

ABSTRACT

The concept of and the idea behind Self – Help Groups (SHGs) is of recent origin. They not only play a major role in poverty alleviation in rural India but are instrumental in creating consciousness among a section of persons who are otherwise ignored and neglected. People below poverty line mostly women voluntarily join SHGs as members. In recent time, both the number of SHGs and their membership is constantly increasing in India. They not only engage themselves in saving and credit (investment) activities which are commonly believed to be the functions of SHGs but also in some other more socially and economically desirable activities like income generation, environmental conservation, literacy, child care and nutrition. The SHG system is designed to be effective in empowering the rural women below poverty line. Economic and social empowerment of women is one of the basic requirements for their holistic development which has been strongly emphasized by National Perspective Plan for Women, 1988. Other policies of the government including National Policy for Empowerment of Women, 2001 and National Plan of Action for Empowerment of Women, 2003-04 each one emphasizes ensuring women their rightful place in the society by empowering them as agents of socio-economic change and development. Only when women participate freely in economic activities particularly outside home, they can acquire and control over circumstances to increase their capabilities. SHGs provide appropriate forums for this purpose. In India, women have been considered as the inferior member of the society as most of the Indian families are male dominated. The socio-economic status of women in the country has been characterized by low female literacy, distressing health, nutritional deficiencies and the declining share to the total population. It is thus they have been neglected in all fronts of life. In the past, (Pre-Independence) in significant importance had been given for the women development and welfare. Women Development and Welfare came under focus with the introduction of planned Economic Development through different Five Year Plans in independent India. The First five year Plan periods were welfare oriented for the women. During Second Plan period, women were organized into Mahila Mandals in rural area for facilitating convergence of health, nutrition and welfare measures. The Third and Fourth Plans accorded high priority to women's education and immunization of preschool children. In the Fifth plan, there was a shift in emphasis from welfare orientation to a developmental approach with the objective

of removal of poverty and attainment of Self-reliance and many programmes launched in the Sixth plan and it continued to Seventh plan for the economic and social status of women. In the Eighth plan, a shift was made from development to empowerment of women. The approach adopted in the eight plans continued to Ninth and Tenth plan period. During the said plan periods, it was decided to create additional productive opportunities through women Self-Help Groups. NABARD being the principal agent in rural development in India has defined the concept of SHGs as small, economically homogeneous affinity groups of rural poor, voluntarily formed to save and mutually contribute to a common fund to be lent to its members as per the group members' decision. Of course, when it was initially given, its objective was to carry on saving and lending activities among its members with a view in promoting and enhancing their economic and social standards. In India, though SHGs are formed for various purposes, the principal objective lies in the promotion of livelihoods of their members through collective saving and investment activities. Normally the membership of each SHG varies between 10 and 20 and all members in a group are men or women. But Women SHGs are normally found in India and are SHGs in true sense of the term which constitutes around 90 per cent of total effective SHGs. It is because both the government and non-government organizations promote their formation and fund their activities with a view to rendering them as the agents of rural development. In India, poor and less educated women are, on an average, less mobile than men. Under the pressing needs, a man can shift himself to another place in search of jobs which is unlikely very difficult to happen for women even though it is equally required for the later. It is not that women have ability and willingness to do so. Since in India, all the responsibilities of child care and household management are entrusted with women and a lot of stigma is attached to women's migration, it becomes impossible in their parts to shift to another place in search of jobs. Women SHGs provide opportunities to women in poverty to work and earn in compatible with their role in child care, home-keeping and meeting several other social obligations, thereby act as the agents of poverty alleviation without having compromised with the roles of women in a conservative Indian rural society. SHGs are novel and unique invention of recent time and it enhance the equality of status of women as participants or decision makers and beneficiaries in the democratic economic and social spheres. They bring out the supremacy of women in molding the community in right perspective and explore the initiative of women in taking up entrepreneurial ventures

in making them self-disciplined and economically independent. SHGs have created a silent social and economic revolution for the rural poor, weaker sections and under-privileged.

