Role of Microfinance on Women Empowerment: A Brief Review of Literature

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Abstract

During the Millennium Summit held in September 2000, more emphasis has been put on women empowerment as women empowerment along with gender equality are placed high on the development agenda. The incorporation of women empowerment among other things in the United Nations Millennium Development Goals apparently establishes the significance of women empowerment in economic development. Growth and prosperity of any economy depends upon the socio economic development of the people. Presently microfinance is considered as an important tool to eliminate poverty as well as for socio economic empowerment of recipients. The recipients are mostly women and the empowerment of women through microfinance is generally a comprehensive and debated issue. The present study attempts to investigate the role and impact of microfinance on women empowerment. The study is based on both the empirical and theoretical findings of the existing literature. Studies carried out at international, national and regional level as indicated from this paper demonstrate that microfinance through Self Help Groups play an important part for the progress and prosperity of deprived people on the grounds of economic well-being, reducing poverty and by and large empowering women.

Key Words: Microfinance, Self Help Groups, Women empowerment.

JEL Codes:

1. Introduction

Women constitute half of the world population but their participation in workforce is negligible. They have suffered lot due to their gender. The ill treatment and injustice they face in their daily lives, women empowerment has gained momentum and is challenging question for less developed nations. In developing countries they are discriminated socially, economically, politically and psychologically. At times their positions and role have seen lower in the family and in household decision making. The women empowerment as an aim
in itself is very significant to reduce gender inequality. It is also important in the sense to improve the conditions of people who are facing dire challenges due to poverty (Volart, 2004; Linda, 2000). Women constitute about 70% of the world’s poor population (Alam, 2012; Sarumati and Mohan, 2011). In South-Asian countries like India, most of these women reside in marginal regions engaged in their traditional activities. They are rarely engaged in the works through which they can contribute to the income of their households (Sultana & Hasan, 1970). In addition, women in these areas do not get entry to banks, financial establishments and decision making. This becomes a source for them to be helpless and underprivileged (Alam & Nizamuddin, 2012).

In the present era small lending in its reach known as microfinance has developed into a lot of favored principle for deduction of poverty in developing countries (Ahmed, 1990). The foremost purpose of microfinance is to empower women because they have been recognized as a vital instruments specifically in less developed countries to tackle the major issues like poverty among women (Sarumathu and Mohan, 2011; Zaynul & Famida, 2013). Woman makes up a larger percentage of microfinance recipients. Women particularly those who live in less developed nations are not able to really take part in economic activities (Islam, Ahmed, MSS, & Muhammad Shafiu Alam, 2014). Microfinance helps the women by providing some amount of credit in order to start microenterprises through which they can earn their livelihood. In this way they can gain confidence, improve their overall status and get equal position among their male counterparts (Sarumathu, Mohan, Sarumathu, & Mohan, 2011).

Microfinance through SHGs have been identified universally as an advanced instrument to strive against poverty and for rural development (Loomba, 2014). Microfinance mostly targets women and as such has become a critical tool in empowering them (Linda, 2000; Volart, 2004; Sarumathu & Mohan, 2011; Zaynul & Fahmida, 2013). It has gained global recognition following the UN’s declaration of the year 2005 as the UN year of microcredit. The UN, world bank as well as government and their development partners view microfinance as an instrument that will aid development of society and alleviate poverty (Addae, 2015).

The remaining part of this study is systematically discussed as under: section 2 review relevant literature regarding the role and effect of microfinance on women empowerment.
This literature review section has been further categorized under three subsections. Subsection 2.1 of literature review deals with the concept of Empowerment and Women Empowerment. 2.2 subsections include studies related to Dimensions and Measuring of Women empowerment and 2.3 focuses on the studies identified with effect of Microfinance on Women Empowerment. Section 3 deals with information source and research methodology adopted in the study are discussed. And finally section 4 concludes the study with some limitations.

2. Review of literature

Greater part of hypothetical and empirical studies has revealed a huge effect of microfinance on their recipients including women empowerment. Anyway less consideration has been paid towards an exhaustive review of empirical findings on Microfinance & Women Empowerment. Subsequently this study tries to fill this gap. This study is an attempt to record what we understand and what we don’t know regarding the impact of microfinance on women empowerment. This paper meta-analyses the role, impact and dimensions of women empowerment.

