



apmas

Report on
National Conference on
3 Decades of SHG Bank Linkage Program &
SHG Federation Awards Presentation



16th – 17th December 2022



APMAS, Hyderabad- 2022

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Introduction

It has been more than 30 years since the SHG movement began in India. NABARD provided the much-needed leadership at the National Level to promote SHG bank linkage with the support of Government of India, State Governments and Banking system. Many NGOs played a significant role in piloting and upscaling the SHG movement and promoted SHG federations in the country and NABARD partnered with a large number of NGOs in the country by providing them capacity building and promotional cost support. As on March 2022, India has over 1.2 crore SHGs covering over 12 crore women having their own funds of Rs. 1,50,000 crores and another Rs.1,50, 000 crores of bank loans outstanding to SHGs. The massive outreach of SHGs has generated great interest in the model's sustainability and replicability, which led to the promotion of SHG federations. Currently there are more than four (4) lakh Primary Level Federations / Village Organizations (VOs) and over 30,000 Secondary Level SHG Federations / Cluster Level Federations in the country. And many of the federations are facilitating to the different needs of the members by providing multiple services.

As a part of building and protecting their members' assets, SHGs and SHG federations partnered with both public sector and private banks to access financial services for investment in micro-enterprise promotion / development, insurance, pension, etc., to reduce their vulnerability and increase their incomes. To achieve universalization of financial inclusion, the RBI and NABARD have huge expectations on SHGs and SHG federations to act as Business Facilitators and Business Correspondents of the Banks. This year SHG bank linkage program (SHGBLP) reached an important milestone of 30 years. While there is a significant progress, the collaborative effort should be towards developing SHG federations as self-reliant, sustainable & viable institutions based on the strong foundation of cooperative values & principles. The federations to not only provide valuable services to member SHGs but also meet its operational costs. In this context, APMAS, in collaboration with NABARD, and ENABLE network members organized a 02- day National Workshop on SHG Federation Vision 2030 and National Award Ceremony for SHG Federations during 29th & 30th November 2021, in Hyderabad. This was followed by State level Visioning Workshop for developed Vision document.

SHG Federations in India: Vision 2030

Creation of wealth in an equitable gender-just society that enhances quality of life of women: SHGs and their federations to evolve into autonomous, independent, self-reliant, sustainable, resilient institutions owned, managed and utilized by women strongly supported by an enabling ecosystem for the SHG movement to realize its full potential of social and economic empowerment of women.

Keeping in view of latest developments in the sector and to operationalize SHG federation vision there is need for creating the Ecosystem for SHG bank linkage and also for SHG Federations, by bringing together key stakeholders like NABARD, SHG promoters, and State Governments & Ministry of Cooperation in the sector. In this connection APMAS and ENABLE network with support of NABARD and DGRV Germany proposes to conduct a two-day national workshop during 16th & 17th December 2022 to celebrate 3-decades of SHG bank Linkage program and to honour & recognize best performing SHG federations in India.

Objectives

The key objectives of the 02-day National Level Program are:

To facilitate a right platform for sharing of experiences & challenges of the 3-decades of SHG bank linkage led by the SHG Federations with active participation of all key stakeholders like representatives from Central & State Governments, RBI, NABARD, Bank, NGOs, research organizations, private sector, Academicians and others.

To develop strategies to address the identified issues and challenges through a multi-stakeholder consultation

To advocate key policy recommendations for realizing SHG Federations Vision 2030 and ensuring autonomy & independence of cooperatives in India

To celebrate the achievements of three (3) Decades of SHG Bank linkage Program; growth, impact and emerging trends in the SHG movement in India.

Day 01: 16th December 2022, Conference Proceedings

Inaugural session

In the inaugural session, the chief dignitaries in the dais are Mr. CS Reddy (CEO, APMAS), Dr. P. Kotaiah, Former Chairman, NABARD & Founding Chairman of APMAS, Ms. CS Rama Lakshmi IFS (Retd.) Dr. G R Chintala, Former Chairman, NABARD and Mr Jiji Mammen, Sa-Dhan Director.

Inaugural session

The conference began with key note address of Sri CS Reddy, CEO, APMAS to mark the occasion of MEGA celebrations of 'Three- (3) Decades of SHG Bank linkage' achievement. In his inaugural address, recalled the origin of SHG movement, as it was began in 30 years ago. In those days, women were seeking help and support from organisations like APMAS and other organisation, now after 3 decade of the SHG bank linkages, the SHGs have achieved next level and attained phenomenal success. Now, the organisation like APMAS and other such organisations needs women to continue to exist and relevant with the areas of work and expand horizons of the work. There are many NGOs and Civil Society Organisation and concerned individuals who were dedicated their life in the SHG movement, among such individuals like Ela Bhat, Vijaya Lakshmi Das and Dr Satish were passed way in recent past months. In memory of these eminent people who contributed to the public cause, conference gathering observed one minute silence to pay tribute to them.

Sri CS Reddy highlighted that the mega event is celebration of Women's Achievement and their success of 3 decades of Bank Linkages by providing quick statistics: total of 14.2 crore households covered under SHG, mostly women by forming a total of 119 Lakh SHGs in India with Bank linkage of 3 lakh crores (1.5 lakh crores saving and 1.5 lakh crores bank savings). The SHG movement is not only restricted to rural area but spread across urban towns and cities like Delhi, Chennai, and Mumbai. The SHGs are also there in tribal areas and hill areas

There was emphasis of utilisation of the money for entrepreneurial and livelihood promotion activities, there is no such sector where SHGs are not engaged, starting from agriculture to toilets construction, houses construction and social services activities like- health, education, nutrition, sanitation, prohibition of alcohol mentioning a few areas where SHGs doing tremendous work. Indeed, during the Covid-19 pandemic- these SHGs extended relief support and managed vaccination centres which was very much needed.



Inaugural address by Shri. C S Reddy, CEO & MD, APMAS



Lighting of Lamp

In this process of SHG movement, women leadership development was phenomenal along with the livelihood and entrepreneurial activities and build large social capital and network of SHGs, SLFs and DLFs. It was highlighted that how SHGs and PFOs established convergence. There are over 20, 000 Farmers Producer Organisation (FPO) formed in the country which are foundation of SHGs.

Looking at the importance of these SHG movement and its success in the past 3 decades, the key note address stressed that there is a need of policy framework for enabling legal structure to these millions of informal SGHs and Federation for their sustainability and independence and autonomous governances.

Guest Speake Dr. P. Kotaiah, Former Chairman, NABARD & Founding Chairman of APMAS, recalled his decades long experiences and origin of the SHG movement, even before the Grameen Bank started in Bangladesh. He highlighted the discussions of policy formulation and creating institutional framework for SHGs which was emphasised the core principle of “Empowerment” and “Promotion of credit culture” through informal institution which are self- managed. He concluded his ‘Words of Wisdom on SHG movement’ that over the years, the policy framework shaped and established, which is bottom up and home grown model.

Ms. CS Rama Lakshmi IFS (Retd.), Advocate for Women’s Empowerment shared her experiences and learnings, working with SHGs and CLFs movement. She highlighted the success and achievement of SHGs movement and also emphasised that though SHGs are self-functioning on different livelihood and entrepreneurial activities, but majority of the rural population still depends on the private money lender for capital needs. This also translates that the SHG movement has a long vision to fulfil.

