



**DWAKRA SANGHAM (SHG) SOCIO-ECONOMIC'S IMPACT ON
WOMEN IN ANANTAPUR DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH**

Dr. Jyotsana Pandit*

*SBAS, Sanskriti University,
Mathura, Uttar Pradesh, INDIA

Email id: jyotsna.sobas@sanskriti.edu.in

ABSTRACT

Microfinance supports individuals in modest sums and allows them to participate in financial inclusion. Based on the idea of microfinance, a small group of women form self-help organizations and support themselves equally with government loans, allowing them to grow their enterprises and raise their families' quality of life. Microfinance and business development aid in the eradication of poverty on a local level. The research's objectives are to evaluate the possible function of Dwakrasangham in imparting financial knowledge to women and to assess the improvement in the quality of life of women who are members of Dwakrasangham. The hypothesis is evaluated using an independent t-test, and the research uses primary data. A basic percentage method is used to analyze the data. The results indicate that members' financial understanding has increased significantly, and that earnings generated have enhanced the quality of life of DwakraSangham's female members.

KEYWORDS: *Dwakra Sangham, Financial inclusion, Financial knowledge, Standard of living.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Self-Help Groups (Dwakrasangham) and their financial support play a critical role in empowering women and increasing their economic involvement. It plays a critical role in raising financial inclusion awareness among women. Self-Help Groups include women participating in microfinance industries or companies in order to become economically self-sufficient. They have helped many families improve their quality of life and lift themselves out of poverty. The study's goal is to look at the socioeconomic effect of DwakraSangham on women in Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh, as well as how it may help women become more financially aware[1].

The majority of the women said they joined the Dwakrasangham to gain self-sufficiency and expand their businesses. The majority of women spend their money in small companies, with tailoring and textiles coming in second and handmade goods coming in third. The one-of-a-kind observation is that all group members in all groups are united, and no one has any problems with the group, which will help the group get more points for its performance. The

majority of them (53.3 percent) stated that after investing the money they got from Dwakrasangham, their company earnings had risen. After repaying the loan in full, 73.3 percent of women stated they get the interest returned into their accounts. Many individuals have benefited from the government's weaving loans, and they have been given full relief from loan payments. Only 13.3 percent of people said they got nothing out of this Dwakrasangham. The money will be used for their children's education, according to the responses, and one of them will use it for her daughter's pregnancy expenses[2].

1.1 Empowerment of women:

Women's empowerment encompasses a wide range of economic opportunities, property rights, political representation, social equality, and personal freedoms. It takes place on a number of levels, including individual, group, and community, and it calls into question assumptions about present status, uneven power connections, and social dynamics. Women's empowerment, in its most basic form, refers to a redistribution of power that challenges male dominance. This does not mean, however, that the empowerment process is antagonistic. Indeed, it involves educating both men and women about their changing roles and positions, as well as reaching an agreement for peaceful cohabitation in a fair society[3].

1.2 The birth of the SHG concept:

SHGs (Self-Help Groups) are self-organized groups of individuals that get together to accomplish a shared goal. Persons from the same social background, heritage, caste, or traditional occupations who number fewer than 20 people join together voluntarily for the purpose of raising and managing resources for the group's benefit. The process of helping a group of people with a same purpose to join together in order to engage in development activities such as saving, credit, and income generation is known as group formation. Despite the fact that men and women, as well as any professional group of individuals, may form SHGs for any development activity, women's SHGs are more common and popular in India.

