

The Role of Microfinance Institutions in Women Empowerment in Delhi NCR

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Abstract: As per past three decades, microfinance programs have been considered as a major strategy in addressing progress issues in all nations. This education efforts to discover the abundant discussed inquiry of the role of microfinance as a economic intercessor for ornamental women authorization. Indian Bank for Microfinance Actions with an aim to recover the position of women. The study suggests that microfinance has a role in women's self-help group linkage database in undeveloped area near by Delhi NCR. There is a profound impact on the commercial status, conclusion manufacture influence, knowledge and self competency of the applicants. Significant differences were found in the level of SHGs performance year by year due to microfinance-related credit access and its productive use, as measured through the Women's Empowerment Index (WEI) loans received vis--vis non-credit. The study approves that as an anti-poverty tool, microfinance has its limits in reaching the bottom of the poor. However, it is not the poor, but the most. It has been found to be effective in raising the ordinary of breathing of the meager and poorer internal class to a higher customary. Although diverse studies from different places and times change in their conclusions, the existent study acknowledges that notwithstanding the odds, microfinance has been able to free the careworn poor from their restraints and help them lead recovering lives. And SHGs plays a significant confident role in the upgrade Women Authorization.

Keywords: Microfinance, Women empowerment, SHG bank linkage program (SBLP).

Introduction

From the 1950s to the 1980s, developing nations relied on state-controlled or directed institutions to offer subsidized credit to rural residents, known as the "Supply-led" rural finance strategy. However, this approach led to several problems, including concerns about financial viability due to high loan default rates, subsidies benefiting the wealthy, and the powerlessness to reach the core meager. The 1980s witnessed a shift in thoughtful, with microcredit proving successful in lifting the poor out of poverty without collateral, exemplified by the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh.

Microfinance has since become a major strategy for development globally, aiming to serve the poor and make them active partners in their country's economic growth. It offers a range of financial services, empowering low-income households and micro-enterprises. India, in particular, has witnessed microfinance as an instrumental tool for economic growth.

Women empowerment has emerged as a crucial prerequisite for the socio-economic development of communities, leading governments worldwide to promote women's participation in nation-building.

An annual publication, "The State of Micro Finance in India" for the financial year 2020-21, provides comprehensive data on SHGs, SHG-Bank Linkage Programme, and JLG financing by banks, offering valuable insights for decision-makers and stakeholders. The SHG-BLP programme has transformed lives, particularly empowering women and involving them in the nation-building process.

Microfinance as a fast-growing sector has shown promise, but its penetration is still limited in some areas. Overall, microfinance continues to play a pivotal role in addressing development challenges and fostering economic growth, particularly by empowering women and underserved communities.

Literature Review:-

The literature review encompasses various authors' insights on self-help groups (SHGs) and microfinance in rural development. Notably, **Dr. K.V.S. Prasad (October 2017)** highlighted the milestone achieved when NABARD thrown the model point of the SHG-Bank Linkage Programme, providing direct financing to mature SHGs through commercial banks. **A. Amarender Reddy & Dharm Pal Malik (2011)** studied the active engagement of local NGOs, SGSY program, and commercial banks in promoting the SHG-Bank Linkage scheme. **Bikash Dutta from Nistarini College, Puruliya (2015)**, emphasized women's empowerment as a prime objective in development programs. **Singh (2019)** emphasized the vital role of the microfinance sector in rural areas and identified parameters like operational self-sufficiency and portfolio quality as crucial for building investor confidence. **M. Kannan & Panneerselvam (2013)** discussed the need for strong relationships between banks and individual entrepreneurs and the significance of group-based models for accessing banking services. **Brau & Gary M (2004)** highlighted the vital role of microfinance in the progress of poor lives in rural areas.

Sharif Mohd (2018) stressed the importance of microfinance in reducing scarceness and enhancing the average of living of the reduced, urging government initiatives for growth in the microfinance sector. **Lal Singla (2013)** addressed issues like rigid regulations, transparency, and financial literacy in the microfinance sector. **Singh & Jongerden (2019)** highlighted the role of self-help groups in organizing and procuring funds from banking institutions. **Meena & Rajesh (2014)** discussed the significance of microfinance programs in raising awareness among rural populations. **Sandip Mallick (2015)** emphasized the role of women's self-help groups in reducing poverty through responsible fund utilization. **Parida & Sinha (2010)** analyzed the sustainability of different types of self-help groups and encouraged the promotion of women's self-help groups for better outcomes. **Rahaman (2007)** presented a comprehensive study on the positive

impression of microfinance on the living criteria and enablement of the poor.

