CHAPTER II
REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Review of literature is an essential aspect for scientific presentation of any new investigation. A comprehensive review of literature is of paramount importance to any research endeavor. A broad range of reviews provide the base to the finding of the research and aid to choosing appropriate statistical/ econometric techniques which are applied in the research field. In-depth examination of different kinds of literature enables the researcher to appraise, encapsulate, compare & contrast, and correlate various studies that are directly related to the current research. In this line, accentuate is supposed to be made on the reliability of earlier findings as well as theoretical and methodological contributions to a particular topic and help to resolve the conflicts among seemingly paradoxical previous studies.

In a composing review of the literature, it is noteworthy that it does not account new or original experimental but rather a supportive argument for justifying and endorsing the research outcome. Therefore, present reviews of literature are compiled in a way to provide the general idea, conceptual framework and different approaches that would be considered depending upon kind of objectives underpinning the study. As the literature having a direct bearing on different aspects of the present study is limited, the references having little or indirect bearings are also reviewed. By and large, related frameworks of review of literature concerned with the objectives are mentioned here.

2.1 To study the selected characteristics of the respondents
2.2 To develop and standardize the test to measure the knowledge of women members about SHGs & its activities
2.3 To develop and standardize the scale to measure the attitude of women members towards SHGs & their activities
2.4 To analyze the decision making abilities of the SHG members in relation to entrepreneurial activities
2.5 To study on the working models of SHG bank linkage programme
2.6 To analyze the role of SHGs in poverty reduction
2.7 To determine the income generating activities of SHGs

2.8 To find out the association between selected characteristics of women and their attitude toward SHGs & its activities

2.9 To elicit the constraints faced by the SHG members & suggestions offered by them to strengthen the activities of SHGs

2.1 SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESPONDENTS

2.1.1 Personal Characteristics

2.1.1.1 Age

Gangaiah et. al. (2006) reported that 67.30 per cent of the women members belonged to the age group 26-40 years and 11.90 per cent of them to the age group up to 25 years. Whereas, 20.80 per cent of the beneficiaries belong to above 40 years of age.

Soni (2009) stated that majority (65.00 per cent) of the tribal women had middle age group.

Amutha (2011) found that the SHG members (68.10 per cent) mainly fall under the age group of 41-50 followed by the 16.40 per cent and 15.50 per cent of the respondents were belonged to the age group of 31-40 and 51-60, respectively. This indication would be relevant to the study because most of the earning members in family would be in the age group of 41-50.

Naik et. al. (2012) concluded that slightly more than half (54.16 per cent) of the members belonged to middle age group and 39.17 per cent of the members belonged to the young age group and only 6.67 per cent members were in old age group.

Devalatha et. al. (2013) revealed that majority of the respondents (71.67 per cent) were young aged, while 25.00 per cent of them aged were middle and remaining belonged to old age category 3.33 per cent.

Shelke et. al. (2013) indicated that the age profile of respondents showed that slightly more than half (55.84 per cent) of respondents were from middle age group.

Bariya (2016) reported that slightly less than three-fourth of the SHG members (70.00 per cent) belonged to middle age group followed by 24.44 per cent
belonged to young age group and only 5.56 per cent of them belonged to old age group.

Devi and Narasaiah (2017) found that slightly more than two fifth (42.66 per cent) of the respondents were belonged to middle age group.

2.1.1.2 Education

Sekhon and Dhillon (2008) founded that majority of the respondents were illiterate with about 24.00 per cent educated up to primary.

Soni (2009) reported that majority of the tribal women were illiterate.

Chandravadia (2009) revealed that majority (52.00 per cent) of the self help groups women had primary level education followed by 26.00 per cent had secondary level education and 22.00 per cent had higher level education. It is interesting point to note that not a single self help group woman was illiterate.

Bhatt (2010) studied that less than half (44.40 per cent) of the respondents were educated up to functionally literate level followed by 27.10 per cent and 18.89 per cent were having primary level and middle level of education, respectively. Only 7.60 and 2.01 per cent of the respondents had high school level and collage level of education, respectively.

Geethanjali and Prabhakar (2013) observed that less than half of the SHG members (45.00 per cent) studied below 10th standard followed by 30.00 per cent had illiterate, 17.50 per cent studied up to 10th class and only 7.50 per cent had better educational qualification.

2.1.1.3 Type of family

Devalatha et. al. (2013) reported that majority of the SHG members (65.83 per cent) belonged to nuclear family and the rest (34.17 per cent) of them belonged to joint family category.

Shelke et. al. (2013) found that majority of (60.83 per cent) respondents belonged to nuclear type of family. Whereas, 39.17 per cent had joint type of family.

Parmar (2014) concluded that majority of the SHG members (58.34 per cent) belonged to middle family followed by (25.00 per cent) and (16.66 per cent) belonged to nuclear and joint family, respectively.
Pal (2014) found that among all the SHG members (66.00 per cent) belonged to nuclear type family and 34.00 per cent of the SHG members belonged to joint family.

Bariya (2016) depicted that more than half (57.78 per cent) of the self help group women belonged to nuclear family, while 42.22 per cent belonged to joint family.