2.1. Concept of Empowerment and women empowerment

Word ‘empowerment’ was utilized for the first time in seventeenth century and has meaning like “authorize”, “delegate”, “enable”. The term empowerment as such is a complex thought and it demonstrates the exchange of influence in a unique manner over some stretch of time. The idea of women empowerment is presently a worldwide concern. Since the inception of UNO, the concept of women’s development has intrigued the consideration from researchers nationwide and the idea becomes popular and gained recognition among huge number of nations. Today the word “Empowerment” has supplanted the word “development”. In spite of the fact that term empowerment had gotten well known in the 60’s, it was not talked about so broadly in literature until the 80’s. The United Nations had took almost two and a half century to announce the 2001 year as the ‘International Year for Women’s Empowerment’ in the wake of pronouncing 1975 as ‘Women’s decade’ and India also proclaimed the 2001 as the ‘Women’s Empowerment Year’ (Mandal, 2013).

In almost every circle of life women expect inconsistent status and position therefore providing equal opportunities to them is necessary. The idea of women empowerment is
multidimensional process as it empowers women to deal with their own lives. Everyone has attempted to characterize the term “women empowerment” from their own perspective. The concept “empowerment” has different implications at various socio cultural, economic and political settings. These concepts include “self-strength, self-control, self-power, self-reliance, personal choice, capability of fighting for one’s rights, freedom, own decision making power” etc. (Mandal, 2013). “The most use of the term ‘empowerment’ refers to increasing the power of low power group, so that it more nearly equals the power of high power group” (Bhadra, 2001). Aggarwal et al. (2016) states that “women empowerment can be understood as giving power to women so that they can decide for their own lives or inculcating such abilities in them that will help them to find their rightful place in society”. World Bank (2001) defines empowerment as “the process of increasing the capacity of individuals or groups to make choices and to transform these choices into desired actions and outcomes” (Sarumathi and Mohan, 2011). According (Kabeer, 1999) empowerment occurs at various levels which spread a wide scope of dimensions. She defines empowerment “as a course of expansion in people’s ability to make strategic life choices in a context where this capability was previously denied to them. However, the capacity to exercise strategic life choices can be thought of in terms of three dimensions – ‘Resources’ as part of preconditions of empowerment, ‘agency’ as an aspect of process, and achievement as measure of outcomes”.

Deepa Narayan in her book ‘Empowerment and Poverty Reduction’ (2002) highlights that “empowerment refers broadly to the expansion of freedom of choice and action. She defines empowerment as the expansion of assets and capabilities of poor to participate in, negotiate with, influence, control and hold accountable institutions that affect their lives”. Thus, the 4 main components of empowerment according to her are – “access to information, inclusion/participation, accountability, local organizational capacity”. (Sen, 2007) asserts, “Empowerment of a person is reflected in his capability set. The capability of a person depends on so many factors including personal characteristics and social arrangements. So empowerment is the ability to fulfill this capability and not just the choice to do so”.

