



A STUDY ON IMPACT OF MICRO FINANCE ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH KUDUMBASREE UNITS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ONGALLUR GRAMAPANCHAYATH.

¹ Gireesh V P., ² Prof (Dr) N K Babu

¹Assistant Professor of commerce, SNGS College Pttambi, Palakkad Affiliated to university of Calicut & Research scholar, Sri C Achuthamenon Government College, Thrissur

²Research Guide, Sri C Achuthamenon Government College, Thrissur

Email - Gireeshvp7@gmail.com , babunetyattil@gmail.com.

Abstract: Over the past few years, "microfinance"—a sector of economic development for those without access to resources—has gained a lot of attention, largely because Professor Mohammed Yunus, a Bangladeshi economist with US training who leads the global microfinance movement, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006. As "an important liberating force" and "an ever more important instrument in the struggle against poverty," microfinance has been acknowledged by the committee. Microfinance is a small-scale financial service that financial institutions offer to the underprivileged. These financial services could include money transfers, credit, insurance, savings, and leasing. With the sole stipulation that the transaction value is low and the clients are impoverished, this refers to any kind of financial services that are offered to clients in order to satisfy their typical financial demands, including life cycle, economic opportunity, and emergency. For low-income or jobless people or groups who would not otherwise have access to financial services, microfinance is a banking service. People can safely take out small business loans that are reasonable and in line with ethical lending practices thanks to microfinance.

Key Words: women empowerment, micro finance, kudumbasree units.

1. INTRODUCTION :

There are several different kinds of microfinance organizations or institutions in India. In India, microfinance institutions are not new to the financial sector. India's extreme poverty prompted the government to give the growth of rural loans particular consideration. It recreated the cooperative structure, taking into consideration the All India Rural Credit Survey Report [1950], which established the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development [NABARD], Regional Rural Banks [RRB], and the state's partnership in cooperatives. Non-Governmental Organizations [NGOs] were essential to the growth of microfinance services in India. Additionally, over the past 20 years, India's microfinance sector has grown rapidly. There were about 150 microfinance institutions in India overall in 2009. In order to address the financial difficulties in economically disadvantaged communities, microfinance models were created. India is home to a wide variety of microfinance businesses. such as rural cooperatives, the Grameen Bank Model, Self Help Groups (SHG), Joint Liability Groups (JLG), etc. Providing assistance to those in need is the goal of microfinance. Therefore, microfinance borrowers are mostly small company owners or entrepreneurs from undeveloped areas of India. The funds available under microfinance are often modest sums of money.

2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Microfinance emerged as a prominent and successful approach to reducing poverty, with the capacity to significantly alter the lives of those in need. The implementation of governmental policies aimed at reducing poverty, empowering women, supporting vulnerable populations, and raising living standards can be aided by microfinance. Research has



demonstrated that microfinance is essential to development. It protects against risk and helps the most impoverished households to achieve their most basic necessities. It contributes to women's empowerment and gender equity and is linked to increases in household economic involvement. Previous research has demonstrated that KUDUMBASHREE is a successful Micro Financial Institution [MFI] for promoting economic growth. Thus, by participating in the KUDUMBASHREE PROGRAMME, the impoverished, particularly women, can gain more authority. It highlights the necessity for "KUDUMBASHREE UNITS" in areas with lower reported rates of poverty. There are currently no comprehensive studies on the microfinance produced in Palakkad District by KUDUMBASHREE UNITS. Thus, the current study focuses on such as "understanding the effects of microfinance through Kudumbashree and issues pertaining to Kudumbashree units in Ongallur Grama Panchayath."

3. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

Every government is thought to have a significant obligation to empower women. Sustainability and empowerment concerns received very little attention until recently. Women have a larger economic say in decision-making due to their access to credit and savings, which maximizes the wellbeing of both the household and the individual. Previous research has shown that Kudumbashree is a successful microfinance organization for promoting economic growth. Thus, by participating in the Kudumbashree program, the impoverished, particularly women, can gain more authority. It emphasizes that in areas where poverty is reported to be lower, there is a greater need for the Kudumbashree unit. The study on the Kudumbashree unit's performance in ONGALLUR GRAMA PANCHAYATH, the government's role in improving it, and the degree of issues in their units helps identify the critical elements that support this field and offers recommendations for improvement.