2.1.4 Size of family

Bhardwaj and Gebrehiwot (2012) reported that the average family size of SHG members for SGSY, NABARD model II and III was 10.2, 6.96 and 7.72, respectively. The family composition showed that adults constituted 62.20 per cent of sample, out of which male accounted for larger proportion across all the models. Children constituted 37.70 per cent of the sample having larger proportion of female children across all the models. Among the three models, SGSY had the largest average family size adult equivalent of 7.30 persons followed by NABARD model III 5.40 persons and model II 5.20 persons.

Devalatha et. al. (2013) concluded that 63.33 per cent of the SHG members belonged to medium size family, followed by 28.85 per cent of them belonged to large size family and remaining 7.82 per cent were found to have small family size.

Bariya (2016) revealed that slightly less than half (45.56 per cent) of the self help group women were from small size of family, whereas more than two-fifth (42.22 per cent) and 12.22 per cent of the self help group women belonged to medium and large size of family, respectively.

2.1.2 Socio-Economic Characteristics

2.1.2.1 Size of land holding

Joseph and Easwaran (2006) founded that 33.33 per cent of the members had land holding of medium size (5-10 acres) following 28.21 per cent of members each with small (2.5-5) acres and marginal (1-2.5 acres) land holding. The mean size of holding was found to be 5.67 acres.

Chandravadia (2009) stated that 44.50 per cent and 30.00 per cent of the Self Help Group women were belonged to marginal and small land holding, respectively.
The Self Help Group women with medium and large size of land holding were 22.50 per cent and 3.00 per cent, respectively.

Soni (2009) found that maximum of the tribal women (45.00 per cent) had small and 20.00 per cent had marginal land holding.

Bariya (2016) inferred that equal numbers of the SHG members (27.78 per cent) were having a landless and small land holding followed by 26.67 per cent and 16.67 per cent were having a medium and marginal size of land holding, respectively. Only 1.10 per cent SHG members belonged to big size of land holding.

### 2.1.2.2 Annual income

Chandravadia (2009) revealed that 44.00 per cent of the Self Help Group women had low annual income followed by 41.00 per cent and 15.00 per cent with medium and high annual income, respectively. It can be concluded that majority of Self Help Group women had low to medium income.

Soni (2009) found that majority of the tribal women (67.00 per cent) had low annual income.

Bhatt (2010) studied that majority (79.62 per cent) of the respondents had the annual income up to ₹ 50,000/ while 18.10 per cent and 2.08 per cent of the respondents belonged to the income group of ₹ 50,001/ to 1,00,001/ and ₹ 1,00,001/ to 1,50,000/, respectively.

Bariya (2016) reported that slightly more than two-fifth (42.22 per cent) of the SHG members had annual income between ₹ 1.5 to 2.0 lakhs, followed by 32.22 per cent, 10.00 per cent, 8.89 per cent and 6.67 per cent of them had income above ₹ 2.0 lakhs, up to ₹ 0.50 lakhs, ₹ 1.0 to 1.5 lakhs and ₹ 0.50 to 1.0 lakhs, respectively.

### 2.1.2.3 Extension participation

Purushotham (2004) conducted a study in different parts of the country and reported that some of the SHG members involved in micro-enterprises and non-farm activities have to often visit the local markets which in most of the cases are located in block/rural towns. In every block, Block Mahila Samakya office is made available to the visiting SHG members for overnight stay.
Bevenahalli (2005) reported that cent per cent of respondents had attended the extension programmes such as training, group meeting, exhibition and exposure trip under Swa-shakti Yojana, also they regularly participated in group meetings.

Bharthi (2005) stated that 39.20 per cent of the respondents had low level extension participation followed by 36.60 per cent of women who belonged to high extension participation category. Medium level of extension participation was observed only in 24.20 per cent of the respondents.

Sowjanya (2007) observed that majority of the members (72.32 per cent) regularly attended training followed by field day (50.89 per cent), demonstration (47.32 per cent). Nearly one fourth (24.11 per cent) of members participated in educational tour, more than one third of members participated in krishimela (30.36 per cent), filed visit (15.17 per cent), group discussion (8.93 per cent) and extension meeting (3.57 per cent) and equal per cent of respondents occasionally participated in training and field day (25.89 per cent) each.

Devalatha et. al. (2013) observed that the extension participation of the respondents in various training programmes after joining SHG was doubled (70.83 per cent). Similarity, the participation of respondents in extension meeting (36.67 per cent), field days (54.17 per cent), krishimela (71.67 per cent), demonstration (23.33 per cent) and in educational tour (26.67 per cent). Whereas, frequency of participation was considered, the participation was turned out to be more regular in case of trainings (70.83 per cent) and krishimela (71.67 per cent). However, in case of almost all the extension programmes regular and occasional participation was found to be almost equal.

2.1.2.4 Proactive attitude

Meena et. al. (2008) applied to measure the attitude construct. However, behaviour construct was developed consisted of 30 items, for which cronbach’s alpha coefficient of reliability was observed as 0.80 which indicate proactive attitude.

Parmar (2014) found that majority of the respondent had (35.00 per cent) medium level of proactive attitude followed by high and low level of proactive attitude with 34.20 per cent and 30.80 per cent, respectively.
2.1.2.5. Skill development

Anjugam *et. al.* (2007) suggested that training which was imparted to the members on awareness about education among children, self-confidence, communication and other skill development etc. majority of the self help group and NGOs are involved in skill development program like awareness about education mostly followed by communication, leadership and entrepreneurial programme.

