

## **Chapter VIII**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS**

This Chapter presents summary, conclusion and suggestions of the study.

### **Major findings of the Study**

- Regarding age composition of the sample respondents, it is observed from the study that more than half of the sample respondents belong to productive age group, i.e., 30-45 years, while less than one third of the sample respondents belong to below 30 years age group.
- With regard to social category of the sample respondents, it is revealed from the study that about three fifths of the sample respondents are from Other Backward Classes (OBC), while one fourth of the sample respondents are from Scheduled Castes (SC). The study also comprises of sample respondents from other categories as well.
- Regarding religion of the sample respondents, it is revealed from the study that about ninety per cent of the sample respondents in the present study are Hindus.
- With regard to literacy level of the sample respondents, the study finds that around two fifths of the sample respondents are illiterates, while the rest are literates. On the whole, about one fifths of the sample respondents had completed their primary education, while one sixth of the sample respondents had studied upto Secondary education.

- Regarding marital status of the sample respondents, it is deduced from the study that more than ninety per cent of the sample respondents are currently married.
- As far as type of family of the sample is concerned, it is clear from the study that three fourths of the sample respondents are living in nuclear families.
- Regarding residential accommodation of the sample respondents, it is revealed from the study that more than half of the sample respondents are living in tiled house, while residential accommodation for about one third of the sample respondents is pucca house.
- Regarding occupation of the sample respondents, it is evident from the study that only ten per cent of the sample respondents reported no occupation. In the present study, nearly half of the sample respondents are agricultural labour.
- As regards landholdings of the sample respondents, it is obvious from the study that nearly three fourths of the sample respondents didn't possess landholdings.
- With regard to annual income of the sample respondents, it is indicated from the study that annual income of the around two thirds of the sample respondents is below ₹ 50,000/-, while it ranges from ₹ 50,000/- to ₹ 1,00,000/- in the case of around one fourth of the sample respondents.

- An analysis of annual expenditure of the sample respondents reveals that annual expenditure of nearly three fourths of the sample respondents is below ₹ 50,000/-.
- Regarding indebtedness of the sample respondents, it is found from the study that more than three fourths of the sample respondents reported having debt.
- As regards amount of debt, it is noted from the study that amount of debt exceeds ₹ 25,000/- in the case of more than half of the sample respondents, while it ranges from ₹ 10,000/- to ₹ 25,000/- in the case of one third of the sample respondents, who had debt.
- With regard to reasons for joining SHGs, it is observed from the study that just little over two fifths of the sample respondents are found to be joined SHGs for developing savings habit, whereas around one fifth of the sample respondents are found to be joined the groups for meeting unexpected demand for cash.
- Regarding homogeneity of the group, it is noted from the study that all the group members are found to be from same socio-economic background in the case of more than ninety per cent of the sample respondents.
- The data with respect to group size of the sample respondents shows that group size of more than ninety per cent of the sample groups is ranging from ten to fifteen.

- As far as age of the sample SHGs is concerned, it is noted from the study that nearly three fourths of the sample respondents are found to be formed 5 to 10 years ago, whereas about one sixth of the sample respondents are formed more than 10 years ago.
- As regards literate members in the group, it is clear from the study that few members are literates in the case of just little over two fifths of the sample respondents' groups, while majority of the members are literates in the case of about one fifth of the sample respondents.
- With regard to selection of Group Leaders, it is revealed from the study that group leaders were selected unanimously in the case of three fourths of the sample respondents, while it is observed in the case of rest of the sample respondents that group leaders are selected by election.
- Regarding rotation of leadership, it is deduced from the study that there is no rotation of leadership in the case of huge chunk of the sample respondents.
- As regards rules and regulations of the sample SHGs, it is revealed from the study that kind of rules and regulations for running the group are oral in the case of three fifths of the sample respondents, while in the case of rest of the sample respondents' groups, there are written rules and regulations for running the group.
- As far as awareness of rules and regulations to the sample respondents is concerned, it is noticed from the study that rules and

regulations are known to all the members in the case of one third of the members, while rules and regulations are known to most of the members in the case of just little over another one third of the sample respondents.

- An analysis of data regarding updating of the rules and regulations reveals that very negligible percentage of the sample respondents' groups are found to be updating the rules and regulations.
- As regards co-operation among members, it is observed from the study that there is good cooperation among the group members in the case of more than ninety per cent of the sample respondents' groups.
- Regarding regularity in savings, it is found that there is regularity in savings in the case of more than three fourths of the sample respondents' groups.
- With regard to credit planning, it is obvious from the study that there is no credit planning in the group in the case of more than ninety per cent of the sample respondents' groups.
- As regards purpose of loan utilization, it is noted from the study that sample respondents reported various purposes such as children education, purchase of gold, consumption purposes, function expenses and income generating activity. Nearly two thirds of the sample respondents are found to be utilized the SHG loan amount towards income generating activities. At the next level, major

purposes are found to be purchase of gold and children education expenses.

