

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Conclusion and Suggestions

5.1 Introduction

This chapter discusses the major findings of the present study and provides suggestions to the Self -Help Groups, Government, general public, NGOs, Banks and financial institutions. Women are considered as life partners in a men's family life and supposed to have equal right in the house and outside the house. But in real life their social, economical and political status are found much lower than that of the men. In our country, women population constituted around 50 per cent and they also constituted 50 per cent of the work force in our country. Unless these set of population is developed, the economy cannot progress in positive direction. If, women get their due position and recognition in the society, they could think and act independently and participate in the on-going economic activities in an assertive manner. Self help group approach is seen as one of the avenue to channelize the under privileged women folks in the economic activities.

From the study, it has been concluded that the main motive behind formation of SHG is to generate some kind of income for the group activities and support their family with the supplementary income what they can generate from group activities. In many groups the leader was the main motivator and the NGO played a vital role in building each group. The study found that there is a shift in using in banking and medical facilities by the members. The various skill development programme given by NGO or Govt. agencies has induced the thought of developing micro enterprise in each group. Though majority are in nascent stage every group have their own plan to become an entrepreneur. After joining SHG their overall knowledge of politics, health care, cleanliness, planning for future, agriculture related activities has gone to next level.

NABARD defines Self Help Groups as ‘a homogenous group of rural poor voluntary formed to save whatever amount they can conveniently save out of their earnings and mutually agree to contribute and emergent credit needs’. The members of SHGs comprises of very poor women, mainly of rural background who do not have access to formal financial institutions. They act as the forum for the members to provide space and support to each other. It also enables the members to learn to cooperate and work in a group environment. The SHGs provide savings mechanism, which suits the needs of the members. It also provides a cost effective delivery mechanism for small credit to its members. The SHGs significantly contribute to the empowerment of poor women by involving them in some productive activity which in turn will yield something to overcome their poverty. A new programmes known as ‘Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana’ (SGSY) has been launched from April 1999. This is a holistic programme covering all aspects of self-employment such as organisation of the poor in to Self-Help Groups, training, credit, technology, infrastructure and marketing. SHGs need credit support to undertake income generating activities which the self-help groups undertake is marketing of commodities manufactured by them. NGO helps the SHGs in procuring raw materials and also marketing of the produce.

The main objectives of SHG is to inculcate the habit of thrift savings, banking culture, that is, availing the loan and repaying the same over a given period of time and in the process, again economic prosperity through credit. SHGs are mostly informal groups whose members pool their savings and relent within the group on rotational or need basis. SHGs have helped micro enterprises by women individually and as groups. The examples are raising vegetables in the land commonly owned, ready-made garment making, developing model farms - integrating agriculture, horticulture and animal husbandry, cultivation of medicinal herbs, Mushroom cultivation, pot making, stone

quarrying, sheep breeding and marketing wool, preparation of pickles, running canteens in Government office premises, taking on lease coconut groves, making sheet metal products, setting up mechanized dry cleaning centres, running public distribution outlets and so on. In a nutshell the SHGs have involved in activities of Manufacturing, Trading, Agriculture and Service activities. Self help groups provided outside employment income; reduced dependency; enhanced women's autonomy and assertiveness; raised women's prestige and status such that they had relatively better control over material resources.

In short it is seen that SHGs in the study area have greatly helped for the empowerment of rural women in Perambalur District. The following are the main findings and conclusions:

5.2 Socio-economic profile of the selected SHG members

Altogether 400 respondents were selected for the study consisting of 100 members from each block. In each block various villages are located in it. To study, the socio economic condition of the SHG members it's important to know about various factors such as religion and age. From the study, it is evident that majority of respondents belong to Hindu religion and sizeable population of Muslim representation was also found and they are concentrated in Perambalur block.

In the study, block- wise classification of SHG members on the basis of age and religion of the respondents has been analysed .The members were classified into five categories, according to their age groups such as below 25 years, 25-30 years, 30-35 years, 35-40 years and Above 40 years. From the analysis, it was found that the members are distributed across all categories but 75 per cent of the respondents are above 35 years.

