

ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

TITLE OF THE THESIS: “SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH SELF-HELP GROUPS: A CASE STUDY OF DISTRICT OF NORTH 24 PARGANAS”

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Abstract: Women are the most deprived section in the society across the country as well as in the world. Most of them couldn't get the opportunity to acquire academic education, health, employment etc. unlike men. Though they play a significant role in the family but they are not able to share their opinion even regarding family issues. Discrimination against women in the male dominated society reflects the poor status of the women. It is impossible to develop a country by keeping women population sideways. In this respect, empowerment of women is required, which can change the status of the women. Women empowerment is a process, through which women can access the resources like education, employment, health etc. The Self Help Groups play a vital role in poverty eradication and empowerment of women. The involvement of women in Self Help Groups (SHGs) made a significant impact on their empowerment in social, economic and political aspects etc. This study reflects the empowerment of women through self help groups of Baduria, Deganga, Habra-I Blocks and South Dum Dum Municipality of North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal. The information of the study has been collected from both the primary and secondary sources. A random sampling method has been followed. Data analysis assists the study to identify the impact of the SHGs on women. The outcome of the study is that the SHGs are playing a vital role for women empowerment. Success of the SHGs has not been only enhanced the economic condition of the family but also has been brought some changes of the women status. This study indicates the positive socio-economic impact of the SHG model. Few major constraints are the lack of support facilities from the government level for marketing their products, adequate training, bank financing and government grants, which should be addressed the government for better empowerment of women.

Key words: Women Empowerment, Self Help Groups (SHGs), Micro-Credit, SHG Movement, North 24 Parganas