INTRODUCTION

Empowerment of women is a holistic concept. It is multi-dimensional. In its approach and covers social, political, economic and social aspects. Of all these facets of women's development, economic empowerment is of utmost significance in order to achieve a long-lasting and sustainable development of society. Self- Help Groups are the voluntary organizations which disburse micro credit to the members and facilitate them to enter into entrepreneurial activities. The United Nations adopted "convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women," on 18th December 1979. Which came into force since September 1981. The Convention was aimed at promoting development of women and protects their rights. Despite this Convention, the deplorable conditions of women continue unabated. It is a fact that two-third of world's adult illiterates are women. Seventy percent of world's poor are women. In spite of development taking place in the state as well as in the country under various rural development and poverty alleviation programmes, it has not appreciably benefited the depressed classes. So on the initiation of the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, a new scheme called Swarna jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana was launched from 1st April 1999 and it has been providing self-employment and economic empowerment to rural poor, forming many Self Help Groups (SHGs). Self Help Groups has emerged as the most vital instrument in the process of participatory development and women empowerment. They can lift themselves from poverty and stagnation through micro-finance by formation of Self Help Groups. The emergence and rapid multiplication of Self Help Groups (SHGs) based on micro credit is a phenomenon that is gaining increasing importance in the development scenario. Today there are seven million SHGs in the country. Nearly 90% of the groups are women groups. (Source: NABARD website). SHGs have been viewed by the State as a strategy for both women empowerment as well as poverty reduction. SHGs are a conduit for routing a wide range of government sponsored development messages and schemes. NGOs have increasingly been adopting SHGs as a strategy to bring women together, at a faster pace and larger scale than the collective

building processes adopted by them earlier. Credit is a right that poor women must have access to. The experience of SHGs has shown that they have provided improved access to credit. Poor women are now perceived by the mainstream financial sector as credit worthy. Women have used savings and credit for needs such as those related to education and health, and in particular for crisis related needs. Women empowerment is becoming an essential to structure and restructure of the society, to get the meaningful; national and international living or livelihood. The extent of empowerment of women in the national hierarchy is determined largely by the three factors – her economic, social and political identity and their weightage. These factors are deeply intertwined and interlinked with many cross cutting linkages which imply that if efforts in even one dimension remain absent or weak, outcomes and momentum generated by the other components cannot be sustained as they will not be able to weather any changes or upheavals. It is only when all the three factors are simultaneously addressed and made compatible with each other can the woman be truly empowered. Therefore for holistic empowerment of the woman to happen - social, economic and political aspects impacting a woman's life must converge effectively.

The researcher has been chosen this area i.e. women Self Help Groups in Kamrup District because a very little work has been done on this area. Perhaps, this is the first work being conducted by the researcher; under the Department of Social Work, Assam University Silchar. The Present study attempted to Primary data required for the study were collected from 300 members of the SHGs in Kamrup district. The review of performance of SHGs in Kamrup district reveals that there has been a commendable growth in respect of number of groups formed and women enrolled. The study found that the SHGs performing well in availing and repaying micro credit which had contributed to their socio economic empowerment and to better livelihood condition. The study has found a remarkable change in the personality of women after joining the SHGs. The SHGs have made an enduring impact on the lives of the women particularly in the rural areas of Kamrup district. Their quality of life has improved a lot. There is an increase in their income, savings and consumption expenditure. This shows an improvement in their standard of living. The women have gained self-confidence. They got an opportunity to improve their hidden talents after joining the SHGs.

WOMEN SHGs IN KAMRUP DISTRICT

Assam with its unique culture and the excellent performance of its sports, music, Bihudance, vast literature, cinema, theater have been widely acclaimed. Unfortunately, it is also the home to various issues and problems like unemployment, insurgencies, rampant corruption, drug abuse, political problem with this mind; the researcher is confined to look at the topic of women Self Help Groups in Kamrup district. Though in Assam the SHGs were started in the year 1999, the concept penetrated down only in recent years. Now there is a greater amount of socio-economic emancipation among the members of the SHGs. Hence there is a need for evaluating the social and economic impact of the SHGs on their members. Among the various districts of Assam, Kamrup District occupies a predominant position in the starting of the SHGs. In Kamrup districts previously women were just a house keeper and a house wife. Though tradition taught them many things to do which are the part of their culture but due to economic problem they are unable to do so. Various NGO's conducted projects in many backward district of Assam during 2007-2008 and observed that women are actively mobilized in cultivation of vegetables, lending pig to individual member, rendering group services during peak season, commercialization of agriculture for the development of women Self Help Groups (WSHGs) and empowerment of rural women. In Kamrup district there are many women SHG are in operation. In many houses women are engaged in SHGs. One of the powerful approaches to women empowerment and rural entrepreneurship is the formation of SHGs especially among women. Women Self Help Groups are increasingly being used as a tool for various developmental interventions. A Self Help Group is conceived as a sustainable people's institution that provides the poor rural women with space and support necessary for them to take effective steps towards achieving greater control of their lives. The SHGs approach has proved successfully not only improving the economic conditions through income generation but in creating awareness about health and hygiene, sanitation and cleanliness, environmental protection, importance of education and better response for development schemes. Along with these it is also hoped that the Government as well as the NGO should take proper care to strengthen the hands of these women and stabilize the institution. Since women took a prominent role in economic development of a nation, therefore, participation in economic activities increases, which brought

