

Workshop on Quality Issues in Self Help Groups Rajasthan

18-19 January 2007

Venue
IHMR, Jaipur



State level workshop on Quality Issues in Self Help Groups Rajasthan

There has been a good progress in terms of number of Self Help Groups in Rajasthan. As per a conservative estimate there are about 1.5 lakh SHGs in the state. One of the concerns regarding the SHG growth that many people have is the quality of these SHGs. If the groups do not meet certain quality standards, they will not be sustainable. Good quality groups will not only deliver the financial services (savings, credit, insurance, money transfer) to members but they will also lead to empowerment of women.

Recent studies of SHGs in Rajasthan have brought out some observations like, lack of proper record keeping in many groups, irregular meetings, few groups rotating their savings as loan to members (inter-loaning), large portion of savings lying idle in banks, lack of awareness and lack of mutual trust among members and so on. The SHG-Bank linkage has improved in recent years, but the average size of credit per group in Rajasthan (Rs. 24,000) is about half of the national average (Rs. 45,000).

There is a need for building awareness on quality of SHGs among SHG members and their promoting agencies. It will be highly useful if all SHG promoters understand different facets of SHG quality, the quality indicators and the minimum standards on each quality parameter. Some agencies see SHGs as a social group for 'women empowerment' while others see them as 'institutions for financial intermediation'. The quality parameters will have to be looked at from both these angles.

The Workshop

Centre for microFinance is organising a state level workshop on SHG Standards. Considering the rising concern about quality of SHGs, a need is felt that all stakeholders in micro finance sector should meet to discuss and develop standards of quality of the SHGs. It would help to have better SHG-Bank linkage, and will help increasing the outreach of financial services and overall empowerment of poor people. In this workshop we will use the standards that have already been developed by various agencies as reference material. Each indicator will be discussed in detail & standards for each (minimum standard, and the desirable level) will be developed by participants to suit local conditions.

There would be two types of indicators for which standards have to be developed. One set of indicators would be that which indicate the quality of a group as Social Group (working for women empowerment) and other set would be to indicate the quality of the group as financial mediator. The indicators should be such that the SHG members

themselves can easily understand them (simple), the data can be collected (measurable) and the SHPIs can achieve (achievable) the standards.

Objective of the workshop

Objective of the workshop is to enhance the quality of SHGs in Rajasthan by developing common understanding of SHG quality, identifying quality indicators, and suggesting/setting standards of quality.

Methodology

On 1st day, there will be presentations on present status of SHG quality and a conceptual framework to understand the quality aspects. Once participants have developed broader understanding and agreement on quality aspects, they will develop the objectively verifiable indicators of the SHG quality on each aspect. The participants will also develop the minimum standards on each indicator and a broad strategy to achieve these standards.

On day two, there will be short presentations by selected mF practitioners on 'best practices' being followed to ensure quality of SHGs.

Note: The existing material on SHG quality like 'SHG grading criteria, being used by Banks & NGOs will be used as reference material for discussion.

Expected outcome

- ❖ Common understanding and consensus on quality of SHGs
- ❖ Comprehensive set of indicators of the SHG Quality.
- ❖ Set of standards that are achievable and acceptable to all.
- ❖ Strategy for adoption of these standards to enhance SHG quality.

Participants

- ❖ NGOs having significant work on mF
- ❖ MFIs and other organisations
- ❖ Bank officials
- ❖ Senior Officers from Central/ State Government.
- ❖ Individuals having interest in Mf Sector.

Workshop Fee:

Cost per participants is about Rs. 2500/-. It will be taken care of by CmF as initial investment for sector building. Participants will have to bear the cost of their travel to attend the workshop

Tentative Schedule

Day/Time	Programme
1st Day	
09.00 AM – 9.30 AM	Registration
09.30 PM – 10.30 PM	<i>Inauguration</i>
	Chair: Prof. V.S. Vyas Keynote address: Sh. N.S. Sisodia
<i>Session I</i>	SHG Quality issues, need for Quality standards and parameters of Quality
10.30 AM – 11.15 AM	<i>Presentation by CmF: Status of SHG quality in Rajasthan - Context Setting</i> <i>Discussion on presentation</i>
11:15 AM – 11:30 AM	Tea
11.30 AM – 12:30 PM	<i>Presentation by Sa-Dhan: Quality parameters of SHGs.</i> <i>Discussion on presentation</i>
12.30 PM – 01:15 PM	<i>Presentation by ARAVALI: Sharing experiences on Quality issues while working with NGO partners promoting SHGs</i> <i>Discussion on presentation</i>
01.15 PM – 02.00 PM	Lunch
<i>Session II</i>	Group Work
02.00 PM – 02.15 PM	Group Formation and Detailing the group work
02.15 PM – 04.00 PM	Group Work: <i>There will be two groups. The groups will discuss the quality parameters, minimum standards, and strategy to achieve the</i>

	<i>quality. One group will discuss the quality parameters on Social Aspects and the other will look at quality parameters on financial aspects</i>
04:00 PM – 04:15 PM	Tea
04:15 PM – 04:45 PM	Presentation by groups
04:45 PM – 05:15 PM	Open Discussion
2nd Day	
Session I	Recap of day one
09.30 AM – 10:00 AM	Recap of day one, Presenting the indicators & standards developed.
10:00AM – 11:15 AM	Tea
Session II	Best practices to achieve standards
11:15 AM – 12:15 PM	Presentation by PRADAN- Grading of SHGs by SHG members themselves
12:15 PM – 01:00 PM	Presentation by PEDO- Best practices adopted to achieve high SHG Bank linkage amount
01:00 PM – 02:00 PM	Lunch
02:00 PM – 02:30 PM	Presentation By IBTADA: Munshi System for record writing
02:30 PM – 3:15 PM	Presentation By KF: Use of MIS for achieving standards.
Session III	Concluding session
03:15 PM– 03:45 PM	Concluding Session – Way forward Valedictory Address by Chief Guest
03:45 PM	Tea