

## A Psychological Study of Identifying SHGS' Group Level Challenges and its Impact on Sustainability of SHGS' in Central India

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Received: 26- June -2023

Revised: 24- July -2023

Accepted: 05- August -2023

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### **Abstract**

#### **Purpose:**

The researcher in this article examines the numerous difficulties self-help groups encounter on a group level, which fuels an increase in their outstanding loans and is currently the biggest issue in India's central region. The original impetus behind the establishment of self-help groups has undergone a transformation over the course of time. The present research endeavours to elucidate the determinants that influence the repayment behaviour of members with respect to loans. The objective of this manuscript is to (1) identify group level challenges of SHGs (2) to identify reasons behind rise in outstanding loan (3) to assess the impact of loan outstanding ratio on sustainability of a self-help groups.

**Design:** The present investigation employs a quantitative research design to explicate the phenomenon under evaluation. The selection of locations is based on the historical significance of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh in India, as well as the notable growth in the number of self-help groups (SHGs) which currently stands at an aggregate of 6,22,393 number of SHG's. A total of 384 respondents were included in the study, with data collected from members residing in both Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

**Findings:** Concerns regarding the inappropriate use of available finances, unfavourable peer pressure, and inadequate record keeping, with the exception of a lack of repaying culture on the other hand when researchers regressed the sustainability of SHG in central India as a dependent variable, they discovered that the group level problem of SHG in central India has a considerable impact on the sustainability of SHG in central India.

**Practical implications:** Today non-participation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) is resulting in adverse consequences. It is imperative for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and governmental bodies to exercise close scrutiny over self-help groups in order to ascertain their efficacy in managing loans. It is recommended that the loan be repaid promptly and that the borrowed funds be utilised for a profit-generating endeavour in order to foster growth.

**Keywords:** Self-help groups, group level challenges, sustainability, central India, outstanding loans.

### **Introduction**

When initiatives directed towards human development are harmonious with human nature, they are more likely to be beneficial and meaningful. The idea of one's own self-worth served as the foundation for the self-help group bank connection system in India. It has evolved to imply a long-lasting relationship between economically disadvantaged individuals and the formal financial system over the previous decade. Self-help groups, a socially significant tool, have enabled the formation of this relationship. Astounding numbers of official and informal groups are collaborating with NABARD to implement this one-of-a-kind socio-economic engineering technique. What began in 1992 as a modest pilot testing of connecting approximately 500 SHGs with branches of a half-

dozen banks across the country with the assistance of a few non-governmental organizations (NGOs) which has now grown to include approximately 78,76,553 self-help groups in India. This was a modest start for what has grown to include over 8 crore 54 lakh rural people of India.

Self-help groups in India has made a remarkable growth since its inception. A country like India, where around 1.2 billion people are estimated to live in poverty. (Yadav, 2021) identifies that people are making great efforts to escape poverty, but a widespread epidemic such as COVID 19 has rendered their efforts ineffective and left them back in the playoffs, because Covid 19 today has increased the number of people who fall into that group. According to (Pathak, 2018) Credit is a leading factor to the advancement of a nation's economic activities. since ancient times people in India have relied increasingly on informal credit, which indicates that they borrow money from family, friends, moneylenders, and other folks (Hoffmann et al., 2019). As a result, microfinance has worked to connect impoverished individuals with financial resources so that they might benefit from them. According to the National Rural Livelihood Mission scheme current status of self-help groups in India is 78,76,553 out of which total number of SHGs situated in Madhya Pradesh is 3,91,489 and 2,30,904 are situated in Chhattisgarh.

Major goal behind providing credit facility to self-help group members were launched mainly to help poor for the income generating activities and asset creation purpose but lack of cooperation by the members itself has led to the misuse of loan amount today. Some groups have been moving in wrong direction which is the result of increasing amount of loan outstanding ratio in current scenario in India. Data reveals that outstanding ratio of loan amount in Madhya Pradesh is around 1,70,014.30 which has not been repaid by the self-help group members till now. And an outstanding amount of 1,13,092.80 in Chhattisgarh is being figured out which has not been repaid by the members of self-help groups till now.

