



THE ROLE OF MICRO CREDIT IN WOMEN EMPOWERMENT WITH SPECIAL  
REFERENCE TO SELF-HELP GROUPS (SHGS) IN PUNJAB

*Nasim Saadati*

*Punjab University, Chandigarh, India*

---

*Abstract*

*Empowerment of women in Punjab has emerged as an important issue in today. The economic empowerment of women in Punjab is being viewed nowadays as an extremely famous indication of advance for a nation, henceforth the issue of economic empowerment of women is a principal significance to the Economists, Political masterminds, Social researchers and economic reformers. Self Help Groups (SHGs) have smoothened the way for economic independence for l women in Punjab. The members of Self Help Groups are involved in Micro credit .In this paper analysis by survey of micro credit effect on empowerment of women in Punjab by self-help group.*

*Keywords: self-help group, Punjab women, analysis*

**I. INTRODUCTION**

As of late, empowerment of women has turned into a subject of incredible worry for the countries everywhere throughout the world particularly in poor and developing nations. Empowerment implies liberation of women in amicable concurrence with men in the general public. Power gives social acknowledgment, nobility, success, property, estimation and security. There is critical need of enabling ladies particularly in rustic zones. Since ladies in provincial India lived in virtual detachment, unfit to get to even the most fundamental of administrations. In any case, it is frequently hard to include poor ladies in India in monetary and social exercises. The absence of fund, training, undertaking and the failure to go out on a limb are essential imperatives in this unique situation. In such cases, policymakers regularly depend on self-improvement gatherings (SHGs) and smaller scale credit to prepare and enable ladies and utilize their aggregate endeavor to include them in financial and social exercises. So, SHGs have showed its positive impacts on increasing and developing the women empowerment in group work.

They are the group-based approach to enables poor women to accumulate capital by way of small savings and facilitate their access to formal credit facilities. In recent years it has been observed that women SHGs in India have become successful in bringing the women in the main stream of decision making and also a viable organized setup to disburse micro-credit to the rural women and encourage them to enter into entrepreneurial ventures. Consequently, the women not only gained monetarily but also learnt the leadership and entrepreneurial skills by running the SHGs.



Micro- credit through the SHGs developed the economic and social skills among rural women community. They are effective in reading poverty, enhancing of living standard, empowering women and creating awareness which finally results in sustainable development of the nation. The micro credit for women as a popular support consist most typically of the provision of small loans, either to individuals or groups that are repaid within short periods of time, and is essentially used by low income individuals and household.

With the aim to meet the Millennium Development Goals and micro credit programs' role in supporting it, there has been an increasing expectation on their impact on women's empowerment. However, only a few studies have successfully investigated this impact in a rigorous manner. Hence, by focusing on the role of micro credit initiatives on women empowerment through SHGs in Punjab State, the present research is an attempt, firstly, to identify and recognize various micro credit initiatives using investigation to provide in depth understanding about these activities SHGs in Punjab State context. Secondly, it is an effort to answer the current status of micro credit initiatives in the Punjab State. Thirdly, the research tries to explore various problems, benefits and challenges that the Punjab State SHGs face while applying to using micro credit loans and resources in the way of women empowerment. Fourthly, the research is an attempt to analysis the changes in income, expenditure, savings and borrowings pattern of women participating in SHGs in Punjab State. Finally, the study will share lessons learnt from leading SHGs and also suggest various reliable measures through which micro credit initiatives can make women more empowerment.

## **II. LITERATURE REWIEW**

During examined the member and groups features, professional contention, and local and national dependencies of 253 self-help groups. Their findings suggested that many groups have shared leadership, and new members of group take assistance from professionals and guidance from national and local institutions. This paper findings show that how social workers can cooperate and use self-help groups in the existing managed health care system [1]. Studied the impact of self-help groups on situation of rural women life. She surveyed the different factors which have effect on their incomes. The author collected data on 1999 from individual group members from informal settlement in Nairobi. The dissimilarity in incomes among members of groups cleared that the ability of them decreased in borrowing from groups but not on borrowing from each other's [2]. Assessed women's SHGs in an area of south India. Groups were evaluated through the participation to gender development. This study shows women appreciated changes in their identity towards working collectively to influence for change at the village and panchayat levels. They involved in community and social action programs, both at the local level and by joining with issues beyond the local. When brought up within empowerment structure, capability poverty, citizenship, and contribution in democratic procedures, such SHG results, and the community development procedures that accompany their work, can be obvious to make a modest but main participation to broader changes of unjust structures [3]. Provided an empirical and theoretical measurement of a cost-decreasing innovation in the transfer of "self-help group" microfinance services, in which privatized agents



