



**A STUDY ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH MICROFINANCE WITH
SPECIAL REFERENCE TO WOMEN IN TUMKUR DISTRICT**

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ABSTRACT:

Despite of magnificent contribution made by the women members of the society to the primary sector of agriculture as well as to the tertiary sector, their work is taken into account as an extension of household domain and remains non-monetized. Micro finance is emerging as powerful instrument of women empowerment. Micro finance is dominated by self-help group bank linkage programme, as a cost-effective mechanism for providing financial services to the unreached poor, in meeting financial needs of the rural poor women and strengthen collective self-help capacities of the poor. Rapid progress in self-help group(SHG) formation has now turned into an empowerment movement among women across the country. This paper is focused on assessment of level of satisfaction and level of impact of micro finance services on the lives of beneficiaries.

Key words: *Micro finance, Self-help group, Bank linkage, Empowerment, Beneficiaries.*

INTRODUCTION:

Empowerment may be a multi-dimensional human process that helps people gain control over their livelihood, communities and in their society, by working on issues that they define as important. It is a way of making a social environment during which one can take decision either individually or collectively for social transformation by way of acquiring knowledge, power and knowledge. In spite of all government and non-government's efforts, women have been highly ignorant clients of the financial sector. Women have been the most under privileged and discriminated strata of the society not only in India but the world over. Women empowerment is one of the most important issues that have been in the focus of various policies and program initiated by the government and the non-government organization.

Empowerment is about change, choice and power. It is a process of change by which individuals and groups with little power gain the power and ability to make choices that affect their lives.

Micro finance is one of the powerful instruments for poverty alleviation and women empowerment especially in rural India. Micro finance is dominated by self-help group bank linkage programme aimed toward providing financial services to the poor supported the philosophy of group savings as collateral substitute. Self-help group programme has been successful in meeting over all requirements of poor people, leading to their empowerment. Micro finance is now a proven strategy for reaching poor women.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

The literature of microfinance in India throws enough light on various aspects. The studies having the economic aspects coupled with women empowerment through microfinance as their focal point are of recent origin. While different viewpoints on India's agriculture and women empowerment through micro finance lending can be found in the form of numerous articles, books and new items, comprehensive studies with research orientation are very few. The important aspects of available literature are presented hereunder.

Tiyas Biswas in his study identified that the micro finance needs to look beyond just increasing women's access to savings and credit and organizing SHG to look strategically at how programmes can actively promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

Susy Cheston and Lisa Kuhn in their research observed that there is a need to track empowerment benefits along with institutional financial performance and economic impact indication; review human resources and other organizational policies to ensure gender sensitivity and gender equality.

Sangeeta Arora in her research study concluded that there is negligible use of the SHG's services by women respondents. These SHG's need to be regulated and surprised in order to keep them actively engaged in the micro finance movement.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

- ✚ To assess the level of satisfaction of the respondents with regard to micro finance.
- ✚ To analyze the level of impact of micro finance services on the lives of respondents.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY:

The population of the study consists of the women from the various places of Tumkur District of Karnataka. A random sampling technique is adopted for selecting the respondents from different places in the four taluks of Tumkur district.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

To justify the objectives, the primary data has been collected with the help of a structured questionnaire. Convenient randomized samplings of 110 women respondents were selected. Percentages have been used to draw the meaningful inferences from the study.

This study deals with empirical analysis of perception of the women micro finance clients with regards to the micro finance in terms of their level of satisfaction and the level of impact on the services availed.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:

The collected data were processed, analyzed and tabulated by using statistical tools and techniques such as averages, percentage etc., wherever possible tables were used.

Table – 1.1: Age of the respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage
Less than 20	18	16
20-40	56	51
40 & above	36	33
Total	110	100

Source: Field survey

It is evident from the above table that the respondents selected for the study were mostly in the age brackets of 20 and 40.

Table – 1.2: Marital status of the respondents

Marital status	Frequency	Percentage
single	16	14.5
married	45	41
Widow	40	36.4
divorce	9	8.2
Total	110	100

Source: Field survey

From the table 1.2 we can understand that the out the selected respondents who availed loan from micro finance lending 45 of them are married.

