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Performance of NPAs in SHG-Bank Linkage Programme in India

Dr. Kamatam Srinivas[1]
Mrs. Nelluri Subhashini [2]

Abstract:

In the post-nationalization era, the banking system in India witnessed extraordinary growth and achieved unique outreach. SHGs are informal institutions and the primary role of SHGs is to encourage savings and credit. Useful linking of SHGs to other formal institutions becomes vital for their operation. All the SHGs are linked to nearby Banks or Co-operative societies for savings purposes. The SHGs are operating the savings accounts either with the CBs or RRBs or with Co-operative Banks. The group members are encouraged to save by inculcating in them thrift habits. The too little amounts thus saved are rotated among them to meet their growing credit needs. However, linking these groups to Banks is found necessary to enlarge their resources.

NPA means booking of money in terms of bad asset, which occurred due to wrong choice of client. Its impact of reduction in profitability is low return on investment, which adversely affect current earning of bank. Difficulty in operating the functions of bank is another cause of NPA due to lack of money. The present study is focus on the performance of non-performing assets in SHG -Bank Linkage Programme in India covers the growth of SHG- Bank Linkage Programme and to assess the NPAs of SHG- Bank Linkage Programme in India. Significant rise in GNPAs, in absolute volume as well as in percentage terms, experienced massive growth, increased from 2.49 per cent to 4.51 per cent during the period 2008-19, which is negative sign to the organization. Major Reasons for NPAs were financial indiscipline, lack of economic activity and regular income, poor handholding by promoters, poor monitoring and follow up by bankers, deterioration in group dynamics and mishaps. Preventing NPAs like change in bankers' perception, continuous training to bankers, use of technology for customer interface to reduce cost and increase customer satisfaction, use by bankers of data generated in E shakti portal and customer like treatment to SHGs. There is a significant difference in the growth of SHG-Bank Linkage Programmeand NPAs of SHGs-BLP in India over a period.

Key Words: NPAs, SHGs- Bank Linkage Programme, NABARD, Savings, Loans Disbursed, Loan Outstanding and GNPAs.

[1] **Dr. Kamatam Srinivas**, Assistant Professor and Addl. Controller of Examinations, Department of Commerce, Osmania University-500007, kamatamsrinivas@gmail.com.

[2] **Mrs. Nelluri Subhashini**, Assistant Manager, **StreeNidhi credit cooperative Federation Ltd**, Hyderabad, Telanagana. kamatamsubhashini@gmail.com.

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Introduction:

India's Self-Help Group (SHG) movement has emerged as the world‘s largest and most successful network of women owned community-based microfinance institution. Self Help Group Bank Linkage programme (SHG-BLP) is a landmark model initiated by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in 1992 to deliver affordable door-step banking services and has largely achieved the stated goals of financial inclusion; it is a homegrown self-help movement with an objective of creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for the rural poor. Started as a bank outreach programme, SHG-BLP transcended itself into a holistic programme for building financial, social, economic, and of late, technological capital in rural India.

In the post-nationalization era, the banking system in India witnessed extraordinary growth and achieved unique outreach. The fast and immense development of the formal credit system in the country has not brought significant benefit to the poor. SHGs are informal institutions and the primary role of SHGs is to encourage savings and credit. Useful linking of SHGs to other formal institutions becomes vital for their operation. All the SHGs are linked to nearby Banks or Co-operative societies for savings purposes. The SHGs are operating the savings accounts either with the CBs or RRBs or with Co-operative Banks. The group members are encouraged to save by inculcating in them thrift habits. The too little amounts thus saved are rotated among them to meet their growing credit needs However, linking these groups to Banks is found necessary to enlarge their resources. It is in this context that Micro-Credit has emerged as most suitable and practical alternative to the usual banking in reaching the previously unreached poor population. Micro Credit enables the poor people to be thrifty and helps them in availing the credit and other financial services for improving their income and living standards. Micro Finance had gained a lot of significance and momentum in the last decade. Micro Finance initiatives are now recognized as a cost effective and sustainable way of expanding outreach of the banking system to the rural poor.

NPA means booking of money in terms of bad asset, which occurred due to wrong choice of client. Because of the money getting blocked the prodigality of bank decreases not only by the amount of NPA but NPA lead to opportunity cost also as that much of profit invested in some return earning asset. So NPA does not affect current profit but also future stream of profit, which may lead to loss of some long-term beneficial opportunity. Another impact of reduction in profitability is low return on investment, which adversely affect current earning of bank. Difficulty in operating the functions of bank is another cause of NPA due to lack of money. Time and efforts of management in handling and managing NPA would have diverted to some fruitful activities, which would have given good returns. If a bank is facing problem of NPA, then it adversely affects the value of bank in terms of market for credit, goodwill and brand image. Hence there is a need to select this study.

