

## **CHAPTER 5**

### **FINDINGS, SUGGESTIONS & CONCLUSION**

#### **Introduction**

This chapter discusses the findings of the study on the impact of SHG on socio-economic empowerment of rural livelihoods from Anand and Panchmahal the results derived from primary data analysis, this chapter also provides suggestions and conclusions.

#### **5.0. Findings of the study**

##### **5.1 Information about the SHGS**

The study found that the widely held SHG groups had been operational for more than two years, and few groups have been operational for more than two years and above, according to the findings of the widely held SHG was formed in 2018 with 44.8 %, followed by groups that were formed in 2016 with 29.5 %, while 13.1 % of the SHGs were formed in 2017 and 12.6 % of the SHG were formed in 2015.

##### **5.2. Personal information (demographic details)**

- **Age:** The study revealed the age distribution of the SHG participants, a larger percentage of the SHG members belonged to the middle age group of 35-34 years with 68.3 % followed by 18-34 years with 30.6 % and the age group of above 55 years with 1.1. %, based on the findings the middle age group and the younger age take part more in SHG than any other age group.
- **Marital status:** The study found that a higher number of the participants, 76 % were married, followed by 13.1 % p were single, while 18.7% of the members were widows and only 2.2 % of the participants were separated.

- **Education status:** The outcomes of the education status of the SHG participants discovered the education of the household participants of the SHGs, the widely held of the participants 56.8 % had primary school education followed 9.3 % had middle school education, 13.1 % had secondary education, 6.6 % members had other forms of education whilst only 4.4 % had higher secondary and 9.9 % of the SHG participants never attended any formal school they were illiterate.

**The annual income:** The study findings revealed the annual income of the SHG members, 3.3 % of their annual income was less than 15,000 Rupees while 80.3 % of the participants had an annual income of Rs 15000 -25000 and 16.4 % had an annual income of Rs 25000 to 35000 above, has made known that widely held of the members had an annual income of Rs 15000 to 25000.

The study also revealed the period in which participants of the SHG have been participating in the group as members, the widely held members have been partaking in their groups for 1-2 years. The findings indicated that (166) 90.7 % have been in the group for 1-2 years and 5.5 % of the participants have been in the group for more than three years while 3.8 % of members had been in the group for less than a year.

**Objective 1:** To examine the impact of members' participation in SHGs on their household's socio-economic status.

The study found that 94.5 % of the participants have gained a better image in their households while 5.5 % of the respondent did not get a better image as a result of their involvement in

The participants of the SHG after joining SHG can now spend some money or income independently without being dependent on their spouses, 91.3 % of the participants of the SHG can spend money and income independently while 8.9 % of the participants after joining SHG

cannot spend income or money on their own, and did not make any improvement since their involvement in the SHG.

The study found that the condition of members has been improved since involvement in SHG, the study established that 94.5 % of the participant's situation had improved since their involvement in SHG while 5.5 % of the participants did not make any improvement since their participation in the SHG, the widely held of the SHG members have made tremendous improvement as a result of their membership in the SHG.

The study established that there were economic improvements in the household of the participants of the SHG, the widely held of the participants 95.6 % had made improvements in the previous year while only 4.4 % of the household of the participants of the SHG did not make any economic improvements in the past year.

**Objective 2:** To find out the reasons for joining SHGs

SHG serves the rural households as a tool for empowerment, there were many reasons why participants joined SHG. The ultimate aim of SHGs is to accomplish empowerment and lessen poverty. The study results disclosed the reasons why the members of the SHG joined the group, the study found that (40) 21.9 % of participants joined to improve social status, (103) 56.3 % of participants joined to improve their economic status while (26) 14.2 % members had joined to obtain financial support and (14) 7.7 % of the participants by the encouragement of friends and relations.

The results establish that SHG benefited the participants in uplifting the 'socioeconomic' position and their family circle, it was found that 90.7 % of the participants approved that SHG benefited them in uplifting their 'socio and economic status' while 9.3 % of the participants objected that SHG helped them in uplifting their socio-economic position.

### **5.3. The economic activities taken up by SHG participants**

The study found that participants of the SHG have been engaged in various income-generation accomplishments, at the individual level, 70.5 % were tied up in agriculture and related activities while 12 % were involved in livestock and forestry, 7.7 % of the participants were engaged in construction and 9.8 % were tied up in trade and commerce, the widely held of the members were tangled in agriculture and related activities in these two districts.

The study establish that the SHG members were involved in other kinds of economic activities through their SHG, study findings revealed that 77.6 % were not convoluted at all in economic undertakings through their SHG and only 22.4 % were involved in income-generating activities through their SHG.