Multiple Reports suggests (National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, 2019) that loan facility availed by SHG members are being utilised for personal use more rather than employment generation activities. Loans facility provided by banks to members are free of any collateral security therefore failure in repayment of loan amount by members will not lead to any major loss to members which might be the reason for not repaying the loan amount properly by the members. Expectation of loan waiver by political leaders and members dropout without informing to the group members are some more reasons behind increasing amount of outstanding ration among the self-help groups. The objective of researcher here in this paper is to analyse all those challenges occur at individual and group level which hinders the repayment of loan amount, and ultimately leads to increase in outstanding ratio.

### **Evolution of the SHG Movement –**

Regardless the geographic proliferation of the rural banking industry and the substantial surge in rural credit provision by banks consequent to nationalisation, a considerable segment of the rural impoverished populace lacking assets remained excluded from the formal banking framework. In 1987, NABARD initiated an Action Research Programme in collaboration with the Mysore Resettlement and Development Agency (MYRADA) to examine the root causes of the issue. The study revealed that there were discrepancies between the requirements of low-income customers and the financial products provided by banks. The findings of the Action Research programme served as the basis for the implementation of a pilot programme in 1992. The primary aim of this programme was to integrate 500 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) by the conclusion of 1994. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) provided policy support by instructing banks to establish savings accounts under the name of these groups. The integration of Self-Help Group (SHG) linkage as a routine lending operation within the priority sector has significantly expedited the progress of the programme. As of 2002, the SHG-BLP initiative had garnered participation from more than 500 banks, resulting in over 31,000 rural outlets. The loan portfolio of this initiative had exceeded '2,000 crore. Microcredit has been extended to 116 million impoverished households through the formal banking system, which has been facilitated by over 7.17 million self-help groups (SHGs) and supported by a network of over 2,800 partners. As of March 31, 2012, the SHG-Bank linkage programme had developed into a stable framework, encompassing more than 79.60 lakh savings-linked SHGs and catering to over 10.3 crore impoverished individuals by the conclusion of the second decade. The cumulative savings of these Self-Help Groups (SHGs) amounted to INR 6,551.41 billion. According to the proposed scheme, a total of 43.54 million Self-Help Groups (SHGs) were established with the provision of financial access.

Starting from 1999, the Government of India (GoI) has allocated specific financial resources to support the advancement of Self-Help Groups (SHGs). The Swarnajayanti Gramme Swarozgar Yojna (SGSY) was instituted by the Government of India in April 1999. The Swarnajayanti Gramme Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) was instituted with a model of collective funding to encompass every Below Poverty Line (BPL) household. The National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) was established in 2011 through the reorganisation of the Swarnajayanti Gramme Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY). The National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) endeavours to achieve comprehensive financial inclusion for all low-income households that are organised under Self-Help Groups (SHGs). The NRLM functions on both the demand and supply facets of financial inclusion. From the perspective of demand, it facilitates the enhancement of financial literacy among individuals with low income and offers catalytic funding to Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and their federations. NRLM collaborates with the financial sector to provide credit and associated services to Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and their federations, thereby addressing the supply side of the equation. Approximately 70 million Self-Help Groups (SHGs) have been supported by the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), benefitting a cumulative population of more than 7.5 billion households.

The Self-Help Group-Bank Linkage Programme and the Micro Finance Institution (MFI) Bank Model are the principal distribution mechanisms for microfinance in India. (1) The Bank Model of a Micro Finance Institution (MFI) and (2) the Self-Help Group-Bank Linkage Programme (SHG-BLP) are two prominent approaches in the field of microfinance. The SHG-Bank Linkage Programme has garnered significant support in India due to its extensive adoption by all relevant stakeholders, compared to the other channel under consideration.

#### **Statement of Problem -**

With a reach of 14.20 billion families in India, the SHG-BLP model is one of the most effective and successful microfinance project types in the world. As members of SHGs accumulate savings, their likelihood of acquiring loans from banks and other financial institutions increases, as does their likelihood of investing in businesses. In contrast, a review of the past few years reveals that despite the amount of funds that SHGs have placed in banks has increased over the past three years, the proportion of outstanding loans has increased significantly. As of the 31st of March 2022, there were 67 lakh credit linked SHGs in India with outstanding loan balances of Rs 1,51,051.30 crore, and the average loan balance per SHG was Rs 2,24 lakh.

