**Project Proposal**

**Problem Statement**

As part of their poverty alleviation efforts, state governments in India implement the Livelihood Mission targeting urban poor women. The program aims to improve access to credit, encourage financial discipline and promote self-employment. One of the ways it achieves this is by forming self-help groups (SHG) – 10 to 15 women who use collective action and positive peer effect to save, borrow and invest towards a brighter future. The program is implemented by lower government functionaries and field workers who are hamstrung by lack of technological tools.

**Objective**

Create a web application that can help officials and field workers monitor, implement and evaluate the work undertaken under the scheme.

**Features**

1. The website will be used to track the three layers in the program:
   1. Individual SHG members – attributes such as their savings, loans to other members, attendance at meetings, documents and demographic details.
   2. Self Help Groups – attributes such as savings, intra-loan status, interaction updates with banks and officials and SHG milestones achieved.
   3. Co-operatives - it will have encapsulated the information of all SHGs and members under it. It will track the financial and programmatic details of the cooperative.
2. The interaction of officials with SHGs and members will help generate the above data can help officials in evaluating the performance of the program. The evaluation algorithm will be based on the social audit guidelines laid down by the state government.
3. The website will have tools to flag when SHGs are underperforming or when members show signs of defaulting. Reminder functionality to facilitate timely SHGs interactions with banks and the government. Suggestion mechanism for individual members who might be eligible for government benefits.
4. Search, filter and sort functionalities for the different layers based on different parameters.
5. Visualizing beneficiaries geographically (extra)

**Components**

The web application expects to utilize the FLASK web framework for deployment.

The project is expected to make heavy use of functions and classes to track the three levels of the program: individual members, SHGs and cooperatives. Due to the interdependent nature of their attributes, the project should rely heavily on class inheritance. Each class will store numerous states that will be updated directly or indirectly based on other attribute updates.

There will be separate modules written for each type of suggestion and evaluation.

**Expected Work Load**: 10-15 hours every week