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Role of Self-Help Groups (Shgs) In Financial Empowerment of Rural Women: A Study of Ranchi District, Jharkhand

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***Abstract* – Self-Help Groups (SHGs) have emerged as a powerful tool for promoting financial inclusion, poverty alleviation, and women's empowerment in rural areas of Ranchi District, Jharkhand. The study highlights that SHGs have played a significant role in improving the financial status of women by encouraging regular savings, providing access to affordable credit, supporting income-generating activities, and enhancing financial decision-making abilities. With the support of government schemes, banking institutions, and rural livelihood programs, SHGs have strengthened the economic participation of women at the grassroots level and helped them become more financially independent. The findings further reveal that participation in SHGs has not only improved the economic condition of women but has also contributed to their social empowerment. Women members have gained greater self-confidence, leadership qualities, awareness, and involvement in community activities. They are increasingly able to take independent financial decisions, manage household expenses, and contribute to the overall well-being of their families. Through collective support, regular meetings, and skill-development opportunities, SHGs have helped improve the standard of living of rural women and have contributed to achieving broader goals of social and gender equality. Despite these positive outcomes, several challenges continue to hinder the full potential of SHGs. Issues such as irregular income generation, limited market access, inadequate training opportunities, low levels of digital and financial literacy, and the persistence of socio-cultural barriers remain significant concerns. Therefore, there is a need for stronger institutional support, better skill-development initiatives, enhanced market linkages, and increased awareness programs to ensure the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of SHGs. Overall, the study concludes that SHGs have made a substantial contribution to the financial and socio-economic empowerment of women in Ranchi District and continue to serve as an important instrument for inclusive rural development and women's advancement.**

***Keywords* – Self-help groups (SHGs), Financial Empowerment, Financial Inclusion, Women Empowerment, Socio-economic Development, Livelihood Promotion, Ranchi District, Jharkhand.**

I. INTRODUCTION

Background Of The Study

Self-Help Groups (SHGs) have emerged as a powerful tool for promoting financial inclusion, poverty alleviation, and women's empowerment in rural areas of Ranchi District, Jharkhand. The study highlights that SHGs have played a significant role in improving the financial status of women by encouraging regular savings, providing access to affordable credit, supporting income-generating activities, and enhancing financial decision-making abilities. With the support of government schemes, banking institutions, and rural livelihood programs, SHGs have strengthened the economic participation of women at the grassroots level and helped them become more financially independent. The findings further reveal that participation in SHGs has not only improved the economic condition of women but has also contributed to their social empowerment. Women members have gained greater self-confidence, leadership qualities, awareness, and involvement in community activities. They are increasingly able to take independent financial decisions, manage household expenses, and contribute to the overall well-being of their families. Through collective support, regular meetings, and skill-development opportunities, SHGs have helped improve the standard of living of rural women and have contributed to achieving broader goals of social and gender equality.

Despite these positive outcomes, several challenges continue to hinder the full potential of SHGs. Issues such as irregular income generation, limited market access, inadequate training opportunities, low levels of digital and financial literacy, and the persistence of socio-cultural barriers remain significant concerns. Therefore, there is a need for stronger institutional support, better skill-development initiatives, enhanced market linkages, and increased awareness programs to ensure the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of SHGs. Overall, the study concludes that SHGs have made a substantial contribution to the financial and socio-economic empowerment of women in Ranchi District and continue to serve as an important instrument for inclusive rural development and women's advancement.

Statement Of The Problem

Rural women in Jharkhand continue to face several socio-economic challenges, including poverty, limited access to formal financial services, low financial literacy, and restricted participation in financial decision-making. These barriers often reduce their opportunities for economic

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growth and self-reliance. Self-Help Groups (SHGs) have emerged as an important mechanism for addressing these issues by promoting savings, providing access to affordable credit, encouraging income-generating activities, and improving financial inclusion. Through various government initiatives and SHG-Bank Linkage programmes, women have gained greater opportunities for entrepreneurship, employment, and economic participation. Despite these benefits, several challenges such as inadequate training, poor market linkages, low digital awareness, irregular participation, and limited institutional support continue to affect the effectiveness of SHGs. In many cases, financial gains do not fully translate into greater control over household resources and decision-making.

Therefore, it is important to examine the actual role and impact of SHGs on the financial empowerment of rural women in Ranchi district and identify the factors that influence their success and sustainability.

