

Women Empowerment through Self Help Group: Illusion or Reality?

Miss. Priya Ramesh Raut and Prof. Dr. Seema Somani

Research Scholar, Pillai College of Arts, Commerce and Science (Autonomous), New Panvel, India
Head of Department of Commerce, Pillai College of Arts, Commerce and Science (Autonomous), New Panvel, India
priyadarshinisam5555@gmail.com and ssomani@mes.ac.in

Abstract: *The objective of this study is to assess the impact of Self-Help Group's entrepreneurship on empowerment of rural women entrepreneurs in Raigad district of Maharashtra. The primary data has been collected through stratified random sampling method. The structured questionnaire and survey method are adopted for collection of data from 300 self-help group women entrepreneurs to test women empowerment in Roha, Mangaon, Pen, Karjat and Alibaug tehsils. A 'Paired T-test' is applied to assess impact of Self-Help Group's entrepreneurship on empowerment of rural women entrepreneurs. This paper tried to explore women empowerment computed by considering following dimensions: economic, social, political, psychological & educational. The key findings highlighted that Self Help Group's entrepreneurship has significantly boosted confidence and improved purchasing power, communication skill, decision making at household level and collectively among rural women entrepreneurs. However, Government should focus on their participation and presentation at state and national level and should not restrict with village and panchayat level. It is concluded that the Self Help Group entrepreneurship certainly infused women empowerment among poor and vulnerable rural women of Raigad district. However, Government, NGOs and microfinance institutions should put efforts to improve their empowerment and overall development in more balanced way.*

Keywords: Self Help Group, Microfinance, Women Empowerment

