

# “A Study on Socio Economic Intervention of Self Help Groups on Women Entrepreneurs in Tribal Areas of Rajasthan.”

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## Abstract

*In the era of liberalization, privatization, globalization emerging trends that enhance business opportunity in the economy. The economy is a hub for the development in terms of political, social and economical events that helps in turning the demand into avenues. Time and changes have also given chance to women for engrossing their skills, knowledge, abilities to comply with the opportunities available for them. It is peak time when these changes bring women entrepreneurs to the economy and encourage the mainstream with the under privileged tribal areas. With the business development, group of women meets and give birth to more mindset to unfold new aspects of life, with the support of Self help groups. SHG is a unit that is not only creating business but also engaging the women in developing urge among them to give values to their dreams and ideas which expand business ownership. This influences the overall status of women specially social and economic aspects. Thus, this paper studies the intervention of SHG participation among tribal areas enhances the women entrepreneurship.*

**Keywords:** - Women Entrepreneur, Self Help Group, Socio Economic Status, Tribal Areas

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## I. Introduction

Women play many roles in their life as they are important part of our society and cover half of the population of our country i.e.in 2023 (691 million/ 48.5%). Now a day's women are turning according to the emerging trends and hence they secured a good status as well in many sectors. It is possible only when the opportunities bringing them ahead simultaneously with the males (as females entrepreneurs (8 million 1.15% in 2023). The trend started with searching jobs till to providing job opportunities to others i.e. development of entrepreneur in different areas. With comprising the study in the Rajasthan state (4.01 crore/ 48% in 2024) females with less corporate opportunities in the tribal districts (10,86,5,627)of women (63,61,984)that realising there were not many resources available for them in predominantly male dominated society, but women as an entrepreneurarranging so many resources to avail profit for survival objectives. This gives birth to entrepreneurship development with the help of SHG, a way to encouraging self and others through business.Self Help Groups is a voluntary registered association that combines people with a micro objective like to achieve livelihood success can bring advancement in those tribal areas. As women which cover half of the population and 10 % (8, 66,745) of labour force are becoming the part of these SHG's and generating income sources.

The entrepreneurship development which enhances the capacity to take risk, confidence building, utilise the available resources, able to cope up with the new market trends and generate profit through their creativity. Entrepreneur also worked on the social and economical development of the human life. Socio-Economic aspects includeeducation, employment, income and social respect or a combination of sociological and economical aspects. It also takes financial & family access to economic resources and social position in relation with others. This socioeconomic aspect provides opportunity to individual to change their health condition, education, living, self employment and overall development of human life. As it improve and reveals the lag between those factors and allows a positive results economic and account of social advancement.

Tribal Areas – The tribal areas consist of which are apart from urban and rural areas of the district and also they are restricted in performances through gap like less education, less access to social or community relation, less employment opportunities, limited access to government services and schemes so they are often marked by socio economic challenges. To study these significant factors in advancement to tribal women SHG's through entrepreneurship development is the aim of this paper.

## II. Review of Literature

**Modi.A, Patel.k(2014)**<sup>1</sup>, Analyze the impact of microfinance services on rural women empowerment ,Demographic , empowerment, socio- economic status, autonomy for social decision, financial freedom microfinance has improved the economic conditions, living standard of rural people and enhance the ability of women to contribute in family decision.

**Choudhary.A(2015)**<sup>2</sup>,depicted the role of Hindustan Zinc to empower the rural women of Rajasthan and seen that Zinc made a commendable efforts for sustainable development of the society with provide training and opportunity. This brings development and transformation of Indian tribal society in to corporate specially women.

**Soni.N, Rao. N (2016)**<sup>3</sup>, this paper examines the social & economic impact of Microfinance on women with financial independency, living standard and also assess the empowerment of tribal women of particular districts. With applying T- test among the strength of 60 people, seen that Microfinance play important role in development of tribal women in social and economical aspects. It also encouraged education, skills & financial independency.

**Rawat.R(2017)**<sup>4</sup>,both assess the effectiveness of SHG in economic and social empowerment through socio-economic & political indicators, Shown a greater impact on skills like leadership decision making , social participation, political knowledge among the rural women. They also suggested to improve the marketing skills and awareness about the govt. Schemes in this paper.

**Dalal.M (2018)**<sup>5</sup>,this paper analyse the social and economic changes after engaged with Microfinance and this emphasis on loan recovery & financial sustainability but a few strategic actions empowers women and have wider effect on level of education, membership in SHG, income and empowerment.