Significance Of The Study

This study is significant as it examines the role of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in enhancing the financial empowerment of rural women and promoting rural development in Ranchi District, Jharkhand. SHGs have emerged as an effective platform for encouraging savings, providing access to affordable credit, supporting income-generating activities, and improving financial inclusion among women from economically weaker sections. Through participation in SHGs, women gain financial literacy, entrepreneurial skills, leadership qualities, and greater involvement in household and community decision-making processes. The study also highlights the contribution of SHGs in reducing poverty, generating employment opportunities, strengthening self-reliance, and improving the overall standard of living of rural households. Furthermore, the research identifies key challenges faced by SHGs, including inadequate training, limited market linkages, low digital and financial awareness, and operational constraints that affect their long-term sustainability. The findings of the study will be useful for policymakers, financial institutions, researchers, and development agencies in formulating strategies to strengthen SHGs and maximize their contribution towards sustainable rural development and women's empowerment.

Scope Of The Study

This study focuses on examining the role of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in the financial empowerment of rural women in Ranchi District, Jharkhand. It evaluates the contribution of SHGs in promoting financial inclusion, savings habits, access to credit, income generation, employment opportunities, financial literacy, and financial decision-making among women. The study also analyses how participation in SHGs enhances women's self-confidence, leadership abilities, entrepreneurial skills, economic independence, and overall socio-economic status. The geographical scope of the research is limited to selected rural areas and blocks of Ranchi district where SHGs are actively functioning. It further examines the operational structure of SHGs, their savings and credit activities, loan utilization patterns, and the support provided through government schemes and institutions such as NABARD and CLFs. Additionally, the study identifies key challenges faced by SHG members, including inadequate training, low digital and financial awareness, limited market access, and institutional constraints. Although the findings are based on selected respondents and cannot be generalized universally, the study provides valuable insights for policymakers, researchers, NGOs, banks, and development agencies working towards women's empowerment and sustainable rural development.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Existing Literature Review

Sarumathi & Mohan (2011) examined the role of microfinance in empowering rural women through Self-Help Groups in rural Pondicherry. The study found that SHGs significantly improved self-confidence, decision-making ability and personal independence among women. Participation in SHGs also contributed to better living standards and social recognition. The findings revealed that women became more active in family and community matters after joining SHGs. However, economic empowerment was comparatively lower than social and psychological empowerment. The study concluded that SHGs are effective instruments for women empowerment and rural development.

Anand et al. (2016) analysed the contribution of microfinance towards empowering rural women through SHGs. The findings revealed improvements in income levels, social participation, self-confidence and household decision-making. Women became more involved in family financial matters and community activities. Access to microfinance improved their standard of living and economic condition. The study also highlighted the importance of SHGs in poverty alleviation. It concluded that SHGs are effective instruments for economic empowerment.

Ali & Labhane (2016) investigated the impact of SHGs on the economic condition of rural women. The study reported increased savings habits, better access to credit and improved financial security among members. Participation in SHGs reduced dependence on informal lending sources. Women experienced greater confidence in managing household finances. The findings also indicated improved economic self-reliance. The study concluded that SHGs play a significant role in financial empowerment.

Kumar (2020) examined the relationship between SHGs and financial inclusion. The study found that SHGs encouraged banking habits, regular savings and access to institutional credit. Women developed better financial awareness and confidence in handling financial matters. Participation in SHGs strengthened their economic position. The study highlighted SHGs as an important bridge between women and formal financial institutions. It concluded that SHGs significantly contribute to financial inclusion.

Singh (2019) studied the role of SHGs in promoting entrepreneurship and self-employment among rural women. The findings indicated improved income-generating opportunities and household income. Women acquired entrepreneurial skills and became more economically independent. Participation in SHGs encouraged productive use of credit facilities. The study also observed increased confidence and social participation. It concluded that SHGs play an important role in women's economic empowerment.

Sharma & Gupta (2021) analysed the contribution of SHGs towards entrepreneurial development among women. The study found positive changes in financial independence and participation in economic activities. Access to financial resources enabled women to improve their income levels.

Women became more self-reliant and confident in managing financial matters. The findings also highlighted improvements in decision-making ability. The study concluded that SHGs contribute significantly to socio-economic development.

Verma & Tiwari (2019) explored the social impact of SHGs on women members. The findings showed improvements in awareness, confidence and participation in household decision-making. Women became more involved in community development activities. SHGs strengthened leadership qualities and communication skills. The study also reported improved social recognition among women members. It concluded that SHGs are effective instruments for social empowerment.

Sihag & Vermani (2022) examined the role of SHGs in women's economic empowerment. The study reported that SHGs facilitated skill development, income enhancement and asset creation. Women participated in various livelihood activities and improved their earning capacity. Financial independence and economic confidence increased among members. The study also highlighted improvements in living standards. It concluded that SHGs contribute to long-term economic stability.

Namboodiri & Shiyani (2001) studied the performance of women's SHGs and their contribution to rural development. The findings indicated improved savings behaviour and better access to financial resources. SHG participation strengthened collective action and economic cooperation among women. Members experienced improvements in livelihood opportunities. The study also reported enhanced financial awareness. It concluded that SHGs are valuable tools for rural development.

