

**FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN THROUGH SHGS IN
SELECT RURAL VILLAGES OF RAMANAGAR DISTRICT,
KARNATAKA**

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ABSTRACT:

In today's era, there has been a sprouting call for the services of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to realize the dream of rural women in terms of social, economic and financial empowerment. The nitty-gritty of this research study is to investigate the financial empowerment of the women through SHG in select rural areas of Ramanagar District, Karnataka such as Tattkere, Arekadkalu, Kolangundi, Bellankuppe and Banavasi. In this study, the few women members of SHGs have responded that they have marketed their products and produces in local markets and thereby generating reasonable revenues to cope with financial hurdles faced by them during Covid-19.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

In India, women are mostly the victims of accessing ample social, economic and financial opportunities. Generally, the overall growth of the country purely depends on the welfare and development of the rural people. Most of the research studies on the area of SHGs were carried out to explore the social and economic empowerment of women members through the SHGs. No literature was found on the financial empowerment of women members through SHGs. This research study was carried out to bridge the gap and designed to study the financial empowerment of women through the SHGs undertaken in select rural areas of Ramanagar District.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- 1) To study the socio-economic characteristics of the women members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in select rural areas of Ramanagar District, Karnataka.
- 2) To investigate the level of awareness, knowledge and preference on a plethora of investment avenues before and after joining SHGs.
- 3) To identify the significant antecedents which are associated with the financial empowerment of women members through SHGs.

- 4) To analyze the significant relationship between SHG membership and its effect on the financial empowerment of SHG members.

METHODOLOGY

The research has been conducted in select rural villages of Ramanagar District, Karnataka from 1st September, 2020 to 30th November, 2020. Primary data and secondary data have been gathered from women respondents regarding their awareness, knowledge and preference on a variety of investment avenues before and after joining SHG.

MAJOR FINDINGS / RESULTS

Self-Help Groups (SHGs) have emerged as a progressively active tool of collective empowerment of women from social, economic and financial outlooks. Started on an experimental basis by voluntary organizations and civil society more than a few decades ago, the SHGs are conceived as vehicles for achieving social, economic and financial empowerment of women.

In this study, the few women members of SHGs have responded that they have marketed their products and produces in local markets and thereby generating reasonable revenues to cope with financial hurdles faced by them during Covid-19. Most importantly, few women members of SHG have imparted online training for local people in respect of Government, banking and financial schemes. Besides, these SHG members have been groomed in terms of confidence to excel in some income-generating activities by embracing mobile phones and social media applications. Some members of SHGs maintained their records in e-Shakti (a digital initiative of NABARD for maintaining SHGs' books of accounts), thereby improving their credit scores.

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