

International Journal of Research Publication and Reviews

Journal homepage: www.ijrpr.com ISSN 2582-7421

ROLE OF MICRO FINANCE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF TRIBAL SUB PLAN (TSP) AREAS OF SOUTHERN RAJASTHAN

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ABSTRACT:

Economic development and development of tribal community are complementary to each other. It is to be reiterated that a planned sustainable development is not possible until the entire society is free from syndrome of paucity of funds that are allocated for the development of unprivileged group, such as the tribal communities. Thus, availability of finance is necessary to the needy people to break the vicious circle of poverty so that the tribal people can contribute a lot towards the economic development of a nation. Microfinance extends helpless people access to financial services such as savings, loans, micro-insurance and money transfer services. People living in poverty, need a different range of financial services to run their businesses, build assets, manage risks and smooth consumption.

The present study is to found out the role of microfinance schemes in economic development of tribal sub plans (TSP) areas in southern Rajasthan.

KEYWORDS: Microfinance, Microcredit, Savings, Insurance, SHG, JLG, Tribal People, Economic Development, Tribal Sub Plan (TSP).

INTRODUCTION OF MICRO FINANCE

As Mahatma Gandhi used to say; "India lives in villages" The development of villages and slum area in cities is a precondition for balanced economic development of the country. The basic requirements of economic growth are savings, investments and expanding markets for industrial products, ultimately depending development of rural and slum area of cities India. Microfinance is a tool for reducing poverty depending on local circumstances. Poverty is often the result of low economic growth and high population growth.

Microfinance extends helpless people access to financial services such as savings, loans, micro-insurance and money transfer services. People living in poverty, need a different range of financial services to run their businesses, build assets, manage risks and smooth consumption.

Helpless people usually address their need for financial services through a variety of financial relationships, by and large informal. Credit is available from informal moneylenders, but normally at a high cost to borrowers. Savings services are available through a diversity of informal relationships like rotating savings, savings clubs and credit associations, and other mutual savings societies. But these tend to be wandering and somewhat insecure. Conventionally, banks or financial institutions have not considered hapless people to be a feasible market because they consider risk factor are more to recover the money.

Economic development and development of tribal community are complementary to each other. It is to be reiterated that a planned sustainable development is not possible until the entire society is free from syndrome of paucity of funds that are allocated for the development of unprivileged group, such as the tribal communities. Thus, availability of finance is necessary to the needy people to break the vicious circle of poverty so that the tribal people can contribute a lot towards the economic development of a nation.

1.1 The significant Features of Microfinance are:

- Microfinance is an instrument for the empowerment of poor women
- Loans under microfinance programmes are very small
- Microfinance aims the poor rural and urban households
- Credit under microfinance trails thrift i.e., mobilize savings and lend the same
- Low deal cost due to group lending's
- Transparencies in procedure
- Small refund period
- Easy methods for reviewing, processing and approving loan requests and delivery credit
- Probability of misutilization is unusual and there is guaranteed repayment
- Peer pressure act as the collateral security requisite for loans

- Necessitate based loan disbursement
- Punctual repayment
- There is no ceiling from the RBI in respect of minimum and maximum amounts.

1.2 KEY PLAYERS OF MICROFINANCE SYSTEM IN RAJASTHAN

- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- ✓ National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD)
- ✓ Small Industrial Development Bank of India (SIDBI)
- ✓ Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK)
- ✓ 1.8.5 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)
- ✓ 1.8.6 Co-Operative Banks

1.3 WOMEN EMPOWERMENT & SELF-HELP GROUP (SHG)

Empowering women in the process of development has become the main concern of almost all development strategies and programs. Development agencies are currently very much worried about raising the empowerment level of women so that they can be able to challenge their relation in family and society. Empowerment is a concept that has become popular for describing in recent times, a process of enabling, to gain benefits and opportunities for people with socially marginalized groups and groups. Empowerment is a process that helps people to increase their awareness, activities and control their life standard. In other words, empowerment facilitates change in their lives and enables a person to compete according to their efficiency. The term 'empowerment' has developed especially in the field of development in the context of women in the mid1980s. This has become the main solution to many social problems such as high population growth rate, decline in environment and low status of women. Empowerment is defined as a process through which women have gained more control over the resources (information, knowledge, income, skill training and technology etc.), challenging patriarchy ideology and therefore take part in leadership, decision making process. Empowerment gives legal and moral power to the individual in all areas of life, which is essential for social, economic, political, psychological, religious and spiritual, which is the basis of mankind's existence and holistic development. Empowerment expresses strong views that the claims of the social planning of all the people that protect them from the worst abuse and deprivation and safeguard independence for the life of dignity.

1.4 SELF HELP GROUP (SHG)

In common language, SHGs are small-scale financial intermediary committees, usually involving many local people. Traditionally, discrete groups are preferred for men and women. In a few months, members contribute a small amount of regular savings, as long as there is not enough capital in the group to lend. The financial group gives loan members or others to any object. Self-help group is a process through which a group of people, especially for general purpose, is assisted in development activities like saving, debt and income generation to women. SHGs are voluntary organizations of people created for achieving group goals. The objective of SHG is to create habit of saving, savings and banking culture (getting loan and repaying the same time in a given period), to ensure economic independence. The principles living under self-help groups are financing the poorest of the poor, ensuring easy recovery levels, and achieving overall empowerment.

