



## **Socio-economic condition of self-help groups' beneficiaries: A case study of block Sirsa**

**Sumista Rani**

Assistant Professor of Economics, K.R.M. College Jamal, Sirsa, Haryana, India

### **Abstract**

Main obstacle in the path of economic development of our country especially in rural areas are inequalities, poverty and unemployment among these poverty deprives a section of the society to avail even its basic necessities of life. SHGs are playing a major role in eliminating poverty in the rural India today. The present paper also highlight on the Socio-economic condition of Self-Help Groups' Beneficiaries in the Sirsa block of Sirsa district of Haryana. It also tries to draw conclusion and to give suggestion wherever necessary for the purpose of improving the socio-economic condition but this development can be said to be satisfactory.

**Keywords:** socio-economic, SHG, beneficiaries

### **Introduction**

Self-help Group is a small group of rural people, who have voluntarily come forward to form a group for improvement of the social and economic status of the members. SHGs are playing a major role in eliminating poverty in the rural India today. This type of model of self-help is practiced for rural development, poverty alleviation and empowerment beneficiaries. It can be registered or non-registered. It makes the people mobilize to give them voice and build people's organisations that will overcome barriers to participation and empowerment. Members of SHG agree to save regularly and contribute to a common fund. The members agree to use this common and such other funds which they may receive as a group, to give small loans to needy members as per the decision of the group.

This concept of microfinance originated through the Grameen bank of Bangladesh in 1975 by Noble prize winner economist professor Mohmand Yunus of Chittagong University. Bangladesh has been acknowledged as a pioneer in the field of micro-finance.

An SHG is a group of people in which some people are involved. These people belong to a specific area and specific profession. These people belong to poor section of society. They want to make their life sure towards problems which are being faced by them during these days may not happen in their life again. This group makes an action between the people of a community. In such a group, there are generally 15 to 20 members. They promote a small savings and use it in future. Through their savings these poor people of the group (SHG) protest the world poverty coming together during marriage, emergency, diseases storm, personal economical needs, study, banking, loan and short business. These groups also play very significant role in poor section as well as in backward economy.

### **Specific Objectives of the Study**

This study is an attempt to carry out an analysis to know the

impact of Self Help Group on beneficiaries. The major objectives of the study are:

1. To study and analyze the social conditions of the beneficiaries of Self Help Groups.
2. To assess the economic condition of Self Help Groups' beneficiaries.

### **Methodology**

Multistage purposive sampling technique has been used to select the primary sampling units' viz. labourers, in order to achieve the specific objectives. The study has been conducted in Sirsa district of Haryana as it is one of the most backward districts in the state. Self Help Groups have been formed in all the seven block of the district. Among these blocks Sirsa block was selected as the study area as it had maximum number of Self Help Groups as compared to other blocks. Further, six villages from block Sirsa and one self-help group from each village was selected randomly. 10 respondents from each village have been also selected once again randomly.

To collecting the primary data, the time period has been selected from 2017 throughout scheduled questionnaire and interview and high sampling procedure. To achieve the specific Objectives of the study, data collected has been analyzed; the data has been tabulated and analyzed. For the purpose of analysis, logical tool and techniques such as percentage, has been used.

### **Results and Discussion**

The present section has consisted of three sections. Section 1 explains the social conditions of Beneficiaries of SHG while section 2 depicts the economic conditions of beneficiaries of SHG.

#### **Section 1**

This section presents the socio-economic conditions of the beneficiaries of Self Help Groups as like age, social category, educational status of beneficiaries, occupational status, marital

status, religion and status of the residential house, size of the family, and number of the family members.

**Age Profile of the Beneficiaries**

In this subsection, the findings of the study reveals the age of the beneficiaries that has been presented in the Table-1.1. This table reveals that there are four age groups of beneficiaries. Most of the beneficiaries 58.33 per cent as SHG members lie in the age group of 30-40. Second largest number was 12 (20 per cent) of the members who were belong to age group of 40-50. 16.67 per cent members were in the age group of 20-30. The least number (5 per cent) of SHG members belong to age group of 50-60. Thus, it can be said that a huge proportion 78.33 per cent of the SHG members were found in the age groups of 30-40 and 40-50.

