



Self Help Group-Bank Linkage Programme: An overview

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***Abstract:** The Self- Help development strategy in India is characterized by quietude but its impact is far-reaching. The strategy has effectively demonstrated that self-help is the best help. When people help themselves they can undoubtedly experience evolution in economic, social, political and educational fronts. In India, Self Help Groups (SHGs) are supported by the National Bank for Agricultural Rural Development (NABARD) through non-government organizations, Regional Rural banks, etc. to promote and facilitate credit linkage of these groups with banks. These groups are spread across the country and 102.43 lakhs SHGs present in country as in March 31, 2020. Empowerment provides a greater access to knowledge and resources, more autonomy in decision making, greater ability to plan lives and freedom from customs, beliefs and practices. Thus, empowerment of women is a holistic concept. The paper discusses in the detail about the concept of the empowerment of women vis-à-vis SHGs and also explains their current position.*

Key words: Self help groups, SHGs, empowerment, women empowerment, economic empowerment, SHG bank linkage program. SHG-BLP.