



**DISCUSSING ABOUT THE POVERTY ALLEVIATION, STAUTS IN TERMS OF
WOMEN EMPOWERMENT**

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ABSTRACT

Women's empowerment is a multifaceted idea. It's multifaceted. From a social, political, economic, and philosophical standpoint. Economic empowerment is the most critical aspect of women's empowerment for society's long-term growth and well-being. Members of Self-Help Groups are given micro-loans and encouraged to start small businesses as a result of their participation in these groups. SHGs' socio-economic effect and members' perceptions of SHGs were examined in this research, along with their performance. Study goals include tracing the origins and evolution of self-help groups, evaluating the performance of selected groups, analysing social change among self-help group members, calculating the economic impact of groups, and examining attitudes toward economic, social, psychological, and political impact among SHG members. SHG performance can be examined through hypotheses examining the relationship between various factors, such as how long the group has been in existence, the leader's literacy level, the size of the group's membership, and other factors; whether or not members' social and economic circumstances differ significantly before and after joining the group; and the relationship between social factors and members' attitudes toward economic, social, and psychological factors A variety of statistical tests were used to examine the acquired data, including the Mc Nemar test, Sign test, Kruskal-Wallis test, Sen.'s poverty level index and Chi-Square test.

Keywords: - Growth, Citizen, Women, Empowerment, Social.

I. INTRODUCTION

The growth of a country is linked to the development of each and every citizen in terms of their quality of life, not just the development of infrastructure, innovations, and technology. A country will progress on its development path if all residents are active in the process and have access to basic necessities of life such as food, clothing, shelter, health, clean water, education, employment, and a healthy

natural and social environment.

However, if a country's people are impoverished, they will only think about earning a living, and their participation in the nation's progress will be far away. India is a developing country with roughly 30% of the population living in poverty. Rural areas have the highest concentration of poor people. These folks are malnourished and the majority of them are jobless. As a result, since India's



independence, poverty alleviation has remained a top priority for development practitioners. The government has adopted a lot of steps to reduce poverty from time to time. Institutional credit was viewed as a potent tool for increasing productivity and reducing poverty in development strategies prior to the 1980s. It was once assumed that lending to the needy should be part of a bank's usual operations. The extension of the institutional framework, directed lending to the priority sector, and subsidized loan rates for the poor were all part of the strategy established for this aim. For giving credit to the rural poor, a multi-agency approach was used.

Cooperative banks, commercial banks, and regional rural banks were chosen as the institutional vehicles for this aim. The nationalization of fourteen main commercial banks in 1969 and another six commercial banks in 1980, as well as the establishment of regional rural banks in 1975, allowed for the development of a vast financial infrastructure for bringing banking to rural areas. The huge bank branch network was anticipated to cover the entire rural population's financial demands. A variety of direct wage-employment programs were developed to enhance the poor people's income, in addition to different institutional and regulatory initiatives made to combat India's rural poverty. Self-employment programs were also encouraged through subsidised credit to support the establishment of productive assets.

The 20-Point Programme, the National Rural Employment Programme, the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme, the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, the Employment Assurance Scheme, the Food for Work Programme, the

Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojna, the Integrated Rural Development Programme, the Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas, the Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment, the Supply of Improved Tool Kits to Rural Artisans, and the Swarnjayanti These programs, however, did not produce the intended results. Although the formal financial sector's share of total rural lending expanded from 8.8% in 1951 to 53.3 percent in 1991, it was discovered that rural banks primarily addressed the requirements of comparably wealthy rural borrowers rather than the deserving poor.

II. POVERTY ALLEVIATION THROUGH WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Microfinance arose in response to the failure of market and official credit institutions to provide poor people with long-term access to credit. Microfinance is now widely seen as a noble replacement for unsecured lending and a powerful and effective tool for poverty reduction among people who are economically productive yet financially disadvantaged and vulnerable in many countries. Because women make up the majority of microfinance participants, there is a gender dimension to poverty alleviation. Microfinance can help women gain access to and control over their financial and physical resources. Increased access and control over economic resources can become an empowering tool for women, in addition to helping to reduce poverty among women. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), government organizations, and financial institutions are all active in promoting microfinance because of its value.

Microfinance is a movement in which low-



income households have ongoing access to a variety of high-quality financial products to help them fund their income-generating activities, build assets, stabilize consumption, and preserve their assets. Towards danger these services aren't normally limited to credit, but they do include it. Savings, insurance, and money transfers are all options. 'Microfinance' is a modern beginning point, despite the fact that this phrase is not found in textual sources.

Finance and financial administration-related subject books. However, there is now an in terms of the media, national/international forums, and literature, it is freely utilized nowadays.

of the development and prosperity of society's marginalized groups, and There are plenty others. Microfinance is defined as monetary services such as savings accounts, insurance funds, and credit provided to poor and low-income customers in order to assist them in increasing their earnings and, as a result, improving their standard of living. According to, the term microfinance refers to the provision of financial services to low-income and self-employed individuals. Savings and credit are the most common economic services; nevertheless, some microfinance companies also offer insurance and fee services.

In addition to financial intermediation, many microfinance organizations provide social intermediation services such as staff formation, self-confidence building, and financial literacy and management training for group members. As a result, microfinance is frequently defined as both financial and social intermediation. Microfinance is a development tool, not

only a form of banking. As a result, the word "microfinance" is frequently used to refer to both economic and social intermediation. Microfinance is not the same as easy banking; it is a tool for development. In general, a microfinance exercise entails:

- 1) Small loans for working capital are the most common.,
- 2) A quick assessment of debtors and investors,
- 3) Access to recurrent and larger loans based on debt capacity and repayment performance
- 4) Loan disbursement and monitoring are streamlined, and
- 5) A comfortable way to save money.