The study revealed the type of income-generating undertakings in which participants were tied up through their SHG. 6.6 % of the participants were involved in the home needs production, 9.3 % of the participants were doing petty business while 9.3 the members were engaged in agriculture and associated activities and the widely held of the participants 77.6 % were not tangled in any economic accomplishments through their SHGS.

**Objective 3:** To study the economic level of members

- **The Impact of SHGs on households and the Welfare of members**

The upsurge of the asset and income in the household improved the standard of living of the SHG participants and their households. Asset accumulation and ownership are some of the indicators of the welfare of the family. The study inquires about the asset accumulation owned by the SHG participants, the study establish that 72.7 % owned livestock followed by 19.3 % of the who own television and radio while 3.3 % owned a car and 3.3 % members owned a bicycle and only 1.1 % of the members own other varieties of possessions.

- **Benefits of SHG in uplifting the socio-economic status**

The members were questioned if the SHG were beneficial in uplifting 'socioeconomic' status, the study found that 90.7 % agreed that SHG were beneficial in uplifting the 'socio-economic status' while 9.3 % of the participants disagreed, the widely held of the participants believe that the SHGs are beneficial, in uplifting the 'socio-economic position of their family.

The study found that as a consequence of the 'economic independence ' of the members of the SHGs, they have got a better image in their household, has shown that 94.5 % agreed that they have gained a better image in their households while 5.5 % of members did not get a better image as a consequence of their involvement in SHG.

### **Ownership of the house**

Possession of a house provides a sense of safety and belonging to the participants and their households. House is a source of self-esteem and dignity for the participants. The researcher set some dwelling indicators in which the study makes an effort to enquire about the ownership of the house of the SHG members, to assess the welfare members at the household level. The study results found that the widely held of the members owned houses with 89.1 % whilst 1.1 % of the participants, lived in 'rented' houses and 9.9 % lived in other forms of houses.

Similarly, on the ownership of the house, the study attempt to study the household welfare of the SHG participants and inquire if the house in which they reside has electrical power connections, 93.4 % of their houses have a connection to electricity and only 6.6 % of members they do not have electricity connection on their houses.

- **Type of school children of SHG participants attend**

The results show the types of schools in which the children of participants of the SHG go, according to the outcomes of the study findings 54.1 % go to public schools, 20.8 % go to private schools while 3.3 % of the participants go to both schools, 'public and private schools and 21.9 % either they don't have children in schools or it does not apply to them.

The major source of the school fees for the children of the participants of the SHG, 39.3 % the main source of the school fees was business through SHG, whilst 40.4 % of the participants indicated that farming was the main source of the school fees and 2.7 % of the participants have other unspecified means source of school fees while 17.7 % do not have children in school or it does not apply to them.

#### **5.4. The Impact of SHGs on households and the Welfare of members (Dwelling Indicator)**

The study set and compiled various dwelling indicators to assess the household housing welfare status of SHG participants, the study make an effort to know the material of the barriers/wall of the house-made, it was discovered that the widely held of the SHG participants 87.4 % the barrier/wall of their houses were made of cement followed by 3.8 % of participants the walls of their house were made of baked(burnt) bricks, 3.3 % of the participants the walls/barriers of the house were made from mud and pole, 2.7 % of the respondent the barrier/wall of their house was made from Sun-dried (unburnt) bricks while 1.6 % of the SHG participants the walls of their household was made from grass and only 1.1. % of the respondent of the SHG the wall of their household was made of stones.

Similarly, on the same dwelling indicators, the study assessed the kind of materials the roof was made from, the study establish that 2.2 % of the participants 77 % of the respondent's roof of their house was made from Asbestos/tiles/concrete, 13.1 % of the participants the roof of the house was made from Corrugated iron, 1.1 % of the house of the respondent, the roof was made from plastic and while 6.6 % of the participants the roof of their houses were made from other unspecified materials.

- **Material of the floor**

The study revealed the material of the floor of the houses of the SHG members which material was made off, the results have shown that 7.7 % of the floor of their houses were made from earth soil, 44.8 % floor of their houses was made of cement, 45.9 % of the SHG participants their house floor was made of tiles and 1.1 % SHG participants the floor of their house was made of other forms of materials. Based on these results the widely held participant's material of the floor of the house was made of cement.

- **Source of cooking fuel**

The study assesses the source of the cooking fuel of the household of the participants of the SHGs. The results have shown that 8.7 % used fuelwood, 2.2 % used charcoal for cooking, 1.1% used paraffin while 2.2 % of the households used electricity and 85.8 % of the participants used bottled gas for cooking. The widely held of the members were using bottled gas for cooking.

