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## Role of SHGS in women empowerment: Case from selected villages of Gajapati, Odisha

**Arun Kumar Panda, Atanu Deb and Chitrasena Padhy**

### Abstract

The Self-Help Group is a notable idea being developed program. These days Self-help Groups play a main duty in shortage relief in country region. This is accounted for that the SHGs have some work in accelerate monetary advancement of country. Primarily, individuals from the Self-Help Groups are women. Subsequently, commitment of women in the country's monetary improvement is rising. They additionally assume a crucial part in enhancing the financial status of their families. Ladies address around half of the absolute human resources in our monetary framework. This has prompted improve the strategy for women Empowerment. The study is based on Ex-post facto research design. The study intended to find-1) Impact of Self-Help Groups on women empowerment and 2) Constraints experienced by the women in operationalizing the Family Farms through Self-Help Groups. Participatory Rural Appraisal was a major dominating method. The study was conducted in three villages of Gajapati District, Odisha, namely- Polikota, Jhola and Adanguda. The study has revealed that Self-Help Groups has not been successful in providing social empowerments to their members but Self-Help Groups has been successful in providing economic empowerment to their members. Self-Help Groups members are not significantly co-related.

**Keywords:** Self-help group, women empowerment, family farms, Odisha, participatory rural appraisal

### Introduction

Our scriptures regard women as the divinity, the materialization of sympathy, destroyer of evil and provider of food. But in practice women have been playing compliant role within the house for centuries. The social state of mind has been that of inequity against women right from the birth (Abraham, 2013) <sup>[1]</sup>. In every society, women play a vital role. Whenever women have been given an opportunity, they have played important role in growth of the areas as well as our country.

Women are the vital human infrastructure and their empowerment would speed up the pace of social progress. Investing in women capabilities and allowing them to complete their choices and opportunities is the surest way to donate to overall growth and economic growth. So, the government has highlighted on supporting and motivating women power at the grass roots (Mishra, 2015) <sup>[6]</sup>. Self-help groups are unceremonious groups of persons, who come together to concentrate on their common problems. This system activates the underprivileged rustic women to shape clusters for common advantages. SHGs take part in a critical function in getting better the savings, credit and also in dropping scarcity and social dissimilarities (Baghel *et al.* 2016) <sup>[2]</sup>. Keeping these things in backdrop the study intended to find out the specific objectives.

### Objectives

- 1) Impact of Self-Help Groups on women empowerment
- 2) Constraints experienced by the women in operationalizing the Family Farms through Self-Help Groups.

### Methodology

The study is based on Ex-post facto research design. Purposive sampling was used for the study. Sample Size was 90. Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) was a major dominating method of data collection. The study was conducted in three villages of Gajapati District, Odisha, namely- Polikota, Jhola and Adanguda.

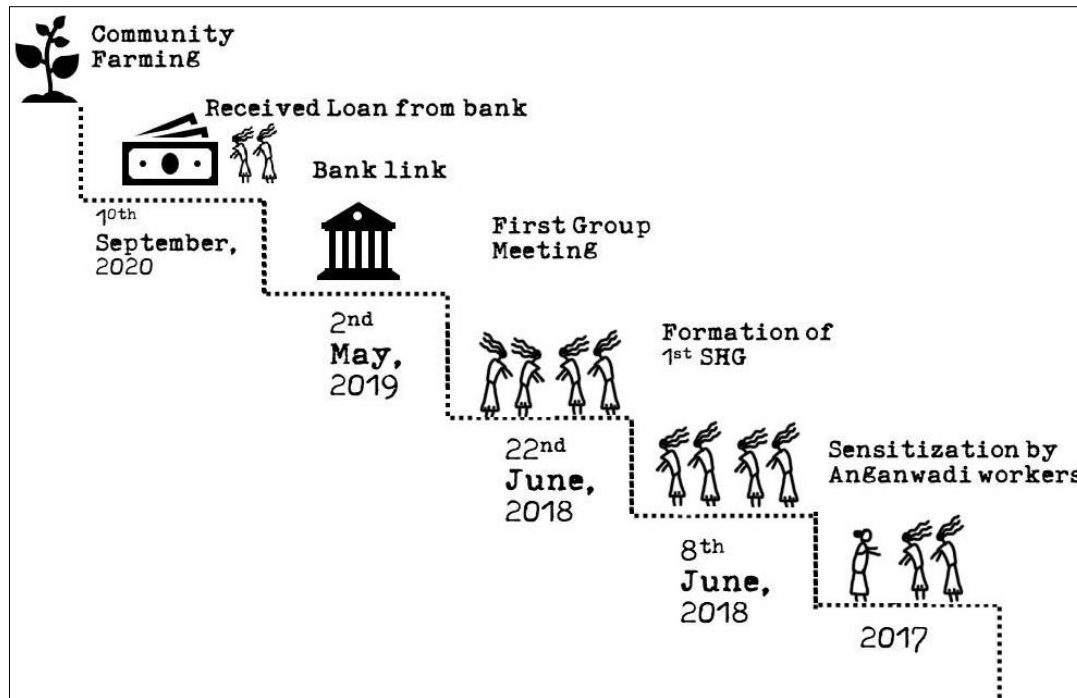
**Findings**

**History of Self-Help Group (SHG)s in the study area**

Time based Stair Diagram is an important PRA method and mostly used to explore the temporal dimensions from historical perspective.

