Original Article

Socio Economic Status Of Self Help Groups On Economic Development Among Rural Households In Selected Blocks Of Thiruvannmalai District, Tamilnadu

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Abstract

The present world has been caught in the trap of poverty, unemployment, underemployment and economic disparities etc. In this tough circumstance Self Help Group programme is appearing as a ray of hope to fight these development enemies. Self Help Group programme is a group based approach which aim to provide financial access at the door step of rural poor, unemployed and weaker section of society and encourage them to start micro enterprise or income generating activities so that they can break the vicious circle of poverty, unemployment and live a dignify life which is the right of every human being. Self Help Group programme is a multi-dimensional development strategy which not only provides easy financial access to poor and weaker section but also work on enhance them the entrepreneurship, self-confidence knowledge and awareness etc. factors. These factors are played significant role to create employment opportunities and over all socio- economic development of a society. The Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of women (TNCDW) was established in 1983 with the prime objective of bringing about socio-economic development and empowerment of women. The Corporation implements Mahalir Thittam, IFAD assisted Post Tsunami Sustainable Livelihoods Programme and also SGSY, a major anti-poverty programme meant for self employment of rural poor. Self-help groups (SHGs) in empowering rural women and their contribution to financial inclusion in India. Economic development can be achieved when resources are equally available and accessible for all. A Self Help Group is a small economically homogeneous affinity group of the rural poor voluntarily coming together to save a small amount regularly, which is deposited in a common fund to meet members emergency needs and to provide collateral free loans decided by the group. Self Help Group s enhance the equality of status of women as participants, decision-makers and beneficiaries in the democratic, economic, social and cultural spheres of life

Key words: Self Help Group, Economic Development, multi-dimensional, weaker section.,etc

1. INTRODUCTION

Self-Help Group or in-short SHGs is now a well-known concept. It is now almost two decade old. Self-help groups (SHGs) play today a major role in poverty alleviation in rural area. It is reported that the SHGs have a role in hastening country's economic Development. SHGs have now evolved as a movement. Mainly, members of the SHGs are women. Consequently, participation of women in the country's economic development is increasing. They also play an important role in elevating the economic status of their families. Women constitute around fifty percent of the total human resources in our economy. This has led to boost the process of women's Empowerment. Yet women are subservient to men as they are subject to many socioeconomic and cultural constraints. The situation is more severe in the rural and backward areas. Women development activities must be given importance to eradicate poverty, increase the economic growth and for better standard of living. The SHG promotes small savings among its members. Self-Help Group (SHG) is a small voluntary association of poor people, preferably from the same socio-economic background.

In order to bring about greater synergy and better coordination in implementing various schemes for Self Help Groups, Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women Ltd was brought under the control of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department from July 2006. Further the Board of TNCDW was broad based and reconstituted vide G.O.Ms.No:148, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (CGS-II) Department, dated 12.10.2006 to include representatives from industry, NGO sector, Banks and Specialists who can positively guide the Corporation with their valuable inputs. EShakti or Digitization of SHGs is an initiative of Micro Credit and Innovations Department of NABARD in line with our Hon'ble PM statement, 'we move with the dream of electronic digital India...'. Digital India is a Rs 1.13-lakh crore initiative of Government of India to integrate the government departments and the people of India and to ensure effective governance. It is to "transform India into digital empowered society and knowledge economy". Keeping in view the Government of India's mission for creating a digital India, NABARD launched a project for digitization of all Self Help Group (SHG) in the country. The project is being implemented in 250 districts across the