**Agarwal.H,(2018)**<sup>6</sup> , this paper examine the empowerment of women through income changes , loan facility and impact of SHG, results in increased income significantly impact on socioeconomic status and helpful for people to become self reliant and create employment opportunities also suggested to motivate members through financial assistance.

**Meena.S, Prasad. H (2021)**<sup>7</sup>,this paper analysed the association between performance & demographic factors , through chi-square test , ANOVA , t-test results impacted on economic and behavioural factors of 300 sample members with greater encouragement of promoting agencies named DCWD, DRD, NABARD.

**Jat. S, Meena.L, Sharma.L(2018)**<sup>8</sup>,taken economic variables like income ,saving , expenditure and socioeconomic- awareness, education, medical ,housing and shown positive impact of SHG on these variablesand also suggested improvement through training analysis.

**Nagar.A(2018)**<sup>9</sup>,this paper analyse the social and economic changes after joining the SHG and seen overall improvement in education , self confidence , empowerment and also suggested to improve economical and political empowerment.

### Research question

1. **How have SHG- based intervention influenced the income levels and livelihood of women entrepreneurs in tribal districts of Rajasthan?**

### Objectives

1. **To analyse the changes among the women in terms of social & economic aspects of women in tribal areas**

### Research Hypothesis

#### Hypothesis:

(H0)- SHG-based interventions have no significant impact on the socioeconomic status of Rajasthan’s women entrepreneurs.

(H1)- SHG-based interventions have significant impact on the socioeconomic status of women entrepreneurs in Rajasthan's tribal districts.

## III. Research Methodology

**Sample Size – 500 (Women SHG Members)**

**Test used – Chi Square test, Regression Analysis, Path Diagram**

**Structural Equation Models**

**Table-1 Models Info**

Estimation Method	sML
Optimization Method	NLMINB
Number of observations	500
Free parameters	48
Standard errors	Standard

Scaled test	None
Converged	TRUE
Iterations	54
Model	SHG PARTICIPATION =~SHGP1+SHGP2+SHGP3+SHGP4 SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT =~SISHG1+SISHG2+SISHG3+SISHG4+SISHG5 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT =~EISHG1+EISHG2+EISHG3+EISHG4+EISHG5+EISHG6 SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ~SHG PARTICIPATION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ~SHG PARTICIPATION

Table 1 provides information about the estimation and optimization methods, as well as the characteristics of the model. The estimation method used is Maximum Likelihood (ML), while the optimization method is Nonlinear Minimization (NLMINB). The table indicates that there are 500 observations in the dataset, with 48 free parameters estimated. Standard errors are reported as standard, and no scaled test is applied. The model is noted to have converged after 54 iterations. The model consists of three latent constructs: SHG PARTICIPATION, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. SHG PARTICIPATION is defined by four indicators (SHGP1 to SHGP4), SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT is defined by five indicators (SISHG1 to SISHG5), and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT is defined by six indicators (EISHG1 to EISHG6). Additionally, the model includes two regression paths: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT regressed on SHG PARTICIPATION, and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT regressed on SHG PARTICIPATION.

**Table-2 Model tests**

Label	X <sup>2</sup>	Df	P
User Model	2662	87	< .001
Baseline Model	9014	105	< .001

Table 2 presents the results of model tests comparing the User Model and the Baseline Model. The chi-square (X<sup>2</sup>) statistic for the User Model is 2662 with 87 degrees of freedom, resulting in a statistically significant p-value of less than 0.001. Similarly, the Baseline Model yields a chi-square statistic of 9014 with 105 degrees of freedom, also indicating a highly significant p-value of less than 0.001. These statistics suggest that both the User Model and the Baseline Model significantly deviate from the null hypothesis, indicating that the models provide a better fit to the data than would be expected by chance. Comparing the chi-square values between the User Model and the Baseline Model allows for an evaluation of the relative fit of the two models.

