

MICRO FINANCE THROUGH SELF HELP GROUPS –A SURVEY OF RECENT LITERATURE IN INDIA

DR.K.RAJENDRAN

MBA,Ph.D, Additional Director of Sugar, Chennai 6000305.

ABSTRACT

In the development paradigm, micro-finance has evolved as a need-based programme for empowerment and alleviation of poverty to the so far neglected target groups (women, poor, deprived etc.) and micro-finance has become one of the most effective interventions for economic empowerment of the poor. The experience across India and other countries has shown a robust potential of Microfinance to integrate with the development issues thereby significantly impacting the lives of poor. This paper critically reviews the various empirical studies carried out in India and it will help the researchers in the field of SHG and microfinance. Though the literature available is fairly large, the review is limited to the 53 major studies carried out in India to identify the major trends. Studies carried out in India, as evident from this paper, indicates that micro finance and Self Help groups, by and large contributed to the development of core poor in terms of economic well being, alleviating poverty and empowerment leading to over all development of rural poor.

KEYWORDS: Self Help Groups-Micro finance-income generating activities- empowerment-positive benefits

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) introduced a pilot project commonly known as SHG linkage project in 1992. With a small beginning in 1992 as a pilot project, the active participation of Government, Banks, development agencies and NGOs has made the SHG movement as the world's largest microfinance programme. The literature on Self Help Group (SHG) and micro finance is relatively one of the youngest Hence SHG and micro finance may be said as a recent movement and it is the youngest field of research. In the development paradigm, micro-finance has evolved as a need-based programme for empowerment and alleviation of poverty to the so far neglected target groups (women, poor, deprived etc.) and micro-finance has become one of the most effective interventions for empowerment of the poor. The experience across India and other countries has shown a robust potential of Microfinance to integrate with the development issues thereby significantly impacting the lives of poor. Though its origin may be traced back to approximately thirty years but the literature available is very large. This paper critically reviews the various empirical studies carried out in India on Self Help Groups and micro finance and its impact on the lives of rural people and it will help the researchers in the field of SHG and microfinance. Though the literature available is fairly large, the review is limited to the 53 major studies carried out in India to identify the major trends.

Self Help Groups

Self Help Groups are voluntarily formed informal groups. A SHG consists of 10-20 members. The members are encouraged to save on regular basis. They use the pooled resources to meet the credit needs of the group members. The groups are democratic in nature and collectively make decisions. Since the members are neighbours and have common interest, the group is a homogenous one and cohesiveness is one of the characteristic features of the group. Regular savings, periodic meetings, compulsory attendance, proper repayment and systematic training are the salient features of the SHG. Evidences from various developing countries throughout the world have shown that the poor can be helped by organizing themselves into Self Help Groups.

Self Help Groups have the following advantages:

1. They encourage the poor to save. The poor become creditworthy and bankable customers and are not seen as beneficiaries. They reduce the transaction cost of lenders and borrowers.
2. Women are trained in new skills and technologies and the wage earning workers become micro entrepreneurs.
3. They help the poor to gain economic and social empowerment. Increased asset creation and savings, higher employment and improved social lives of members are the benefits to the members.

Micro-finance

Even though the terms micro credit and micro finance are interchangeably used, the term micro finance connotes broader activity. Now, there is a shift from micro credit (small loans) to micro finance, in which in addition to credit, mobilization of savings, insurance, training and support services like assistance in marketing of client's products are provided which are otherwise known as 'credit plus'. Micro finance is considered as a development tool to alleviate poverty in Asian, African and South American countries. Micro finance gives quick and tangible results to the poor people especially women. Micro finance is required by the poor people to invest in income generating activities which will break their vicious cycle of poverty.

NABARD has defined micro finance as follows: "Micro finance is all about provision of thrift, credit and other financial services and products of very small amount to the poor in rural, semi urban and urban areas for enabling them to raise their standard of living." UN declared the year 2005 as year of micro credit since the policy makers of UN supported the view that micro finance is an instrument to fight against poverty. According to Nobel Committee, micro finance can help the people to break poverty, which in turn is seen as an important prerequisite to establish long last peace.