5.2.1 Block-wise analysis of the respondents.

Block wise analysis of respondents were done on the basis of their age,income, tenure of existence, educational background etc.

a. Block-wise analysis on the basis of age and family income

The annual income of maximum SHG (Self Help Group) members come under the category of below Rs.25,000 and 108 members of SHG belong to the age group of above 40 years.

b. The block-wise classification of respondents on the basis of family income and tenure of existence of the SHGs

The highest income family with the longest tenure of existence of SHG is found in Perambalur block whereas that of the lowest income SHG family with minimum tenure of existence of SHG is from Alathur block in the study area.

c. The block-wise classification of SHG members on the basis of educational background

It is evident that maximum numbers of respondent (264) of the study are educated, whereas minimum number (79) of SHG members is illiterate in the selected study area in Perambalur district. This shows that education-wise, the SHG members included in the study are found to be mostly educated, more particularly in Veppur and Veppanthatai blocks.

5.2.2 Analysis on the basis of educational background of the respondents

a. Educational background of respondents on the basis of their age and type of family

It is very interesting to know from the study that members even below the age of 25 years had joined the SHGs. It shows the trend of youngsters to join the SHG. Even young graduates are also joining the Self Help Groups. This shows the awareness of the

young people towards growth of Self Help Groups and their interest to join the Self Help Groups. It is evident that Self Help group reached the next generation as well.

b. Analysis of Educational background of SHG members on the basis of family income and tenure of existence

SHG members with maximum 12 years of existence are found in the study. Further, graduates in the present study have their income below Rs. 25,000 annually. Overall, 134 members had studied till class eight in which majority 92 respondents have joined and completed 4 years of tenure existence in their respective SHGs.

5.2.3 Analysis on the basis of occupational background.

a. The block-wise classification of respondents on the basis of occupation and education qualification

It was found that Perambalur and Veppanthatai block consists of maximum number of educated members compared to Alathur block. In Veppur block, 64 respondents belong to house wife category, and maximum 24 members had completed their matric education. From the study it is clear that, Alathur block is lacking in education from other blocks such as Perambalur, Veppanthatai and Veppur.

b. Occupational background on the basis of age and family type

In the overall, majority members (224) of the study are house wife, while 74 SHG members were agricultural labour. Further there were 31 general labours. Interestingly in the study, 6 self-employed respondents are found in the district. While, maximum number of respondents is living in nuclear family.

c. Occupational background on the basis of family income and blocks

Occupational background on the basis of family income and blocks has been done under the study. Under the category of occupation of respondents of the self help groups. It can be concluded that maximum number of respondent in the self help group belong to the house wife occupation which contributes to 270 respondents. Agriculture labour is

87 while that of general labour contribute to 36. It is note worthy that in all occupational category, maximum members fall under the annual income of below Rs.25,000.

5.2.4 Analysis on the basis of religious background

a. The Block-wise classification of respondents on the basis of their religion and occupation

It is evident from the study that maximum members (357) of the entire four blocks are Hindu members and among them, maximum of them are house wives (268).

b. Religious classification of respondent on the basis of tenure of existence and education

Religious classification of respondents on the basis of tenure of existence of the concerned SHG and education has been done in the study. It can be concluded that maximum of 143 members of groups who have completed 4 years of tenure in existence belongs to the Hindu religion.

5.2.4 Analysis on the basis of community background

a. Block-wise classification of respondents on the basis of caste and education

In all the communities, the maximum members are house wives only, followed by the agricultural labour. General labour stands in the third position. From the analysis it is found that, very few respondents (5) are self-employed.

b. Community classification of respondents on the basis of family income and age

Community-wise classification of respondents on the basis of family income and age has been done under the study. It is found that among the SCs, 43 members fall under the category of age-group between 35 to 40 years in the annual income category ranging below Rs 25,000. Again, among the OBC category of community, of SHG members

maximum of 17 members belong to age above 41 years and they fall under the category annual income below Rs 25,000.in General category, it is found that maximum of 5 members belong to age group of above 41 years under the annual income of below Rs 25,000.

c. The community background of respondents on the basis of family type and tenure of existence

The community background of respondents on the basis of family type and tenure of existence has also been done. Among the SC community, 112 respondents belong to joint family, followed by 88 respondents who belonged to nuclear family. In case of OBC category, 11 respondents belong to joint family, whereas 48 respondents fall under nuclear family category. Among the general category, 16 respondents belong to nuclear family. Whereas maximum number of respondents have completed 4 year of tenure of existence.

Having analysed the socio-economic profile of the respondents, an attempt was made again to analyse the financial management skills of SHG members in Perambalur district.

