

Women, SHGs, and Entrepreneurship in Kalaburagi: Challenges Ahead

Dr. Kailaspathi

Associate Professor & Head, Department of Commerce,

Government First Grade College Chittapur -585211, Tq. Chittapur Dist. Kalaburagi, Karnataka State (India)

(Affiliated to Gulbarga University Kalaburagi)

Email : kailaspathivishwakarma@gmail.com

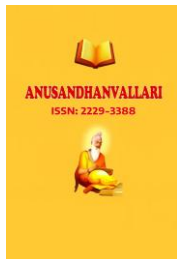
Abstract: Self-Help Groups (SHGs) are voluntarily formed, informal associations typically comprising 10–20 members. These groups encourage members to save regularly and use the pooled funds to meet their credit needs. SHGs operate democratically, with decisions taken collectively. Since members usually live in the same locality and share common interests, the groups are generally homogeneous, fostering strong cohesiveness. Regular savings, periodic meetings, compulsory attendance, timely repayment, and structured training are the key features of SHGs. Global evidence from various developing countries indicates that the poor can significantly improve their socio-economic conditions when organized into SHGs. Microfinance and SHGs have played a major role in enhancing the economic well-being of the core poor, reducing poverty, and empowering women, which ultimately leads to the overall development of rural communities. The present paper, titled “**Women, SHGs and Entrepreneurship in Kalaburagi: Challenges Ahead,**” focuses on the fundamental characteristics of SHGs, their organizational structure, stages of formation, and meeting procedures, all of which have been systematically examined.

Key words: Empowerment, Microfinance, Entrepreneurship, self help groups

INTRODUCTION:

Women's are increasing their voices heard in the political arena, community organization, social and culture participation. The empowerment of women by their increased participation in all aspects of political, social and economic life has become one of the goals of democratic and participatory movements, as well as women's organization throughout the world. The women participation has four basic forms household participation, economic participation, social and cultural participation and political participation. Infect household is often and the only place where women participate. That is why women are refereed as “housewife”. The women's ability to participate in household decision-making has an effect on the well-being of the entire family. Women's status in the household impacts their ability to participate outside the home. Therefore it is crucial to democratize and remove the gender imbalance at home and encourage them to participate as an equal partner. Democracy begins at home. Although women's economic participation is increasing, still great inequalities do exist n our society of particularly, employment opportunities and rights. Women hold a small proportion of management position and are seldom in leadership of trade unions in India the present paper is an attempt to study the various aspects of SHG's in overall development of economic.

Microfinance is usually understood to entail the provision of financial services to micro-entrepreneurs and small businesses, which lack access to banking and related services due to the high transaction costs



associated with serving these client categories. The two main mechanisms for the delivery of financial services to such clients are:

Statement of the problem

Recognizing the growing significance of women's entrepreneurship and the crucial role played by Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in fostering economic empowerment, there remains a noticeable research gap in understanding their specific impact in the context of Kalaburagi city. To address this gap and to analyze the challenges and future prospects faced by women entrepreneurs associated with SHGs, the researcher has undertaken the study titled **"Women, SHGs and Entrepreneurship in Kalaburagi: Challenges Ahead,"**

Objectives of the Study:

The present study has the following main objectives:

1. **To examine the various dimensions of women's empowerment** achieved through participation in Self-Help Groups (SHGs).
2. **To understand the basic concept, structure, and functioning of SHGs**, particularly in the context of women's entrepreneurship.
3. **To offer practical suggestions** for strengthening SHGs and enhancing their role in promoting women's economic and social empowerment.

Methodology of the study :

1. Research Design

The study adopts a descriptive research design to examine the role of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in promoting women entrepreneurship in Kalaburagi city.

2. Sources of Data:

The study is based on both **primary** and **secondary** data.

- **Primary Data:**
Collected through a *structured questionnaire* administered to women members of various SHGs in Kalaburagi.
- **Secondary Data:**
Collected from published books, research articles, government reports, magazines, and authentic information available on various websites related to SHGs and women entrepreneurship.

3. Sampling Method:

A **purposive sampling method** was adopted to select SHGs that are actively involved in income-generating activities. Respondents were chosen based on their membership and involvement in entrepreneurial activities.

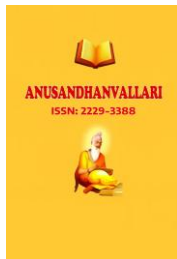
4. Sample Size:

A total of 110 **respondents** were selected from different SHGs operating in Kalaburagi city.