country. The origin of Self Help Groups (SHGs) is the brainchild of Grameen Bank of Bangaladesh, founded by Prof. Mohammed Yunus in 1975, who tried out a new approach to rural credit in Bangaladesh. Grameen gave loans without asking borrowers either to provide collateral or engage in paper work. In India NABARD initiated SHGs in the year 1986-87 but the real effort was taken after 1991-92 from the linkage of SHGs with the banks. A SHG is a small economically homogeneous affinity group of the rural poor voluntarily coming forward to save a small amount of money regularly, which is deposited in a common fund to meet the members‟ emergency needs and to provide collateral free loans decided by the group. It now addresses the issues of poverty alleviation and empowerment of poor, health, nutrition and other support services especially women, in the rural areas of the country. A self-help group (SHG) is a village-based financial intermediary committee usually composed of 10–20 local women or men. A mixed group is generally not preferred. Most self-help groups are located in India, though SHGs can be found in other countries, especially in South Asia and Southeast Asia. Members make small regular savings contributions over a few months until there is enough capital in the group to begin lending. Funds may then be lent back to the members or to others in the village for any purpose. In India, many SHGs are 'linked' to banks for the delivery of micro-credit. SHG is a holistic programme of micro-enterprises covering all aspects of self-employment, organization of the rural poor into self Help groups and their capacity building, planning of activity clusters, infrastructure build up, technology, credit and marketing. It lays emphasis on activity clusters based on the resources and the occupational skills of the people and availability of markets.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Agrawal. G and Dr. Harigopal (2018), narrates in their study empowering the women will make easier to become active participants in the process of social change which increase their self-respect, power to resist injustice, curb the inequality and boost up their developmental skills which leads to more control over their lives. Women empowerment may not easily be brought because of the various social hurdles and constraints. Individual demands of the women will not lead to permanent solutions unless they are well organized. Collective strength and organized nature of the women will definitely be brought the social changes as best as possible. so in this sense it is essential to study the impact of SC/STs on different developmental programmes in the rural and under developed areas. Women have exhibited active involvement in planning group activities to generate their income, strengthen their bargaining power and achieve the good quality of life in order to meet the needs women SHGs have merged with alternative banking structure.

Uttam Singh (2017), carried out the study and trying to establish the role and performance of SHGs in women empowerment in which he analyzed how the SHGs positively affecting the socio economic status and their decision making capabilities family in particular and community in general. Rural women are constrained with various socio economic and cultural aspects due to their poverty and under privilege. This situation is more adverse and further worsen the rural and backward areas specifically women in the deprived society. In order to achieve the better standard of living and to ensure sustainable economic growth women should be given priority and empowerment to eradicate poverty. The active participation of the women is very much required. The empowerment of women is a prominent factor which is certainly adequate to achieve the economic and social development of a nation as a whole. In case of any nation it is the prerequisite to empower the women to ensure the irroleinan optimum level.

Anna Lungbila. P (2016), alleviation of poverty and women empowerment can be achieved through active formation of SHGs. The women’s of the SHGs primarily aiming at to get their identities, power of inbuilt potentials in every walk of life. In fact empowerment of women can be possible only when they enhance access to economic resources by increasing confidence and self-motivation they can get more recognition, active involvement in their family issues through participation in SHGs. Women Empowerment Bridge the gender gap and has been reduced today considerably. Empowerment would enable every woman to perform their social role which they cannot perform without it. In the Indian scenario empowerment of women helping to avail their constitutional and legal rights to bring equality in their day to day parlance.

Mayoux, 2015 Time spent in savings and credit meetings automatically decrease women’s time for other social and political activities. Programmes may also increase conflicts between men and women within communities and may not have adequate mechanisms to support women. On the basis of current evidence, it is impossible to say how many women are benefitting and how many are being for further disadvantaged

Noponen, 2015, Fundamental changes in recruitment procedures may be necessary as well as organizational culture, recruitment criteria and conditions of work. In addition to equal employment staff frequently lack expertise in gender analysis and may not have sufficient knowledge or experience of the situation of very poor women; they may need training

Otero and Rhyne, 2014, There is also need for clear guidelines and concrete incentives for implementation of development policies. Women and men staff members are to feel confident about spending scarce time and resources on these issues. Crucially, made staff members need to have clear incentives for promoting women’s development in their interactions with both male and female programme participants. Creating these incentives in turn requires integration of development indicators into programme monitoring and impact evaluation

