

Training and Skill Development Facilities Available to SHG (Self Help Group) Members and the Extent of their Utilization; A Study in Ranapur Block of Odisha

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Abstract: *The development of a country like India majorly depends on the socio-economic empowerment of the rural masses. Through recent years, SHGs have played a crucial role in the empowerment of the rural masses by providing income-generating opportunities. Among the many facilities provided by the Govt. of India for SHGs, skill and training facility is a crucial one, where free training and skill development facilities are provided to the SHG members for income-generating activities. The present study was conducted in Ranapur block of Odisha state to understand the skill and training facilities provided by the Government and their usefulness. The sample size consisted of 400 SHG members. The results of the study showed that most of the respondents (99 %) attained training programmes. Whereas the majority (74.5%) attained training programmes up to five times a year. In the case of the type of training programmes attained, the majority (95.5 %) of the respondents received training on incense stick (Agarbatti) making. The majority of the respondents (94%) reported the training programmes were highly useful to them.*

Keywords: Self Help Groups, Training, Skill development, utilization, Odisha

1. Introduction

NABARD defines SHGs as “Small, economically homogenous affinity groups of rural poor, voluntarily formed to save and mutually contribute to a common fund to be lent to its members as per the group members decision”. In India, SHGs usually have 10 to 20 members, who can be either only men or only women or only youth or a mix of these (NABARD, 2018)

Das (2012) in his study found that 57 SHGs (38%) had imparted training to less than 25% of their members while 31 SHGs (20.67%) provided training to 25% to 50% of their members. Subramaniam (2012) in his study concluded that the successes of members businesses are attributed to group’s regular meetings and trainings where members gain skills and share business experiences which help them to overcome day to day hurdles.

Sambu (2013) in his study indicated that before joining SHG only 14% of the respondents had attended trainings then after joining SHG 96.7% of the respondents had attended training. The major organizers of the training were banks with 75% of the respondents confirming to have attended their training. The most useful training rated by respondents was asset building, book keeping, budgeting and forecasting and credit management and the least rated farm accounts and risks management skills. The impacts of trainings have enabled respondents to increase asset, improve book keeping, spend wisely, and diversify investment.

Nithyanandan and Mansor (2015) in their study indicated that there are three different types of training provided to

SHG members: Entrepreneur Development Programme (EDP), Handicraft Training and Animators and Representatives (A&R) training. Training is provided to group leaders and their representatives to help them learn new skills such as group formation, book keeping, savings, loans and insurance. Almost 82.8% participated in the training in which 60.9% reported the training was useful. The SHGs wanted to learn methods to make new products so that they could sustain themselves in the market.

Vasundhara (2017) reported that majority of the respondents obtained training in the preparation of SHG products and income generation activities and agriculture. Velickakam (2018) in his study revealed that 86.4% of the members had received capacity building training such as livestock rearing, record keeping, skill training, entrepreneurship, leadership, gender sensitization, legal etc.

Therefore, it is safe to say that among many factors, the training provided to the SHG members plays a great role in the success of an enterprise. Keeping these facts in mind, the present study was planned to understand the nature, type and frequency of training programmes provided to the SHG groups in rural Odisha.

2. Objective of the Study

- To understand the type of training programme provided to the SHG members
- To find out how the training programmes are being helpful in carrying out SHG operations
- To understand the extent of utilization of the training programmes by the respondents

3. Methodology

The research design for the current study is **cross sectional research design**. Multistage sampling procedure was adopted during the entire phase of investigation. The state Odisha was selected for the study purposively. The reason being;

- Odisha is one of the poorest states of India where a large number of SHGs are working. Odisha is the sixth most poorest state of India (RBI report)
- It has a huge rural population of 83.31 percent (Census, 2011)
- 32.59 per cent people are in below poverty line in 2011-12 (based on MRP) against the National average of 21.92 percent. (RBI, 2015)
- A total no of 305121 SHGs are operational in Odisha, which is the fifth highest in the country (NRLM)
- The researcher is a native of the state.

The present study was conducted in Nayagarh district of Odisha. This district has a huge rural population (92%). The district consists of eight blocks out of which Ranapur block was selected purposively because this block has a huge density of SHGs and NGOs. It has total number of 2159 SHGs which is second highest in the district after Odagaon block. It is more than the average SHGs per block in Nayagarh district which is 1232.8 (Source: nrlm.gov.in). The block consisted 34 grampanchayats, from each grampanchayat 2 SHGs were selected and from each SHG 6/7 members were selected, making the sample size 400.

