, 68.34 of the respondents are below 40 years of age. By and large, majority of the respondents (32.5 %) joined SHGs for social status. The income as well as employment of the respondents increased after joining the SHGs. Hence, SHGs have lot of impact on the income as well as employment of the respondents.

## REFERENCE

1. Viswanathan, M. Role of Micro Finance for Uplifting for Rural Economy, HRD Times, Vol.8, No.4, July 2006. | 2. Yadagiri, K. Rural Poor and a Challenging Task of DWCRA: A Study of Women in A.P., Southern Economist, Vol.35, Aug 1, 1996. | 3. Department of Panchayat Raj and Rural Development, Government of Andhra Pradesh, December 2007. | 4. Appa Rao, C.H. Empowerment of Women and Ecological Development, Serials Publications, New Delhi, 2002. |