5.3 The financial management skills of selected SHG women members

Analysis of financial management skills of SHG members after joining the Self Help Groups has been done. Financial management skills incorporated for this study comprises of:

- i.) Financial decision on utilization of fund, loan transactions, maintenance of accounts, loan distribution, auditing method, track record, book entry method, utilization of revolving fund, etc.
- ii.) The skills which enable the members to handle the financial processes like investment strategy,

iii.) Accounting methods followed by each SHG group members

5.3.1 Financial Decision

i. Utilization of Fund

Financial decision of utilizations of fund have been taken for the study and analyzed.

Here the decision taken to utilize the common fund has been categorized as decision by group meeting, on the basis of leader's advice and on the basis of NGO advice. It is concluded that utmost all the Self Help Groups in all four block, i.e. Alathur, Perambalur, Veppanthattai, and Veppur takes decision regarding utilization of common fund through group meetings only.

ii. Common fund account maintenance

Common Fund Account Maintenance has also been taken for the study. From the analysis, it is evident that maximum number of the members maintains separate bank account for the maintenance of common fund account.

iii. Block-wise Classification of Self Help Groups on the basis of Account Maintenance

Maintenance

Maximum i.e. 261 (65.3 per cent) of the members only maintain the account in form of bank passbook while that of 139 (34.8 per cent) members maintain both formal and informal account.

iv. Loan distribution decision

It was found that 179 (44.8 per cent) respondents agreed that the loan was distributed to them on the basis of common decision taken by all members; 107 (26.8 per cent) of the selected members informed that loan is distributed on the basis of individual member's request and that of 114 (28.5 per cent) responded that loan is given on rotational basis. At the same time, maximum number of self help group members agrees that decision

regarding loan distribution among members has been taken on the basis of common decision of all members.

iv. Auditing awareness

It was observed that 179 (44.8 per cent) members are aware of their SHG having done with auditing process every year, while that of 87 (21.8 per cent) members are not aware of any auditing. It is interesting to note that 132 (33.8 per cent) members were aware about auditing but they have no idea whether auditing of their group and individual account has been done or not.

v. Track record

Maximum of respondents are regular in loan repayment and very few regular defaulters are found in the study. It can thus be concluded that in the present study, a good track record is maintained by the SHG members in repayment of their loan.

It is noteworthy from the analysis that 4 (1 per cent) SHG members were found to be regular defaulters in repayment of their loans taken from their respective SHG.

vi. Type of entry in the account book

It is lucid that groups which have completed only 2 years are keeping only rough book for maintaining accounting records. But as the groups became older, they started maintaining records in government provided ledgers. As the SHGs' tenure of existence rises, the groups' had established account maintenance in both Government ledger book and rough book for keeping records.

vii. Types of financial training received by SHG members

Impact of financial management training on the improvement of financial management skills has been analysed. It is concluded here that out of 304 members who have attended training, 273 members agreed that the training have impact on improvement of financial management skills.

5.3.2 Credit rating and revolving fund

i. Eligibility criteria to get access to revolving fund from the Government

a. Sustainability as a group

From the analysis it can be concluded that maximum 254 (63.8 per cent) respondents consider sustainability as a group as very much important for getting revolving fund from the government.

b. Savings habit of the SHG members

Totally, it is evident that 51 (12.5 per cent) respondents had registered that savings habit as somewhat important, while 155(38.9 per cent) respondents believe savings habit as much important. Maximum of the respondents i.e. 192 (48.2 per cent) respondents had replied savings habit as very much important.

From the above analysis, it can be concluded that maximum respondents considered savings habit as very much important for getting revolving fund.

c. SHG Members Meeting

From the study, it is clear that majority of respondents i.e. 229 (57.5 per cent) considers members' meeting as much important and 79 (19.8 per cent) respondents reflected on members meeting as very much important for getting access to revolving fund. Only 45(11.3 per cent) members had responded that members meeting as somewhat important. On the other hand, 45 (11.3 per cent) members in the whole Perambalur district in the selected SHG had recorded that members meeting of the self help group as slightly unimportant for getting access to revolving fund,

From the above analysis, it has been observed that maximum respondents consider members' meeting as much important for getting first credit rating to become eligible for getting revolving funds.

d. Documentation of activities of Self Help Groups

In total, majority of 286 (71.9 per cent) members of the SHGs had registered that documentation of accounts, minutes, meeting, decision is much important for getting access to revolving fund. While 35 (8.8 per cent) considers documentation as slightly unimportant for getting access to revolving fund. And 77 (19.3per cent) respondents in Perambalur district from the selected SHG group had registered in the analysis that documentation as somewhat important for getting access to revolving fund.