Parwez (2013) examined the effectiveness of SHGs in promoting socio-economic development. The study found that SHGs improved access to financial resources and increased women's participation in economic activities. Members experienced greater confidence and decision-making power. Participation in SHGs encouraged collective action and community involvement. The findings also highlighted improvements in household income. The study concluded that SHGs support sustainable rural development.

Pandey & Roberts (2012) examined the role of SHGs in promoting financial inclusion and women empowerment. The study highlighted that SHGs provide easier access to credit and financial services for women. Participation in SHGs improved savings habits and financial management skills. Women became less dependent on informal credit sources. Improved financial access contributed to economic stability and self-reliance. The study concluded that SHGs strengthen women's economic position.

Chakravarty & Jha (2012) analysed the impact of SHGs on women empowerment and rural development. The study found that SHGs enhanced leadership qualities, social awareness and community participation among women. Members became more involved in household decision-making. The findings also revealed improvements in confidence and communication skills. SHGs encouraged collective action and cooperation. The study concluded that SHGs contribute significantly to socio-economic transformation.

Suresh & Suresh (2013) studied the contribution of SHGs towards livelihood development and women empowerment. The findings revealed that SHGs created opportunities for income generation and self-employment. Access to microcredit enabled women to engage in productive activities.Members developed better savings behaviour and economic participation. SHGs also promoted social interaction and collective learning. The study concluded that SHGs are important tools for livelihood development.

Brody et al. (2015) explored the relationship between collective participation and women empowerment. The study highlighted that women involved in group-based programmes experienced higher confidence and decision-making power. Participation improved access to resources and opportunities. The findings indicated positive changes in social status and community involvement. Women became more aware of development-related issues. The study concluded that collective action contributes significantly to empowerment.

Rewani et al. (2017) evaluated livestock-based SHGs in Ranchi district. The study focused on the impact of SHGs on livelihood generation and income enhancement. The findings revealed increased earnings and improved financial stability among members. Participation helped women access training, credit and technical support. Women also became more involved in household financial decisions. The study concluded that SHGs are effective mechanisms for rural economic development.

Shetty & Hans (2019) investigated the role of SHGs in developing leadership and managerial abilities among women. The study found that SHG participation improved communication skills, confidence and decision-making capabilities. Women became more capable of managing group activities and finances. Leadership development enhanced social recognition and community participation. The findings also supported entrepreneurial growth. The study concluded that SHGs contribute to overall personality development.

Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics (2018) highlighted the contribution of SHGs towards rural development and financial inclusion. The study indicated that SHGs improved access to credit and encouraged savings mobilisation. Participation enhanced economic opportunities and reduced financial vulnerability. Women reported greater involvement in income-generating activities. The findings also showed improvements in household welfare. The study emphasized the importance of SHGs in poverty reduction.

Ara & Shukla (2022) investigated women empowerment through SHGs. The study found that SHGs significantly improved financial awareness and decision-making power among women. Participation enabled members to access credit and undertake productive activities. The findings also revealed improvements in self-confidence and social participation. Women became more aware of their rights and responsibilities. The study concluded that SHGs are important instruments for socio-economic development.

Nikhitha & Neermarga (2022) analysed the role of SHGs in promoting financial independence among women. The study found that access to microcredit and savings facilities improved the financial position of members. Women developed greater confidence in handling financial matters.

Participation encouraged productive investments and income-generating activities. The findings also indicated increased financial security. The study concluded that SHGs promote economic self-reliance.

Aithal & Sharma (2023) examined the contribution of SHGs to socio-economic development. The study observed that SHGs improved financial literacy, savings habits and access to institutional credit. Women experienced increased self-confidence and greater participation in household decision-making. The findings also highlighted improvements in income generation. Participation strengthened social networks and collective action. The study concluded that SHGs are effective mechanisms for sustainable empowerment.

Kabeer & Noponen (2005) examined the impact of microfinance programmes on women's empowerment and livelihood development. The study found that participation in SHGs improved access to financial resources and enhanced women's contribution to household income. Women experienced greater confidence and independence in financial matters. The findings also indicated improvements in decision-making power and social recognition. SHGs provided opportunities for economic participation. The study concluded that microfinance strengthens women's socio-economic position.

Jaiswal et al. (2024) analysed factors influencing the performance and sustainability of SHGs. The study highlighted the importance of leadership, financial management and institutional support. The findings revealed that training and capacity-building programmes significantly improve group performance. Women developed better organisational and managerial skills through SHG participation. The study also emphasized continuous monitoring and guidance. It concluded that institutional support is essential for long-term success.

