

## **An Empirical Study on the Performance of Self Help Groups in the Socio-Economic Development of Backward Class Women in Marathwada Region**

**Mr. Shiradhonkar Ravikumar Ganpatrao**  
Research Scholar

**Prof. Dr. Ranjeet Vijaysingh Tehra**  
Professor, School of Commerce  
& Management Sciences, S.R.T.M.  
University, Nanded.

### **1) Introduction**

The diversity of Indians in terms of religion, language, race, clan, sect and material culture, etc., is a subject of special interest in the study of sociologists and anthropologists. Biologists claim that humans were created on earth about one million years ago. Since then, many human groups have lived in different parts of the world. While using the resources of nature to meet various needs, humans have also created various objects and tools using their own intelligence.

Today's society seems to be physically advanced and is found to be large in size. There are such small and large human groups in India too. Among them, primitive tribes or backward tribes are one. Backward tribes are found in almost all parts of the world. They may be known with different names in different countries. For example, in America they are called 'Red Indians', in Australia they are 'Aborigines', in European countries they are known as 'Gypsies', and in African and Asian countries they are known as 'Backward Classes'. India ranks second in the world after Africa in terms of backward class population. The people of Indian tribes are considered to be the original inhabitants of the Indian peninsula. In India, they are generally called backward classes, that is, natives. However, this group, which constitutes 8.2 percent (2001) of the total population of India, has been classified as 'Scheduled Tribes' according to the Constitution of India. This term is used for the population that is recognized by the President of India under Article 342 of the Constitution of India as Scheduled Tribes. However, according to experts, it is necessary to see who exactly should be called backward classes or primitive tribes. The Indian Constitution has made comprehensive special provisions for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, for their protection and upliftment of backward class women. To some extent, appropriate restrictions have also been placed on certain fundamental rights. In India, 8.83 crore backward classes live in 187 districts of 26 states. This backward class community, which constitutes about 8.2 percent of the total population of the country, was also at the forefront of the Indian

freedom struggle. The tribals spread across the country also staged hundreds of uprisings. They did not like the control of the British over them and the manipulation of the colonial government. They especially found it very objectionable that moneylenders, traders and revenue farmers should interfere in their simple and peaceful lives. Because these middlemen were the British government's handiwork to drag the tribals into the colonial economy and the sphere of exploitation. The characteristic feature of the tribal rebellion was that the backward classes fought with immense bravery and courage, and the government, however, slaughtered them like a merciless butcher. All these unjust wars were a source of resentment among the tribals. Their weapons were primitive like axes and bows and arrows. On the other hand, the British government had an army equipped with modern weapons. Lakhs of backward classes were killed in such unequal battles. Among the many tribal uprisings, the most notable ones are the Kolas from 1820 to 1837, the Santhals in 1885, the Rampas in 1879 and the Mundas between 1895 and 1901. Even after Indian independence, the economy of the backward classes is mainly based on agriculture and forests. The deprivation of tribal lands and forest rights of the backward classes has had a serious impact on the economy of the backward classes.<sup>10</sup> Therefore, it can be seen that the backward class community is largely languishing in the abyss of poverty. In reality, the main reason for the backwardness of the tribals is their widespread exploitation and illiteracy.

### **1.1 Backward Classes in India**

There are differences in many aspects between castes and tribes, such as their distinct origin, independent existence, place of residence, culture, values, profession, high-low sentiments, etc. Caste and tribe are inseparable components of society, and their separate status has been taken into account by sociologists, anthropologists, the Indian Constitution and the law. The difference between caste and tribe can be explained as follows.

- (1) The caste institution is an integral part of the Hindu social system. There is a direct and indirect relationship between the Varnashrama, Purusharth Chatushtay caste in Hindu society. Since their lifestyle is their religion, they are not part of any religion. Every tribe is socially homogeneous.
- (2) The basis of the caste institution is birth. Caste is determined by birth. The caste in which a person is born is permanently assigned to him, but there is no such shape of the tribe, the land in which the tribe lives and roams is the base of the tribe, and the group of people related

by blood is the base of the tribe. People born from the same ancestor are the backward class tribe.