4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study the impact of micro finance on women empowerment through kudumbashree units.
2. To analyse the role of government agencies in the promotion of kudumbashree units.
3. To study the purpose of obtaining micro finance by members in kudumbashree units.
4. To identify problems and constraints of kudumbashree units.

5. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Aithal, P. S. (2024). The purpose of this study is to assess how the incorporation of digital technology improves operational effectiveness and broadens financial inclusion in the microfinance industry in India. In order to guide initiatives for enhancing service delivery and overall impact, it also aims to analyze beneficiary satisfaction levels with digital microfinance services. The study employs a mixed-methods research methodology, combining qualitative information obtained from a structured questionnaire with quantitative methods including structural equation modeling (SEM) and confirmatory factor analysis (CFA). With this method, beneficiary satisfaction with digital microfinance services in Kerala can be thoroughly evaluated, providing insightful information on how to improve service delivery and optimize sector-wide impact.

2. Manoj, P. K. (2015). Because it can alleviate the "Real housing problem in India," which is the housing problem of the poor, Housing Micro Finance (HMF) has enormous potential to address India's housing crisis. The poor, or those in the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and Low Income Group (LIG) groups, account for up to 99.84 percent of India's overall housing shortfall. HMF has yet to gain traction in India, despite its enormous potential to solve the country's actual housing crisis. This research examines the value, reach, and socioeconomic effects of HMF in this setting using the typical example of "Bhavanashree" (BS), the HMF initiative of "Kudumbashree" (KS), the Kerala government's poverty alleviation program.

3. Dhanya, M. B., & Sivakumar, P. (2010) In the current context, microfinance is regarded as a significant and developing trend for women's empowerment. Micro finance projects are advocated as an essential method for women's empowerment. Microfinance encourages banking among a population group that traditional financial institutions typically find challenging to reach by fostering reciprocal trust and confidence between bankers and rural poor. This study looks at the financial impact of microfinance recipients and whether or not economic empowerment has produced a generation of independent women. Kerala State's Thiruvananthapuram district was chosen for the case study. The survey demonstrates the beneficial effects of Kudumbashree's development program, which is implemented by the microfinance organization in Kerala, India.

4. Akhildev, P., & Prasad, R. R. (2023). In Kerala and across India, microfinance has become a need-based program for women's self-help groups that would improve everyday lives in every neighborhood. One of the best ways for the RBI and NABARD's development activities to reduce unemployment is to provide microfinance to unorganized, educated,



and illiterate women. This article offers a critical evaluation of the numerous empirical studies conducted in different Indian states, in addition to assisting microfinance researchers in creating self-help groups among women to empower them through credit-linked financial services.

6. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

RESEASRCH DESIGN

The present study is undertaken to examine the impact of the microfinance on women empowerment through kudumbashree unit.

ONGALLUR GRAMA PANCHAYATH is selected for the purpose of study. The methodology used for the collection of data was using structured questionnaire. The study is designed on a descriptive study.

SAMPLING METHOD : The method of sampling used is random sampling. The units are respondent in each unit has been selected by drawing lot.

SAMPLE SIZE : 50 respondents were selected to study the impact of micro finance among kudumbasree units.

SAMPLING UNIT : Sampling units consists of kudumbashree members of ongallur grama panchayath.

7. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

TABLE 1.1
EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION OF RESPONDENTS

SI No	Variable	No of Respondent	Percentage
1	SSLC	34	68
2	PLUSTWO	12	24
3	GRADUATE	4	8
4	POST GRADUATE	0	0
TOTAL		50	100

Source: primary data

From the above table 68% of SSLC have morethan 24% of Plustwo which means they are in a good position. 8% of Graduate are in satisfactory position.0% of Postgraduate are in unsatisfactory position. The same data furnished below as a picture.