Analysis of the studies

The study reveals that most of the studies are State specific only. A very few studies were conducted in different States. Only one study covers the country as a whole. Out of the 53

studies covered by the researcher in this study, only 6 researches has stated that there is no so positive effective of SHG and microfinance and nearly 90% of the studies reported positive impact of the microfinance and SHG.

Out of the 53 research studies analysed, majority of the (36) research studies focused on the impact of microfinance / SHG on women empowerment in various States and five research studies were conducted on the effect of microfinance / SHG on increase in income and access to financial sources and five studies were conducted to study the effect of microfinance on employment opportunity in non-form sector and only one study focused on poverty reduction with empowerment.

Majority of the studies observed the positive effect of microfinance through SHG on economic, social, political and psychological empowerment, increase in income and employment opportunities, development of leadership qualities, enhanced participation in community activities and high degree of participation n domestic as well as n the society.

Study conclusions all the 53 research studies are presented in tabular form for easy reference.

Researchers	State	Conclusions of the study
Puhazhendi and Satyasai (2000)	Rajasthan, Orissa, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu	The impact of micro finance was relatively more pronounced on social aspects than economic aspects.
Rao (2000)	Andhra Pradesh	SHGs showed a positive impact in respect of building of self-confidence, social development, skill formation and social empowerment.
Kallur (2001)	Karnataka	Group approach has brought many operative values like group support, thrift, group action and sustainability of women SHGs
Manimekalai and Rajeswari (2001)	Tamil Nadu	SHGs has helped the groups to achieve economic and social empowerment. It has developed a sense of leadership, organizational skill, management of various activities of a business, right from acquiring finance, identifying raw material, market and suitable diversification and modernization

Researchers	State	Conclusions of the study
Nedumaran et al. (2001)	Tamil Nadu.	An increase in net income and social conditions of the members.
Puhazhendi and Badyata (2002)	Orissa, Chattisgarh and Jarkhand	Women members income increased and increased opportunities of employment in non-farm and off farm employment in addition to social empowerment
Krishnaiah (2003)	Andhra Pradesh	Women were able to diversify their activities by undertaking non- farm and animal husbandry related activities
Satyasai (2003)	Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu.	Micro finance had positive impact in respect of self confidence, economic and social development and skill formation in Andhra Pradesh and social empowerment in Tamil Nadu.
Lalitha and Nagarajan (2004)	Tamil Nadu	Self Help Groups has laid the seeds for economic and social empowerment of women. Participation in group activities leads to changed self image, enhanced access to information and skills, broadened their knowledge about resource
Purushotham (2004)	Andhra Pradesh	Micro credit borrowers utilized micro credit to graduate from wage work into self employment and concluded that micro credit intervention has benefited the group members in acquisition of productive assets.
Rao (2004)	Karnataka, AP	Micro finance helped in improving the socio economic conditions of members
Selvarajan and Elango (2004)	Tamil Nadu	Charging of high rate of interest is more oppressive causing hardships to the poverty stricken groups
Silvia (2004)	Karnataka	Positive changes in income and women actively participated in community activities.

Researchers	State	Conclusions of the study
Tamizoli (2004)	Tamil Nadu	Possibility of employment near their homes and the concept of sisterhood is powerful and has changed women to sedentary from nomadic life.
Usha et al. (2004)	Andhra Pradesh	Micro credit increased the access to financial resources and it made poor women financially self reliant.
Vadivoo and Sekar (2004)	Tamil Nadu.	Self Help Groups movement helped women collectively struggling against direct and indirect barriers to their self development and the social, political and economic participation.
Venkatachalam and Jeyapragash (2004)	Tamil Nadu	SHGs have made a silent revolution for the economic empowerment of poor rural women.
Anuradha (2005)	Andhra Pradesh	Enormous increase in self confidence among the women and significant reduction in dependence on money lenders and freedom from money lenders given them self respect.
Dhara and Nitra (2005)	West Bengal	Empowerment is only at elementary level and women are not aware of the banking procedure and leaders are finding it difficult to maintain account books.
Kabeer and Noponen (2005)	Jharkhand.	Members had more nutritious food, and enjoyed a favorable food situation and they had more of livestock, diversified cropping, high value crops, higher savings and reduced indebtedness.
Kumar (2005)	Haryana	Micro finance enhanced knowledge and skills of women.
Simanowitz and Walter (2005)	Andhra Pradesh	Improved access to quality clinic as a result of increased savings and the clients experienced increased feelings of confidence and self