(3) The hierarchy of the caste system means that there is a hierarchy of status one below the other. There is a feeling of superior inferiority among the castes, there are sub-castes and sub-castes of the castes. There is no such hierarchy or hierarchy in the backward class tribe. There is no discrimination, no feeling of seniority or juniority. In any village in India, twelve Balutedars or more than one caste live in the village at the same time, but there are tribal villages, settlements or padas, and most often only one tribe lives there.

## **2) AREA OF PROBLEM OF THE STUDY**

1. How status of a backward class woman is different from that of a non-backward class woman ?
2. The rights of marriage, divorce, employment and property rights, etc. is considered here.

## **3) NEED OF RESEARCH**

After India's independence, the era of economic planning began and during this period of five-year plans, the upliftment of backward class women of the backward class society became important. In this regard, the central and state governments planned various schemes. It was important to implement these schemes and for this, it was necessary to set up an active mechanism. The government has made significant efforts in this regard. It is therefore necessary to study how the various schemes implemented or being implemented by the government have been effective. In this regard, some questions arising in accordance with the present study are presented here.

1. Has the government schemes for the welfare of the backward classes succeeded in improving the lifestyle of the tribals?
2. Has the backward class community become culturally integrated with the mainstream?
3. Have any efforts been made through these schemes to increase the contact between the backward class society and the established civil society?
4. Has the educational progress of the backward class society improved?
5. What is the literacy rate of the backward class society?
6. Has the situation of infant mortality and malnutrition in the backward class society improved?
7. Has there been any improvement in the superstitions in the backward class society?

It is necessary to find answers to these and many other questions. The results of various welfare schemes implemented for the backward class society are hidden in the

answers to these questions. In such a situation, the researcher has tried to get answers to these questions from the respondents of the backward class society. The views of government officials have also been taken into consideration in this regard.

#### **4) STATEMENT & SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

Social problems are found in all societies at all times. Once the existing problems in the society are solved, new problems arise after some time.. The problems in urban society are different. Whereas the problems in backward class societies are different. In this, we are going to study the social problems of backward class societies. Which can help in solving the problems of backward class societies. The problems of backward class societies are more complex than any other society. The problems of backward class societies are social, cultural, economic. Generally, some problems of backward class societies are created due to their traditional way of life. All backward classes in India face problems like poverty, health, indebtedness, exploitation, illiteracy, etc. A study of such various problems in backward class society can be shown as follows.

1. Health problems
2. Malnutrition problems
3. Drinking water problems
4. Unsanitary living conditions
5. Bad habits
6. Lack of medical facilities

Such various problems create obstacles in the upliftment of backward class women of backward class society. As a result, backward class society remains away from the mainstream. Due to backward class society remaining away from the mainstream, Naxalite movements get fodder. The government has planned many schemes for this and they are also implemented. It is necessary to check the effectiveness of all these schemes and study the problems related to them.

#### **5) OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The objectives of the present study are as follows –

- 1) To Study the profile of Marathwada Region particularly with reference to Backward Class women.
- 2) To Study analytically the profile of Self Help Groups of Backward Class women in Marathwada Region.

## **6) HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY**

The Hypothesis can be as follows –

- 1) There is no significant difference between the opinions of sample groups of backward class women from urban and nonurban areas of Marathwada region regarding impact of SHG on Type of House.
- 2) There is no significant difference between the opinions of sample groups of backward class women from urban and nonurban areas of Marathwada region regarding impact of SHG on Toilet Facility.

## **7) RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This research is a historical research of analytic type. It is based upon field survey. The researcher has used primary as well as secondary data for this research.

### **DATA COLLECTION**

The data is collected from primary and secondary data.

#### **PRIMARY DATA:**

The study is mainly based on primary data collected from backward class women's of Marathwada through personal interviews & questionnaire. The questionnaire contains demographic characteristics such as age, education, address, etc. along with some open ended and some close ended type of questions.

#### **SECONDARY DATA:**

The relevant secondary data includes information such as articles published in various International/National journals, Annual Progress Reports, leaflets, contents of official website, along with other websites. Also references are taken from similar previous studies by different scholars.

