



WOMEN SELF HELP GROUPS IN KARNATAKA: AN ANALYSIS OF MAGNITUDE, MEMBERSHIP, SAVINGS AND CREDIT BORROWINGS

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ABSTRACT:

SHGs empower women and train them to take active part in the training programmed like gender sensitization, personality development and leadership. They are relieved of their superstitions and other social limitations. At present, SHGs have made a great confidence in the minds of rural women to succeed in their day-to-day life. This paper attempts to find out the proportion of women SHGs by districts in Karnataka ;study the membership of SHGs by social groups at different districts in Karnataka ;examine the savings and micro-credit of SHGs at different districts in Karnataka; assess the quantum of revolving funds received from Government by SHGs at different districts in Karnataka; and Offer policy suggestions for faster women's empowerment through SHGs in general and in Karnataka in particular. This study is mainly based on secondary data. Simple statistical tool the percentage was employed for analysis of data. The main findings reveal that the share of SHGs is relatively higher in Southern Karnataka as compared to the share of SHGs in Northern Karnataka. Similarly, the proportion of SHGs membership was found to be much higher in other caste as compared to that of in SCs and STs in all the districts of Karnataka. Further the proportion of savings accumulation is much higher in socio- economically better off region of the Karnataka viz., Southern Karnataka as compared to that of in socio economically backward region of the Karnataka viz., Northern Karnataka. While the proportion of total loan received from bank by SHGs was found to be quite significant in Mandya, Hassan, Tumkur, Ramanagar, and Udupi districts as compared to that of in other districts of Karnataka. The study suggest that the people's oriented organizations like SHGs should be encouraged and initiate several savings and credit management activities and also the members of SC/ST community should be encouraged to set up such non-farm business by providing adequate micro credit or skill based training.

KEYWORDS : Self Help Groups (SHGs), Women, Social Groups, Empowerment, Savings, Micro Credit, Bank Loan, Revolving Funds.

1. INTRODUCTION

A Self Help Group (SHG) is an alternate pathway to development based on the concept of social mobilization using locally available resources, expertise as well as its own creativity. This strategy has demonstrated its feasibility. Applied to women empowerment and poverty alleviation in India, it has donned the mantle of microfinance. It has thus walked a partnership into NGOs, banks and the government. This is a new emerging phenomenon in rural development. As a result, an interconnection between SHGs and rural development for sustainable development, so as to reduce poverty by empowering rural women is gaining currency in the emerging market driven economy. SHGs are the outcome of the Grameen Bank of Bangladesh, which was founded by Prof. Mohammed Yunus in 1975. It is group of homogenous members of the needy people who meet the consumption of day today life of its members from its own savings and collective fund

generated among themselves. The main activities of the SHGs are participation, planning, resource mobilization, self-management and mutual help.

The major target populations under this category of marginalized people are like landless agriculture laborers, marginal peasants, rural crafts person and small traders. The representative of the group successfully conducts meetings and frame interventional strategies. Improving the skills and abilities of people enable them to manage better, with existing development delivery systems. The empowerment process encompasses several mutually reinforcing components like economic independence, awareness, self-image and autonomy. Providing micro credit to the rural women through an organized set up have made them entrepreneur. Thus, SHGs have enhanced the equal status of women as participants, decision makers and beneficiaries in development activities. It is a tool for encouraging the rural women to take active participation in development activities. Gandhi said, "Train a man and you train an individual; train a women and you build a nation". It is really opt Self Help Group.

SHGs empower women and train them to take active part in the training programme like gender sensitization, personality development and leadership. They are relieved of their superstitions and other social limitations. At present, SHGs have made a great confidence in the minds of rural women to succeed in their day-to-day life. It is certainly can contribute for socio-economic development of rural India. Economic emancipation of rural women are made effective with the process self employment programmes. As self-employment is the only best alternative available to make the rural women empowered through SHGs and it can stimulate the process of sustainable rural development.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study are to:

- find out the proportion of women SHGs by districts in Karnataka;
- study the membership of SHGs by social groups at different districts in Karnataka;
- examine the savings and micro-credit of SHGs at different districts in Karnataka;
- assess the quantum of revolving funds received from Government by SHGs at different districts in Karnataka; and
- Offer policy suggestions for faster women's empowerment through SHGs in general and in Karnataka in particular.

