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Hindi Film Motivates SHG to be Women Wrestler and also SHG Promotes National Integration: A Study in Telangana

Dr. Shankar Chatterjee
Former Prof &Head (CPME)
NIRD &PR, Hyderabad-500 030, Telangana, India
E-mail: <shankarjagu@gmail.com>

Abstract

The self-help group (SHG) is a powerful instrument to empower economically backward women of rural India as the women members under the SHG by earning income feeling empowered for which many studies are available across India. With the launching of *Swarnajaynti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)* by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India from April 1999, subsequently rechristened as *Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM)* in 2011, self-help group approach (SHG) has been getting maximum importance in India for the development of rural women. This research article has thrown light from different aspects as with the availability of SHG members' saving and inter-loaning from their corpus fund, even members can think to make their daughters to be wrestler. Also during the course of study, it was observed that many SHGs were formed with Hindu and Muslim women and all were working without any hitch. The study was carried out at *Gandipet village of Gandipet Mandal, Ranga Reddy (*R.R.) district of Telangana in September 2017.

Keywords: Earning, National Integration, Rural women, SHG and Wrestlers.

Importance of Self Help Group:

Poverty imposes a harsh weight in India particularly in rural India. In a democratic country like India poverty is undesirable as it is linked with calorie concept, which means people are not getting proper food as required for sustenance. To tackle the issue of poverty, the Government of India initiated measures time to time through self and wage employment. Before 1999, poverty alleviation approach in rural India was mainly family oriented. With the launching of *Swarnajaynti Gram SwarozgarYojana* (SGSY) in 1999, group approach (Self Help Group/SHG) was adopted. Further by restructuring, SGSY presently *Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM)/Aajeevika*,a flagship Program of the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India has been launched. It

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seeks to reach out to all rural poor households of the country estimated 8-10 crore and organize them into SHGs and federations at village and higher levels by 2021-22. The Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India's statistics reveal up to 23rd October 2017, total number of SHGs in the country under the umbrella of DAY-NRLM only was 44,24,740 with total number of members 4,89,17,686 indicating crores of rural women coming forward to form SHG so that in addition to earning of income they feel empowered also (nrlm.gov.in/shgOuterReports.do?24 Oct/2017).

In addition, NABARD, other scheduled banks and NGOs have been promoting/promoted SHGs. This was felt necessary as persistent poverty of a substantial portion of the population can deteriorate the prospects of economic growth. In this respect, Prof. Muhammad Yunus may be quoted, "If the goals of economic development include improved standards of living, removal of poverty, access to dignified employment and reduction in inequality then it is quite natural to start with women. They constitute the majority of the poor, the under-employed and the economically and socially disadvantaged. And since they were closer to the children, women were also our key to the future of Bangladesh. Studies undertaken by *Grameen*, comparing how male borrowers use their loans versus female borrowers, consistently confirm this analysis. So gradually we focus almost exclusively on lending to women. This was not easy. The first and most formidable opposition came from the husbands, next to the mullahs. Then the professional people, and even government officials." He further feels that "Our repayment rate has remained high all along. Generally, it is our success with repayment that most people find unbelievable. In Bangladesh the richest who borrow from the banks make it a habit not to pay back. I am always amazed by the mockery that goes on in the name of banking. Public deposits go through the banking system, through the government banks, through private banks, to people who will never pay back the money". According to him, "There is no reason for religious or cultural wars if the poorest can, through their own self-help, their own micro-capital, develop and become independent, active thinking and creative human beings". In connection with the micro-credit his view is that "Micro-credit may not be a cure-all, but it is a force for change, not only economic and personal, but also social and political" (Muhammad Yunus, 2007).

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Based on field carried out at *Gandipet village of Gandipet Mandal, Ranga Reddy (*R.R.) district of Telangana in September 2017 by directly interacting with the members of SHGs by following PRA method few cases are presented here. For the benefit of readers, few lines about PRA (earlier called as Participatory Rural Appraisal, now PRA) may be presented here. PRA is a methodology which helps in interacting with local communities, understanding them and learning from them. PRA helps in generating different kind of data, identifying and mobilizing intended groups for decision making, project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation (Robert Chambers, 1999).

