

GROWTH AND ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE OF SHGS IN INDIA – A CASE STUDY ON DAKSHINA KANNADA DISTRICT

Venkatesha Prasanna. P.K

Assistant Professor of Economics

Govt. First Grade College, Belandoor, Kadaba Taluk, Dakshina. Kannada District

ABSTRACT:

The journey of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in India reflects a strong story of grassroots economic transformation, as they have proven effective in mobilizing savings, expanding access to credit, generating livelihoods, and empowering women. Despite challenges, SHGs remain a key tool for poverty alleviation and rural development. This study explores the growth and economic performance of SHGs from 2012–13 to 2020–21 using recent data, and assesses the impact of participation on members' income generation, household income, savings, standard of living, and decision-making ability through a paired *t*-test. Findings reveal that SHGs in India grew steadily during this period, with the number of groups rising from 73.18 lakh to 112.23 lakh—an increase of nearly 53%—and the funds associated with them increasing more than 4.5 times from ₹8,217.25 crore to ₹37,477.61 crore. Other datasets show similar upward patterns, though with varying intensities and occasional declines, such as a contraction in 2013–14 and a dip in 2020–21 due to external disruptions. Financial performance was more dynamic than membership growth, with amounts linked to SHGs peaking at ₹1,08,075.07 crore in 2019–20 before slightly falling to ₹1,03,289.71 crore in 2020–21. The case study results confirm that participation in SHGs has a significant positive impact on members, improving their income generation, household savings, standard of living, and decision-making capabilities, thereby reaffirming SHGs as vital drivers of inclusive growth in India.

Key words: Self-Help Groups (SHGs), NABARD, Economic Performance, Empowering Women.

INTRODUCTION

Self-Help Groups (SHGs) have emerged as one of the most effective community-based institutions in India, primarily aimed at empowering women and promoting financial inclusion. Introduced in the early 1990s through the SHG–Bank Linkage Programme (SBLP) initiated by NABARD, SHGs have since become a cornerstone of rural development policy. Over the years, they have not only grown in numbers but have also played a significant role in improving the economic conditions of their members, particularly those below the poverty line.

The journey of SHGs in India reflects a powerful story of grassroots economic transformation. They have proven effective in mobilizing savings, enhancing access to credit, generating livelihoods, and empowering women. Despite challenges, SHGs remain an indispensable tool for poverty alleviation and rural development. Strengthening their capacity, improving market linkages, and ensuring resilience against economic shocks will be

crucial for sustaining their growth and enhancing their economic performance in the years ahead.

Self-Help Group (SHG)

A Self-Help Group (SHG) is a small, voluntary association of 10–20 people, usually from similar socio-economic backgrounds, who come together to save regularly, create a common fund, and provide credit to members for meeting personal or income-generating needs. SHGs function as grassroots financial institutions that promote thrift, reduce dependence on moneylenders, and empower members especially women socially and economically through collective action and access to formal banking services.

Members contribute small amounts weekly or monthly to build a common fund, which is then used for internal lending at low interest rates to meet needs such as healthcare, education, or small businesses. Over time, with consistent savings and repayment discipline, SHGs become eligible for institutional credit under the SHG–Bank Linkage Programme (SBLP), through which banks provide collateral-free loans based on group performance. The borrowed funds are typically invested in income-generating activities like agriculture, animal husbandry, or micro-enterprises, improving household income and reducing dependence on moneylenders. Besides financial benefits, SHGs act as platforms for skill development, awareness building, and collective problem-solving, thereby enhancing social and economic empowerment, especially of women. In essence, SHGs function as grassroots financial institutions that promote savings, provide access to credit, and empower communities to improve their standard of living.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Fazalath Hussain R (2020) “Economic Performance of SHGs In Dharwad and Belgaum Districts of North Karnataka in India - A Perspective of Microfinance” The research focuses on the monetary analysis and economic performance of Self-Help Group (SHG) members in Dharwad and Belgaum districts. A quantitative approach was adopted, using a sample size of 316 respondents from each district. The study evaluates the financial benefits accessed by SHG beneficiaries over different periods and for diverse economic activities. It highlights how SHGs have contributed to improving members’ economic conditions. Since the 1990s through the 2020s, significant changes have occurred in SHG functioning, aimed at promoting economic growth and raising the standard of living, particularly among populations below the poverty line in India.