3. DATA BASE AND METHODOLOGY

The present study is mainly based on secondary data collected from the Directorate of Economics and Statistics Bangalore, Karnataka during the year 2015-16. Simple statistical tool percentage was employed for analysis of data. The results were presented through bar diagrams.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section an attempt has been made to analyze the growth, level of savings of SHGs and micro-credit and revolving funds obtained from banks and Government by SHGs at different districts in Karnataka State.

4.1. Magnitude of SHGs in Karnataka

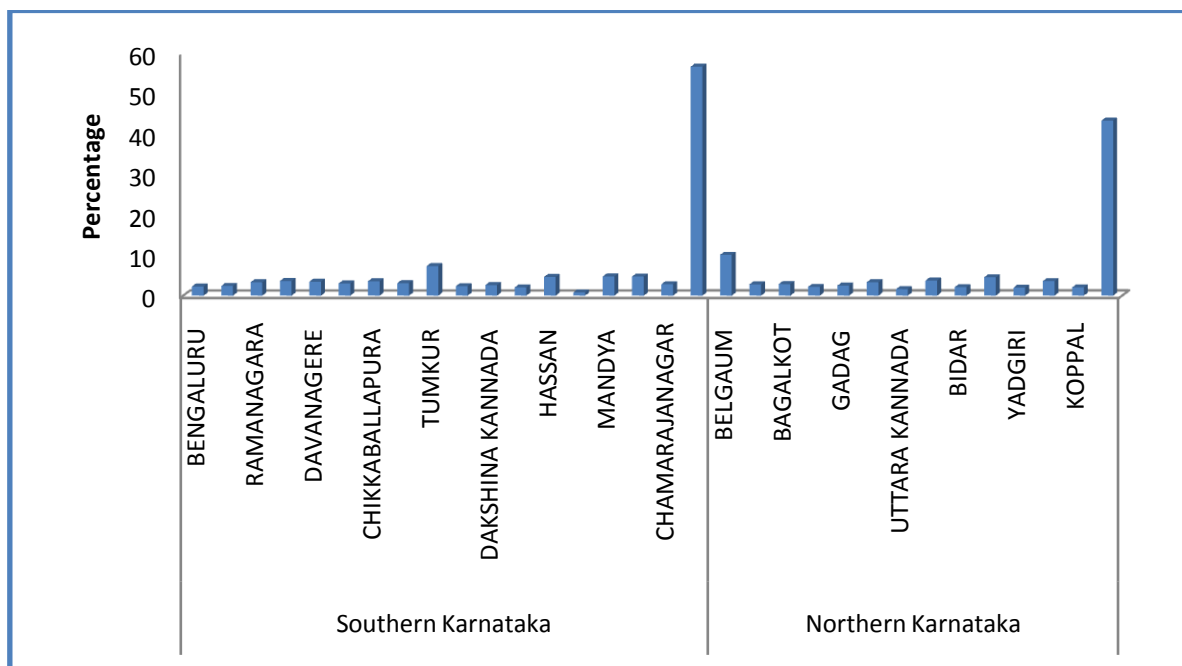
The data presented in Table 1 indicates that the proportion of SHGs was found to be higher in Tumkur, Mysore, Mandya, Hassan, Gulbarga, Bellary and Raichur districts as compared to that of in rest of the districts in Karnataka State. Going by regions, it has been observed that the proportion of SHGs was found to be higher in Southern Karnataka (56.68 per cent) as compared to that of in Northern Karnataka (43.32 per cent) (Figure 1). This implies that the share of SHGs is relatively higher in Southern Karnataka as compared to the share of SHGs in Northern Karnataka resulted by the better educational, social and economic status, awareness, productive assets and also social networks of the women.

Table 1
Distribution of SHGs by Districts in Karnataka, during 2015-16

Districts	Number of SHGs	Percentage
SOUTHERN KARNATAKA		
BENGALURU	3161	2.26
BENGALURU(R)	3365	2.40
RAMANAGARA	4635	3.31
CHITRADURGA	5075	3.63
DAVANAGERE	4822	3.44
KOLAR	4217	3.01
CHIKKABALLAPURA	4989	3.56
SHIMOGA	4329	3.09
TUMKUR	10234	7.31
CHIKMAGALUR	3283	2.35
DAKSHINA KANNADA	3663	2.62
UDUPI	2846	2.03
HASSAN	6471	4.62
KODAGU	1099	0.79
MANDYA	6638	4.74
MYSORE	6602	4.72
CHAMARAJANAGAR	3928	2.81
Total	79357	56.68
NORTHERN KARNATAKA		
BELGAUM	14134	10.10
BIJAPUR	3888	2.78
BAGALKOT	4010	2.86
DHARAWAD	3029	2.16
GADAG	3476	2.48
HAVERI	4659	3.33
UTTARA KANNADA	2259	1.61
BELLARY	5220	3.73
BIDAR	2939	2.10
GULBARGA	6349	4.54
YADGIRI	2771	1.98
RAICHUR	5045	3.60
KOPPAL	2868	2.05
Total	60647	43.32
STATE	140000	100.00

Source: Karnataka at a Glance, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Bangalore, Karnataka, 2015-16.