Chavan J. V and Gaikwad V. A (2011) observed that women are ready to face the challenges associated with setting up of business. Papad, pickles are the things of the past, now with new and innovative business, women entrepreneurs are

fast becoming a force to reckon with in the business world. Maximum women have entered into business in thirties and most of them are married. Computer, IT related and consultancy services are upcoming areas, so most popular amongst younger women. It is the pull factors i. e. their urge to be self-dependent, supplement family income, achieve social status, satisfy their creative urge have motivated them to be entrepreneurs, more than the push factors like non-availability of job, dissatisfaction in job, etc. Education, training and skill have played an important role in their being into business. Role of government agencies in the growth of women entrepreneur is negligible.

Lalitha K and Prasad G (2011) observed that most of the SHG women have been involved only in the micro credit savings. The study brought out the limitations faced due to not conducting periodical meetings, training programmes and awareness camps for their improvement. On active role of NGOs is called for the development of women SHGs. It was further observed that though the women have formed groups they have poor decision making capacity for their self-development.

3. RESEAR METHODOLOGY

Objectives

1. To study the socio-economic status of families of SHG members in the study areas.
2. To examine the role of SHGs in the socio- economic development among rural households in the study areas.
3. To examine the income and other benefits received by the rural households after their joining in the SHGs.

Methodology

Hypothesis

Self Help Group approach builds the capacity of rural households and increases their savings by enhancing asset holding and proper utilization of credit availed.

Sample Design

The Thiruvannamalai District is selected for the present study in Tamilnadu consists of 18 blocks. This study was carried out in 5 blocks namely Thandarampet, Vandavasi, Arni, Chengam and Pudhupalayam. These blocks were identified at random basis, from each of the above identified block, two village Panchayats have been selected from each block. Further, 15sample respondents from each village Panchayat is selected. Hence, the total number of samples selected for the present study is 300 by using Disproportionate Stratified Random Sampling method.

Sources of Data

With the use of pre-tested interview schedules, the required data was obtained from 300 sample respondents. The interview schedule contains socio-demographic indicators such as age, religion, caste, marital status, and education, as well as economic factors such as income, expenditure, and savings. It also examined the respondents' socioeconomic and political empowerment in terms of specific social and economic characteristics. More specifically comparison has been made between pre and post periods of SHGs in terms of their economic impacts on standard of living by taking into account their changes in income and expenditure, social participation, efficiency in decision making etc. The items of information collected through personal interview with the respondents in the seleted Panchayats of the selected district has been analysed in a more scientific way.

Methods of Analysis

After being evaluated and coded, the survey data were transferred into spreadsheets using the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS). Frequency tables were developed to help comprehend the nature of the data, and then analysis and tabulation were prepared applying research techniques to meet the requirements based on the collected data. Further Chi-Square test and Anova have been performed to test the hypothesis framed. The Kruskal Wallis test, Multiple linear regression model and Henry Garret Ranking method have also been carried out where they are statistically required.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Age is one of the crucial factors in determining human health. The health status of the human and age is negatively correlated. In this current study the age of the sample respondents has been connected in order to know which age group is actively participating in the self-help group activities. The efficiency of physical work and the age factor correlates each other. Active members in the Self-Help Group are very much required to make cherish the routine activities is being carried out every day. Totally, there are 300 respondents have been taken for the current study. As far as age of the respondent is concerned about 42respondents (14.00 %) out of 300 sample respondents have come under the age group of below 20. Similarly, maximum of the respondents come under the age group between 30 to 40 years (37.33 %), subsequently, there about 50 (16.66 %) respondents were about age group between41- 50 years. It is evident from the table (4.1) that, the respondents of the age group between 31 to 40 years were highest in terms of age, and age group below 20 was very least in the current study compared to other age groups.