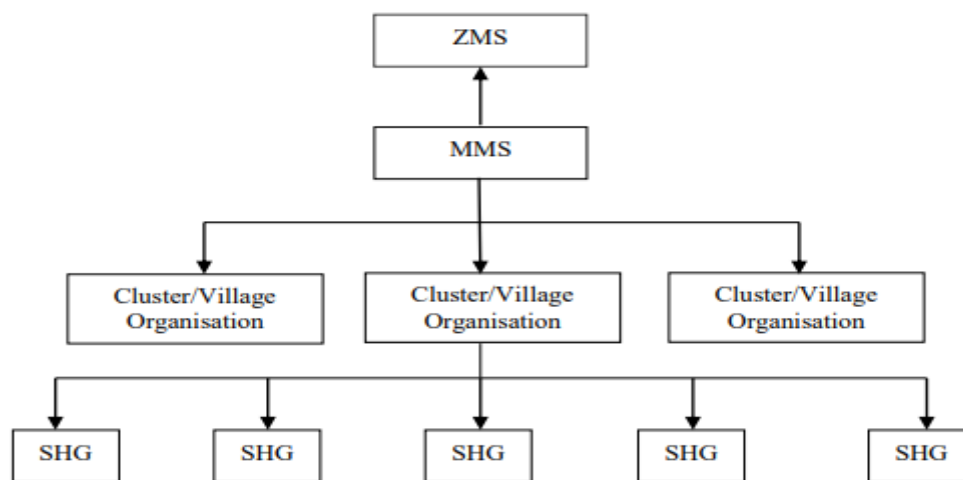


Figure 1: The schematically SHGs' institutional structure is depicted

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Bhuvana & Vasantha studied the focuses on providing financial services to the underprivileged through members of self-help organisations in Tamil Nadu's different districts. The study used a multidimensional method to calculate a financial inclusion index that took into account bank penetration, credit penetration, and self-help group penetration in the study region. The study reveals that Thanjavur, Dharmapuri, Virudhunagar, Kanyakumari, Kancheepuram, Thiruvannamalai, Thoothukudi, Salem, Madurai, Vellore Trichy has a low level of financial inclusion. According to the findings, the Self-Help Group Bank Linkage model is a successful approach that is acceptable to impoverished people. The

author also proposes that the Indian government and concerned financial authorities examine members of self-help organisations for credit facilities to meet their fundamental needs[4].

Thangamani et al. studied the concentrates on the women empowerment through self-help groups in Mettupalayam Taluk in Tamil Nadu. The study is based on primary data using the interview schedule method from 200 respondents. Chi-square, Garret ranking are used to analyze the data. Women's socioeconomic situations improved after joining self-help groups, according to the study. The majority of 37.5 percent of the respondents of SHGs are 31 to 40 years of age group. 39 percent of the respondents said to enrich savings is the main reason for joining the SHGs, 21 percent said to gain economic independence, and the remaining said to get recognition from the society and to exhibit their talents. Garrett's ranking shows that self-employment is the important factor of the self-help group. The study also reveals that the self-help groups in Mettupalayam taluk helped for women empowerment and in turn the rural areas[5].

Namboodari & Shiyani studied the focuses on the role of Self Help Promoting Institutions (SHPI) formed by Panchmahal Vadodara Gramin Bank in Gujarat in terms of reach, linkage with banks for savings, and credit for weaker sections of rural households. Secondary data is used in the study. The study finds that the credit facilities were provided for medical treatment, purchasing animal feeders, for the education of their children, purchase of tractors, etc. There was better recovery performance for the bank as the loan repayment mechanism is at the group level. The study also reveals that the financial deepening in terms of coverage is achieved through small-scale savers and borrowers[6].

Research question

- To examine the potential role of Dwakra Sangham in bringing financial knowledge among women in the study area?
- To analyze the socio-economic impact of self-help groups (DwakraSangham) on its members in Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh?

1. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Design

H0: There is no significant relationship between the DwakraSangham SHGs and financial knowledge among the women members in the study area.

H1: There is a significant relationship between the DwakraSangham SHGs and financial knowledge among the women members in the study area.

H0: There is no significant improvement in the economic condition of the women members of the DwakraSangham in the study area.

H1: There is a significant improvement in the economic condition of the women members of the DwakraSangham SHGs in the study area.

3.2 Sampling

The study has used primary data for analysis according to the objectives set out in the study. Primary data for analysis is collected through the scheduled telephonic interview method. A convenient sampling method is used for selecting the respondents. The present study has covered the Anantapur district, Andhra Pradesh. It was selected for this study because the Dwakrasangham members are functioning very successfully and also researchers own district. Therefore, Anantapur district was selected for the present study. The sample size is thirty respondents constituting all categories of Dwakrasangham members from Anantapur district. t-test is used to test the hypothesis. The percentage method is used to analyze the data. Simple graphs and diagrams are used to present the findings[7].