The sample size was calculated by using Yamane's formula; Which is:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

where n = sample size, N= population size and e = permissible error. Data was collected using interview schedule and appropriate stastical tools were used to analyse the data.

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria for the Study

As the primary objectives of the study revolved around the training programme provided to the SHGs, only the respondents who were members who were members of any SHG were selected. Other rural women who were not a member of any SHG group were selectively excluded.

4. Results and Discussion

1) Year of establishment and duration of operation of their SHG

From the table 1 below, it is clear that there is a increase trend in the number of SHG. The year of establishment has been divided into four parts starting from 1991 to 2017, as the oldest group was found to be formed back in 1991 and the newest group was formed in 2017. Out of 400 respondents, 25 respondents (6.2%) reported that their SHG was formed between 1991-2000, whereas 87 respondents (21.8%) reported that their SHG was formed between 2001-

2005, followed by 140 respondents (30.0%) and 148 respondents (37.0%) who reported that their SHG was formed between 2006-2010 and 2011-2017 respectively.

Table 1: Distribution of the respondents based on the year of establishment as well as duration of operation of their SHG, n=400

Year of establishment	Number	Percentage (%)
1991-2000	25	6.2
2001-2005	87	21.8
2006-2010	140	35.0
2011-2017	148	37.0
Total	400	100.0
Duration of operation	Number	Percentage (%)
Up to 5 years	78	19.5
6-10 years	168	42.0
11-15 years	86	21.5
>15 years	68	17.0
Total	400	100.0
Average duration of SHG in operation = 10.08 ± 4.94 years		Range = (0.5- 27) years

2) Training Programme Attended by the Respondents

As illustrated in table-2, it was found that out of 400 respondents, 396 respondents (99%) said that they have attended training programmes. Whereas, four respondents (1%) said that they have not attended any type of training programme.

The four respondents who had not attended any training programme stated their reasons for doing so. Out of four respondents, one respondent (25%) stated that experience is enough that is why she did not attain any training programme. Similarly, one respondent (25%) stated that she felt unnecessary to attain any training programme while two respondents (50%) stated that both of the above reasons were the cause of not attaining any training programme.

Majority of the respondents *i.e.*, 295 respondents (74.5%) stated that they have attended 5 numbers of training programme. Whereas, 52 respondents (13.1%), 35 respondents (8.8%), 7 respondents (1.8%) stated that they have attended 3,4,1 and 2 numbers of training programme respectively.

Table 2: Distribution based on attaining any training programme, reason if not attended, number of training programmes if attended

Attended training programme	Number	Percentage (%)
Yes	396	99.0
No	4	1.0
Total	400	100.0
If yes, number of training programme attended in a year	Number	Percentage (%)
1	7	1.8
2	7	1.8
3	52	13.1
4	35	8.8
5	295	74.5
Total	396	100.0

3) Type of Training Programme

From the Table 3 it can be understood that majority of the respondents had attended training programmes on Agarbati making (95.5%), chips/badi/papad/pickle making (92.7) and

mushroom cultivation (87.6) respectively. These activities are easy to learn, require very less skill and has good demand in market. Whereas spice making and plate making were among popular activities, on which many respondents have attained training programme. Very few respondents

have attended training programme on poultry (13.1%), phenyl/soap making (9.6%) and chuda powder making (8.3%) as these activities require good skill and more time consuming.

Table 3: Distribution of the respondents based on the type of training programme attended

	Type of training programme attended	Yes		No		Total	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
1	Agarbatti making	378	95.5	18	4.5	396	100.0
2	Chips/ badi/ papad/ pickle making	367	92.7	29	7.3	396	100.0
3	Mushroom cultivation	347	87.6	49	12.4	396	100.0
4	Plate making (paper/leaf)	287	72.5	109	27.5	396	100.0
5	Spice making	285	72.0	111	28.0	396	100.0
6	Poultry	52	13.1	344	86.9	396	100.0
7	Phenyl /soap / detergent making	38	9.6	358	90.4	396	100.0
8	Chuda powder making	33	8.3	363	91.7	396	100.0

4) Duration of training programmes

The table 4 below shows the duration of the training programme attended by the respondents. As we can see in this table, 228 respondents (57.6%) reported that their training period was 6-10 days, followed by 154 respondents (38.9%), who reported that the duration of training programme was 11-15 days and 14 respondents reported their training programme duration to be 1-5 days.