Table – 1.3: Marital status of the respondents

Education	Frequency	Percentage
Illiterate	23	21
Matric	52	47
Post matric	35	32
Graduation	0	0
Post Graduation	0	0

Source: Field survey

From the selected respondents, majority of them i.e., 52 among 110 were Matric qualified followed by 35 of them are post graduates and least respondents were of illiterates.

Table – 1.4: Occupation of the respondents

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
Self employed	25	23
Labour	45	41
House wife	30	27
Family owned business	10	9
Professional	0	0
Total	110	100

Source: Field survey

When the question asked about the occupation of respondents out of 110 respondents 45 of them who availed micro finance were of Labour group and 30 of them were house wives followed by 25 of self-employed and among them the least were professionals.

Table – 1.5: Income analysis of the respondents

Income level(p.m)	Frequency	Percentage
0-2000	18	16
2000-4000	27	25
4000-6000	25	23
6000-above	40	36
Total	110	100

Source: Field survey

From the above table it is evident from the filed survey that the income of the respondents who availed the micro finance were amounting to Rs. 6000 and above for a group of 40 respondents and that of Rs.2000 to 4000 were 27 and the least that is Rs.2000 and below were 18.

Table – 1.6: Satisfaction level of respondents

Activities	Highly satisfied	Satisfied	Not Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Highly dissatisfied	Percentage to total
Amount of loan	32	27	23	18	0	100
Rate of return	27	41	9	24	0	100
Process of sanctioning loan	18.2	45.4	18.2	9.1	9.1	100
Time taken to get the loan sanctioned	23	27	32	18.2	0	100
Requirement of guarantee	9	32	18	9	32	100
Repayment policy	18.2	32	27	18	5	100
Repayment duration	23	36.3	18	9	14	100
Consequences of non-repayment	18.2	27.3	36.3	9	9	100

Source: Field survey

The table-1.6 depicts the satisfaction levels of the women who were availed the microfinance with respect to various parameters among the total of 100 percent there were 32 women respondents were highly satisfied in respect of the amount of loan provided to them, 27 were satisfied, 23 were not satisfied, 18 were dissatisfied and there were no respondents who were highly dissatisfied, and with reference to the process of sanctioning loan, there were 27.3 highly satisfied, 41 are satisfied, 9 were not satisfied, 24 dissatisfied and there were no respondents highly dissatisfied. Likewise the satisfaction levels on various parameters were analysed in the above table.

Table – 1.7: Impact of micro finance on respondents

Activities	Highly satisfied	Satisfied	Not Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Highly dissatisfied	Percentage to total
Improvement in social status	48	20	18	14	9	100
Improvement in economic status	35	30	20	10	5	100
Increase in decision making power	40	20	15	15	10	100
Confidence building	55	25	10	10	0	100
Awareness of social issues	40	25	10	15	10	100
Increase in recognition in family	38	28	20	14	0	100
Change/improvement in education level	30	26	12	18	14	100
Increase in poverty reduction	40	23	15	18	4	100

Source: Field survey

From the above table it evident that the satisfaction level of women respondents on the impact of the micro finance on their various activities were analysed and found that most of them were highly satisfied with reference to all most all parameters, hence, we can infer that the micro finance is achieving its set objectives.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:

From the foregone study the researcher has observed the following important findings:

1. The study found good saving habit among females.
2. Study shows that lives of many women were lit up by the social awareness programmes which were initiated through micro finance.
3. Loans borrowed were utilized for the upliftment of the family like using it for educational purpose of their children and many more. This proves that empowerment of women can alleviate poverty.
4. Decision making power was expanded as a result there was an efficient decision making in the family. Women too felt that they are responsible for the upliftment of their own family as well as their community.
5. The study found there is a significant improvement in education levels among respondents which is the key factor for empowerment.
6. Study states that if more and more programmes are initiated with strong motive towards women empowerment then the perspective of people can be changed and it can even bring recognition for women.

CONCLUSION:

Women, whose role was just constrained to house hold domain and who were considered as unbankables are now the targets of many financial institutions. Educating a woman is like educating the entire community. Study showed that a magic bullet like micro finance can empower the woman as well alleviates poverty by leading the path to prosperity.

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