2.2. Dimensions and Measuring of Women Empowerment

Measuring women empowerment is a complicated job, on the grounds that the idea of women empowerment is inert and it cannot be straightforwardly recognizable. In addition it is a
multifactorial prodigy, and a portion of the components of women empowerment, for example “decision making”, “self-confidence” and “self-esteem” are hard to quantify. As an outcome, various endeavors were put together to build up a synoptic system which describe the different ingredients of women empowerment (Addae, 2015). A study was made by (Hashemi, Schuler, & Riley, 1996) to explore the impact of microcredit on various indicators of women empowerment. They try to measure women empowerment based on five aspects including “economic, socio cultural, familial/interpersonal, legal and political” empowerment. They had also developed the eight variables such as “mobility, economic security, ability to make small and larger purchases, participation in major household decisions, and relative freedom from family domination, political awareness, legal awareness and political activities”. The discoveries of their study demonstrate that microfinance was found to have an enormous effect on all the five dimensions of women empowerment by providing them greater economic value to their families. (Sohail, 2014) had conducted a study to measure empowerment by using three components –“self-empowerment, mutual empowerment and social empowerment” and these three components are interconnected with one another. “Self-empowerment” means individual efforts, “mutual empowerment” means relationship with others and “social empowerment” is achieved by taking off social, political, legal and economic constraints (Addae, 2015). Socio-economic determinants of women empowerment were considered by researchers as most important parameters to measure empowerment (Bushra & wajiha, 2014; Soharwardi, Khan, & Khalid, 2015). Several studies have used various dimensions and determinants of measuring women’s empowerment like self-esteem, self-confidence, decision making power, age education, employment, etc. The findings of these studies demonstrated that some of these variables have positive and huge effect on women empowerment (Mahmud, Shah, & Becker, 2012; Khan & Noreen, 2012 Musonera & Hashmati, 2016; Nayak & Mahanta, 2009). (Kabeer, 1999) made an attempt to develop the indicators by utilizing three dimensional structures for estimating women empowerment such as resources, agency and achievements. The study demonstrates that the significant attainable indicators of women empowerment are “family composition, marital benefit, financial independence, self-determination and experience of participation in jobs”. (Malhotra & Schuler, 2005) gave a methodological approach and multidimensional process in determining and evaluating women empowerment. They have formulated an
exhaustive structure of women empowerment with a variety of components including “socio cultural empowerment, economic empowerment, familial empowerment, legal empowerment, political and psychological empowerment”.