5. Tools for Data Collection:

The following tools were used:

- Structured questionnaire



- Personal interviews (where necessary)
- Observation during field visits

6. Statistical Techniques Used:

To analyze the collected data, basic statistical tools such as:

- Percentages
- Averages
- Tables and charts were used to present and interpret the findings effectively.

7. Study Area

The study was conducted in **Kalaburagi city**, one of the important urban centers in the Kalyana Karnataka region, known for its active participation in SHG-based microfinance initiatives and women empowerment programs.

This study comprising of both primary and secondary data primary data is obtained through Structured questionnaire secondary data is based on the analysis of the secondary data published in the magazines and various websites.

Limitations of the Study:

The study has the following limitations:

1. The study relies heavily on data published by various organizations through their official reports and publications. It is assumed that the information obtained from these sources is accurate and reliable.
2. The findings are based on responses collected from selected SHGs in Kalaburagi city, which may not fully represent all SHGs in the region.
3. The study is limited to the availability and accessibility of secondary data, which may affect the depth of analysis.

FEATURES OF SELF HELP GROUPS :

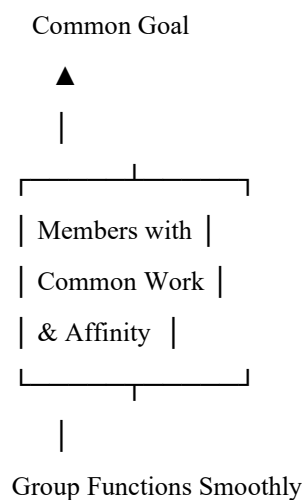
The salient features of the SHGs are as under:

- ❖ Identical interest: Common Occupation and Affinity Having identical interest in terms of group functioning adopting common occupation/works and having affinity towards common things is a highlighting features of the SHGs. Varied ideas and interests do not foster proper groups functioning.
- ❖ Flexible and Responsible: Flexibility in thinking, decision-makings and implementing the plan enables the groups to have a broader framework of mechanism and operation. Shared sense of responsibility in turn would promote flexibility in the group.
- ❖ Simple documentation: Simple documentation of the records and the registers is an integral feature of the Self Help Groups. The documents are maintained in such a way that it can be referred and used by all the members efficiently.

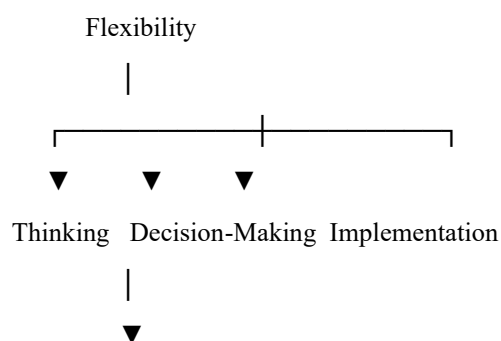
- ❖ **Collective leadership:** Collective leadership promotes group cohesion as it is through collective leadership that the members interact. Leadership is responsible for effective integration of goals and communication in the group in order to develop a climate of trust.
- ❖ **Mutual decision-making:** Group sustainability depends to a larger extent on how the members involve in mutual decision-making. Hence collateral decision-making is an important feature of the SHG.
- ❖ **Group solidarity and Self Help:** Group solidarity gives an impulse towards collective actions and articulation. Whereas the idea of self-help provides larger scope for integrated mechanism of group functioning.
- ❖ **Awareness and Sociology-Economic Empowerment:** Awareness is crucial feature of the Self Help Group, since women are exposed to various components of the social sphere. This feature gives a forward thrust for the effective groups functioning.
- ❖ **Mutual trust and Confidence:** The successful functioning of the group for a prolonged period relies on the mutual trust and confidence of group members.

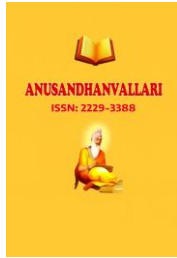
DIAGRAMS FOR FEATURES OF SELF HELP GROUPS (SHGs)

1. Identical Interest



2. Flexible & Responsible





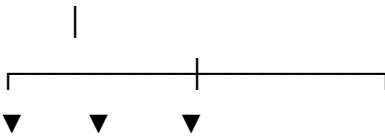
Shared Responsibility



Effective Operation

3. Simple Documentation

Simple Registers & Records



Easy to Maintain

Transparent for All

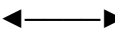
Accessible to All

4. Collective Leadership

Member A



Member C



Member B



Member D

(Shared Leadership Circle)

