



# SRINIVAS UNIVERSITY

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## Women Empowerment through Third Sector Initiatives: A Study on Management and Governance of Self-Help Groups

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### **Introduction:**

Self-help Groups constitute a major segment among the third sector organisations. Though the concept of SHG is not new, the linking of it to microfinance is of recent origin. Significantly, the question of women empowerment has walked into the domain of the concept of SHGs and Microfinance in recent times. This, in turn, has added a major dimension enlarging the ongoing debates on development and women empowerment in India. Given this, divergent views have been expressed with regard to SHG and its role in development and empowerment. Therefore, it is important that the economic activities of self-help groups in delivering microfinance need to be examined in terms of a variety of issues, including their management and governance, and concerning women empowerment. This study has attempted this on the basis of an empirical investigation in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts of coastal Karnataka, India.

### **Objectives:**

Against this backdrop, the study is taken up with the following *specific objectives*:

- To find whether SHGs, through microfinance programme, have enabled women to empower themselves economically by engaging in income generating activities;

- To examine whether economic empowerment has further led to social, political and cultural empowerment of women;
- To know how the SHGs are managing and governing themselves;
- To assess the relative impact of different facilitators on the working of SHGs; and finally
- To evaluate the role of the SHG movement in becoming an effective social instrument to achieve the socio-economic development in general, and women empowerment in particular.

## **Publications:**

### ***National Journal Papers***

1. Sujatha K.S, "Women Empowerment, Microfinance and SHGs: Myths and Realities," Jayasheela, et. al. *Women and development*, Kisan Publications, Mangalore, 2007, Pp159-172.
2. SujathaK.S, "Economic Empowerment and Beyond: SHG as an organizational Possibility to find social Development spaces," *JM International Journal of Management Research*, Volume-1 Issue V May, 2011 [ISSN Print 2229-4562 Online 2230-805]
3. Sujatha K.S, "Development, Gender equality, and Empowerment: A critique on the Development Process and Status of Women in India," *International Journal of Social Science & Interdisciplinary Research*, Volume-3(2), February 2014 [ISSN Online 2277-3630]

### ***International Conference Papers***

1. Sujatha K. S (Co-author), "Globalism, Sustainable Future and Gandhian Philosophy: Critique on Dominant Managerial Philosophy and Search for Egalitarian Alternative,." Official Conference Proceedings 2015 of ACAH2015: The Asian Conference on Arts & Humanities 2015, Osaka, Japan, published by The International Academic Forum (IAFOR) 2015, Nagoya, Japan, August 2015 Online ISSN: 2186-229X.

**Scope for further Study:**

1. Self Help Groups and Micro Enterprises
2. A comparative study on the performance of SHGs on inter-regional, and inter-state basis.
3. Role of SHGs in capacity building at the grass roots level.