Figure 1
Distribution of SHGs by Districts in Karnataka, during 2015-16



Source: Table 1.

4.2. SHGs Membership by Social Groups

Table 2 presents the data on percentage distribution of SHGs membership by social groups and districts in Karnataka, during 2015-16. Going by social groups the data reveals that the proportion of SHGs membership was found to be much higher in Others caste as compared to that of in SCs and STs in all the districts of Karnataka during 2015-16. Further, among social groups the proportion of Schedule Caste (SCs) membership in SHGs was quite significant in Kolar (34.11 per cent), Bengaluru Rural (30.16 per cent), Yadagiri (29.89 per cent) and Gulbarga (28.89 per cent) districts as compared to that of in other districts in Karnataka during 2015-16. Whereas the proportion of schedule caste membership in SHGs was quite lower in Udupi (6.60 per cent), Uttar Kannada (8.60 per cent), Dakshina Kannada (10.27 per cent) and Dharwad (10.10 per cent) districts as compared to that of in rest of the districts in Karnataka during the same period.

While, the proportion of Schedule Tribe (STs) membership in SHGs was quite higher in Chitradurga (18.06 per cent), Raichur (15.76 per cent), Bellary (15.29 per cent) and Koppal (14.57 per cent) districts as compared to that of in other districts in Karnataka during 2015-16. Whereas the proportion of Schedule Tribe (STs) membership in SHGs was much lower in Mandya (0.63 per cent), Ramanagar (1.27 per cent), and Yadagiri (1.68 per cent) districts as compared to that of in rest of the districts in Karnataka during the same period.

Similarly, the proportion of other caste membership in SHGs was quite significant in Uttara Kannada (89.43 per cent), Udupi (88.20 per cent), Mandya (84.46 per cent) Dakshina Kannada (83.83 per cent) and Dharwad (83.82 per cent) districts as compared to that of in other districts in Karnataka during 2015-16. Whereas the proportion of Other caste membership in SHGs was lower in Bangalore Rural (58.73 per cent), and Kolar (59.06 per cent) districts as compared to that of in rest of the districts in Karnataka during the same period.

However, among districts the proportion of SHGs membership was found to be higher in Belagaum (10.55 per cent), Tumkur (7.25 per cent) and Hassan (5.77 per cent) districts as compared to that of other districts in Karnataka during the same period..Whereas the proportion of SHGs membership was found to be

lower in Kodagu (0.81 per cent), Bijapur (0.93 per cent) and Uttar Kannada (1.53 per cent) districts as compared to that of in rest of the districts in Karnataka during 2015-16. This implies that the share of SHGs membership is highest in socio-economically better off section of the society, viz., others than in socially disadvantaged and economically marginalized section of the society viz., SCs and STs in Karnataka.