Satyveer Singh Meena and others (2021) “An Evaluative Study of Performance of Self-Help Groups in Tribal Sub Region of Rajasthan” This paper evaluates the performance of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in the Tribal Sub Plan Region of Rajasthan, India, focusing on the relationship between SHG performance and socio-demographic factors such as family type, age, income level, and education. A sample of 300 SHG members was selected. Statistical tools used included one-sample t-test and Pearson’s chi-square test to examine associations between categorical variables, while frequency distribution was applied to analyze respondents’ opinions on the duration of assistance. The findings reveal that members are generally satisfied with SHG functioning. However, no statistically significant associations were found between SHG performance and family type, age, income, or education groups.

The study also highlights a research gap, noting the absence of earlier evaluative studies specifically focused on SHGs in the Tribal Sub Plan Region, thereby contributing original insights to this area.

Research Gap

Many studies have examined SHGs in India, most focus on women empowerment and poverty reduction, with limited analysis of their long-term growth patterns in membership, savings, and credit. Research is also regionally imbalanced, with greater emphasis on southern states while central, northern, and tribal regions remain underexplored. Few studies have assessed the Growth and Economic performance of SHGs using recent data or examined the impact of socio-economic factors such as age, education, and income on SHG outcomes. Similarly, there is insufficient work on loan utilization, repayment sustainability, and livelihood impacts. These gaps highlight the need for a comprehensive study of SHG growth and economic performance. This study tries to fulfil this gap.

Objectives of the Study

1. To examine the growth trend and economic performance of SHGs in India.
2. To study the impact of SHGs on household income, Saving, Credit access and standard of living in study area.

Hypothesis of the Study

- ❖ There is a significant impact of Participation in SHGs on improving the Income Generation, Household Income, Savings, Standard of Living and Decision-Making Capability of members.

Methodology

This study uses a descriptive and analytical research design to assess the growth and economic performance of SHGs in India. Both primary and secondary data are utilized: primary data is collected from SHG members through questionnaires, interviews, and focus group discussions, while secondary data is sourced from NABARD, NRLM, RBI, government reports, and published literature, with focus on 2012–2021 trends. A random sampling method is applied, covering 50 respondents across selected states and districts. Data is analysed using descriptive statistics (averages, growth rates) and inferential tools Paired t-tests to study growth patterns and the impact of SHG participation on income and living standards.

Growth and Economic Performance of SHGs in India

Self-Help Groups (SHGs) have expanded steadily in India since the 1990s, deepening financial inclusion and women's economic participation. Using the datasets you provided (2012–13 to 2020–21), the picture is of consistent scale-up in outreach and a faster rise in financial flows with notable shocks in 2020–21.

From 2012–13 to 2020–21, Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in India showed steady growth in numbers and stronger expansion in financial activity. The number of SHGs rose from 73.18 lakh to 112.23 lakh (CAGR ~5.5%), while financial amounts increased much faster, from ₹8,217.25 crore to ₹37,477.61 crore (CAGR ~20.9%), reflecting deepening savings and

credit linkages. Growth spurts were notable between 2016–17 and 2019–20, supported by NRLM and bank initiatives, but 2020–21 saw mixed trends: some datasets showed contractions in both SHG numbers (−8.23%) and financial amounts (−25.22%), indicating pandemic-related disruptions, while others still recorded modest gains. Overall, the data suggest that while SHG outreach expanded steadily, their economic performance outpaced numerical growth, highlighting both resilience and the need for stronger market linkages, digital systems, and policy support to sustain gains during crises.

Table 1: Number of SHGs Linked with Banks from 2012-13 to 2020-21 (Number in Lakh)

Year	Number of SHGs	Growth rate
2012-13	73.18	-
2013-14	74.30	1.53
2014-15	76.97	3.59
2015-16	79.03	2.68
2016-17	85.77	8.53
2017-18	87.44	1.95
2018-19	100.14	14.52
2019-20	102.43	2.29
2020-21	112.23	9.57

Source: Annual Reports of NABARD on Status of Microfinance in India from 2012-13 to 2020-21

Chart 1: Number of SHGs Linked with Banks from 2012-13 to 2020-21 (Number in Lakh)