It has also been observed that all together maximum 363 members of the SHG group considers documentation activities of Self Help groups as important for getting first credit rating to become eligible for availing the revolving funds.

e. Loan Culture in SHGs

Maximum 235 (59.0 per cent) respondents considered loan culture as somewhat important for getting first credit rating to become eligible for receiving revolving funds, followed by 139 (34.9 per cent) considering loan culture as slightly unimportant. Only 24 (6.0 per cent) respondents considered loan culture as extremely unimportant for getting fund from the government.

f. Good loan repayment culture of SHG members

Out of the total 400(100 per cent) respondents, only 20(5.0 per cent) respondents considered good repayment culture as extremely unimportant while 102 (25.5 per cent) respondents had registered that loan repayment culture of the group and group members as slightly unimportant for getting fund for revolving fund. Further, maximum number

174 (43.5 per cent) of respondents consider good repayment culture as somewhat important. When 21 (5.2 per cent) respondents consider this is much important, maximum i.e. 83 (20.8 per cent) respondents considered good loan repayment culture as very much important.

From the analysis it has been observed that maximum i.e. 174 (43.5 per cent) respondents consider good loan repayment as somewhat important for getting funds from the government.

g. Utilization of Revolving Fund

Block-wise classification of revolving funds for providing internal loans or buying productive assets like live stocks (goats, chickens, emu bird etc.) and sewing machines or to deposit in banks were analysed

i. Block-wise use of money getting from revolving funds for providing internal loans

Internal loan is the amount provided to SHG members from the income generated by the SHGs including revolving fund and group savings . It can be concluded that among all the four block in Veppur block, maximum of respondents utilize their revolving fund for internal loaning.

ii. Block-wise use of money getting from revolving funds for buying productive assets and live-stocks

Here, how many respondents are using revolving funds for buying productive assets and live-stocks are analysed. Productive assets and live stocks including sewing machines, chicken, ducks, emu birds, goat rearing etc. are purchased by the SHG members. In block wise analyse, maximum members from Perambalur block had

invested the revolving fund in buying productive asset and live stock. Maximum members from Veppur block also use the fund for buying productive asset. While alathur and Veepanthatai block contribute less number of members utilizing the revolving fund in buying the productive asset and live stocks.

iii. Block-wise use of money getting from revolving funds for depositing in bank

SHG members also deposit the revolving fund money in bank. It is evident that , when compared block-wise, maximum number of Alathur and Veepanthatai block, deposit the revolving fund amount in the Bank.

5.4 Women empowerment in Perambalur district.

To analysis the empowerment of SHG members after joining SHG a scale that is women empowerment scale contributed by Geeta Nanda (2011) has been used.

a. Independent mobility after joining SHG

Consequently from the analysis, it can be concluded that in every block i.e. from Alathur to Veppur, SHG members' mobility to bazaar independently have been increased after joining SHG. Attributing to the fact that most of the respondents agreed, thereby showing that SHGs are helping their women members to empower themselves. It owes to the market awareness programs conducted by SHGs to increase awareness.

b. Health awareness of women folks after joining SHG.

Most of the respondents are admitting to the fact that visit to the hospitals by women in those blocks has been increased after joining SHGs, which may be due to increase in health awareness programs frequently conducted by SHGs on different commutable and non-commutable diseases.

h. Financial awareness after joining SHG

If strongly agreed respondents and agreed respondents are taken together then 315(78.8 per cent) respondents has admitted that visit to banks and ATMs after joining SHGs have been increased owing to different financial awareness programs conducted by SHGs on banking activities including need of opening bank accounts and using modern banking services like using ATMs etc

i. Block-wise analysis of independent mobility to outside the village after joining SHG

It evident that, from the total, altogether 302(75.5 per cent) respondents have admitted that their movement outside village have increased after joining SHGs which owes to the confidence build up due to different awareness programs by SHGs.

j. Utilization of SHG fund by husband/family members

From the current study, it is clear that 335(86.8per cent) respondents replied that their husband and family members didn't take any SHG money and 51(13.2per cent) respondents had replied that their husband and family members took the money from them.

