

Capacity Building and Empowerment of Women Self Help Groups in Thane District of Maharashtra

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Abstract—The present study was conducted at Deptt. of Extension Education, Agricultural College, Bapatla, Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University Bapatla, Andhra Pradesh to determine capacity building and empowerment of women Self Help Groups in Thane district of Maharashtra. In Thane district there are total 11, 342 Self Help Groups been formed. From these 9,234 Self Help Groups have been linked with the banking sector and 4,967 Self Help Groups are operational carrying out different economic activities. In the district during the year 2012-13 with bank loan of Rs. 446.43 lakh. This is due to the lack of efforts taken to build their capacities and empower them to take decisions. There is ability to initiate the approach to build their capacities in the Self Help Group's and also empower them to seek their active participation. Therefore, we should stress on necessity and highlight the benefits of securing women's active participation in all stages of decision making, ensuring them empowerment and capacity building at all levels and their inclusion in devising strong gender responsive frameworks. Findings of the study indicated that majority of the members of the Women Self Help Groups were middle aged (52.22%), with high school level of education (34.45%), low annual income (73.34%), married (87.78%), medium family size (68.89%) and nuclear family type (53.33%), medium scale enterprise (56.67%), low net returns (62.22%), medium loan borrowing behaviour (70.00%), medium incubation period (50.00%), medium risk orientation (57.78%), medium market orientation (64.44%), medium management orientation (64.45%), medium level of capacity building (78.89%) and medium level of empowerment (65.65%).