Review of Literature:

As the present study is focus on the performance of non-performing assets in SHG -Bank Linkage Programme in India. Here many prominent writers, renowned scholars have examined in different guidelines. Some of the pertinent studies which are alarmed to the present study are presented for a moment.

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B. Selvarajan and G. Vadivalagan this study covers the application of NPA norms. The problem of NPA is not limited to Indian public sector banks, but it prevails in the entire banking industry. Major portion of bad debts in Indian banks arose out of lending to the priority sector at the dictates of politicians and bureaucrats. This paper found that the top management of the banks was forced by politicians and bureaucrats to throw good money after bad in the case of dishonest borrowers. They concluded that agriculture advances have registered a 7 fold net increase, SSI advances have set a record net increase of 8.5 times and the advances to other priority sector have made a net increase of 4.5 times, that of their respective figures in 2001Ã¢â‚¬â€œ02. The overall Priority sector advances have registered a 6.5 fold increase over that of 2001- 2010 in 10 years period. Indian Bank has been successful in controlling the NPAs. The NPAs have been reduced from `791.98 crores in 2001-02 to 223.00 crores in 2008-09.

Abhijit Sinha the present study focuses not only on the NPA trends in the sector during the period 2005-06 to 2014-15 but also critically analyses the role of the ARCs and the issues pertaining to them. Reform in the banking industry in India is not anything new. It is true that the financial sectoral reforms have resulted in giving a new direction in the industry because of the significant impact that it led to. In recent times, following the financial crisis of 2008 and the economic slowdown worldwide since then, including a slump in the domestic country, non-performing assets are in the focus. It has severely impacted the industry performance because of the need for higher provisioning. To be more specific, the effect on the public sector has been more severe. The policy regulator and top management of banks have expressed their worries since it is affecting the stability of the banks. In this regard, it can be mentioned that in spite of the SARFAESI Act passed in the beginning of the last decade, the problem of rising non-performing assets (NPAs) has not been arrested yet to a substantial extent in spite of the setting up of the asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) in the country.

Dhananjaya Kadanda andKrishna Raj in this paper investigates the extent and growth of NPAs and interbank disparity in NPA management among public sector banks. They found that the profitability of public sector banks is declining in the post-crisis period and the amount of NPAs has been on the rise. Further, the recovery mechanisms have proved to be ineffective in containing the problem of bad debts. In a dynamic panel analysis, examined the determinants of NPAs in public sector banks and found that factors such as past NPAs, the operating efficiency of the bank, capital adequacy, GDP growth rate, and interest rate are the major determinants of the growth of NPAs in Indian public sector banks.

G.V. Bhavani Prasad and Veena This paper covered with understanding the concept of NPAs, its magnitude and major causes for an account becoming non-performing and strategies for managing NPA in Indian banks. A healthy banking system is essential for any economy striving to achieve growth and remain stable in competitive global business environment. Indian banks are favorable on growth, asset quality and profitability; RBI and Government have made some notable changes in policies and regulation to help strengthen the sector. These changes include strengthening prudential norms, enhancing the payments system and integrating regulations of commercial banks. In terms of quality of assets and capital adequacy, these banks have clean, strong and transparent balance sheets relative to other banks in comparable economies in its region. PSBs need to strengthen institutional skill levels especially in sales and marketing, service operations, risk management and the overall organizational performance ethic & strengthen human capital. Structural weaknesses such as a fragmented industry structure, restrictions on capital availability and deployment, lack of institutional support infrastructure,

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restrictive labour laws, weak corporate governance and ineffective regulations beyond Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs), unless industry utilities and service bureaus. One of the major drawbacks of SCBs is its NPAs. The best indicator for the health of the banking industry in a country is its level of Non-performing assets (NPAs). NPAs are one of the major concerns for banks in India. It reflects the performance of banks. Reduced NPAs generally gives the impression that banks have strengthened their credit appraisal processes over the years and growth in NPAs involves the necessity of provisions, which bring down the overall profitability of banks. They found that Indian banking sector is facing a serious problem of NPA. The magnitude of NPA is comparatively higher in public sectors banks. It concludes that the efficiency and profitability of banks depends on NPA control and efficient management.

Objectives of the Study:

The present study is focus on the performance of non-performing assets in SHG -Bank Linkage Programme in India. The following objectives are covered:
1) To study the growth of SHG- Bank Linkage Programme in India.
2) To assess the NPAs of SHG- Bank Linkage Programme in India.