### **SAMPLE DESIGN**

There are 8 districts in Marathwada region. The researcher has selected 200 backward class women beneficiaries from Urban and 200 from nonurban areas in each district. Thus the sample consist of 1600 urban beneficiaries and 1600 non- urban beneficiaries. Total 3200 backward class women beneficiaries. The researcher has adopted a method of Random Sampling by convenience method for selection of sample.

## **8) LIMITATION OF THE STUDY**

The limitations of the study are as follows –

1. The study is geographically limited to 8 districts of Marathwada region of Maharashtra state.
2. The study is also limited to the impact of SHGs on backward class women of Marathwada region.

## **9) DATA ANALYSIS**

### **Impact on Household Conditions**

The main objective of SHG formation is to provide helping hand to the members for improvement and betterment in their life conditions. It is expected that the household conditions may be improved with the help of SHG. Household conditions includes –

- Type of House
- Toilet Facility

The opinions of Urban and Non-Urban groups backward class women regarding the impact of SHG on household conditions are analyzed in this section

### **Impact on House**

Type of house may differ according to the family income. If income is good the type of house may be develop. The researcher has in this study analyzed the opinions sample backward class women from urban and nonurban areas of Marathwada region regarding the impact of SHG on type of house. The results are shown in the following table.

**Table 1.**

Impact of SHG on type of House

Sr. No.	Responses	Urban	%	Non- Urban	%	Total
1	High	385	24.06	395	24.69	780
2	Good	690	43.13	686	42.88	1376
3	Moderate	318	19.88	337	21.06	655
4	No Impact	105	6.56	114	7.13	219
5	Indifferent	102	6.38	68	4.25	170
<b>Total</b>		<b>1600</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1600</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3200</b>

Primary source- Questionnaire

It can be seen from the above table that out of the total 1600 backward class women from urban areas of Marathwada region 385 (24.06%) have opined that the impact of SHG on type of house is 'High', whereas 690 (43.13%) have expressed that the impact of SHG on

type of house is 'Good', whereas that of 318 (19.88%) have responded that the impact of SHG on type of house is 'Moderate' and 105 (6.56%) are of the opinion that there is no impact of SHG on their type of house. As such 102 (6.38%) have remained indifferent in this regard. It can be observed from the above table that out of the total 1600 backward class women from non-urban areas of Marathwada region 395 (24.69%) have opined that the impact of SHG on type of house is 'High', whereas 686 (42.88%) have expressed that the impact of SHG on type of house is 'Good', whereas that of 337 (21.06%) have responded that the impact of SHG on type of house is 'Moderate' and 114 (7.13%) are of the opinion that there is no impact of SHG on their type of house. As such 68 (4.25%) have remained indifferent in this regard. It can be noted from the above that, out of the total 1600 backward class women from urban areas of Marathwada region the highest i.e. 43.13% have opined that have opined that the impact of SHG on type of house is 'Good', whereas , out of the total 1600 backward class women from non-urban areas of Marathwada region the highest i.e. 43.13% have opined that have opined that the impact of SHG on type of house is also 'Good'

### Chi-Square Test

The researcher has applied Chi-Square Test to check whether there is any significant difference between the opinions of sample groups of backward class women from urban and non-urban areas of Marathwada region regarding impact of SHG on Type of House. The calculations are shown in the following table.

Table 2

Calculation of Chi-Square Test

Sr. No	O	E	O-E	(O-E) <sup>2</sup>	$\chi^2$ VALUE
1	385	390	-5	25	0.06
2	690	688	2	4	0.01
3	318	327.50	-9.50	90.25	0.28
4	105	109.50	-4.50	20.25	0.18
5	102	85	17	289	3.40
6	395	390	5	25	0.06
7	686	688	-2	4	0.01

8	337	327.50	9.50	90.25	0.28
9	114	109.50	4.50	20.25	0.18
10	68	85	-17	289	3.40
					<b>7.86</b>

Table Value : **7.86**, Degree of Freedom – 4, Level of Significance 0.05% Critical Value – **9.488** On the basis of above calculation of Chi-Square value the hypothesis are stated as follows –

**Null Hypothesis (H<sub>0</sub>)** : There is no significant difference between the opinions of sample groups of backward class women from urban and nonurban areas of Marathwada region regarding impact of SHG on Type of House.