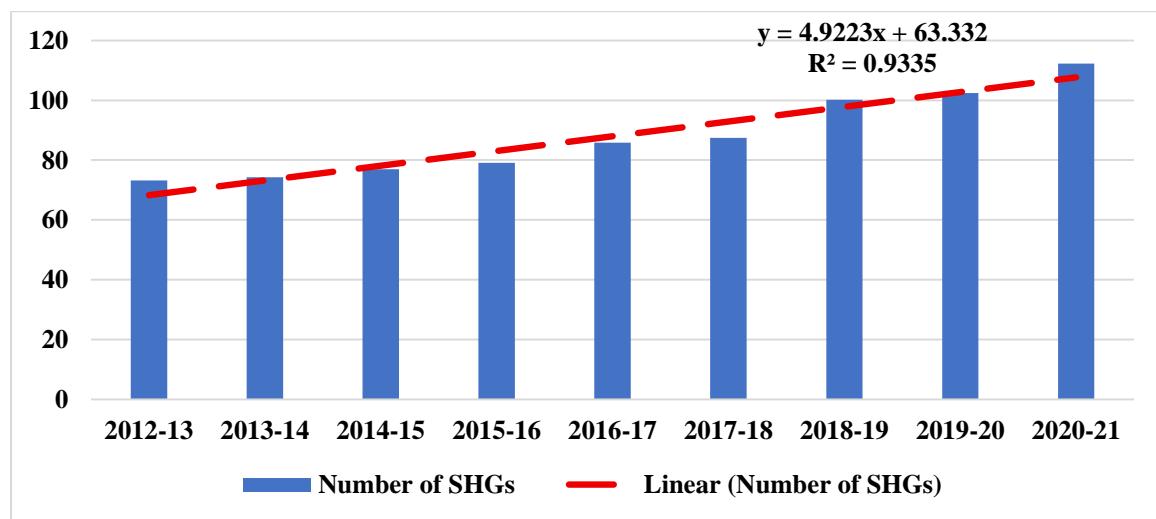


Table 1 and chart 1 explore that Between 2012-13 and 2020-21, the number of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in India showed a consistent upward trend, rising from 73.18 lakh to 112.23 lakh, marking an overall increase of around 53%. The growth was not uniform across the years, reflecting phases of both acceleration and slowdown. In the initial years, growth was

relatively modest, with increases of 1.53% in 2013-14, 3.59% in 2014-15, and 2.68% in 2015-16. A more substantial jump occurred in 2016-17, when the growth rate climbed to 8.53%, suggesting renewed momentum. However, this was followed by a slowdown in 2017-18, where growth dipped to just 1.95%, the lowest in the period, possibly indicating saturation or external constraints. The most significant surge came in 2018-19, with a growth rate of 14.52%, representing the highest expansion in the nine-year period and signalling a major push in SHG formation, likely due to stronger policy initiatives or increased community mobilization. After this peak, growth moderated to 2.29% in 2019-20, but picked up again in 2020-21 with a robust 9.57%, which may reflect resilience and revitalization despite challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall, the data highlights a pattern of steady expansion with intermittent spurts of rapid growth, underlining the increasing role and reach of SHGs over the decade.

Table 2: Savings through SHGs Linked with Banks from 2012-13 to 2020-21 (₹ in Crore)

Year	Amount ₹	Growth rate
2012-13	8217.25	-
2013-14	9897.42	20.45
2014-15	11059.84	11.74
2015-16	13691.39	23.79
2016-17	16114.23	17.70
2017-18	19592.12	21.58
2018-19	23324.48	19.05
2019-20	26152.05	12.12
2020-21	37477.61	43.31

Source: Annual Reports of NABARD on Status of Microfinance in India from 2012-13 to 2020-21

Chart 2: Savings through SHGs Linked with Banks from 2012-13 to 2020-21 (₹ in crore)

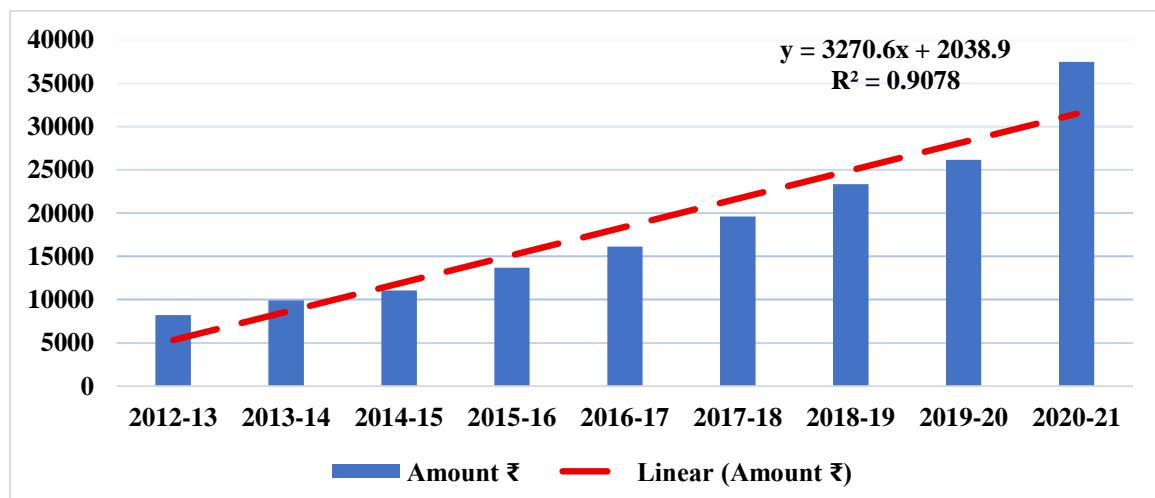


Table 2 and chart 2 revealed that from 2012-13 to 2020-21, the total amount of funds associated with Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in India rose dramatically from ₹8,217.25 crore to