It can thus be concluded that the male partners or the family members have some respect to the women folk and they started to recognize that it's their earnings and they can't take that money without their consent.

k. Family members respect for SHG members

As a whole from the total, 382 (100.0 per cent), maximum 314(82.2 per cent)respondents had responded that their husband and family members did not take their jewellery to sell or pledge without their permission and 68(17.8 per cent) responded that husband and family members took their jewellery to sell or pledge

without their permission. So this interpretation of data, shows that SHGs has played a vital role in empowering women of these blocks after they join SHGs.

I. Interference of family members/husband in SHG matters

Maximum of the 331 respondents (86.4 per cent) replied that their husband and family members don't interfere in SHG matters and 52 respondents (13.6 per cent) replied that their husband and family members interfere in SHG matters. This implies that interference of husband or family in SHG matters is very less. From the analysis it can be interpreted that Veppur is showing improvement in Women empowerment than other blocks.

m. Analysis of owning any productive assets or helping in administering family of SHG members

From the total 399(100 per cent) respondents in 4 blocks, 167(41.9 per cent) respondents are now able to help in agricultural activities, followed by 160(40.1 per cent) who can help their children in educational activities. Regarding productive assets, 47(11.8 per cent) respondents own sewing machines and only 25(6.3 per cent) don't own any assets. This has been possible due to different initiatives taken by SHGs to make its members financially strong and literate. These initiatives are mainly assisting its members financially by granting loans, undertaking literacy programs to make its members literate in different aspects so that they can help their children with their education and assist in agricultural activities.

5.5 Block-wise analysis of SHG members' cash saving habits

Out of the 388 (100.0 per cent) respondents in all 4 blocks, 340(87.6 per cent) have responded that their cash savings has been increased and 48(12.4 per cent) have responded that their cash savings has not been increased after joining SHG. It implies

that after joining SHG groups, maximum of the members are able to increase their cash savings.

SHG members' cash saving habits are further analysed under the following heads:

a. Support my family financially

All the women folks in the study area wanted to help their family financially. Having this idea in their backdrop, each member had joined SHG so that each individual can support their family. Majority of respondents has said that they strongly disagree that they were able support their family financially because their income is very low to support the family as a whole.

b. Status is increased inside and outside the family

Status of woman in a family plays a prominent role for her overall development. Here the minimum scale point is "strongly disagree" and maximum point is "strongly agreed". Mode for this analysis is 2 i.e. maximum respondents are slightly disagreeing that their socio economic status is not increased inside and outside family after joining SHG.

c. Self-confidence has increased

SHG gives different kinds of skill development training to its members. Under the study, maximum respondents are strongly disagreeing that self confidence has increased after joining SHG.

d. Mobility Outside Village Increased After Joining SHG

Unless a woman doesn't have the confidence to move alone outside her home or town, a woman cannot be considered as empowered. After joining SHG, the members have come to the district headquarter for various group related activities. Maximum (mode=4) respondents are agreeing that they are able move outside village alone without any

assistance from husband and family members after joining SHGs. This clearly shows those women are empowered after joining SHG.

e. Mobility to bank and ATM after joining SHG

To empower woman folk one important dynamics is that they must be in a position to access financial institution. Through SHG financially literacy programme are conducted for their member, so it is important to know that these literacy programmes had enabled them to access bank and bank related facilities are not. Mode for this variable is 5, which shows that maximum respondents had strongly agreed that they are able go to bank and ATMs alone without any assistance from husband and family members after joining SHGs.

f. Mobility to bazaar increased after joining SHG

Another important factor that has to be taken account for woman empowerment is mobility of the woman outside their home to bazaar. The mode for this analysis is 3, so maximum respondents are neutral in this case that they can't say that SHG movement has any role in their mobility to bazaar.

g. Mobility to hospital individually increased after joining SHG

Maximum respondents (mode=4 in Table 4.28)agreed that after joining SHG, they are able to visit hospitals alone without any assistance from husband and family members for consulting health related problems and issues. It is clear sign of women empowerment through micro-finance.

h. Does micro-finance (MF) have positive impact on enterprise level?

For this, five point Likert-scales were used for getting responses. These are Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Neutral and Agree. Mode for this was “disagree”, so maximum populace had disagreed that micro-finance (MF) has positive impact on enterprise level.

a. Micro-finance(MF) has positive impact on individual level

Maximum occurrence for this is “Agree” in the five point Likert-scales in response, which means that micro-finance has positive impact on individual level. Here the minimum scale point was disagreeing and maximum scale point was agreed.