**Alternative Hypothesis (H<sub>1</sub>)** : There is significant difference between the opinions of sample groups of backward class women from urban and non-urban areas of Marathwada region regarding impact of SHG on Type of House. As it is observed from the Chi-Square calculation that the calculated value of Chi-square at 0.05% level of significance and 4 degree of freedom is **7.86** and the Table Value is 9.488. As the calculated value of Chi-square is less than the table value (**7.86 < 9.488**). Therefore the Null hypothesis is accepted and alternative hypothesis is rejected.

It is concluded that, there is no significant difference between the opinions of sample groups of backward class women from urban and nonurban areas of Marathwada region regarding impact of SHG on Type of House.

### Impact on Toilet Facility

Toilet Facility may differ according to the family income. If income is good the Toilet Facility may be develop. The researcher has in this study analyzed the opinions sample backward class women from urban and nonurban areas of Marathwada region. The results are shown in the following table.

Table 3.

Impact of SHG on Toilet Facility

Sr. No.	Responses	Urban	%	Non- Urban	%	Total
---------	-----------	-------	---	------------	---	-------



1	High	260	16.25	240	15	500
2	Good	392	24.50	368	23	760
3	Moderate	632	39.50	618	38.63	1250
4	No Impact	137	8.56	140	8.75	277
5	Indifferent	179	11.19	234	14.63	413
<b>Total</b>		<b>1600</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1600</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3200</b>

#### Primary source- Questionnaire

It can be seen from the above table that out of the total 1600 backward class women from urban areas of Marathwada region 260 (16.25%) have opined that the impact of SHG on Toilet Facility is 'High', whereas 392 (24.50%) have expressed that the impact of SHG on Toilet Facility is 'Good', whereas that of 632 (39.50%) have responded that the impact of SHG on Toilet Facility is 'Moderate' and 137 (8.56%) are of the opinion that there is no impact of SHG on their Toilet Facility. As such 179 (11.19%) have remained indifferent in this regard. It can be observed from the above table that out of the total 1600 backward class women from non-urban areas of Marathwada region 240 (15%) have opined that the impact of SHG on Toilet Facility is 'High', whereas 368 (23%) have expressed that the impact of SHG on Toilet Facility is 'Good', whereas that of 618 (38.63%) have responded that the impact of SHG on Toilet Facility is 'Moderate' and 140 (8.75%) are of the opinion that there is no impact of SHG on their Toilet Facility. As such 234 (14.63%) have remained indifferent in this regard. It can be noted from the above that, out of the total 1600 backward class women from urban areas of Marathwada region the highest i.e. 39.50% have opined that have opined that the impact of SHG on Toilet Facility is 'Moderate', whereas, out of the total 1600 backward class women from non-urban areas of Marathwada region the highest i.e. 38.63% have opined that have opined that the impact of SHG on Toilet Facility is also 'Moderate'.

#### Chi-Square Test

The researcher has applied Chi-Square Test to check whether there is any significant difference between the opinions of sample groups of backward class women from urban and non-urban areas of Marathwada region regarding impact of SHG on Toilet Facility. The calculations are shown in the following table.

Table 4

#### Calculation of Chi-Square Test

Sr. No.	O	E	O-E	(O-E) <sup>2</sup>	$\chi^2$ VALUE
1	260	250	10	100	0.40
2	392	380	12	144	0.38
3	632	625	7	49	0.08
4	137	138.50	-1.50	2.25	0.02
5	179	206.50	-27.50	756.25	3.66
6	240	250	-10	100	0.40
7	368	380	-12	144	0.38
8	618	625	-7	49	0.08
9	140	138.50	1.50	2.25	0.02
10	234	206.50	27.50	756.25	3.66
					<b>9.07</b>

Table Value : **9.07**, Degree of Freedom – 4, Level of Significance 0.05% Critical Value – **9.488** On the basis of above calculation of Chi-Square value the hypothesis are stated as follows –

**Null Hypothesis (H<sub>0</sub>) :** There is no significant difference between the opinions of sample groups of backward class women from urban and nonurban areas of Marathwada region regarding impact of SHG on Toilet Facility.