Fig: 1 captures the chronology of SHG formation as recalled by local people. It is drawn as a sequential aggregate of past

events. It thus provides the historical landmarks of a community individual or institutions (here SHG). The important point to note here is that it is not history as such but events of the past as perceived and recalled by the people themselves. Present diagram is a revised replica of the original one. (Docplayer, 2020)<sup>[4]</sup>.



**Fig 1:** Time based Stair Diagram: Development of SHGs in Adanguda

As directed by the district administration, workers of the Anganwadi started to sensitize (2017) the male dwellers of the village to influence their female family members to form SHGs. During 2018, two SHGs were formed (named as- Jhansirani and Mamata). After that, another group was formed- Bharatmata. On the other hand, another two SHGs were formed at Jhola during 2017, named as- Laxmi MahilaMandali and Kirtan Mahilamandali. On 2018, three SHGs (Jeevanjyoti, Namanjyotiand Mecdel) were formed at Polikota.

The farm women in study area needed empowerment. They didn't get open doors for financial cooperation as a result of dissent of social equity, full support by all areas of the general public and social debilitations. There was a dread that ceaseless unemployment may come about if ladies entered in the work and entrepreneurial advancement. Individuals did not urge them to enter in financial exercises (Pangannavar, 2015)<sup>[7]</sup>. Women were impaired by absence of chances to obtain new aptitudes. Conventional agrarian culture had been changed with mechanical improvement. In customary

agrarian culture, men, women took part in the generation procedure. SHGs played a vital role in women empowerment (Sarania, 2015)<sup>[9]</sup>.

**'Development interventions through SHGs': Social Empowerment**

There was need of enabling women in ancestral regions through socialization for example admittance to information, opportunity to procure assets, more noteworthy self-governance in dynamic, opportunity of business choice, improvement of societal position, critical thinking abilities, capacity to get support, capacity to get shield, capacity to arrange and self-appreciation nobility. The social strengthening through SHG had been dissected under three heads; people getting the advantages previously and in the wake of joining SHG for example pre-SHG and post-SHG stage and net effect of SHG on 'Social Empowerment'. The indicators were influenced by the study of Dey and Dutta (2011)<sup>[3]</sup>.

**Table 1:** Test of Significance of Social Empowerment

Features	Social Empowerment		
	Acquired	Not acquired	Total
1. Independence to decision making	4	86	90
2. Engagement selection freedom	7	83	90
3. Enhancement of social status	5	85	90
4. Problem resolution	4	86	90
5. Capability to protect	5	85	90
6. Ability to convey	4	86	90
$\chi^2 = 1.86; d.f. = 5$			

The table value of  $\chi^2$  at 0.05 level of significance at 5 degrees of freedom is 11.07. As the observed  $\chi^2$  value i.e. 1.86 is less than the table value i.e. 11.07, so it can be said that women were not socially empowered through SHG. It revealed that the SHG had not been successful in providing social empowerment to their members.

#### **‘Development interventions through SHGs’: Economic Empowerment**

The Self Help Group had practiced certain fundamental monetary highlights for engaging their individuals. The

fundamental highlights were self-financing, advance financing, monetary decision, opportunity to procure, opportunity to burn-through, opportunity to save, opportunity to contribute, command over property, foster family financial exercises and hazard decrease. The investigation of financial strengthening had been done under strengthening prior to joining SHG, strengthening subsequent to joining SHG and net effect of strengthening. Trial of importance was likewise determined to uncover the exactness of the consequence of strengthening. The indicators were influenced by the study of Dey and Dutta (2011)<sup>[3]</sup>.

**Table 2:** Test of Significance of Net Economic Empowerment

Features	Economic Empowerment		
	Acquired	Not acquired	Total
1. Self-financing	63	27	90
2. Freedom to earn	47	43	90
3. Freedom to consume	47	43	90
4. Freedom to save	90	0	90
5. Freedom to invest	69	21	90
6. Control over property	62	28	90
7. Develop family economic activity	66	24	90
$\chi^2 = 88.8987$ ; d.f. = 6			

The table value of  $\chi^2$  at 0.05 level of significance at 6 degrees of freedom is 12.59. As the observed  $\chi^2$  value i.e. 88.8987 is greater than the table value i.e. 12.59, so it can be said that women were economically empowered through SHG. It revealed that the SHG had been successful in providing economic empowerment to their members.