There are different self-help groups, who are doing creditable work for the upliftment of women in tribal areas of Southern Rajasthan. However, it is the changes in the power structure within the household are the most difficult thing to achieve record or observe. Women will have to negotiate for more 'space' to make a personal decision at home. Women have persecuted, persecuted in different ways and have responded to the reaction. By and large, they have negotiated rather than confronted and maintained relationships despite severe odds than rejecting them altogether.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

- 1. Greaney et al (2016) found that privatized representatives started groups, catch the attention of members, and mobilize savings and intermediate loans at like levels subsequent to a year but at very worse costs to the NGO. By the side of the village level, they as well found with the intention of higher levels of borrowing, business-related savings, and investment in business. While examining mechanisms, they found with the purpose of self-help groups serve more business-oriented clientele when made easy by agents who face strong financial incentives.
- 2. Lambisia (2016) grouping solidity were of highest importance in monetary empowerment. Structure of the grouping attained all the way through enhancing communal communication, joint actions and having general interests and goals were resultantly directing to group effectiveness, communal support and as a result economic empowerment. It was concluded that security was not an obligation for members as seeking credit. Relatively, group members were accessing credit by being guaranteed by other group members. Group guarantee was homogeneous across all members and was subject to the credit evidence of the associate(s) looking for loans.

- 3. Sarkhel and Mondal (2013), a large number of the associated members have stated that their family unit position has improved by joining the SHGs. The level of income of the SHG members was increased and this was major cause of improvement in their societal status in the society. In view of the fact SHG helped women to attain economic empowerment, this course of action measures are contributing a lot to the country. Poverty is normally identified at the same time as an outcome of idleness and be deficient in availability of revenue earning fundamentals. Their empirical investigation identified that appropriately designed and efficiently put into practiced Self Help Groups microfinance programme can not only improve poverty but also give power to women at the grassroots level.
- 4. Benjamin F. Lyngdoh and Ambika P. Pati, (2013) Impact of Microfinance on Women Empowerment in the Matrilineal Tribal Society of India: An Analysis Using Propensity Score Matching and Difference-in-Difference [J. Ref. No.46, P/165] International Journal of Rural Management, April 2013; vol. 9, 1: pp. 45-69. This study is an evaluation of the impact of microfinance on women empowerment conducted upon clients of the matrilineal tribal society of India that exists in its north east region. It covers a period of five years, where in, data is compiled collected from 300 microfinance women clients (experimental group [EG]) and 150 non-microfinance women clients (control group [CG)]). For impact evaluation, Propensity Score Matching (PSM) and Difference-in-Difference (DinD) techniques are applied.
- 5. Guruswamy D. (2012) reveals that MFIs have changed the life of poor people in a positive way in Mekelle, Ethiopia. Besides this they have also observed that high interest rates, loan application process & approval, collateral, service delivery and lack of close relationship between institution management and the borrowers have been the limiting factors for poor people to access the MFI services.
- 6. Abiola Babajide (2011) uses the financing constraints approach to study the impact of microfinance on access to credit for microenterprises in Nigeria. The study indicates that Micro Finance Banks (MFBs) have alleviated micro businesses' financing constraints. The study also reveals that microenterprises with improved access to credit rely less on internal funds for their investments.
- 7. Audu & Achegbulu (2011) reveals that the poverty alleviation has spawned a broad array of initiatives in Nigeria. According to them most of the microfinance banks tend to concentrate their operations in urban and semi-urban towns instead of the rural areas where the poorest of the poor are concentrated. The study also reveals that there is a need for capacity building as more of the managing Directors of these banks have ill-equipped for the services which they have meant to provide, which ultimately lead them to miss their target market.
- 8. Langat & et al. (2011) have studied the effect of 'village bank' credit system on household welfare at Bomet country of Kenya. After analysing the data collected from 125 'village bank' members they observe that there has been a positive relationship between the amount borrowed and household welfare. They have also reported that the household income of credit participants has significantly higher than that of the non-participants. Besides credit, education, age of the household head, farm and off-farm income play a significant role in determining the wellbeing in a household.
- 9. Ardener Shirley (2010) introduces the topic of Rotating Savings and Credit Associations (ROSCAs) and several other forms of microcredit institutions in his paper entitled "Microcredit, money transfers, women, and the Cameroon Diaspora". According to him, ROSCAs had been considered as the economic and social lifelines for many women and men, poor and wealthy alike and they provide the main source of rural and urban credit, both for sustainable living and entrepreneurial endeavour.
- **Joseph E. Imhanlahimi (2010)** studies about the poverty alleviation through microfinancing in Nigeria. From the study he observes that 35 p.c of the economically active population is served by the formal financing, while the remaining 65 p.c is excluded from access to financial services who are often served by the informal financial sector through non-agricultural microfinance institutions, money lenders, friends, relatives and credit unions.
- 11. **Dr. Ambika Bhatia, and Ayena Gill (2022)** have focused on "Sluggish growth of NBF-MFI in north India a norm or an exception". According to the study the growth and the functioning of NBFC-MFIs in India has not been smooth which we can infer from the problems encountered by them till date. Though their problems cannot be solved by a single solution as a one size fits all approach will not work in this case we need to focus on multiple solutions and apply them in a holistic manner so that NBFC-MFIs do get a chance to function effectively and efficiently.
- 12. Yada Srikanth and Dr. Kamatam Srinivas (2022) have done their study on trend and growth of microfinance institutions in India. They said the importance of microfinance in the developing countries like India cannot be undermined it play a vital role for socio-economic upliftment of poor and low-income peoples. Since 1990s, poverty reduction has taken priority at both national and international development levels. Within this framework, various initiatives have been taken by government. Microfinance has caught the attention as an effective tool for poverty reduction and socio- economic development. Hence Microfinance can play a vital role for improving the standard of living of poor.