Table No 4.1 Age- Wise Classification Of The Sample Respondents

Name of the Sample Blocks	Age group										Total
	Below 20		21-30 Yrs		31-40 Yrs		41-50 Yrs		Above 50		
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Thandarampet	9	21.43	13	20.31	22	19.64	10	20.00	6	18.75	**60**
Vandavasi	6	14.29	14	21.88	24	21.43	10	20.00	6	18.75	**60**
Arni	9	21.43	9	14.06	23	20.54	11	22.00	8	25.00	**60**
Chengam	10	23.81	13	20.31	20	17.86	12	24.00	5	15.63	**60**
Pudhupalayam	8	19.05	15	23.44	23	20.54	7	14.00	7	21.88	**60**
Total	**42**	100	**64**	100	**112**	100	**50**	100	**32**	100	**300**
Percentage to Total	14.00		21.33		37.33		16.66		10.66		100

Source: Computed from Primary Data

Table No: 4.2 Religion- Wise Distribution Of The Respondents

Name of the Sample Blocks	Religions						Total
	Hindu		Christian		Muslims		
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Thandarampet	43	19.91	9	20.00	8	20.51	**60**
Vandavasi	40	18.52	11	24.44	9	23.08	**60**
Arni	45	20.83	8	17.78	7	17.95	**60**
Chengam	46	21.30	8	17.78	6	15.38	**60**
Pudhupalayam	42	19.44	9	20.00	9	23.08	**60**
Total	**216**	100	**45**	100	**39**	100	**300**
Percentage to Total	72.00		15.00		13.00		100

Source: Computed from Primary Data

In the country like India religion is one of the crucial factor which is playing a dominant role in determining social status and economic activities. India is a country highly bonded with the religion and religious activities. The people are very much concerned about the religious dogma and they have immense pious and deep confidence on its rituals. Out of 300 total respondents around 216 respondents (72.00 %) belong to Hindu religion, similarly,45 of the respondents (15.00 %) belongs to Christianity. And there about 39 respondents (13.00 %) are Muslims. It is revealed in the table that the maximum number of the respondents belong to Hindu religion. Christians and Muslims are almost equal and they are very least in number.

Table No: 4.3 Educational Qualifications Of The Sample Respondents

Educational Qualification	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Illiterate	12	4.00
Primary	121	40.33
Middle	68	22.67
Secondary	45	15.00
Higher Secondary	32	10.67
Graduation and above	22	7.33
Total	**300**	100.00

Source: Computed from Primary Data

Education provides avenue for the all-round growth, more specifically in rural areas education helps them in all the way to improve their standard of living. Education is one of the crucial factors to mold their life in a better way, which makes them to know how to lead their life in a better way. Hence education is playing the dominant role in every individual's life. Imparting better education still remained the prime objective of every parent to their children. But today situation in India has achieved a significant milestone in terms of education where majority of the people being educated; ignorance is being eradicated to the remarkable extent. The current study education is being taken as one of the important parameter to measure the standard of living of the respondents of the study area. From the total population of 300 respondents, very least only 12 (4.00%) respondents for illiterate, likewise respondents who completed their graduation were only 22 (7.33%). And there about 68 (22.67%) respondents have went up to middle schooling. It is revealed in the table that majority of 121(40.33%) respondents finished the year primary education. It is clear from the data that the majority of the respondents have studied up to primary school level and the number of graduates obviously very least.

Table No 4.4 Marital Status Of The Respondents

Marital Status	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Married	222	74.00
Unmarried	45	15.00
Divorced	4	1.33
Widow	13	4.33
Separated	16	5.33
Total	**300**	100

Source: Computed from Primary Data

The marital status of the respondents of the self help groups in this study area have been collected in order to know their social status in terms of marriage. Different types of women respondents have been identified as the members of self help

groups like ok married, unmarried, divorced, separated and Widows. In the present study out of 300 total respondents as high as 222 (74.00%) respondents have got married. Similarly 13(4.33%) women respondents were widows and very minimum around4 (1.33%) numbers of respondents have been identified as divorced. It is evident from the table that the majority of the women respondent were married women and again very least number of respondents were divorced.

