Entrepreneurship a Means for Inclusive Growth: A Case Study on SHGs of Pauri Garhwal (Uttarakhand)

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Abstract
Inclusive growth is a novice concept to economic development aiming at better standards of living with an equitable society, where every individual has prospects of growth. Financial inclusion means ‘access to financial services’ and now is used synonymously to inclusive growth to bring the underprivileged into the mainstream, providing equal opportunities through the proper credit system. India embraced the concept in the Eleventh five-year plan (2007-12), which aimed at not only faster growth but a growth process which guaranteed a comprehensive improvement in the quality of life of poor, scheduled caste (SC)/scheduled tribe (ST), other backward classes (OBC), minorities and women seeking to provide equality of opportunity to all. Self Help Group - Bank Linkage Programme (SHG-BLP) is one of the important projects undertaken by NABARD, apex rural bank to unite the homogeneous poor households and mobilise their small savings so that deprived, especially women are given appropriate livelihood opportunities related to entrepreneurial development, so that she not only improves her living standards but also the family as well as neighborhood around her. As of today, this initiative started in 1992, embraces 110 million families via more than 8.7 million SHGs of which 84 per cent are completely women SHGs with accumulated deposits of more than ₹195 billion and annual loan credit of over ₹470 billion with outstanding of ₹7.55 billion. The paper is an effort to recognize the capabilities of these rural poor women, who if given the right skill training and resources can be transformed through entrepreneurship as social change agents for inclusive growth. The study uses primary data of 104 SHG members from 45 groups functional in rural villages of Pauri Garhwal, one of the thirteen districts of Uttarakhand for understanding, how women entrepreneurship is working towards inclusive growth as part of SHG’s.

Keywords: Rural Entrepreneurship, Inclusive growth, Financial Inclusion, Self Help Group-Bank Linkage Programme (SBLP), Livelihood and Entrepreneurship Development Programme (LEDP)

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