The economic development of any country is severely influenced by the availability of financial services. Microfinance is the form of a broad range of financial services such as deposits, loans, payment services, money transfers, insurance, savings, micro-credit etc. to the poor and low-income individuals.

- 13. Neha Soni and Asha Sharma (2020) have done their work on Progress pathway of Microfinance in India: Challenges and Potential.

 According to their study the importance of microfinance in developing countries like India cannot be undermined as it plays a vital role for socio-economic upliftment of poor and low-income people. Since 1990s, poverty reduction has taken priority at both national and international development levels. Within this framework, various initiatives have been taken by government.
- 14. Anmol Guleria and Shruti Agarwal (2019) have focused on Micro Finance and Its Relationship with Unemployment in India. According to their study, to ensure proper working of MFIs, there needs to be a more systemized and well-regulated framework which should be supervised by a national level authority. An expert committee of learned people should be formed to provide regulatory mechanism and supervision. Another major issue which restricts the growth of micro finance is that the people end up taking multiple loans from more than one MFI (beyond permissible limit) which creates a vicious debt circle as the borrowers fail to pay back.
- Kumar et al (2018) suggested that the group heterogeneity openly envisages the usefulness of women's self-help groups in addition to it was completely convey through group formation and procedure of it positively forecast the usefulness of the women's self-help groups. The group formation and procedure were found to be a complete intermediary between group heterogeneity and group effectiveness. The prophetic exactness of the model is found to be far above the ground. The findings had implications to bring in extra diversity in members castes, education, and their reasons for joining women's self-help groups at the formation stage and variations in members" skills and expertise at the performing stage of the groups.
- Addil Rashid and Ashok Kumar (2018) have done their work on Evolution and Progress of Microfinance in India. According to their study Microfinance is multifaceted and works in an integrated system. There are many stake holders and each one has a definite role to play. In the core there is client. There is a second level called micro level where MFIs, NGOs, SHGs and Grameen work to provide financial support to individual client. Apex institutions like NABARD, SIDBI and other nationalized Banks operate in Meso-Level to provide infrastructure, information and technical support to micro level players. Around all these levels, there are financial environment, Regulations, legislations and regulators called Macro level.
- 17. Nirmal Chandra Roy (2017) focused on Role of Microfinance on Tribal Women Empowerment: A Case of Dooars Region of West Bengal.

 The study concludes that microfinance brought psychological and social empowerment and economic empowerment. Micro finance improves the living standard of women by increasing their family's income. It also helps to make women aware about the education and literacy. Impact of micro finance is appreciable in bringing confidence, courage, skill development and empowerment. As Micro finance increases the family's income and status of women which reduces the domestic violence in family and bring happiness and peace.
- 18. Vipinkumar et al., (2017) such as performance evaluation of the SHGs, gender study, empowerment analysis and economic viability analysis based on socio-economic examination of the SHGs. In their study, male and female equivalents of the families were separately interviewed to evaluate the gender mainstreaming features in conditions of impartiality and fairness to access to resources, participation profile, decision making aspects, gender need analysis etc. They found that mass of activities was female conquered, the male counterparts of the households moreover have specific role in decision making, acquire of accessories, sales, marketing etc.
- 19. Vinodhini and Vaijayanthi (2016) focused on the wages used for women empowerment and decline of poverty in the course of self-help group. They were associated by developing their communal and economic position and give power to women by increasing their returns, payments and saving routines. The key grounds for the achievement of SHGs were its acquaintances with the deprived people, its inventive customs and its capability to facilitate people's involvement building at diverse levels between stakeholders. They have developed self-assurance and sovereignty among rural women, which in turn increased the occupation of the rural households.
- 20. H.A. Manju, Dr. Shanmugam V (2013). —An analysis of SHG performance through micro finance in Karnataka statel Asian Journal of Research in Social Sciences and Humanities, Year: 2013, Volume: 3, Issue: 5[J. Ref. No.59, P/166]. They have stated that Micro Finance has vital role in economic empowerment of women in India and state of Karnataka also. The main objectives of the study are to examine the SHG-Bank Linkage programme, to evaluate the performance of Micro Finance (in Karnataka) with women economic empowerment.
- 21. Swati Jain (2023)have done a study on Microfinance for Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in Jaipur, Rajasthan: sources and challenges. According to her study Microfinance is definitely a boon to the people of developing nations who are really in need of the funds

so that they can channelize such funds for betterment of their life. Microfinance success can be measured by seeing the development of the rural backward areas on a significant scale. It is favoured to empower women by making them self-reliant entrepreneurs & there by uplifting their status in the society.