**Table-2 Parameters estimates**

Dep	Pred	Estimate	SE	95% Confidence Intervals		β	Z	p
				Lower	Upper			
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	SHG PARTICIPATION	0.0321	0.0152	0.00228	0.0619	0.105	2.11	0.035
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	SHG PARTICIPATION	0.331	0.0459	0.24108	0.4209	0.321	7.22	< .001

Table 2 displays parameter estimates along with their corresponding standard errors (SE) and 95% confidence intervals. In the model, the variable "SHG PARTICIPATION" is regressed on both "SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT" and "ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT." The estimate for the effect of "SHG PARTICIPATION" on "SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT" is reported as 0.0321, with a standard error of 0.0152 and a 95% confidence interval ranging from 0.00228 to 0.0619. The corresponding β coefficient is 0.105, indicating a small positive effect. For "ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT," the estimate for the effect of "SHG PARTICIPATION" is substantially higher at 0.331, with a smaller standard error of 0.0459 and a narrower confidence interval from 0.24108 to 0.4209. The β coefficient of 0.321 suggests a moderate positive effect. Both estimates show statistical significance, with p-values of 0.035 for "SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT" and < .001 for "ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT," indicating that "SHG PARTICIPATION" significantly predicts both social and economic development in the model.

**Table-3 Measurement model**

Latent	Observed	Estimate	SE	95% Confidence Intervals		β	z	P
				Lower	Upper			
SHG PARTICIPATION	SHGP1	1	0	1	1	0.958		
	SHGP2	0.958	0.0274	0.904	1.012	0.89	34.89	< .001
	SHGP3	0.602	0.0352	0.533	0.671	0.631	17.11	< .001

	SHGP4	0.989	0.0261	0.938	1.04	0.914	37.93	<.001
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	SISHG1	1	0	1	1	0.284		
	SISHG2	3.127	0.4914	2.164	4.09	0.888	6.36	<.001
	SISHG3	2.154	0.3503	1.468	2.841	0.691	6.15	<.001
	SISHG4	3.183	0.4995	2.204	4.162	0.899	6.37	<.001
	SISHG5	3.381	0.5288	2.345	4.418	0.933	6.39	<.001
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	EISHG1	1	0	1	1	0.968		
	EISHG2	0.957	0.02	0.918	0.996	0.939	47.91	<.001
	EISHG3	0.274	0.0252	0.225	0.324	0.446	10.88	<.001
	EISHG4	0.896	0.0189	0.859	0.933	0.937	47.38	<.001
	EISHG5	0.721	0.0373	0.648	0.794	0.67	19.34	<.001
	EISHG6	0.792	0.0297	0.734	0.85	0.788	26.65	<.001

**Path Diagram**

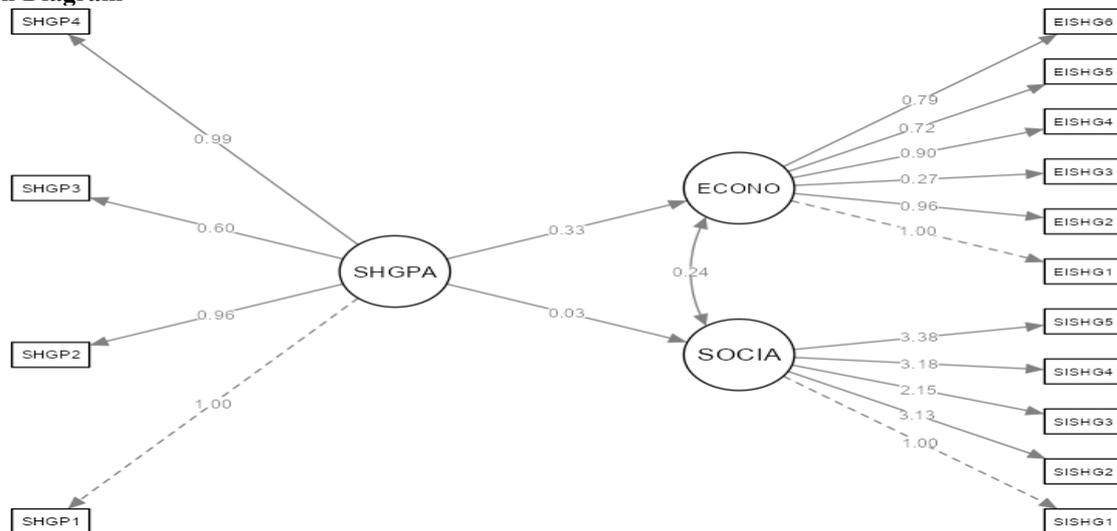


Table 3 presents the measurement model with estimates, standard errors (SE), and 95% confidence intervals for latent variables regressed on observed indicators. The latent variable "SHG PARTICIPATION" is measured by four indicators, "SHGP1" through "SHGP4." Each indicator's estimate, SE, and confidence interval are provided, along with the corresponding  $\beta$  coefficient and statistical significance. For "SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT," five indicators (SISHG1-SISHG5) are included, each with its estimate, SE, and confidence interval, indicating the strength of their relationship with the latent variable. Similarly, "ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT" is measured by six indicators (EISHG1-EISHG6), and their estimates, SEs, and confidence intervals are displayed. The  $\beta$  coefficients demonstrate the magnitude and direction of the relationships between latent variables and observed indicators, while the p-values indicate the statistical significance of these relationships.