#### **Literature Review-**

Thousands of poor women (and some men) organize themselves to obtain credit and loans through self-help organizations, comprised of 15 to 20 vulnerable communities. Literature survey reveals that membership in SHGs has permitted the economic empowerment of women through control of resources, the political empowerment of women through involvement in decision-making, and the social empowerment of women through enhanced social standing because of their improved economic status (Kappa & Kondal, 2014). As a result, SHGs have emerged as the most effective incubator and support system for women transitioning from subsistence to sustainability. (Consultant & Bank, 2005) discussed that the Self-Help Group movement is a game-changing initiative that sustainably and scalably connects group members, many of whom have never had a bank account, to official financial institutions.

As suggested by literature it says that various reasons are seen for the poor repayment capacity among self-help group members of India (Padmaja & Sudhakara Reddy, 2014) in his research identifies various reasons behind loan default at SHG level are expectations of loan waivers by political parties and misutilisation of funds by the leaders, whereas migration, less availability of work and drought in Andhra Pradesh are the reasons for low rate of repayment capacity at member level. (Sinha & Navin, 2021) revealed in their research that the initiative of self-help groups has been more successful in areas with a higher level of living but facing a considerable obstacle in the central and northeastern regions. The rising outstanding loan in these regions necessitates a timely response. Causes identified by (Addae-Korankye, 2014) for lack of repayment of loan are high interest rate, inadequate loan sizes, poor appraisal, lack of monitoring, and improper client selection. It was advised that MFIs have transparent and efficient credit policies and procedures, which should be frequently evaluated. It was decided that the government, and hence the Banks, should conduct routine monitoring and oversight of MFIs in order to ensure

the security of consumer deposits and sustain their trust. Research conducted by (Singh & Gupta, 2021) on the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, which has the highest number of default self-help groups in the country. The results of the computation indicate that peer group pressure and social ties are positively associated with delays and overdues, whereas group maturity (the average age of the group), the ratio of family workers to household size, and household income are all factors that are negatively associated with the incidence of delinquency.

According to the study results of (National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, 2019), based on the prime objective to find the main reasons behind the growing level of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) in the SHG-BLP. The respondents utilize the loans for healthcare/ hospital expenses, household consumption, agricultural activities, etc. only 25% of the members informed that they paid loans in past years whereas some spent the amount for marriage purpose, children education, construction of house with the financial assistance from the SHG-BLP and only 17.3% of people have utilised funds for starting any petty businesses. The report further revealed that loan facility what they availed was sufficient for some people and was not sufficient for few to engage them in

As per the perspective of stakeholders, the primary cause of delinquency in the SHG-BLP is attributed to the migration or mortality of members belonging to the self-help group. The upsurge of non-performing assets (NPAs) in the Self-Help Group-Bank Linkage Programme (SHG-BLP) can be attributed to various factors such as the anticipation of loan forgiveness, lack of collaboration from group members, allocation of funds towards non-economic pursuits, and familial issues. Approximately 50% of the participants selected 'diverse loan sources' as a primary factor contributing to non-performing assets (NPAs). More than 40% of the sampled population indicated that inadequate documentation, lack of financial knowledge, and unforeseen calamities were factors that led to non-performing assets in the Self-Help Group-Bank Linkage Programme. Over 50% of the participants indicated inadequate guidance regarding the repercussions of loan default from their respective financial institutions. Consequently, they expressed a willingness to have repaid their loans if they had been properly informed. Stakeholders in the study also reveals that peer pressure is not adequate among the group members in respect of repayment of loans. (Banerjee et al., 2015) identifies that majority of the SHG members in case of regular repayment of loans, internal lending, and rotation of leadership positions seen less cooperation. Stakeholders of self-help groups feel that the training given by SHPIs/NGOs is not adequate and hence, there is a need to rev up the training and capacity building activities. (Bhandari and Kundu 2013) discussed that when the loan is repaid, if the interest rate is excessively high, the borrower will have to pay a substantial amount of money in interest, which will cause troubles in his or her life. This amount can sometimes exceed the principal, forcing the borrower to relinquish valuable assets such as land, which might lead to poverty or even suicide. In most instances (Reddy and Malik 2011) highlighted that high-interest loans cannot be used for investment purposes since the returns on investments in commercial and agricultural companies do not often generate sufficient revenue to enable borrowers to pay annual interest rates of 30 to 40 percent.

