

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH SELF HELP GROUPS IN TAMIL NADU

Mrs. K. Merlin Chithra Selvi¹

¹Assistant Professor, Department of Management Studies, Dr. Sivanthi Aditanar
College of Engineering, Tiruchendur, Tamil Nadu.

ABSTRACT

Micro-finance is emerging as a powerful instrument for poverty alleviation in the new economic scenario. The search for the best way to create opportunity and sustainable development in the less privileged parts of the world has brought initiatives to overcome poverty and marginalization, to build more inclusive social, economic and financial systems. In India, micro-finance scene is dominated by Self-Help Groups (SHGs) – Banks linkage Programme, aimed at providing a cost effective mechanism for providing financial services to the ‘unreached poor’. In the Indian context terms like “small and marginal farmers”, “rural artisans” and “economically weaker sections” have been used to broadly define micro-finance customers. Research across the globe has shown that, over time, micro-finance clients increase their income and assets, increase the number of years of schooling their children receive, and improve the health and nutrition of their families. Micro-finance is generally defined as specialized financial tools-such as small loans, savings accounts and insurance policies available to poor households and small businesses that do not typically have access to financial services. Inclusive financial services are now recognized as a way to empower individuals and communities to lift themselves out of poverty. Micro-finance programmes are also acknowledged for their role on women empowerment. This study is based on primary and secondary data which is collected from women engaged in self-help groups data used in the various government records respectively. In this paper, researcher did critical analysis of role of micro finance in poverty reduction efforts regarding women, examined the relationship between income and expenditure of self-help groups. Hence, the present study suggests the suitable policies for improvement of women members in self-help groups in across the country with specially focus to Tamil Nadu.

KEYWORDS: Micro-finance, rural artisans, unreached poor, self-help groups.