₹37,477.61 crore, showing over a 4.5-fold increase in just nine years. The growth pattern was consistently positive, but with varying intensities. In the early phase, 2013-14 and 2014-15 registered moderate growth rates of 20.45% and 11.74% respectively. A sharp jump occurred in 2015-16, with growth reaching 23.79%, followed by continued strong expansion in 2016-17 (17.70%) and 2017-18 (21.58%). The momentum remained high in 2018-19 with a growth rate of 19.05%, though it slowed to 12.12% in 2019-20, indicating some stabilization. The most remarkable leap came in 2020-21, when the amount surged by 43.31%, the highest growth in the entire period. This sharp rise likely reflects increased financial support, policy interventions, and heightened reliance on SHGs during the COVID-19 crisis as mechanisms for livelihood support and financial inclusion. Overall, the data demonstrates a strong and sustained financial deepening of SHGs, with particularly significant acceleration in the later years, underscoring their expanding role in grassroots economic empowerment.

Table 3: Loans Distributed by Banks thought SHGs from 2012-13 To 2020-21 (Number in Lakh)

Year	Number of SHGs	Growth Rate
2012-13	12.20	-
2013-14	13.66	11.97
2014-15	16.26	19.03
2015-16	18.32	12.67
2016-17	18.98	3.60
2017-18	22.61	19.13
2018-19	26.98	19.33
2019-20	31.46	16.60
2020-21	28.87	-8.23

Source: Annual Reports of NABARD on Status of Microfinance in India from 2012-13 to 2020-21

Chart 3: Loans Distributed by Banks thought SHGs from 2012-13 To 2020-21 (Number in Lakh)

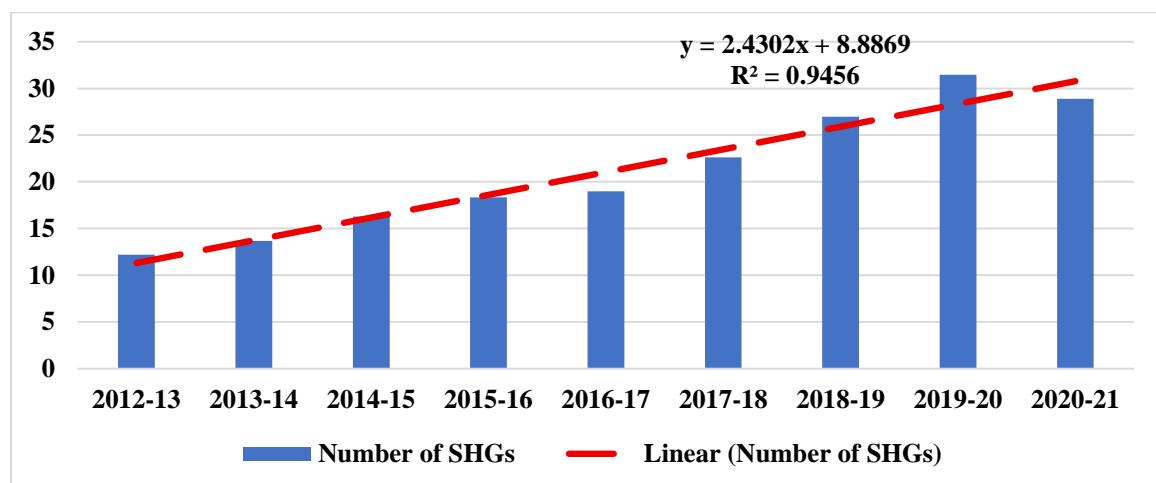


Table 3 and chart 3 shows that from 2012-13 to 2020-21, the number of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) linked with the data provided increased overall from 12.20 lakh to 28.87 lakh, more than doubling in this period. The growth trend, however, was uneven, with alternating phases of rapid expansion and slowdown. Early years showed healthy increases, with growth of 11.97% in 2013-14 and a stronger 19.03% in 2014-15. This momentum slowed in 2015-16 (12.67%) and dipped further in 2016-17 (3.60%), suggesting a temporary stagnation. A renewed phase of strong growth followed in 2017-18 (19.13%) and 2018-19 (19.33%), indicating a major boost in SHG formation during this period. Growth continued at a high level in 2019-20 (16.60%), taking the total to a peak of 31.46 lakh. However, in 2020-21, the number of SHGs fell to 28.87 lakh, recording a negative growth rate of -8.23% — the only contraction in the entire period. This decline likely reflects the disruptive impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which may have hindered group functioning, mobilization, and reporting. Overall, the data shows a strong long-term expansion of SHGs, albeit with a significant setback in the final year.