3.3 Data Collection

The interpretations were done based on the information gained from primary data and to analyze this simple percentage model.

Figure 2 depicts that most of the women that are 60% who are part of the dwakrasangham are between the age group of 30 to 40 years and 13.3% were less than the age of 30 years and 26.7% are below 30 years.

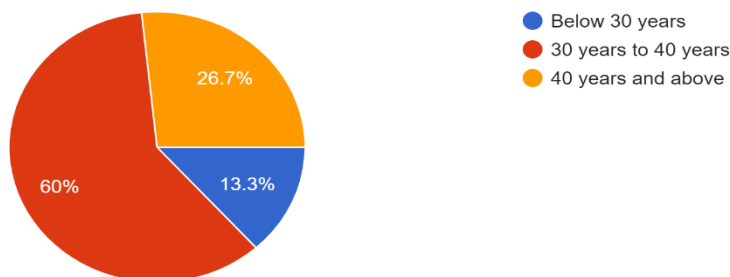


Figure 2: Age of the Respondents which Depicts that Most of the Women that are 60% .

Figure 3 shows that the women who are part of this dwakrasangham are not illiterate and the majority of 43.3% are graduates and 17% were educated more than graduated. 26.7% completed their P.U and 23.3% were studied below 10th standard.

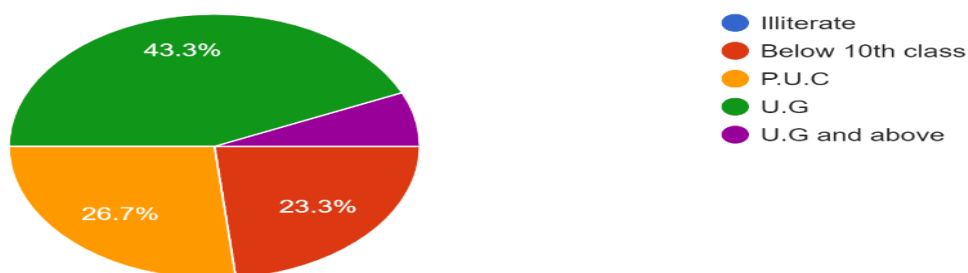


Figure 3: Shows that the women respondents who are part of the education qualification

Figure 4 depicts the marital status of women who are part of Dwakrasangham and the results showed that 90% of women are married and only 10% include unmarried and widow. Even after marriage most of the women are actively participating in micro-financing which helps increase the financial status of the entire family and increase the standards of living.

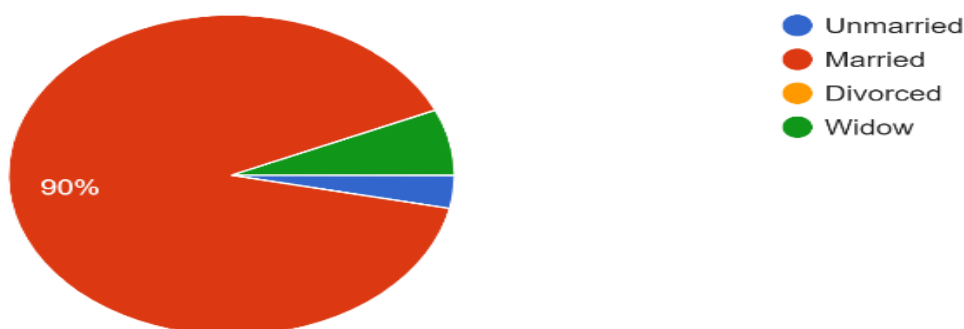


Figure 4: The shows the marital status of women respondents who are part of Dwarkasangham

Figure 5 shows the family type of the women who are part of Dwakrasangham and 70% were part of nuclear families and only 30% are part of the joint family.