SHGs-BLP Works towards Empowering Women

Scholars have categorized power in development into four types: 'Power Over,' 'Power To,' 'Power Inside,' and 'Power With' (**Mathie et al., 2013**). 'Power Over' denotes control and domination, while 'Power To' refers to creating new possibilities without dominance. 'Power Inside' focuses on inner strength. 'Power With' is crucial in successful collective actions and empowerment (**Dulhanty, 2020**).

In the context of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), collective action is vital to empower individuals, especially isolated women facing restrictions (**Nayak, 2018**). The SHG-Bank Linkage Programme (SHG-BLP) fosters multiple dimensions of power, promoting economic improvement and entrepreneurship among rural women, enhancing their bargaining power (**Nagarajan and Ponnusamy, 2019**). This community-based finance mechanism strengthens collective action and individual empowerment (**Queiros-Nino and Murga-Menoyo, 2017**). Successful collective action fosters trust, leading to improved household well-being (**Nayak, 2018**). Debates surround power dynamics and economic power in empowerment (**Dulhanty, 2020**). Neoliberal theories emphasize individualism and economic values, while 'with power' advocates stress the importance of acknowledging social barriers and connections (**Dulhanty, 2020**). Emphasizing 'Power With' can lead to more comprehensive empowerment.

Center of attention on Women and MFI Features

This section discusses various features of microfinance institutions (MFIs) connected with a attention on women. Worldwide officialdoms like Women's World Banking (WWB), Microcredit Summit, USAID, and the World Bank advocate targeting women in microfinance (**Mayoux, 2001; Fernando, 2006**). We expect MFIs affiliated with global microfinance networks to prioritize serving women. Microfinance employs diverse lending strategies, such as individual-based lending,

village banking, and solidarity groups (Sharma and Zeller, 1997; Kevane and Wydick, 2001; Mersland and Storm, 2012). Group methodologies are considered suitable for women, as they tend to participate in collective activities and share loan responsibilities (Mayoux, 2001; Armendariz and Morduch, 2005). We anticipate that collective lending techniques will be associated with women. MFIs targeting women may offer lower loan amounts due to demand and risk-tolerance factors (Agier and Sfazarz, 2010). Lastly, the legal structure of MFIs may influence their focus on women, with non-profit organizations having larger objectives and better outreach to underserved clients like women (Mersland, 2009).

Various Studies Indicate about Microfinance.

Microfinance has emerged as a powerful tool to uplift the lives of India's excluded population, despite the country's impressive economic growth driven by foreign investors and global corporations. By reaching out to the rural poor, microfinance plays a pivotal role in reducing poverty and empowering individuals, especially women, through employment and economic growth. These financial services, provided by Microfinance Institutions (MFIs), cater to the needs of those with small-scale operations, who are often excluded from traditional financial systems. Microfinance offers diverse products, including small loans, insurance, savings, money transfers, and more, addressing the ever-changing needs of individuals and enterprises living in poverty. To be classified as microfinance, the average outstanding balance of products should not exceed 250% of the average income per capita. This sector's innovation and focus on empowering the poor have brought hope and positive change to millions of lives.

(The State of Micro Finance in India" for the financial year 2020-21)

SHGs- Bank Linkage Programme In India

The NABARD-launched SHG-Bank Linkage Programme is the world's largest microfinancing initiative, combating poverty, unemployment, and empowering rural women. Formal bank

engagement has sustained momentum, enabling SHGs to undertake viable business ventures, leading to increased income, assets, savings, and borrowing capacity for group members. NABARD's pilot phase in February 1992 marked a significant milestone as mature SHGs received direct financing from commercial banks. The RBI's support led to the creation of SHG-bank linkages, benefiting both parties by expanding the market for banks, reducing transaction costs, and improving repayment rates. SHGs gained enhanced functions and access to various credit products. (Dr. K.V.S. Prasad)

Growth of Savings of SHGs with Banks

SHG is a small, voluntary group of underprivileged individuals, ideally from comparable socioeconomic backgrounds. They band together to address their shared issues through self-help and mutual assistance. SHGs encourage their members to make modest savings. The bank is where the savings are maintained. It has the Common Fund SHG name. An SHG typically has only a few members²⁰. SHGs are made up of extremely disadvantaged people who lack access to traditional financial institutions. Members can use them as platforms to support and give each other space. Members can also use it to learn, work together, and form groups.