5. Mutual Decision-Making

Members → Discuss → Decide Together → Implement

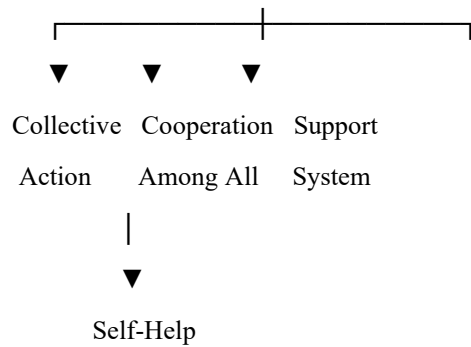
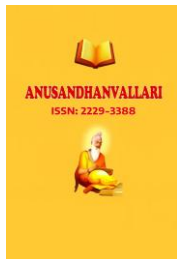


Collective Agreement

6. Group Solidarity & Self-Help

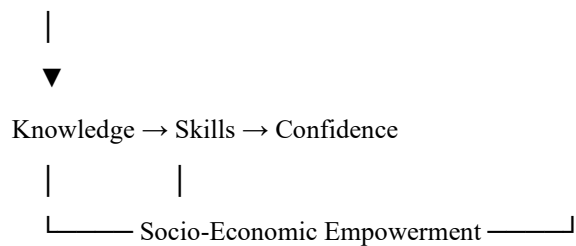
Group Solidarity



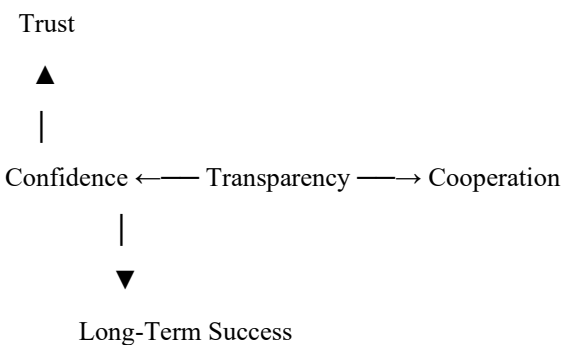


7. Awareness & Socio-Economic Empowerment

Awareness

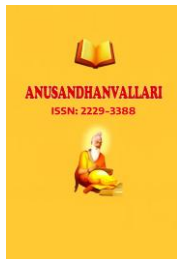


8. Mutual Trust & Confidence



Size of the members-homogeneous (according to skill, education etc.)

- Target group-focus must be pure target groups
- Age of the group-minimum experience of 6 month required
- Regularity of meeting-should be help regularly and all the resolution should be neatly mentioned
- Frequency of meetings-ideally meet once in a month
- Attendance in meetings-full attendance must be ensured



- Saving in regular intervals-Rs. 5/month/Member will score less as compare to Rs.100/Members/Month
 - Decision making-all members must participation in decision making
 - Gender aspects – a mixed group with male dominancy will score less
 - Loan utilization by members and recovery of loans – SHG's have taken loans and fully repaid them will score more
 - Record maintenance – accountability of record and account must be maintained
- Loan are given based on the following 5 –C's

- Capability
- Credibility
- Character of loanee
- Capacity of repay
- Collateral security

Organizational structure of Self Help Group's:

The organizational structure consists of one animator, two representatives and members. The animators may preferably be literate. She must possess certain leadership qualities and must be in a position to take on the role of trainer for the group member in certain aspects of their daily life. She plays vital roles in the functioning of SHG's two representatives are nominated b SHG for amongst. Members, rotated on any yearly bases. The animator's position should be rotated amongst the representative once in every two years.

Responsibility of members in SHG:

- Attending the meeting within prescribed time
- Giving respect to the president and secretary
- Keeping some amount as a saving without fail
- Rules and regulation should be followed by the members
- Participating in discussion in the meeting
- Participating in the decision making
- Maintaining co-operation and integrity among the members
- Equal freedom should be given to the all members
- Discussing the matter which should be important to the groups

Formation of self help groups:

The following are the stages for the formation of self help groups



Sl.No	Stages of formation	Activities
1	Formative	Meet members individually to collect all data like name, village, age, family income, barrowing, Family history etc. and are assured homogeneity among group members.
2	Storming	Disputes out the resolved fact fully by the facilitator and ensure unity within the group Feeling of ownership must be installed into the minds of SHG members
3	Performing	Bank account to be opened Regular meeting to be held Skill up gradation Impart training on maintaining records and accounts Linkages to financial organizations like NABARD, SIDBI, for loan facilities Motivate the members to start income generating activities

(Source: Training on Artisan SHG-UNDP-Orissa)

Meeting of Self-Help Groups:

The groups meet every week for saving and repayment and every fortnight for discussing all other matters in addition to saving and repayment. Group meetings are to be conduct within discipline in relation to regularity and time. Any members who fails to attend are comes late for the meetings who has to pay fine has decided by the groups for the late coming. In such meetings, savings, rotation of sangha funds, Bank loans and repayments. Social and community programs are discussed for the development of the society and the groups.

