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Title of the thesis-	“Socio-economic empowerment of Indian women: A study of public policy and their implement (post 1991 period a study of Bihar and Haryana”.

Women’s empowerment is a global issue and most countries in the world are involved putting forth diverse plans and policies to achieve the socio-economic and political development of the weaker gender of the society. Indian government had taken many steps for the development of the women. The role and statues of women have been steps for the undergoing a continuous change in recent times. Changes are echoed in how the thinking process has evolved in the course of time as from women up-liftment it has changed to women’s welfare and from women’s welfare to women’s development and now from women development to women empowerment. The place of women in rural economy is largely determined by the overall socio-economic cultural fabric rural economy is largely determined and it is very complicated in developing countries. Two important constitutional amendments

(73<sup>th</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup>) were passed during the eighth plan and aim of these amendments was for the reservation of one third of the seats for women in the rural and urban local government. This amendment makes for political empowerment of women. The ninth and tenth five year plan focused on making women socially and economically empowerment. Steps are being taken for its smooth and effective implementation and how successful these have been in achieving their goals. The studies to understand the need to such government measures, their implementation strategies and impact on the development of the involved women become vital as these studies would not be helpful in establishing the necessity of legal protection for empowerment of women both at the state and the central level but it will also enable the government and civil society to work out several strategies to realizing full and substantive participation of women empowerment. It also provides an independent review of government sponsored project.

The present study analyses two SHGs based plans Swashakti and Swayamsidha, which were designed to bring socio-economic empowerment of poor women living in rural areas. Basic idea of the study can be divided into three categories, first establish the need for such programs, second, find out how the programs were working, third analyse the impact of these program on the socio-economic development of involved women. Study has its own parameter to study all there three categories. First, need is established by studying what sort of demographic participated in the program, such age, education, occupation, marital status, involved family type, financial status, living condition of the participant. Second, how effectively program was implemented is analysed by studying the working of SHGs such as size of group, stability of the group, decision making process of group, financial practise of

the group, etc. third, social impact is analysed by understanding what sort of information were provided, new information lead to any personal changes in the involved member, were the involved member able to utilized the gain information and acquired skill for the betterment of her life. If the changes in the thinking process of the involved member lead to social changes and social conduct of the individual.

Some important Finding andrecommendations of the field study is presented.

- Majority of the women beneficiaries of the projects belong to the age group of 26 to 45 years. They are illiterate and low educated and belonged to the weaker sections of society.
- In Bihar, the group has been found stable and in Haryana, the groups in Yamuna Nagar district are stable but in Sonapat and Ambala districts most of the groups are not stable.
- The overall analysis shows that after the introduction of women empowerment schemes Swashakti and Swayamsidha women's' contribution to decision - making both at family and society levels have increased. Now they are more vibrant and sensitized towards social evils and have formed social pressure groups bringing about social change and the resolution of social issues. The schemes have helped in poverty alleviation and an increase in income has definitely taken place from moderate to high levels among the SHGs members.
- The impact of SHGs on women empowerment can been seen in increased mobility, recognition, interaction with the family, community, and outsiders, access to health, self and child education, immunization and medical services and increased participations in decision – making within the family and outside it too. The participation of women beneficiaries in Haryana is less than that of women beneficiaries in Bihar.

#### Recommendations

- For the success of government programmes, official support for skill training, extension support, credit and other enterprise related services are essential.
- A proper mechanism needs to be evolved for the organization, monitoring, supervision, directing, appraisal and evaluation of self-help institutions.