Table No: 4.5 Occupational Classifications Of The Sample Respondents

Name of the Sample Blocks	Farmers		Self – Employed		Daily Earners		Others		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Thandarampet	14	21.54	5	16.67	38	20.54	3	15.00	**60**
Vandavasi	15	23.08	7	23.33	34	18.38	4	20.00	**60**
Arni	10	15.38	6	20.00	40	21.62	4	20.00	**60**
Chengam	14	21.54	5	16.67	37	20.00	4	20.00	**60**
Pudhupalayam	12	18.46	7	23.33	36	19.46	5	25.00	**60**
Total	**65**	100	**30**	100	**185**	100	**20**	100	**300**
Percentage to Total	21.66		10.00		61.66		6.66		100

Source: Computed from Primary Data

The women respondents of the current study have been indulging in different occupations so as to earn income. The occupations of the respondents have been classified under different categories; hence, it is being their source of livelihood. Based on their education level and pre economic condition they are carrying out different types of occupations. The size of income of the respondents basically varying based on the type of occupation they are carrying out. It is found that vast majority of the respondents were daily earners and very minimum size of the respondents where farmers and of course they have a small piece of land of their own in which they are indulging in agriculture. And some of the women respondents were identified as self employed. In this current study out of 300 total respondents the majority of 185(61.66%) respondents of the self help groups were daily earners, similarly there are about 65(21.66%) respondents were carrying out agriculture in their own piece of land. Nowhere the government employees have been found as the member of self help group. Only 20(6.66 %) respondents of the total population have engaged in some other occupations which have not been included in this category. It is evident from the table, the majority of the women respondents of the self help group were the daily earners because they have no inheritance and sufficient level of education to make their life better off. Hence they joined in the self-help group in order to enhance their economic condition better off and to get empowered.

Table No: 4.6 Type Of Houses Of The Sample Respondents

Type of Houses	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Concrete	203	67.67
Thatched	36	12.00
Tiled	42	14.00
Hut	19	6.33
Total	**300**	100

Source: Computed from Primary Data

The type of house owned by the respondents obviously an indicator of their economic status. It is found that irrespective of big or small house maximum of the respondents live in concrete houses. Based on their size of income, economic and social status they own different types of houses. Hence type of house of the respondents is one of the significant reflector of the economic well being. Type of house they live in measures their social and economic status. Particularly in rural areas it was very difficult to find any kind of huts due to welfare measures of the government under which majority of the respondents have owned concrete houses. It is revealed that majority of the 203(67.67%) respondents out of the 300 total samples are living in concrete houses. Similarly, very least number of respondents around 19 (6.33%) only live in huts. It is also found that around 20% of the respondents live in thatched and tiled houses. It is apparent from the table, that maximum numbers of respondents live in concrete houses.

Table No.4.7 Perceptions Of The Respondents About The Benefits Of Joining Self Help Groups

Benefits	Thandarampet		Vandavasi		Arni		Chengam		Pudhupalayam		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
To meet personal and Economic problems	8	13.33	7	11.67	9	15.00	8	13.33	6	10.00	38	12.67
Decision making	3	5.00	4	6.67	3	5.00	5	8.33	4	6.67	19	6.33
Economic independent	9	15.00	10	16.67	10	16.67	8	13.33	9	15.00	46	15.33
Family Issues	3	5.00	3	5.00	4	6.67	2	3.33	4	6.67	16	5.33
Loan Facility	18	30.00	16	26.67	13	21.67	19	31.67	17	28.33	83	27.67
Income Generation	12	20.00	15	25.00	12	20.00	11	18.33	12	20.00	62	20.67
Chance for acquiring Skills	4	6.67	3	5.00	5	8.33	4	6.67	5	8.33	21	7.00
Self Esteem	3	5.00	2	3.33	4	6.67	3	5.00	3	5.00	15	5.00
Total	**60**	100	**60**	100	**60**	100	**60**	100	**60**	100	**300**	100

