

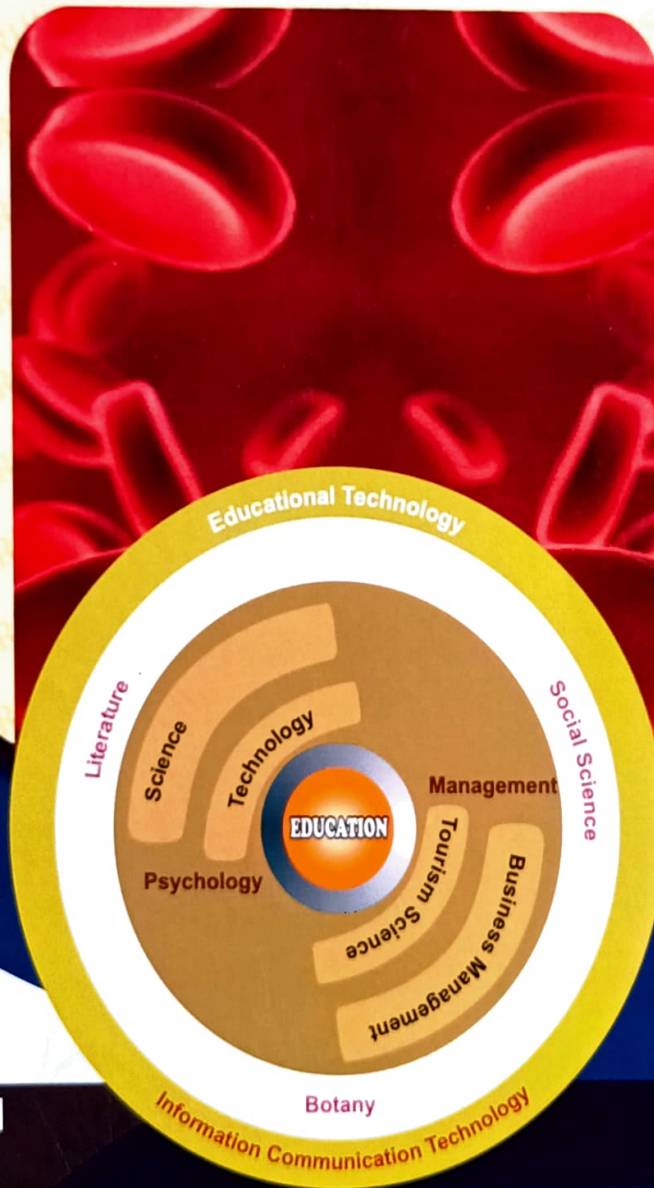
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WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND SOCIAL SECURITY THROUGH "SELF HELP GROUP"

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Introduction: If women empowered to do more and more the possibility of economic growth become apparent eliminating a significant part of a Nation workforce as the sole basis of gender can have detrimental effects on the economy of that nation. In addition female participation in counsels, groups, and business is seen to increase efficiency. Although women represent bulk of the labour force, especially in developing countries, they are not brought under the main stream of development and they are denied of appreciation for their contribution. Factors which contribute women's Participation in the labour force include education, marital status, number and age of children, health, their rights in property and assets, and employment opportunities etc

Empowerment of Women: Empowerment refers to increasing the spiritual, political, social, educational, gender or economical strength of individuals and communities. In economic developments, the Empowerment approach focuses on mobilizing the self help efforts of the poor, rather than providing them with social welfare, economic empowerment is also the empowering of previously disadvantage section of the population Empowerment is a multi dimensional social process which helps the individual to gain control over their lives. Employment is a social action process that promotes participation of people, organization and communities in gaining control over their lives in their community and larger society. Women empowerment it is broad concept which includes self decision regarding education, participation mobility, economic independency, public speaking awareness and exercise of right, political participation and many more factors insure women empowerment In short women empowerment is the breaking of personal limitations. Amartya Sen.- Nobel laureate- Empowering women and girls with more choice sand more freedom is crucial to achieving a better future for all When women are supported and empowered all society gets benefit; their families are healthier more children go to school, agricultural reductively improves, and income increase. In short communities become more resilient. Empowerment is not essentially politically alone; it is a process having personal, economical, social and political dimension with personal empowerment being the core of the empowerment process. In fact political empowerment will not succeed in the absence of micro finance through SHGs creates empowerment promoting condition for movements to move position of marginalization within Household decision making process and exclusion within the community to one of greater centrality, inclusion of voice. The social process of micro financing programmed strengthens women self esteem and self worth, instill a greater sense of awareness of social and political issues leading to increase mobility and reduce traditional seclusion of women. Most impotently micro finance program enable women to contribute to the house hold economy, increasing their intra- house hold bargaining power. Thus micro financing through self helping group has transferred the real economic power in the hands of women and has considerably reduce their dependence on men. The impact of SHG's on Socio-Economic status of women was found significant. Change is found in the areas of education housing facilities, Exposure to mass media, occupation size of holding and material possession.

Objectives of the Study:

- 1) To study historical development of Self Help Groups.
- 2) To study the organization and structure of the SHGS.