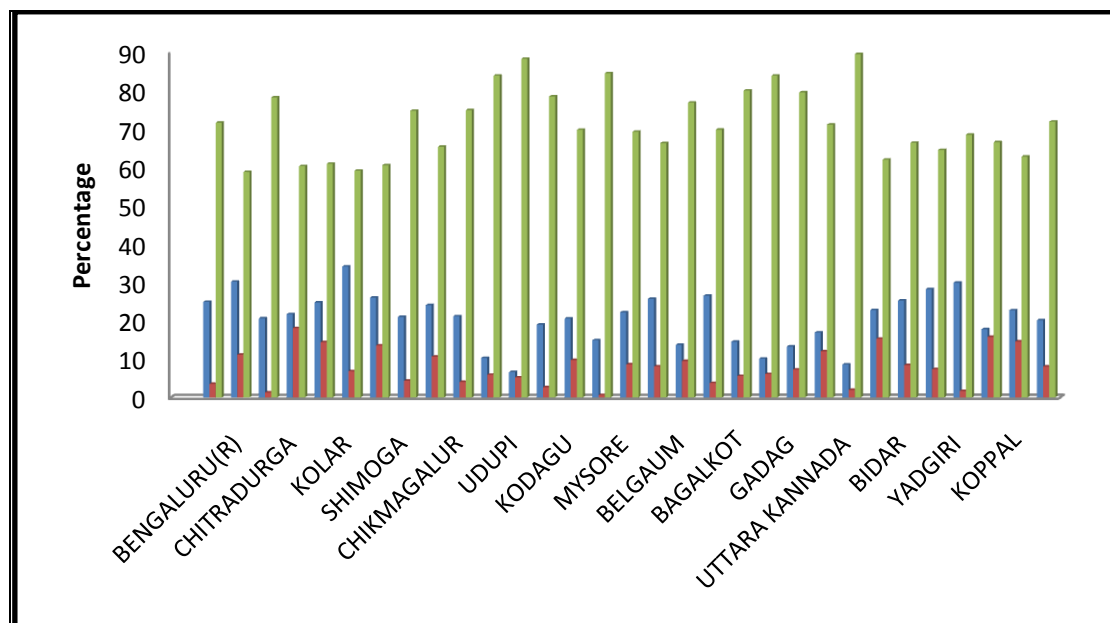
Table 2
Percentage Distribution of SHGs Membership by Social Groups and Districts in Karnataka, during 2015-16

Districts	No. of SHGs	SC	ST	Others	All	
						% to column total
BENGALURU	3161	24.88	3.54	71.58	100.00(53504)	2.64
BENGALURU(R)	3365	30.16	11.11	58.73	100.00(42879)	2.12
RAMANAGARA	4635	20.59	1.27	78.14	100.00(77671)	3.84
CHITRADURGA	5075	21.69	18.06	60.25	100.00(57502)	2.84
DAVANAGERE	4822	24.74	14.39	60.87	100.00(60587)	2.99
KOLAR	4217	34.11	6.82	59.06	100.00(59086)	2.92
CHIKKABALLAPURA	4989	25.97	13.55	60.48	100.00(55779)	2.75
SHIMOGA	4329	20.97	4.34	74.68	100.00(48378)	2.39
TUMKUR	10234	24.05	10.64	65.31	100.00(146837)	7.25
CHIKMAGALUR	3283	21.14	4.05	74.81	100.00(42721)	2.11
DAKSHINA KANNADA	3663	10.27	5.90	83.83	100.00(52530)	2.59
UDUPI	2846	6.60	5.20	88.20	100.00(44561)	2.20
HASSAN	6471	18.97	2.65	78.38	100.00(116916)	5.77
KODAGU	1099	20.56	9.73	69.71	100.00(16475)	0.81
MANDYA	6638	14.91	0.63	84.46	100.00(111870)	5.53
MYSORE	6602	22.17	8.62	69.22	100.00(116553)	5.76
CHAMARAJANAGAR	3928	25.68	8.08	66.24	100.00(63933)	3.16
BELGAUM	14134	13.70	9.51	76.79	100.00(213528)	10.55
BIJAPUR	3888	26.50	3.75	69.75	100.00(18744)	0.93
BAGALKOT	4010	14.50	5.57	79.93	100.00(71830)	3.55
DHARAWAD	3029	10.10	6.08	83.82	100.00(59049)	2.92
GADAG	3476	13.25	7.28	79.47	100.00(41060)	2.03
HAVERI	4659	16.92	12.01	71.07	100.00(75434)	3.73
UTTARA KANNADA	2259	8.60	1.97	89.43	100.00(31021)	1.53
BELLARY	5220	22.76	15.29	61.95	100.00(65216)	3.22
BIDAR	2939	25.24	8.42	66.34	100.00(41779)	2.06
GULBARGA	6349	28.19	7.35	64.46	100.00(91822)	4.54
YADGIRI	2771	29.89	1.68	68.44	100.00(36262)	1.79
RAICHUR	5045	17.76	15.76	66.48	100.00(66883)	3.30
KOPPAL	2868	22.70	14.57	62.73	100.00(44312)	2.19
STATE	140000	20.11 (407192)	8.05 (162942)	71.84 (1454588)	100.00(2024722)	100.00

Note: The figures in parenthesis indicate actual data.

Source: Karnataka at a Glance, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Bangalore, Karnataka, 2015-16.

Figure 2
Distribution of SHGs Membership by Social Groups and Districts in Karnataka, during 2015-16



Source: Table 2.