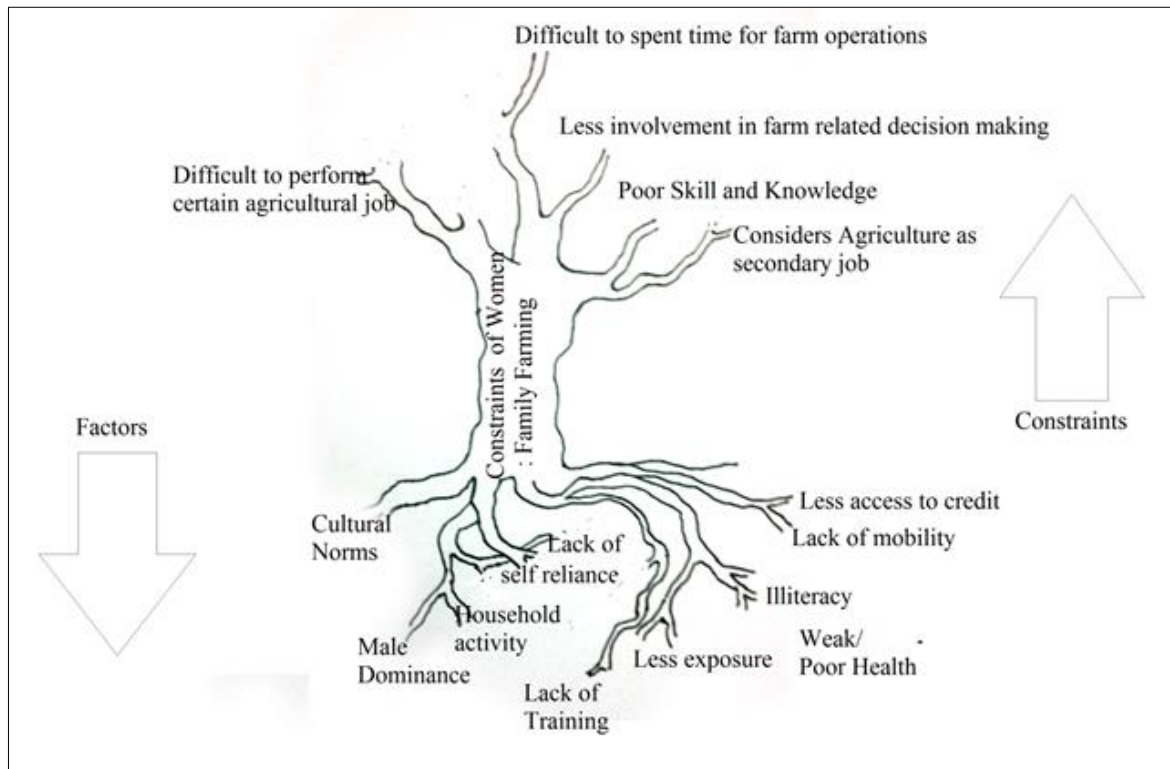
#### **Constraints experienced by the women in operationalizing the Family Farms through Self Help Groups**

In spite of the fact that ladies are assuming an indispensable part in little scale horticulture, yet different elements are influencing village women contributions in family cultivating. The beneficial and conceptive parts of females in the public arena, named as "double day" parts, brings about a heavier workload for females than males, in spite of the fact that this likewise relies on upon social class, age or ethnicity assemble (Peter, 2006)<sup>[8]</sup>.

However, since inception women's role in agriculture and economy has often been underestimated, and their involvement in agriculture has been invisible. Women's wide range of domestic activities, vast extent of family care, and immense involvement in cultural activities often create a shadow over their involvement in agriculture. Hence, highlight on 'constraints experienced by the women in

operationalizing the family farms' - is getting impetus in the context of farming, not only in family farming but also in common perspective of whole agriculture. Constraints faced by farm women in their involvement in family farming were identified and presented in Fig 2. Problem Tree is a type of diagram, mostly deals with cause-effect relationship of a problem. Constraints faced by the women during farming, are represented visually by using an outline/sketch of a tree. Major constraints are depicted through the stems of the tree. While roots of the tree represent the causes/factors responsible for the constraints.

Using brainstorm technique respondents/participants addressed the major constraints (like; difficult to spend time for farm operation, less involvement in farm related decision making, poor skill and knowledge etc.). Thereafter, outline of a tree was drawn by the community members on the ground with a stick. After that, causes of the constraints were identified. Attached diagram is a replica of original one. Figure 2 reflected that lack of training and less exposure were the factors responsible for the constraint, pointed as 'poor skill and knowledge'. While 'lack of self-reliance', 'male dominance', 'cultural norms' and 'illiteracy' were responsible for 'less involvement in farm related decision making'.



**Fig 2:** Constraints experienced by the women in operationalizing the Family Farms through Self Help Groups

### Conclusion

The study has revealed that Self-Help Groups has not been successful in providing social empowerments to their members but Self-Help Groups has been successful in providing economic empowerment to their members. It was reflected that lack of training and less exposure were the factors responsible for the constraint, pointed as 'poor skill and knowledge'. While 'lack of self-reliance', 'male dominance', 'cultural norms and 'illiteracy' were responsible for 'less involvement in farm related decision making'.

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