She also raised concern that there is no continuity in the policies and programs. In this context, she appreciated for APMAS and leadership of Sri CS Reedy for his work which is continuing since establishment of the APMAS. However, she highlighted that there will be policy changes, after change of governments, one thing is not changed is the nomenclature of group, i.e. DWCRA¹ groups have formed initially, name is still continues in both state of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, as it known that the DWCRA group is also SHG.

¹ Development of Women and Child in Rural Areas (DWCRA)



Ms. CS Rama Lakshmi's special lecture

She discussed on the independence of the SHG and Federation movement with example of successful SHGs, one such SHG constructed Cinema Theatre and is given for lease. She stressed that SHGs need good ideas and open to learn for viable alternatives.

She emphasised power of the women empowerment and SHGs, as they are no more poor women. They are trained and skilled women and successfully run an enterprise. The reach of the SHG movement cuts across all levels, right from Village levels to Block to District and to State and National levels. She stressed on the importance of Developing Women leadership to recognize the contribution and capability of women and women groups. In the developed Nations, even US took 200 years to elect first women Vice President, India is far better than the developed nations. There are so many women with talent and leadership abilities, it is proven with the progress of SHG movement and the empowerment. She laid down the future vision and aim of the SHGs as in three decades that the SHGs and federations can able to manage at tune of 3 lakh crores, in coming decade (ten years), the SHG can aim to manage 5 lakh crores, build strong institution and stand on their own feet, do not always looks for government subsidy and interest excepted loans.

She concluded by saying SHG need maximum self-development in the line of minimum government and maximum governances of central government slogan and in the line of SHGs is our own, CLF is our own and management is our own and become enterprise.



Inaugural address

Dr. G R Chintala, Former Chairman, NABARD delivered inaugural address by sharing his vast experience in this sector. He shared mixed opinion on SHGs success with quotation of “*Sardar ji ka Masala*” and he regarded Dr Kotaiah, former Chairman of NABARD as “*Bhisma Pitamah of SHGs movement*” to mark the 30 years of SHG achievement.

He drawn quick comparison of Cooperatives and SHGs movement in India. The cooperatives are seen as only borrowers without deposits whereas the SHGs are depositors with little borrowing. He expressed, his disappointment that there is no much success achieved in the cooperative movement. He was sharing the background of how women empowerment is changing with generational change.

Despite there are several policies which in policies and legal system empowers women and endowed with rights, but which are not being effective, women are restricted within four walls and in rural area, they are somehow engaged in agriculture activities. There has been a generational change that is evidently seen now and there have been many social-political and economic transitions which the women across the sections of the society have undergone.

Women part of the SHG movement are now playing key role and actively participating in their own individual and household decision making. In 1980s, 90% of women didn’t had access to bank accounts and now due to the SHG-Bank Linkage movement a large number of them have been brought into the fold of bank services. To achieve this different institutional stakeholder have invested resources in the form of time, energy and capital. He emphasised that the SHG have special power that without any collateral, 1.5 lakh crores loans are outstanding.

He raised concern of farmers, it is unfortunate that the famers in India cannot decide the rate of this own produce, the rate is decided by the market, in this situation no farmers is getting benefit. He was sharing his experience of discussion with Prime Minister of India on Atma Nirbhar Bharat after Covid-19 in Video Conference, where he shared the driving forces of Atma Nirbhar Bharat would be are Kisan and Mahila SHGs

movement. Even to achieve 5 trillion economy, we can achieve with the ‘Resurgent Women,’ ‘Resilient Women’ and ‘Entrepreneurial Women’ with rural focus. He highlighted that anybody can develop and build enterprise with right idea, as day have gone that only IITs and IIMs graduates were meant for developing enterprises. He also set vision for next 30 years creating enterprises among and between SHGs and SHG federations and FPOs.

Mr Jiji Mammen, Sa-Dhan Director shared that the celebration of 30 years of SHGs is finest achievement in the country. Yet, he raised few concerns where the progress of SHGs is not same in all states, especially in UP the progress is poor. He compared that Grameen Bank in Bangladesh with the SHG movement in India, which brought social and financial empowerment among women. Now sustainability and continuity of this movement is important

Plenary Session-1

Many impacts of India’s SHG movement-Voice of Women
Moderated by Girija Srinivasan and Rajesh Singhvi

Presenters

- Andhra Pradesh -SPMS – Tirupati, Padmanabham Mandal Samakhya - Visakhapatnam & Gantiyada Mandal Samakhya - Vizianagaram
- Telangana - Kamareddy Mandal Samakhya, Bheemadevarapally Mandal Samakhya & Stree Nidhi
- Karnataka – Sampark Tamilnadu – SHG Federations promoted by SULM
- Puducherry – Agnisaragugul Transgender Federation
- Jharkhand – Federation promoted by PRADAN
- Kerala – Panathady CDS Kerala
- Maharastra – Sankalpa Gramin Mahila SSS & Shivakanya Gramin Mahila SSS; Swawalamban Loksanchalit Sadhan Kendra
- Rajasthan – Jagriti Rajeevika Mahila SVS Ltd
- Madhya Pradesh – Durga Sanydayik Samiti & Udainagar Pragati Samiti
- Assam - Dhanasree CLF, AIE Mandal Sanghatan UP – Jagruti CLF
- J&K – Mannat CLF
- Assam – Dhanasree CLF
- Bihar – Sarojini Jeevika CLF & Savitribai Pule Jeevika CLF

Voice of the Women raised in this Panel State-Team wise captured as follows:



SHG leaders Panellist representing their Groups and Speaking about Power of Women

SHG leaders participated in the National SHG Conference



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federation, as their group is relatively young formed in 2014, but bagged the National Award. Team was sharing about the challenges as they do not have much education, skills and awareness about the outside society before coming into the SHG movement. After formation of SHG, they provided adult education to the SHG women and others community members under the adult education programme. The SHGs members are engaged in several livelihood activities, unique to be mentioned here is **Sanitary Napkin Project** where 30-40 women. This federation also providing health insurance benefit to all the members.



- **Bihar team** emphasized about their livelihood activities which are like organic agriculture, poultry, kirana shops, toilet construction and business activities and through bank linkage, in this way the group members' income increased. They are also taken up the toilet construction activity in big way, resolution passed in the SHG to help construction of toilets to all the households, if there are toilet to rich people why toilets should not be there to poor people, in this way women self-respect is being protected and difference between rich and poor is reduced, social harmony and social cohesion is promoted. Now they can send their children to study BSc and MSc and promote sustainable development along the line of Atma Nirbhar Bharat.
- **Jharkhand team** shared how they have formed the SHG with support of Pradhan by saving Rs.5 per month, even gathering Rs.5 was also difficult in those days as people are very poor. People from Jharkhand and from the SHG operational place usually migrate out for a period of 6 months to other places for Brick kiln work and remaining six months work in their agriculture fields in the village back at home. Three decades ago, none of the women were having bank accounts, when SHGs were formed in 2006, started saving with Rs.5 and gradually increased. The team emphasised on women empowerment, skills acquired through SHG training and livelihood activities.
- **Jammu and Kashmir team**, story of J & K team is inspiring, before joining SHG, her (leader of the SHG) family was struggling to meet even basic needs like food and educational expenses of their children. Through SHG under Ummid project, she got a loan for developing enterprise (Agarbatti shop) managed by her husband, the SHG also engaged in shawl business, agriculture activities, welding shops etc. now she is called *Lakhpati didi*. She recently interacted with Prime Minister Modi because of their phenomenal success.
- **UP team** shared their experience as they do have diversified livelihood opportunities and even for educated people there are no job/employment opportunities. The team emphasized that despite such despair situation, SHG is face of interaction for social empowerment and entrepreneurial development.