Researchers	State	Conclusions of the study
		esteem.
Rajagopalan (2005)	Orissa	Women gained very significantly in terms of mobility, self confidence, access to financial services, building of own savings, competence in public affairs and improved status at home and in the community.
Devi (2006)	Kerala	Micro credit helped in poverty alleviation and empowerment of rural women and the income generating activities made a difference in the lives of poor women by providing economic independence, self confidence and autonomy.
Farrington and Priya (2006)	Andhra Pradesh	Decrease in indebtedness and 30 per cent of groups felt that they have been socially empowered.
Leelavathy and Aradhana (2006)	Assam	Members of SHG have a high degree of participation in decision making and most of the members of the group expressed that they were economically empowered after joining Self Help Groups.
Meenakshi (2006)	Uttranchal	Self Help Groups brought greater awareness regarding their roles, responsibilities and rights due to the participation in group meetings, training programmes and exposure visits have led to confidence building and social self esteem among women.
Moyle, Dollard and Biswas (2006)	Rajasthan.	SHGs achieved both economic and personal empowerment in terms of collective efficiency, pro-active attitudes, self-esteem and self efficacy
Sinha (2006)	Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Orissa and Rajasthan	Only 12 per cent SHGs taken issues on social justice such as domestic violence, dealing with dowry, prevention of child marriage, bigamy. Default rate was high at 28 per cent,

Researchers	State	Conclusions of the study
		38 percent of very poor members have more over due, defunct groups emerging as an indicator of loan default.
Suguna (2006)	Andhra Pradesh	Improved social empowerment and capacity building of rural women.
Anjugam and Ramasamy(2007)	Tamil Nadu	The study has revealed that landless and marginal farm households and socially backward households participated more in the SHG-led microfinance programme.
Gaiha and Nandhi (2007)	Maharashtra	Ninety eight per cent respondents informed that their self confidence improved
Singh, Kaushal and Gautam (2007)	U,P	Group process had a positive significant relationship of empowerment and women's participation in Self Help Groups enabled them to gain self confidence, social and economic empowerment and capacity building.
Swain and Wallentin (2007)	Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra	There is significant increase in the level of women empowerment over a period of time (2000-2003) and it does not mean that every woman has been empowered to the same degree, but on the average, the Self Help Group members were empowered over this period.
Jyotirmayee (2008)	Odisha	Experience of SHGs in Orissa reveals that most of the groups are not able to do so purposively or compulsively. This aspect of the linkage programme has received little attention.
Oommen(2008)	Kerala	It is significant that the SC/STs have 'fairly improved' their ability to collectively bargain, to plan projects and to organise group activities besides improving their social position within their own groups and within

Researchers	State	Conclusions of the study
		the wider community. But there was poor economic empowerment measured in terms of improvement in assets and income.
Tripathy and Jain (2008)	Haryana and Orissa	Micro finance has a negligible income impact on assetless rural poor, deprived and disadvantaged.
Nirmala and Geetha (2009)	Kerala	Positive impact of microfinance. It contributes for improvement in household economic welfare and enterprise stability or growth and Micro finance is empowering women, bringing gender equality.
Raghavan(2009)	Kerala	By participating in various income generating –cum-developmental activities, the morale and confidence of women became very high. Capacity of the poor women of the State in several areas has gone up considerably. Status of women in families and community has also improved
Banerjee(2009)	West Bengal	It was observed that from low-income group more people have shifted to high-income levels. This has reduced the inequality in the distribution of family monthly income
Pillai and Nadarajan(2010)	Tamil Nadu	The study concludes that microfinance has brought better psychological and social empowerment than economic empowerment
Subramaniam (2010)	Tamil Nadu.	SHGs have ushered a silent revolution of poverty alleviation and women empowerment.
Makandar (2011)	Karnataka	Women have been actively participating in decision making process after becoming members of SHG in the areas consumption of house hold items, education of children and their marriage, number of children, family