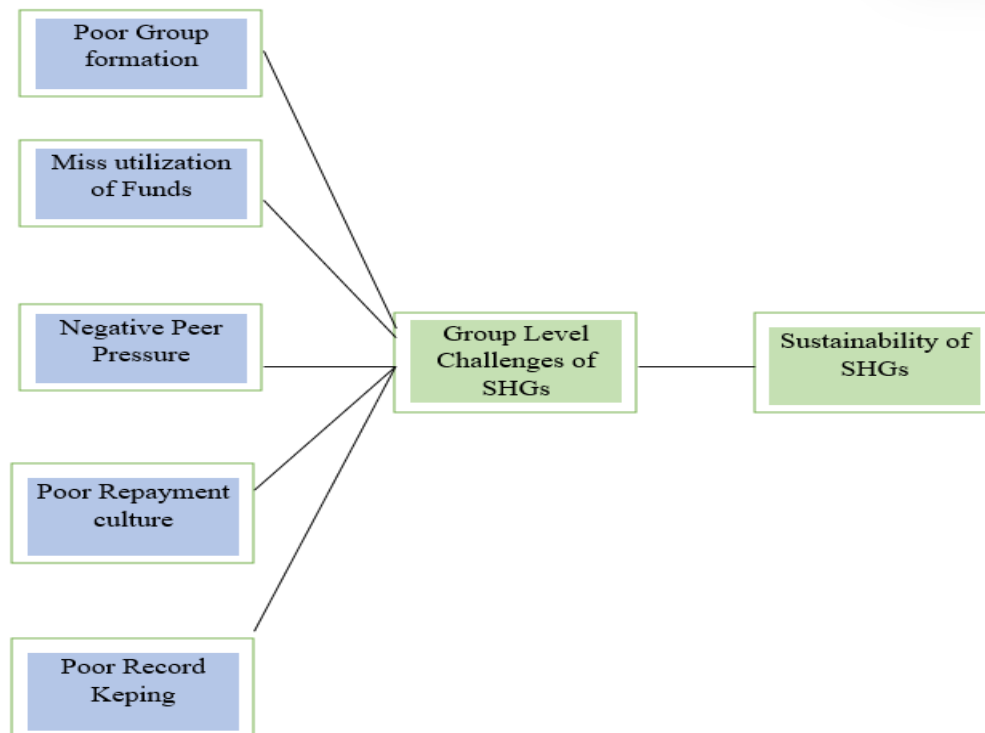
Further research findings of (Nayak et al., 2020) revealed that SHG members in Odisha face a number of issues, including financial limits, entrepreneurial obstacles, capacity-building obstacles, mentor-ship challenges, socio-structural challenges, and group dynamics. Self-help groups from past 30 years has made an immense growth besides lot of obstacles like requirement of more training facilities for maintaining quality of products, production techniques, packaging of their products to strengthen their abilities, moreover, need to learn various competitive marketing strategies of their products in today's environment is the major need of members today's (Naik & Rodrigues, 2017). Multiple authors confirmed that to carry out the activity that generates money, the members of the SHG must overcome a lack of support from other group members, insufficient funding, a lack of skills, inadequate backing for entrepreneurial initiatives, and certain personal difficulties. The chi-square test indicates that the capacity development training program influences SHG members who engage in revenue-generating activities (Chakravarty, 2018), (Chellamuthu & Gupta, 2015), (M. Jena, 2021), (Chidambaramathan et al., 2013), According to the study's findings of (Sreeya & Radha, 2015), (Dhiman, Pawan & Rani, 2014), they observed that vast majority of respondents believe that engaging in revenue-generating activities helps small and medium-sized businesses increase their revenue, 68 percent of the participants had received training to enhance the activities that contribute to their income creation (Vasanth, 2014).