2.3. Microfinance and Women Empowerment

How microfinance affect women? To respond this enquiry, numerous studies have been conducted globally. A large portion of these studies have been led in Bangladesh since this was the country where microfinance scheme was first launched by Grameen Bank in the 1970s and the innovator of the concept was professor Mohammad Younus of Bangladesh. The important aim of this activity was to give loans to the downtrodden people especially women without any security in order to reduce poverty and raise their living standard (Younus, 1999). (Rahman, Rafiq, & Momen, 2011) had made an attempt to evaluate “the impact of microcredit programs on higher income borrowers in Bangladesh”. The result of their analysis showed that microfinance is effective in increasing higher income and assets for borrowers but this impact is not same across income levels of borrowers. An enquiry directed by (Zoynul & Fahmid, 2013) in Dinajpur district Bangladesh finds that there is a significant impact of microcredit on socio economic empowerment of women borrowers by acquiring “self-esteem, confidence level, decision making power” etc. thus, women’s access to microfinance services has a positive impact on their income generating activities and empowerment. Most of the microfinance programs target women in order to empower them because they are considered more deprived and vulnerable section of the society, so empowering them should be a priority (Sarumathi et al., 2011). In Ghana, (Addai, 2017) conducted an empirical study to highlight that microfinance programs are considered an important roadmap for simultaneously addressing both women empowerment and poverty alleviation. He had conducted this study in order to analyze the socio-economic empowerment of women. The findings of his study revealed that there exists a statistically substantial association between women empowerment and microfinance because when there is increasing access to microfinance it leads to greater economic and social empowerment. Microfinance programs were globally built to empower women. In Tanzania, (Kato & Kratzer, 2013) noticed that involvement with microfinance facilities helps women’s to hold upon overall resources which subsequently bring about women empowerment. In Kenya, (Wanjku & Njru, 2016) also reveal that microfinance services provide financial access to
women and engage them in small petty businesses from which they earn some income and thus has a positive outcome on their empowerment. An empirical study was done by (Goel, 2015) from 200 respondents of SEWA bank in Gujarat to examine the effect of microfinance facilities on economic empowerment of women. The findings of his study reveal that MFIs are playing a significant part in increasing the economic empowerment of women by enhancing their earnings. (Sugunamma, 2017) had conducted an empirical study in rural SHGs in Andhra Pradesh to assess the influence of SHGs in socio economic development of women. The consequences of his study demonstrate that microfinance via SHGs has upgraded the socio economic development of women beneficiaries and it is also helpful in enhancing women’s autonomy which is a significant factor for their empowerment. A study was conducted by (Li, Gan, & Hu, 2011) in China to estimate the impact of microcredit on women empowerment. For empirically examining the data, logistic regression analysis has been employed and the outcome of their examination demonstrate that microfinance has a notable influence upon 5 dimensions of women empowerment which includes “control over financial assets, mobility, purchase making ability, involvement in decision making and legal awareness”. (Al Mamun et al., 2014) in the article entitled “Empirical Investigation on The Impact of Microcredit on Women Empowerment in Urban Peninsular Malaysia” led an investigation to assess the effect of women participation in microcredit programme on their empowerment. Conclusions of their analysis exhibits that participation in microcredit program generated a positive and significant effect on women empowerment and their study also showed that microcredit also remains as a strong instrument in enhancing women empowerment on different aspects including “ household economic decision making, economic security, control over resources and family decisions, mobility and legal awareness”. A study directed by (Sultana S.et al., 2010) analyzed the impact of micro credit on rural women’s economic empowerment in the villages of Ghazipur district. Sample of 90 respondents were selected through stratified random sampling technique & among them half were connected with BRAC microcredit program. The authors have used the 3 economic measures- “personal income, saving behavior and asset ownership” to measure the economic empowerment of rural women. The inquiry of their survey had concluded that there exists an outstanding variance amongst BRAC and NON-BRAC women members with respect to these measures of women empowerment. In Hyderabad a study was directed by (Aruna,
2011) to analyze the association between SHG-bank linkage programme participation and women empowerment. Primary and secondary data sources were utilized to collect a sample of 300 female respondents by adopting simple random sampling technique from two equal groups—those respondents who availed loan from SHG and those who did not avail any loan from SHG. Multiple regression analysis were adopted to examine the impact of microfinance on women empowerment and the results of the research demonstrate that there is a significant influence of microfinance on socio economic indicators of women empowerment such as “economic position, decision making power, knowledge and self-worthiness”. A number of studies have used various variables and dimensions to study and examine the social and economic impact of microfinance on women empowerment mostly in tribal and rural areas. The result of these studies demonstrates that microfinance program is positively associated with each dimension of women empowerment as well as aggregate empowerment of women (Chughtai et al., 2015; Islam et al., 2014). A study was led by (Jain & Jain, 2012) in Udaipur district in Rajasthan to calculate the effect of microfinance on social, economic and political dimensions of women empowerment among rural SHG members. The consequences of their investigation unequivocally show that on an average there is a noteworthy increment in women empowerment of SHG members. (Sarumathi et al., 2011) have made an effort to examine the role of microfinance in women empowerment in three distinct psychological, social and economic dimensions in rural areas of Pondicherry region. The discoveries of their study uncovered that microfinance helped women in gaining “psychological and social empowerment than economic empowerment”. An empirical study was conducted by (Malathi & Vijayarani, 2012) to analyze the performance and growth of microfinance in women empowerment and the consequences of their examination demonstrate that microfinance had a profound effect on sustained growth of women empowerment in rural areas of Cuddalore district. Numerous empirical investigations have been conducted by many researchers to analyze the role of microfinance in women empowerment through SHGs in different rural areas. Result of all the studies reported that there is a huge variance noticed by using microfinance services through SHGs (Pillai & Nadarajan, 2010; Arunkumar, Anand, Anand, Rengarajan, & Shyam, 2016; Gangadhar CH, 2015). An impact study conducted by (G. Modi, J. Patel, & M. Patel, 2014) with the objective of providing an insight regarding those factors which empower rural women through microfinance services and which factor affects
maximum and to what magnitude. The findings of the study show that out of five factors, four factors that are, “socio economic upgradation, autonomy for life choices, women position in family/society and positive approach towards child development” have a major influence on rural women empowerment. (Suri & Kour, 2016) in the research article entitled “Role of SHG’s in Poverty Alleviation and Micro Entrepreneurship of Women in Bishnah Block of Jammu District” explore the importance and role of microfinance and SHGs in poverty alleviation and empowerment of women through JKSRLM- UMEED in Bishnah block. Sample of 50 women respondents from different SHGs were collected through simple random sampling techniques. The study has contributed the literature that microfinance has effectively increased the earnings of the beneficiaries after joining SHGS and the conclusions of their study suggest that microfinance through SHGs have a positive impact on decision making power among women in Bishnah block. (Alam & Nizamuddin, 2012) in the article “Role of Microfinance and SHGs in Women Empowerment: A Case Study of District Mewat” displayed that women get empowered economically and socially after joining SHGs as these are accountable to empower women by promoting “self-reliance, self-confidence, self-dependence and educating them to realize their fundamental rights”.