They are engaged in several livelihood activities like Mushroom cultivation, Kirana Shop and many other activities.

- **Pudcherry team**, it is a Transgender federation consisting of 14 SHG with 285 members, started forming 5 members in each group. Their aim is to dispel the belief that the Transgender are there only for begging and engaged in sexual activities. The team emphasised about their individual talent and skills, who could earn their livelihood with use of their skills and talent. The federation undertaking preparation of sanitation pads and supply to Government and agriculture and other activities. Outcome of the federation could achieve by stopping 18 transgender from begging and leading dignified life.



SHG leaders participated in the National SHG Conference

- **Karnataka team** shared about their challenges and struggles to establish contacts and rapport with Bank officials and now the bank official give respect and respond properly. The federation engaged in reducing the domestic violence, gender concept and school dropout, *sarai mukth village* and penalty to those who drink alcohol through Nari Adalath and engaged in livelihood activities of Nursery, Dairy and range of other activities.
- **AP, SPMS Team** shared their achievement and progress as the Federation now have 7000 members, 850 groups which was started 30 years ago with Rs.10 saving. Now it is managing to tune of 25 crores. It is giving loan to its members upto 2 lakh. Before coming into the SHGs movement and federation, the members were despair and living in huts and no adequate food. With the impact of the group and Federation the members started earning and gradually they could educated their children and construct houses. Indeed, the federation is constructing 1015 houses under housing project. The federation also undertaking social service activities like old age home by providing free services on health, education and scholarships, supply of books etc. During Covid-19, the federation have spent 30 lakhs for relief activities by providing Covid kits and groceries.
- **AP, Padmanabham:** This team engaged in livelihood activities of poultry, goatry, agriculture, kirana shops, pickle making, farmer training and bank linkages. In their federation recovery and repayment rate is 100%.
- **Telangana team** engaged several livelihood activities of tailoring, natu kodi (desi chicken) and poultry. Important achievement of the federation is their independent functioning and management without any political or other interference. Their saving increased and repayment is regular.
- **Rajasthan Team:** This team shared how they were helping households and families in extending social services in the areas of health, education and livelihood activities. This is possible because of their saving and financial power and empowerment acquired over a period of time.



SHG leaders participated in the National SHG Conference

Parallel Sessions-1

Three (3) – decades of SHG Bank Linkage Program – Achievements & Impact and roadmap for the next three decades

Language: Hindi - 1

States: Rajasthan, Maharashtra, UP, Kerala, Tamil Nadu & Puducherry

Moderator- Mr Shankar Pandey, Director, BIRD, Lucknow

Panellist: Ms Padma, SMC, MEPMA, Telangana

Ms L Lavanya Kumari, Director, SERP, Andhra Pradesh

Mr Narendra Khande, Sector Expert

Major points discussed in the Panel is given below

The SHG movement is started with aim and objectives to reach to resource less, asset less and unreached people and communities despite all barriers. This platform is to cherish the achievements of SHG movement in various levels- family relations, economically and even in the society level. Topic for the panel discussion- **“3 decades of SHG Bank Linkage Program – Achievements & Impact and roadmap for the next three decades”**. It was discussed inevitable change of SHG working style based on the changing working style of government and chaining policies and even changing working style of NGOs and Micro-finance institutions and also with focus of digital penetration and advantages. Keeping in view of changing scenario for SHGs self-reliance and work for social development and SHG working style should also change, for instances the style of the communication with government officials and Bankers based on the changing scenario.



Panel Discussion SHG Bank Linkage



Panel Discussion SHG Bank Linkage

Meera Devi from Rajasthan shared her experience, she gave her own example on behalf of the SHG and federation she represented, as she improved her communication level from nothing to confidence despite her limited education, studied upto 5th class. Earlier the SHG and other women also having perception why they should think about other people, but now they wanted to support and extend help to others. She was referring her own example, as she dreamt to take flight provided the opportunity, which is full filled as she taken flight to reach Hyderabad to attend this Conference as last year she travelled by train. Further, she highlighted that she was unable to understand the concept of saving, bank and bank loans and livelihood activities, now she comprehended the concept very well repeated many occasions '*money makes money*' as their federation doing lot of livelihood activities.

To set the agenda, Asha didi another Women leader from Maharashtra raised to speak about her own transformation and development of SHG and SHG federation citing an example, earlier the Banks were not giving any loans despite government provisions. Now the Banks offering 10 lakhs when the group (*samahu*) ask loan Rs. 5 lakh. This could possible because of the trust of bank and groups. The groups and individuals in the group developed confidence who are undertaking range of livelihood activities and trust developed in the society and in banks.



Panel Discussion SHG Bank Linkage

After setting of the agenda with sharing of Meera Devi and Asha didi, the panel was taken forward this discussion with the Panellist Ms. Lavanya Kumari, Director, SERP, Andhra Pradesh. She shared her experience of Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) with an example of her recent visit in Alluri Seetaramaraju District, where poor tribal women managing SHGs and livelihood activities related to Agriculture and SERP is connected with market player for selling of the produce. She was sharing how the SHG movement was began with sowing the seeds in last 30 years and now they reached fruiting stage to celebrate this award function. She set the agenda for the future stressing in the coming 10 years, in every village and Panchayat there shall be best SHGs by putting the selection panel toughest task to select best SHG for the Award and look forward all the SHGs become enterprises.

Ms Padma, SMC, MEPMA, Telangana shared her experience working with SHG for over 20 years. In earlier days, bank linkage and getting loan is difficult task, now banks are offering loans to SHGs. There is lot of

trust is being built because of over 90% of repayment and running innovative and sustainable business enterprises.

Mr Narendra Khande, Sector Expert, shared his experience of long association in the sector, how the banks were not meant for poor and women. In the beginning of SHG movement loans were not given to poor and no proper acceptance and response in the banks. In the rural and tribal areas there were no banks and even if there are banks, which are understaff. Indeed, he emphasised importance of having a bank account and this is seen as an achievement. It is good that the collateral free loans were given to SHGs. Despite all the achievements, still there are issues for instances, banks are blocking the savings of SHGs to recovery of the loans. There are instances of miss-utilisation of interest exempted loans, where influential persons in the groups taking all loan amounts instead of equal distribution and developing entrepreneurial activities. Such influential people running for interest in the village acting as money lender. SHG movement is evolved to eliminate the very money lender and middlemen in the system and now the SHGs should not indulge such activity if anything is there. Despite all trust built with the banks, there is no housing loan given to the women and there shall be policy to allowing the banks to grant housing loans. There are issues of document compliance even of renewal of the loan and lot of cumbersome compliance system is being followed, which shall looked into and made easy.

