

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE AND IMPACT OF SHGs ON TRIBAL MIGRATION IN DAHOD DISTRICT OF GUJARAT

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ABSTRACT

The study has examined the socio-economic profile and impact of SHGs on tribal migration of SHG members and non-members in Dahod District of Gujarat. For, study primary data were collected on various parameters by using personal interview/enquiry method for the period of 2015-2016 from the selected 20 SHGs and 120 respondents (60 SHG members and 60 non-members) spread over two talukas Dahod and Garbada of Dahod district by survey method using interview schedule. It has been found that the average family size of SHGs members was found little higher (5.93) as compared to the non-members (5.73). The education level was also little high of SHG member as compared to the non-members. The average livestock unit owned by the SHG members and non-members was 6.05 per cent and 4.45 per cent, respectively. Major findings of the study revealed that, the migration in SHG members was observed 23.33 per cent while it was 48.33 per cent in non-members. The number of members migrated from members groups was also less (22 members) as compare to non-members (40 members). About 57.17 per cent households were migrated up to 1 to 4 months from migrated SHG members group. In case of non-members, 86.20 per cent households were migrated up to 5 to 8 months. Thus, the SHGs play an important role in reduced the migration in tribal area up to some extent and shortened the length of out-migration period.

Keywords : self-help groups, socio-economic profile, migration

INTRODUCTION

The promotion of SHGs in India began more formally in 1992 with the launch of the SHG-bank linkage programme by NABARD where in 500 SHGs were linked to commercial banks. Since then, SHGs have been emerged as a powerful instrument in order to alleviate poverty and for the empowerment of women in rural economy of India (Gupta, 2008). In recent times SHGs are emerging as a third important sector next to government and market for the economic empowerment of women encouraging them together into entrepreneurial activities *viz.*, income generation, natural resources management, literacy, child care, nutrition *etc.* and their contribution cannot be ignored totally (Narang, 2012). There is a general feeling among the development workers that SHG is one of the best available options with them to fight against rural poverty. It has emerged as a socio-economic empowerment tool which plays an important role in income and employment generation for rural poor's. According to the 2011 Census, while 82.3 per cent of women in rural India are engaged in agricultural activity or household industry, only 28.83 per cent of them are cultivators. Moreover, almost 60 per cent of women are outside the labour force and do not participate in any gainful economic activity, which is among the highest in the world. These numbers taken together are an indication of the limited economic opportunity available

to women in the country, and bring into sharp focus issue of gender equality, women's empowerment and livelihood creation. Women's participation in the workforce is reflective of a country's economic strength, thus making it a pertinent indicator (Anonymous, 2015_a).

As a result of continuous efforts, 2.96 lakh SHGs were linked with banks and saving of SHGs was Rs. 213.28 crore in the year 2015 and also average loan issued per SHG increased from Rs. 50000 to Rs. 80000 in the Gujarat state (Anonymous, 2016_b). In tribal districts like Dahod unfavorable agro-climatic conditions, crops are grown on very limited areas, seasonal and lagging agricultural sector, and low employment availability in lean seasons and high rate of temporary out migration. Therefore, it is help to assumed that SHG improve the socio-economic status, reduces migration and generate employment for the tribal women. Therefore, the study has been undertaken aiming a stand point of improving socio-economic condition and reduce migration through SHGs which is a very important tool for improvement of their standard of life.

OBJECTIVES

- (1) To know the socio-economics profile of SHG members and non members
- (2) To know the impact of SHGs tribal migration in Dahod district of Gujarat

METHODOLOGY

To arrive at the objectives, multistage sampling technique was used. The present study was carried out in Dahod district of Gujarat which covers total seven talukas. Out of seven talukas two talukas (Dahod and Garbada) were selected purposively on the basis of higher number of SHGs and from each taluka five villages were selected purposively where at least five-year-old two women SHGs were functioning. For each village two SHGs were randomly selected. Therefore, total 10 villages and 20 SHGs were selected from Dahod district. Two types of respondents were selected (SHGs members and non-members). Finally, 3 members were selected randomly from each selected SHGs. Again, similar types of 3 non-members who have same socio-economic status were also selected from the same villages to compare the socio-economic status of SHG members vis-à-vis non-members. Thus, total 120 respondents (60 members and 60 non-members) were selected. The primary data were collected from each of the selected households by personal interview/enquiry method for the period 2015-16.

The data collected from SHGs and their members were systematically arranged, organized and finally subjected to tabular analysis for drawing inference in order to assessing the socio-economic profile, average family size of households, age, education score of the SHG members, herd size, type of house, member of households migrated *etc.* were compiled for both the member and non-member households.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socio-Economic profile

An attempt has been made in this section to document the important socio-economic characteristics of the member. These include family size and composition, age, educational status, occupation, number of livestock and housing pattern of the SHG members and non-members.

Table 1: Average family size and age of respondents

(n=120)

Particulars	Members (n=60)	Non-members (n=60)
Average number of family members/ household	05.93	05.73
Average age of respondents (year)	35.63	34.51

Family size and age of respondents

Table 1 shows that on an average family size of SHG member households were 5.93 persons, whereas, it was

5.73 persons in non-member households. Average family size of SHG members was found little higher as compared to the non-member. It was also observed that average age of SHG members was 35.63 years, whereas, it was 35.51 years in non-members.