TABLE 1.2
NUMBER OF MEMBERS IN THE GROUP

SI no		Number of kudumbasree unit	percent
1	Below 10 members	3	6
2	10 – 15 members	38	76
3	15 -20 members	9	18
4	More than 20 members	0	0
total		50	100

Source: primary data.

INTERPRETATION.

Based on the above table 6% of units are included below 10 members. But,majority 76% units are include 10-15 members.

TABLE 1.3
PARTICIPATION LEVEL OF MEMBERS IN THE MEETING

SI No		Number of KDS units	Percentage
1	Very low	0	0
2	low	0	0



3	medium	28	56
4	High	20	40
5	Very High	2	4
Total		50	100

Source: primary data.

INTERPRETATION.

From the above table, we can interpret 56% of have medium participation level of members in the meeting and very good position in this regards. 40% of units are good. Only 4% units are unsatisfactory. The following figure shows the graphical presentation of the same data.

TABLE 1.4
UTILISATION OF SAVINGS IN THE UNIT.

Sl No		Number of KDS units	Percentage
1	poor	3	6
2	Partly	38	76
3	fully	9	18
Total		50	100

Source: primary data

INTERPRETATION:

From the above table, we can interpret 60% of units are partly utilize their savings, 25% of units are poor in the utilization of savings. Only 15% of units are fully utilizing their savings.

8. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

1. The study founded that lack of capital is the main problem of each and every unit.
2. 34% of the KDS units does not receive the subsidy.
3. The majority 55% of the unit have more than 90% loan recovery.
4. Educated members have mostly taken micro finance for the purpose of children education and welfare.
5. The members are highly satisfied with the role of government agencies in improving the status of women.

9. SUGGESTIONS OF THE STUDY.

1. A sincere effort should be made by kudumbashree mission and local government to extend expertise in identification of income generating activities suitable to the local conditions and allocate more resources to such activities.
2. The kudumbashree mission must consider microenterprise as the most important instrument for creating employment and income to the poor women.
3. There is a need for promotion of modern micro enterprise like clinical laboratory, computer centre, etc.
4. Close monitoring and follow up on the effective utilization micro credit.
5. More awareness campaigns can be conducted for micro credit, micro thrift, micro insurance and other product on a wide base.
6. Innovative steps can be promoted by the kudumbashree with the help of government to reach the unreached poor.

10. CONCLUSION :

Microfinance acts as a catalyst in the lives of the poor and kudumbashree became the lifeline to many of the poor women. In the present study, an attempt has been made to analyze the performance of KDS units in Ongallur panchayath, impact of microfinance, purpose of obtaining microfinance, role of government, and problems of KDS units.



REFERENCES :

1. Aithal, P. S. (2024). Influence of Digital Technology on Microfinance Sector: A Study in Kerala. *International Journal of Applied Engineering and Management Letters (IJAEML)*, 8(2), 186-197.
2. Manoj, P. K. (2015). Socio-Economic Impact of Housing Microfinance: Findings of a Field based Study in Kerala, India. *International Research Journal of Finance and Economics*, 137, 32-43.
3. Dhanya, M. B., & Sivakumar, P. (2010). Women empowerment and micro finance: Case study from Kerala.
4. Akhildev, P., & Prasad, R. R. ROLE OF MICRO-FINANCING IN DEVELOPING SELF-HELP GROUPS (SHGS) AMONG WOMEN IN KERALA.
5. www.Kudumbasreemission.org
6. www.NABARD.com
7. Microcredit, poverty and empowerment Linking the Triad, edited by Neera Bulra Joy Deshmukh, Ranadeve, Ranjani k, Murthy, published by SAGE publications.
8. Microfinance Case studies, edited by S.Rajagopalan, published by ICFAI University press.
9. Praveshika, by National Rural Livelihood Mission.