4.3. Savings of SHGs

The data presented in Table 3 reveals that the proportion of savings accumulated by SHGs was found to be quite significant in Bengaluru (Rs. 135.56 Crores), Mandya (Rs. 115.92 Crores), Tumkur (Rs. 103.43 Crores), Hassan (Rs. 102.3 Crores) and Belagum (Rs. 100.04 Crores), districts as compared to that of in other districts in Karnataka during 2015-16. Whereas the proportion of savings accumulated by SHGs was found to be quite lower in Yadagiri (Rs. 16.33 Crores), Kodagu (Rs. 23.86 Crores), Gadag (Rs. 25.02 Crores), Koppal (Rs. 27.93 Crores) and Uttara Kannada (Rs. 29.52 Crores) districts as compared to that of in other districts in Karnataka during the same period.. This implies that the proportion of savings accumulation is much higher in socio- economically better off region of the Karnataka viz., Southern Karnataka as compared to that of in socio economically backward region of the Karnataka viz., Northern Karnataka.

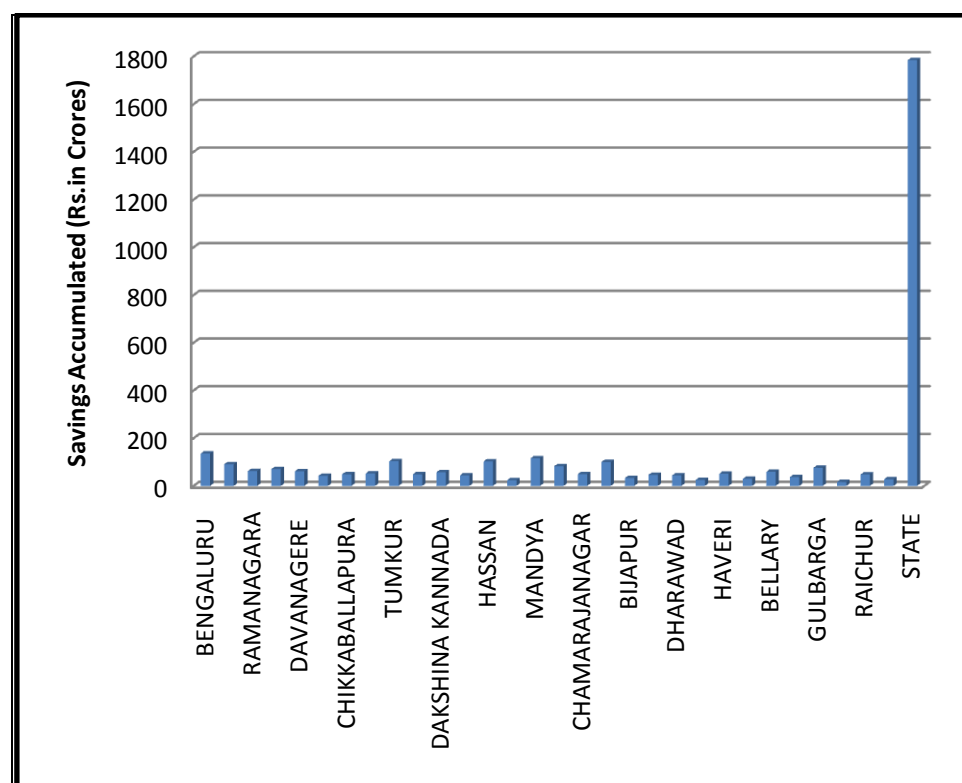
Table 3
Distribution of SHGs by Savings Accumulated across Districts in Karnataka, during 2015-16

Districts	No. of SHGs	Savings Accumulated (Rs. in Crores)
BENGALURU	3161	135.56
BENGALURU(R)	3365	90.92
RAMANAGARA	4635	62.38
CHITRADURGA	5075	70.55
DAVANAGERE	4822	61.48
KOLAR	4217	42.35
CHIKKABALLAPURA	4989	48.61
SHIMOGA	4329	52.18
TUMKUR	10234	103.43
CHIKMAGALUR	3283	48.55
DAKSHINA KANNADA	3663	56.97

UDUPI	2846	44.19
HASSAN	6471	102.3
KODAGU	1099	23.86
MANDYA	6638	115.92
MYSORE	6602	82.6
CHAMARAJANAGAR	3928	49.35
BELGAUM	14134	100.04
BIJAPUR	3888	32.89
BAGALKOT	4010	46.26
DHARAWAD	3029	43.76
GADAG	3476	25.02
HAVERI	4659	50.92
UTTARA KANNADA	2259	29.52
BELLARY	5220	59.09
BIDAR	2939	37.27
GULBARGA	6349	75.88
YADGIRI	2771	16.33
RAICHUR	5045	47.94
KOPPAL	2868	27.93
STATE	140000	1784.05

Source: Karnataka at a Glance, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Bangalore, Karnataka, 2015-16.