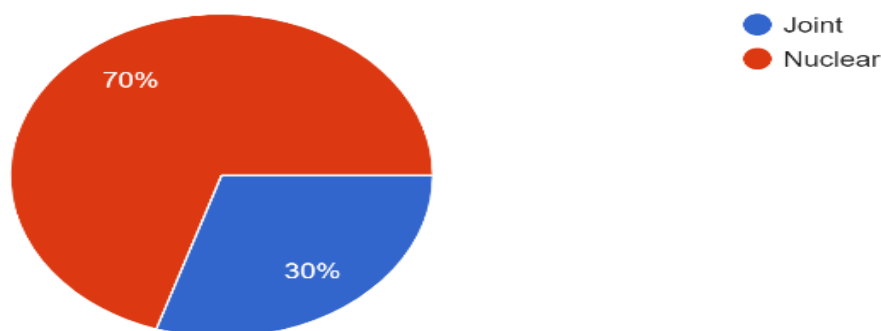


Figure 5: The shows the family type of women respondents who are part of Dwakrsangham.

Figure 6 depicts the reasons for joining the Dwakrasangham and 46.7% have said they want to attain economic independence by developing their business and 36.7 % have answered that they joined for savings and there are various reasons like for the business purpose to encourage their talents with this financial assistance.

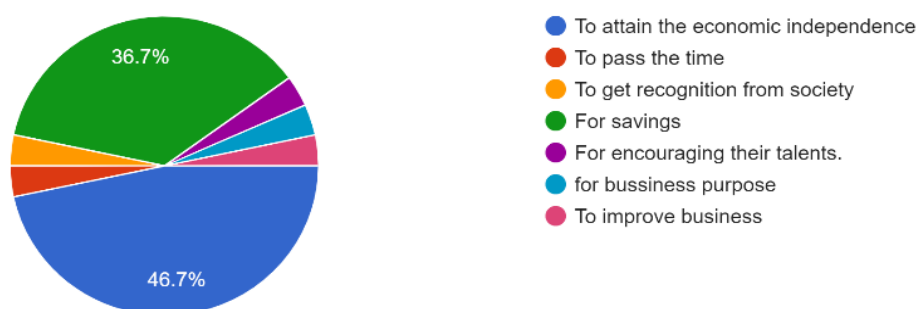


Figure 6 : The depicts the reasons for joining the DwakraSangham for the business purpose

3.4 Data Analysis:

Figure 6 shows how much loan the women are receiving from this Dwakrasangham. The information says that 70% are receiving between Rs.50000 to Rs.100000 and 26.7% said they are receiving less than Rs.50000. And the other information states that the entire group receives more than Rs. 700000 which is equally distributed among the members of the team. All the respondents have said that they are receiving a loan from the same bank that is Andhra Pragati Grameen bank.

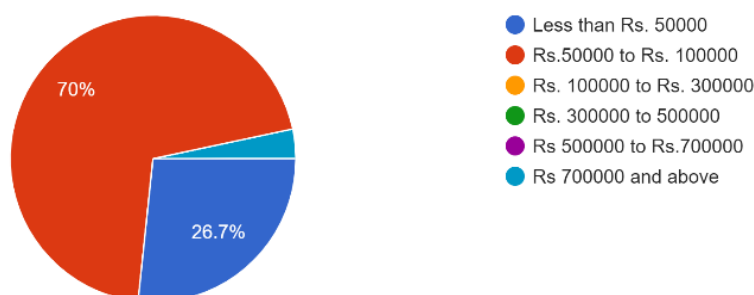


Figure 7: The shows the amount receiving from DwakraSangham.

The loans are repaid by the members of Dwakrasangham to banks on time and for the loans, the bank will collect the interest rate which is paid back to them after completing the payment of all installments on time and (Figure 8) observed from the study that 73.3% were receiving the interest paid but 26.7% said they are not receiving any interest from banks.

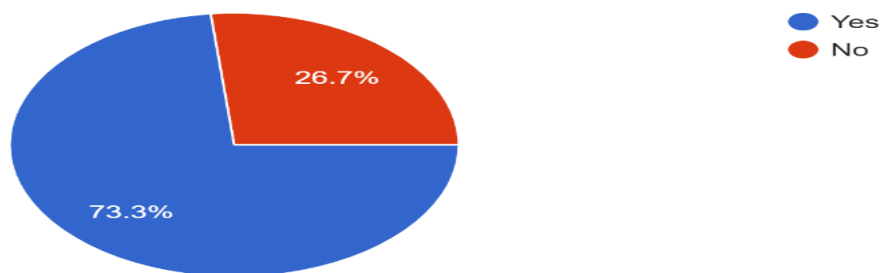


Figure 8: The plots shows the repayment of interest rate of Dwakrasangham to banks.