Source: Computed from Primary Data

Self Help Groups are exclusively designed for the women empowerment and economic upliftment. It provides variety of benefits to its members economically and socially. It makes way to cherish their life by solving their economic problems and enhance their social status. Being the member of the SHGs made possible women to glitter in the political sphere. It has brought many social and psychological changes. The benefits of joining self help groups have been given under various heads in the above table. Each respondent had different views on the part of the benefits accrued from SHGs. From the total 300 sample respondents as high as 83 (27.67%) respondents have said loan facilities, subsequently 38 (12.67%) respondents were on the opinion that, to meet their personal economic problems, and very least, about 15 (5.00%) respondents have opined self esteem. It is apparent that majority of the respondents have opined providing timely loans was the great benefit in the SHGs. Other than economic benefits, there are other benefits revealed by the respondents are efficiency in decision making, acquiring skills, and self esteem.

Table No.4.8 Income And Non Income Generating Activities In Response To The Loans Provided

Type of Activity	Thandarampet		Vandavasi		Arni		Chengam		Pudhupalayam		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No	%
Income Generating Activities												
Business	3	5.00	5	8.33	5	8.33	7	11.67	5	8.33	25	8.33
Cattle Rearing	4	6.67	3	5.00	6	10.00	5	8.33	7	11.67	25	8.33
Investment in agricultural and allied Activities	2	3.33	3	5.00	5	8.33	4	6.67	5	8.33	19	6.33
Non-Income Generating Activities												
Marriage for their Children	10	16.67	10	16.67	5	8.33	7	11.67	9	15.00	41	13.67
Medical expenses of family Members	7	11.67	4	6.67	6	10.00	4	6.67	5	8.33	26	8.67
Construction and Renovating Houses	13	21.67	15	25.00	13	21.67	15	25.00	11	18.33	67	22.33
Education of Children	21	35.00	20	33.33	20	33.33	18	30.00	18	30.00	97	32.33
Total	**60**	100	**60**	100	**60**	100	**60**	100	**60**	100	**300**	100

Source: Computed from Primary Data

How the availed loan amounts is being spent whether it is spent on productive or non productive purpose is exhibited in the above table. The number of respondents of the SHGs have spent their loan disbursement in whether income or non-income generating activities. It can be noted that the loan amount is spent on income generating activities it is a positive signal that the economic condition is growing up. On the other hand when it is spent on non-income generating activities the respondents gets zero utility out the spending. It is of the fact that whether the loan is spent on income or non-income generating activities is determined by the respondent's pre-economic status. Most of the respondents were in the economic crunch before they joined in the SHGs they are forced to spend on non-income generating activities. After clearing al their economic and financial problems they started spending in income generating activities. Out of 300 total sample respondents around 25 (8.33%) of the respondents spent their amount on cattle rearing which is one of the Crucial income generating activity is shown on the upper part of the table (4.8), whereas, in the non income generating activity the percentage of respondents have shown much variation between the two activities.

Table No.4.9 Comparative Table Shows Changes In The Standard Of Living

Parameters	Before joining SHGs			After joining SHGs		
	Yes	No.	Total	Yes	No.	Total
Radio	86	214	300	210	90	**300**
TV	27	273	300	222	78	**300**
Cell phone	70	230	300	231	69	**300**
Bicycle	97	203	300	268	32	**300**
Refrigerator	46	254	300	267	33	**300**
Bike/Scooty	70	230	300	274	26	**300**
Fans	71	229	300	221	79	**300**
Iron box	52	248	300	238	62	**300**
Cooker	61	239	300	248	52	**300**
Tailoringmachine	28	272	300	265	35	**300**
Table&Chairs	41	259	300	257	43	**300**
Land	34	266	300	244	56	**300**
Houses	31	269	300	274	26	**300**

Source: Computed from Primary Data

The above table has been classified as two phases as before and after joining Self Help Group. During these two phases what changes have been occurred in terms of their standard of living were compared. Taking certain household goods and home appliance as parameter the changes were ascertained. In the first phase what are the items that the respondents had before they joined in the SHGs are being listed, whereas in the second phase after joining in the SHGs the changes in the consumption of these items have been measured. By comparing both the phases the improvement in their standard of living has been revealed. By comparing data on the both the phases, it is found that the standard of living been increased considerably after they joined in the SHGs. There is a huge difference in the consumption of the items listed above is clearly shown.