The study reveals that with the availability of SHG members' saving and inter-loaning from their corpus fund, women members were not only supporting their children's education even one case was found where family was sending their two daughters in wrestling coaching. By watching a Hindi movie ('*Dangal'*) husband of a SHG member was motivated and decided (with wife's consent), their both the daughters to be women wrestler. Also during the course of study, it was observed that many SHGs were formed with Hindu and Muslim women and all were working without any problem. In view of all these, it may be stated that, the SHG has taken a shape of movement in the R.R. district which may be seen from the following table.

Table 1: *Mandal* Wise Data of SHGs in R.R. District as on 16th September 2017

Mandal	Total No. of Village Organizations (VOs)	Total Number of SHGs	Total Number of Members
Abdullapurmet	57	1602	15919
Amangal	30	761	8624
Chevella	54	1117	11526
Choudergudem	22	439	5120
Farooqnagar	41	926	10146
Gandipet	27	853	7861
Hayathnagar	0	0	0
Ibrahimpatnam,	46	1139	11838
Kadthal	21	547	6462
Kandukur	52	1212	13221
Keshampet	37	837	9669
Kondurg	22	471	5616
Kothur	20	499	5438
Madgul	35	894	10062
Maheswaram	57	1341	14374

Manchal	48	1125	11523
Moinabad	42	1167	11206
Nandigama	25	502	5836
Shabad	41	1019	10531
Shamshabad	53	1467	14022
Shankarpalle	52	1277	12286
Talakondapalle	32	787	9423
Yacharam	42	1101	12169
Total	**856**	**21083**	**222872**

Source: DRDA, *Ranga Reddy* District, Telangana

It is pertinent to mention that Village Organizations (VOs) mean federation (group) of SHGs. Although the table is self-explanatory but important point to be noted here is that total number of VOs in the district was 856 with 21,083 SHGs and 222,872 members indicating average size of member in the SHG was 10.5.

Field Cases: In this section based on field study, cases of SHGs and individual persons are presented. The author is thankful to *Shri D Prasharath Kumar, Project Director, DRDA, Ranga Reddy district and Shri Hameed,* Jobs District Manager of DRDA for their support while the study was carried out in September 2017.

SHG 1): *Avantika* SHG started functioning from 2008 with eight backward caste and two scheduled caste women. All were educated because nine completed middle school and one completed intermediate. Few individual cases from the SHG are presented here to depict their performance.

Case: a: This is an interesting case as it reveals that how a Hindi movie motivated a Telugu family to prepare their two daughters to be become wrestler. Mr. *Anuradha* (36 years) 10th pass was one of the members of the SHG. Her husband as wage earner works as a driver of a rich person's house with earning of Rs10,000 per month. Ms. *Anuradha* by making cotton bag under the leadership of Ms. *Ambica* was earning on an average Rs.4,000 per month. It is pertinent to mention that Ms. *Ambica*, a *Telugu* lady was pursuing her Ph. D in Hindi literature while study was carried out. And she was also one of the members of *Jai Ambe Bhavani SHG*, in spite of this she because of her education and broadness of mind was helping other SHG members. Further, her aim was to discourage use of plastic bag. In view of this, she was inspiring to make cotton bag different sizes through the members of different SHGs and popularizing in the locality. It was observed that like Ms. *Anuradha* many women in the area irrespective of caste and

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religion were benefitted by making the bag. .

Ms. *Anuradha* borrowed four times from the SHG and bank which were Rs.5,000, Rs.15,000, Rs.30,000 and Rs. 40,000. The loans were used for construction/renovation of their house as well as for children's education.

The most interesting part of the study is that Ms. *Anuradha* in time of group discussion in presence of around 25 women of different SHGs and officials present informed that her husband as well as she was greatly motivated by watching a Hindi movie namely '*Dangal'* where two sisters acted as wrestler. The film showed how two sisters from their childhood became wrestler and earned name and fame not only for themselves or for the family but also for the country. Motivated by the movie the couple sent their two daughters – one 13 years and other one 10 years (while study was carried out in mid September 2017) - for coaching in wrestling near Hyderabad city (around 10 kilometers away). Further Ms. *Anuradha* informed that she was inspired for such decision by the SHG members as well as villagers mostly women irrespective of caste, creed and religion, Because all want both the daughters should be good women wrestler in the country. This is an interesting case as the family was not financially sound and wrestling requires nutrition's food but their father was so inspired by watching '*Dangal'* film so decided to build their daughters' carrier as India's women wrestler to bring name and fame for Telangana and India..