Table 1. Summary of literature review.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Sample and Design</th>
<th>Findings</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Hashemi et al., 1996)</td>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>During 1991-94 an ethnographic research was undertaken and 1248 women were surveyed in 6 villages</td>
<td>Microfinance was found to have a significant impact on all five dimensions of women’s empowerment by giving them greater economic value to their families.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Bushra &amp; Wajiha, 2015)</td>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>Sample of 200 female respondents from 2 renowned universities were collected through structured</td>
<td>Socio economic determinants of women empowerment are most important parameters of women empowerment as these variables have</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reference</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Methodology</td>
<td>Findings</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Rahman et al., 2011)</td>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>Structured questionnaire method was used to collect the data from borrowers of Grameen bank and BRAC.</td>
<td>Microfinance is effective in increasing higher income and assets for borrowers but their impact is not the same across income levels of borrowers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Zoynul &amp; Fahmida, 2013)</td>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>Data was collected through interview schedules by survey method to collect information from women members who have availed microfinance services from some MFI.</td>
<td>Microcredit has a substantial impact on socio economic empowerment of women borrowers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Addai, 2017)</td>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>Sample of 500 female microfinance customers were collected through Purposive non-probability sampling technique.</td>
<td>Statistically significant positive relationship between microfinance and women empowerment has been noticed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Sarumathi et al., 2011)</td>
<td>Pondicherry</td>
<td>Sample of 181 women respondents possessing microenterprises through</td>
<td>Microfinance assisted women in gaining psychological and social empowerment than economic empowerment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Methodology</td>
<td>Findings</td>
<td>Study Reference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>Both qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection were used to collect the sample of 454 women from three regions of Tanzania.</td>
<td>Participation in microfinance services leads to an increase in women’s hold upon overall resources which in turn leads to women empowerment.</td>
<td>(Kato &amp; Kratzer, 2013)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gujarat</td>
<td>Sample of 200 respondents of Self Employed Women’s Association (SEWA) bank at Sabarkantha district in Gujarat were collected.</td>
<td>Microfinance institutions playing a significant role in supporting the women beneficiaries in getting employment increasing their earnings and participating in decision making.</td>
<td>(Goel, 2015)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>Descriptive research design was adopted to collect the sample of 120 women respondents who had been using microfinance services through closed ended questionnaire.</td>
<td>Microfinance services provide financial access to women and engage them in income earning undertakings and so have a positive effect on their empowerment.</td>
<td>(Wanjku &amp; Njru, 2016)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>Interview schedule</td>
<td></td>
<td>(Sugunamma, 2017)</td>
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<td>Study (Year)</td>
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<td>Methodology</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Li et al., 2011)</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>Data were collected from women respondents by using Rural Household Survey in China.</td>
<td>Microfinance has a significant impact on five indicators of women empowerment which includes control over financial assets, mobility, purchase making ability, involvement in decision making and legal awareness.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Al-Mamun et al., 2014)</td>
<td>Peninsular Malaysia</td>
<td>Cross-sectional data design was utilized by using stratified random sampling technique to collect the sample from women respondents.</td>
<td>Participation in microcredit program generated a positive and significant impact on women empowerment and microcredit remains an influential instrument in promoting women empowerment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Sultana &amp; Hasan, 2010)</td>
<td>Ghazipur Bangladesh</td>
<td>Sample of 90 women respondents were collected by</td>
<td>There exists a significant difference between BRAC and non-BRAC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Study Source</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Sample Size</td>
<td>Methodology</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Aruna and Jyothirmayi, 2011)</td>
<td>Hyderabad</td>
<td>Sample of 300 female respondents</td>
<td>Simple random sampling technique from two equal groups - those who availed loan from SHG and those who did not avail any loan from SHG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Jain &amp; Jain, 2012)</td>
<td>Udaipur, Rajasthan</td>
<td>Sample of 100 women respondents</td>
<td>Pre tested and well-structured questionnaire in Udaipur district of Rajasthan</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Malathi and Cuddalore)</td>
<td>Cuddalore</td>
<td>Sample of 100</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Reference</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Sample Description</td>
<td>Findings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vijayarani, 2012)</td>
<td>Tamilnadu</td>
<td>women respondents from two different blocks of Cuddalore district were selected by adopting Simple random sampling technique.</td>
<td>significant impact on the sustained growth of women empowerment in rural areas of Cuddalore district.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(G. Modi et al., 2014)</td>
<td>Gujarat</td>
<td>Sample of 205 respondents were collected through structured questionnaire by adopting the non-probability convenience sampling technique.</td>
<td>Study revealed that out of five factors, four factors i.e. socio economic upgradation, autonomy for life choices, women position for family and society and positive approach towards child development had a significant impact on rural women empowerment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Suri &amp; kour, 2016)</td>
<td>Bishnah Jammu</td>
<td>Sample of 50 women respondents were collected from different SHGs at Bishnah block of Jammu by using Simple random sampling technique.</td>
<td>After linking with SHGs earnings of the women have been increased and good practice of women SHGs in the study area is the timely repayment of loan by them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Alam &amp; Nizamuddin, 2012)</td>
<td>Mewat Haryana</td>
<td>Multistage random sampling technique has been adopted to</td>
<td>Women get empowered economically and socially after joining</td>
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</table>
collect the sample of women beneficiaries associated with SHGs. SHGs as these SHGs are responsible for empowering women by way of promoting self-reliance, self-confidence and self-dependence.