Rani & Kumar (2024) investigated the impact of SHGs on financial inclusion among rural women. The study found that SHGs encouraged regular savings and increased access to formal credit facilities. Women became more financially aware and confident in managing household finances. Participation improved their contribution to family income. The findings highlighted a positive relationship between SHG membership and financial empowerment. The study concluded that SHGs promote inclusive growth.

Sarawagi & Singh (2024) examined recent developments in SHG functioning and women empowerment. The study observed that financial literacy and institutional support play a crucial role in improving SHG performance. Women demonstrated better financial planning and decision-making abilities. The findings also indicated improvements in income generation and social participation. SHGs helped women become more aware of development opportunities. The study concluded that capacity building is important for strengthening SHGs.

Kumari (2025) studied the role of SHGs in the socio-economic empowerment of rural women. The findings revealed improvements in income levels, savings behaviour and financial independence. Women became more actively involved in household and community decision-making. The study also reported increased confidence and awareness among members. Participation enhanced livelihood opportunities and reduced economic vulnerability. The research concluded that SHGs are powerful tools for empowerment.

Yadlapalli & Vijayalakshmi (2025) analysed the contribution of SHGs towards financial inclusion and economic development. The study found that SHGs strengthened banking participation and encouraged savings mobilisation. Members gained better access to financial services and credit facilities. The findings highlighted improvements in financial awareness and resource management. SHGs also supported women in undertaking income-generating activities. The study concluded that SHGs improve financial inclusion and economic empowerment.

Dhawan et al. (2026) examined emerging trends in women empowerment through SHGs. The study emphasized the importance of capacity building, entrepreneurship development and skill enhancement. The findings revealed that SHGs contribute significantly to improving economic opportunities and financial stability. Participation strengthened leadership qualities and social confidence among women. Institutional support was identified as a key factor for sustainability. The study concluded that SHGs remain an effective strategy for empowerment.

Anand et al. (2016) further observed that although SHGs improved income levels and living standards, many members utilized loans primarily for household consumption rather than entrepreneurial activities. The study highlighted the need to encourage productive investment of credit. It emphasized that entrepreneurship development can enhance the long-term impact of microfinance programmes. Training and awareness initiatives were suggested to improve loan utilization. The study concluded that economic empowerment can be strengthened through enterprise promotion.

Sarumathi & Mohan (2011) also highlighted that social and psychological empowerment outcomes were stronger than economic empowerment outcomes. Women experienced significant improvements in confidence, courage and participation in decision-making. However, income enhancement and economic independence progressed at a slower pace. The findings suggested the need for additional skill development and livelihood opportunities. The study emphasized balancing social and economic empowerment. It concluded that SHGs require continuous support for sustainable development.

Sihag & Vermani (2022) further reported that women engaged in SHGs were more likely to invest in productive activities and create income-generating assets. Participation improved financial stability and reduced economic dependence. Women gained greater control over financial resources and household expenditure decisions. The findings highlighted improvements in living standards and economic security. SHGs encouraged long-term economic planning among members. The study concluded that SHGs contribute significantly to sustainable economic empowerment.

Summary Of Previous Research

The reviewed literature highlights that Self-Help Groups (SHGs) have emerged as an important instrument for women empowerment and rural development. Most studies found that participation in SHGs improves income levels, savings behaviour, access to credit and financial inclusion among women. Researchers also observed that SHGs help women become economically independent by promoting self-employment, entrepreneurship and various livelihood activities. As a result, women experience improved living standards and greater financial security. In addition to economic benefits, several studies reported significant social and psychological improvements among SHG members. Participation in SHGs enhances self-confidence, leadership qualities, awareness and decision-making ability. Women become more actively involved in household as well as community affairs and gain greater social recognition. Overall, the existing literature confirms that SHGs play a crucial role in the socio-economic empowerment of women and contribute significantly to sustainable rural development.

Research Gap

The review of existing literature reveals that most studies have focused on the role of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in promoting financial inclusion, income generation, savings habits and women empowerment. While these studies have reported positive impacts of SHGs on the economic and social status of women, they largely concentrate on specific dimensions of empowerment rather than providing a comprehensive assessment of socio-economic development. Furthermore, many studies have been conducted in different states and regions, making it difficult to generalize their findings to all rural contexts. In addition, limited research has examined the combined impact of SHGs on economic, social and decision-making aspects of women's lives in the context of rural Jharkhand. Issues such as the extent of empowerment achieved, challenges faced by SHG members and the sustainability of empowerment outcomes have received comparatively less attention. Therefore, there is a need for a comprehensive study that evaluates the contribution of SHGs towards the overall socio-economic empowerment of rural women. The present study seeks to address this gap by analysing the impact of SHGs on income, financial inclusion, decision-making ability, social participation and the overall quality of life of women members.