them, economic independence. This economic independence release women from the bondage of depending on others especially their husbands, parents, in-laws etc. for their daily requirements. This fact can be realized only by the development of women SHGs. The significance of the present study is the identification of the area, where women of the region can uplift themselves economically, and at the same time contribute in the economic development of the region. There economic independence can also be an important route to their economic empowerment.

OBJECTIVES

- i) To study the Socio-economic condition and educational attainment of women in SHGs.
- ii) To analyze the sources of social support and motivational factor of members for joining to SHGs.
- iii) To study the extent of awareness of members regarding policies and programmes, schemes, funds and training opportunities.
- iv) To explore the personal and group problems and future plans for SHGs development.
- v) To explore the scope of professional social work intervention for the effective functions of women SHGs.

RESEARCH QUESTION

- i) How women are maintaining their dual role as SHG members and family members?
- ii) Whether SHGs have adopted the method of democratic functioning?

UNIVERSE OF THE STUDY

The researcher takes only rural women of Kamrup District of Assam. In Kamrup district more than 20,000 women SHGs are functioning as reported by DRDA, SBI,

Director of Gaon Panchayat, and NABARD and also reported in the website of Govt. of Assam. Those Women SHGs are working more than three years at rural areas are considered for this study.

SAMPLING DESIGN

For the selection of the sample respondents, the researcher approached 6 NGOs functioning under Kamrup district and 50 SHGs have been selected from each of the NGOs. Total 300 samples are being taken.

METHODS AND TOOLS OF DATA COLLECTION

In this study, both qualitative and quantitative method was applied. The structured Interview schedule, focus group discussion and case study were used as base tools for data collection for this study. Using the structured interview schedule, the primary data were collected from the selected SHGs with regard to their homogeneity, regularity in conducting meetings, level of attendance, and participation in meetings. Besides this all relevant secondary data were collected from literature, books, journals, articles, magazines, websites in concerned field and key informants from various Government officials and also from the records of State Bank of India, local head office, Guwahati and NABARD, Guwahati.

CONSTRUCTION OF TOOLS AND PRE-TEST

The variables used in the study have been identified during the discussions with the officials of the NABARD, State Bank of India, the NGOs and a preliminary interview with the selected Self-Help Groups. The variables identified for the study is for the members were drafted. The schedule for the members of the SHGs was pre-tested with the help of 15 members. In the light of their comments the interview schedules were further modified.

FIELD WORK AND COLLECTION OF DATA

The researcher herself with the help of the NGOs carried out fieldwork for this study. It was undertaken for a period of five months from January 2013 to May 2013. The researcher used one interview schedule and interview guide for the collecting data from SHG members.

DATA PROCESSING AND INTERPRETATION

The collected data was processed through coding master chart, tabulation and other statistical techniques especially through SPSS. The quantitative data has been presented in the form of simple tables as well as cross tables, charts and graphs. The qualitative data are presented in the form of relevant portions of narratives of the respondents in order to bolster or counter the quantitative findings. Findings of the study has been presented through the use of different graphs, chart and so on.

MAJOR FINDINGS

The following are the findings of the studies are as follows:

- 19 (6.33%) sample members are less than 30 years of age, 191 (63.67%) belong to the age group of 30 to 40 years and 90 (30%) are in the age group of above 40 years. It is also evident from Table that majority of the members are in the age of 30 to 40 years.
- Out of 300 Self Help Groups, 288 (96%) of them are Hindu, followed by 8 (2.67%) and 4 (1.33%) from Muslim and Christian respectively.
- Out of 300 respondents, 95 (31.67%) of the respondents came from Scheduled Tribe category, followed by 80 (26.67%) of them from general category, 72 (24%) are Scheduled Caste and 53 (17.67%) constituted of OBC.
- An overwhelming number of members, 255 out of 300, are married and they constitute 85 percent. 18 (6%) are found to be single and 27 (9%) are widow. No case of the members in the category of divorce in the SHGs under survey

was found. So, the importance of the table is that married people are in the majority among SHG members.