**Table 1.1:** Age of the Beneficiaries

Age of beneficiaries	No. of beneficiaries
20-30	10 (16.67)
30-40	35 (58.33)
40-50	12 (20.00)
50-60	3 (5.00)
Total	60 (100)

Source: Field Survey

Note: the figures in parathesis represent the percentage.

**Social Category of the Beneficiaries**

In this subsection, the findings of the study pertained to classify the selected SHG members as per their category. Table 1.2 reveals the fact that four social categories (caste-wise) have been examined through the study. A majority of the beneficiaries of SHG belong to Schedule caste. They comprise 68.33 per cent of the SHG beneficiaries and rest of the three categories is heavy only 61.37 per cent of the members. Only 8 SHG members belonging to backward class comprise 13.33 per cent of the total. Similarly, only 7 SHG members of general category comprise 11.67 per cent of the total but the least SHG members (4) belong to other backward class that comprise 06.67 per cent of the total beneficiaries. Thus, the table indicates that the schedule caste members have shown far much belief in pooling the SHGs. Reason behind this was also due to member of welfare schemes through SHGs to uplift the lower status of the society.

**Table 1.2:** Social Category of the Beneficiaries

Social category	No. of beneficiaries
General	7 (11.67)
Backward class	8 (13.33)
Other Backward class	4 (06.67)
Schedule caste	41 (68.33)
Total	60 (100)

Source: Field Survey

Note: the figures in parathesis represent the percentage.

**Educational status of the beneficiaries**

Educational statuses of the beneficiaries have been presented in the Table-1.3. This table shows that a huge proportion of SHG members were either uneducated or below Matric. In

this category, 46 members were found which comprises 76.67 of total beneficiaries whereas a small proportion of 12 (20 per cent) members are educated to the senior secondary level. A very nominal proportion of 2 (3.33 per cent) members are educated up to the graduation level. Except to above mention three educational qualifications not a single member of SHGs is highly educated that means above-graduation level. Thus it can be emerged that most of the SHG members were either literate or illiterate. It means less educated unemployed persons have shown a keen interest to join the SHGs.

**Table 1.3:** Educational Status of Beneficiaries

Educational Status	No. of beneficiaries
Below Matric	46 (76.67)
Matric to Intermediate	12 (20.00)
Graduate	2 (3.33)
Above Graduate	-
Others	-
Total	60 (100)

Source: Field Survey

Note: the figures in parathesis represent the percentage.

**Occupational Status of the Beneficiaries**

In this subsection, the findings of the study reveals to which occupation the beneficiaries of SHGs belong. This aspect has been presented in the Table-1.4. This table shows that selected have been found involved in three occupations as small farmer, agriculture labour and others. Maximum SHG members 40 (66.67 per cent) are working as agricultural labour. Next to it are the small farmer whose number is 13 (21.67 per cent) of the total. Rest of them, 7 (11.67 per cent) members belong to other occupations. Thus it can be said that the SHG members showed much interest in agricultural activities mainly because they are almost unskilled for the other economic activities.

**1.4:** Occupational Status of the Beneficiaries

Occupational status	No. of beneficiaries
Small Farmer	13 (21.67)
Marginal	-
Agriculture Labour	40 (66.67)
Rural Artisan	-
Any Others	7 (11.67)
Total	60 (100)

Source: Field Survey

Note: the figures in parathesis represent the percentage.

**Marital Status of the Beneficiaries:** In this subsection, the finding of the study reveals about marital status of the beneficiaries. Table 1.5 reveals the marital status of the beneficiaries of the SHGs i.e. married unmarried, widows and separated cases. A major segment 58 (96.67 per cent) of the SHG were married. Only two members were widows. Another fact which is revealed through the table is that no SHG member lies in the unmarried and separated cases. So it can be concluded that most of the SHG members were married and participating in the SHG activities.

**1.5: Marital Status of the Beneficiaries**

Marital Status	No. of beneficiaries
Married	58(96.67)
Unmarried	-
Widows	2(03.33)
Separated cases	-
Total	60(100)

*Source:* Field Survey

Note: the figures in parathesis represent the percentage.