Research Objectives

- 1- To find out the NGO & SHG Relationship.
- 2- To find out the Bank linkage programme in rural Areas.
- 3- Women Empowerment through Self help Group.

Research Gap-

It is currently difficult to inspire self-help organizations and their members to develop to mature stages of entrepreneurship that take into account livelihood diversification. A unique cell will be set up to manage this element for each bank branch and women are not literate in rural areas so this major Problem.

Data Source and Methodology

The study is based on secondary data to comprehend the workings of microfinance and to know its influence on rural poor households of GB Nagar and Ghaziabad, the regressive district of Delhi NCR, the training mainly focuses on secondary data. Scopus Index, ABDC Index and Prestigious Journal Literature Review, NRLM, Newspapers, to obtain secondary data

Development (NABARD) Annual Report found a systemic objective, To know the geographical location of the intended by secondary data and the role of the performance of SHGs through the bank linkage program, the government carried out support and microfinance in various rural agro-ecological locations. As has been contended, microfinance there is an substitute means of reducing deficiency.

Table1: Growth of Savings of SHGs with Banks

Year	Cumulative Number of SHGs	Cumulative amount of savings (Rs. in Cores)	Savings per SHG
2007-2008	(50,09,794)	3,785.00	(7,556)
2008-2009	(61,21,147)	5,546.00	(9,060)
2009-2010	(69,53,250)	6,199.00	(8,915)
2010-2011	(74,61,946)	7,016.00	(9,402)
2011-2012	(79,60,349)	6,551.00	(8,230)
2012-2013	(73,17,551)	8,217.00	(11,228)
2013-2014	(74,29,500)	9,897.00	(13,320)
2014-2015	(76,97,469)	11,060.00	(14,369)
2015-2016	(79,03,002)	13,691.00	(17,323)
2016-2017	(85,76,875)	16,114.00	(18,787)
2017-2018	(87,44,437)	19,592.00	(22,406)
2018-2019	(1,00,14,243)	23,324.00	(23,291)
2019-2020	(1,02,43,323)	26,152.00	(25,531)

Source: Status of Micro Finance in India, 2007-08 to 2019-20, NABARD

Growth of Bank Loans Disbursed to SHGs

Table 1: This shows the increase in the savings of self-help groups with the banking division during the passé between 2007-08 and 2019-20. The increasing volume of money of self-help groups improved to Rs. 26,152 core with 102.43 lakh SHGs linked to banks in 2019-2020 from Rs.3785 crore to Rs.50.10 lakh with savings bank accounts of SHGs. in 2007-2008. However, the average

amount of savings per SHG increased to Rs 23 291 as of March 2020 from Rs 7 556 in March 2008 (Muthu).

Geographic Information nearby Delhi NCR - Self Help Group Performance.

Table 2-

Selection based Data	Place- G.B Nagar-Bisrakh	Place- G.B Nagar-Dadri	Place- G.B Nagar-Dankaur	Place- G.B Nagar-Jewar
Year/Month	Number of SHGs Promoted	Number of SHGs Promoted	Number of SHGs Promoted	Number of SHGs Promoted
2016	5	11	11	24
2017	5	25	8	11
2018	6	43	11	31
2019	3	239	9	210
2020	9	188	9	116

Source - <https://nrlm.gov.in>

This is The Index Nearby Gautam Budh Nagar.

The data reveals the quantity of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) promoted in different places within G.B Nagar district. From 2016 to 2020, the number of SHGs promoted varied in each place. Dadri

consistently had the highest number of SHGs promoted, while Dankaur and Jewar had relatively fewer SHGs promoted. There was a significant growth in the quantity of SHGs promoted in Dadri and Jewar between 2018 and 2019.