- 218 (72.67%) members belongs to the nuclear family, 55 (18.33%) belongs to the joint family and 27 (9%) belongs from the extended family. According to the chart, majority of the members belonged to the nuclear family. It may be reason that belonging to the nuclear family might help the members to earn handsome money as both parents work to provide financial stability for the household, creating a larger cash flow to supply the basic family needs of housing, food and healthcare. Nuclear families tend to establish stronger bonds as they work together and rely on one another to overcome challenges. Children witness their parents' supportive and loving relationships, which helps them learn how to interact appropriately. Nuclear families tend to be more resilient when faced with obstacles, as they learn to problem solve together and support each other emotionally.
- Under matric Women respondents 82% have the highest participation level in Self Help Group activity in the Kamrup District, followed by 6.67% from matric, 6.33% from under graduate, 3.67% from graduate and 1.33% from illiterate group.
- 298 (99.33%) of them experienced a better treatment as members in the SHGs, 2 (0.67%) of them have not experienced in any kind of treatment facilities.
- Maximum support from which women are working in the SHGs are because of their husband as 82 percent women are getting support from their husband to join in the group and undergo some activity for economic upliftment of the family, whereas 13.33 percent whole family is supporting to the women, 3 percent women are getting support from their son and self-motivated to join in the SHGs is only 1.33 percent.
- 85 percent of the members are married, 6 percent are single and 9 percent of the members are widows.
- 88 (29.33%) members having sanitary facilities within their houses but 212 (70.67%) members reported having no sanitary facilities in their houses.

- 203 (67.67%) members reported that they had water supply within their villages whereas 97(32.33%) members expressed that their villages having no water facilities.
- Only 59(19.67%) members have water facility within their residence whereas 241 (80.33%) members have no water connection within their houses.
- 284 (94.67%) members are sending their children to schools, 4 (1.33%) are not sending their children to schools and 12 (4%) have no child.
- 225 (75%) members expressed the opinion that they have adequate market facilities whereas 75 (25%) members expressed that they have no adequate market in their locality.
- 277 (92.33%) members protested against the husband beating his wife whereas 23 (7.67%) members did not protest against husband beating his wife.
- Out of the 300 members 180 (60%) members protested against gambling and drinking whereas 120 (40%) did not raise any protest.
- Out of the 300 sample members, only 220 (73.33%) members protested against the child labour while 80 (26.67%) did not raise any form of protest against the child labour.
- Only 287 (95.67%) members protested against female infanticide whereas 13 (4.33%) not protested against it.
- 120 (40%) members protested against dowry but 180 (60%) members not protested against the demand for dowry.
- Out of 300 respondents 298 (99.33%) live in their own houses and the remaining 2 (0.67%) respectively occupy rented houses.
- 233(77.67%) members having Kaccha houses and 67 (22.33%) occupy Pucca houses.
- Out of 300 members 244 (81.33%) are having electricity facilities and 56 (18.67%) members do not have electricity facilities.

- 268 (89.33%) sample groups are existence in the year 2009 and before whereas 32 (10.67%) SHGs are formed after 2009 but before 2011.
- 57 (19%) groups are formed to improve social status, 109 (36.33%) formed to improve economic status, 34 (11.33%) formed to promote saving habit, 89 (29.67%) groups formed to obtain the financial support from the government, the NGOs and the financial institutions and another 11 (3.67%) groups are formed to initiate group activities.
- Out of 300 members, 58 (19.33%) are having account Assam Gramin Vikash Bank, 89 (29.67%) have account in State Bank of India and 153 (51%) have account in Bank of India.
- Out of 300 members, 273 (91%) respondents expressed that their economic improvement takes place after joining to SHGs but 27 (9%) expressed they dint find any changes after becoming the member of the group.
- Out of 300 respondents, 296 (98.67%) received loan from NGO or bank but only 4 (1.33%) has not received loan from NGO or bank.
- 287 (95.67%) members have recorded good repayment while 13 (4.33%) members have recorded that they sometimes cannot repay loan on time due to some problem.
- 15 (5%) were engaged in farming i.e. cultivation and 59 (19.67%) in goatery business, 66 (22%) doing piggery, 11 (3.67%) were engaged in poultry, 54 (18%) are the shop owner, 20 (6.67%) are doing weaving and 75 (25%) were engaged in other occupations which include shop construction, beauty parlor, catering business, cattle raring, worker in cloth meal, mushroom cultivation, fishery, vegetable seller, pickle preparation and Assamese sweet food making. So from the table it is difficult in this context to say from which area the SHG members were actively engaged in activities.
- 3 percent of the households have less than Rs. 5000 as income whereas 50 percent of the households have more than Rs. 5000 but less than Rs.10000, 29.67 percent of the households have the income of more than Rs.10,000 but