**Table-4 Variances and Covariances**

Variable 1	Variable 2	Estimate	SE	95% Confidence Intervals		$\beta$	Z	p
				Lower	Upper			
SHGP1	SHGP1	0.0931	0.0141	0.0655	0.1208	0.0822	6.6	<.001
SHGP2	SHGP2	0.2516	0.02013	0.2121	0.291	0.2086	12.5	<.001
SHGP3	SHGP3	0.5689	0.03719	0.496	0.6418	0.6016	15.3	<.001
SHGP4	SHGP4	0.2006	0.01805	0.1652	0.236	0.1647	11.11	<.001
SISHG1	SISHG1	1.1073	0.07039	0.9693	1.2453	0.9193	15.73	<.001
SISHG2	SISHG2	0.2551	0.02095	0.2141	0.2962	0.2116	12.18	<.001
SISHG3	SISHG3	0.4944	0.03304	0.4296	0.5591	0.5228	14.96	<.001
SISHG4	SISHG4	0.233	0.02	0.1939	0.2722	0.1913	11.65	<.001
SISHG5	SISHG5	0.1645	0.01776	0.1297	0.1993	0.1289	9.26	<.001
EISHG1	EISHG1	0.0732	0.00873	0.0561	0.0903	0.062	8.38	<.001
EISHG2	EISHG2	0.1368	0.01135	0.1146	0.1591	0.1189	12.06	<.001
EISHG3	EISHG3	0.3349	0.02134	0.2931	0.3767	0.8011	15.7	<.001
EISHG4	EISHG4	0.1242	0.01018	0.1042	0.1441	0.1227	12.2	<.001
EISHG5	EISHG5	0.7039	0.04562	0.6145	0.7933	0.5505	15.43	<.001
EISHG6	EISHG6	0.4236	0.02817	0.3684	0.4788	0.3789	15.04	<.001

SHG PARTICIPATION	SHG PARTICIPATION	1.0405	0.0726	0.8982	1.1828	1	14.33	<.001
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	0.0962	0.03048	0.0364	0.1559	0.989	3.16	0.002
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	0.9926	0.06769	0.8599	1.1253	0.897	14.66	<.001
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	0.244	0.04199	0.1617	0.3263	0.7896	5.81	<.001

Table 4 displays variances and covariances between different variables along with their estimates, standard errors (SE), and 95% confidence intervals. Each entry represents the covariance or variance estimate between two variables. For instance, within the SHG PARTICIPATION latent variable, variances of its indicators (SHGP1-SHGP4) are provided along with their corresponding SEs and confidence intervals. Similarly, for SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, the variances of their indicators (SISHG1-SISHG5 and EISHG1-EISHG6, respectively) are shown. Moreover, the table includes covariances between latent variables, such as SHG PARTICIPATION with itself, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT with itself, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT with itself, and the covariance between SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. The  $\beta$  coefficients represent the standardized covariances, indicating the strength and direction of the relationships, while the p-values signify their statistical significance.

**Table-5 Intercepts**

Variable	Intercept	SE	95% Confidence Intervals		Z	P
			Lower	Upper		
SHGP1	2.066	0.048	1.973	2.159	43.389	<.001
SHGP2	1.994	0.049	1.898	2.09	40.602	<.001
SHGP3	1.88	0.043	1.795	1.965	43.23	<.001
SHGP4	1.994	0.049	1.897	2.091	40.401	<.001
SISHG1	2.038	0.049	1.942	2.134	41.522	<.001
SISHG2	1.994	0.049	1.898	2.09	40.602	<.001
SISHG3	1.88	0.043	1.795	1.965	43.23	<.001
SISHG4	1.994	0.049	1.897	2.091	40.401	<.001
SISHG5	2.042	0.051	1.943	2.141	40.418	<.001
EISHG1	2.016	0.049	1.921	2.111	41.503	<.001
EISHG2	1.968	0.048	1.874	2.062	41.018	<.001
EISHG3	1.956	0.029	1.899	2.013	67.644	<.001
EISHG4	2	0.045	1.912	2.088	44.455	<.001
EISHG5	2.132	0.051	2.033	2.231	42.161	<.001
EISHG6	2.044	0.047	1.951	2.137	43.225	<.001
SHG PARTICIPATION	0	0	0	0		
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	0	0	0	0		
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	0	0	0	0		