Self-help groups have been interpreted by certain researchers as a response to the effects of industrialization, the breakdown of traditional social relationships, and the weakening of community ties. Alternatively, other

perspectives suggest that self-help groups are a reaction to an ineffective, inefficient, and desensitising formal precautionary system. Self-help groups are a response to industrialisation, the breakdown of the relational structure, and the deterioration of the community (Mubeen Sultana et al., 2021). Currently, the rise in the number of diverse self-help organizations can be attributed to the increasing need for family-centred services. The Self-Help Group-Bank Linkage Programme of India has mostly targeted women, as they are the most vulnerable people among the economically disadvantaged, in a manner similar to those of other microfinance programmes. Researcher (Bhanot & Bapat, 2020) here seeks to gain a deeper understanding of what makes something sustainable and the factors that contribute to its sustainability. Access to financial services (from internal and external sources) for the group is represented by three indicators of the group's financial performance: intra-lending, frequency of bank credit, and bank credit utilisation among group members. Subsequently, the effect of a set of contributory elements indicating the manner in which self-help group's function or the organizational characteristics of these groups (Sehgal & Sharma, 2021), as well as the effect of this on each of the sustainability indicators, were determined (Fraser, 2007) (Sharma & Pati, 2015). According to the results of a regression analysis, major characteristics that contribute to the sustainability of a group include equal access to credit, group savings, savings growth, loan utilization in income-generating activities, making available adequate training, and distance from a bank (at 1 per cent level of significance). The findings of this study, taken as a whole, can be read as recommending best practices that would aid self-help groups in approaching the sustainability frontier (Ujagare & Bhagwat, 2017) (Badrinath & Venkatesh, 2018; BISWAL et al., 2017)

The constraints that women who are members of SHGs face when seeking to carry out their various duties within the SHGs were the barriers. According to the study's findings of (Rana & Bhardwaj, 2020), various constraints included administrative constraints (the majority of respondents reported a lack of working staff as a major constraint), social constraints (the reluctance of members to take leadership roles was the main constraint reported by SHG members), empowering constraints (the lack of freedom to make decisions and the lack of equal treatment were reported as the major constraints), management constraints (the lack of equal treatment was reported as the major constraint), and management constraints (the lack of equal treatment was reported as the major constrain (transportation problems and lack of market information were reported as the major constraints) (Das & Guha, 2019; Malhotra & Baag, 2021; Parida & Sinha, 2010)

#### Conceptual Framework of the Study:



**Figure 1** conceptual framework

### Research Hypothesis

Hypothesis 1: There is a significant impact of poor group formation on the group level challenges of SHGs.

Hypothesis 2: There is a significant impact of Miss utilization of funds on the group level challenges of SHGs.

Hypothesis 3: There is a significant impact of Negative peer pressure on the group level challenges.

Hypothesis 4: There is a significant impact of Lack of repayment culture on the group level challenges.

Hypothesis 5: There is a significant impact of the Poor record keeping on the group level challenges.

Hypothesis 6: There is a significant effect of group level challenges on the Sustainability of SHG.

### Research Methodology:

The research design in this study will quantitatively elucidate the phenomenon by collecting numerical data and analyzing it using linear equation methods. The study was carried out in the central region of India. The instrument utilized was a questionnaire that was created using a conceptual model and significant literature review, and it was also used to collect information directly from self-help group members. The factors in this study were measured using a Likert scale with five possibilities ranging from 1 to 5, with 1 indicating "strongly disagree" and 5 indicating "strongly agree." To establish the required sample size for this investigation, the sample planning wizard from Stat Trek was utilized. Stat Trek's sample planning wizard was utilized to establish the appropriate sample size from the total number of SHG members of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh is 6,22,393. The formula reads as follows:

$$n = \frac{z^2 pq + e^2}{e^2 + (z^2 pq/N)}$$

Where n= Sample Size

z= standard error of the means (usually 95%, corresponding to 1.96 in the z- distribution table).

p= The estimated proportion of a given ascribe that exists within a population.

q= The estimated proportion of a given ascribe that doesn't exist within a population.

e= tolerable error margin (5% or 0.05)

N= Population Size (which is 6,22,393)

To apply this formula,

$$n = \frac{(1.96^2 \times 0.5 \times 0.5) + 0.05^2}{0.05^2 + (1.96^2 \times 0.5 \times 0.5) / 622393}$$

$$n = 385$$

Stat Trek's sample planning wizard recommended that a sample size of 385 would adequately represent the population.