**Table 4: Amount of Loans Distributed to SHGs by the Banks from 2012-13 To 2020-21
(₹ in Crore)**

Year	Amount ₹	Growth rate
2012-13	20585.36	-
2013-14	24017.36	16.67
2014-15	27582.31	14.84
2015-16	37286.90	35.18
2016-17	38781.16	4.01
2017-18	47185.88	21.67
2018-19	58317.63	23.59
2019-20	77659.35	33.17
2020-21	58070.68	-25.22

Source: Annual Reports of NABARD on Status of Microfinance in India from 2012-13 to 2020-21

**Chart 4: Amount of Loans Distributed to SHGs by the Banks from 2012-13 To 2022-23
 (₹ in Crore)**

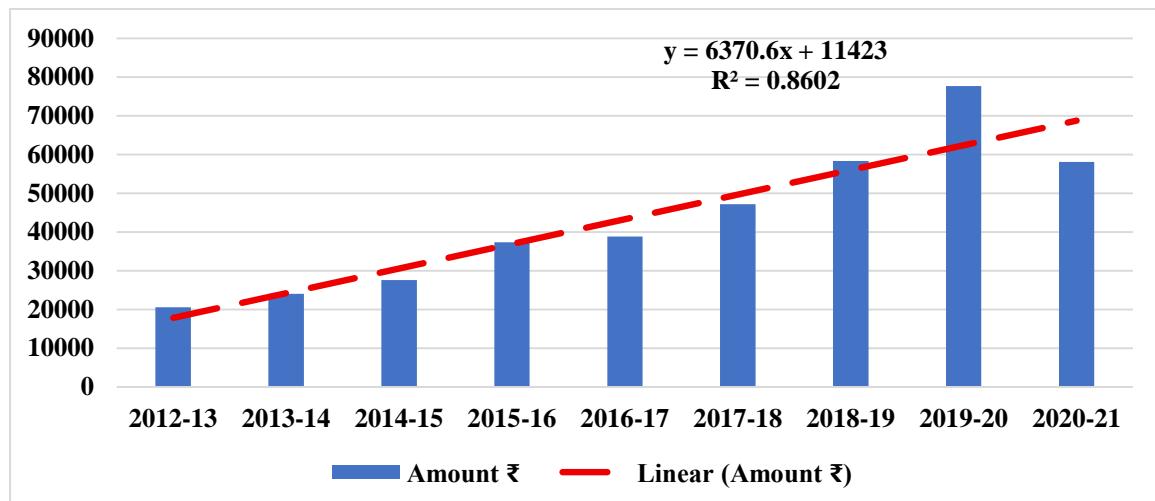


Table 4 and chart 4 explore that between 2012-13 and 2020-21, the total amount linked to SHGs rose overall from ₹20,585.36 crore to ₹58,070.68 crore, but the growth trajectory was highly uneven, showing both strong expansion and a sharp decline at the end. In the initial years, growth was steady, with increases of 16.67% in 2013-14 and 14.84% in 2014-15. A significant jump occurred in 2015-16, when the amount surged by 35.18%, pushing the total to ₹37,286.90 crore. However, this momentum slowed considerably in 2016-17, with growth dropping to just 4.01%. The following years saw renewed strength: 21.67% in 2017-18 and 23.59% in 2018-19, reflecting rising financial activity and outreach. Another major boost came in 2019-20, with a 33.17% rise that lifted the total to a peak of ₹77,659.35 crore. Yet, in 2020-21, the amount fell sharply by 25.22%, reducing it to ₹58,070.68 crore — the only contraction in the period. This downturn likely reflects disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, such as reduced group activity, repayment challenges, and limited access to financial institutions. Overall, the trend highlights a strong expansion in SHG-linked financial activity over most of the decade, but with a severe setback in the final year.