gain payments by membership pay to supply services. They realized that privatized agents start groups, absorb members, and mobilize savings and average credit at same levels after a year but at lesser expense to the NGOs [4]. Studies whether financial and non-financial returns differ depending on whether SHGs meet as independent entities or with external contribution. Financial theory offers that repeated reaction between individuals can help to make social capital. The author analysis shows the larger portions cannot be illustrated as a recovery for a better financial performance. Although, other group members implicitly agree on the unequal dispensation [5]. Studied the relationship between women's empowerment and health in 75 countries. They applied the gender empowerment measure (GEM), a composite index measuring gender inequality in economic participation and decision making, political participation and decision making, and power over economic resources. They suggested that the empowerment of women is associated with several key health indicators at a national level [6]. Critically examined empowerment in an introduction standpoint beyond mainstream interpretations of empowerment to find what is happening in 7 women's lives that is bringing about positive change. They stated that focus on the structural inequalities in gendered power relations and multiple interconnected causes that sustain and reproduce them in different areas of life. They also pointed out the whole concept of women's empowerment can be understood as a buzz word which lost its original emphasis on the fundamental and collective transformation [7]. In their article, SHGs and empowerment of women - a study, found that after joining SHG, members are in a position to earn money. The SHGs assume an essential part in social change, welfare exercises and foundation building and they have served the reason for women empowerment, social solidarity and financial improvement of poor people [8]. Analyzed that the SHGs scheme has played a major role in uplifting women throughout the nation. This study was carried out in the states of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu and the SHGs experiences of the states suggested that the SHGs movement achieved in economic empowerment of women and improved the standard of living of the rural poor [9]. Stated that formalization of SHGs can be an effective tool for the empowerment of women. Under it, women can be trained for various skill development programs and thus can help women to stand on their own feet and thus explore their potential. Moreover, it will help them in their social and political development [10]. Purposed and recognized in their study by using a cross-sectional method the levels and patterns of women empowerment in association to health seeking behavior in Bangladesh. They stated that women empowerment can increase decision-making authority in terms of health seeking behavior. They emphasized on their results for an integrated health and development strategy for Bangladesh and achieving the MDGs [11]. Assessed the sexual orientation equality and ladies strengthening which through three basic markers specifically, enrolment in instruction at the essential, optional and tertiary levels, work and political basic leadership, used profitable secondary data. He argued that gender disparity problems in government of Nigeria are trying to increase the opportunity of accommodating the varying needs of both male and female gender. He also claimed that the attainment of gender equality in Nigeria which is already time-barred will be a mirage due to multidimensional constraining factors [12]. Analyzed the formation and functioning of SHGs and the effect on socioeconomic situation of women and to recognize the relevance between availability and success of SHG's with government programs, organizations like banks and



NGOs in the support of SHGs [13]. Attempted to show the scope that covered by SHGs in health and also recognize other factors to raise their participation in health-related matters. They used cross sectional method which led to urban field practice area of Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute, Bangalore, India. They found that SHG is a useful platform to increased women's health by raised knowledge and information on health matters, and financial security during health emergencies etc. it's very active in providing income promoting activities. However, there is no much significant betterment in health manner or knowledge about health-related matters [14].

### III. EXPERIMENTAL RESULT

Table 1 Location wise distribution of respondents

Particulars	Frequency
Chandigarh	41
Patiala	28
Mohali	31

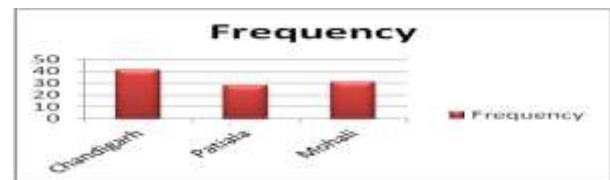


Fig: The details of the location are presented in the table 1.1, shows the location-wise distribution of the respondents. The total sample size was 100 and this shows the different frequency for different location, 41 of respondents are from Chandigarh i.e., 41%, 31 of respondents are from Mohali i.e., 31% & rest only 28 belongs to Patiala i.e., 28%.