- 22. Satyveer Singh Meena and Hanuman Prasad (2021) "An Evaluative Study of Performance of Self-Help Groups in Tribal Sub Region of Rajasthan" International Journal of Current Microbiology and Applied Sciences, November 2021; vol.10,1 (ISSN: 2319-7706) This paper examined the performance of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in Tribal Sub Plan Region of Rajasthan state of India. The study also analyzed association between performance and family type, age, income level & education categories. In total 300 SHG members were selected for this study.
- 23. Neelima Kabra (2021) have done her study on Role of Microfinance Institution in Stimulating Women Empowerment in South East Rajasthan. According to the study, in India, Rajasthan is a state where Women have been the most underprivileged and discriminated strata of the society and incomes of the women are very low and through micro credit, they can increase their income. That is why researchers has selected role of microfinance institutions in stimulating women empowerment in the districts of Kota, Bundi, Baran and Jhalawar as area of research
- 24. MS Sriram and Samita Parhi (2021) have focused on Financial Status of Rural Poor: A Study in Udaipur District. In this a study conducted in one village of Rajasthan which was under the influence of drought for last three years and has experienced some rainfall this year. Being near to the city solved some of the important problems particularly pertaining to wage employment and helped them to diversify their livelihood sources. Even health related expenses would be had been lower due to greater access in Udaipur.
- Yaduveer Yadav, (2020) have done his work on A study on Financial Inclusion and Women Empowerment in Rajasthan State. In the study he said financial inclusion through microfinance is a very effective tool for the uplift of the poor, in general and empowerment of women in particular. Advancing microfinance to the women through on reasonable terms and conditions make it possible for the women to attain economic independence, social status and organizational skills which results in helping the women and the poor function actively in the overall development of the society.
- 26. Ezhar Ahmad (2020) Have focused on the performance analysis of microfinance through self-help groups in Rajasthan. According to him SHGs has proved to be an institution which can work as a bridge between formal financial sector service provider and poor population of rural and urban sections of society who were earlier considered as unworthy of getting bank lending. SHG-Bank linkage model is ascertained milestone. The functioning of Microfinance in India is playing a significant role since last two decades.
- Rita Jain(2018) have done her work on An Analytical Study of Role of Micro Finance of NABARD (with Special Reference to Rajasthan). According to the study Micro Finance for the women has received extensive recognition as a strategy for poverty reduction and for economic empowerment. Increasingly in the last five years, there is questioning of whether micro credit is most effective approach to economic empowerment of poorest and, among them, women in particular. Development practitioners in India and developing countries often argue that the exaggerated focus on micro finance as a solution for the poor has led to neglect by the state and public institutions in addressing employment and livelihood needs of the poor.
- 28. Anjoo Chauhan (2018) have done her study on Role of Self-Help Group (SHG) through Microfinance for Women's Empowerment in Udaipur Cluster. The study revealed that access to microfinance has contributed immensely to the economic empowerment of women through improvement in their businesses. The study shows that access to microfinance has improved the status of women both at the family level and in society as a whole. At the family level, the study reported an improvement in household income and standard of living of the family.
- 29. Babita Sharma (2017) have done her work on Status of Microfinance in Rajasthan: Problem and Prospectus. She has observed that Microfinance service has been recognized as one of the most successful and rapidly growing programme in Rajasthan. Microfinance services are provided mainly by two different models viz., SHG-bank linkage model and MFI-bank model. Out of these two models, SHG-bank linkage model has emerged as the more dominant and widely accepted model due to its adoption by formal financial institutions namely, Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Cooperative Banks.
- 30. **Dr. Sonia Singla (2017)** have done on Role of Microfinance in Women Empowerment in Rajasthan. She has observed that microfinance is playing a vital role in the social, psychological as well as economic empowerment of women in Rajasthan. Microfinance loan availement and its productive utilization found to be having a profound role and impact on women empowerment. The empirical findings of the study suggests that microfinance has a profound influence on the economic status, decision making power, knowledge and self-worthiness of women

participants of self-help group linkage program in Rajasthan. Microfinance is capable of helping the poor to upscale themselves to a better living and playing a significantly positive role in upgrading women empowerment.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

- 1. The main objective of the present study is to find out the impact of microfinance in economic development of TSP area of Raja sthan.
- 2. To study the impact of microfinance in social development of Tribal communities of Banswara, Dungarpur, Pratapgarh and Udaipur District of Rajasthan.
- 3. To ascertain the current status & magnitudes of availability of microfinance among the tribal communities under the TSP area of Rajasthan.
- 4. To study the utilization of microfinance by tribal communities and its relationship with living standard of tribal people.
- 5. To know what are the obstacles and also remove obstacles in microfinance of TSP area of Rajasthan.
- **6.** To study the impact of microfinance on income and employment generation of the tribal communities and also know the interest towards the education of their children, Health and Hygiene care awareness.

3.2 SAMPLE DESIGN

In the present study there are 450 samples are finalizing after evaluation and seeing the completeness of the responds form the respondents of the persons and officers who are involved in the micro finance schemes. So, a convenient sample of was selected from TSP area of the southern Rajasthan. Although there was diverse TSP area of the state was taken for the study but the response questions were similar in the survey. We can say that this study was carried out with similar design for diverse groups. In conclusion the data was merged in the single data sheet for finding the cumulative response and assessing the objectives and hypothesis.

SN	Sample	Size
1	Block Development Officers	50
2	TSP Resident /people	400
	Total	450

Table 3.1 Sample Design

So finally, a sample design is a finite plan for obtaining a sample from a given population. Simple random sampling is used for this study. The procedure adopted in the present study is probability sampling, which is also known as chance sampling. Under this sampling design, every item of the frame has an equal chance of inclusion in the sample.