Bhingardive (2014) indicated the information about improvements in the personality of the respondents due to development of various skills. More than 60.00 percent of the respondents feel that they can face the life crisis efficiently and confidently after joining SHGs. Majority of the respondents (56.03 per cent) felt that they have become bold and 48.23 percent responded their personality has been developed. Whereas, 46.10 percent feel that skill development has positive impact on their leadership qualities. Thus, it can be concluded that skill development has elevated the self esteem of SHG members.

Parmar (2014) revealed that majority of the respondents (55 per cent) had medium level of skill development followed by high and low level of skill development with 24.17 per cent and 20.83 per cent, respectively.

2.1.3 Psychological Characteristics

2.1.3.1 Achievement motivation

Sowjanya (2007) founded that nearly three fourth (74.10 per cent) of the respondents belonged to medium achievement motivation followed by high achievement motivation (13.40 per cent) and low achievement motivation (12.50 per cent), respectively.

Biradar (2008) indicated that, 38.33 per cent of the respondents had medium achievement motivation, whereas 35.00 per cent and 26.67 per cent of them had high and low level of achievement motivation, respectively.

Sharma and Verma (2008) revealed that half (50.00 per cent) of the respondents had high achievement motivation followed by medium achievement (46.00 per cent) and low achievement (3.00 per cent) level.
George et. al. (2012a) showed that majority (65.00 per cent) of the members were in medium, 20.00 per cent in high and 15.00 per cent in the low categories of achievement motivation.

Sangeetha et. al. (2013) founded that less than half (48.00 per cent) of the SHG members demonstrated high achievement motivation in their responses, whereas majority (69.00 per cent) of the non-SHG members demonstrated low achievement motivation. It seems from our statistics that participation in an SHG is effective in developing high self-esteem among the members, perhaps reflecting their desire to attain a higher standard of living.

Verma et. al. (2013) revealed that majority of the respondents had medium level of achievement motivation (58.89 per cent) followed by high and low level achievement motivation which was nearly same.

2.1.3.2 Market orientation

Chandravadia (2009) revealed that majority (55.00 per cent) SHG women had medium level of market orientation, followed by 28.00 per cent and 17.00 per cent who had high and low level of market orientation, respectively.

Bariya (2016) pointed out that slightly more than half (52.22 per cent) of the SHG members had medium level of market orientation followed by 47.78 per cent of them had high level of market orientation and not a single respondent was from very low, low or very high level of market orientation.

2.1.3.3 Risk orientation

Sowjanya (2007) founded that nearly three fourth (70.54 per cent) of the respondents had moderate risk orientation followed by low risk orientation (16.96 per cent) and high risk orientation (12.54 per cent), respectively.

Biradar (2008) stated that majority (54.17 per cent) of the respondents had medium risk bearing ability, whereas, 28.33 per cent and 17.50 per cent of the respondents had high and low level of risk bearing ability, respectively.

Sharma and Verma (2008) revealed that majority (65.00 per cent) of the respondents had medium risk orientation followed by low (31.00 per cent) and high risk orientation (4.00 per cent), respectively.
George *et. al.* (2012a) showed that maximum (43.00 per cent) of the respondents had medium level of risk orientation. Whereas, 37.00 per cent and 20.00 per cent had low and high level of risk orientation.

Bariya (2016) found that about one-third (65.56 per cent) of the SHG members were from medium level of risk orientation followed by 18.89 per cent, 8.89 per cent and 6.67 per cent were from low, high and very high level of risk orientation, respectively.

### 2.1.3.4 Innovativeness

Devalatha *et. al.* (2013) indicated that majority of respondents (71.67 per cent) belonged to medium innovativeness, whereas 18.33 per cent and 10.00 per cent of them belonged to high and low level of innovativeness category, respectively.

Verma *et. al.* (2013) founded that more than half (51.11 per cent) of the respondents had medium level of innovativeness followed by low level (25.56 per cent) and high level of innovativeness (23.33 per cent), respectively.

Bariya (2016) disclosed that slightly more than three-fourth (76.67 per cent) of the SHG members belonged to medium level of innovativeness and 23.33 per cent of them were from high level of innovativeness group. None of the respondents belonged to the categories of very low, low and very high level of innovativeness group.

### 2.1.4. Communicational Characteristics

#### 2.1.4.1 Source of information

Devalatha (2005) stated that family member and friends/relatives were most often consulted as a source of information by 37.50 per cent and 27.50 per cent of the respondents. Whereas, SHG members and friends/relatives were often consulted by 62.50 per cent and 57.50 per cent of respondents, respectively. Television, agricultural officers, bank officers and village level workers were consulted sometimes by 45.83 per cent, 38.30 per cent, 32.50 per cent and 30.83 per cent of the respondents, respectively.

Sharma and Das (2012) revealed that majority (42.80 per cent) of the rural people got information from their friends followed by neighbours (32.80 per cent), Self Help Promoting Institute (SHPI) (12.80 per cent) and NGOs (11.60 per cent).
Bariya (2016) found that majority (62.22 per cent) of the rural women were from medium source of information followed by 31.11 per cent had low source of information, only 6.67 per cent were high source of information and no one respondent was from the very low and very high categories.