Table 5: Outstanding of SHGs Bank Loans from 2012-13 to 2020-21 (Number in lakh)

Year	Number of SHGs	Growth rate	Amount (in Crore)	Growth Rate
2012-13	44.51	-	39375.30	-
2013-14	41.97	-5.71	42927.52	9.02
2014-15	44.68	6.46	51545.46	20.08
2015-16	46.73	4.59	57119.23	10.81
2016-17	48.48	3.74	61581.3	7.81
2017-18	50.20	3.55	75598.45	22.76
2018-19	50.77	1.14	87098.58	15.21
2019-20	56.77	11.82	108075.07	24.08
2020-21	57.80	1.81	103289.71	-4.43

Source: Annual Reports of NABARD on Status of Microfinance in India from 2012-13 to 2020-21

Chart 5: Outstanding of SHGs Bank Loans from 2012-13 to 2020-21 (Number in lakh)

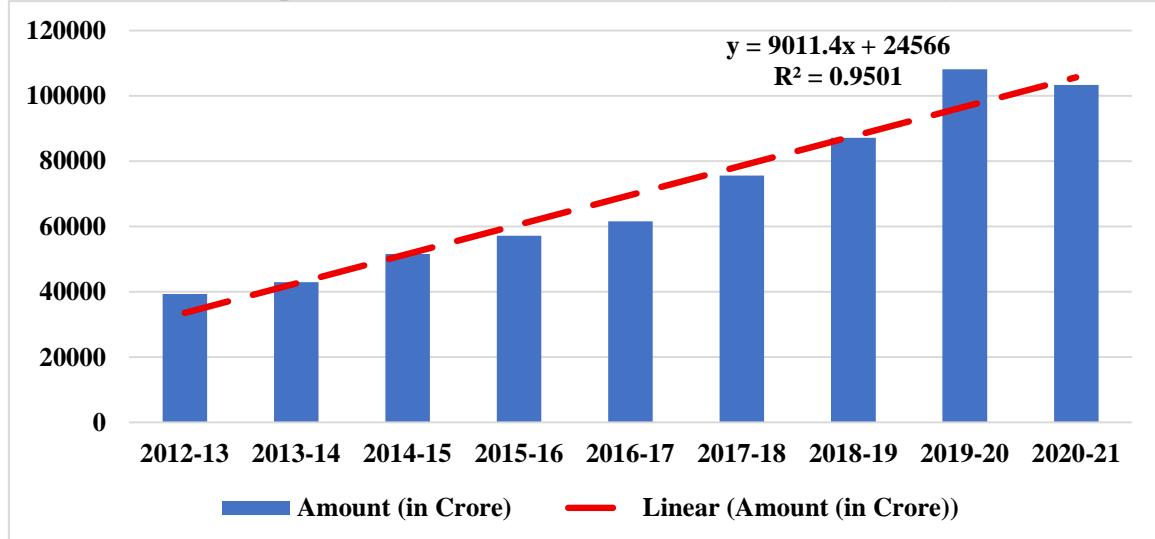


Table 5 and chart 5 explore shows that from 2012-13 to 2020-21, the data on Self-Help Groups (SHGs) shows both steady numerical growth and significant variation in the financial amounts associated with them. The number of SHGs increased from 44.51 lakh in 2012-13 to 57.80 lakh in 2020-21, an overall rise of nearly 30%. Growth in SHG numbers was uneven, with a decline of 5.71% in 2013-14, followed by moderate expansions in subsequent years. The sharpest increase occurred in 2019-20 (11.82%), while most other years recorded low to modest growth rates (1–6%), reflecting gradual expansion.

In contrast, the financial amount rose more dynamically, climbing from ₹39,375.30 crore in 2012-13 to a peak of ₹1,08,075.07 crore in 2019-20 before falling slightly to ₹1,03,289.71 crore in 2020-21. Growth rates varied widely: strong increases were seen in 2014-15 (20.08%), 2017-18 (22.76%), 2018-19 (15.21%), and especially 2019-20 (24.08%). Slower growth occurred in 2015-16 (10.81%) and 2016-17 (7.81%), while 2020-21 witnessed the only decline, with a contraction of 4.43%, likely due to pandemic-related disruptions.

Overall, the data reflects that while the number of SHGs grew steadily but slowly, the financial amounts linked to them expanded at a much faster pace, demonstrating the deepening economic role of SHGs despite short-term setbacks.

SURVEY BASED ANALYSIS AND DATA INTERPRETATION

A survey of twenty villages of Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka state has been conducted 50 of Participants of SHGs have been interviewed through questionnaire. The research findings are as follows,

Table 6: Distribution of Type of Family, Age Marital Status and Qualification of Respondents

Characteristics		Respondents	Percentage	Rank
Type of Family	Nuclear family	48	96	1
	Joint family	02	04	2
Distribution of	Below 20 years	05	10	4

Age	21-30 years	16	32	2
	31-40 years	18	36	1
	41-50 years	08	16	3
	51 and above	03	08	5
Marital Status	Married	30	60	1
	Unmarried	02	04	3
	Widow	17	24	2
	Divorced/separated	01	02	4
Qualification	Illiterate	08	16	1
	Primary	20	40	2
	High school	14	28	3
	PUC	06	12	4
	UG and above	02	04	6

Source: field survey

96 % of the respondents belongs to nuclear families and remaining only 04 % of the respondents belongs to Joint family.