Research Questions

1. Describe the ways in which SHGs can contribute /contributes in financial empowerment of rural women?
2. In what ways do SHGs create employment and self-employment opportunities for members of SHGs?
3. How do SHGs perform financial risk management practices and explain its impact on income changes of SHGs members?

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Research Objective

1. To examine SHGs' role in financial empowerment of rural women.
2. To study SHGs' contribution to employment and self-employment
3. To assess financial risk management practices and income changes of SHG members.

Hypothesis

- **H_0 (Null Hypothesis):** SHG participation does not significantly improve financial risk management practices or income levels of members.
- **H_1 (Alternative Hypothesis):** SHG participation significantly improves financial risk management practices and increases income levels of members.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Design

For this study, we went with an exploratory research design. we wanted to dig into how Self-Help Groups (SHGs) affect the financial empowerment of rural women in Ranchi District, Jharkhand. This approach let me look at the real changes - both financial and social - that women go through after joining SHGs, and it gave me room to explore all kinds of angles, not just stick to predefined categories.

Research Approach

We mixed things up by using both descriptive and analytical approaches. The descriptive part helped me get a clear picture of how these groups work - their saving habits, how they access credit, their financial awareness, and how much they get to be part of decisions. On the analytical side, I focused on measuring the impact of SHGs - are these women actually earning more, finding work, becoming financially independent, and better at handling risks?

Data Sources

We relied on both primary and secondary data. The primary data came straight from the field: we visited rural and semi-rural spots, talked one-on-one with SHG members, and handed out structured questionnaires. Altogether, we ended up with 112 responses. For the secondary data, we sifted through journals, government reports, census info, NABARD publications, and a bunch of research papers and literature.

Sampling Techniques And Sampling Size

For sampling, we used a non-probability convenience method. Basically, we picked respondents who were available and willing to talk during my field visits. So, my sample included 112 rural women from different areas of Ranchi District, all members of SHGs.

Data Collection Method

We designed a structured questionnaire in Hindi and English, with questions covering demographics and a bunch of Likert-scale items about financial empowerment, saving behaviour, employment, how much they participate in SHGs, and how they deal with financial risks.

Statistical Tools And Software Used

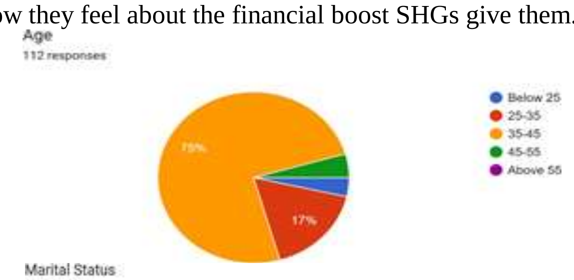
When it came to analysis, we used percentage analysis, mean, standard deviation, correlation, regression, t-test, and ANOVA. For the number crunching and hypothesis testing, we relied on SPSS software. We ran descriptive stats and simple linear regression to see how SHG participation connects with financial empowerment.

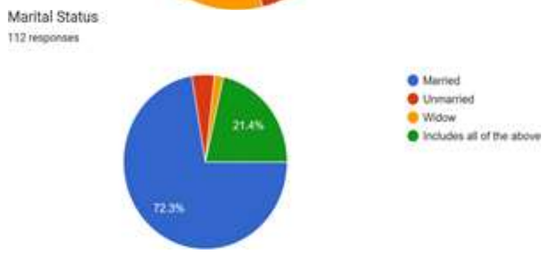
IV. ATA ANALYSIS AND HYPOTHESIS TESTING

We dig into the data collected from 112 women who belong to Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in Ranchi District, Jharkhand. The main goal here is to understand how being part of an SHG changes the financial lives of rural women. To do this, we used several statistical tools: we looked at basic descriptive stats, ran regression and coefficient analyses, and used ANOVA to check if our research hypotheses hold up. The big focus is on whether being in an SHG actually helps women take charge of their finances and manage resources better.

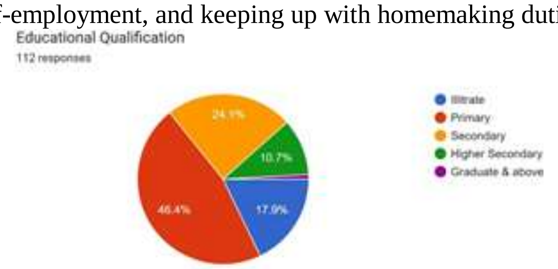
Descriptive Analysis

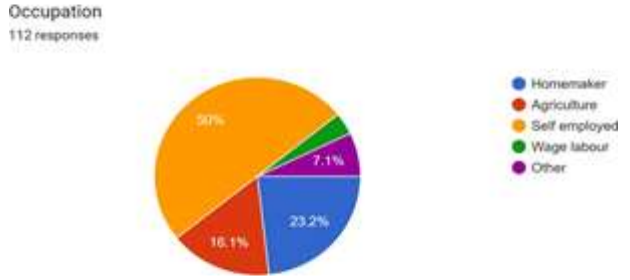
First, let's get a clear picture of who these women are and how they feel about the financial boost SHGs give them.