### 2.2 KNOWLEDGE LEVEL OF WOMEN MEMBERS ABOUT SHGs & ITS ACTIVITIES

Narmatha et al. (2011) revealed that in breeding domain, the knowledge level of SHG women before training was low in right time of insemination during oestrus (16.85 per cent) followed by interval of oestrus cycle (17.66 per cent), reasons for repeat breeding (23.91 per cent), correct time of insemination after calving (29.35 per cent) and right month for testing pregnancy (48.09 per cent).

Shivashankar and Khedgi (2011) found that the overall knowledge level of SHG members before training was 48.00 per cent and the overall knowledge level after training was 56.00 per cent of medium knowledge category. Knowledge level on individual practices such as animal husbandry, goats and sheep rearing before training program was more than 50.00 per cent. Further, after training it was 67.00 per cent.

Biswa et al. (2012) reported that the overall knowledge gain of SHG farmers in Improved Animal Husbandry Practices (IAHP) is quite better (5.29±0.17) than that of non-SHG farmers due to their efficient training orientation, raised literacy level, market orientation and farm power etc.

Gajbhiye (2012) showed that SHGs respondents had (47.00 per cent) awareness about the legal rights relating to women and children as compared to Non SHGs respondents. Most of the SHGs women’s have knowledge about women’s inherit paternal property equal to sons, widows divorced but the source of this information was largely from outside the SHGs. On an average, only 12.00 percent of the knowledge came through the SHGs system.

Biswa et al. (2013) revealed that the knowledge score of SHG farmers in animal husbandry 40.10 ± 0.9 was lower P ≤ 0.05 than the knowledge score 42.63 ± 0.6 of Non SHG farmers. However, the application of knowledge in animal husbandry in dairy farming, as reflected from the adoption index was significantly P ≤ 0.05 higher in SHG farmers 5.29 ± 0.17 than in Non SHG farmers 4.88 ± 0.14.
Acharya (2014) found that most of the respondents (92.00 per cent) were having poor knowledge level on health and nutrition before joining the SHG, which was not remarkably changed after joining SHG (86.33 per cent). So, the study areas of Gajapati have more percentage of malnourished women indicating chronic nutritional deficiency.

Kavithaa et. al. (2014) reported that more than three-fourth of the respondents (75.33 per cent) had medium knowledge of goat farming, whereas 16 per cent of them were in the high category and 8.67 per cent respondents were in category of low knowledge about goat farming.

Nizamuddin and Alam (2014) showed that a great majority (82.00 per cent) SHGs respondents had political knowledge on different government scheme it has improved after joining SHGs, whereas 18.00 per cent ignored that they had not improved their political knowledge regarding various government schemes in the study area as well as district level.

Rahman and Gupta (2015) stated that members knowledge and adoption level of Improved Dairy Farming Practices (IDFPs) were found to be medium, while non-members were in low knowledge and adoption category.

2.3 ATTITUDE OF WOMEN MEMBERS TOWARDS SHGs & THEIR ACTIVITIES

Meena et. al. (2008) found that training led to a significant change in the attitude of the participants towards the statement and SHGs formation, which could be a way to eradicate the poverty, unemployment and associated with the change in the mean value of their responses from 3.43 to 3.90. Participants showed an enhancement in positive thinking implying that training helped in developing positive attitude for employing new techniques.

Patel (2011) found that majority (72.00 per cent) of the respondents had neutral attitude towards Integrated Tribal Development Project, whereas 17.50 per cent had favourable attitude and 10.50 per cent of the respondents had unfavourable attitude towards Integrated Tribal Development Project.
George *et al.* (2012b) found that just more than half of the SHG members held a favourable attitude towards Panchayati Raj. Whereas, more than half of the non-SHG members were holding an unfavorable attitude.

Meena and Singh (2013) observed that there is significant positive improvement in attitude of SHG members in before and after situations. It can be revealed that overall change in various sub-categories of the attitude scale was as banking/credit, technology adoption and participatory research, marketing and entrepreneurship qualities, socio-economic upliftment, education and training. The highest changes were experienced on banking/credit aspect. Since the farmers generally do not have interaction with the bank officials. But, as soon as they joined a particular group or SHG, credit is one of the integral aspects where SHGs are linked up with the financial institution for fulfilling the credit needs. Banking is prerequisite for any economic venture for smooth functioning and stabilization of group activities. While the observed change was lowest in educational and training related aspects. Other sub-groups, *i.e.* socio-economic upliftment, marketing and entrepreneurship qualities and technology adoption and participatory research were observed much similar response.

Sangeetha *et al.* (2013) indicated that 73.00 per cent of the SHG members had favourably and 76.00 per cent of non-SHG members had a neutral attitude. The non-SHG members may have been unaware of the benefits of SHGs, hence they had neutral attitude.

Ezeh and Ezeh (2016) revealed that the respondents had expressed a generally positive attitude towards the formation and benefits of SHGs in the study area. This is affirmed by the fact that he aggregate scores were reasonably high and above average for all the items considered ranging from 607 to 719 out of total of 880 points. Similarly, the mean scores ranged from 3.45 to 4.08, all above the mean factors 3. Noteworthy is the fact that item 9 with the highest aggregate and mean scores 719 and 4.08, respectively.

Bariya (2016) revealed that nearly three-fifth (58.89 per cent) of the SHG members had high level of attitude towards SHGs followed by 32.22 per cent and 8.89 per cent with very high and medium level of attitude, respectively and no one was from the low and very low level categories. Whereas, in case of Non SHG
respondents 75.56 per cent were from medium level of attitude followed by 24.44 per cent with low level of category. No respondents were found under the category of very low, high and very high category.

