

Chapter-10

Conclusion

As a result of collective effort of the Government of India and Banks, more number of rural people has access to the benefits of the modern banking system. The SHG Bank linkage programme is yielding promising outcomes. Over the last five years, there has been a significant increase in the performance of the banks in terms of no. of saving linked, credit linked SHGs and loan repayment. Though there is a rapid increase in the no. of SHGs all over Gujarat, but the growth is not uniform throughout the state. The growth of SHGs is dominant with the commercial banks. All banks have major portion of women SHGs that means they are focusing on women empowerment. NPA of all banks are very low so it shows very good recovery of loan by banks and repayment of loan by all SHGs in Gujarat. The study was carried out of 510 women respondents, where 57.8 per cent were house wife, almost 49.8 per cent who are educated below 5th Standard and only 5.3 per cent were graduates. 90 per cent of the respondents were Hindus and rest is Islam and 90.6 per cent were married. 72.5 per cent of respondents were living in joint family and rest is in nuclear and 61.7 per cent of the respondents are from the reservation which includes OBC and SC category.

The overall conclusion that emerges from this study is that the most of the women members have joined SHGs for saving and financial constraints. The respondents save their money for mainly social occasions, food security and agriculture purpose. Majority of the respondents have taken loan for animal husbandry and social occasion. Data analysis indicated that after joining SHGs, the nature of employment of women had changed and improved compared to previous nature of work. The perception of women has changed towards the work and they started their own business like grocery shop, beauty parlor, weave work, purchasing milking buffalo and milking cow etc. The study reveals that most of the respondents involved in decision making in household after joining SHG. The socio-economic status of women has increased after joining SHG. From the study, six key socio-economic empowerment factors were identified from the exploratory factor analysis namely development in personality, enhancement in social attentiveness, enhancement in decision taking ability, increment in income generating activities, improvement in economic condition and improvement in financial liberation. The results of multiple regressions indicate that there is positive impact of microfinance services on self confidence, development of entrepreneurship skill, reduction of poverty, improvement in standard of living, improvement in social status of women members. Women feel fearless, open and self-confident after joining self-help group. It can be concluded that there is positive impact of micro finance activity on socio-economic indicators of women members.