Table No.4.10 Opinion OF THE Respondents OF THE Shgs ON Differences IN Social Status

Name of the Sample Blocks	Very good		Good		Poor		Very Poor		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Thandarampet	8	20.51	29	19.73	18	19.15	5	25.00	**60**
Vandavasi	6	15.38	31	21.09	20	21.28	3	15.00	**60**
Arni	10	25.64	29	19.73	16	17.02	5	25.00	**60**
Chengam	7	17.95	30	20.41	19	20.21	4	20.00	**60**
Pudhupalayam	8	20.51	28	19.05	21	22.34	3	15.00	**60**
Total	**39**	100	**147**	100	**94**	100	**20**	100	**300**
Percentage of Total	13.00		49.00		31.33		6.66		100

Source: Computed from Primary Data

The social status of the respondents of the SHGs has certainly been increased as it is evident from the table. But this is not the case for all the respondents in terms of their social status. Before they joined in the SHGs their economic condition was highly pathetic and they had no indication of social status. Of course, social status in the sense they have not gone to higher level, as a matter of fact that their economic condition have improved for certain extent than before due to SHGs. The social status obtained after joining in the Self Help Groups is expressed and their perception over social status in various dimensions is exhibited in the above table (5.46). As high as 147(49.00 %) of the respondents have said good in social status as they were the member of SHGs. Similarly, about 39 (13.00 %) of the respondents have felt very good in their social status. At the same time, very least around 94 (31.33%) respondents said the social status is still being very poor. It is apparent from the array of data that, the remarkable number of respondents has really obtained social status.

Table No.4.11 Status Of Spending Money For The Personal Needs Of The Respondents

Name of the Sample Blocks	Yes		No		No Idea		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Thandarampet	48	23.53	8	11.27	4	16.00	**60**
Vandavasi	39	19.12	16	22.54	5	20.00	**60**
Arni	34	16.67	19	26.76	7	28.00	**60**
Chengam	40	19.61	15	21.13	5	20.00	**60**
Pudhupalayam	43	21.08	13	18.31	4	16.00	**60**
Total	**204**	100	**71**	100	**25**	100	**300**
Percentage of Total	68.00		23.66		8.33		100

Source: Computed from Primary Data

Since the members of Self Help Groups are the earning persons, they are permitted to spend for their personal needs up to certain extent. Most of the husband of the members of the SHGs is also a earning person they would not set to be free in spending for their personal needs. As it is noted before up to certain extent they will be permitted, If they exceeds the permitted limit which lead to family clashes and quarrels even sometimes it will end with family violence. It is primarily based on the utter tolerance of their husband and other family members. Out of 300 total sample respondents it is clear from the table (4.11), that about 204 (68.00%) respondents were permitted to spend as they wish for their personal needs; the remaining 71(23.66%) respondents were

Mode of Savings and asset status of the Samples Respondents by using ANOVA TEST

The following Hypothesis is framed on the basis of the savings habits of the respondents and its relative change in their capacity to build a remarkable economic development through rural house hold's savings level and asset holding.

Ho: Self Help approach does not build the capacity of rural households to the remarkable extent by increasing their savings and asset holding.

H_1: Self Help approach builds the capacity of rural households to the remarkable extent by increasing their savings and asset holding.