5.6 Suggestions of the study

In view of the above findings, the following suggestions are offered to improve the overall functioning of the Self Help Groups and in turn to confer its fruits to each and every poor woman in the country:

- f) Suggestions to the women SHG Members
- g) Suggestions to the Government
- h) Suggestions to the Bank and other financial institutions
- i) Suggestions to the general public
- j) Suggestions to the NGOs

The above named suggestions are further elaborated as follows:

a) Suggestions to the women SHG members

- i. Self Help Groups must be pro-active and have forward vision. If this culture is nurtured to each SHG, getting credit from the financial institution is not an issue.
- ii. By providing the group as credit worthy, group must try to generate more finance within the group and outside the group as the thrift money provided to the group monthly is very meagre. The revolving fund which SHG members get from bank and government agency is between Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 1 lakh on an average which is again a small amount when it is compared to a group consisting of 5 to 20 members in size.
- iii. From the analysis, it is found that the majority of SHG members use revolving fund for internal loan purpose only in the Perambalur district in the study area.

As such, SHG members should increase their entrepreneur skills to start new ventures with the money they get from the bank.

- iv. The members need to attend all the skill development programmes and training given by NGOs and various government agencies. Training and development programmes are given in order to develop the entrepreneur skills of SHG members. And also to make them ready for the group's future venture.
- v. Financial literacy and health care literacy have enabled them move to banks and hospitals seamlessly. At the same time, the SHG members have to transfer this knowledge to other women folks in their village or locality to empower more women folks in the area.
- vi. Apart from depending on the NGOs and other development officers SHG groups must try function independently.
- vii. Self Help Group should not only concentrate on growth of group but also must involve in social and environmental issues like health, education of their girl children, cleaning their village pond ,lake ,etc to develop the entire village.
- viii. SHGS must be aware of all new government schemes related to Self Help Groups and should make use of them in their group development.
- ix. SHG members are advised to utilize the money for assigned task only.
- x. SHG members should undergo training related to utilization of money properly and generating capital from the activities such as product development, recent trend among the customers, etc.,
- xi. Rotation of leadership in the group can help to get an opportunity to play managerial role among members.

- xii. Members should select their activities keeping in mind, the availability of raw materials, financial support, marketing facilities available, and also demand for their product.
- xiii. Self-Help Groups can utilize Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, National Small Industries Corporation, Small Industries Development Organisation, Handicrafts and Handloom Exports Corporation of India, State Small Industries Corporation and State Small Industries Corporation for marketing their products.
- xiv. Branding of product must be done. Products made by SHGs can capture the new market area and to increase the volume of sales.

b) Suggestions to the Government

- i. Government must instruct financial institution and Banks to respect the group members and treat them as other customers of the bank.
- ii. The government must substantially increase the revolving fund amount if they want to see the group to develop as an entrepreneur.
- iii. Proper education has to be given to rural poor, so that they can understand the financial inclusion policy of the Government by their own. There should be coordinated efforts by all, particularly the state government for developing simple financial literacy programmes for the SHG members.
- iv. The training should be provided on the basis of the regional factor. For example, the research area where has been done is cotton producing area in utmost level. So the government should provide training related to manufacturing of cotton product in small scale.
- v. In the study area, it has been found that majority of women folks are young mothers on an average have 2 to 3 kids below 10 years each, so the government

should focus on more health care literacy programme which will highlight on various vaccination and sanitary programme.

- vi. Though Tamil Nadu in one of the developed state in the country, still the entire population is not literate. In the present sample area, 20 per cent of the population was illiterate. As education is the backbone for woman empowerment, adult literacy programmes should be carried out. So that 100 per cent empowerment of women can be achieved.
- vii. More skill development training has to be provided with focused approach rather than giving many kind of training programme. Entrepreneur skill development programme must be based on agricultural products. Because majority of members belong to the farming community.
- viii. The Government must increase the credit facilities to group. As of today Rs.50000 or 60000 is not enough to start a micro enterprise. By considering credit worthiness of the group, the Government must give a better credit.
- ix. Encouraging and providing government support to NGOs may be suggested in order to attempt group approach and create favourable policy environment for SHGs to open their bank account with ease.
- x. There is always a possibility of loss of resources of the poor if not protected adequately against any possible crisis. As such, there is a need to streamline the norms that regulate the micro-finance initiatives in the country.
- xi. The members trained by the Mahalir Thittam through NGOs must train the other Self Help Group members in an effective manner.
- xii. Finalisation of training course curriculum, venues and duration of training programmes for SHG women can be done in consultation with the concerned SHG.