Education status of respondents

The awareness and knowledge level are best reflected through their education. The distributions of sample households according to the education status of the members of SHGs are presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Educational status of sample households

(n=120)

Education status	Members (n=60)		Non-members (n=60)	
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
Illiterate	12	20.00	26	43.33
Primary	15	25.00	13	21.66
Middle	09	15.00	07	11.66
High	13	21.66	07	11.66
Intermediate	07	11.66	05	08.33
Graduation and above	04	06.66	02	03.33

It was observed that, in general, the member households were better educated than their counterpart in non-member households. On an average, 20 per cent members were illiterate, while it was 43.33 per cent in non-member. On an average 25 per cent of members had education up to primary level whereas, it was 21.66 per cent in case of non-member households. On the other hand, 15 per cent of SHG member had education up to middle level whereas; it was 11.66 per cent in case of non-member. Those educated up to high school, intermediate and above graduate level were observed to be 21.66, 11.66 and 6.66 per cent in SHG member, while it was 11.66, 8.33 and 3.33 per cent in case of non-members, respectively. It was observed during investigation that SHG members possessed more knowledge about adoption of the new technology and awareness than the non-members.

Composition of herd

An animal keeping household maintain different categories of animals both for milk production and draught purposes. Therefore, animals maintained by the sample households were buffaloes, cow, bullock, sheep and goat. It can be seen that the average livestock units was 6.05 per cent higher in SHG members than the non-members 4.45 per cent.

It was observed that sheep, goat and buffaloes were generally kept by the members was higher in the study area (Table 3). This could be due to better financial resources available with member households for purchase of high quality milch animals for milk production.

Table 3: Distribution of animals maintained by sample households (n=120)

Type of animals	Number of animals	
	Members (n=60)	Non-members (n=60)
Buffalo	71	62
Bullock	68	37
Cow	36	15
Sheep and goat	164	135
Poultry	24	18
Total	363	267
Average livestock unit owned	6.05	4.45

Housing pattern among SHG members and non-members

The majority of the SHG members (45 %) were living in semi-pucca house as compared to non-members (38.33 %). On an average, 30 per cent SHG members were living in pucca house, while it was 20 per cent in non-members. This could be due to better financial resources available with member households for purchase raw material for construction of houses (Table 4).

Table 4: Distribution of sample household according to housing pattern (n=120)

Particulars	Members (n=60)		Non-members (n=60)	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Pucca	18	30.00	12	20.00
Semi-pucca	27	45.00	23	38.33
Katcha	15	25.00	25	41.66

Impact of SHG on tribal migration

In rural areas, livelihoods range from agriculture farming, animal husbandry, dairy to various other goods and service activities. SHGs have improved livelihoods to the extent of providing the leveraging needed to start an enterprise. In the study area, the regular employment opportunities also motivate many of them to migrate to other districts like Baroda, Anand, Ahmedabad, Surat, Rajkot and Saurashtra.

Table 5: Impact of SHGs on tribal migration

(n=120)

Particulars	Members (n=60)	Non-members (n=60)
Migration in total number of households	14 (23.33)	29 (48.33)
Total members of households migrated		
Male members of the households	15 (68.18)	32 (80)
Female members of the households	07 (31.81)	08 (20)
Total members of the households	22 (100.00)	40 (100.00)
Duration of migration		
1 to 4 months	08 (57.14)	04 (13.79)
5 to 8 months	06 (42.85)	25 (86.20)
Total	14 (100.00)	29 (100.00)
Reasons for migration		
Industrial work	12 (85.71)	19 (65.51)
Road construction	00 (00.00)	00 (00.00)
Agriculture work	00 (00.00)	06 (20.68)
Building construction	02 (14.28)	04 (13.79)
Total	14 (100.00)	29 (100.00)

Note: Figures within the parentheses indicate percentage to total

The perusal of Table 5 revealed that in case of SHG members, migration was observed in 23.33 per cent while it was 48.33 per cent in non-members. The number of members migrated from beneficiaries group was also less (22 members) as compare to non-members (40 members). From the migrated SHG members, 57.17 per cent households were migrated up to 1 to 4 months. While in case of non-members, 86.20 per cent households were migrated up to 5 to 8 months. Thus, it was found that SHGs shortened the length of out-migration period in the study area. Overall, the finding reveals that SHGs was succeeded up to some extent to reduce the migration. Similar finding were reported by the Gupta (2014) that microfinance control migration through an appropriate supply of credit services which can slow down the migration flow by offering new and more attractive local labour and employment opportunities in the rural area itself.

CONCLUSION

SHGs are responsible for significant positive change in the socio-economic development, income and employment generation, asset building, productive investment and savings. Thus, considering the positive impact, steps should be taken to bring greater SHG network in tribal rural areas by making the people aware about the benefits of the micro-finance made available through SHGs. Overall, the finding reveals that SHGs was succeeded up to some extent to reduce

the migration in tribal area of Gujarat. This will encourage rural peoples to continue the benefits from SHGs approach.

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