

A Study on Importance and Efficacy of Self Help Groups in Women Empowerment

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Abstract

“Women”; a word that reminds us our mother, sisters, wife, daughters fulfilling all their family chaos and now they can be seen in more modern roles like managers, educators, political leaders and much more is coming. Today they have even dared to break the gender barriers to become mountaineers, pilots and even serving combat roles in armed forces. In India, after independence the constitution leaders and policy makers realized the fact that, in order to develop whole country it is very important to put women in equal position to men. It was the need of the hour to make women empower economically, socially, politically, legally as well as psychologically. Education is the first and foremost way to empower them as it created awareness and enable them to take decisions.

Self Help Groups (SHGs) have become the vehicle of change in the rural areas, transforming the lives of the marginalized.

SHGs organize the poor and the marginalized to join hands to solve their problems and the method has been very successfully used by the government and the Non-Government Organizations in achieving several goals. As a firm or enterprise, SHG performs the role of collective bank and enterprise and ensures better access to loans with a lower rate of interest to start micro unit enterprise. SHGs have emerged as a powerful instrument in order to eliminate poverty and for the empowerment of women in the rural economy. SHGs through the network of commercial banks, co-operative banks, regional rural banks, NABARD and NGOs are largely supply driven and a recent approach in the provision of financial services to the poor and further upgrading their status in the society. In this empirical study we analyze the performance of the SHG's in order to understand the benefits it has accrued to the females of the society. The paper here focuses on appraising the women empowerment in various fields like economical, psychological, social etc. with the help of Self Help Groups.

Key Words: Women Empowerment, Self Help Group, NABARD, NGO's