

## PROFILE AND FUNCTIONING OF THE SELF HELP GROUPS OF UDAIPUR DISTRICT

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**Abstract:** The present study was conducted to know the profile and functioning of self-help groups. The study was conducted in Udaipur district of Rajasthan. Total ten SHGs were selected from Badgaon Block. Of these, five villages i.e. Lakhawali, Madar, Dheekli, Amberi, Bedla having, maximum no. of SHGs in the village were selected. It was found that 8 SHG were organized by ICDS and 2 SHGs were organized by NGO. An overview of SHGs in respect to the profile it was observed that out of 10 SHGs, four SHGs had their bank account in SBI, one in Grameen bank, one on Co-operative Bank and one in Mewar Anchalik bank. Five SHGs were doing only loaning, while 2 SHGs were involved in self employment i.e. Fruit selling, tailoring, beauty parlor etc.

**Keywords:** Profile, functioning, self help group.

### Introduction

Self Help Groups (SHGs) are small voluntary associations of poor people, preferably from the same socio-economic background who come together for the purpose of solving their common problems through self help and mutual help. Self help groups have become a good source to empower woman. It plays a vital role in the rural development and groups reduce the emphasis of the unorganized sector and develop individual skills of the community and members. At present SHGs are growing at rapid pace and helping woman to grow in the society which could improve their socio-economic conditions. The SHG promotes small savings among its members. The savings are kept with a bank. This common fund is in the name of the SHG. Usually, the number of members in one SHG does not exceed twenty. SHGs are helping in woman empowerment to a great extent, By this woman can become self dependent by saving small amount of money on monthly basis and once their group becomes able to lend money and then by taking loan also as per their requirement which could make them start their small business and make them employable. For taking loan they have to give a prior notice in the meeting so that they could get the loan at the right time. They fix small

installment for repayment of the loan which is very convenient for them to repay their borrowings with principal amount as well as interest. Every month all the women come together and hold meetings and make their monthly payment. SHGs brings confidence among woman to face the problem of poverty and develop their individual skills also as well as increases their living standard & social relation which could lead to enhanced their leadership qualities and their participation in social activities and they could give a better social security also. Malathi and Vijayarani (2012) have found a significant difference in economic empowerment of the SHG members in post-SHG situation when compared with pre-SHG situation. The study also suggested a positive association between the level of education and empowerment. Singh (2013) also have shown that SHG members were able to contribute towards their family income and also gained other benefits like skill upgradation, better understanding, banking operations, and better leadership and communication skills.

### **Material & Methods**

In Rajasthan state, one district i.e. Udaipur was selected because Maharana Pratap Agriculture University is situated in this district and the investigator is the resident of the district and familiar with the socioeconomic conditions of the area, which face lifted in data collection. There were 17 blocks in Udaipur district from which one block was selected and five villages having maximum number of SHGs were selected purposively. In which, two SHGs were selected randomly from each of the selected villages. There were 10-20 members in each SHG. From each SHG, 10 members were selected randomly to form a total sample of 100 respondents.

### **Results and Discussion**

#### **Profile of the SHGs**

Total ten SHGs were selected from Badgaon Block. Of these, five villages i.e. Lakhawali, Madar, Dheekli, Amberi, Bedla having, maximum no. of SHGs in the village were selected. It was found that 8 SHG were organized by ICDS and 2 SHGs were organized by NGO. An overview of SHGs in respect to the profile, it was observed that out of 10 SHGs, four SHGs had their bank account in SBI, one in Grameen bank, one in Co-operative Bank and one had in Mewar Anchalik bank. Five SHGs were doing only loaning, while 2 SHGs were involved in self-employment i.e. Fruit selling, tailoring, beauty parlor etc. Cent percent (100%) SHG members were having no membership of another organization. They all were having membership of their own SHG. Seventy percent (70%) groups do meetings regularly while 30 per cent groups do it sometimes. The study of Rajendran and Raya (2011) reported that

NGOs, had played a very important role in the formation of SHGs and motivating women to join the groups and linking the groups with the banks for microfinance. Nearly 55 per cent of the respondents informed that Non- governmental Organizations helped them to form Self-Help Groups. But Government departments and neighboring Self Help Groups had very negligible role in the formation of Self-Help Groups. It was concluded that NGOs and greater interest of women themselves are the main motivational factors to join SHGs, and Self- Help Group members also influence other women to join the groups.

**Table1: Activities undertaken by the groups during meeting**

**\*n = 10**

S.No.	Activities of SHG	Always f/ (%)	Sometime f/ (%)	Never f/ (%)	MPS *
1.	Money collection/ lending	7	3	0	85
2.	General discussion	2	7	1	55
3.	Discussion regarding particular issues	3	6	1	60
4.	Discussion on organizing trainings	0	6	4	30

**\*n = Number of SHG groups**

Data in Table 1 reveals that majority of the groups i.e. 85 MPS were doing money collection, 60 MPS groups used to have discussions regarding particular issues (Personal issues like studies & marriage of children, farm operations, shed management, milking methods, safe & clean milk production and social issues like necessity of roads & light, facilities for village, higher education for children, collective dinner/ lunch for any spiritual reasons etc.) while, 55 MPS were involved in general discussions during meetings and 30 MPS were doing discussion on organization of trainings like training on tailoring, preservation, repair and maintenance of farm machinery, motor winding and entrepreneurship development etc.

### **History of the SHG**

In 1976, Prof. Mohammed Yunus of Bangladesh started women's groups in Bangladesh and developed thrift and savings among the poorest. Now it has developed into a bank named Bangladesh Grameen Bank. Its report in February (1998) states that the bank has 1138 branches and covers 39572 villages. It has 2367503 members of which only 124571 are men. The bank has disbursed a cumulative amount of US\$2714.61 Million whereas the savings of the members has reached US\$202.73 Million.

**Table 2: Distribution of the members according to their year of group formation  
n=10**

S.No.	Year of group formation	No. of SHG
1.	2006-2010	2
2.	2011-2015	7
3.	After 2015	1

Data presented in Table 2 reveal that seven SHGs were formed in the year 2011-2015 and two were formed before this period i.e. 2006-2010 and only one SHG was formed in 2015. The findings of the study are in conformity with Borah (2014) who reported that majority of the SHGs (22.72 %) were formed in between 2001-02, while 4.54 per cent SHGs were formed in between 1997-98, 1999- 2000, 2004-05 and 2007-08 respectively.

#### Bank loan taken by the group members

**Table 3: Distribution of the members according to bank loan**

S.No.	Use of loan by group members	f	%	INR
1.	Groups who took loan (n=10)	10	100	-
2.	Loan distributed among members(n=100)	78	78	-
3.	Average loan per member	-	-	12000/-

Table 3 portrays that the bank loan was taken by all of the SHG groups and was distributed among the members (78 %). The average loan amount per member was 12000/- INR.

**Table 4: Distribution of the members according to reasons for taking loans  
n=100**

S.No.	Reason for loan	No. of members f %
1.	Health purpose	20
2.	Farming	35
3.	Construction of house	25
4.	Marriage of children	20

Persual of data presented in table 4 reveals that nearly one third of the members took loan for farming (35%), while 20-25 per cent respondents took it for construction of their houses, health purpose and marriage of their children. The findings are in line with Parveen (2008) who reported that majority of the groups (73.33%) took loan for productive purpose as well as utilizing the loan completely and rest of the groups (26.6%) took credit for consumption purpose and using it partially for the purpose they took the loan.

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