Figure 3
Distribution of SHGs by Savings Accumulated in Karnataka, during 2015-16



Source: Table 3.

4.4. Credit Borrowings by SHGs

Provision of micro credit plays an important role meeting several unmet needs of the SHG Members. Against their monthly savings, the members are able to avail micro credit to meet their financial needs. Therefore in this section an effort has been made to estimate the credit borrowings from bank by SHGs members.

The data presented in Table 4 indicates that, out of 30 districts, only in 11 districts viz., Bengaluru, Chitradurga, Davanagere, Chikmagalur, Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Mandya, Mysore, Chamarajanagar, Bagalkot, and Bidar all the SHGs have taken loan from banks during 2015-16. While the proportion of total loan received from bank by SHGs was found to be quite significant in Mandya (Rs. 310.97 Crores), Hassan (Rs. 288.72 Crores), Tumkur (Rs. 166.06 Crores), Ramanagar (Rs. 160.83 Crores), and Udupi (Rs. 129.74 Crores) districts as compared to that of in other districts of Karnataka during 2015-16. Whereas the proportion of total loan received from bank by SHGs was found to be much lower in Dharwad (Rs. 11.43 Crores), Yadgiri (Rs. 14.5 Crores), Koppal (Rs. 19.67 Crores), Gadag (Rs. 24.48 Crores) and Bijapur (Rs. 25.91 Crores) districts as compared to that of in other districts of Karnataka during the same period. This implicitly shows that the SHGs which are in the districts of Southern Karnataka part have got highest loan from bank as compared to that of the SHGs in Northern Karnataka part.

Table 4
District wise Distribution of SHGs by Total Loan Received from Banks in Karnataka, during 2015-16

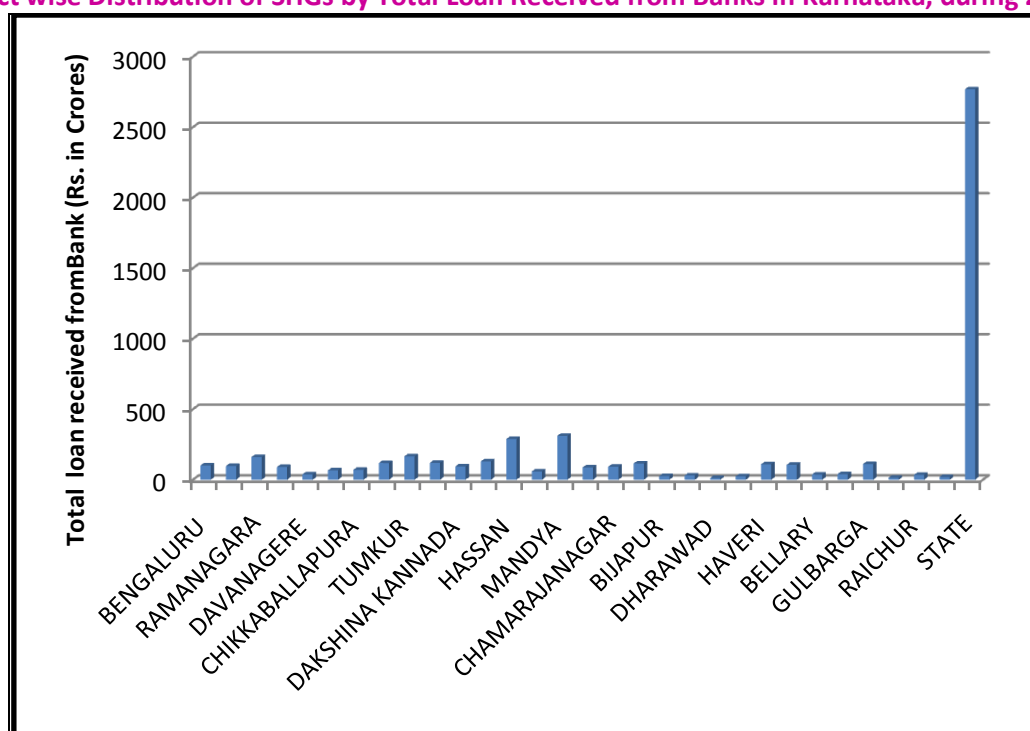
Districts	No. of SHGs	No. of SHGs Loan taken from Banks		Total loan received from Bank (Rs. in Crores)
		Actual	Percentage	
BENGALURU	3161	3161	100.00	101.36
BENGALURU(R)	3365	3217	95.60	97.54
RAMANAGARA	4635	4193	90.46	160.83
CHITRADURGA	5075	5075	100.00	89.93
DAVANAGERE	4822	4822	100.00	38.24
KOLAR	4217	2751	65.24	66.14
CHIKKABALLAPURA	4989	4543	91.06	70.72
SHIMOGA	4329	4268	98.59	118.76
TUMKUR	10234	10099	98.68	166.06
CHIKMAGALUR	3283	3283	100.00	119.55
DAKSHINA KANNADA	3663	3663	100.00	93.89
UDUPI	2846	2846	100.00	129.74
HASSAN	6471	6453	99.72	288.72
KODAGU	1099	1060	96.45	58.84
MANDYA	6638	6638	100.00	310.97
MYSORE	6602	6602	100.00	87.43
CHAMARAJANAGAR	3928	3928	100.00	91.75
BELGAUM	14134	11540	81.65	115.33
BIJAPUR	3888	2969	76.36	25.91
BAGALKOT	4010	4010	100.00	30.13
DHARAWAD	3029	2453	80.98	11.43
GADAG	3476	3145	90.48	24.48
HAVERI	4659	4593	98.58	109.63
UTTARA KANNADA	2259	2253	99.73	105.52