**Religion of the Beneficiaries**

This table shows the religious aspect of the beneficiaries. It means to which religion and community the SHG members belong. Table 1.6 gives a brief account of religious and community aspect of the SHG members. The highlighted fact is that a majority of 46 (76.67 per cent) SHG members were Hindus. Followed by Sikhs which were 14 (23.33 per cent) of the total of the beneficiaries. It means religiously, Hindus were dominated in this locality. But other religions' members e.g. Muslim and other are not working or participating into the SHGs.

**1.6: Religion of the Beneficiaries**

Religion	No. of beneficiaries
Hindu	46 (76.67)
Sikh	14 (23.33)
Muslim	-
Other	-
Total	60 (100)

*Source:* Field Survey

Note: the figures in parathesis represent the percentage.

**Status of Residential House of the Beneficiaries**

This table shows the Status of residential house of the beneficiaries. It means to which kind of houses they reside in. Table 1.7 reveals that maximum proportion of SHG members were residing in pakka houses. 44 (73.33 per cent) members of SHGs were facilitated with pakka houses (constructed with bricks, cement etc.). Next to this proportion 13 (21.67 per cent) members of SHGs were residing in kaccha houses (not constructed with bricks, cement etc.). Rest of the 3 (05.00 per cent) SHG members have to lead their life in open areas (under the shade of temporary tents). It can be said that 26.67 per cent beneficiaries of the SHGs were not having the proper residential facilities.

**1.7: Status of Residential House of the Beneficiaries**

Type of house	No. of beneficiaries
Kaccha	13 (21.67)
Pakka	44 (73.33)
Open	3 (05.00)
Total	60 (100)

*Source:* Field Survey

Note: the figures in parathesis represent the percentage.

**Size of the Family Members of the Beneficiaries**

In this subsection, the findings of the study reveals to which kind of family size the SHG members belong. The table 1.8 reveals the fact that SHGs members' families have been grouped into four types of sizes. Most of the SHGs members,

40 (66.67 per cent) reside in the family size of 3 to 6 members. Next to it only 12 (20.00 per cent) members were residing in the family size of 6 to 9 members but a very short segment of SHG members 8 (13.33 per cent) were residing in the family size of more than 9 members. But an amazing factor has also been revealed that no SHG member is residing in a family size of only 3 members. It does also mean that all of the SHG members were residing in the family sizes of more than 3 members. The beneficiaries belong to the joint families.

**1.8: Size of the Family Members of the Beneficiaries**

No. of family members	No. of beneficiaries
Up to 3 members	-
3-6 members	40 (66.67)
6-9 members	12 (20.00)
Above 9 members	8 (13.33)
Total	60 (100)

*Source:* Field Survey

Note: the figures in parathesis represent the percentage.

**Section 2**

This section presents the economic conditions (income, saving and expenditure) of beneficiaries.

**Monthly Income Level of the Beneficiaries**

In this subsection, the finding of the study reveals the monthly income level of the beneficiaries. The table 2.1 reveals the various income levels of the beneficiaries. These income levels have been grouped into various kinds of groups. A majority of 28 (46.67 per cent) SHG members' monthly income lies into the income level of Rs. 3000 to Rs. 4000 while a small proportion of SHG members, 12 (20.00 per cent) lie in the monthly income category of Rs. 2000 to Rs. 3000. Relative to these above-mention to income category there were 3 other categories (Rs. 4000-5000, 5000-6000 and above 6000) also though they have very small proportions of 6 (10.00 per cent), 3 (05.00 per cent) and 2 (03.33 per cent) of SHG members respectively. A segment of 9 (15.00 per cent) SHG members earn nothing as monthly income because they don't contribute as active SHG members. There was two other monthly income categories (Rs. Less than 1000 and 1000-2000) to which no SHG members' monthly income belongs that means no percentage of members lie in this category.

**2.1: Monthly Income Level of the Beneficiaries**

Monthly income (in Rupees)	No. of beneficiaries
Non-earning members	9 (15.00)
Less than 1000	-
1000-2000	-
2000-3000	12 (20.00)
3000-4000	28 (46.67)
4000-5000	6 (10.00)
5000-6000	3 (05.00)
Above-6000	2 (03.33)
Total	60 (100)

*Source:* Field Survey

Note: the figures in parathesis represent the percentage.