This chapter comprises the essential portion of the study. The study discovers the exclusive information of the micro finance schemes and opinion of tribal people for the same with special reference of south Rajasthan. The all-inclusive investigation of primary data has been depicted in this section by the help of several statistical tools and required statistical provisions. In this chapter, the statistical analysis scenario is to found out the role of microfinance schemes in economic development of tribal sub plans (TSP) area in Rajasthan districts.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

This chapter comprises the essential portion of the study. The study discovers the exclusive information of the micro finance schemes and opinion of tribal people for the same with special reference of south Rajasthan. The all-inclusive investigation of primary data has been depicted in this section by the help of several statistical tools and required statistical provisions. In this chapter, the statistical analysis scenario is to found out the role of microfinance schemes in economic development of tribal sub plans (TSP) area in Rajasthan districts.

Gender of Respondent

SN	Details of Respondents	Male	Female	Total
1	Officers	30	20	50

2	TSP Resident	211	189	400
Total		241	209	450

Table: 4.1 Gender of Respondents

According to the respondents count the count of male and female in the group of block development officers were 30 and 20 respectively. Similarly, the number of male and female in the group of TSP resident was 211 and 189 respectively. It was observed that, the sum of male candidate was foremost then the female respondents for the research.

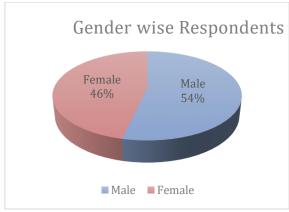


Figure 4.1 Gender wise Information of Respondents

It was detected that; the figure of female was a smaller in both of the segment. The overall figure of female is 209 out of 450 respondents where the figure of the male is 241 out of 450. Overall percentage of female is 46% where the percentage of male is 54%.

4.2 Age Distribution

Rendering to age proportion of the respondents are alienated into five type's categories in the consecutive order as well as clusters. This cluster / group statistic demonstrates the spreading of respondents as per age and experience. The age consolidation of the respondents of the study is publicized in the given table. It is observed that the entire respondents for this research study survey are adult, even we are not involved the applicant underneath 18 years of the age.

Table 4.2: Age Distribution

SN	No. of Responder (Age Group wise)	No. of Respondents	Percentage (Round)
1	Below 21 years	29	07%
2	21-30 years	128	28%
3	31-40 years	177	39%
4	41-50 years	104	23%
5	51 and above	12	03%
Total		450	100%

As per the table the cumulative number of the respondents is 450. Fundamentally these are the peoples concerned towards recording and responding for the opinion alongside the survey questions.

The clustering of the age group is jumble for the entire respondents. At this time, it is also observed that the ration of age below 51 years groups is lesser which shows that the team of the respondents for the study is too much young and working personnel.

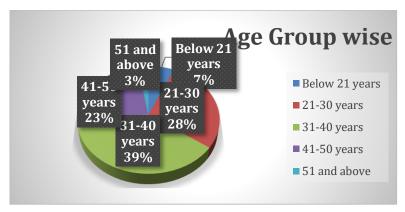


Figure 4.2: Age group wise Responders

As per the data we are having about the age group distribution it is find that 23% of the respondents were from the age group between 41 to 50 years, 39% of the respondents were belonging to the group 31 to 40 years of age.

According to figure 28% respondents were observed under the group of 21 to 30 years of age group, 03% peoples are plunging in the class of 51 and above year age group. It is renowned that only 07% respondents were being applicable from the age group less than 21 years.

4.3 Qualification Level of Respondents

The educational qualification class of the respondents delivers an understanding as well as a roadmap to clarify the usefulness of the new scheme adoption capabilities by replacing traditional thought and approaches. The pockmark of enlightening height of the respondents depicts that big amount of respondents keeps graduate degrees which figured as 22% and 101 respondents are graduate, here this is notable that BDOs are also count here as respondents.

SN	Qualification Level	No. of Respondents	%
1	Upper Primary	86	19%
2	Secondary	139	31%
3	Senior secondary	110	25%
4	Graduate	101	22%
5	Diploma /ITI	14	03%
Aggregate		450	100%

Table 4.3: Qualification Level of Respondents

At this stage it is distinguished that the respondents having vocational qualifications are very less as the figure of those are 03% only, whereas the figure of the respondents passed Upper Primary education level are 19%. The score of secondary passed respondents are 31% which is highest score, and this is not much significant for this study.

The senior secondary school qualified respondents are also holding the less percentage figure of 25% and the figure of the graduate post graduate respondents are 22% but a figure of officers is shared this percentage. Therefore, as per the qualification point of view we can say that the respondents / participants of the survey study are not sufficient and suitable for the study.