BELLARY	5220	4914	94.14	36.77
BIDAR	2939	2939	100.00	39.79
GULBARGA	6349	4568	71.95	110.92
YADGIRI	2771	2400	86.61	14.5
RAICHUR	5045	4840	95.94	34.45
KOPPAL	2868	2824	98.47	19.67
STATE	140000	130050	92.89	2769

Source: Karnataka at a Glance, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Bangalore, Karnataka, 2015-16.

Figure 4

District wise Distribution of SHGs by Total Loan Received from Banks in Karnataka, during 2015-16



Source: Table 4.

4.5. Revolving Funds Received from Government by SHGs

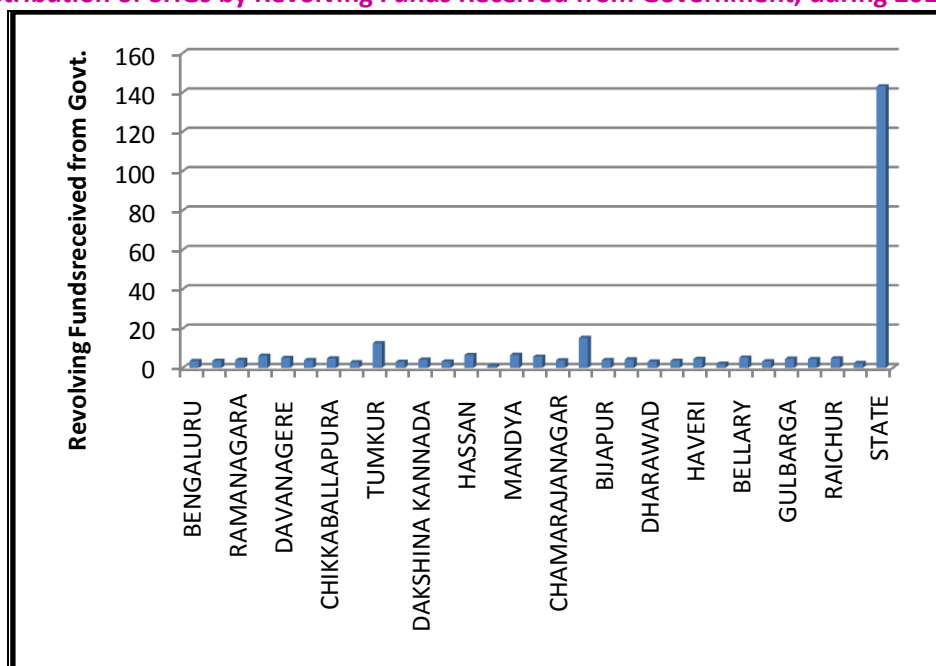
The data presented in Table 5 clearly shows that the proportion of SHGs who have received highest revolving funds from government was found to be quite significant in Belagum (Rs. 15.25 Crores), Tumkur (Rs. 12.5 Crores), Hassan (Rs. 6.55 Crores), Chitradurga (Rs. 6.12 Crores) and Mysore (Rs. 5.75 Crores) districts as compared to that of in others districts in Karnataka during 2015-16. Whereas the proportion of SHGs who have received highest revolving funds from government was found to be much lower in Kodagu (Rs. 1.05 Crores), Uttara Kannada (Rs. 2.1 Crores), Koppal (Rs. 2.5 Crores) and Shimoga (Rs. 2.83 Crores) districts as compared to that of in others districts in Karnataka during same period.