- Regarding source of loan repayment, it is evident from the study that more than two fifths of the sample respondents are found to be repaying the loan amount out of the income from own economic activity, while one third of the sample respondents are found to be repaying the loan amount out of the income from spouses. It is striking to note from the study that about one fifth of the sample respondents are repaying the SHG loan amount through borrowings from others.
- With regard to repayment performance of bank loans, it is obvious from the study that all members pay regularly loan installment in the case of nearly three fifths of the sample respondents, while majority of the members are found to be paying regularly in the case of around one third of the sample respondents. It is found from the field survey that when a member didn't pay the loan installment amount, they are repaying the loan installment amount out of the SHGs internal savings funds.
- As far as repayment performance of the SHG internal loan is concerned, it is obvious from the study that all the members are repaying regularly in the case of ninety five per cent of the sample respondents' groups.

- As regards fines in the case of default in repayment, it is observed from the study that no fines are being imposed for default in repayment in the case of nearly three fourths of the sample respondents' groups.
- Regarding fines in the case of default in savings, it is noted from the study that fines are not being imposed in the case of default in savings in the case of more than three fourths of the sample respondents' groups.
- Regarding decrease in group savings, it is evident from the study that there is no decrease in group savings over a period of time in the case of more than ninety per cent the sample respondents' groups.
- With regard to bookkeeping, it is evident from the study that nearly one third of the sample respondents are hiring a person to look after book keeping as they are not well educated, whereas literate daughter/son of the Group leader are found to be looking book keeping in the case of about one fourth of the sample respondents' groups. Group Leader sees the book keeping in the case of another one fifth of the sample respondents' groups, while literate member in the group looks after the book keeping in the case of nearly one sixth of the sample respondents' groups.
- The data with respect to group meetings shows that meetings are held generally monthly once in the case of about three fifths of the respondents' groups.

- As far as decision on timings of the meetings is concerned, it is evident from the study that Group Leader decides the timings of the group meetings in the case of about two fifths of the sample respondents' groups, whereas majority of the members fix the timings of the group meetings in the case of another two fifth of the sample respondents' groups.
- An analysis of regularity in conducting meetings reveals that there is regularity in conducting meetings in the case of more than ninety per cent of the sample respondents' groups.
- As regards attendance to the group meetings, it is deduced from the study that nearly half of the sample respondents are attending the group meetings regularly, while one fourth of the sample respondents are attending the meetings whenever convenient.
- Regarding decrease in attendance to group meetings, it is observed from the study that there is no decrease in attendance to the group meetings in the case of more than three fourths of the sample respondents.
- An analysis of penalty for not attending group meetings reveals that there is no penalty either for late attendance to the group meetings or for not attending the group meetings in the case of more than ninety per cent of the sample respondents' groups.
- With regard to participation in group discussion, it is seen from the study that there is participation by all members in the discussion in

the group meeting in the case of more than half of the sample respondents' groups, whereas participation by majority of the group members is found in the case of nearly one third of the sample respondents' groups.

- As far as style of functioning and group decisions is concerned, the study divulges that there is democratic and transparent functioning in the case of more than three fourths of the sample respondents' groups.
- As regards decision making within the group, it is deduced from the study that decisions within the group are being taken unanimously in the case of just little over two thirds of the sample respondents' groups, while in the case of rest of the groups, it is found that decisions within the group are being taken according to opinion of the majority of the group members.
- Regarding decision on financial transactions, it is observed that from the study that opinion of the majority members is being taken while taking decision on financial transactions of the group in the case of two thirds of the sample respondents.
- An analysis of capacity building attempts of the groups reveals that no capacity building inputs are received by sample respondents' groups at the time of receiving bank loan in the case of more than nine per cent of the sample respondents'.
- With regard to dependence on outsiders, it is observed from the study that about one third of the respondents' groups are found to be

dependent on outsider for various services to a great extent, whereas nearly one fourth of the sample respondents' groups are found to be dependent on outsiders for various services to a considerable extent.

- As far as opinion of the sample respondents on bank authorities is concerned, it is noted from the study that considerable extent of problems with the banks like rude behaviour, undue delays, etc. are reported by just little over half of the sample respondents, whereas around two fifths of the sample respondents reported little extent of problems.
- As regards adequacy of loan amount, it is evident from the study that loan amount is inadequate in the opinion of the nearly three fourths of the sample respondents to a great extent.
- Regarding opinion of the sample respondents on the amount of installment for repayment of loan, it is noted from the study that quantum of installment amount is a problem to a great extent in the case of nearly three fourths of the sample respondents.
- As far as impact of the SHGs on the sample respondents is concerned, it is found from the study that confidence building is developed among sample women after associating with SHGs. Confidence building is achieved in terms of confidence to talk within family, confidence to talk in SHG meeting, confidence to talk in public, improvement in technical and practical skills, acquisition of skills for income

generation and physical mobility out of the village in the case of more than three fourths of the sample respondents.