Language: Hindi - 2

States: 2 States: MP, Bihar, J&K, Tripura, Chhattisgarh, WB, Meghalaya, Assam, Jarkhand

Moderator Mr. Jiji Mammen, Executive Director, Sa-dhan

Panellists: Mr. YN Reddy, Director, IB & BL, SERP, Telangana

Ms. Prabhavathi, SMM, MEP MA, AP

Mr. Satya Sai, Former CGM, NABARD

The panellists have discussed about the evolution of the SHGs and the progress made by SHGs and federations in the last 30 years. In the panel, activities of SHGs and Federations and even individual members of present activities starting from capacity building, training programs, meetings, bank linkage, livelihood activities, business and entrepreneurial initiatives are discussed. The role of NABARD was discussed, how it has played significant role in coordination of training and capacity buildings, policy framework and changes based on the ground realities were discussed. It was also highlighted that NABARD provided financial support to the NGOs to strengthen the SHGs and their federations, these efforts are focused on to improve socio-economic development to eradication of poverty and improve better living condition of the people.



Panel Discussion SHG Bank Linkage

It was highlighted that the Monitoring and Evaluation of the SHGs and Federations had led to bring changes in the policies. The participants have shared the challenges that are being faced by SHGs and Federations. There are different stages that the SHGs have undergone since their existence such as learning of nitty-gritty of the SHG functions, taking of the livelihood activities, its development and working based on the policy changes with all institutions involved in the SHG movement. Majority of the SHGs apart from their livelihood activities and they also do a lot of social and welfare activities.

Language: Telugu – 1

States: AP, Telangana & Karnataka

Moderator Mr. Mohanaiah, Former CGM, NABARD

Panellists: Mr. Salman Bhatt – DPM, FI, J&K SRLM

Ms. Nisha, District Manager – MF, MP

Ms. Asha Rathore, BPM, Rajeevika

Dr. Ritesh Kumar, PM Jeevika, Bihar

The participants have shared their bad experience working with bankers and district cooperative banks. The situation today has tremendously improved. The bankers are interested to finance SHGs for livelihood activities. The women have proved that they can make any local business possible. It is concluded that the government shall provide support and others should come forward to work with SHG with the parallel to the cooperative moment.

Three (3) – decades of SHG Bank Linkage Program – Achievements & Impact and roadmap for the next three decades

Panellist Mr. Salman Bhatt (DPM, FI, J&K SRLM) shared his experience and association with SRLM with focus on credit linkage. He suggested all SHGs to regularise it SHG transactions such as deposits and withdrawals at least once in a month and regular repayment of the loans to reduce the Non-Performing Assets (NPA). He also highlighted for universal coverage of life and accidental and health insurances under the existing policies such as: Life Insurance Coverage under the PMJJB and accidental insurance coverage under the PMSBY and Digipay Sakshi identification and Sensitization of bankers fraternity and other scheme.

Ms. Nisha District Manager – MF, MP shared her experience working with the tribal people constitute over 60%. In this area making the communities understand about SHG concept is very difficult. Geography is completely rural area and tribal people who depend forest and forest produce for their livelihood. Initial days of the SHG movement, they are learning about SHGs movements success from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Tribal women do not know about the SHG and don't believe it either. She highlighted from nothing to the success as they have 5500 SHG members and 3500 CC linkages.



Participants in the Panel Discussion on SHG Bank Linkage

The SHGs have started their livelihood and business activities with locally available resources started paddy procurement and forest products and their loan repayment and recovery is 100%.

Dr. Ritesh Kumar, PM Jeevika, Bihar shared that about the SHGs and its movement, all the country is learned from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The SHGs movement is evolved for eradication of poverty and reaching out to the unreach people, to ensure that no poor family is left out. There are bundle of strategies for social

inclusion/mobilization exercise have conducted and to identify Poorest of the Poor households who can be part of the SHG movement which is self-managed institutions. He highlighted that the focus would be particularly on most vulnerable sections like scheduled castes, scheduled tribes (particularly vulnerable tribal groups), single women and women-headed households, persons with disabilities, landless, migrant laborers, isolated communities, minority communities, and communities living in difficult areas (especially flood prone, drought-prone and Naxalite affected).

He underscored the success of the SHGs by referring Bihar Jeevika officials that these SHGs extended support and helped over 45 lakh households during the Covid-19 pandemic. Bihar has become the first state in the country to have 10 lakh self-help groups (SHGs) managed by women. The groups have been functioning under Jeevika, a World Bank-supported poverty alleviation program operational in the state since 2007 to empower women and make them self-reliant. Even during the Covid-19 pandemic, the women of Jeevika worked as bank correspondents and ensured over Rs 543 crore worth of transactions through POS machines to take banks to the doorsteps of the needy people in the remotest corners of the state. Besides, it reached out to 1.09 crore households to create awareness, extend a helping hand for relief work, food security, and work on sanitation.



Panel Discussion on SHG Bank Linkage

Ms. Asha Rathore, BPM, Rajeevika shared about the formation of RGAVP as an autonomous society in the year 2010 by the Government of Rajasthan under the administrative control of the Department of Rural Development. The Society aims at creating financially sustainable and effective institutional platforms for the rural poor, enabling them to increase household income through sustainable livelihood enhancements and improved access to financial and selected public services and to build their capacities to deal with the rapidly changing external socio-economic and political world. Its approach is to support the development of livelihood opportunities for the rural poor, especially women and marginalized groups, through community institutions. **The autonomous institutions promoted community institutions like Women's SHGs, VOs, federations, and producer organizations.**

Parallel Sessions-2

Enterprise promotion & market linkages: Best Practices from the field

Language: Hindi - 1

States: Rajasthan, Maharashtra, UP, Kerala, Tamil Nadu & Puducherry

Moderator Ms. Girija Srinivasan, Sector Expert

Panellist: Mr. Madhu Murthy, ED, APMAS

Mr. Nancharaiah, Managing Director, Stree Nidhi, AP

Ms. Prabhavathi, SMM, MEPMA, AP

The Agenda was set with sharing participants and moderators how to develop SHGs Business Plans, establish Market linkage, individual business development and developing enterprises and job creation.

Ms. Prabhavathi, SMM, MEPMA, AP, shared her experience how in urban areas the MEPMA is working for developing family business plan, market linkage with Amazon and Flipcart, MEPMA Bazar, providing platform to the entrepreneurs to participate in state and national level exhibitions under the Entrepreneurial Development Plan (EDP). The family business is largely focus on textile, handloom and food and they are also have tie-ups with sector expert institutions, for instances for textile National Institute of Fashion Design (NIFD) for promotion and branding of the product. Despite of state support, marketing challenge still there. To develop this business plan and market linkage, MEPMA facilitates training and capacity building for taking entrepreneurial activities.



Panel Discussion on Enterprise promotion & market linkages

Mr. Madhu Murthy, ED, APMAS shared his experience on 'Start-Up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP)' which is propelling enterprise activities in rural areas and building rural entrepreneurs project. The enterprises owned and managed by SHG women which are developed with support of Community Enterprise Fund (CIF), Tricor loans and with support of other loans. These projects are taken based on local resources and market opportunities and willingness of the individual entrepreneur. Each of the

entrepreneur can earn at least Rs.15000 to 20000 per month through the SVEP project. Based on the success, there is lot of scope of scaling up the entrepreneurial activities.

Mr. Nancharaiah, Managing Director, Stree Nidhi, AP shared his experience how the new and unique financial institution which is promoted by the federations with deposits of seed capital and functioning as big bank. The Stree Nidhi bank is giving zero interest loans to its members. The entire loans system is digital and biometric which will be completed within 48 hours. There are several Mandal level Samakhya who are doing wonderful business activities and one such Samakhya is build Cinema Hall.