- xiii. Social workers, professionally trained and well experienced may be employed at the project officer's level who is supposed to deal with SHG members.
- xiv. Generally the literacy levels of SHG members are low and hence efforts may be enhanced to increase the literacy levels on priority basis.
- xv. Mass media campaign may be suggested for highlighting grass-root issues on Self-Help Groups and micro-credit in the district.
- xvi. Governments can take necessary and immediate steps to coordinate and sign memorandum of understanding, if possible, with universities to provide proper education and training for SHG members.
- xvii. Governments should ensure the local people realize that the SHGs are the main medium of rural employment generation and support by the government will solve the problem of rural employment.
- xviii. Government should come with a special policy to create awareness as well as a separate department or cell for solving problems of SHGs.
- xix. To order to ensure a sustainable livelihood by the micro enterprises, government should encourage every block of the district to concentrate on specialized key activities or areas, based on the local resources, occupational skills of the people and the supporting market conditions.
- xx. Government should emphasize on the training programmes so as to create awareness about the different types of livelihood means like mushroom cultivation, cattle breeding, computer education, yoga and meditation etc.
- xxi. There should be advertisements in newspapers, journals, television, and films to increase the awareness of the public about the products of SHG. Government should subsidize a portion of its expenditure.

- xxii. To solve the problem of shortage of supply of raw material supply to the SHG members necessary steps have to be initiated.
- xxiii. To sell SHG products through its civil supplies like good products, government should take necessary steps.
- xxiv. Government should encourage the SHG members by exporting the products by bearing the discount in the products which is allowed by groups on the sale of their products.

c) Suggestions to the Bank and other financial institutions

- i. Banks should be proactive and friendly towards SHG members when they approach the bank for the financial products.
- ii. In the study area, it has been found that SHG bank linkage program is through PSU banks only, so the private sector bank should initiate to attract more SHG in their fold.
- iii. Bank should provide regular financial literacy programme for the SHG and the general public.
- iv. Both state and central government should give wide publicity. So that the information reach to all the SHG members in the village about the policies, schemes, subsidy (SC), programmes, etc., related to SHG development.
- v. From the informal interaction with group members, it was found that some bank officials are still having resistance in providing credit to SHGs. This kind of attitude of bank officials has to be changed. From the Government side, proper monitoring of these financial institutions has to be done. Loans such as individual and housing loan should be provided to the members of SHG groups.
- vi. Red-tapism and delay in loan sanctioning must be restricted in banks by implementing special schemes of SHGs.

- vii. Bankers should inform about the new policies, schemes and plan to the SHG members which are related to them.
- viii. Formalities must be simplified, so that even uneducated members also find it easy to avail the bank facility.

d) Suggestions to the general public

- i. The general public has to understand and give respect to SHG activities.
- ii. The general public has to encourage them too.
- iii. Public must develop a positive environment towards SHG and its members.
- iv. Public must encourage the SHGs by buying and promoting SHGs product.

e) Suggestions to Non-Government Organisations

- i. NGOs have to induce the positive vibration among the SHG members. For success of SHG, NGO's role is vital.
- ii. In many cases, SHG members are not familiar with banking systems. So, the NGOs have to support and guide them to get the benefits from the Government.
- iii. NGOs have to monitor the respective SHGs regularly and guide them to achieve their target.
- iv. NGOs should give their regular constructive suggestion to various Government agencies. Because, NGOs understand the difficulties faced by the Self Help Groups (SHGs) in a better way.
- v. And that understanding has to be conveyed to the Government agencies at various levels and forum.
- vi. In rural area, financial motivation agencies are exists, so it's the NGO who have to motive the rural population on the financial area.
- vii. NGO can play an important role in increasing the level of confidence of both rural population and bankers by constant follow –up and monitoring.

- viii. Lack of finance become barrier for the members to expanse their operation. This has to be attended by bank and financial institutions. NGOs can also help SHG members to get the loan from government.
- ix. By identifying the marketing area and suggesting the SHG member about the future trend and ways of distribution of products manufactured by SHGs, NGOs help.
- x. NGOs can take initiatives to enhance the literacy level of SHG members.

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