2.4 DECISION MAKING ABILITIES OF THE SHG MEMBERS IN RELATION TO ENTREPRENEURAL ACTIVITIES

Vijayanthi (2002) revealed that decision making of SHG women was maximum (1.23 in factor 1) in the freedom to take decisions in matters related to the education of children followed by decisions relating to family needs was 1.22. Decision making by both husband and wife in personal matters, such as voting for a particular party, attending family functions and involvement in religious activities was 1.18.

Chitagubbi et al. (2011) found that participation in group activities is helpful in developing the sense of responsibility and the insight into entrepreneurship. The great majority of the SHG members (95.50 per cent) had the membership enabled them to take important decisions in their families. However, few (4.50 per cent) were still deprived of it.

Mohanty et al. (2013) stated that the range of economic activities led by the micro enterprises helped the rural Odisha women to earn income of their own. The economic decision-making has been enhanced with mobilization of women in organized collectives as SHGs and their participation in micro enterprises. Capacity building of women in terms of saving some income and spent on their personal items without any hesitation is also encouraging.

Rosita (2014) revealed that out of 300 respondents, 22 respondents had a low level and 247 had a medium level and a remaining of 31 respondents had a high level of decision making empowerment.

Pal (2015) found that women were engaged in various activities such as farming, livestock rearing and farm labour, there were significant difference between the women members of SF and MF household of both SHGs and Non-SHGs in relation to their decision making in farm activities. The decision making level of SHG women appeared leading edge than non-SHG women indicating the significant impact of self-help groups on rural women decision making process.
Review of Literature

Nandini and Sudha (2015) observed that more than half (53.94 per cent) take their own decision for utilizing the loan amount followed by 15.78 per cent respondents agreed to the decision taken by others for utilizing the loan amount, and the rest 30.26 per cent, respondents take joint decision with others.

Mitra et al. (2017) revealed that the extent of empowerment achieved by rural women through income generating activities for decision-making ability had low (27.62 per cent), medium (39.05 per cent) and high (33.33 per cent).

Devi and Narasaiah (2017) indicated that the women had shown empowered sign in decision making (72.00 per cent), self confidence (92.66 per cent), problem solving (84.00 per cent) and improvement in economic status (90.66 per cent).

2.5 WORKING MODEL OF SHG BANK LINKAGE PROGRAMME

Reddy and Malik (2011) found that in NSSO, out of a total of 89.3 million households, among these 45.9 million farm households in the country (51.4 per cent) do not have access to credit, either from institutional or non-institutional sources. Further, despite the vast network of bank branches, only 27 per cent of total farm households are indebted to formal sources (of which one-third also borrow from informal sources). Farm household’s not accessing credit from formal sources as a proportion to total farm households is especially high at 95.91, 81.26 and 77.59 per cent in the north eastern, eastern and central regions respectively. As on 31 March 2009, there are more than 6.1 million saving-linked SHGs and more than 4.2 million credit-linked SHGs and thus, about 86 million poor households are covered under the programme. The SHG Bank Linkage Programme (SBLP) targeted to reach 100 million of households by 2015.

Vipin Chandran and Sandhya (2012) observed that SHG - Bank Linkage Model involves the SHGs financed directly by the banks viz., Commercial Banks (Public Sector and Private Sector), RRBs and cooperative Banks. As on 31 March 2010, a total of 69.53 lakh SHGs were having saving bank accounts with the banking sector with outstanding savings of ₹ 6198.71 crore as against 61.21 lakh SHGs with savings of ₹ 5545.62 crore as on 31 March 2009, thereby showing a growth rate of 13.60 per cent and 11.8 per cent, respectively. Thus, more than 97 million poor households were associated with banking agencies under SHG-Bank Linkage Programme. As on 31 March 2010, the CBs lead with savings accounts of 40.53 lakh SHGs (58.3 per cent)
with savings amount of ₹ 3673.89 crore (59.3 per cent) followed by RRBs having savings bank accounts of 18.21 lakh SHGs (26.2 per cent) with savings amount of ₹ 1299.37 crore (21.0 per cent) and Cooperative Banks having savings bank accounts of 10.79 lakh SHGs (15.5 per cent) with savings amount of ₹ 1225.44 crore (19.8 per cent). The share under SGSY was 16.94 lakh SHGs with savings of ₹ 1,292.62 crore forming (24.4 per cent) of the total SHGs having savings accounts with the banks and (20.80 per cent) of their total savings amount. The SBLP has changed the attitude of the banking system are the poor are not bankable and commercial principles. It cannot be applied in lending to the poor.

Narang (2012) stated that the SHG-Bank Linkage model is considered a most successful, promising and widely accepted model in India. This model was introduced in 1991-92 with a pilot project of linking 500 SHGs with banks and this figure has gone up to more than 34 lakh by the end of march 2008. Cumulatively, these SHGs have assessed credit of Rs. 22,268 crore from banks during the period. About 4.1 crore poor have gained access to the formal system through the programme. The number of SHGs linked to banks has increased from 32,995 during 1998-99 to 34,77,965 during 2007-08 i.e. during the period of last ten years. It means there is an impressive 68 percent compound annual growth rate. But the compound annual growth rate is almost double each year for the cumulative bank loan to SHGs which is 94 percent. The faster growth in bank loans to SHGs had led to almost a four-fold increase in the average loans per SHG from Rs. 16,816 in 1999-2000 to Rs. 63,926 in 2007-08.