SUMMARY

ANOVA

Source of Variation	SS	df	MS	F	P-value	F crit
Between Groups	2.15	4	0.5375	0.0187	0.9992	2.6414
Within Groups	1003.75	35	28.6785			
Total	1005.9	39				

Groups	Count	Sum	Average	Variance
Thandarampet	8	50	6.25	24.5
Vandavasi	8	51	6.375	24.8392
Arni	8	47	5.875	29.5535
Chengam	8	48	6	35.7142
Pudhupalayam	8	46	5.75	28.7857

Result Description

To test the significance of the Hypothesis framed above the single factor Anova is employed on the basis of which result is obtained. To assess the significance of Self Help approach builds the capacity of rural households to the remarkable extent by increasing their savings and asset holding some important variables have been taken in to account as parameters. Since the F – Value (0.0187) is much greater than the F- Critical Value (2.6414) the Null Hypothesis ($H_{o)}$ is accepted. The P – Value (0.9992) is also greater than the Alpha Value at 5% level of significance. Hence, it is statistically proved that the Self Help approach did not build the capacity of rural households to the remarkable extent through increase in their savings and asst holdings. It may be understood that of course, the Self Help Groups has made positive signal in their savings and asset holdings, but it is of the fact that it has not brought remarkable changes in their economic status to the expected level.

5. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

Despite several socio-economic developments worldwide, women still fall among some of the most vulnerable communities, unable to access resources at par with men. Thus, women's empowerment emerges as a theme central to sustainable development. MFIs are looking to empower women by increasing their savings habits. There are consistent efforts on the part of the government to formalize the system of SHGs and give them additional financial support by creating a proper link between the banking system and SHGs. We also need technology and innovation for creating financial literacy among women. Women's empowerment cannot be achieved unless they are involved in financial inclusion by creating awareness. It is evident from the respondents of the age group between 31 to 40 years were highest in terms of age, and age group below 20 was very least in the current study compared to other age groups. It is revealed in the maximum number of the respondents belong to Hindu religion. Christians and Muslims are almost equal and they are very least in number. It is revealed in the majority of 121(40.33%) respondents finished the year primary education. It is clear from the data that the majority of the respondents have studied up to primary school level and the number of graduates obviously very least. It is evident from the data that the majority of the women respondent were married women and again very least number of respondents were divorced. It is evident from majority of the women respondents of the self help group were the daily earners because they have no inheritance and sufficient level of education to make their life better off. Hence they joined in the self-help group in order to enhance their economic condition better off and to get empowered. It is apparent from the table, that maximum numbers of respondents live in concrete houses. It is apparent that majority of the respondents have opined providing timely loans was the great benefit in the SHGs. Other than economic benefits, there are other benefits revealed by the respondents are efficiency in decision making, acquiring skills, and self esteem. Out of 300 total sample respondents around 25 (8.33%) of the respondents spent their amount on cattle rearing which is one of the Crucial income generating activity is shown on the upper part of the table (4.8), whereas, in the non income generating activity the percentage of respondents have shown much variation between the two activities. It is found that the standard of living been increased considerably after they joined in the SHGs. There is a huge difference in the consumption of the items listed above is clearly shown. It is apparent from the array of data that, the remarkable number of respondents has really obtained social status. It is clear about 204 (68.00%) respondents were permitted to spend as they wish for their personal needs; the remaining 71(23.66%) respondents were. It may be understood that of course, the Self Help Groups has made positive signal in their savings status and asset holdings status, but it is of the fact that it has not brought remarkable changes in their economic status to the expected level.

CONCLUSION

SHG plays a positive role in enhancing the women empowerment in all respects. The present articles Socio Economic Status of Self Help Groups on Economic Development among Rural Households in Selected Blocks of Thiruvannmalai District, Tamilnadu is one of the backward and drought prone areas of Tamil Nadu state. The women development has not witnessed for the satisfactory level in the area. The study has brought out the results concerning with women and Economics development in various aspects in each and every components of the SHGs. Further, strengthen through appropriate measures would usher a new dimension of economic development and keep pace in the new horizon in every walk of life. SHG members may be motivated to involve in the production of products. This would further provide a way for the favorable social status and economic status change.

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