Table 2 Education level - wise Distributions of the Respondents

Particulars	Chandigarh	Patiala	Mohali
Illiterate	11	6	7
Read Only	5	7	9
Read & Write	15	5	5
Primary School	4	7	6
High School & Above	6	3	4

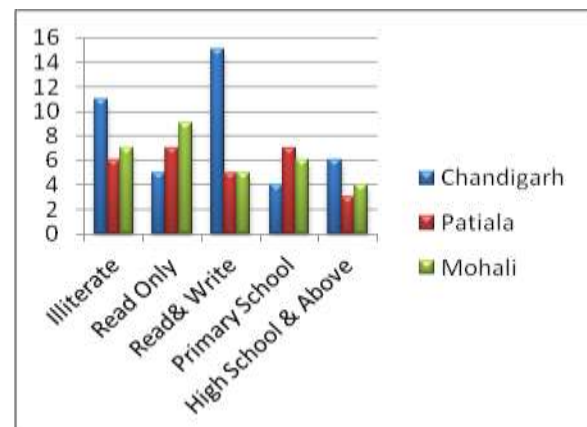


Fig 2: the education level of respondents is illiterate that distributing 11% in Chandigarh, 6% in Patiala and 7% in Mohali. Similarly each location depicts the education level of respondents.



Table 3 Occupation wise distribution of respondents

Particulars	Chandigarh	Patiala	Mohali
Farming/ Agricultural Labourers	9	12	10
Non-Agricultural Labourers	12	5	7
Business & others	20	11	16

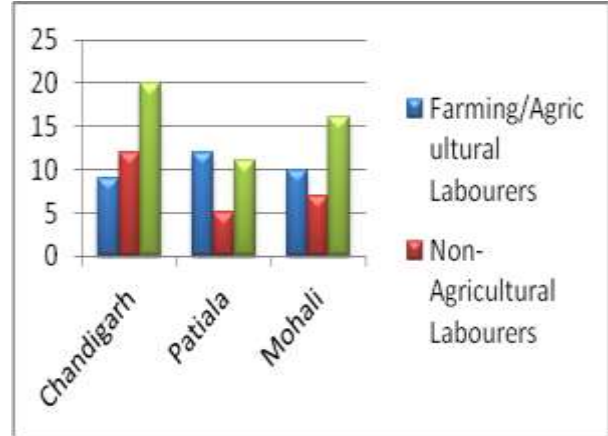


Fig: 3 demonstrates the sample of occupation in different scenario where we can see the result with majority in business and other occupation in Chandigarh 20% ,Patiala 11% and Mohali 16% respectively.

Table 4 Annual income wise distribution of respondents

Particulars	Chandigarh	Patiala	Mohali
Less than 10000	5	8	5
Middle 10000-25000	12	4	6
Middle 25000-35000	14	5	16
Above 35000	10	11	14

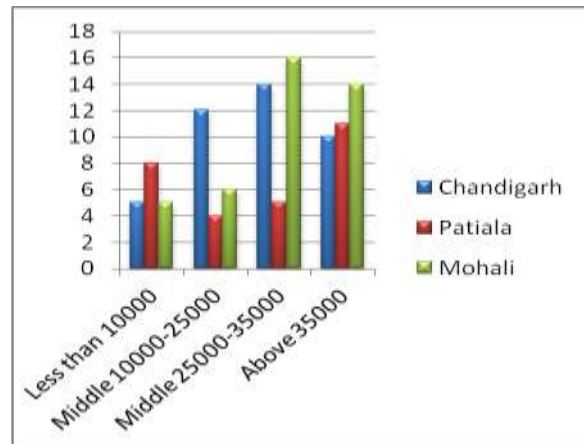


Fig: 4 present the annual income distribution of respondents of different location in different level of income slab where highest percentage lays middle of 25000 -35000 with 16% in Mohali location. Likewise show all the level of respondent's income.