Result and discussion:

The primary data is obtained through questionnaire the information has been collected from the 110 Self Help Group members in t

Table No. 1.1

SELF HELP GROUP and NUMBER OF MEMBERS

SL.NO.	Name of the Self Help Group	No. of Members
1.	Maharani SHG	10
2.	Mother Teresa SHG	10
3.	Akkamahadevi SHG	10
4.	Mahalaxmi SHG	10
5.	Bhuvaneshweri SHG	10
6.	Rajalaxmi SHG	10
7.	Bhagyavanti SHG	10
8.	Kalika devi SHG	10

9.	Sumangala SHG	10
10.	Bhargavi SHG	10
11.	Sumati SHG	10
Total		110

Source: field investigation

Graph No. 1
SELF HELP GROUP and NUMBER OF MEMBERS

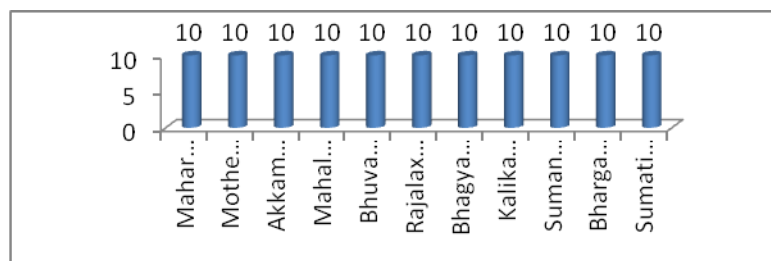


Table . 1.2 Age composition of the respondents

Sl.No.	Age	No. of Respondents	%
1.	18-25	30	27.27
2.	26-35	25	22.72
3.	36-45	40	36.36
4.	Above 45	15	13.64
Total		110	

Source: field investigation

Table 1.2 represents the age composition of the respondents that majority of the respondents' Falls under the age group of 18 to 35

Graph No.2 Age Composition of the Respondents

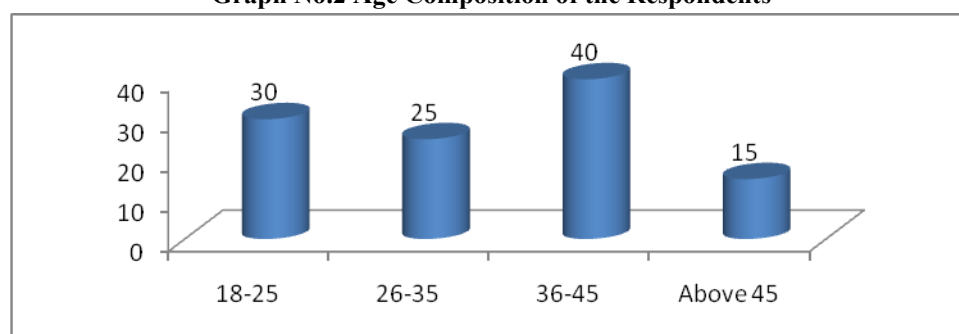


Table 1.3 Weekly contribution of the respondents

Sl No.	Amount	No. of respondents	%
1.	25-50	10	9.09
2.	51-75	80	72.73
3.	76-100	15	13.6
4.	Above 100	05	4.54
Total		110	

Source: field investigation

The table 1.3 depicts that the weekly contribution by the SHG members majority of the respondents expressed their opinion as they have weekly contribution of Rs.51-75 this shows the healthy contribution by the group members

Table: 1.4 Type of Handicraft

Sl No.	Occupation	No. of respondents	%
1.	Soft toys making from cloths, sewing, handicraft	50	45.46
2.	Papad making	30	27.27
3.	Agarbatti making	20	18.18
4.	Vegetable shop	10	09.90
Total		110	100

Source: field investigation

Table 1.4 expressed the opinion of type of occupation wise distribution of respondents that 45.46 percent of the respondents expressed their occupation as Soft toys making from cloths, sewing, handicraft 27.27 percent Papad making, 18.18 percent expressed as Agarbatti making and 09.09 percent as Vegetable shop

Table 1.4 Economics Condition after Joining SHG

Sl No.	Factor	No. of respondents	%
1.	Improved	110	100
2.	Not improved	00	00
Total		110	

Source: field investigation

The table 1.4 explores that economic condition after joining the SHG that cent percent of the respondents expressed that their economic condition has been improved after joining SHG. Which is great indicator that SHG are contributing for the economic development of the respondents.