Srikanath and Rao (2014) stated that the SHG-Bank linkage program was conceived with the objectives of developing supplementary credit delivery services for the unreached poor, building mutual trust and confidence between the bankers and the poor and encouraging banking activity both on thrift as well as credit and sustaining a simple and formal mechanism of banking with the poor. SHG-banking linkage (SBL) programme for credit has been able to reduce transaction costs. It has enabled the banks to achieve better loan recovery and mobilize low cost deposits.

Vinodhini and Vaijyanthi (2016) reported that the commercial banks with their large branch network have accounted for a major share of saving linked commercial banks had more than half of the total SHGs, followed by RRB.
Goyal *et. al.* (2017) stated that number of SHGs savings linked with banks declined in 2012-13 which indicated a marginal increase of about (2.00 per cent) during the year 2013-2014. Thereafter, it increased in all the years over the previous years. The savings harnessed by SHGs also increased during the year 2012-13 onward over the previous years. During the year 2015-16, 18.32 lakh SHGs were sanctioned fresh loans which is about 13 per cent increase over 2014-15. The amount of loan outstanding increased each year over the previous year. For instance, the amount of loans outstanding has gone up by about 11 per cent in 2015-16 over 2014-15. The share of SHGs with only women members in the total number of SHGs linked to banks stands at 85.57 per cent in the current year slightly down from (86.63 per cent) last year. While the groups formed under the NRLM/SGSY/Other Government sponsored programmes now constitutes 44.00 per cent up from 40.00 per cent last year of the total number of groups. The average quantum of loans issued to SHGs during the year 2015-16 was ₹ 2.03 lakh per SHG and this ranged from ₹ 0.84 lakh in the north-eastern region to over ₹ 2.58 lakh in southern region. The share of commercial banks was disbursed the total bank loans (67.50 per cent) to (61.80 per cent) SHGs during the year. The contribution of RRBs in credit disbursement to SHGs stood at (24.6 per cent) and that of cooperative banks was (7.90 per cent). The share of commercial banks was about two thirds of the total bank loan outstanding under SHG-BLP. The share of RRBs and cooperative banks was found 28.20 per cent and 6.80 per cent, respectively.

### 2.6 ROLE OF SHGs IN POVERTY REDUCTION

Kalirajan and Singh (2012) found that self help group movement in uttarakhand state in north India is poorly targeted at the poor, though it is a general programme of raising income in the rural areas. Lack of initiatives by the concerned authorities of the self help group movement and the state government in encouraging the poor to work in groups for a common cause of reducing poverty is the basic problem identified in the state. Another critical factor is the limited availability of traditional economic activities to leverage the skill with more efficient methods and affordable credit. The policy conclusion of this study is that there is an urgent need to improve the self help group system by implementing an approach, which should aim at the ultimate goal of poverty alleviation rather than just providing one time employment generation.
Saif (2013) reported that women’s status gained prominence in socioeconomic sector and they also carved a niche in the society as an independent entity. Through the various intervention techniques and income generating activities, the Self Help Groups gave a positive direction to the women for their economic independence, active participation in decision making process, changed concept of self image and confidence building. The self-help group (SHG) approach is a new paradigm into the field of rural development which main objectives are to increase the well-being of the poor people specifically women, provide access to resources and credit, increase self-confidence, self-esteem and increase their creditability in all aspects of lives.

Maurya (2014) stated that microfinance has played a very significant role in the development of uttar pradesh by achieving its goals as like increment in savings and borrowing patterns, improving economic condition, reduction in poverty, educational development, employment growth, developed social condition of people. Sample member households living below the poverty line were estimated in study on the basis of comparing net income levels of the families before and after their association with SHGs. According to the results of study, the share of families living below the poverty line was reduced by 20.83 per centage points, from 95.00 per cent in the pre-SHG situation to 74.16 per cent in the post-SHG situation.

Parvathamma (2014) reported that micro finance is expected to play a pivotal role in poverty eradication and employment generation. The most important form of micro finance is credit targeted to poor people who are also talented entrepreneurs. If these people gain access to credit, they will expand their business, stimulate local economic growth. These banks will be able to support their client’s efforts to control family risks as well as capitalize on business opportunities. They will offer savings, insurance, remittance services and personal and business loans, to help clients grow their assets while increasing their incomes. The goal of growth and poverty alleviation is now well recognized, so the micro finance is a very good platform for ensuring this by optimizing use of the financial resources and generate the employment potentiality.

Vasantha (2015) revealed that microfinance through SHG is instrument poverty reduction and an opportunity for empowerment of poor women. Many studies show that microfinance plays an important role beyond enterprise development in supporting the livelihoods of the poor. Micro financing through Self Help Groups has transferred the real economic power in the hands of women and has considerably
create a space for gender equality. Micro finance not only provides economic benefit, it is also provide social benefit like poverty reduction and women empowerment.

Suri and Kaur (2016) found that income is a major factor which determines standard of living. The SHG members’ income increases after joining the group. Many women don’t earn anything before joining SHGs but after becoming a member of SHGs, they are able to earn their livelihood. The women are now become self-dependent and economically strong in the Bishnah block. There is rise in the income levels of the members of SHGs.