The respondents have said that they are paying an amount of Rs.5000 on the entire amount and which is less than 2% and Figure 9 says that 96.7% were paying less than 2% interest rate and 2.3% said they are not paying any interest that is zero interest.

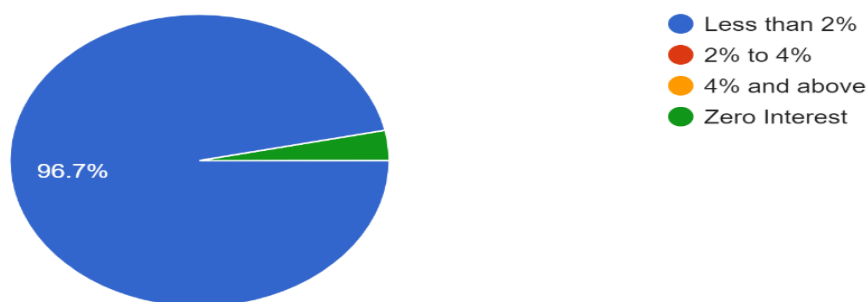


Figure 9: The respondents shows the percentage of the interest rate paid

The women who are part of Dwakrasangham will pay monthly installments and they will pay the entire amount back based on the time permitted by the bank while giving a loan. Figure 10 depicts that 86.7% of women were repaying their loans between 12 to 24 months and only 13.3% of women were repaying the loan in 24 to 36 months.

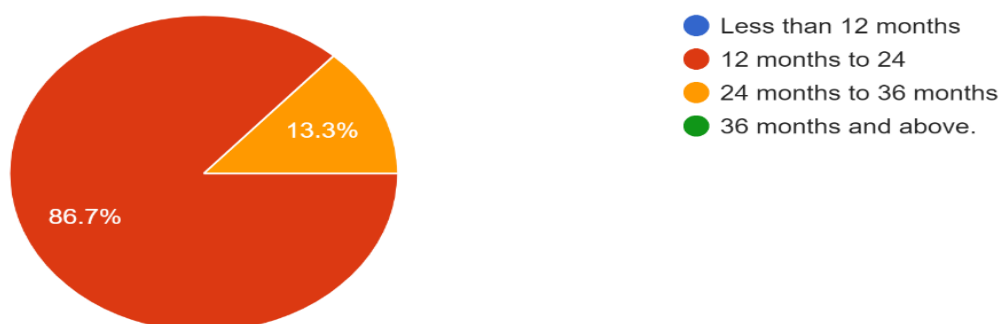


Figure 10: The plot shows the repayment of loan to banks of Dwakrasangham

Figure 11 shows that the highest percentage of investment is (43.3%) made in small-scale industries and the second-highest investment is on homemade products. And most of them also answered tailoring and saree business at home and a few also stated about dairy forms and lending money for higher interest rates. This will help for the expansion of business and

also help to increase the profits. Many of the members said they use their profits for their well-being and their children's education.

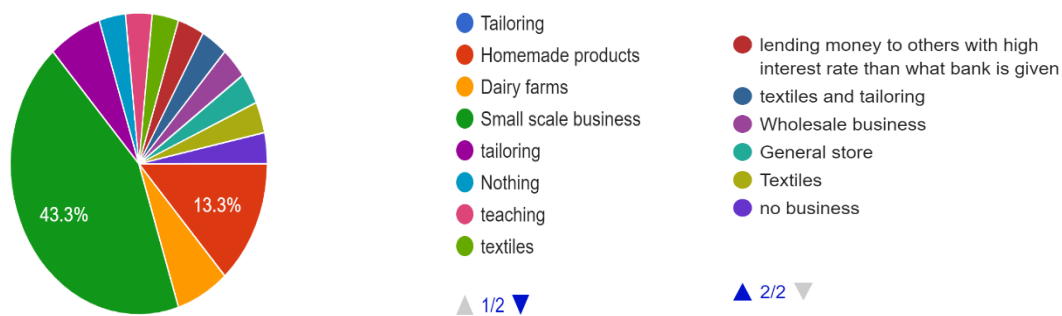


Figure 11: The plot shows the percentage of the fields in which money is invested by respondents

