

SOCIAL IMPACT OF SELF HELP GROUPS ON RURAL WOMEN OF NORTHERN INDIA: A STATISTICAL STUDY

SMITA SOOD & KEERTI JAIN

Assistant Professor, DBAS, School of Engineering, GD Goenka University, Sohna Road Gurgaon, Haryana, India

ABSTRACT

The historical background of Indian society reveals that in Vedic times a woman was given a high status. In fact, women in ancient India enjoyed equal status with men in all aspects of life. Indian women's position in society deteriorated during the medieval period, when child marriages and a ban on remarriage by widows became part of social life in some communities in India. In the present socio-economic scenario, notions of women empowerment and their security is always observed in the manifestos of all political parties and this is the need of hour too for sustainable development. Despite making numerous efforts towards women empowerment, the present socio status of women in India is miserable. In this context, NABARD came ahead to launch Self Help Group (SHG) and bank linkage program in 1992. These programs have become effective tools in uplifting the social status of women. In Haryana, which lies in the northern region of India, the project was initiated and implemented by Mewat Development Authority. In order to study the success of the program in northern India, an attempt has been made to study the pre and post social conditions of women SHG members of northern India using statistical tools.

KEYWORDS: Bank Linkage Program, Employment, Poverty Eradication, Self Help Groups, Women Empowerment