

STATUS AND PROSPECTS OF FISHERIES SELF HELP GROUP IN KABIRDHAM DISTRICT, CHHATTISGARH

Abstract

The present study analyzed the status and performance of women's Self Help Groups in fisheries of *Kabirdham* district of Chhattisgarh state. Two blocks namely *Kawardha* and *Bodla* blocks were selected for the study. 140 numbers of respondents from twenty SHGs were interviewed using semi-structured questionnaire and focus group discussion. It has been revealed that women participation in Self Help Groups made a significant impact on their empowerment despite majority of them were being illiterate (42.85%). The performance analysis conducted using NABARD checklist revealed that sixty percent of the SHGs fall under the category of good and 20 percent as very good. Nevertheless, the major constraints that deter the activities of the SHGs were reported as political biasness existing in the study area followed by lack of capital and awareness among the members. And hence, it has been concluded that the women SHGs in the study area have greater influence and benefitted the respondent members both socially and economically.

Keywords : Self Help Groups, Women empowerment, Fisheries, Performance.

INTRODUCTION–

Self Help Groups are exclusive groups started primarily to empower women in rural & suburban areas, make them economically independent & help them to contribute to the socio-economic development of nation. SHGs are now seen as a means for eradicating poverty and become instrumental in the empowerment of poor rural women (Rana and Ansari, 2017). Entrepreneurship activities in fisheries by forming an SHGs has generated an employment potential for about 2.1 lakh persons, most of them belong to weaker section of the society (Singh, 2017). The Chhattisgarh State is also playing an important role by generating self-employment through fisheries women SHGs in rural area, which in turn provides income and uplift their livelihood. The present study was conducted in Kabirdham district of Chhattisgarh state wherein 2240 number of SHGs regardless of fisheries are there in total (Govt of C.G, 2017). The state has rich resources of water bodies in formed of 59175 numbers of rural pond areas covering 0.772 lakh hectare, 1649 numbers of irrigation reservoir covering 0.800 lakh hectare which can be use for fisheries development through

36 SHGs (DOF CG, 2016-17). It has been reported that in Balod district of Chhattisgarh SHGs
 37 have helped in reducing the poverty in rural areas and increase the level of living standard of
 38 the poor peoples (Singh, 2017). Likewise, it has also been reported that the members of SHGs
 39 had moderate level of social performance, economic performance and technological
 40 performance in Sarguja district of Chhattisgarh (Bose, 2016). The present study emphasized
 41 that women empowerment through fisheries SHG is possible only through deliberate planned
 42 effort carried in a systematic manner and very few studies has been done so far related with
 43 Women SHG in fisheries in the study area.

44 **METHODOLOGY**

45 Two blocks namely Kawardha and Bodla of
 46 Kabirdham district were selected for the study. Ten
 47 number of women SHGs in fisheries from each block
 48 were randomly identified for survey. Total
 49 respondents of 140 were randomly interviewed using
 50 semi-structured questionnaire. The scale developed by
 51 Hardikar (1998) was used to measure the achievement
 52 motivation and innovativeness among the members
 53 using three point continuum Likert's scale with scores
 54 of 3(Agree), 2 (neither agree nor disagree) and 1
 55 (disagree). The scores for each statement were added
 56 to arrive at the total score for an individual. The performance of the selected fishery SHGs
 57 have been evaluated using a check list recommended by the NABARD. Garrett's ranking
 58 technique were used for the constraints analysis (Garrett and Woodworth, 1969).



59 **Fig 1: Map showing the sampling study site.**

60 Percentage position = $\frac{100(R_{ij}-0.5)}{N_j}$

61 Where, R_{ij} = Rank given by i^{th} item to j^{th} individual

62 N_j = Number of items ranked by j^{th} individual

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64 **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

65 *Socio-Personal profile of fishery based SHGs*: The socio-personal details of the respondents
 66 are given in Table 1. It was found that 47.14 percent of members of Fishery based SHGs
 67 were belonged to old age category whereas 27.85 and 25 percent were in young (upto 35
 68 years) and middle age (36-58 years) category, respectively. Majority of the respondent
 69 members were found to be illiterate (50.71%) as the member are also more of old age group,
 70 31.42 percent of the members has attained their middle school and only 4 percent went for
 71 high school which may be due to lack of educational facilities in the area.