All 112 participants came from different rural and semi-rural pockets of Ranchi District. Most of them are married and fall into the low to middle-income range. Education-wise, they cover everything from just primary schooling all the way to graduation. When it comes to what they do every day, it's a mix: agriculture, running small businesses, self-employment, and keeping up with homemaking duties.

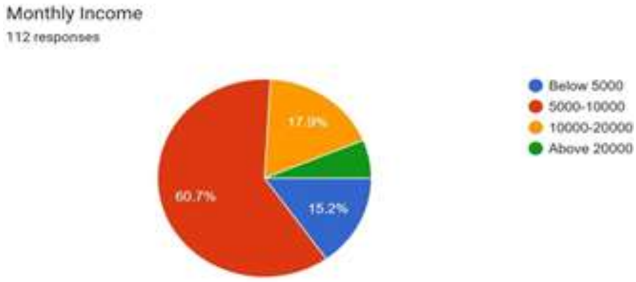




From what we heard, SHGs have made a real difference. A lot of women say they're saving more, borrowing money is less of a hassle, they know more about managing money, and they're actually making decisions when it comes to household finances-things that might not have happened before joining these groups.

SHGs also help women find work and earn more. Quite a few women started small businesses or took up side hustles, all because they got support and loans through their SHGs.

If anything, this underlines how SHGs aren't just talking points-they're actually helping bring women into the financial mainstream.



On top of the money part, most respondents said they feel more confident. They make more decisions themselves and have a sense of independence now. Overall, this survey shows that SHGs are a strong, positive force when it comes to boosting the social and financial standing of rural women.

Financial Empowerment Indicators
To get a better sense of what financial empowerment really looks like, we asked the women about their habits and experiences-things like saving money, getting loans, job opportunities, money know-how, and handling financial risks.

Here's what came out:
- Most women started saving more once they joined SHGs.
- Getting loans got much easier than before.
- SHGs encouraged many to try out new business ideas or take up self-employment.

There's a clear improvement in how they plan and manage their money and other resources.

Being part of an SHG raised awareness about financial services and government benefits.

Looking at the numbers, about 80% said they felt financially independent after joining an SHG. Close to 87% said these groups helped them create opportunities to work for themselves.

So, it's clear-SHGs have played a big role in strengthening women's financial situations and their ability to handle their economic lives on their own.

Regression Analysis
We used simple linear regression to find out how Self-Help Group Participation (SHGP) affects Financial and Resource Management (FRM).

Here's what the model showed:
R = 0.720
R Square = 0.518
Adjusted R Square = 0.513
Standard Error = 0.438
With an R value of 0.720, there's a pretty strong positive link between SHG participation and financial management. Basically, the more women get involved with SHGs, the better they manage their finances and resources.

The R Square value, at 0.518, means SHG participation explains about 51.8% of the differences we see in Financial and Resource Management. That's a big chunk, showing SHGs play a key role in empowering rural women financially.

Adjusted R Square (0.513) backs up the model's reliability, so even when considering the sample size, the relationship holds up.
All in all, the regression points clearly to SHG participation leading to better financial empowerment.

ANOVA Analysis
Next, we ran an ANOVA to check if the regression model holds up statistically.

ANOVA[a]						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	14.869	1	14.869	118.094	.000[b]
	Residual	13.850	110	.126		
	Total	28.719	111			
a. Dependent Variable: FRM						
b. Predictors: (Constant), SHGP						

(Source: Using SPSS Software)

Here's what came back:
F-value = 118.094
Significance (p-value) = 0.000
Since that p-value is way below 0.05, the regression model is statistically solid. The high F-value also shows the model does a good job explaining how SHG participation affects financial empowerment. So, it's clear that joining SHGs makes a real difference for rural women's financial and resource management. These numbers confirm that

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SHG participation is a big predictor in how well rural women manage their finances.

Coefficient Analysis

To dig into the details, coefficient analysis looked at both the direction and strength of the link between SHG participation and financial empowerment.

Coefficients[a]						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients B	Unstandardized Coefficients Std. Error	Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig.
1	(Constant)	.784	.288		2.719	.008
	SHGP	.771	.071	.720	10.867	.000
a. Dependent Variable: FRM						

(Source: Using SPSS Software)

Unstandardized Coefficient (B) = 0.771
Standardized Beta = 0.720
t-value = 10.867
p-value = 0.000

With a positive coefficient, it's clear: more involvement in SHGs leads to improvements in financial and resource management. For every increase in SHG participation, financial management goes up by about 0.77 units.