**Objective 4:** To study the level of economic and social empowerment of SHG women members.

#### **5.7. The extent to which SHGs have further led to the social and economic empowerment of members.**

In the study to assess the level of economic empowerment of the SHG participant in the household, several indicators were used to gauge how SHG has further led to the empowerment of the participants of SHG. If substantial changes took place in their livelihoods, indicators such as; the creation of personal assets, increased the ability to support family, an increase in income in the family, an increase in the ability to make decisions regarding the utilization of money or credit were used etc. It was established that 36.6 % experienced a low level of economic empowerment, followed by 42.6 % experienced a moderate level and only 20.8 % have a high level of empowerment, the widely held the SHG participant experienced a moderate level of economic empowerment among the participants of the SHG and their households.

Similarly, to assess the extent of social empowerment of the participants of the SHG indicators were set, these indicators include; an increase in self-confidence, an increase in decision-making for family, an increase in support during a social crisis in the family, increased recognition in the community if the value was given by family members in crucial decisions etc. the study found that 45.9 % experienced a low level of social empowerment, followed by 28.4 % with a moderate level of empowerment only 25.7 % have a high level of empowerment, the study institute that the widely held SHG members did not make a tremendous improvement in social empowerment.



### **Training of the SHG participants**

The research has shown a lack of training among the participants of the SHGs was common, in all the two districts the widely held of the respondents indicated that they haven't got any kind of training either from NGOs or Government organisations.

### **5.8. Hypothesis testing**

Pearson r correlations were used to test the hypothesis between economic empowerment and an increase in the ability to support the family.

According to the findings Pearson correlation test results clearly stated that there was a significant association between the 'economic empowerment' of SHG participants and increased ability to support the household of the participants of the SHGs.

### **6.1. Suggestions and Recommendations**

The following suggestions have been provided by the researcher for consideration in the successful functioning of SHGs and the empowerment of rural households. Based on the outcome of the analysis of the study the following suggestive measures can be put into consideration.

#### **Recommendations**

- Training is required to increase for participants from the initial stage of the group formation. Members should have some prior knowledge or skill before starting the SHG. This will help to contribute to the skills of the participants.
- More collaborative efforts are required from the government, NGOs and training agencies and other stakeholders for the proper training for technical as well as managerial aspects of SHG businesses.

- Economic activity by SHGs is an employment creation scheme, but the income generated by most of the SHGs is too small. Attention needs to be concentrated on the development of technical skills for the participants.
- The topic can be replicated and conducted at the regional level or state level to gain more insight into the empowerment of rural households through SHGs in poverty extermination and ‘socio-economic’ elevation of the poor on a limited sample size from a specified area. So, more comprehensive and similar empirical studies are required for confirming the results.
- It is suggested that Government and Non-Government organizations jointly draw efforts to enlighten the members on the proper utilization of loans. Effective supervision over the utilization of loans should also be done which would be useful in the long run.

## **6.2. Conclusion**

Several studies, on SHG, had been conducted on various aspects and issues, such as the role of empowerment, extermination of poverty etc. The results of most of these studies are more or less the same and a repetition. Most studies concluded that SHGs have a noteworthy role in the socio-economic upliftment or empowerment of rural people.

But based on the study conclusions have shown some positive outcomes of SHGs on the empowerment of rural households in terms of social and economic empowerment, economic independence, asset creation etc., the SHG has allowed several participants of the SHG and their families to achieve social recognition within their households.

Furthermore, the findings had proved SHG as a gadget to boost the abilities of the SHG members and their families and uplift their ‘socio-economic’ empowerment. The study establishes that in terms of ‘socio-economic’ empowerment there was an achievement of empowerment of post SHG.

Empowerment does not only imply economic freedom but enhances the personal image and status of the participants of the SHG, the study also noted that SHGs performed well in various dimensions of livelihood when participants of the SHG and their households became economically independent.

As the involvement in SHGs has a notable effect on the household of the rural masses through the ‘socio-economic’ upliftment i.e. and the empowerment of the household. The functioning of the SHGs can be strengthened in such a way that the poor people can involve themselves with dedication in the SHG activities. In harmony with the role of SHGs as a means of socio-economic upliftment, its number and activities could be enlarged, widened and deepened. So, the initiative will have to be taken to make the participating members financially literate by providing a special awareness programme in this regard.

### **6.3. Scope for further research**

It would be very recommendable and necessary to conduct a similar study within the same area of research by involving some non-participants of SHG with an equivalent socio-economic background as a sample which will give more assimilated results to the research study and will be of better utility for the duty bearers who work in development sectors.

Besides, this study mainly strived to evaluate the influence of SHG and socio-economic dynamics on empowerment. So, a more comprehensive survey should be conducted by considering other important socio-economic factors apart from those considered in this study, which may give a more comprehensive understanding and overview of the impact of such factors on empowerment.