

Impact of Self-help Groups on Improvement of Livestock Resources of Farmers

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Abstract

Keeping in view the impact of SHGs on generating of additional income and employment opportunities, a micro level field study in Mahewa and Chakarnagar blocks of Etawah district was conducted during the year 2005-06 by personal visits to SHGs and the selected members. For assessing the impact of SHGs on improvement of livestock resources of member farmers, out of the total 634 members of the 54 studied SHGs, 95 members were selected randomly. It was found that the number of all type of animals such as she buffalo, cow, goat, he-buffalo and calves/heifers/kids has increased from pre stage to post stage i.e., from 1.03 to 2.11, from 0 to 0.70, from 1.08 to 3.08, from 0 to 0.43 and from 2.05 to 4.22, respectively in case of linked SHGs. The increase in the number of animals particularly she-buffalo, cow and goat is due to loan obtained by the households of linked SHGs, categories from where as the households of non-linked SHGs did not avail of this facility.

Key words: Self Help Group, Livestock resource, Impact, Linked and non-linked SHGs

The weaknesses of different formal attempts to serve the rural poor in general and rural women in particular lead to the search for alternative ways. In such a search, the women lead Self Help Group (SHG) is praiseworthy. The concept of Self Help Groups, a micro financial institution, is a new window for the development of rural mass. The success of Grameen Banks of Bangladesh is not eyewash, rather it is a fact. The process helps them to breakthrough the stronghold of exploitative moneylenders. The role of self-help groups (SHGs) in the fight against rural poverty through ensuring credit to group members by linking the groups with

banks and giving technical support for economic development is now recognized not only in the state of Uttar Pradesh but in the country as a whole. The basic theme of SHG programme is to provide an opportunity for self-employment in addition to increase the income of the SHG members for improving their standard of life style. There are number of benefits of SHGs to the member farmers, one important benefit is improvement of livestock resources with the farmers as this is the important source of income to them. Thus this research paper studies the impact of SHG formation on livestock resources of member farmers.

Materials and Methods

Keeping in view the impact of SHGs on generating of additional income and employment opportunities, a micro level field study in Mahewa and Chakarnagar blocks of Etawah district was conducted during the year 2005-06 by personal visits to SHGs and the selected members. For assessing the impact of SHGs on the socio-economic status of the members, 95 members were studied. The number of members in the selected SHGs ranged from 10 to 15, with the overall average being 11.74 members. Out of the total 634 members of the 54 studied SHGs, 95 members were selected randomly for in-depth study with a view to assess the impact of SHGs on impact on improvement of livestock resources of

farmers. The details of members under study are given in Table 1 which shows that out of the total 95 selected members, 37 members (38.95 per cent) and 58 members (61.05 per cent) belong to the linked SHGs and non-linked SHGs, respectively. Out of the 37 members of linked SHGs, 27 members (72.97 per cent) and 10 members (27.03 per cent) belong to male and female gender, respectively. In case of 58 members of non-linked SHGs, 41 members (70.69 per cent) and 17 member (29.31 per cent) belong to male and female gender, respectively. The overall number of male and female members is 68 and 27, respectively, which accounts to 71.58 per cent and 28.42 per cent in case of respective categories of members.

Table 1: Number of members under study in different categories of SHGs.

S. No.	Category of SHGs	No. of members under study		
		Male	Female	Total
1.	SHGs Linked with Bank	27 (72.97)	10 (27.03)	37 (100.00)
2.	SHGs Not linked with bank	41 (70.69)	17 (29.31)	58 (100.00)
	Total	68 (71.58)	27 (28.42)	95 (100.00)

Figure in parentheses denotes percentage

Table 2: Number of Members according to age-group in different categories of SHGs

S. No.	Age-group (years)	No. of members				Total
		Linked SHGs		Non-linked SHGs		
		Male	Female	Male	Female	
1.	18 - 30	12 (44.44)	7 (70.00)	21 (51.22)	9 (52.94)	49 (51.58)
2.	30 - 40	9 (33.33)	2 (20.00)	10 (24.39)	6 (35.29)	27 (28.42)
3.	40 - 50	4 (14.82)	1 (10.00)	6 (14.63)	1 (5.89)	12 (12.63)
4.	50 - 60	2 (7.41)	-	4 (9.76)	1 (5.88)	7 (7.37)
	Total	27 (100.00)	10 (100.00)	41 (100.00)	17 (100.00)	95 (100.00)

Figure in parentheses indicates percentage

Results and Discussion

Age profile of members under study

The details of age-profile of the members under study (Table 2) indicates that out of the 27 male members in case of linked SHGs, 44.44 per cent, 33.33 per cent, 14.82 per cent and 7.41 per cent of the members belong to the age groups of 18-30 years, 30-40 years, 40-50 years and 50-60 years, respectively. Of the total 10 female members, 70.00 per cent, 20.00 per cent and 10.00 per cent belong to

the age group of 18-30 years, 30-40 years and 40-50 years, respectively. In case of non-linked SHGs out of the total 41 male members, 51.22 per cent, 24-39 per cent, 14.63 per cent and 9.76 per cent belong to the age groups of 18-30 years, 30-40 years, 40-50 years and 50-60 years, respectively. Out of the 17 female members, 52.94 percent, 35.29 per cent, 5.89 per cent and 5.88 per cent belong to the age group of 18-30 years, 30-40 years, 40-50 years and 50-60 years, respectively.