2.7 ANALYZE THE INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES OF SHGs

Chandravadia (2009) observed that slightly less than one third (31.50 per cent) women actively participated in combine activities like dairy cooperative and milk products followed by handy craft and detergent making (22.50 per cent) and earn income in both of these activities.

Chandravadia and Kanani (2010) revealed that self-help group women had actively participated in dairy cooperative (55.00 per cent), handicraft (45.50 per cent) and milk product (36.50 per cent) and making of detergent, soap and powder (24.50 per cent).

Bhuvaneswari et. al. (2011) stated that considering the income generating activities, more number of peri-urban SHG members took up IGAs, whereas less number of persons in rural SHGs. Peri urban SHG members took up activities like dairy, poultry, goat rearing and small scale business, selling ice cream and roasted chick pea seeds depending on the demand and season, grocery shop maintenance, vegetable vending, grain trade whenever they did not have agriculture activities. Whereas, rural SHGs carried out their age old traditional activities like dairy and poultry apart from agriculture.

Das (2012b) revealed that poultry was the main choice of the respondents (22.78 per cent) followed by dairy (21.67 per cent), tiny manufacturing units (20.56 per cent), piggery (18.89 per cent) and other units (16.11 per cent) among the total respondents. Poultry (32.00 per cent) was selected in karbi anglong, while piggery (26.25 per cent) was selected by the respondents of north cachar hill as the main choice of enterprise. Other enterprises like tailoring, small shop and other caste
occupations were also selected by some of the respondents of both karbi anglong and north cachar hill district.

Shanthi (2012) found that among total respondents, 81.20 per cent stated service, as their income generating activity, followed by 12.00 per cent who stated trading, 5.40 per cent who stated manufacturing and the rest of 1.40 per cent stated agriculture as their income generating activity.

Nagnur et. al. (2014) concluded that among the 84 active groups, 29 active groups were taken up entrepreneurial activities, followed by seven groups were taken up agarbatti as an income generation activity and four groups were making candles.

2.8 ASSOCIATION BETWEEN SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF WOMEN & THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARD SHGs & ITS ACTIVITIES

2.8.1 Age and Attitude

Chandravadia (2009) concluded that there was negative and significant association between empowerment of self help group women and their age. The direction of association was negative and significant which indicated that self help group women empowerment is increased significantly with decreased in their age.

Bhatt (2010) studied that age of the women had negative and significant relationship with their group dynamics effectiveness.

Parmar (2014) inferred that age of the respondents had negative and significant influence on Group Dynamics Effectiveness (GDE) of the SHGs and hence with increasing age of the respondents, the GDE is decreasing.

2.8.2 Education and Attitude

Kashid et. al. (2009) reported that education level of the respondents were positive and significantly correlated with empowerment.

Bhatt (2010) studied that Group Dynamics Effectiveness (GDE) of the respondents had positive and significant ($r = 0.345$) correlation with their level of education.

Parmar (2014) stated that reflect that GDE of the respondent had positive and highly significantly ($r = 0.483$) correlation with their level of education, which indicate that education is an important variable which influence GDE.


2.8.3 Family Type and Attitude

Chandravadia (2009) observed that the calculated value of correlation coefficient \( r = 0.1564 \), which was positive and significant at 5 per cent level of probability. Hence, the null hypothesis was rejected and it can be inferred that there was positive and significant relation observed between extent of empowerment of self help group women and their type of family.

Shanthi (2012) revealed that the association between the type of family of the respondents and level of satisfaction towards the empowerment of self help groups was not significant.

Parmar (2014) stated that there was positive and highly significant at 1 per cent level \( r = 0.216 \) between family type and GDE of SHGs. Small and medium family shows increase in GDE, hence family type is an important variable which influence GDE.

2.8.4 Family Size and Attitude

Bharathamma et al. (2006) revealed that family size of the respondents was non significantly correlated with their empowerment level.

Bariya (2016) stated that calculated value of correlation co-efficient of SHG women \( r = -0.10 \) and Non SHG members \( r = -0.114 \), which indicated that there was no relationship with the empowerment level of women and family size.

2.8.5 Land Holding and Attitude

Singh et al. (2007) found that size of land holding of the respondents had positive and significant correlation with participation and style of influence.

Chandravadia (2009) indicated that the calculated value of correlation co-efficient \( r = 0.0115 \), which was positive and non significant with size of land holding and attitude.

Kashid et al. (2009) found that size of land holding had positive and significant correlated with empowerment.

2.8.6 Annual Income and Attitude

Bhatt (2010) studied that annual income of the women had a positively significant association with the GDE.
Shanthi (2012) stated that the association between the monthly income of the respondents and their level of satisfaction towards the empowerment of the self help groups is not significant.

Parmar (2014) indicated that the annual income of the women had positive and highly significant association with the GDE. The calculated correlation co-efficient value ($r = 0.449$) was found to be positive and highly significantly with GDE. This indicates that there is an important variable which influence the GDE and as the income level increases the GDE increases.

### 2.8.7 Extension Participation and Attitude

Bharathi (2005) stated that there was positive and highly significant correlation between extension participation and empowerment.

Bariya (2016) found that extension participation of the women was positive and highly significant correlation with the level of empowerment of SHG women ($r = 0.892$) and non SHG women ($r = 0.541$).