Table 2-

Selection based Data	Location - Ghaziabad Bhojpur	Location - Ghaziabad-Loni	Location - Ghaziabad-Moradnagar	Location - Ghaziabad-Rajapur
Year/Month	Number of SHGs Promoted	Number of SHGs Promoted	Number of SHGs Promoted	Number of SHGs Promoted
2016	78	29	26	28
2017	21	25	21	24
2018	33	24	21	26
2019	23	244	21	21
2020	252	32	44	26

Source - <https://nrlm.gov.in>

This is the index Nearby Ghaziabad Location.

The data shows the number of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) promoted in different locations within Ghaziabad district. In 2020, there was a significant increase in the number of SHGs promoted in Ghaziabad Bhojpur and Ghaziabad-Loni, with 252 and 32 SHGs respectively. Ghaziabad-Moradnagar and Ghaziabad-Rajapur had relatively stable promotion rates over the years

Bank Linkage Programme Review on the basis of this Data:

Table 3-

Chart				
Category	Number of SHGs Promoted (in Lakh)	Number of household mobilized into SHGs (in Lakhs)	Number of Village organizations Promoted (in thousands)	Number of Community cadre Developed (in thousands)
1980-1985	0.05	0.48	0.02	0.60
1985-1990	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.38
1990-1995	0.02	0.22	0.06	0.29
1995-2000	0.26	2.94	2.00	0.39
2000-2005	0.27	2.98	30.08	1.73
2005-2010	0.88	9.86	29.33	8.00
2010-2015	26.82	295.97	58.32	73.26
2015-2020	35.94	391.48	177.56	236.07
2020-2022	5.43	55.70	32.17	18.40

Source - <https://nrlm.gov.in/outerReportAction.do?methodName=showIndex#gsc.tab=0>

The data illustrates the growth of various parameters related to Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and community development over different periods. From 1980 to 2022, the number of SHGs promoted, ménages prepared into SHGs, village

organizations indorsed, and community cadre developed has shown a significant increase, especially from 2010 to 2020, indicating a substantial expansion in community-based initiatives and empowerment

Table4-

Chart				
Category	RF	SHG	CIF	SHG
1980-1985	2.30	0.03	1	0
1985-1990	0.50	0.01	0	0
1990-1995	1.48	0.02	0	0
1995-2000	5.48	0.05	0	0
2000-2005	224.37	2.09	16.29	0.01
2005-2010	3459.46	53.71	101.26	0.18
2010-2015	38142.88	307.98	62689.48	105.89
2015-2020	198859.88	1401.08	582112.9	935.28
2020-2022	70735.42	491.79	230873.7	371.39

The data displays the values for two categories, RF (presumably Rural Finance) and SHG (Self-Help Group), with corresponding values for CIF (not specified) and SHG. Over the years, there has been a substantial increase in all categories, especially from 2010 to 2020, indicating significant growth in rural finance and the establishment of Self-Help Groups.

Dindayal Antyodaya Yojna Nrlm Bank Linkage.

Table-5

Geographic Wise Achievement NRLM Bank Linkage Achievement.				
1	BISRAKH	19	12.46	12.18
2	DADRI	23	17.92	25.54
3	DANKAUR	0	0	0.48
4	JEWAR	33	24.58	16.97
5	UNMATCHED SHGS	94	85.55	130.37
	TOTAL	169	140.51	185.5

Source:-daynrlmbl.aajeevika.gov.in

The data represents the NRLM Bank Linkage Achievement in different geographic areas. Among the locations mentioned, Jewar had the highest number of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) at 33, with a total bank linkage achievement of 16.97

This index is nearby G.B Nagar

lakhs. Bishrakh had 19 SHGs, with 12.18 lakhs bank linkage achievement. Unmatched SHGs accounted for 94 groups with an achievement of 130.37 lakhs. The overall total was 169 SHGs with 185.5 lakhs bank linkage achievement

There is Achievement of NRLM according to location wise that how much amount had been disbursed, The outstanding amount is high

,unmatched SHGS amount may come Under the NPA, if not paid on time so this might be another cause.