72 **Table 1: Socio-personal Profile of Fishery based SHGs (N= 140)**

Variables		No.	%
Age	Young(up to 35)	39	27.85
	Middle(36-58)	35	25.00
	Old(>58)	66	47.14
Education	Illiterate	71	50.71
	Primary School	19	13.57
	Middle School	44	31.42
	High School	06	04.28
Occupation (Primary)	Agriculture	116	82.85
	Fisheries	16	11.42
	Others	08	05.71
Income	Low (10,000)	53	21.42
	Medium(10,000-50,000)	67	47.85
	High(>50,000)	20	30.71
Membership of any other association	Yes	25	17.85
	No	115	82.14
Extension Participation	Regularly	63	45.00
	Occasionally	34	24.28
	Never	43	30.71
Mass Media Exposure	Low	42	30.00
	Medium	28	27.14
	High	70	42.85
Achievement motivation	Low	67	47.85
	Medium	31	22.14
	High	42	30.00
Innovativeness	Low	110	78.57
	Medium	11	07.85
	High	19	13.57

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74 Majority of the member (82.85 %) engaged in agriculture as their primary occupation
 75 wherein they are also part of the fisheries SHGs group as secondary occupation. Twelve

76 percent were fully dependent on fisheries as primary occupation and 5.71 percent works as
 77 tailors and housewife as main occupation. As it is well known that income affect the living
 78 standard of the people and henceforth it has been observed that 30.71 percent of the member
 79 have an income of more than Rs. 50,000 per month and majority of the member (47.85 %)
 80 make an earnings of Rs. 10,000 to 50,000 per month and 21.42 percent hardly had an earning
 81 of Rs. 10,000 per month which may be due to small land holding. Forty five percent of the
 82 respondents participate regularly in various extension work conducted by the governmental
 83 department. It is worth mentioning here that with such involvement their exposure to mass
 84 media were also increased as 42.85 per cent SHG members comes under the high category
 85 mass media exposure. The majority of the respondents had very low level of Achievement
 86 motivation (47.85%) and innovativeness (78.57%) which might be due to illiteracy and
 87 inadequate awareness among the members.

88 **Performance Evaluation of Fishery Based SHGs:** Based on the checklist of NABARD for
 89 performance of SHGs, Table 2 shows the performance of the studied SHGs. It has been
 90 observed that majority of the SHGs (60%) comes under the category of good performance
 91 and four SHGs (20 %) had very good performance and four SHGs (20 %) were under
 92 unsatisfactory group which can be cured out with proper awareness and exposure to various
 93 programmes. Hence it can be inferred from these results that the overall performance of the
 94 fisheries SHGs of the study area were found to be good.

95 **Table 2: Performance of SHGs by using the checklist of NABARD**

Performance of SHGs	No.	%
Very good	04	20.00
Good	12	60.00
Unsatisfactory	04	20.00
Total	20	100.00

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97 **Constraints faced by the SHGs -** The result presented in table 3 shows that the political
 98 biasness existing in the area are the major constraint faced by the members (36.6%) followed
 99 by inadequate capital (23.3%) as their source of fund is by own contribution or through
 100 middlemen. Lack of awareness among the members has also been a constraint factor as more
 101 than 50 percent are not aware about various governmental schemes related to the fisheries

102 and benefits of SHG-Bank linkage programme of the state government. Non co-operation
 103 among the members in group and management resulting conflict was also perceived as
 104 important constraint by 11.1 per cent of the respondents. Non participation by members
 105 during meetings and association gathering has been reported as one factor that deter the work
 106 of SHG as they are not able to place their needy problem.

107 **Table 3 Constraint faced by Fishery based SHGs (N=20)**

S.N.	Constraints	(%)	Rank
1.	Political biasness	36.6	I
2	Inadequate capital	23.3	II
3	Lack of awareness	19.0	III
4	Conflict during decision making	11.1	IV
5	Non participation	10.0	V

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109 **Conclusions** - Presently, the SHG's concept has become one of the successful microfinance
 110 programmes for rural women wherein they are benefitting without spending much time and
 111 money. The State governments have also designed schemes to promote and encourage for
 112 setting up of SHGs to improve their income level by providing credit available to start a small
 113 scale enterprises. The present findings shows that the women SHGs are overall good
 114 performance therefore, a proper awareness and guidance will help to achieve better and work
 115 in productive ways which in turn will boost their standard of living and livelihood.

116 **References**

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Picture



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Survey in Bodla Block



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