Language: Hindi – 2

States: MP, Bihar, J&K, Tripura, Chhattisgarh, WB, Meghalaya, Assam, Jharkhand

Moderators: Dr. Rajesh Gupta, Faculty & PD, SVEP, EDI India

Panellists: Mr. GVS Reddy, MD, Stree Nidhi, Telangana

Ms. Padma, SMC, MEPMA, Telangana

Mr. Himanshu Vaghela, Head Agri Finance, FWFB

The panellists have presented their view on the given topic- '**Enterprise promotion & market linkages**'. All the panellist are in agreement that there is no much issue to start enterprises, but continuing the enterprise unit and making it viable business is tough task. In this session, the panellists have discussed about the modern technology and management of enterprises. The social media handles like Instagram, Facebook etc. open doors for great businesses and it is recommended SHGs and Federation to use these social media platforms. Along with promotion of the business, modern market products is also discussed. It was stressed that that sustainability is achieved when there is an established linkage in the market. The panellists have highlighted by discussing lot of examples of small scale business like value added products like pickles, papads etc. They have also discussed about packaging and branding. It was also discussed that there should be alternatives for reducing expenditure and put some margin for the sustenance of SHGs. The doubts raised by the participants about business strategies are also explained by the panellists. The demand and supply of any produce is to be understood. To start any business in rural, it is better to penetrate into the local market, then the business can slowly scale up into other geographies without disturbing marketing cycles.



Panel Discussion on Enterprise promotion & market linkages

Language: Telugu-1

States: AP, Telangana & Karnataka

Moderator: Mr. R Inigo Arul Selvan, GM, NABARD, Telangana

Panellists: Mr. Surendran TT, DMC, Kudumbashree Kerala

Ms. Thrithi Das, Project Executive PRADAN

Mr. Subramanian, APO, Tamilnadu Urban LH Mission

Mr Surendran from Kudumbashree Kerala started his sharing about the vision of Kudumbashree to eradicate absolute poverty in 10 years through concerted community action under the leadership of local Governments by facilitating the organization of the poor for combining self-help with demand-led convergence of available services and resources to tackle the multiple dimensions and manifestations of poverty. He highlighted promotion of Micro Finance and Enterprise Promotion and market linkages through SHGs and Federation with mission to give priority to the concept of Local Economic Development (LED)- local production, catering to local consumption to increase the economic activity within the local areas for micro-enterprise development. The Kudumbashree market strategy is a local festival they sell their products as handmade crafts, agricultural products like Kaju, banana chips, and other products also Kudumbashree celebrated as a local festival.

Ms. Thrithi Das, Project Executive PRADAN shared her experience how they promoted over 100 FPOs in Jharkhand. The LEAP project will support women who are already in Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and collectivized into informal production clusters, to take up agriculture and allied activities through synchronized production and market interface. PRADAN has created significant relationships with different stakeholders, especially with relevant government departments both at the national and state levels. PRADAN's participation in government programs like the Agriculture Production Cluster (APC) project in Odisha, National Rural Centre for Livelihoods in Jharkhand, Usharmukti project in West Bengal, and strong linkage with commercial banks would offer necessary enabling conditions. Such collaborations will ensure a steady flow of program investments to improve the resource base and intensify livelihood activities.



Panel Discussion on Enterprise promotion & market linkages

She highlighted that through the FPOs marketing is done with locally available turmeric powder, soaps. The major marketing turmeric goat is 2 lakhs profit in a season. Pradan FPO's input market is turmeric from the local farmers in case not available sufficient quantity purchase from Odisha farmers. Agricultural new varieties are also promoted through fpos like black rice varieties and also exported to other countries.

Mr. Subramanian, APO, Tamilnadu Urban LH Mission shared his experience of implementation of NULM the mission was launched in the year 2013. Under this programme they promote entrepreneur to starting up enterprise activity. Their market strategies grounded to catch the local market and to ensure availability of SHG products, groceries, farm fresh vegetables and fruits exclusively to SHGs' family. Regular marketing may be facilitated through Kiosks or Small shops in Government Offices, Post Offices, LIC, Banks, and Collectorate etc. E- Marketing also facilitated to the SHGs who are producing excellent quality products which are widely appreciated / accepted by the community. But these products are available for the public only through exhibitions or fairs or special bazaars. Since the products' quality, packaging etc., become competitive with those available in the market, TNULM facilitates national as well global marketing scope for SHGs through online platforms. The tie-up arrangements for state wide / localized online trade portals shall also be made available by CLCs.

Day-1 Conference Policy Recommendation Outcomes

1. Success of the 3 decades SHGs is not same in all state, in some sate specially South India, the success is incredible, at the same time some state it is emerging and some state it is still poor, so resource agencies like APMAS and other organisations can work bring the poorer states at far with best performing states.
2. The resource agencies like APMAS and other organistions still work on building capacities of SHGs and their Federations and provide handholding support to manage their SHG activities and livelihood activities and establish as business entities.

3. Since there are close to 2 million SHGs were formed over 3 decades, there shall be policy framework for enabling the SHGs stability and sustainability and become independent in the long run.
4. The policy recommendation shall also encompass SHGs and their Federations to become entrepreneurial entities, viable to run and manage their own business with greater autonomy.
5. The Federation should be leading the future micro finance across the country with more market capital.
6. The SHGs and their Federations should increase the savings and share capital. This is strongly recommended by the panelists to increase their social capital such that they gain a momentum on spending for livelihoods and welfare activities.
7. The SHG federations have to move forward parallel to the Cooperatives. In fact some of the SHG Federations are like cooperatives. However, they should choose the alternatives based on the feasible and viable small scale businesses (agriculture & allied or non-farm), in order to decrease their cost and put enough margin. Market linkages are the key aspects for their businesses to run in a long run.
8. The SHGs and Federation also need to update their information and knowledge systems and updates the modern technology and its development, so as to survive in the competitive society, manage their business and become vibrant entrepreneurial entities.
9. The truth of 3 decades of SHG bank linkages says that the women made everything possible. So, keeping in view of this, the participants suggested that they need an ease of doing businesses in any sector that they work.
10. The experience of generating capital for start-ups recommends that they need huge loans for MSMEs. They need a small push for becoming self-reliant.
11. After a lot of struggle, the bankers have come forward to provide loans to the groups because of the trust on SHGs. And this trust has developed through the recognition of efforts of the SHG women. Hence, it is recommended that the women banks must be in place everywhere in the country.
12. The data on SHGs and their Federations is to be worked. The groups must be digitalized. This helps in many prospects such as bank loans, schemes, M & E, rating etc.
13. Bank should give housing loan to SHGs, as they are giving livelihood loan
14. SHGs continue to have their internal lending, that is core of the SHG activities.
15. SHGs should be there to avail Government loan, it is high time run business and become entrepreneurial entities.
16. There was discussion that, and recommended to create Streenidhi Banks on other states also, it is really good initiatives.

Day-1 Recapitulation

Day 02: 17th December 2022, Conference Proceedings



Cultural activities and sing song by Participants

Day-2 conference was welcomed Mr. Madhu Murthy, Executive Director, APMAS and sharing the summary of day -1 outcomes. Along with him, Meera Devi from Rajasthan and team from Maharashtra shared the outcome.