Table 5 Micro credit program distribution of respondents

Particulars	Chandigarh	Patiala	Mohali
Very well Aware of Micro Credit Program	10	5	6
Aware of Micro Credit Program	12	6	7
Know to Some Extent	8	9	10
I know Very Few	6	5	5
I Don't Know	5	3	3

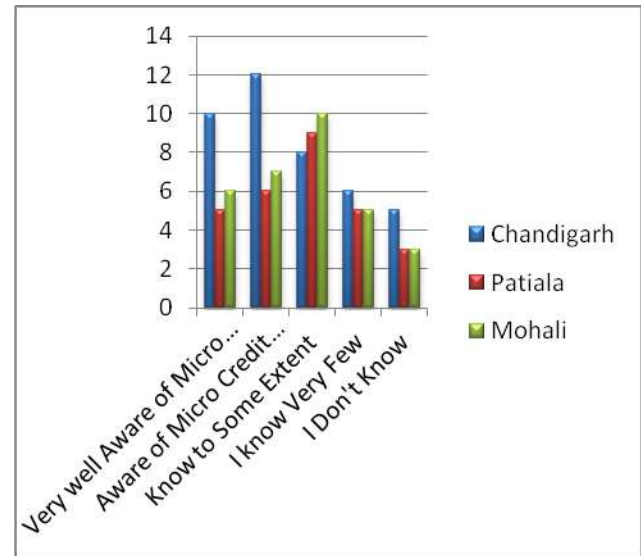


Fig 5: demonstrates the respondent's awareness on micro credit program where location wise analysis in different scenarios.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Micro credit is an effective instrument of social and economic development and is only perfect solution to the growing empowerment of Punjab women. Self-help group able to empowerment of woman in Punjab by micro credit. IN this paper descriptive statically analysis. So represent the survey in three areas Chandigarh, Patiala and Mohali show maximum woman in this area show effective improvement in finance and income of woman.



## REFERENCE

- [1] Wituk, S., Shepherd, M. D., Slavich, S., Warren, M. L., & Meissen, G. (2000). A Topography of Self-Help Groups: An Empirical Analysis. *Social work*, 45(2), pp. 157-165.
- [2] La Ferrara, E. (2002). Self-help Groups and Income Generation in the Informal Settlements of Nairobi. *Journal of African Economies*, 11(1), pp. 61-89.
- [3] Tesoriero, F. (2006). Strengthening communities Through Women's Self-Help Groups in South India. *Community Development Journal*, 41(3), pp. 321-333.
- [4] Greaney, B. P., Kaboski, J. P., & Van Leemput, E. (2016). Can Self-Help Groups Really Be "Self-Help"? *The Review of Economic Studies*, 83(4), pp. 1614-1644.
- [5] Vandewalle, L. (2017). The Role of Accountants in Indian Self-Help Groups: A Trade-off between Financial and Non-Financial Benefits. *World Development*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2016.12.023>.
- [6] Varkey, P., Kureshi, S., & Lesnick, T. (2010). Empowerment of Women and Its Association with the Health of the Community. *Journal of Women's Health*, 19(1), pp. 71-76.
- [7] Cornwall, A., & Anyidoho, N. A. (2010). Introduction: Women's empowerment: Contentions and Contestations. *Development*, 53(2), pp. 144-149.
- [8] Venkateshamurthy, S., & Dinesh, G. M. (2011). SHGs and Empowerment of Women: A Study. *Southern Economist*, pp. 35-39
- [9] Mary, S., & Swaminathan, A. M. (2012). Women Empowerment Through Self-Help Groups: Analysis of Comparative Experiences in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. *International Journal of Research in Social Sciences*, 2(3), pp. 99.
- [10] Bashir, A., Bashir, U., Nabi, U., & Ganie, Z. A. (2013). Empowerment of Women through Self Help Groups in Kashmir. *International Journal of Advanced Research*, 1(10), pp. 795-801.
- [11] Mainuddin, A. K. M., Begum, H. A., Rawal, L. B., Islam, A., & Islam, S. S. (2015). Women Empowerment and its Relation with Health Seeking Behavior in Bangladesh. *Journal of family & reproductive health*, 9(2), p. 65.
- [12] Ejumudo, K. B. O. (2013). Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in Nigeria: The Desirability and Inevitability of a Pragmatic Approach. *Developing Country Studies*, 3(4), pp. 59-66. Estudillo, J., Q.
- [13] Singh, s., Thakur, G., Gupta, PC. (2013). A Case Study On Empowerment Of Rural Women Through Micro Entrepreneurship Development.