

Influence of Self-Help Groups on the Socio-Economic Conditions of Female Entrepreneurs in Hosur Taluk.

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Abstract

Women's empowerment is a task in which women defy societal and cultural norms to improve their lives. The persistence of women in self-help groups (SHGs) has had a tremendous impact on their social and economic empowerment. The focus of this research is on women's empowerment in Hosur through Self-Help Groups (SHGs). Entrepreneurship is considered to be one of the most essential components in a society's economic progress. Entrepreneurs have long been credited with helping to initiate and sustain socioeconomic progress. Women's entrepreneurship is a relatively new concept in India. Women have become more conscious of their rights and circumstances, and have pursued careers in a variety of sectors. They've established a flourishing commercial sector of their own. The proportion of women in the workforce in India is increasing as the women's proficiency rate rises. In various Indian states, rural women have benefited from the notion of Self Help Groups. It has improved not just their financial situation but also their social standing. The focus of this research is on rural women's economic empowerment and the importance of SHGs empowerment. Findings of the study show that SHG activities have a favorable impact on SHG members' economic characteristics.

Key words: Woman Entrepreneur, Empowerment, SHG, Socio-Economic Conditions

Introduction

SHGs are first and foremost formed by small groups of women joining together, selectively at the village level. These groups, after a testing period, are then credit-linked to banks in their area. Micro-credit typically means small loans without collaterals. The bulks of rural households need borrowings for very small amounts, but have no collaterals to offer. For this reason, institutional credit has not been able to properly penetrate the rural sector. SHGs have now stepped in to provide micro- credit, firstly from the corpus of small savings mobilized from group members and secondly by supplementing these with credit linked to banks. An SHG is formed when several poor, rural people come together to form a homogeneous group that pools their savings at regular intervals. From these group savings, small loans are extended to members, for both consumption and productive activities.