SHG movement witnessed tremendous changes starting from individuals in the groups, SHGs as institutions, it federations in the Block levels and District levels. Individuals who are struggle to meet their basic needs and now they could able to run enterprises and interacted with Prime Minister of India because of the social and economic empowerment. There is recognition and acceptance in the bank because of the trust achieved over a period of time with regular repayments and managing successful enterprises. In this process, there is respect and recognition is achieved starting from households, political achievement was done by contesting in the Panchayats and local bodies. Despite all the success and achievements and convincing the banks with regular payment etc., house loan is not given, policy level decision is needed to address this issues. Still there are challenges such as proper utilisation of the savings and subsidy and interest exception loans, especially for developing business plan and running enterprises. There shall be MIS and software system is needed for managing the accounts and compliances etc.



Lighting of the Lamp for the day-2 by SHG Women Participants

Plenary -3 Autonomy and Independence of SHGs & SHG Federations

Chairpersons: Prof. HS. Shylendra, Faculty Member, IRMA

Panellist: Mr. Narender Khande, Sector Expert Presenters

Dr. Sudha Kothari, Managing Trustee, Chaitanya, Maharashtra

Mr. CS Reddy, CEO, APMAS

Dr. Ritesh Kumar, Project Manager, Institutional Capacity Building, Jeevika, Bihar

Mr. Kaushik Gupta, Lead – System Strengthening, TRIF

The panel discussion held on-Autonomy of and Independence of SHGs &SGHs Federations and Emergence of FPO built on the foundation of Women SHGs.



Panel Discussion on Autonomy and Independence of SHGs & SHG Federations

Agenda of the Panel discussion was set with sharing of Kamareddy Samakhya and Mahashtra team where they started from nothing to now Federation is managed independently with greater autonomy. The moderators of the Panel Dr S Shylendra (Faculty Member, IRMA) and Mr Narender Khande (Sector Expert) set the topic with the sharing of the SHG members. SHGs are looked as human face of economic development and economic reforms which is started in the last 30 years, their relevance continue to exist today and even future, so there is need to give legal shape and structures and framework to the SHGs and Federations, encompassing their autonomy, independence and sustainability. Over the 30 years, the SHGs have convinced the bankers of their SHGs and their activities, got the credit linkages, but the Bankers are still bankers, there is need for change, in this case training is needed to bankers.



Panel Discussion on Autonomy and Independence of SHGs & SHG Federations

Dr. Sudha Kothari, Managing Trustee, Chaitanya, Maharashtra discussed there is lot of leadership developed among the SHGs and federations leaders. There is need to develop capacities and skills to manage the activities and operation through systematic and simple MiS and software and improve the audit systems. There shall be mechanisms for sharing of the benefit with other members too.

Despite of the great success of the SHGs movement and driving rural economy, benefiting even the banks with the repay of loan over 90%. It is the failure of the system (consisting of Government, Promoting Institutions and other Agencies) to mainstream the SHGFs in the market. SHGFs have proven that they are capable and played an important role in inclusion and empowerment. So, the promoters of the SHGs and their Federations should provide a handholding support for their self-sustenance and enable a freedom to run their institutions themselves.

SHGFs must be provided autonomy in terms of their legal, social, economic and even their business transactions to make them more autonomous. As far as Capacity Building to the SHGFs is concerned, the skill set on Business Entrepreneurships is required apart from Governance, Management and Legal Compliances. The Capacity Building activities to the women in SHGFs are to be reverted in other SHGFs by the women such that the process of knowledge transformation gets decentralize and cater the unreached.

The identification of SHGFs' strength is very important to shape policies/programs for them. For example, if the members of a federation are having scope for a particular business, then the Capacity Building Activities can be planned accordingly. There shall be synergy and sink among the Society- Government and Market, Banks and Panchyat system SHG to be worked underlying in these principles.

There was discussion for a need of legal framework of SHGs and SHG federations, who can elect their leaders and manage the activities independently. It was seen and reported that the promotors are not allowing to functions independently and autonomously in the similar line of private company. These are poor people's organisations and cooperatives which are controlled by political leaders and some extent government also. Training and capacity buildings activities are happening independently without much interference which are done under the supervision of NABARD or Government.

It was highlighted that right of every citizen of the country to form society under the the Constitution of India, Amendment Act 2011 was enacted by inserting of Co-operative Societies in article 19 (1) (C) and Supreme Court delivered Verdict on 97th Constitutional amendment on 20th July 2021.

There is a need for leadership qualities among the institutions to shape their autonomous status. There was discussion to create space for women in the board. They should not be obliged to the promoting institutions or catch hold of their governance. They must have their own governance and management systems. Ultimately, SHGFs must be given a freedom or a space to evolve themselves. It is be done at par with developed nations like US, Canada and Germany, where 150 years of the cooperative experience has proven that Cooperative Success.



Release of Policy paper on “Sector-own Control (SOC) - Review of Sustainability of SHGs & SHG Federations in India”, by Honourable Minister, Erraballi Dayakar Rao and Dignitaries

It is strongly recommended that there is a need for a separate Act for SHGs in India which should enable SHGs to be autonomous and support the Self-Help Movement. A National level institution (a separate Confederation body) is required to support all the services for SHGFs/Cooperatives/Producer Groups/other Informal Institutions. This Body serves the Federations for many compliances, businesses, finance, tax exemption, socio-economic aspects etc. This body can be formed completely through a bottom-to-top approach. The recommendations from this National Conference shall be incorporated in drafting the National Cooperative Policy. SHGs should not only save their money, but also have to earn more profits through the interest or other sources of investments. This is not observed today. The volume of the amount of SHGs’ savings in the banks is not worth having such low interest rates. Hence, they should increase their profit with better mechanisms’.

In the concluding remarks of the panel discussion few policy recommendation have come such as:

- SHGs are gave up saving and internal lending, in recent past time there was reduction of internal lending and some cases it was stopped, it is always good continue the internal lending with minimal interest.
- Role clarity and roles and responsibility of Board of Directors in the Federations and functioning their duties.
- How Federation become financial independence after spending their salaries and maintenance cost etc.
- Developing robust MIS system, accountancy and adhering the Audit and compliances
- There shall be mechanisms for developing profit- sharing with group and federations

Plenary -4
Emergence of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) built on the foundation of the women SHG movement

Chairpersons: Mr. Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary, I&C and IT, Govt. of Telangana
Mr. Satya Sai, Former CGM NABARD
Panellists: Ms. Rajitha, COO, SERP, Telangana
Mr. Rupendra Kumar Sharma, Project Director, Srijan, Rajasthan
Mr. Rajesh Singhi, Sector Expert
Ms. Kalamani, Lead Consultant, APMAS
Mr. Himanshu Vaghela, Head Agri Finance, FWWB

Discussion topic in the panel is 'Emergence of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) built on the foundation of the women SHG movement'. Chairperson of the panel is Mr. Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary, I&C and IT, Govt. of Telangana and Mr. Satya Sai, Former CGM NABARD set agenda by encouraging participants to share their thoughts and sharing opening remarks- as there is need of convergence of SHGs-FPOs, and provide space for Women also part of the FPO to exercise their right in all spheres, access to resources, technology and sharing the work in the domestic chores so as to enable the women to play economic and leadership activities. When we talk about the farmers and farmers income and doubling of the farmers income (government at the Centre and state governments working for this), it is more of receiving mechanism and structure is put in place. There shall structure and organisation to receive the information and knowledge system in term of agriculture related technology and services, so that doubling of the farmers income can be closer, this organization is- Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO).