less than Rs. 20,000 whereas 17.33 percent of the households have above Rs.20,000.

- 202 (67.33%) feel good playing dual role as they are happy that their income is added in family income and their economic improvement taking place, 58 (19.33%) are managing their role as they are bound in the situation but 40 (13.33%) are not at all liking to play dual role as some of them are sick, aged and not finding much economic improvement but still they are remaining in the group hoping it will change in their life style.
- 248 (82.67%) are taking decision in their family and of course their family listen too but 52 (17.33%) are not taking decision in their family matters.
- Out of 300 respondents, 250 (83.33%) respondents response are good, 33 (11%) members in-laws response are normal but 17 (5.67%) members in-laws response are bad.
- Out of 300 members, 299 (99.67%) are aware about Govt. supporting schemes for upliftment of SHGs but 1 (0.33%) is not aware of it.
- 49 (16.33%) were hesitant to talk before in the SHG, 55 (18.33%) talked only if they are asked, 62 (20.67%) expressed that they sometimes talks and 134 (44.67%) members freely talks in the SHGs.
- 172 (57.33 percent) members did not have any opportunity to meet officials in the SHGs. However, 128 (42.67 percent) members could meet more than one official. This indicates that association with the SHGs improves the self-confidence of the members by providing opportunities to meet the officials of different organizations.
- Out of 300 sample 169 (56.33 percent) have got chance to get training whereas, 131 (43.67 percent) has not given the scope for training.
- Out of 169 members, only 128 (75.74 percent) have received training and 41 (24.26 percent) has not taken training due to various problems.
- 85 (66.41%) members got training about income generation activities, 35 (27.30%) got training for product making, 6 (4.69%) got training for

maintenance of records, only 1 (0.78%) received training about conduct of meeting and 1 (0.78%) received training for others like marketing of product, book keeping, register maintenance etc.

- Out of 300 respondents, 20 (15.62%) respondents expressed the training programme is not useful for them, 30 (23.43%) expressed it was somewhat useful and 78 (60.93%) expressed the training programme was very useful for them.
- Irrespective of caste, education and income, respondents SHG members join into the Groups is getting loan from NGO or Bank is the main motto that means financial constraints as each and every member of SHG got the loan for the purpose of cultivation, agriculture, to start the new business, to run the ongoing business, children education, house construction and improvement of sanitary condition.
- Out of 300 members 295 (98.33%) are having the idea of fund but 5 (1.67%) have do not idea of fund.
- 186 (62%) save money in post office, 86 (28.67%) save in Bank and 28 (9.33%) save in the SHGs.
- Out of 300 respondents, 117 (39%) creates household durables whereas 183 (61%) creates consumer durables.
- Out of 300 respondents, 289 (96.33%) are not facing problem in the SHGs but only 11 (3.67%) members share their problems like not literate, problems for repayment, less money given from NGO, problems of good market, training opportunities etc.
- Only 9 (3%) are facing problems whereas 291 (97%) SHG members says they are not facing any problem in the SHGs.
- Out of 300 respondents, 150 (50%) have the need of money, 12 (4%) want training and 138 (46%) don't have any need.
- Out of 300 sample, 258 (86 percent) women wants to remains in the same activity because they find the activity profitable one whereas 27 (9 percent)

wants to take up new activity because they find the ongoing activity is not so profitable for them and 15 (5 percent) wants to continue the present activity along with the new activity to make some changes for more profit.