Table 5
Distribution of SHGs by Revolving Funds Received from Government, during 2015-16

Districts	No. of SHGs	Revolving Funds received from Govt. (Rs. in Crores)
BENGALURU	3161	3.53
BENGALURU(R)	3365	3.65
RAMANAGARA	4635	4.05
CHITRADURGA	5075	6.12
DAVANAGERE	4822	5.05
KOLAR	4217	3.98
CHIKKABALLAPURA	4989	4.83
SHIMOGA	4329	2.83
TUMKUR	10234	12.5
CHIKMAGALUR	3283	3.06
DAKSHINA KANNADA	3663	4.25
UDUPI	2846	3.25
HASSAN	6471	6.55
KODAGU	1099	1.05
MANDYA	6638	6.7
MYSORE	6602	5.75
CHAMARAJANAGAR	3928	3.85
BELGAUM	14134	15.25
BIJAPUR	3888	4
BAGALKOT	4010	4.3
DHARAWAD	3029	3.2
GADAG	3476	3.65
HAVERI	4659	4.6
UTTARA KANNADA	2259	2.1
BELLARY	5220	5.25
BIDAR	2939	3.3
GULBARGA	6349	4.65
YADGIRI	2771	4.5
RAICHUR	5045	4.8
KOPPAL	2868	2.5
STATE	140000	143.1

Source: Karnataka at a Glance, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Bangalore, Karnataka, 2015-16.

Figure 5
Distribution of SHGs by Revolving Funds Received from Government, during 2015-16



Source: Table 5.

4.6. Policy Suggestions

Based on the findings of the present study, the following suggestion can be drawn:

- The performance of SHGs in terms of savings, access to micro credit was significantly better. Therefore, it is quite appropriate to encourage the people's oriented organizations or groups to come forward to mobilize the poor households into a plat form known as self-help group and initiate several savings and credit management activities.
- A smaller proportion of SHGs members belonged to the SC and ST communities continued to be deprived of establishing the non-agricultural self-employment. Hence, the members of this community should be encouraged to set up such non-farm business by providing adequate micro credit or skill based training.
- NGOs and Voluntary organizations should be associated in the process of SHGs. They can help motivate, organize and make them conscious of the poor.
- The SHGs member should take SHGs only as a tool and as a solution of the problem by itself. The member himself is the solution for poverty and unemployment.
- The SHGs member should be honest, disciplined, hardworking, sincere, straight forward etc. Member should continuously monitor his performance against goals set by the group and should be bold enough in initiating correlative measures.

5. CONCLUSIONS

The forgoing analysis clearly indicates that the SHGs of women in Karnataka have been identified as an effective strategy for the empowerment of women in rural areas as well as in urban areas. It has been found that the share of SHGs is relatively higher in Southern Karnataka as compared to the share of SHGs in Northern Karnataka. Similarly, the data shows that the proportion of SHGs membership was found to be much higher in Others caste as compared to that of in SCs and STs in all the districts of Karnataka during 2015-16. The data on savings accumulated by SHGs reveals that the proportion of savings accumulation is

much higher in socio- economically better off region of the Karnataka viz., Southern Karnataka as compared to that of in socio economically backward region of the Karnataka viz., Northern Karnataka.

It has been observed that the proportion of total loan received from bank by SHGs was found to be quite significant in Mandya, Hassan, Tumkur, Ramanagar, and Udupi districts as compared to that of in other districts of Karnataka during 2015-16. Further the data relating to revolving funds received from government by SHGs indicates that the proportion of SHGs who have received highest revolving funds from government was found to be much higher in Belagum, Tumkur, Hassan, Chitradurga, and Mysore districts as compared to that of in others districts in Karnataka during 2015-16.

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