10% respondents are in age group below 20 years, 32% of respondents are in the age group of 21-30 years, 36% of the respondents are come 31 to 40 years age group, 16% of the respondents are come under Below 41-50 years age category, and only 08 % of the responded 51 and above years.

out of 50 respondents 60% of them are found to be married, 4% Unmarried, 24% widowed and only 4% of them are divorced.

16% of respondents were observed to be illiterates followed by primary (40%), High school (28%), Pre university (12%), under graduate and above (only 4%).

Table 7: Impact of SHGs on respondents' Employment, Income Generation, Savings and Credit access

Impact	Particulars	Before	Percentage	After	Percentage
Impact on Employment	Only House work	15	30%	02	04%
	Collection of minor forest product	06	12%	08	16%
	Agriculture labour	16	32%	06	12%
	Milk business	04	12%	18	36%
	lady tailor	03	08%	06	12%
	Shopkeeper	03	06%	05	10%
	Flour Mill	02	04%	03	06%
	Other	01	02%	02	04%
Impact on Income	No income	12	40%	00	00%
	Up to 20000	17	26%	04	08%
	20000 to 40000	08	16%	15	30%
	40000 to 60000	06	12%	07	14%

	60000 to 80000	04	6%	06	12%
	80000 to 100000	02	0%	08	16%
	100000 and above	01	0%	10	20%
Impact on Saving	No Saving	30	60%	00	0%
	50	10	20%	06	12%
	100	05	10%	12	24%
	200	03	06%	20	40%
	400	02	04%	08	13%
	500	00	00%	04	08%
Impact on Credit access	No loan	26	52%	0	00%
	Maravadis	07	14%	02	04%
	Relations	10	20%	03	06%
	Banks	03	06%	05	10%
	Through SHG's in Bank	00	00%	34	68%
	Micro finance	04	08%	06	12%

Source: field survey

The percentage of tribal women spending their time in house work has been reduced from 50 % to 6 % indicating that they are finding gainful employment after joining the SHGs.

The activities where the employment has increased are Milk production, lady tailor Shopkeeper and Floor Mill indicating the fact that more absorption is found in jobs with small skill which are more suitable for females with low skill.

After becoming the members of the SHG's the average earning has increased, particularly 12 members without income before become the members, after the membership 20 members have become wage earners. The income of the SHG members have widened during the period under study as reflected in increase variance.

The members of SHG were benefited positively in terms of finding better opportunity of income. But the activities in which they have joined who have benefited differently due to their skill, initial capital and knowledge about the opportunities.

After becoming the membership saving ratio as increased. People with 200 rupees saving per month as jumped from 6% to 40%. The variance in the savings has also increased during the period under study. This shows an increase in inequality in the savings of the members.

The increase in savings of the members is attributed to the strong will of the members for their economic betterment and institutional requirement as the bank finances the SHG on the basis of the funds generated by SHG.

The poverty of SHG members deprived them to borrow and improve their economic standards as is reflected in zero borrowing of 52% members before joining the SHG. Loan taker after becoming the membership has also increased through SHG's Bank 64 % and loan borrowed from relatives reduced from 20% to 06%. Marvdies as reduced from 14% to 04%

The joining of SHG has replaced the informal sources of borrowing and the share of borrowing through SHG increased.

HYPOTHESIS TESTING

Hypotheses of the Study

1. There is a significant impact of Participation in SHGs on improving the Income Generation, Household Income, Savings, Standard of Living and Decision-Making Capability of members.

Table 10: Weighted Average Method for Analyse of Respondents Opinion about Role of Micro Finance of Upliftment of Rural Women

Sl. No	Parameters	Impact of SHGs	Negative Impact (-1)	No Impact (0)	Good Impact (1)	Substantial Impact (2)	Total & Weighted Value
1.	Income Generation	Before	0 (0)	60 (0)	35 (35)	5 (10)	100 (45)
		After	0 (0)	5 (0)	70 (70)	25 (50)	100 (130)
2.	Contribution to House Hold Income	Before	0 (0)	70 (0)	28 (28)	2 (4)	100 (32)
		After	0 (0)	05 (0)	70 (70)	25 (50)	100 (120)
3.	Enhance Savings/Deposits	Before	0 (0)	80 (0)	20 (20)	0 (0)	100 (20)
		After	0 (0)	10 (0)	60 (60)	30 (60)	100 (120)
4.	House Hold Financial Decisions	Before	0 (0)	78 (0)	20 (20)	2 (4)	100 (24)
		After	0 (0)	10 (0)	70 (70)	20 (40)	100 (110)
5.	Improvement in Standard of Living	Before	0 (0)	56 (0)	36 (36)	8 (16)	100 (52)
		After	0 (0)	5 (0)	60 (60)	35 (70)	100 (150)
6.	Decision Making Capability	Before	0 (0)	78 (0)	19 (19)	03 (6)	100 (25)
		After	0 (0)	4 (0)	76 (76)	20 (40)	100 (116)

