



Economics

Explore—Journal of Research for UG and PG Students

ISSN 2278 – 0297 (Print)

ISSN 2278 – 6414 (Online)

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<http://www.patnawomenscollege.in/journal>

Poverty alleviation through Self-help Group in Patna District : with Special Reference to Digha Area

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Received : December 2010
Accepted : February 2011
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Abstract : *Poverty reduction is one of the major goals of development policy in India since independence and achievement of minimum standard of living for all within the reasonable period has been the objective of the efforts initiated under the five year plans. Poverty alleviation programmes are targeted at the poor and meant to supplement market forces and generic growth strategies . The economic condition of the rural poor is weak. The formal credit institutions in rural areas are not sufficient in providing*

credit to the marginalized sections of the rural poor. As far as poverty of Bihar is concerned it is 42.5% , whereas National poverty is 26%. It has been estimated that out of 44% of indebtedness farmers take loan from money lenders and only 3% have borrowed from institutional sources. This shows that the performance of rural area in poverty reduction has been less impressive. Micro – finance institutions have significant impact in reducing poverty in rural areas. Micro finance has gained a lot of significance and momentum in the last decade. India, now occupies a significant place and has carved a niche in global microfinance through promotion of Self Help Groups. SHG aims at women because when resources are scarce and services are few it is always the women who are the most affected. An attempt is made here to access the impact of SHGs on income and employment generation of sample women members in Digha area of Patna district .

Key words : MFI , SHG, NGO, Empowerment, Poverty.