Researchers	State	Conclusions of the study
		planning, purchase and sale of property.
NABARD (2011)	India	76 per cent of the women members were able to interact with officials and 28 per cent of the members were able to save in banks; the result were seen in decision making in household matter, sending children to school, changing undesirable habits of their spouse, participating in Gram Panchayat election. Access to bank credit after joining SHG (98 per cent) as compared to mere two per cent before joining, increase in income by undertaking income generating activities, etc.'
Palanichamy.(2011)	Tamil Nadu	After joining with SHGs the income have increased along with thrift are got self confident for living with community.
Rajendran and Raya(2011)	Tamil Nadu.	There is a high level of political empowerment as compared to economic empowerment and poor level of social empowerment.
Reji (2011)	Kerala	Micro finance through groups have empowered women in Kerala.
Sathiyabama and Meeenakshi Saratha (2011)	Tamil Nadu	It was found that the qualities like democratic decision making, team spirit, team work, social mobility, self confidence, boldness to meet the officials, mutual help and in total the leadership qualities have improved to a significant level.
Surender, Kumari, and Sehrawat(2011)	Haryana	There is positive impact of SHGs on employment generation. Number of working days of beneficiaries in Live- Stock, Business and any others profession had increased after joining the SHGs. In this way, it is indicating that SHGs generate employment. Majority of beneficiaries accepted the improvement in

Researchers	State	Conclusions of the study
		economic condition after joining SHG.
Barua, (2012)	Assam	The amount of loans provided to the members of SHGs were so small that it can't help the members to fight against poverty. There is the failure of SHGs, but not the failure of self-help.
Das(2012)	Assam	Observed that SHGs has a positive impact on women member and in many cases it is proved that SHG promotes empowerment SHGs have positive impact on decision making pattern
Mohapatra(2012)	Odisha	SHGs contributed to socioeconomic empowerment of women at household level
Sarkar & Baishya(2012)	Assam	Results suggest that women's access to credit has a role in improving the household decision making capacity, workforce participation rate and control over resources and even political and legal awareness, thereby opening/opportunity for greater empowerment of women of Assam

Though majority of the studies have indicated positive impact of micro finance, it is right time to remind the development researchers that Maithreyi (2007) found that there are both positive and not so positive appraisals of how exactly micro finance helps women and to what extent and she feared that inadvertently micro finance leads to a kind of involuntary diversification where the rural household engages in a multiplicity of low productivity enterprise-a goat here, a cow there and so on. Similarly, Rajagopalan (2007) described that often, exaggerated claims are made about SHGs building housing colonies and bridges, doing a roaring export business etc. Since these SHGs comprise of rural women barely literate, such claims look incredible. Yet, the fact remains that micro credit has liberated lakhs of families in villages from the clutches of predatory money lenders. It is also true that almost in every village some rural entrepreneurs have emerged with guidance from NGOs, DRDA, banks and other financial institutions.

Conclusions

The micro finance revolution, a recent product of development, ensures the availability of institutional credit and financial inclusion to the poor, who were so far excluded from the institutional credit system. The literature review has shown the impact of micro finance and self Help Groups as a mixed picture, but it is an effective instrument and tool to pull the poor households from poverty in developing countries where it becomes a philosophy and practice of poverty eradication, empowerment and inclusive growth, especially in Asia, Africa and Latin American countries. In India, as evident from the study that most of the literature on micro finance revolves around four southern states where Governments and Non Governmental Organisations are taking lead in the spread of micro finance. Studies carried out in India, as evident from the above literature review, indicated that micro finance and Self Help groups, by and large contributed to the development of core poor in terms of economic well being, alleviating poverty and empowerment leading to overall development of rural poor.