Methodology of the Study:

The present study is based on the secondary data. Secondary data collected from journals and the various reports from NABARD and RBI. This data obtained has been fundamental source for gaining knowledge related to the topic that enabled us to present data in this article.

Hypothesis: H1 = There is no significant difference in the growth of SHG- Bank Linkage Programme in India over a period.

H2 = There is no significant difference in the NPAs of SHG- Bank Linkage Programme in India over a period.

Period of the Study:

The present study time period is confined to 11 years from 2008 to 2019 for studying the performance of non-performing assets in SHG -Bank Linkage Programme in India. The study covers all important aspects of SHG -Bank Linkage Programme.

Models of Micro-Finance:

There are two major models under Micro Finance i.e., the SHG Bank Linkage Model and the Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs)-Bank Linkage Model (RBI 2007).

SHG -Bank Linkage Programme:

The main aim of the SHG- Bank Linkage Programme is to tap the potential of the SHG concept to bring banking services to the door steps of the poor, especially the women who have been neglected by the formal financial agencies in the past. The SHG-Bank Linkage Programme was started as an action research project in 1989. The findings of the project led to the launching of the pilot project by

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NABARD in 1992 with policy support from Reserve Bank of India. The pilot project as designed as a partnership model between three agencies viz. the SHGs, Banks and Non Government Organisation (NGOs). The SHGs were expected to facilitate collective decision making by poor and provide doorstep banking,

Phases of SHG Bank Linkage Programme:

Till the late nineties, financial inclusion was elusive as the common man was out of focus of formal banking system despite nationalization of banks (in 1969 and in 1980) and other policy initiatives like priority sector lending, lead bank scheme, etc. The large spectrum of deposit and loan products of Indian banks could not fulfill the financial needs of thee rural poor. In this context, NABARD conducted various studies to deliver a viable financial model for the Indian rural credit system. It was revealed in the studies that the poor needs better access to adequate, timely and suitable financial products and services rather than cheap credit. Self Help Groups were conceived as community owned, self-managed informal doorstep savings & credit delivery mechanism by a group of 10-20 members having homogeneous socio-economic background and coming from a small contiguous area, who operate on the principle of self-help, solidarity and mutual interest Accordingly, the Self Help Groups (SHGs) were promoted by NABARD based on its successful experiment with Mysore Resettlement and Development Agency (MYRADA) in 1987.The learning from the Action Research led NABARD to launch a pilot in 1992 with a pilot base of just 500 SHGs with policy backing from the Reserve Bank of India advising banks to open savings accounts in the name of Groups. The SHG Bank Linkage Programme has passed through various phases over the two decades first phase was pilot testing during 1992 to 1995, secondphase mainstreaming during 1996 to 1998 and third phase expansion from1998 onwards. The Programme has now assumed the form of a Micro Finance movement in many parts of the country.

Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) in SHG Bank Linkage in India:

SHG Bank Linkage Programme (SHG-BLP), which started its journey as a pilot project in 1992 has become the mainstay for the 100.14 lakh SHGs as on 31 March 2019 covering more than 1200 lakh households for social, economic and financial empowerment of the rural poor, especially the women. As per the Global Findex Database 2017 of World Bank, India's gender gap in access to financial service has come down to 6 percent. Microfinance initiatives have a major stake in bringing the unbanked women to the mainstream by bringing them into the domain of SHG-BLP on a continuous basis. In 2018-19 there was a net addition of 12.7 lakh savings linked SHGs. A sizeable number of SHGs have been added during the year in states like Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, etc. This signifies the urge for connecting the poor households in poverty dominated & underserved states with the development process through SHG-BLP. The number of new SHGs added every year has been receding in some states mainly for reasons like saturation in potential areas for formation of new SHGs and data sanitization by banks. NRLM, taking the lead in formation and capacity building of SHGs in rural India, accounted for 55.80 lakh SHGs, a jump of 33 percent during the year with a net addition of 13.96 lakh SHGs under its fold. This lead had been mainly due to absorption of non NRLM groups into NRLM fold and formation of new groups. The domain of SHGs consists of 85.2 percent women groups and is the mainstay programme for empowerment of the poor rural women in the country.