Panel discussion on Emergence of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) built on the foundation of the women SHG movement

In this background, convergence of SHG-FPO so as to utilize the 30 years of success of the SHG and their social capital and leadership.

The very effort of SHG movement then and FPO movement now is cut the middle in the market and collectivise the produce the farmers establish direct linkage with market and better negotiations to sale their produce. Since there is lot of social capital developed in the SHGs, capacity building and leadership is developed, so this experience foundation for formation of FPO though there are few challenges in term of legal and roles and responsibilities.

It was stressed that SHGs are small level informal organization, whereas FPOs is big and it is business entity. A proper convergence with SHG and FPOs, so that the FPO activities as business entity can be quick start with the foundation of SHG experience and their skills as it would be put in place.

APMAS promoting Women FPOs with the formation of Farmers Interest Group (FIG) and Grama Rythu Sangam (GRS) which is rare experiment. In general, FPOs are formed with male member, where less than 3% of the Women farmers are given membership. Indeed, there is technical issues also there where women are not recognised as farmers. SERP Telangana providing support to FPO where the both male and female farmers are given membership. They support for institutional setup and training for skills development and market linkage etc.

Rajesh Singhi, Sector Expert shared thought that the all the learnings of the SHG movement of the past 30 years, how we can use these learning in the way forward for creating platform for formation of FPO,

Award Ceremony Proceedings

Dignitaries in the dais

Chief Guest Hon'ble Sri Erraballi Dayakar Rao, Minister, Department of Panchayat Raj & Rural Development, Telangana State Government.

Guest of honour dignitaries: Dr.P.Kotaiah, Former Chairman, NABARD and Founder President of APMAS. Shri G.R. Chintala Former Chairman, NABARD discussed about the support from NABARD. The other guest speakers are Mr. Sandeep Kumar Sultania – CEO – SERP Telangana, Mr. JI Mammen, ED – Sa-dhan and Shri Shankar Pandey – Director, BIRD, Lucknow

Major points discussed and emerged during the Award Ceremony

- It is a celebration of 30 Years of SHG bank linkage, in these years a total of 14.2 crore households covered, mostly women by forming a total of 119 Lakh SHGs, 5 Lakh SHG federation formed in India with Bank linkage of 3 lakh crores (1.5 lakh crores saving and 1.5 lakh crores bank savings).
- SHG network become very large, hence there is need to form a separate institutions following bottom-to-top approach as National and state levels as Confederations, which will provide services to SHGFs/Cooperatives/Producer Groups/other Informal Institutions. This Confederation body will serves the SHGs and Federations on compliances, audit, b finance, tax exemption, businesses, training and socio-economic aspects etc.
- In Andhra Pradesh and Telangana we have Stree Nidhi Bank, on similar line, there is a need to create Mahila Banks in other states also.
- National Policy on Cooperative is headed by Mr Suresh Prabhu, former Union Minister under draft and seeking suggestion, we will also send major suggestions and outcome of these two days conference is- separate chapter on SHGs and SHG federation and policy framework encompassing SHG and SHG federations.

- A Policy paper on “Sector-own Control (SOC) - Review of Sustainability of SHGs & SHG Federations in India”, released by Honourable Minister, Erraballi Dayakar Rao, Minister for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development, Rural Water Supply for Telangana State, which is submitted to the Chairman and Member of Committee for consideration of the recommendation.
- Progress of 30 years of SHG movement in united AP and TS States is phenomenal, these states took a lead in formation of the SHGs and Federations.
- Yet there will be some concerns raised on equity and equality of loans between the SHG and Corporations. As per the statics SHGs savings are 1.5 lakh crores, but their share of loans were very less just 1.5 lakh crores only whereas giant corporates alone- Reliance could get loan with tune of 80,000 crores in 2021 and Adani beating the reliance got with tune of 2.21 lakh crores.
- There are also issues of representation of office bearers in the SHGs and Federation, with the change of government in the states. Political involvement is welcome and good things, yet there re-orientation of SHGs and Federations, importantly conducting re-elections replace office bearers who are party oriented at the interest and priority political party can be avoided.
- SHG Movement and its progress is good in terms of statics, yet when we see 75-80% of the women are eligible in the SHG group, why there are lot of women are not part of the SHGs.
- There are not many shortfalls and issues on providing trainings and capacity buildings, yet there are several issues and shortfalls on how to cover the uncovered and other issues- for which there shall be National level body to coordinate and address the issues and shortfalls, NABARD is qualified to take the responsibility.
- In Society half of population (50%) are women, who are largely restricted to household chores. Social mobility is not moving forward, poor remain poor, labour of a child become labour, it is because there is no proper and quality educations.
- In rural areas, even if there is education, no skills and no jobs.
- However, SHG movement is started in AP spread across India, though the progress is not same all the states. It is appreciable as SHG women develops entrepreneurial skills, have right idea and gain confidence through training and capacity building and make the business success.
- Women shall come forward and earn, support their family and educate their children thereby enabling the social and economic change and mobility of the society.
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- In the Telangana state, 1.5 lakh women are developed as enterprise and those who are earning at least 10-15 thousands per month. These small scale, home based industries foundation for national development, even China started with home based industries and contributed for national growth



Chief Guest Hon'ble Sri Erraballi Dayakar Rao, Minister, Department of Panchayat Raj & Rural Development, Telangana State Government.

The honourable minister has discussed that villages and families can develop only through women. Compared to the past, the condition of women has is in much better condition, because of the SHG movement. They have been organizing their events, programs and running their institutions successfully. These communities not only improved their economic status but also became financially stronger. They have also got the financial resources that they needed for their children's education and house construction (other welfare activities). He has also expressed that he is so proud that the SHGs in Telangana state are at the first position in the country. He has also mentioned that the Telangana State Chief Minister has enabled giving a loan of 3 lakhs to women in each community to strengthen the communities through enterprises, and all the banks in the state of Telangana are willing to provide loans to the women SHGs. He has also informed that the Telangana government will establish Mahila Vedikas apart from Rythu Vedikas in each mandal. Own industries are to be established by the SHG women.

There are total 17,975 SHGs in Telangana state through this SHG women are financially stable because they are involved in many of the businesses to become economically strong. In Telangana State, Streenidhi Bank provides a loan of 3 lakhs to every woman and also promotes insurance on behalf of every woman's association. Members of the community informed that if the borrower dies due to any reason, the entire amount of the loan will be covered by the insurance. The minister said that the empowerment of communities happen when women are empowered. The transformation of women over a time as leaders is also explained by him from his 30 years of observation. As per the data received from NABARD, minister has told that zero interest loans are being recovered 100%. So, banks are interested to provide loans.