Further suggestions

As suggested by Prahalad (2008) when the bottom of the pyramid i.e. four billion people are converted into micro producers, opportunity for global growth becomes obvious. The real effectiveness and success depends on alleviating poverty by converting the poor into producers which will increase the income of the rural families. The observations made by Herms (2007) in his research may be taken as a suggestion for all further studies in micro finance. After having reviewed the debate on micro finance and poverty, he concluded that it is still unclear whether micro finance substantially contributes to a reduction of poverty nor it is clear whether micro finance is the most efficient method to reduce poverty. Herms suggested that more solid empirical research is needed.

Limitation of the study:

The paper analysed only published reports in the reputed journals or books and does not cover any of the unpublished research work.

References:

Anjugam.M. and C. Ramasamy (2007).Determinants of Women's Participation in Self-Help Group (SHG)-Led Microfinance Programme in Tamil Nadu. *Agricultural Economics Research Review*. 20 (2), 283-298.

Banerjee, Tanmoyee. (2009). Economic Impact of Self-Help Groups -A Case Study *Journal of Rural Development*, 28 (4), 451 – 467.

Barua, Prasenjit Bujar. (2012).Impact of Micro-finance on Poverty: A Study of Twenty Self-Help Groups in Nalbari District, Assam. *Journal of Rural Development*, 31 (2), 223-244.

Chandramani. (2005). Self Help Groups for Empowerment of Rural Women. In R.K. Samanta (Ed.) *Empowering Rural Women: issues, Opportunities and Approaches*, (pp131-150). Delhi: The Women Press

Das, Sanjay Kanti (2012) Best Practices of Self Help Groups And Women Empowerment: A Case of Barak Valley Of Assam. *Far East Journal of Psychology and Business*. 7 (2), 29-51.

Dhara, Aparajita., & Mitra, Nita. (2005). Decentralised Development and Micro credit. In Purnendu Sekhar Das (Ed.) *Decentralised Planning and Participating Rural Development* (pp 173-193). New Delhi: Concept Publishing Company.

Dogra, Bharat. (2005). Women Self Help Groups: Kindling Spirit of Entrepreneurship. In S.B. Verma (Ed.) *Status of Women in Modern India*. (pp361-363.) New Delhi: Deep & Deep publications.

Hermes, Niels., & Robert Lensik. (2007). Impact of micro finance: A critical survey. *Economic Political Weekly*, XLII (6), 462 – 465.

Ismail, Makandar, M. (2011). The role of Self Help Groups and gender justice in India. In Daniel Lazer, Aravanan and Malabika Deo (Eds.) *Embodiment of Empowerment: Self Help Groups* (pp 88-92). Chennai: Vijay Nichole Imprints.

Joshi, Meenakshi. (2006). Empowering Rural Women through water Shed Project. In Verma, S.B., Jiloka.S.K., & K.J. Khshwah. (Eds.) *Rural Women Empowerment*. (pp 147 – 159). New Delhi: Deep & Deep Publications.

Kar, Jyotirmayee (2008) Improving Economic Position of Women through Microfinance: Case of a Backward Area, Mayurbhanj-Orissa, India. *Indus Journal of Management & Social Sciences*. 2(1), 15-28.

Kabeer, Naila., & Helzi Noponen. (2005). *Social and Economic impacts of PRADAN's Self Help Group micro finance and livelihoods Promotion Programme: Analysis from Jharkhand, India*. <http://www.lmp.act.org>

Kallur, M.S. (2001). Empowerment of Women through NGOs: A Case Study of MYRADA Self-Help Groups of Chincholi Project, Gulbarga District, Karnataka State, *Indian Journal of Agriculture Economics*, 56(3), 465.

Krishnaiah, P. (2003). *Poverty Reduction: Self Help Group strategy*. New Delhi: UBSPD

Selvarajan, E., & R. Elango. (2004). *Rural Development: Programmes Externalities*. New Delhi: Serials Publications.

Krishnnaraj, Maithreyi. (2007). Food security Agrarian crisis and Rural livelihoods: Implication for women. In Maithreyi Krishnnaraj. (Ed.) *Gender, Food Security and Rural livelihoods* (pp 24-72). Kolkata: STREE.