Table-2

S.No.	Block	Total SHG's	Total Disbursement Amt.	Total Outstanding Amt.
1	BHOJPUR	7	5.33	8.01
2	LONI	27	12.76	18.86
3	MURADNAGAR	0	0	5.79
4	RAJAPUR	0	0	0
5	UNMATCHED SHGS	127	86.5	178.97
	TOTAL	161	104.59	211.63

Source: -daynrlmbl.aajeevika.gov.in

The data presents information on different blocks and their respective Self-Help Groups (SHGs). Loni has the highest number of SHGs at 27, with a total disbursement amount of 12.76 lakhs and an outstanding amount of 18.86 lakhs. Bhojpur has 7 SHGs with a total disbursement amount of 5.33 lakhs and an outstanding amount of 8.01 lakhs. The unmatched SHGs account for 127 groups with 86.5 lakhs disbursement and 178.97 lakhs outstanding. The overall total shows 161 SHGs with a disbursement amount of 104.59 lakhs and an outstanding amount of 211.63 lakhs.

This Index Is Nearby Ghaziabad

There is Achievement of NRLM according to location wise that how much amount had been disbursed and the outstanding amount is high and there is again unmatched SHGS may come Under NPA ,if not paid on time so this might be another cause.

Some Challenges Faced by the Indian Microfinance Industry in Rural area near by Gauta Budh Nagar and Ghaziabad

Its main area of maneuver is restrained to the poorer division of the kingdom; over-indebtedness is a communal and somber encounter before the MFI. Members have commonly hired funds from other existing sources. There are some other challenges as well and they are as follows:

- This is big issue as High rates of awareness being charged to members.
- Some time it has been that Over-dependence on the banking organization to obtain the funds for MFI commercial
- In the rural areas, this is the main issue Illiteracy and lack of consciousness by the members (borrowers).

Conclusion: - As per Study I have found that how SHGs has been performing in Guatam budh nagar areas and Ghaziabad areas and how banks have provided fund properly and some of the SHGs utilizing the fund for their growth. Women are being empower after support of SHGs group and trying to increase their standard of living. Some of the NGOs are also helping to guide and banks too but Govt. need to depute more executive to guide properly in remote rural areas, Still SHGs is facing issues to get fund from banks due to cheat and fraud.

We discover that the use of collaborative lending strategies, smaller loans, and non-commercial legal status are all substantially correlated with a focus on women. In terms of profit drivers, we discover that a focus on women is significantly associated with elevated operational expenditures, including employee and administrative costs. However, the form of loans, i.e., that they are smaller and more frequently provided through group lending, is what drives

these greater costs associated with lending to women rather than gender per se. Additionally, we discover that lending to women is linked to a decreased probability of default, and this association holds statistical significance even after controlling for the kind of loan.

This shows that improved women's payback is caused by inherent gender differences rather than being merely a result of the way loans is given to women. We find no appreciable differences in lending to men and women in terms of the other profit drivers that comprise the MFI's profit function, such as portfolio yield and funding costs.

We do not find any distinction between MFIs concentrating on women and those that do not when calculating the impact on the MFIs overall financial performance. This indicates that MFIs that target women are unable to improve financial performance by converting the lower default costs. This research confirms that, despite being significant, the lower default cost in MFIs targeting women has a relatively minor total economic impact.

This research, in our opinion, makes a number of intriguing conclusions. In terms of theory, my work contributes to a larger discussion on the interactions between women and money while also offering some insights into the gendered aspects of microfinance. According to this research, there are gender-specific differences in how much women earn and spend. They are more expensive, however, not because they are

women, but rather because they receive smaller loans and group loans and are treated differently.

Suggestions for Strengthening SHG-Bank Linkage Program.

To strengthen the SHG-Bank Linkage Program, several measures should be taken. Firstly, there is a need to address the poor exposure area of SHGs, which is hindered by weak banking infrastructure, social sluggishness, and limited NGO activity. Developing SHG models tailored to the local context can enhance outreach. Secondly, government officials and local NGOs, as well as bank employees, require adequate training and support to effectively implement the SHG concept. Establishing a committee to prevent fraud and corruption in lending and infrastructure refurbishment is crucial. Thirdly, incentivizing NGOs and facilitators who demonstrate reliability and goal-oriented work can motivate them to contribute further to the program's success. Transparent record-keeping through a standard checklist for SHGs, aided by NABARD, ensures accountability and efficient operations. Lastly, defining criteria for surplus distribution within SHGs and optimizing SGSY subsidies for income-generating activities will enhance the program's impact. By implementing these suggestions, the SHG-Bank Linkage Program can promote financial inclusion and empower marginalized communities. (A. Amar Reddy & Dharm Pal Malik)

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