### 2.8.8 Proactive Attitude and Attitude

Schmits and Schwarzer (1999) reported that proactive attitude is strongly associated with group dynamic effectiveness of the women groups.

Narayanan (2011) studied that there was a positive and significant relationship between proactive attitude and group dynamics rural women.

Parmar (2014) found that GDE of the respondents had positive and highly significant ($r =0.595$) correlation with proactive attitude, which indicate that proactive attitude is an important variable which influence GDE.

### 2.8.9 Skill Development and Attitude

Narayanan (2011) studied that there was positive and significant relationship between skill development and GDE of the SHGs.

Parmar (2014) revealed that GDE of the respondents had positive and highly significant ($r = 0.673$) correlation with skill development, which indicate that skill development is an important variable which influence GDE. It shows that skill development of the respondents’ increases, the level of GDE also increases.
2.8.10 Market orientation and attitude

Chandravadia (2009) observed that there was association between extent of empowerment of self help group women and their market orientation.

Bariya (2016) revealed that empowerment of SHG and non SHG members were positive and highly significant correlation with their level of market orientation.

2.8.11 Achievement Motivation and Attitude

Biradar (2008) founded that there was no significant relationship with other independent variables such achievement motivation with any of the dimensions of capital improvement in beneficiaries.

Bariya (2016) there was positive and significant relationship between achievement motivation of the women and their level of empowerment.

2.8.12 Risk Orientation and Attitude

Sharma and Verma (2008) revealed that there was positive correlation between risk orientation and overall empowerment.

Bariya (2016) found that risk orientation of women was positive and highly significant with their level of empowerment.

2.8.13 Innovativeness and Attitude

Bariya (2016) revealed that there was a positive and significant relationship between innovativeness of the SHG members and their socio-psychological impact.

2.8.14 Source of Information and Attitude

Biradar (2008) stated that there was positive correlation between source of information and human capital.

Bariya (2016) found that there was positive and highly significant relationship between source of information and their level of empowerment.

2.9 CONSTRAINTS FACED BY THE SHG MEMBERS

Bharathi and Badigar (2008) revealed that slightly less than half (47.50 per cent) of the SHG members considered lack of formal education as their personal problem, because majority of the women were living in rural areas. About one-third (33.00 per cent) of the SHG members reported the shortage of electricity as their
technical problem. It was seen that in most of the rural areas the problem of electricity was mostly occurred which hinders the success in running of power operated machines such as Vermicelli making machine, Chilli pounding machine and rawa making machine. Insufficient loan as their economic problem was reported by 27.50 per cent of women SHG members. The social problem such as lack of social mobility was faced by 19.20 per cent of the SHG members.

Das (2012a) revealed that the major problem faced by the SHGs was delay in sanctioning the loan (21.33 per cent) followed by poor response of authorities (18.67 per cent), lack of administrative experience (18.00 per cent), difficulty to approach the authorities (12.00 per cent), inadequate loan amount (14.67 per cent), limited number of installment (8.00 per cent) and the problem of lack of cooperation among the members (7.33 per cent).

Minimol and Makesh (2012) concluded that family and job responsibilities can cause difficulties for active participation in group activities. Low levels of motivation and family support could also act as a deterrent. Low economic status and poor benefits form group can shun members from reaping the benefits of being in the group. Family responsibilities mean score of 4.73 proved to be the major difficulty faced by the members in their group activities. Low economic status (3.09 score) and low motivation (2.92 score) were opined to be causing moderate problems. One very important reason faced as difficulty was low family support (3.34 score). Among all the respondents, equal proportion was (38.00 per cent) experienced as high/very high levels of poor family support.

Parmar (2014) revealed that great majority of the respondents reported the lack of training for conducting various activities effectively in group with 1.93 mean score. The other important constraints faced by them were lack of information about various activities of group, while becoming member (1.86 mean score), lack of information about new occupation suitable to their socio/economic condition (1.80 mean score), lack of information regarding marketing strategy (1.73 mean score), lack of information regarding market opportunity (1.66 mean score), non-availability of raw material (1.55 mean score).

Kaur and Kalra (2015) observed that two third (66.67 per cent) of respondents opined that there was immediate need to access to latest information for effective
functioning of SHG as most of the members of the group were not exposed to the outside world. At the same time, (41.66 per cent) respondents suggested to create awareness regarding procedure of forming the group followed by to motivate for taking up new enterprise (33.33 per cent).

2.10 SUGGESTIONS OFFERED BY RESPONDENTS TO STRENGTHEN THE ACTIVITIES OF SHGs

Chandravadia (2009) indicated that most valuable suggestions expressed by of self help group women (78.50 per cent) were maintain the register regularly with first rank followed by increased level of education in women (66.50 per cent), women should come on time for meeting (51.00 per cent), bank cooperative with self help group (44.00 per cent) with rank second, third and fourth, respectively.

Sivashankar and Khedgi (2011) studied that make frequent contacts to help in establishment of subsidiary enterprise obtain first rank on basis of percentage followed by to avail SJSY loan for cattle and buffalo rearing.

Bariya (2016) revealed that programmes to be arranged at the panchayat level (95.56 per cent), number of days of training is to be increased (92.22 per cent) and informal education should be given (90.00 per cent) were ranked second, third and fourth, respectively. Majority of the respondents (85.56 per cent) who suggested that increase the loan repayment period followed by frequent contact should be made by the KVK staff for giving solutions (83.33 per cent).