Kumar, Raj. (2005). Sustaining rural development: Micro finance in Haryana. In Surat Singh (Ed.) *Strategies for Sustainable Rural Development* (pp 268-281). New Delhi: Deep & Deep Publications

Kumari, Indira. Y., & Sambasiva Rao, B. (2005). *Development of Women and Rural Development*. New Delhi: Serial Publications, pp 214-306.

Lakshamma, Sree. K. (2005). Empowerment of women through DWCRA Program in A.P.: A case study. In Koteswara Rao (Ed.) *Empowerment of women in India* (pp 283-338). New Delhi: Discovery Publishing House.

Lalitha. B., & Nagarajan, B. S. (2004). Empowerment of Rural Women through Self Help Groups: A study in Tamil Nadu. In R. Venkata Ravi, N. Narayana Reddy and M. Venkataramana (Eds.) *Empowerment of People*. (pp 73-85) New Delhi: Kaniska Publishers & Distributors.

Manimekalai, M., & Rajeswari G. (2001). Nature and Performance of Informal Self Help Groups: A case from Tamil Nadu, *Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 56(3), 453-54.

Mohapatra, Anuja (2012) Empowerment of Women At House-Hold Level Through Self-Help-Groups- A Study Of Khordha District of The State of Odisha, India *International Journal Of Research In Commerce, Economics & Management*. 2 (5), 83-87.

Moyle, Dollard & Biswas. (2006). Personal and Economic empowerment in Rural Indian Women: A Self-help Group Approach. *International Journal of Rural Management*, 2(2), 245-266.

NABARD. (2011.) Status of Microfinance 2009-10. Mumbai: NABARD.

Nedumaran, S., Palanisami. K. & Swaminathan, L.P. (2001). Performance and Impact of Self Help Groups in Tamil Nadu. *Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 56(3), 471-472.

Nirmala .K.A. and Geetha Mohan. (2009).Socio-economic impact of microcredit:A Study of Measurement. In Anil Kumar Thakur and Praveen Sharma(Ed.) *Micro credit and Rural Development* (pp207-224). New Delhi: Deep & Deep Publications.

OOMMEN.M.A.(2008)Micro Finance And Poverty Alleviation: The Case of Kerala's *Kudumbashree*.Working Paper No. 17.Centre for Centre for Socio-economic & Environmental Studies(CSES), Kerala

Parameswaran, M.P. (2005).*Empowering people*. Delhi: Daanish Books, pp169-170.

Panda, S.K. (2005).Micro finance in Economic Empowerment of weaker sections. In S.B.Verma(Ed.) *Rural Management*. (pp 181-190).New Delhi: Deep & Deep Publications Pvt. Ltd.

Pillai, Thalavai and S. Nadarajan.(2010). Impact of Microfinance - An Empirical Study on The Attitude of SHG Leaders in Kanyakumari District –Tamil Nadu. *International Journal of Enterprise and Innovation Management Studies* 1(3), 89-95

Puhazhendi, V., & Badatya K.C. (2002). Self Help Group Bank linkage programme for Poor: An impact assessment. Paper presented at Seminar on Self Help Group – Bank Linkage programme at New Delhi 25, 26-11-2002.

RaghavanV.P.(2009)Micro-Credit And Empowerment : A Study of Kudumbashree Projects In Kerala, India. *Journal of Rural Development*, 28 (4), pp. 469 – 484.

Rajendran.K.& Raya.(2011)Does Microfinance Empower Rural Women? A study in Vellore District,Tamil Nadu. *Indian Journal of Finance*,5(11),47-55.

Rani,Usha.,D.P.J.Reddy., & M.V.S.Reddy.(2004). Women Development: Empowerment through Self Help Groups in Andhra Pradesh. In Kiran Prasad (Ed.) *Communication and Empowerment of Women* (vol.2 pp616-624). New Delhi: The Women Press

Reji.EM.(2011)Micro finance and Women Empowerment: Evidences from field study. *Journal of Rural development*,30(1),25-44.

Rajivan, Anuradha. (2005).Micro credit and Women's Empowerment: a case study of SHARE micro finance limited. In Neera Burra, Joy Deshmukh–Ranadive and Ranjani K.Murthy (Eds.) *Micro credit, poverty and Empowerment* (pp116-160).New Delhi: Sage.