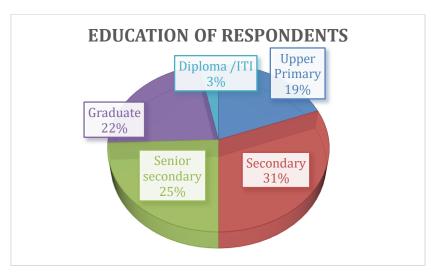


Figure 4.3: Qualification of Respondents

Respondent's opinion about Micro Finance Schemes

Table- 4.4 (Table of Respondent's opinion about Micro Finance Schemes)

Question	Respondent	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total	Mean	Standard Deviation
Do you think that micro	Public								
finance schemes plays	Respondent	203	101	42	41	13	400	4.1	1.142
significant role in the	Govt.								
economic development of	Respondent	25	13	5	5	2	50	4.08	1.163
TSP area of Rajasthan	Total	228	114	47	46	15	450	4.097	1.144
	Public								
Did you satisfied from the	Respondent	110	75	91	95	29	400	3.355	1.299
economic development of	Govt.								
TSP area of Rajasthan	Respondent	21	13	8	4	4	50	3.86	1.265
	Total	131	88	99	99	33	450	3.411	1.305
Did you find that your	Public								
average income increased	Respondent	125	145	44	41	45	400	3.66	1.315
after joining the Micro	Govt.								
Finance schemes?	Respondent	15	12	3	13	7	50	3.3	1.473
Finance schemes:	Total	140	157	47	54	52	450	3.62	1.338
I- it to that have large	Public	120	100	80	70	30	400	3.525	1.284
Is it true that you have less financial strength before	Respondent	120	100	80	70	30	400	3.323	1.204
joining the micro finances	Govt.								
schemes / groups?	Respondent	23	12	7	5	3	50	3.94	1.239
schemes/ groups:	Total	143	112	87	75	33	450	3.571	1.286
Did you noticed that Micro	Public								
finance schemes are less	Respondent	130	90	85	70	25	400	3.575	1.272
effective to provided	Govt.								
ample scope for large scale	Respondent	30	7	5	5	3	50	4.12	1.274
promotion of micro									
enterprises to the poor	Total	160	97	90	75	28	450	3.635	1.284
tribal people in the district	Total	100	,,	70	7.5	20	430	3.033	1.204
of Rajasthan.									
Is it true that Micro finance	Public								
schemes has not provided	Respondent	115	95	87	65	38	400	3.46	1.31
ample scope for the	Govt.					_			
generation of proper	Respondent	28	8	4	4	6	50	3.96	1.427
income source to the poor	Total	143	103	91	69	44	450	3.515	1.333
tribal people of Rajasthan.	Public								
Micro finance has not		112	78	69	82	59	400	3.255	1.42
provided ample scope for employment through	Respondent	112	/8	09	82	39	400	3.233	1.43
different economic	Govt.	24	11	8	5	2	50	4	1 102
activities to the poor tribal	Respondent	24	11	0	3		30	4	1.183
people in the district of	Total	136	89	77	87	61	450	3,337	1.424
Rajasthan.	Total	130	67	, ,	67	01	430	3.331	1.424
rujustitaii.	Public								
There is growth recorded	Respondent	100	105	85	70	40	400	3.387	1.298
in the education level of	Govt.	100	100	0.0	7.0		100	5.507	1.270
the TSP area after micro	Respondent	20	9	6	7	8	50	3.52	1.513
finance implementation	Total	120	114	91	77	48	450	3.402	1.325
There is significant	Public	120	117	/1	,,		730	3.402	1.525
awareness noted about	Respondent	103	98	83	76	40	400	3.37	1.314
Hygiene care of the	Govt.	103	70	0.5	7.0	-10	700	3.31	1.514
respondents after proper	Respondent	18	11	8	6	7	50	3.54	1.431
implementation of micro	*								
finance schemes.	Total	121	109	91	82	47	450	3.388	1.329
Did you noted significant	Public								
improvement in the health	Respondent	111	96	89	78	26	400	3.47	1.258
awareness of TSP after	Govt.								
proper utilization of micro	Respondent	21	10	8	4	7	50	3.68	1.434
finance schemes .	Total	132	106	97	82	33	450	3.493	1.281

Overall, there's a general consensus that microfinance plays a significant role in economic development in the TSP area. However, satisfaction with the *extent* of economic development is lower and more varied. While respondents generally agree that income and financial strength improved after joining, there's a tendency to believe that microfinance schemes are less effective for large-scale enterprise promotion and generating ample income and employment opportunities. There's a slightly positive perception of improvements in education, hygiene, and health awareness, although these observations show more variability. Government respondents tend to have a slightly more positive outlook on the effectiveness of microfinance compared to public respondents across several dimensions.