Table2:
Educational status of respondents

Education level	No. of respondents	Percentage
Illiterate	33	30
Primary level	44	40
Secondary level	22	20
College level	11	10
Total	110	100

Source: field investigation

From the above table it is clear that 30% respondents constitutes illiterate group, 40% constitutes primary level education, 20 % secondary level education and 10% college level. So the sample has been greatly dominated by primary level educated group.

Table 3
Improvement in personal profile of SHG members

Sl.no	Personal profile of SHG members	Has Improved	Not Improved
1	Confidence level	80	30
2	Financial position	75	35
3	Awareness about society and community	65	45
4	Ready to learn new skills	55	55
5	Decision making over issues of welfare of family	62	48

Source: field investigation

From the above table we can understand that confidence level and financial position of women have improved to considerable extend. After joining SHG women have become more aware about society and community.

Table 4:
Income level (Monthly income) of the respondents before joining and after joining SHG

Respondents monthly income (before joining SHG)		Respondents monthly income (After joining SHG)
Income	Percentage	Percentage

Less than 2000	43	18
2001-4000	30	42
4001-6000	17	22
6001 and above	10	18
Total	100	100

Source: field investigation

From the above table it is observed that before joining in SHGs, 43% of respondents monthly income was less than Rs.2000 followed by 30% of respondents got between 2001 to 4000 Rs, 17% of respondents got between 4001 to 6000 Rs and 10% of respondents got above Rs 6000. But after joining in SHGs, 42% of respondents are getting monthly income between Rs 2001 to 4000 followed by 18% of respondents are getting less than Rs 2000, 22% of respondents are getting between Rs 4001 to 6000 and 18% of respondents are getting above Rs 6000. Thus for most of the respondents monthly income has increased after joining SHG.

Table 5: Reasons for joining SHG

Reasons for joining SHG	Percentage
For supporting family	30
For saving	20
For business and learning	17
For getting loan	23
For other purpose	10
Total	100

Above table refers to the distribution of sample respondents by reasons for joining self-help groups. It is observed that 30% joined for family support, 20 % for saving purpose, 23% for getting loan and 17% for business and learning.

Major Finding:

The SHGs have made a lasting impact on the lives of the women; their quality of life has improved a lot after joining these self-help groups as:

- This has increased their self-reliance and self-confidence.
- The illiterate and semi-literate women have got a sense of satisfaction and fulfillment as now they have become productive and the important members of the family as they can support their family.
- They got high self-esteem which enhances their capacity to work.
- Their social horizons of members have also widened, now they are more aware about society and community.

- e. Increase in monthly income of majority of sample respondents after joining SHGs.
- f. Monthly expenditure of the sample respondents has gone up after joining SHGs.
- g. Savings of sample respondents have gone up after they became members of SHGs.
- h. They are ready to learn and develop various productive activities and skills
- i. It is found in the study that the age composition of the respondents that majority of the respondents' falls under the age category of 18 to 35 age group.
- j. It is observed in the study that the weekly contribution by the SHG members majority of the respondents expressed their opinion as they have weekly contribution of Rs.51-75 this shows the healthy contribution by the group members
- k. It is noticed in the study that economic condition after joining the SHG that percent of the respondents expressed that their economic condition has been improved after joining SHG. This is great indicator that SHG are contributing for the economic development of the respondents.

Suggestions:

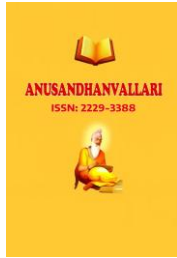
1. It is suggested that there should be micro financing for men also so that they could cultivate the habit of savings
2. It is inferred that all category of age groups are attracted towards the SHG
3. The savings for weekly to be increased
4. The handicraft which are produced by self help groups there should be organised market for them and government should support the self help groups by providing more amount of subsidies

Conclusion:

The study was undertaken to identify women "women entrepreneurship through self help group a study of kalaburagi city : problems and prospectus "The major findings in the study justify the greater role played by the SHGs in increasing empowerment of women, by making them financially strong, as well as it helped them to save amount of money and invest it for further development. It is also found that the Self Help Groups created confidence among women in social and economic terms and made them self-reliant. We may conclude that SHGs are contributing significantly in increasing the status and livelihood options of women in the study area and in this way they have very successfully develop women empowerment in Kalaburagi city of Karnataka. Therefore more such local organizations should be promoted.

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