### Data Analysis-

#### Respondents' characteristics:

Characteristics	Criteria	Total	Percentage
Sex	Male	20	5%
	Female	365	95%
	Total	385	100%

Age	25-34	104	27%
	35-44	165	43%
	45-54	80	22%
	55-64	26	7%
	64 and above	10	1%
	Total	385	100%

#### Reliability

**Table 1:** Reliability Test

Reliability Statistics	
Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.985	6

#### Interpretation: Reliability Test

Cronbach's Alpha reliability test between the dependent and all independent variables using SPSS, which is .985 and the value of Cronbach's Alpha is extremely close to 1, indicating that data is more reliable for fitting multiple regression models

#### Interpretation:

**Table 2:** Model Summary

Model Summary									
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics				
					R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change
1	.968 <sup>a</sup>	.937	.937	.292	.937	1136.610	5	379	.000
a. Predictors: (Constant), poor group formation, miss utilization of funds, negative peer pressure, lack of repayment culture, poor record keeping.									

**Table 3:** Coefficients

Coefficients <sup>a</sup>								
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.	95.0% Confidence Interval for B	
		B	Std. Error	Beta			Lower Bound	Upper Bound
1	(Constant)	-.088	.059		-1.487	.138	-.205	.028
	Poor group formation	1.128	.054	1.077	20.770	.000	1.021	1.235
	Miss utilization of funds	.220	.058	.187	3.803	.000	.106	.334
	Negative peer pressure	-.451	.054	-.455	-8.342	.000	-.558	-.345
	Lack of repayment culture	-.048	.051	-.044	-.951	.342	-.148	.052
	Poor record keeping	.205	.057	.186	3.621	.000	.094	.316
a. Dependent Variable: Group level challenges								

**Hypothesis 1: There is a significant impact of poor group formation on the group level challenges of SHGs**

Interpretation: The hypothesis test if poor group formation carries significant on the Implementations of group level challenges. The Dependent Variable group level challenges was regressed on predicting variable poor group formation to test the hypothesis H<sub>1</sub>. Group level challenges significantly predicted,  $p < .005$ , which indicates that the poor group formation can play a significant role in shaping group level challenges ( $b = 1.077$ ,  $p < .005$ ). these results clearly direct the positive affect of the poor group formation.

**Hypothesis 2: There is a significant impact of Miss utilization of funds on the group level challenges of SHGs**

Interpretation: The hypothesis test the Miss utilization of funds has significant on the group level challenges. The Dependent Variable the group level challenges were regressed on predicting variable Miss utilization of funds to test the hypothesis H<sub>2</sub>. Group level challenges significantly predicted,  $p < .005$ , which indicates that the Miss utilization of funds can play a significant role in shaping group level challenges ( $b = .187$ ,  $p < .005$ ). These results clearly direct the positive affect of the Miss utilization of funds.

**Hypothesis 3: There is a significant impact of Negative peer pressure on the group level challenges.**

Interpretation: The hypothesis tests the demand of stakeholder carries significant on the group level challenges. The Dependent Variable the group level challenges were regressed on predicting variable Negative peer pressure to test the hypothesis H<sub>3</sub>. the group level challenges significantly predicted,  $p < .005$ , which indicates that Negative peer pressure can play a significant role in shaping the group level challenges ( $b = -.455$ ,  $p < .005$ ). These results clearly direct the positive affect of the Negative peer pressure.

**Hypothesis 4: There is a significant impact of Lack of repayment culture on the group level challenges.**

Interpretation: The hypothesis tests the carries Lack of repayment culture not significant on the Implementations of group level challenges. The Dependent Variable group level challenges was not regressed on predicting variable Lack of repayment culture to test the hypothesis H<sub>4</sub>. group level challenges not significantly predicted,  $p > .005$ , which indicates that the lack of repayment culture cannot play a significant role in shaping group level challenges ( $b = -.044$ ,  $p > .005$ ). These results clearly direct that there is no effect of the lack of repayment culture.

**Hypothesis 5: There is a significant impact of the Poor record keeping on the group level challenges.**

Interpretation: The hypothesis tests the poor record keeping carries significant impact on the Implementations of group level challenges. The Dependent Variable group level challenges was regressed on predicting variable poor record keeping to test the hypothesis H<sub>5</sub>. group level challenges significantly predicted,  $p < .005$ , which indicates that the poor record keeping can play a significant role in shaping group level challenges ( $b = .186$ ,  $p < .005$ ). these results clearly direct the positive affect of the poor record keeping.