In a similar vein, Microfinance is defined as "banking the unbendable," bringing credit, savings, and other vital financial offers within the reach of millions of people who are too poor to be handled by traditional banks, typically due to a lack of sufficient collateral. "Banks are for humans with cash, not for people without," as the saying goes.

III. STATUS OF WOMEN IN CHANDIGARH

Human beings' situation and rank have grown to a great level in many dimensions since the commencement of human history, which now appear to be highly contradictory to those of the past. Many facets of man's life have altered, including his sociocultural, political, and economic status, as well as his rights. As a result, man's living pattern and standards have drastically changed. Many sectors of the population that had previously reigned were deposed, while others who had previously been denied sociopolitical, cultural, and economic positions as well as rights had attained equality in terms of



position and power. However, despite tremendous progress in scientific and technological, literal and cultural development, the reputation of females, who make up roughly half of the population, remains in a fragile and underdeveloped state, and gender discrimination persists even in this so-called "society of equal rights for both sexes." Women's oppression is pervasive and widespread, and finding remedies is challenging.

As a result, the issue of female empowerment has become a hot topic in policymakers' debates and conversations at the moment. In order to have a comprehensive understanding and assessment of the position of women in contemporary India, it is necessary to analyze the historical viewpoint of women's fame and the manner in which she has achieved empowerment in this modern developed world of equal rights and popularity. The reputation of ladies in India from long ago is defined in the following sections based on this conceptual viewpoint component. The term 'reputation' has a long history because it refers to the roles that one must perform as well as the rights and responsibilities that come with a social status. It refers to a character's function in a social process.

It also incorporates the conceptions of superiority and inferiority in terms of power, authority, and grading, as well as the rights and obligations of superiority and inferiority in terms of power, authority, and grading. The common convention in any discussion of women's standing in society is to evaluate their roles in relation to men. Two additional dimensions are.

(a) The degree to which women have genuine control over their own lives, and

(b) The degree to which they have access to decision-making processes and are effective in positions of power and influence. Understanding the concept of status is helpful in presenting a full assessment of women's status.

IV. MICRO-FINANCE AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Microfinance is the provision of financial services to low-income clients or solidarity lending groups, such as consumers and self-employed people, who have historically had limited access to banks and related services. Microfinance is more than just giving the poor microcredit; it is an economic development instrument that aims to help the impoverished work their way out of poverty. It includes financial services such as credit, savings, insurance, and remittance, as well as non-financial services such as training and counseling. The impoverished can establish income-generating ventures with the help of microcredit and other support services. The establishment and maintenance of income-generating units, particularly for women, is an important step toward female empowerment, which leads to the overall development of a society and region.

In most developing countries, women play a variety of roles, ranging from household management to childbearing to earning an income to engaging in social and cultural activities. They have restricted access to education, health care, labor market participation, credit, resources, formal sector positions, decision-making processes, and so on. They are powerless, insecure, oppressed, and exploited because they lack empowerment and entitlement. The tale of half of the people in any poor



country or location is the same. The Meat area (Haryana district) is no exception, and their (women's) contribution to GDP is not recognized.

With the masterful work of Noble Prize laureate Mohammed Yunus in Chandigarh, who not only originated but also vigorously implemented the concept of micro financing, the notion of micro financing rose to prominence. This approach resulted in a dramatic shift in women's socioeconomic standing in Chandigarh, and this model became a role model for others as well. The following instances clearly demonstrate this: Assume you're an impoverished Chandigarh woman. Almost every day, you put in long hours weaving mats. You can make a mat that costs less than a dollar in five days. There is no money for medicine when your children become ill. What would it mean to you if you could borrow \$65 to purchase a sewing machine? The example given above is true. Joygon Begum was a poor Chandigarh mat weaver.

Jargon used her Graeme Bank loan of \$65 to buy an old sewing machine and start small business creating clothing that her husband sells at the village market. Joygon and her family went hungry a lot before she got her first loan, and they never had enough money for family medical care. She couldn't even pay for her children's relatively low education costs. The family now eats three nutritious meals a day, with a diet consisting primarily of vegetables, cereals, and a small quantity of meat and fish. Her children go to school, and she has money set aside in case of an emergency. Consider the case of Anandi, a housewife from a hamlet in Odisha who was rejected a loan by a bank in the city in 2012 because she had no bank account, no

income statement, and no credit record because no one had ever given to her. In 2012, she was eventually offered a loan of Rs. 50,000. She used the money to rent a pond near her hut and raise fish in it. Six months later, she sold the fish and paid back the money. She took out a second loan, rented two ponds, and went from being a helpless housewife to a successful organic aquaculturalist. As the preceding instances demonstrate, microfinance meets a demand that is not met by traditional commercial bank financing.

V. CONCLUSION

Challenges posed by the new century have forced a number of countries to undergo a radical change in their culture and traditions. Our nation's social and economic growth will be hindered unless new challenges are handled. One of the most essential aspects of self-help groups is the empowering of female members. SHGs, particularly among women in rural regions of the nation, have unquestionably started to make a substantial contribution to the reduction of poverty and the empowerment of the poor. Social progress would be much accelerated if more women were empowered. A certain method to contribute to economic growth and development is to invest in the skills of women and provide them the freedom to pursue their own goals and opportunities. Increasing the status of rural women benefits not just the women who live there, but also their families and the society at large. Members' socio-economic development and the success of SHGs in Chandigarh City are the focus of this research. The SHGs performed well in this experiment. Being a member of SHGs had a beneficial influence on the majority of women. In the SHGs, women gained self-



confidence, as well as social, economic, political and psychological empowerment and capacity development via their involvement. The SHGs in Chandigarh City will enhance the position of women even further if the relevant authorities implement the aforementioned recommendations.

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