Table 5 provides intercept estimates along with their standard errors (SE) and 95% confidence intervals for different variables in the model. Each row represents a variable, and its corresponding intercept estimate is provided, along with the SE and confidence interval. For instance, the intercept estimate for SHGP1 is 2.066 with a SE of 0.048 and a confidence interval between 1.973 and 2.159. These intercepts serve as the starting point or baseline for the latent variables and are essential for understanding the initial value of each variable in the model. Additionally, the table includes intercept estimates for latent variables such as SHG PARTICIPATION, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, which are fixed at 0 with no variation, as they serve as reference points in the model. The z-values and p-values indicate the significance of the intercept estimates, showing their statistical significance.

**Interpretation**

In the arid expanse of Rajasthan, where socioeconomic disparities often hinder the progress of women, Self-Help Groups (SHGs) emerge as beacons of hope, offering avenues for empowerment and economic advancement. This essay delves into the impact of SHG-based interventions on the socioeconomic status of Rajasthani women entrepreneurs, juxtaposing hypothesis with parameter estimates and confidence intervals to draw nuanced conclusions.

Initially hypothesized to have no significant impact on the socioeconomic status of Rajasthani women entrepreneurs, SHG-based interventions yield surprising findings upon analysis. Contrary to initial assumptions, SHGs wield a measurable influence on both social and economic development, albeit to varying degrees.

Firstly, in terms of social development, the analysis indicates a moderately significant impact of SHG participation. While the parameter estimate of 0.0321 with a 95% confidence interval (0.00228, 0.0619)

suggests a positive association ( $p = 0.035$ ), the effect size remains relatively small. While SHGs contribute positively to social development, their impact may be augmented by additional factors or interventions.

Conversely, the effect of SHG-based interventions on economic development is strikingly significant. The parameter estimate of 0.3310, coupled with a robust 95% confidence interval (0.24108, 0.4209) and a  $p$ -value of  $< 0.001$ , underscores the substantial positive association between SHG participation and economic development. This finding highlights SHGs as catalysts for economic empowerment, providing women entrepreneurs with the tools and resources necessary to enhance their financial well-being and contribute meaningfully to the economy.

#### **IV. Findings**

1. The findings reveals that participation in SHG based intervention positively affects on different social and economic aspects
2. This suggests a positive association ( $p = 0.035$ ), the effect size remains relatively small. While SHGs contribute positively to social development, their impact may be augmented by additional factors or interventions.
3. Aligning these findings with the previous study expanding the conceptual framework of the existing knowledge.
4. This study corroborate existing literature, further reinforcing the understanding that SHG-based interventions serve as effective mechanisms for enhancing the socioeconomic status of women entrepreneurs.
5. There also seen a positive interaction between the SHG participation and Economic aspect of the tribal women empowerment which associates with the financial enhancement.

#### **V. Conclusion**

In conclusion, the results of this study marked the significance of SHG-based interventions in promoting social and economic empowerment among women entrepreneurs in Rajasthan's tribal districts.

Through the analysis of the data collected, it is evident that SHG-based interventions indeed exert a significant influence on the socioeconomic status (in terms of income generation, encouraging participation, creativity and confidence building) of these women entrepreneurs

By providing a platform for collective action and support, SHGs contribute significantly to improving the economic and social well-being of women, thereby fostering inclusive growth and development in the region. SHG intervention enabled the women regarding credit utilization and enforcing to develop managerial, technical and entrepreneurial skills among the women of Rajasthan.

SHG-based interventions play a pivotal role in empowering Rajasthani women entrepreneurs, contrary to initial scepticism. While the impact on social development may be modest, SHGs demonstrate a formidable influence on economic advancement, offering pathways out of poverty and into prosperity. Therefore, investing in and supporting SHG-based initiatives is paramount for fostering inclusive growth and development in Rajasthan, ensuring that women entrepreneurs have the opportunity to thrive and realize their full potential.

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