Table 4: Distribution based on the duration of training programmes n: 400

Duration of training programme (Days)	Number	Percentage (%)
1-5	14	3.5
6-10	228	57.6
11-15	154	38.9
Total	396	100.0

5) Organizing agency of the training programmes

As shown in the table 5 below, it is clear that majority of the training programmes were organized by Odisha Livelihood Mission (OLM) as stated by 389 respondents (98.2%). Whereas seven respondents (1.8%) stated that, they attended training programmes organized by both OLM (Odisha Livelihood Mission) and NGO.

Table 5: Distribution of the respondents based on the organizing agency of the training programmes they have attended, n= 400

Training programme organized by	Number	Percentage (%)
A OLM (Odisha Livelihood Mission)	389	98.2
B NGO	-	-
C Both (A & B)	7	1.8
Total	396	100.0

6) Number of training programme organized in a year:

As shown in the table 6 below, it is evident that according to majority 221 respondents (55.2%), the training programme was organized 7 times a year. Whereas according to 172 respondents (43%) and seven respondents (1.8%), the training programmes were organized six times and five times a year respectively.

Table 6: Distribution of the respondent's views regarding number of training programmes organized in a year, n=400

Number of training programme organized in a year	Number	Percentage (%)
5	7	1.8
6	172	43.0
7	221	55.2
Total	400	100.0

7) Extent of usefulness of the training programmes provided

The table 7 below illustrates the views of the respondents on the usefulness of the training programme. As stated by majority of the respondents (74%) the training programmes were very useful. Whereas as the second majority (20%) respondent opined that the training programmes were somewhat useful to them. Very few respondents (6%) stated that the training programmes were not useful to them so far.

Table 7: Distribution of respondents based on the extent of usefulness of the training programmes that they have attended, n: 400

Usefulness of training programme	Number	Percentage (%)
Very useful	297	74
Somewhat useful	79	20
Not usefull	24	6
Total	400	100.0

8) Benefits of the training programme

Out of 400 respondents majority 376 respondents (94%) stated the training programmes were very useful (74%) and somewhat useful (20%). When they were further asked about how these training programmes have helped them, their responses are illustrated in the table 8 below. The respondents were free to choose more than one option if applicable. All 376 respondents agreed that the training programmes have helped in their income generating activities. Other major benefits of the training programmes as stated by the respondents were, it taught professional ways of production (78%), it helped in managing competition (61%), helped in understanding the market (50%) etcetera.

Table 8: Distribution of the respondent's opinions based on the benefits of attaining the training programme, n: 376

Benefit of training programme	Number	Percentage (%)
Helped in income generation	376	100
Taught professional ways of production	295	78
Helped in managing competition	228	61
Helped in understanding the market	187	50
Helped in improving the quality of the product	156	41
Helped understanding the importance of hygiene	89	24
Helped in post production management practices	76	20

5. Summary and Conclusion

The findings of the study are summarized as following:

- **Training programme:** Training is mostly given to the SHG members to improve their skill and knowledge. Majority of the respondents (99%) said that they have attended any training programmes.
- **Organization of training programmes:** It is clear that majority of the training programmes were organized by Odisha Livelihood Mission (OLM) as stated by 389 respondents (98.2%). Whereas 7 respondents (1.8%) stated that they attended training programmes organized by both OLM and NGO. It is clear that according to majority 221 respondents (55.2%), the training programme is organized 7 times a year. Whereas according to 172 respondents (43%) and 7 respondents (1.8%), the training programmes are organized 6 times and 5 times a year respectively.
- This result is par with other studies conducted by **Tripathy (2015), Savitha (2016) and Vasundhara (2017)** as the results of their studies shows that majority of the training programmes were organised by NGOs and Government organisations.
- **Extent of usefulness and benefits of the training programme:** As opined by majority of the respondents (94%), the training programmes were very useful (74%) and somewhat useful (20%). When they were further asked about how these training programmes have helped them, all 376 respondents agreed that the training programmes have helped in their income generating activities. Other major benefits of the training programmes as stated by the respondents were, it taught professional ways of production (78%), it helped in managing competition (61%), helped in understanding the market (50%) etcetera.
- It can be concluded that the training programmes provided to the SHG members were proved to be beneficial to them. The efforts of Odisha Government is commendable at providing valuable training programmes to the SHG members throughout the year. The non government organizations are also playing a key role in training and development of the SHGs. The training programmes provided to the SHG members not only helped the members in generating income, but also helped in inculcating other practices such as professional ethics and management, quality production, hygienic practices, post production management and handling etcetera. Most importantly the training programmes

helped the SHG members believe in themselves that they also can create something useful using their expertise and earn an income out of it.

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