Case: b: *Ms. Vanaja* (45 years, 8th pass) with husband was managing a grocery shop for sustenance. They had three children – one daughter (married) and two sons. Out of two sons, elder one was educated and married and another son was doing his I.T.I. which she felt because of SHG's support all these were possible as education involves lot of costs.

SHG 2): *Raghavendra SHG*:

This SHG was set up in 2011 with three SC and seven BC women. All were involved with detergent making which earlier they were doing in the village p*anchayat* land's building (constructed under then DWCRA fund). It is pertinent to mention that DWCRA in full form Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) was launched as a sub-scheme of IRDP during the year 1982-83 in 50 districts. It was subsequently expanded to cover all the districts in the country by 1994-95.

However, as per our discussion after some official issues, detergent making was shifted to individual member's house. They were making eco

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friendly detergent and phenyl but because of marketing problem they were not getting proper income. Even then income per member per month was in the range of Rs.4,000 to Rs.5,000. It is pertinent to mention that all of their husbands were earning by working as mason and out of 10 families, two were from local village *i.e.* from Telangana and rests were from 600 kilometers away *viz*. from Andhra Pradesh. To support the family, two women of SHG were also working with husbands as mason in off time and one was working as tailor.

Case: c Ms. *Padma* (35 years) in addition to working in the group to make detergent and phenyl was also making dresses as tailor to support son and daughter's education as both were school goers.

Case: d Ms. *Rajeswari* (35) was additionally earning with husband as mason.

Case: e Ms. *Sujatha* (36 years) studied up to 4th class was also working as mason with her husband.

Case f: Ms. *Sabita* (30 years) with two children was managing a cool drink shop to support the family.

SHGs Depicting National Integration:

In this section, cases of SHGs where members with Hindu and Muslim women were formed are presented. This depicts national integration.

SHG 3): *Venkateswara* SHG was formed with 10 women members – six Muslim and four Hindu. Out of ten members, the author interviewed two persons from two different religious communities. Ms. *Radhika* (30 years, 10th pass) and Ms. *Zarina* (29 years, 9th pass) both happily informed that all the SHG members were working like an extended family as they did not have any hitch at any point of time. Further, both informed that all the SHG members time to time borrowed money from the SHG minimum of Rs.5,000 and maximum of Rs.15,000 each.

SHG 4): *Noor* SHG:

Noor SHG was set up in January 2016 with one Hindu and nine Muslim women. When the study was carried out, the SHG completed one and half years and all in unison informed that they were enjoying working together. All were earning through cotton bag making under the leadership of Ms. *Ambica*. Their husbands were working in different capacities – one auto driver, one cook and rests daily wage earners. Of the ten members two were interviewed to get the field reality. One was Ms. *Shahin* (24 years, 7th pass, married) and according to her, she had been earning around Rs.3,500 per month by making cotton bag and also

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through tailoring around Rs.2,000 totaling to Rs. 5,500 monthly. Her husband's earning as cook in a hotel was around Rs.10,000 per month. The other member who was interviewed was Ms. *Asha Begum* (24 years, 9th pass). She was earning both through tailoring and cotton bag making which was around Rs.5,000 per month as husband's monthly income was in between Rs.8,000 and Rs.9,000, inadequate to run the family.

SHG 5): *Manikanta* SHG: This SHG was set up in February 2016 with one Muslim and nine Hindu members of different caste. Two had college degree and eight members passed 10th standard. During the course of study, Ms. *Srisha* (28, B. Sc completed) one of the members who was contacted informed that SHG had been functioning smoothly as being educated she was the guiding spirit. Her husband although could complete 10th standard but works in a Telangana government office as permanent staff in Group – C category. Another member Ms. *Anitha* (25 years, 10th pass) during the course of discussion thanked the group members as because of SHG she felt empowered.

SHG 6): *Balaji* SHG: It was started in 2008 with 10 members – one Muslim and nine Hindu women. Ms. *Jyothi* (32 years, 10th pass) informed that all were happily working in the group. Even the lone Muslim member with *Balaji* group never felt isolated.

Conclusion:

It is evident from the above discussion that because of SHG approach women were not only earning but sending their children for higher education, even in wrestling coaching. In case of three other SHGs viz., *Noor, Manikanta and Balaji*, it is observed that one Hindu woman has formed SHG with nine Muslim women and vice-versa. And all were functioning shoulder to shoulder portraying national integration. .

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