The Beta value at 0.720 means SHG participation strongly boosts financial empowerment. The t-value and low p-value just reinforce the significance of these results-statistically, it's rock-solid.

So, this analysis gives strong evidence that SHGs help women manage money better, use resources wisely, and make smarter financial choices.

Hypothesis Testing

Variables Entered/Removed[a]			
Model	Variables Entered	Variables Removed	Method
1	SHGP[b]	.	Enter
a. Dependent Variable: FRM			
b. All requested variables entered.			

(Source: Using SPSS Software)

Model	R	R^2	Adjusted R^2	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.720[a]	.518	.513	.35483
a. Predictors: (Constant), SHGP				
(Source: Computed by Researcher Using SPSS Software)				

(Source: Computed by Researcher Using SPSS Software)
(Source: Using SPSS Software)

Hypotheses:

Null Hypothesis (H_0): SHG participation doesn't make a significant difference in financial and resource management for rural women.

Alternative Hypothesis (H_1): SHG participation has a significant positive impact on financial and resource management for rural women.

Based on all the analyses above-with a significance value of 0.000-the Null Hypothesis gets rejected, and the Alternative Hypothesis stands.

Result: Participation in Self-Help Groups truly helps rural women manage their finances and resources better.

Interpretation of Results

Looking at everything together, the evidence shows Self-Help Groups are a real game-changer for financial empowerment among rural women. Being part of an SHG means women are more likely to save, get access to loans, find jobs, boost their financial literacy, and make decisions with confidence.

The solid correlation and regression results leave no doubt that SHG participation leads directly to greater financial independence and resource management. Plus, it's not just about money-SHGs also build confidence, leadership, and economic self-reliance. They're helping drive inclusive growth and sustainable rural development, especially in Ranchi District, Jharkhand.

So, this wraps up by saying SHGs have a clear, positive impact on the financial empowerment of rural women. The study's objectives are met, and the research hypothesis holds strong.

V. ACHIEVEMENT OF OBJECTIVES

Objective 1: To Examine SHGs' Role in Financial Empowerment of Rural Women

Achievement Status: Achieved

The first objective of the study was to examine the role of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in the financial empowerment of rural women in Ranchi District, Jharkhand.

The findings of the study indicate that SHGs have made a significant contribution towards improving the financial condition and financial independence of rural women.

Data collected from 112 SHG members revealed that 62.5% of respondents agreed and 17.9% strongly agreed that they had become financially independent after joining SHGs. Thus, a total of 80.4% of respondents expressed a positive perception regarding their financial independence, while only 6.3% disagreed and 13.4% remained neutral. These findings demonstrate that participation in SHGs has enhanced women's ability to manage financial resources, save regularly, and participate more actively in economic activities.

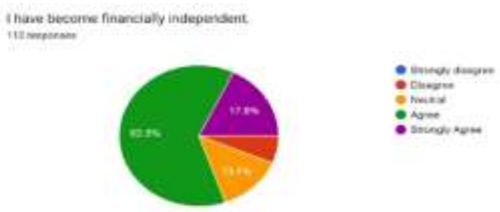

Figure 14 : Percentage showing financially Independence

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Statistical analysis also supports the achievement of this objective. Regression analysis revealed a strong positive relationship between SHG participation and Financial and Resource Management (FRM), with an R^2 value of 0.518, indicating that 51.8% of the variation in financial and resource management was explained by SHG participation. The regression coefficient ($B = 0.771$, $p < 0.05$) confirmed that SHG participation had a significant positive effect on the financial management capabilities of rural women.

Therefore, the findings clearly establish that SHGs play a vital role in promoting financial empowerment among rural women by improving financial independence, strengthening financial decision-making ability, encouraging savings behavior, and enhancing overall financial management skills. Hence, the first research objective was successfully achieved.

Objective 2: To Study SHGs' Contribution to Employment and Self-Employment

Achievement Status: Achieved

The second objective of the study was to examine the contribution of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) towards employment and self-employment opportunities among rural women in Ranchi District, Jharkhand. The findings indicate that SHGs have played a significant role in enhancing livelihood opportunities and encouraging income-generating activities among women.

The survey results revealed that a majority of respondents perceived a positive impact of SHGs on employment generation and self-employment opportunities.

The pie chart from the survey reports clearly shows that 67.9% respondents agrees that self-help groups contribute a major role in creating the self-employment opportunities.