**Regression Model:**

**Table 4: Coefficients Table**

Coefficients <sup>a</sup>								
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.	95.0% Confidence Interval for B	
		B	Std. Error	Beta			Lower Bound	Upper Bound
1	(Constant)	-.088	.059		-1.487	.138	-.205	.028
	Poor group formation	1.128	.054	1.077	20.770	.000	1.021	1.235
	Miss utilization of funds	.220	.058	.187	3.803	.000	.106	.334
	Negative peer pressure	-.451	.054	-.455	-8.342	.000	-.558	-.345
	Lack of repayment culture	-.048	.051	-.044	-.951	.342	-.148	.052
	Poor record keeping	.205	.057	.186	3.621	.000	.094	.316
a. Dependent Variable: Group level challenges								

Group level challenges= 1.128\* Poor group formation + (-.088)  
Group level challenges= .220\* Miss utilization of funds + (-.088)  
Group level challenges= -.451\* Negative peer pressure + (-.088)  
Group level challenges = -.048\* Lack of repayment culture + (-.088)  
Group level challenges = .205\* Poor record keeping + (-.088)

#### **MULTIPLE REGRESSION MODEL ANALYSIS:**

The multiple regression model carries that all independent variable (except **Lack of repayment culture**) have significantly impact on the Implementations of group level challenges. The Dependent Variable group level challenges was regressed on predicting variables. Independent variables significantly predicted group level challenges,  $F(5, 379) = 1136.610$ ,  $p < .005$ , which indicates that the all-independent variables can play a significant role in shaping group level challenges. Moreover, the  $R^2 = .937$  depicts that the model explains 93.7% of the variance in group level challenges. these results clearly direct the positive affect of the poor record keeping. Conclusion: **93.7%** of the variance in group level challenges can be explain by mis utilization of funds, poor group formation, negative peer pressure, lack of repayment culture, poor record keeping.

**Table 5: Model Summary**

Model Summary									
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics				
					R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change
1	.902 <sup>a</sup>	.814	.814	.45462	.814	1678.334	1	383	.000
a. Predictors: (Constant), Group level challenges									

**Table 6: Coefficients Table**

Coefficients <sup>a</sup>								
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.	95.0% Confidence Interval for B	
		B	Std. Error	Beta			Lower Bound	Upper Bound
1	(Constant)	.090	.071		1.267	.206	-.050	.229
	Group level challenges	.819	.020	.902	40.967	.000	.780	.858
a. Dependent Variable: Sustainability of SHGs								

#### **Interpretation:**

**Hypothesis 6: There is a significant effect of group level challenges on the Sustainability of SHG.**

**Interpretation:** The hypothesis test if the group level challenges carry significant effect on the sustainability of SHG. The Dependent Variable sustainability of SHGs was regressed on predicting variable group level challenges to test the hypothesis H<sub>6</sub>. Sustainability of SHGs significantly predicted,  $F(1, 383) p < .001$ , which indicates that the group level challenges can play a significant role in shaping Sustainability of SHGs ( $b = .902$ ,  $p < .001$ ). These results clearly direct the positive affect of the Sustainability of SHGs, moreover, the  $R^2 = .814$  depicts that the model explains 81.4% of the variance in Sustainability of SHGs.

#### **Conclusion**

In the conclusion, the researcher concluded that, based on the description of the study and the analysis of the results, the researcher discovered that, in central India, group level obstacles are highly influenced by concerns related to inadequate group formation. Issues with improper use of cash, unfavourable peer pressure, and

inadequate record keeping, with the exception of a lack of a culture of repaying on the other hand, when researchers regressed the sustainability of SHG in central India as a dependent variable, they discovered that the group level problem of SHG in central India has a considerable impact on the sustainability of SHG in central India.

### Limitation of the Study

The study is limited to the central region of India, specifically Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, and therefore might not represent the entire country. Sample size of 385 have been taken for this study where selection of city is based on earlier studies to draw the general conclusion for the sampled states. As a result, the findings may not be applicable to other regions or cities in India. Future studies could benefit from a larger sample size and a more diverse selection of cities to increase the generalizability of the findings.

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