(Source: field survey)

Table 10 shows that Weighted Average Method for Analyse of Respondents Opinion about Role of Micro Finance of Upliftment of Rural Women. To analyse give weightage to opinion about Impact of Micro finance -1 to 2, -1 for Negative Impact, 0 for No Impact, 1 for good impact and 2 for Substantial Impact on upliftment of rural Women in study area. Finally this data of Weighted Average Method used to test the significant difference between Income Generation, Contribution to House Hold Income, Enhance Savings/Deposits, House Hold Financial Decisions, Improvement in Standard of Living, before and after Micro Finance usage and participation in Self Help Group.

Table 11: Paired 't' Samples Analyse the Role of Micro Finance of Upliftment of Rural Women

Income Generation-Economic Empowerment			Contribution to House Hold Income		
	Before	After		Before	After
Mean	0.45	1.2	Mean	0.32	1.2
Variance	0.3475	0.26	Variance	0.2576	0.26
Stand. Dev.	0.5895	0.50	Stand. Dev.	0.5075	0.5099
n	100	100	n	100	100
t	-17.321		t	-27.0769	
Degree of Freedom	99		Degree of Freedom	99	
Critical Value	1.984		Critical Value	1.984	
Enhance Savings/Deposits			House Hold Financial Decisions		
	Before	After		Before	After
Mean	0.2	1.2	Mean	0.24	1.1
Variance	0.16	0.36	Variance	0.2224	0.29
Stand. Dev.	0.4	0.6	Stand. Dev.	0.4716	0.5385
n	100	100	n	100	100
t	-22.3614		t	-11.4881	
Degree of Freedom	99		Degree of Freedom	99	
Critical Value	1.984		Critical Value	1.984	
Improvement in Standard of Living			Decision Making Capability		
	Before	After		Before	After
Mean	0.52	1.3	Mean	0.25	1.16
Variance	0.4096	0.31	Variance	0.2475	0.2144
Stand. Dev.	0.64	0.55	Stand. Dev.	0.4975	0.463
		68	n	100	100
n	100	100	t	-31.7959	
t	-18.8315		Degree of Freedom	99	
Degree of Freedom	99		Critical Value	1.984	
Critical Value	1.984				

Table 11 explore the findings of the paired 't' test reveals that significant difference in all factors those Influence Upliftment of Women in study area the **t value is greater than Critical Value** so this study explore that There is a significant impact of Participation in SHGs on improving the Income Generation, Household Income, Savings, Standard of Living

and Decision-Making Capability of members, before and after participation in Self Help Group.

CONCLUSION

Self-Help Groups (SHGs) have emerged as one of the most effective community-based institutions in India, primarily aimed at empowering women and promoting financial inclusion. SHGs function as grassroots financial institutions that promote thrift, reduce dependence on moneylenders, and empower members especially women socially and economically through collective action and access to formal banking services, Self-Help Groups (SHGs) have expanded steadily in India since the 1990s, deepening financial inclusion and women's economic participation. Using the datasets you provided (2012–13 to 2020–21), the picture is of consistent scale-up in outreach and a faster rise in financial flows with notable shocks in 2020–21. This study explores the growth and economic performance of SHGs from 2012–13 to 2020–21 using recent data, and assesses the impact of participation on members' income generation, household income, savings, standard of living, and decision-making ability through a paired *t*-test. Findings reveal that SHGs in India grew steadily during this period, with the number of groups rising from 73.18 lakh to 112.23 lakh—an increase of nearly 53%—and the funds associated with them increasing more than 4.5 times from ₹8,217.25 crore to ₹37,477.61 crore. Other datasets show similar upward patterns, though with varying intensities and occasional declines, such as a contraction in 2013–14 and a dip in 2020–21 due to external disruptions. Financial performance was more dynamic than membership growth, with amounts linked to SHGs peaking at ₹1,08,075.07 crore in 2019–20 before slightly falling to ₹1,03,289.71 crore in 2020–21. The case study results confirm that participation in SHGs has a significant positive impact on members, improving their income generation, household savings, standard of living, and decision-making capabilities, thereby reaffirming SHGs as vital drivers of inclusive growth in India.

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