Rajagopalan, M.R.(2007).Foreword. In Lalitha N. (Ed.) *Grass Root Entrepreneurship* (pp vii-viii). New Delhi: Dominant Publishers and Distributors.

Rajagopalan, Sashi. (2005).Micro credit and women's empowerment: The Lokadrusti case. In Neera Burra.Joy Deshmukh – Ranadive and RanjanK.Murthy (Eds.) *Micro credit, poverty and Empowerment* (pp 245-285). New Delhi: Sage.

Rao,V.M.(2004).*Empowering Rural Women*. New Delhi: Anmol Publications

Rao, M.V.(2005).Socio-Economic Development of Women: A case study of Self Help Groups in Midnapore District. In Purnendu Sekhar Das (Ed.) *Decentralised Planning and Participating Rural Development*(pp 155-172.).New Delhi: Concept Publishing.

Rao, Mohan, R.M., (2000) A Study of Women Self-help Groups in Andhra Pradesh. Thesis submitted to Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, and Retrieved from ietd.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/672/18/18_.pdf, pp 243-253

Sarkar, A.N. (2003).Innovations in Self Help Group led Micro finance Development: Programmes Sharing of global experience, *Indian Cooperative Review*, 4(1), 12- 31.

Sarkar, Samir & Swati Baishya(2012)Impact of Microfinance in Women Empowerment of Assam,BARNOLIPI - An Interdisciplinary Journal. I(V),46-69.

Satyasai, K.J.S. (2002). Micro finance in India: Progress and Perspective. In Suresh Pal, Mruthyunjaya, P.K.Joshi, Raka Saxena (Eds.) *Institutional change in Indian Agriculture* (pp305-320).New Delhi: National Centre for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research.

Sathiyabama and Meeenakshi Saratha (2011)Women Empowerment And Self Help Groups In Mayiladuthurai Block, Nagapattinam District, Tamil Nadu. *International Journal Of Research In Commerce & Management*. 2 (9),112-118.

Simanowitz, Anton & Alice Walter (2002).Ensuring impact. Retrieved from www.imp-act.org.

Singh., Y K., S. K. Kaushal & S.S. Gautam (2007) Performance of women's Self Help Groups in District Moradabad, U.P. *International journal of Rural Studies*, 14 (2), 1-5.

Sinha, Frances. (2006). *SELF HELP GROUPS IN INDIA: A study of the lights and shades*. Hyderabad: A.P.Mahila Abhivruddhi Society

Subramaniam,S.(2010).Empowerment of women through SHGs in Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu-A SWOT analysis, *Prabandhan: Indian Journal of Management*,3(3),37-40.

Suguna.B. (2006).Empowerment of rural women through Self Hep Groups. New Delhi: Discovery Publishing House. p 37.

Surender, Sunil Kumari, Ramesh Kumar Sehwat Can Self - Help Groups Generate Employment Opportunity for Rural Poor?*European Journal of Social Sciences*. 19(3),371-379.

Swain, Ranjula Bali., & Fan Yang Wallentin. (2007). Does Micro finance Empower women Evidence from Self Help Groups in India. Uppsala Universitet, Working paper 2007-24, August 2007.Retrieved from [.http://www. nekuu.se./working papers.htm](http://www.nekuu.se/working_papers.htm).

Swain, Ranjula Bali & Wallentin, Fan Yang (2008).Economic or Non-Economic Factors – What Empowers Women? Working Paper 2008:11.*Department of Economics*. Uppsala University, Retrieved from <http://www.nek.uu.se>

Tamizoli.P.,(2004).Mainstreaming Gender concerns in Mangrove Conservation and Management: The Pichavaram coast, Tamil Nadu. In Sumi. Krishna. (Ed.) *Livelihoods & Gender* (pp92-108).New Delhi: Sage publications.

Vadivoo, Senthil. K., &Sekar,V. (2004). Self Help Groups a movement for women services: How the poor India could be better served, *Kissan World*,31(7),13-14.

Venkatachalam,A. & Jeyapragash,A. (2004).Self-Help Group in Dindigul District, *Kisan World*,31(10),29-30.