Table gives an account of savings, credit disbursement and credit outstanding of total SHGs and under NRLM and NULM during past three years i.e. 2016-17 to 2018-19. Rising of NPAs in SHG loans, from

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a 2.1 percent in 2008 to 7.4 percent in 2015 was a concern in the sector. Thereafter, the NPAs started declining from 7.4 percent (in 2015-16) to 6.12 percent in 2017-18 which further declined to 5.19 percent in 2018-19. T SHG Bank Linkage programme is an effective intervention in economic upliftment and financial inclusion for the bottom of the pyramid. A proven platform initially conceived for increasing the outreach of banking services among the poor has since graduated to a programme for promotion of livelihoods and poverty alleviation. All major parameters viz. the number of SHGs with savings bank accounts, amount of credit disbursed during the year, the bank loans outstanding as well as the quantum of savings outstanding had shown positive growth during the past three years.The growth in number of SHGs availing bank loan and amount of institutional credit disbursed to SHGs was 19.33 percent and 23.6 percent respectively during 2018-19.here has been decline in absolute NPAs implying improvement in quality of loan assets in the sector.

Table: Financial Efficiency of SHG-BLP during 2008-2019

Details of SHG-BLP	2007-08	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
1. No. of SHGs with savings linkage (in lakh)	50.10	79.03	85.77	87.44	100.14
2. Amount of savings of SHGs (Rs. in crore)	3785	13691	16114	19592	23,325
3. No. of SHGs availed loans during the year (in lakh)	12.28	18.32	18.98	22.61	26.98
4. Amount of loans disbursed during the year (Rs. in crore)	8849	37287	38781	47186	58,318
5. No. of SHGs with loan outstanding (in lakh)	36.26	46.73	48.48	50.20	50.77
6. Amount of loan outstanding (Rs. in crore)	17001	57119	61581	75598	87,098
7. Amount of GNPAs (Rs. in crore)	423	3686	4002	4628	3925
Ratios: SHG-BLP					
8. Savings amount to loan outstanding (row 2/row 6)	0.22	0.24	0.26	0.26	0.27
9. Loans disbursed to savings amount (row 4/row 2)	2.34	2.72	2.41	2.41	2.5
10. Loan outstanding to loan disbursed amount (row 6/row 4)	1.92	1.53	1.59	1.60	1.49
11. GNPAs (row 7/row 6 * 100) (in per cent)	2.49	6.45	6.50	6.12	4.51
Source: NABARD, Status of Microfinance in India, various issues.					

It may be observed from Table that the SHG-BLP strengthened over the period 2008- 19 in terms of savings, loans and number of SHGs. While the number of SHGs with savings linkage increased from 50.10 lakh to 100.14 lakh, it is increased by Rs. 50.04 lakh and 100 per cent during the period 2008-19. The amount of SHGs during the study period from Rs 3785 crore to Rs 23325 crore, it is increased by Rs 19540 crore and 516 percent.

Besides, the ratio of savings amount to outstanding loan amount of SHGs improved from 0.22 times to 0.27 times during the same period. This is quite encouraging since savings form bedrock of the edifice of the SHG-BLP. Consequently, the ratio of loans disbursed to savings amount of SHGs too improved during the period 2008-19, which is a healthy trend. Similarly, there was an uptrend in respect of number of SHGs availing loans during this period from Rs12.28 lakh to Rs26.98 lakh. Loan disbursal amount increased by a whopping amount from Rs 8849 crore to Rs 58318 crore during the 2008 to 2019.

The ratio of loan outstanding to loan disbursement improved to 1.49 times during 2018-19 as against 1.92 times in 2007-08. The higher this ratio, higher the NPA rate and vice versa. High outstanding loan amount coupled with low disbursement amount reflects low repayment rate of SHGs as they are not eligible for fresh loans on account of overdue.

Significant rise in GNPAs, in absolute volume as well as in percentage terms, experienced massive growth, increased from 2.49 per cent to 4.51 per cent during the period 2008-19, which is negative sign to the organization. Major Reasons for NPAs were financial indiscipline, lack of economic activity and regular income, poor handholding by promoters, poor monitoring and follow up by bankers, deterioration in group dynamics and mishaps. Preventing NPAs like change in bankers' perception, continuous training to bankers, use of technology for customer interface to reduce cost and increase customer satisfaction, use by bankers of data generated in E shakti portal and customer like treatment to SHGs. There is a significant difference in the growth of SHG- Bank Linkage Programmeand NPAs of SHGs-BLP in India over a period. Hence we accept the alternate hypotheses.

Suggestions to train the SHG members for LH/IG activities and facilitating marketing of products, health and life insurance clubbed with loan to cover causalities and proper grading of SHGs.

Limitations of the Study:

One of the limitations of the study is that we collected secondary data on the SHG-BLP from only from 2008 to 2019 the data have its own limitations and we used ratios that ratios also have some limitations. The study covers only financial efficiency of SHG-BLP during 2008-2019. Therefore the accuracy of the data depends on the accuracy ensured in the data presented.

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