- With regard to Self-esteem, the study divulges that ‘self-esteem’ is developed in the case of more than three fourths of the sample women respondents after joining SHGs. ‘Self-esteem’ is developed in terms of self image in the family, self – image in the community and self reliance.
- Regarding decision making pattern after joining SHGs, the data shows that importance of sample women in decision making pattern is increased with respect to education of children, family planning and family and social functions in the case of more than three fourths of the sample respondents.
- With regard to capacity building, it is obvious from the study that capacity building is found to be developed among sample women as a result of SHGs in terms of ability to take risk, ability to understand and solve problems and ability to take criticism is improved in the case of more than two thirds of the sample respondents.
- As regards psychological impact, it is found from the study that hope about the future is increased after joining SHGs in the case of more than ninety per cent of the sample respondents. The study further finds that overall satisfaction with the life is achieved by more than ninety per cent of the sample respondents after joining SHGs.

- With regard to social empowerment, it is observed from the study that social empowerment is achieved by more than three fourths of the sample women after joining SHGs in terms of team spirit, improvement in communication skills, participation in social activities, reduction in domestic violence, awareness about government development programmes, awareness on social problems and freedom and empowerment of women after joining SHGs.
- Regarding economic empowerment, the study reveals that economic empowerment is achieved by more than eighty per cent of the sample respondents after joining SHGs in terms of decision making to make household purchases, increased income, influence over economic resources, control of use of credit, participation in economic decisions, increase in consumption expenditure and decrease in health expenditure.

## **Conclusion**

To conclude, it can be said that there is good cooperation among the group members in the case of huge percentage of the sample respondents' groups. Regularity in savings is observed in the case of more than three fourths of the sample respondents' groups. There is no credit planning in the group in the case of huge percentage of the sample respondents' groups.

Majority of the sample respondents are found to be utilized the SHG loan amount towards income generating activities. Majority of the sample respondents are found to be repaying the loan amount out of the income

from own economic activity. All members pay regularly loan installment in the case of nearly three fifths of the sample respondents. All the members are repaying regularly in the case of largest percentage of the sample respondents' groups. No fines are being imposed for default in repayment in the case of majority of the sample respondents' groups. Fines are not being imposed in the case of default in savings in the case of majority of the sample respondents' groups. There is no decrease in group savings over a period of time in the case of huge chunk of the sample respondents' groups. Majority of the sample respondents are hiring a person to look after book keeping as they are not well educated.

Meetings are held generally monthly once in the case of majority of the respondents' groups. Group Leader decides the timings of the group meetings in the case of majority of the sample respondents' groups. There is regularity in conducting meetings in the case of largest percentage of the sample respondents' groups. Nearly half of the sample respondents are attending the group meetings regularly. There is no decrease in attendance to the group meetings in the case of huge percentage of the sample respondents. There is no penalty either for late attendance to the group meetings or for not attending the group meetings in the case of huge percentage of the sample respondents' groups.

There is participation by all members in the discussion in the group meeting in the case of more than half of the sample respondents' groups. There is democratic and transparent functioning in the case of majority of the sample respondents' groups. Decisions within the group are being taken

unanimously in the case of majority of the sample respondents' groups. Majority members' decisions are being taken while taking decision on financial transactions of the group in the case of two thirds of the sample respondents.

No capacity building inputs are received by sample respondents' groups at the time of receiving bank loan in the case of largest percentage of the sample respondents'. Nearly one third of the respondents' groups are found to be dependent on outsider for various services to a great extent. Considerable extent of problems with the banks like rude behaviour, undue delays, etc. are reported by just little over half of the sample respondents. Loan amount is inadequate in the opinion of the nearly three fourths of the sample respondents to a great extent. Quantum of installment amount is a problem to a great extent in the case of majority of the sample respondents.

Women participation in Self-help Groups had resulted in empowering them in all spheres of life, say, socially, economically and psychologically. Confidence is built among the sample women after joining SHGs. Self-esteem is achieved by the sample women. Women are actively participated in decision making in the household after joining SHGs. However, decision making with respect to major purchases and vote on own is not achieved in the case of majority of the sample respondents.

## **Suggestions**

In the light of the above findings of the study, the following suggestions are offered to protect internal health of the SHGs as well as for their long – term sustainability.

- Government should take steps to inculcate formulating plans to spend the SHG loan amount.
- SHGs be advised to impose fines to their members for default in repayment.
- Adequate training be imparted to group members by the NGOs and other Government officials to aware about bank loan, proper accounts keeping, self management, decision making etc. Based on past experience, SHG trainers have to necessarily come from SHGs as experienced SHG members can be very effective trainers and motivators. They need to be effectively supported to train SHGs.
- Banks should be advised to smoothly interact and function with the SHGs since most of the women in these groups are illiterates and unaware of bank procedures. There is an urgent need to provide good quality training and exposure to all the bank officials in rural and urban areas to actively support the SHG Bank linkage and respond to the demand.
- Loan amount being given to the SHGs be enhanced keeping in view of the present inflation in the country.

- The Government must provide good percentage of subsidy on SHG loans. Otherwise, Government must repay certain portion of loan installment every month as matching with the loan installment amount paid by the SHG members.
- All SHGs must have a system of annual elections to elect their leaders. Even if the SHG re-elects the same leaders, the election must be conducted to promote democracy in SHGs. All the members of SHG must have a chance to become a leader of their SHG.
- Attendance to the group meetings should be made mandatory so that the members can enhance their group cohesiveness.

\* \* \*