**Alternative Hypothesis (H<sub>1</sub>) :** There is significant difference between the opinions of sample groups of backward class women from urban and non-urban areas of Marathwada region regarding impact of SHG on Toilet Facility. As it is observed from the Chi-Square calculation that the calculated value of Chi-square at 0.05% level of significance and 4 degree of freedom is **9.07** and the Table Value is 9.488. As the calculated value of Chi-square is less than the table value (**9.07 < 9.488**). Therefore the Null hypothesis is accepted and alternative hypothesis is rejected. It is concluded that, there is no significant difference between the opinions of sample groups of backward class women from urban and nonurban areas of Marathwada region regarding impact of SHG on Toilet Facility.

## **10) CONCLUSIONS**

The conclusions of the present research are presented here –

1. It can be noted from the above that, out of the total 1600 backward class women from urban areas of Marathwada region the highest i.e. 43.13% have opined that have opined that the impact of SHG on type of house is 'Good', whereas , out of the total 1600 backward class women from non-urban areas of Marathwada region the highest i.e. 43.13% have opined that have opined that the impact of SHG on type of house is also 'Good'.
2. It is concluded that, there is no significant difference between the opinions of sample groups of backward class women from urban and non-urban areas of Marathwada region regarding impact of SHG on Type of House.
3. It can be noted from the above that, out of the total 1600 backward class women from urban areas of Marathwada region the highest i.e. 40% have opined that have opined that the impact of SHG on Carpet Area of House is 'Good', whereas , out of the total 1600 backward class women from non-urban areas of Marathwada region the highest i.e. 39.50% have opined that have opined that the impact of SHG on Carpet Area of House is also 'Good'.
4. It is concluded that, there is no significant difference between the opinions of sample groups of backward class women from urban and non-urban areas of Marathwada region regarding impact of SHG on Carpet Area of House.
5. It can be noted from the above that, out of the total 1600 backward class women from urban areas of Marathwada region the highest i.e. 39.50% have opined that have opined that the impact of SHG on Toilet Facility is 'Moderate', whereas, out of the total 1600 backward class women from non-urban areas of Marathwada region the highest i.e. 38.63% have opined that have opined that the impact of SHG on Toilet Facility is also 'Moderate'.
6. It is concluded that, there is no significant difference between the opinions of sample groups of backward class women from urban and non-urban areas of Marathwada region regarding impact of SHG on Toilet Facility.

#### **10) RECOMMENDATIONS**

The various recommendations of the study are as follows –

1. It is recommended that government should take special efforts to reform the social structure itself which is responsible for the backwardness of women of downtrodden classes in the areas like Marathwada region.
2. It is recommended that, there is a need to focus on the reformation of the patriarchal family setup that keeps backward class women out of the main flow of the social process.

3. It is necessary to change the socio-religious views about women particularly of the backward classes and superstitions regarding women so as to enable their participation in economic development.

4. It is recommended that, promotion of literacy and schooling at rural levels of Marathwada is necessary with a view to improve the status of backward class women in social change.

#### **REFERENCES :**

1. Kokade S.R., (1999) : Political Development of Marathwada : A Perspective, Swami Ramanand Teerth Research Institute, Aurangabad, : pp. 1-37.
2. Dastane Santosh, Maharashtra 2002, Oastane Ramchandra and Company, Pune, 2002, pp. 211-243.
3. Socio-economic Review and Divisional Statistical Abstract, Aurangabad Division, Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Govt. of Maharashtra, Bombay, 1965-66. P.2.
4. Census of India, 1991, Provisional Population Total, Paper I of 1991.
5. Planning for Development of Marathwada, Volume 1, Summery and Recommendations, fata Economic Consultancy Services, Bombay-38, p.2.