Respondent's opinion after joining SHG

Questions	Respondent	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total	Mean	Standard Deviation
	Public	220	115	35	20	10	400	4.287	0.989
Purchase of grocery	Govt	24	17	5	3	1	50	4.2	0.979
	Total	244	132	40	23	11	450	4.277	0.989
	Public	75	90	100	80	55	400	3.125	1.307
Purchase of luxury items	Govt	17	12	6	6	9	50	3.44	1.498
	Total	92	102	106	86	64	450	3.16	1.333
	Public	132	140	50	38	40	400	3.715	1.285
Whitewashing	Govt	16	13	5	10	6	50	3.46	1.417
	Total	148	153	55	48	46	450	3.686	1.303
	Public	115	95	78	75	37	400	3.44	1.323
Family planning	Govt	30	10	5	4	1	50	4.28	1.059
	Total	145	105	83	79	38	450	3.533	1.323
	Public	123	87	90	74	26	400	3.517	1.274
Borrowing and investments on different avenues	Govt	25	5	4	9	7	50	3.64	1.558
	Total	148	92	94	83	33	450	3.531	1.309
	Public	110	100	77	70	43	400	3.41	1.336
Recreational and Entertainment	Govt	16	13	8	8	5	50	3.54	1.344
	Total	126	113	85	78	48	450	3.424	1.338
	Public	108	60	75	86	71	400	3.12	1.463
Education and marriages of children	Govt	18	7	17	6	2	50	3.66	1.193
	Total	126	67	92	92	73	450	3.18	1.445
	Public	80	95	100	80	45	400	3.212	1.281
Purchase of new house	Govt	20	7	10	5	8	50	3.52	1.486
	Total	100	102	110	85	53	450	3.246	1.309
	Public	110	90	95	70	35	400	3.425	1.292
Spending income in own way	Govt	10	13	6	10	11	50	3.02	1.462
	Total	120	103	101	80	46	450	3.38	1.318
	Public	106	90	100	73	31	400	3.417	1.266
Renovation of house	Govt	19	9	10	2	10	50	3.5	1.513
	Total	125	99	110	75	41	450	3.426	1.296
	Public	140	120	70	50	20	400	3.775	1.193
Debt for domestic purpose	Govt	30	10	3	4	3	50	4.2	1.216
	Total	170	130	73	54	23	450	3.822	1.203
	Public	130	115	65	55	35	400	3.625	1.297
Decision related to Live stock	Govt	29	11	3	3	4	50	4.16	1.254
	Total	159	126	68	58	39	450	3.684	1.304
	1	1	<u> </u>	1	1	1	1	1	<u> </u>

Purchase/Sale of agriculture output	Public	105	100	90	80	25	400	3.45	1.243
	Govt	25	8	6	6	5	50	3.84	1.405
	Total	130	108	96	86	30	450	3.493	1.268
Doing Pooja/Hawan, etc.	Public	110	103	97	79	11	400	3.555	1.164
	Govt	23	12	8	2	5	50	3.92	1.293
	Total	133	115	105	81	16	450	3.595	1.185

Table- 4.5 (Table of Respondent's opinion after joining SHG)

In general, the "Purchase of grocery" and "Debt for domestic purpose" elicit the strongest agreement across both groups, while "Purchase of luxury items" and "Education and marriages of children" show more neutral or varied responses. The Govt group often exhibits slightly higher mean agreement compared to the Public group across several questions. The standard deviations provide insight into the consistency of opinions within each group for each question.

4.4 Respondent's opinion Household Expenditure

Questions	Respondent	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total	Mean	Standard Deviation
Healthy food	Public Respondent	100	118	130	58	12	400	2.63	1.132
	Govt. Respondent	18	11	13	5	3	50	2.34	1.119
	Total	118	129	143	63	15	450		
Martin about hald Emparate	Public Respondent	105	108	90	75	22	400	2.595	1.204
Meeting household Expenses and Liabilities	Govt. Respondent	21	10	5	5	9	50	2.28	1.411
	Total	126	118	95	80	31	450		
	Public Respondent	125	110	100	35	30	400	2.563	1.284
Clothing	Govt. Respondent	25	8	5	7	5	50	2.18	1.366
	Total	150	118	105	42	35	450		
	Public Respondent	128	114	112	26	20	400	2.465	1.189
Medical Expenditure	Govt. Respondent	27	11	6	4	2	50	2.14	1.101
	Total	155	125	118	30	22	450		
	Public Respondent	113	111	100	50	26	400	2.565	1.258
Towards Children's education	Govt. Respondent	27	9	5	5	4	50	2.18	1.256
	Total	140	120	105	55	30	450		
	Public Respondent	90	95	105	60	50	400	2.813	1.334
Entertainment	Govt. Respondent	14	11	10	8	7	50	2.6	1.342
	Total	104	106	115	68	57	450		
	Public Respondent	90	95	120	55	40	400	2.725	1.288
Shooing	Govt. Respondent	16	9	15	6	4	50	2.46	1.317
	Total	106	104	135	61	44	450		
Jewellery	Public Respondent	75	82	98	80	65	400	3.075	1.348

	Govt. Respondent	12	12	10	8	8	50	2.8	1.327
	Total	87	94	108	88	73	450		
	Public Respondent	65	60	72	90	113	400	3.48	1.37
Luxury Utensils	Govt. Respondent	9	10	7	10	14	50	3.36	1.356
	Total	74	70	79	100	127	450		
D 1 (C 4 (i f)	Public Respondent	79	81	120	80	40	400	2.975	1.303
Purchase/Construction/Renovation of house	Govt. Respondent	14	10	12	4	10	50	2.88	1.437
	Total	93	91	132	84	50	450		
	Public Respondent	111	114	90	50	35	400	2.638	1.28
Any Other	Govt. Respondent	26	12	5	4	3	50	2.08	1.231
	Total	137	126	95	54	38	450		

Table- 4.6 (Table of Respondent's opinion Household Expenditure)

Overall, for these expenditure categories, both the Public and Govt. respondent groups generally hover around the neutral point of the scale, indicating no strong consensus on prioritizing these expenditures. The Govt. respondent group often shows slightly lower mean values, suggesting a tendency towards disagreement or lower prioritization compared to the Public respondent group across most categories. The standard deviations indicate the spread of opinions within each group for each expenditure type.

FINDINGS & CONCLUSION

5.1 FINDINGS OF THE RESEARCH

- > Microfinance institutions (MFIs) have significantly improved access to financial services in remote tribal areas where formal banking penetration is low.
- Participation in microfinance programs has led to a measurable increase in household income, especially through micro-enterprises and livestock activities.