Day-2 Conference Policy Recommendation Outcomes

1. SHGs are human face of economic development and economic reforms which is started in the last 30 years, their relevance continue to exist today and even future, so there is need to give legal shape and structures and framework to the SHGs and Federations, encompassing their autonomy, independence and sustainability.
2. Over the 30 years, the SHGs have convinced the bankers of their SHGs and their activities, got the credit linkages, but the Bankers are still bankers, there is need for change, in this case training is needed to bankers.
3. Despite of the great success of the SHGs movement and driving rural economy, benefiting the banks even, as there are some states the repay is over 90%. It is the failure of the system (consisting of Government, Promoting Institutions and other Agencies) to mainstream the SHGFs in the market. SHGFs have proven that they are capable and played an important role in inclusion and empowerment. So, the promoters of the SHGs and their Federations should provide a handholding support for their self-sustenance and enable a freedom to run their institutions themselves.
4. SHGFs must be provided autonomy in terms of their legal, social, economic and even their business transactions to make them more autonomous.
5. As far as Capacity Building to the SHGFs is concerned, the skill set on Business Entrepreneurships is required apart from Governance, Management and Legal Compliances. The Capacity Building activities to the women in SHGFs are to be reverted in other SHGFs by the women such that the process of knowledge transformation gets decentralize and cater the unreached.

6. The identification of SHGFs' strength is very important to shape policies/programs for them. For example, if the members of a federation are having scope for a particular business, then the Capacity Building Activities can be planned accordingly.
7. There shall be synergy and link among the Society- Government and Market, Banks and Panchayat system SHG to be worked underlying in these principles.
8. There is a need for leadership qualities among the institutions to shape their autonomous status. They should not be obliged to the promoting institutions or catch hold of their governance. They must have their own governance and management systems. Ultimately, SHGFs must be given a freedom or a space to evolve themselves. It is to be done at par with developed nations like US, Canada and Germany, where 150 years of the cooperative experience has proven that Cooperative Success.
9. It is strongly recommended that there is a need for a separate Act for SHGs in India which should enable SHGs to be autonomous and support the Self-Help Movement.
10. A National level institution (a separate Confederation body) is required to support all the services for SHGFs/Cooperatives/Producer Groups/other Informal Institutions. This Body serves the Federations for many compliances, businesses, finance, tax exemption, socio-economic aspects etc. This body can be formed completely through a bottom-to-top approach.
11. The recommendations from this National Conference shall be incorporated in drafting the National Cooperative Policy.
12. SHGs should not only save their money, but also have to earn more profits through the interest or other sources of investments. This is not observed today. The volume of the amount of SHGs' savings in the banks is not worth having such low interest rates. Hence, they should increase their profit with better mechanisms'.
13. There is need of convergence of SHGs-FPOs, and provide space for Women also part of the FPO to exercise their right in all spheres, access to resources, technology and sharing the work in the domestic chores so as to enable the women to play economic and leadership activities.
14. When we talk about the farmers and farmers income and doubling of the farmers income (government at the Centre and state governments working for this), it is more of receiving mechanism and structure is put in place. There shall structure and organization to receive the information and knowledge system in term of agriculture related technology and services, so that doubling of the farmers income can be closer, this organization is- Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO).
15. In this background, convergence of SHG-FPO so as to utilize the 30 years of success of the SHG and their social capital and leadership.
16. Since there is lot of social capital developed in the SHGs, capacity building and leadership is developed, so this experience foundation for formation of FPO though there are few challenges in term of legal and roles and responsibilities.
17. SHGs and SHG federation can able to manage the FPO activities as business entity, provided capacity building, support in term of finance and skills put in place.
18. SHGs are small level informal organization, whereas FPOs is big and it is business entity.
19. SHG and FPOs working together it's easy to governance
20. There is need to discussion on policy and legal issues
21. SHG and women groups working together it's a better opportunity for women business development

Summary of Policy Recommendations

SHGs AND SHGF VISION 2030

Creation of wealth in an equitable gender-just society that enhances quality of life of women: SHGs and their Federations to evolve into autonomous, independent, self-reliant, sustainable, resilient institutions owned, managed and utilized by women strongly supported by an enabling ecosystem for the SHG movement to realize its full potential of social and economic empowerment of women.

Government

1. Government to ensure enabling environment for SHGs and their Federations to exercise their autonomy and independence.
2. National level confederations of SHG Federations need to be promoted.
3. Still SHG coverage and movement is not advanced in some states which need to be focused.
4. Women need to have their own Mahila Banks and these banks formation need to be encouraged.

SHGs and their Federations

1. The SHGs and their Federations should ensure their sustainability, viability and accountability.

2. SHGs and their Federations should increase their equity base – savings, share capital and others. After strengthening, SHGF can minimize the loan taking from banks and get into more and more internal lending. SHGFs should be leading the future micro finance across the country with more market capital.
3. Adoption of updated technology for SHGF is an important requirement – digitization and precise data of SHGs, online platforms for marketing, monitoring, self-rating and so on.
4. SHG Federations to evolve into fee based services to their members and also practice profit sharing to their members. SHGs AND SHGF VISION 2030 Creation of wealth in an equitable gender-just society that enhances quality of life of women: SHGs and their Federations to evolve into autonomous, independent, self-reliant, sustainable, resilient institutions owned, managed and utilized by women strongly supported by an enabling ecosystem for the SHG movement to realize it's full potential of social and economic empowerment of women.
5. SHGs should work with all thematic areas and provide their services to the poor in all areas enabling them to raise their income levels and standard of living.
6. Enterprise Promotion: SHGs need to evolve as microenterprises and SHG women need to be entrepreneurs. There can be incubation centres to incubate and strengthen women owned and managed enterprises. SHGF also can offer such incubation services for their entrepreneur members. Market linkages including product development, branding, packing, quality, publicity and distribution are critical for enterprise development. With regard to finance, there can be customized finance products for enterprise development (for both asset creation and working capital) rather than routine bank loans for this purpose.
7. Enterprise Promotion with rural focus and with women led Institutions of SHGs, SHG federations and Farmers Producer Organisation with the open to learn good idea and convert as viable enterprise.
8. SHGs are gave up to for saving and internal lending, in recent past time there was reduction of internal lending and some cases it was stopped, it is always good continue the internal lending with minimal interest.
9. Role clarity and roles and responsibility of Board of Directors in the Federations and functioning their duties.
10. How Federation become financial independence after spending their salaries and maintenance cost etc.
11. Developing robust MIS system, accountancy and adhering the Audit and compliances
12. There shall be mechanisms for developing profit- sharing with group and federations

SHPIs

1. The implications of the Constitution 97th Amendment and subsequent Supreme Court Ruling on VOs and CLFs registered as Cooperatives have to be worked out and they need to be supported accordingly.
2. SHG Federations strengthening recommendations need to be incorporated into the new Cooperative Policy that is being formulated by the Ministry of Cooperation. It can include a separate Act for SHGF, tax exemptions for SHGF and so on.
3. The capacity building of SHGFs need to include training on Business leadership also, apart from others.

4. Many key principles and practices of SHGs are applicable for FPOs as well and they can be adopted for FPOs.
5. Increasing women participation in FPOs and women-led FPOs can be more effective business enterprises.
6. SHG Federations can play the role of FPO. SHG Federations and FPOs may work in complementary with each other.
7. Encouraging the SHGs and Federation for open to learn food ideas for promotion of business and entrepreneurial activities.
8. Encourage continuous and regular internal lending in the SHGs as it is primary and foundational activity of SHG.
9. There is need of regular monitor and supervision for subsidy and interest free loans should not be miss utilised.

BANKS

1. SHG lending is a viable business for banks. So, banks can give some concessions to the SHGs.
2. Banks should provide adequate incentives to their branches in financing the Self Help Groups (SHGs) and establish linkages with them, making the procedures simple and easy.