Source: Author’s own calculation.

3. Information source and Methodology

This study depends on the current writings on microfinance and women empowerment to find out the extent of the impact of microfinance on women empowerment. Materials accessed for the research were acquired from various databases, some of which are opened to the general public and others are of limited access domains. The databases utilized involve the JSTOR, Emerald, Elsevier science, SAGE journals online, Taylor and Francis, Google Scholar, Scihub and Annual Reviews. Different combinations of keywords were utilized in searching the databases. The first search was done entering the word “microfinance”. Further searches were made by using the other keywords and terms like women empowerment, women’s autonomy, dimensions of women empowerment, socio economic indicators of women empowerment, issues and challenges of women empowerment etc. At last a search was made with the combined keywords of both microfinance and women empowerment. The consequences of all these searches subsume the papers published in international peer reviewed journals and online proceedings of international conferences were also used. Significant and relevant articles from all these sources were aggregated and meta-analyzed and findings interpreted with supporting empirical sources.

4. Conclusion

This study analyzed the literature on Role of Microfinance on Women Empowerment. Both theoretical as well as empirical evidence suggest that microfinance has a positive impact on women empowerment. Microfinance through SHG’s is considered as a productive instrument to meet the essential needs of lower strata of society especially women who otherwise depend on informal means of finance at excessive rates of interest. Microfinance assures access to financial services of small amounts is significant scheme to empower women. It has been seen that many studies examined various factors which influence women empowerment
The results of these studies demonstrate that microcredit has a great influence upon various indicators of women empowerment and aggregate women empowerment. Microfinance helps its beneficiaries to strengthen their economic positions and when they are involved in economic activities their influence at household level will be weighted. Thus, women’s access to microfinance facilities have a positive impact on their income generating activities and then ultimately on empowerment. The study is confined by the utilization of secondary sources of information. Therefore future research may utilize both primary as well as secondary sources of data. From the literature review it is also discovered that there is scarcity of data on how to actually measure the women empowerment. Therefore, future research should focus on comprehensive multidimensional approach of women empowerment.

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Empirical Study In Chittoor Rural Shg’s In A . P . sponsored credit linked poverty alleviation programmes with.