➣ Women Empowerment

Microfinance has empowered tribal women by enhancing their role in household decision-making and enabling them to contribute financially.

➢ Growth in Self-Employment

A notable shift from wage labor to self-employment was observed among beneficiaries, indicating a move towards economic independence.

Reduction in Dependence on Informal Credit

There is a decline in borrowing from moneylenders and informal sources due to the availability of low-interest microfinance loans.

> Improved Standard of Living

Microfinance clients reported better housing, access to education, healthcare, and consumption patterns over time.

> Capacity Building and Skill Development

SHGs and microfinance programs often include training, which has built entrepreneurial and financial literacy skills among tribal communities.

> Challenges of Loan Utilization

A proportion of borrowers use loans for non-productive purposes (e.g., ceremonies, health expenses), which affects long-term impact.

> Over-Indebtedness Risk

 $In areas \ with \ overlapping \ MFIs, some \ borrowers \ face \ challenges \ of \ multiple \ borrowing \ and \ repayment \ stress.$

> Social Capital and Community Mobilization

Microfinance has strengthened community networks through SHG formation and collective action, fostering social cohesion.

Infrastructural and Logistical Barriers

Lack of transport, banking infrastructure, and digital literacy still hinder the full potential of microfinance outreach in deep tribal pockets.

> Policy and Institutional Gaps

There are gaps in the coordination between government schemes (like NRLM) and MFIs, limiting synergistic outcomes in TSP regions.

5.2 CONCLUSION

This research set out to critically examine the contribution of microfinance in promoting economic development within the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) areas of Southern Rajasthan—a region characterized by its socio-economic backwardness, limited infrastructure, and a predominantly tribal population. The study focused on evaluating the accessibility, impact, and challenges of microfinance institutions (MFIs), self-help groups (SHGs), and other related initiatives in facilitating financial inclusion and enhancing the livelihoods of tribal communities.

The findings of the research clearly suggest that microfinance has had a positive and measurable impact on the economic development of the studied regions. Access to microcredit and savings mechanisms has enabled tribal households to invest in income-generating activities such as agriculture, animal husbandry, small businesses, and cottage industries. As a result, there has been a significant improvement in household incomes, asset creation, and reduction in reliance on informal moneylenders who often exploit vulnerable borrowers.

Moreover, microfinance has contributed to social empowerment, especially among tribal women. Through participation in SHGs and micro-enterprises, women have gained a voice in household decision-making, improved their financial literacy, and developed leadership skills. The group-based model has fostered a sense of collective responsibility, peer learning, and trust, further enhancing social cohesion in tribal communities.

However, the study also brings to light several critical challenges that limit the effectiveness and reach of microfinance in these areas:

- Limited Financial Literacy
- > Irregular Income Patterns
- > Geographical and Logistical Barriers
- > Institutional Limitations
- > Lack of Complementary Services

5.3 LIMITATIONS

If we are looking for limitations, there is some limitation which is generally associated with the any kind of schemes which are implemented in the tribal area. It is well known fact that micro finance related schemes are not easy to implement properly, because such kind of schemes are projected for long run. There is less possibilities to predict the environment of micro finance and implementation of self-helping groups in the tribal belt.

The study is not claimed to be highly comprehensive and the researcher is aware of its limitations. It would be, therefore, important to define at the outset the scope of this study. The present study covers the role of micro finance in economic development of Rajasthan. The geographical scope of the study is limited to the tribal people of Rajasthan. This study also covers the study of impact of microfinance scheme in economic development of tribal area of Rajasthan. The present study is limited to understand the nature of obstacles and how obstacles in economic development of tribal area can be removed. Apart from this the following other limitations have been identified:

- ➤ Geographical Scope
- > Data Availability and Quality
- > Respondent Bias and Reliability of Primary Data
- Language and Communication Barriers
- > Definitional Scope of Economic Development
- > Attribution Challenges
- > Time Constraints and Long-Term Impact
- > Institutional and Policy Variations

SUGGESTIONS

As per the findings of the study, the researcher would like to give the following suggestions for the different key players of micro finance: -

- 1. The area geographical area taken for the study is limited; it should be large enough to receive more accurate observations.
- 2. On site observation and personal interview approach is better to take the observation for more precise survey.
- Most of the respondents were not having good knowledge about environment and microfinance regulations. So, there is need to train the tribal people on the schemes.
- 4. There is need to apply more watch on the government related schemes especially which are implemented for the development of tribal area.
- 5. There is need of such kind of the schemes as the study shows that there is lot of improvement in the tribal domain of the Rajasthan.
- 6. Design microfinance-specific development schemes integrated with tribal welfare and rural employment programs like MGNREGA.
- 7. Invest in improving connectivity, digital infrastructure, and financial literacy centers in TSP (Tribal Sub-Plan) areas.
- 8. Expand digital banking infrastructure, mobile banking units, and Aadhaar-enabled services to remote tribal hamlets.
- 9. Provide education on savings, credit, interest rates, and debt management in local dialects.
- 10. Encourage small-scale enterprises through microfinance such as organic farming, animal husbandry, eco-tourism, and crafts.
- 11. Provide skill development training, bookkeeping support, and leadership workshops.
- 12. Help SHGs connect with markets via e-commerce platforms, exhibitions, and institutional buyers.
- 13. Promote success stories, challenges, and reforms in microfinance for tribal areas through media and public forums.

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