This distribution reveals that about 78 per cent of male and 90.00 per cent of female members in case of linked SHGs belong to less than 40 years of age, who represent the economically active segment of the population. In case of non-linked SHGs about 77 per cent and about 88 per cent of the male and female members respectively, belong to less than 40 years of age.

Social status of the members under study

The distribution of members under study according to their social group is presented in Table 3 which reveals that all the 95 members under study belong to poor families. In case of linked SHGs, out of the

total 27 male members, 70.37 per cent, 25.93 per cent and 3.70 per cent belong to SC, OBCs and general category, respectively. In case of 10 female members, 60.00 per cent belong to SC, 20.00 per cent to OBCs and 10.00 per cent to general category. Out of the 41 male members of non-linked SHGs, 65.85 per cent belong to SC, 31.71 per cent to OBCs and 2.44 per cent to general category. Of the 17 female members, 58.82 per cent, 23.53 per cent and 17.65 per cent of the female members come from SC, OBCs and general category, respectively. Out of overall 95 members, 66.32 belong to SC category, 27.37 to OBCs and 6.31 belong to general category. It shows that the number of SC members dominates in SHGs.

Table 3: Social category of members in different categories of SHGs

S. No.	Social-categories	No. of members				Total
		Linked SHGs		Non-linked SHGs		
		Male	Female	Male	Female	
1.	SC	19 (70.37)	6 (60.00)	27 (65.85)	10 (58.82)	63 (66.32)
2.	OBCs	7 (25.93)	2 (20.00)	13 (31.71)	4 (23.53)	26 (27.37)
3.	General	1 (3.70)	2 (20.00)	1 (2.44)	3 (17.65)	6 (6.31)
	Total	27 (100.00)	10 (100.00)	41 (100.00)	17 (100.00)	95 (100.00)

Figure in parentheses denotes percentage

Table 4: Livestock resource per household in pre and post stages of SHGs under linked and non-linked SHGs categories.

S. No.	Particulars	Linked SHGs		Non-linked SHGs	
		Pre-SHG stage	Post-SHG stage	Pre-SHG stage	Post-SHG stage
1		Milch animal			
(i)	She-buffalo	1.03 (24.76)	2.11 (20.02)	1.05 (25.49)	1.04 (21.18)
(ii)	Cow	-	0.70 (6.64)	-	0.29 (5.91)
(iii)	Goat	1.08 (25.96)	3.08 (29.22)	1.05 (25.48)	1.10 (22.40)
2		Draught animal			
(i)	He-buffalo	-	0.43 (4.08)	-	0.36 (7.33)
3	Calves/heifers/kids	2.05 (49.28)	4.22 (40.04)	2.02 (49.03)	2.12 (43.18)
	Total	4.16 (100.00)	10.54 (100.00)	4.12 (100.00)	4.91 (100.00)

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage.

Impact of SHGs on improvement of livestock resources of farmers

Farming in our country has a common feature of supplementing the main enterprise of crop production with animal husbandry. The income from the animal is mainly restricted to milk production and using male animal for drought on the farm but meat production also may occasionally be an objective. Keeping this in view, the number of milch and draft animals possessed by households under study was recorded and the data pertaining to this, per household livestock population at pre and post-SHG stages under linked and non-linked SHG categories are presented in Table 4. The number of animals per household at pre and post stages of SHG under linked SHG category comes to 4.16 and 10.54, respectively, while this number at respective stages is 4.12 and 4.91 in case of non-linked SHG category. The table also shows that the livestock population i.e., number of she buffalo, cow, goat, he-buffalo and calves/heifer/kids has increased too much from pre-SHG stage to post-SHG stage in case of linked SHGs. But the number of animals from pre to post SHG stage in case of non-linked SHGs is slightly higher. The number of cow and he-buffalo at pre-SHG stage under both linked and non-linked SHG categories was not maintained by any of the sampled members. But at post-SHG stage, the average number of cow and he-buffalo was found to 0.70 and 0.43, respectively in case of linked SHG and 0.29 cow and 0.36 he buffalo in case of non-linked SHG.

It is a noteworthy fact that the number of all type of animals such as she buffalo, cow, goat, he-buffalo and calves/heifers/kids has increased from pre stage to post stage i.e., from 1.03 to 2.11, from 0 to 0.70, from 1.08 to 3.08, from 0 to 0.43 and from 2.05 to 4.22, respectively in case of linked SHGs. The increase in the number of animals particularly she-buffalo, cow and goat is due to loan obtained by the households of linked SHGs, categories from where as the households of non-linked SHGs did not avail of this facility. Thus, it is found that with the participating in SHGs and linking with Banks, it has highly beneficial effect on improvement of resources of farmers and certainly the income of them at the end.

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