**Monthly saving of the Beneficiaries**

This table shows the monthly saving pattern of the

beneficiaries. It means what proportion of the SHG member can save a part of their monthly income.

### 2.2: Monthly Saving of the Beneficiaries

Monthly saving (in Rupees)	No. of beneficiaries
Less than 500	49(81.67)
500-1000	11(18.33)
1000-1500	-
1500-2000	-
2000-2500	-
2500-3000	-
Above-3000	-
Total	60(100)

Source: Field Survey

Note: the figures in parathesis represent the percentage

Table 2.2 shows that a scenario of monthly savings by SHG members. There were only two monthly saving groups of amount Rs. Less than 500 and Rs. 500 to Rs. 1000 respectively. Except these two saving groups no SHG member belongs to other higher saving groups that have been shown in the table. A set of 49(81.67 per cent) SHG members were confined to the least saving groups of Rs. Less than 500. Rest of the members 11(18.33 per cent) were able to save more amount that was between Rs. 500 to Rs. 1000. SHG members' saving pattern suggests that much of the total members were unable to save a big amount monthly as saving.

### Monthly Expenditure of Family Members of the Beneficiaries

In this subsection, the finding of the study reveals about the monthly expenditure of the beneficiaries. The table 2.3 monthly expenditure of the SHG members has been presented. For this their monthly expenditure has been grouped into seven categories. The most of the SHG members were in the fourth category of Rs. 3000 to Rs. 4000, whose number was 22 (36.67 per cent). These SHG members do the highest monthly expenditure. But in the second category, 17 (28.33 per cent) SHG members whose monthly expenditure was between Rs. 1000 to Rs. 2000. Just next to this category, there are 14 (23.33 per cent) SHG members whose monthly expenditure was between Rs. 2000 to Rs. 3000. But there 5 (08.33 per cent) SHG members in the category of monthly expenditure of Rs. 4000 to Rs. 5000. The least numb of SHG members 2 (03.33 per cent) can be notice in the category of Rs. 5000 to Rs. 6000. Thus, the noticeable fact was that about 88 per cent SHG members' monthly expenditure was between Rs. 1000 to Rs. 4000. But no SHG members' expenditure was less than 1000.

### 2.3: Monthly Expenditure of Family Members of the Beneficiaries

Monthly expenditure (in Rupees)	No. of beneficiaries
Less than 1000	(0.00)
1000-2000	17(28.33)
2000-3000	14(23.33)
3000-4000	22(36.67)
4000-5000	5(08.33)
5000-6000	2(03.33)
Above-6000	(0.00)
Total	60(100)

Sources: field survey

Note: the figures in parathesis represent the percentage.

### Conclusion

On the basis of the results, it can be found that most of the beneficiaries 35 (58.33 per cent) as SHG members lie in the age group of 30-40 and a majority of the beneficiaries of SHG belong to Schedule caste. It was also observed that huge proportion of SHG members were either uneducated or below Matric and Maximum SHG members 40 (66.67 per cent) were busy as agricultural labour because they were almost unskilled for the other economic activities. It has been also found that a majority of 46 (76.67 per cent) SHG members were Hindus and that maximum proportion of SHG members were residing in pakka houses. A majority of 28 (46.67 per cent) SHG members' monthly income lies into the income level of Rs. 3000 to Rs. 4000 while a small proportion of SHG members, 12 (20.00 per cent) lie in the monthly income category of Rs. 2000 to Rs. 3000 and a set of 49 (81.67 per cent) SHG members were confined to the least saving groups of Rs. Less than 500. Rest of the members 11(18.33 per cent) were able to save more amount that was between Rs. 500 to Rs. 1000. So, some suggestions are given as follows:

1. The Self Help Group members should be made literate after joining SHGs since it prove to be a hurdle in the success of SHGs.
2. The facility of sufficient loan must be in order to run the SHGs functioning smoothly.
3. The meetings should be regularly and these meetings must be attended by the SHGs members as it is a matter of their interest.
4. All the SHG members must be trained properly because their potential can be maximum used.
5. The stipend for the training of SHG members must be given appropriately because it works as motivational amount.
6. Timely inspection of SHGs should be for the betterment of the functioning of SHG.

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