IMPACT OF SHGs

Political: - Political engagement includes active involvement by SHGs in government including local assemblies, Lok Sabha or Panchayati Rai Institutions (PRIs). One of the key benefits of SHGs is women's empowerment and this can be seen with the number of women involved in public affairs. While the number of women actually involved in politics is still very low, research has indicated that of those women that stand for election, over 70% had won their seat (APMAS, 2005). And the female contribution to civil issues ranges from issue of ration cards, laying of Pucca roads, building of school, ensuring appointments in vacant positions in schools and health centers, recovery of river bank lands from encroachers and laying of drinking water pipes (APMAS, 2005). As mentioned, the number of women involved in politics is low. But, the trend is definitely moving up. A mere 5 years ago, the likelihood of women contesting panchayats election was extremely low. Their presence today is affecting the perception of women and their role in the political arena. They are being recognized as an important group with serious concerns. The role of SHGs is both as an inspiration and as a financier. Impoverished women develop greater language and financial skills through the SHG which provides the building blocks for higher levels of confidence to engage the world. Also the SHG sometimes finances the campaign of its members that stand for election. SHGs not only empower its members but also wield a powerful political role as a group as well. At local village meetings, the leaders of SHGs are often invited to attend and speak.

Social Harmony: Social harmony encompasses the equality and integrity of relationships between different social groups. To frame the following analysis, SHGs typically consists of the following social groups: i) Schedule Caste (SC), ii) Scheduled Tribe (ST) and iii) Other Backward Caste (OBC). The impact of SHGs on social harmony has also been mixed. While it has been observed that in groups with mixed membership had group leaders that came from a variety of the social groups. In

the vast majority of instances, group leaders were almost exclusively from the dominant social group's category.

Social Justice: SHG members, being involved in resolving disputes. Whether or not the women are working for their own interests or in the case for justice varies, regardless SHGs impact on the political arena is certainly being seen also in social justice in a slow and evolutionary process.

Community: SHG demonstrated a clear leadership role and rallied the support of the entire village. This demonstrates that given the opportunity, SHGs, assuming they have the capacity, can act as a director of community development. The perception of taking of a women's based organization taking a leading role for the betterment of the greater good has monumental impacts on the local community. Gender dynamics begin to balance in instances such as these. SHGs have helped their members and their communities. By taking a leadership role in community development, SHGs are perceived to be a guiding force for the village.

Livelihoods: Livelihoods, meaning a person's economic activity, is an area that is vitally important to SHGs. The loans that SHG members receive are intended to improve their livelihoods so that they can receive greater and steadier cash flows. In rural areas, livelihoods range from agriculture farming, animal husbandry, dairy and various other goods and services activities. Experience has shown that SHGs have improved livelihood.

- Women who were dependent on their husband are now entrepreneurs at their own right.
- Quick changes have been observed in the quality of the lives of the families.
- Enhanced income, removed indebtedness.
- Enhanced decision making capacity of the women – inside the households and outside.
- Arrangements have been made for establishing wider marketing linkages through Trade Fairs, Exhibitions, and Melas etc.

CONCLUSIONS

Access to basic financial services like credit, savings, money transfers and insurance is one of the bigger challenges faced by the poor women. Micro finance plays a critical role in bringing these services within the reach of the underserved and the poor women who are otherwise excluded from the mainstream financial sector. Prof. Mohammad Yunus was a pioneer in showing that the poor bankable if banking is made easy, transaction cost to the poor is reduced, physical collateral is substituted with social, the person is finance, not a project, peers are involved in under writing and the borrower repays small sum frequently and livelihood support services are provided with credit. Serving the poor in this manner is called in micro finance, which is sustainable provision of credit, savings, insurance, and other financial services with the focus of poor household to find it difficult to access banks. As stated by Dr. C. Rangrajan at high-level policy conference on Micro finance in India May 3, 2005. Micro finance can change the lives of the poor. There may not be a quantum jump in income but it is still possible to ensure a reasonable rise in the income of poor. In order to widen the scope of micro finance banks need to introduce appropriate organizational changes in the various branches in order to play a proactive role in bringing more and more SHG under the bank linkage program. Also SHGs must transform themselves from pure thrift institutions into groups promoting micro enterprises. Though there is evidence of success of micro finance or credit in eradicating poverty and unemployment both in state and local level the degree and magnitude of success can be further hastened by the combined and effective working of government sectors, formal banking sectors, NGOs, SHGs, Micro Finance Institutions, and public integrated manner. Besides the provision of micro credit, other policies measures of the government in alleviation of poverty and reduction unemployment should be carried simultaneously.