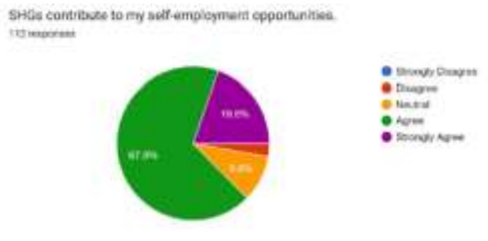


Figure 13 : Percentage of SHG contribution to self-employment opportunities

The statistical analysis further confirmed the achievement of this objective. Regression analysis demonstrated a significant positive relationship between SHG participation and Employment and Self-Employment (ESE). The model produced an R^2 value of 0.641, indicating that 64.1% of the variation in employment and self-employment opportunities was explained by SHG participation.

Furthermore, the regression coefficient ($B = 0.881$, $p < 0.05$) established that SHG participation had a statistically significant positive effect on employment generation and self-employment among rural women. These findings suggest that SHGs function as an effective mechanism for promoting entrepreneurship, livelihood development, and economic participation among women. By providing access to financial resources, skill enhancement opportunities, and collective support, SHGs have strengthened women's capacity to generate income and achieve economic self-reliance. Therefore, the second research objective was successfully achieved.

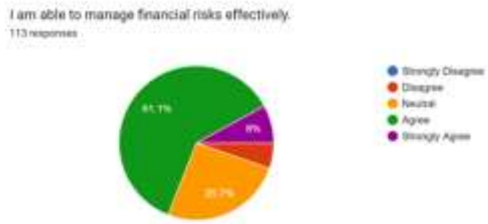
Objective 3: To Assess Financial Risk Management Practices and Income Changes of SHG Members

Achievement Status: Achieved

The third objective of the study was to assess the financial risk management practices and income changes among Self-Help Group (SHG) members in Ranchi District, Jharkhand. The findings indicate that participation in SHGs has positively influenced both the financial stability and income levels of rural women.

Statistical evidence strongly supports the achievement of this objective. Regression analysis showed a strong positive relationship between SHG participation and Financial and Resource Management (FRM).

The model produced an R value of 0.720 and an R^2 value of 0.518, indicating that 51.8% of the variation in financial and resource management outcomes was explained by SHG participation.



The regression coefficient ($B = 0.771$) was positive and statistically significant ($p = 0.000$), confirming that SHG participation had a significant positive effect on the financial management capabilities and economic well-being of rural women. The study also rejected the null hypothesis and accepted the alternative hypothesis, concluding that SHG participation significantly improves financial risk management practices and income levels of members.

Therefore, the findings clearly demonstrate that SHGs play a vital role in helping rural women manage financial risks more effectively while simultaneously improving their income and economic stability. Hence, the third research objective was successfully achieved.

VI. FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Major Findings

- SHGs have positively influenced the economic and social empowerment of rural women.

- Participation in SHGs has improved savings habits and increased access to banking and credit facilities.
- Women associated with SHGs reported higher levels of financial awareness and independence.
- SHGs created opportunities for self-employment and income generation.
- Membership in SHGs enhanced women's confidence, leadership skills, and participation in household decision-making.
- SHGs contributed to poverty reduction and improved living standards in rural areas.

Conclusion

Self-Help Groups (SHGs) have emerged as an effective mechanism for promoting the socio-economic empowerment of rural women. The study highlights that participation in SHGs contributes significantly to improving income levels, savings behaviour, access to credit and financial inclusion.

SHGs also enhance women's self-confidence, decision-making ability, leadership qualities and social participation, thereby strengthening their overall position within the family and society.

The findings indicate that SHGs not only support economic development but also promote social and psychological empowerment among women. By providing opportunities for collective action, skill development and livelihood generation, SHGs help women become more self-reliant and financially independent. Therefore, SHGs play a crucial role in achieving women empowerment and sustainable rural development. Continued institutional support, capacity-building initiatives and awareness programmes can further enhance the effectiveness of SHGs in improving the quality of life of rural women.

Suggestions And Recommendations

- Strengthen financial literacy and entrepreneurship training programs for SHG members.
- Improve access to digital banking and financial technologies in rural areas.
- Enhance market linkages for products and services produced by SHGs.
- Increase government support through training, subsidies, and skill-development programs.
- Encourage collaboration between banks, NGOs, and SHGs to improve access to finance and business opportunities.

Scope For Future Research

The present study focuses on examining the role of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in the socio-economic empowerment of rural women. It aims to assess the impact of SHGs on various dimensions such as income generation, savings habits, access to credit, financial inclusion, decision-making ability and social participation. The study also seeks to understand how SHG membership contributes to improving the overall quality of life of women.

The scope of the study is confined to rural women who are members of Self-Help Groups in the selected study area. It provides insights into the contribution of SHGs towards women empowerment and rural development. However, the findings are limited to the selected respondents and geographical area covered under the study and may not be universally applicable to all regions.

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