The women who invested the money, which they received from Dwakrasangham are earning profits from the expanded business and Figure 12 depicts that 53.3% of women were earning profits between Rs.10000 to Rs.20000 and the highest of Rs.30000 to Rs.40000 was earned by only 10% of women. 16.7% of women are earning between Rs.20000 to Rs.30000 and 20% of women earning less than Rs.10000. Depending on the profits they expand their business and the profits also help to increase the standard of living of the family and also helps the people who are below the poverty line to make their lives better and improve themselves to get out the poverty.

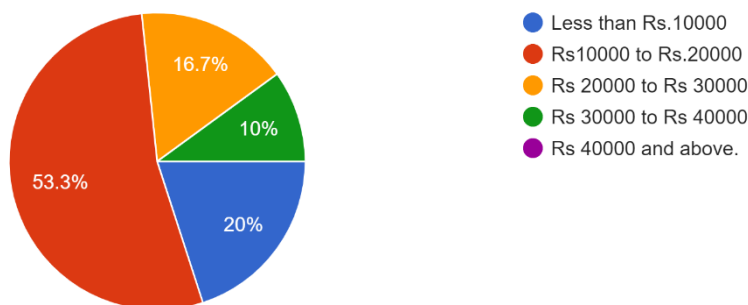


Figure 12: The plot shows the receiving Dwakrasangham profits earning from expanded business

The below figure shows the financial knowledge of members and how actively they are participating in savings and studies had found that from Figure 13 depicts that 63.3% of women were paying the recurring deposits and 36.7% of women were not participating in any savings activity. This not only helps the families but for the development of the nation where these savings in the banks will increase the overall investment in the country.

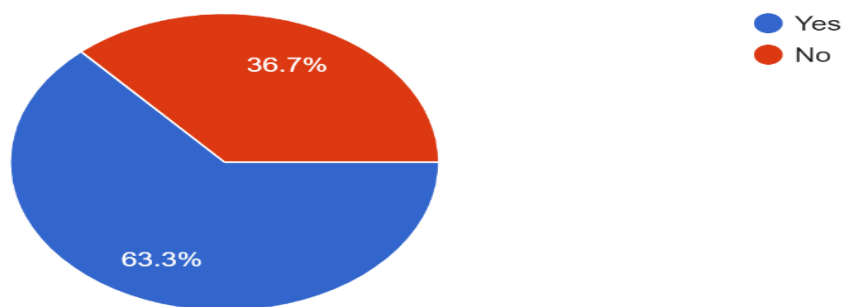


Figure 13: The plot shows the Paying the Recurring Deposit.

Some of the members in dwakrasangham have chosen to save through the unorganized forms like cheetipata or chit funds, kitty parties, etc. Figure 14 depicts that 40% of women were saving through cheetipata and 60% are not part of any kind of cheetipata or kitty parties.

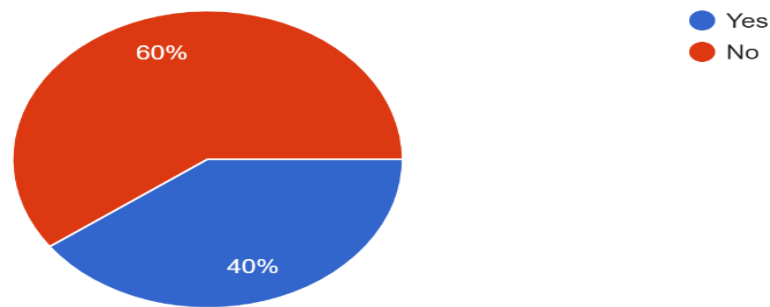


Figure 14 : The plot shows the women were saving through Cheetipata or Chit Fund.

The collection of primary data has resulted in finding many new points and interesting concepts. CheetiPata – This concept is widely seen in the entire Andhra Pradesh, and its kind of savings concept and, all the people who are heading this cheeti business should register themselves legally under chit fund Act, as they are recognized under government.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Hypothesis Testing

TABLE 1: THE POTRAY THE GROUP STATISTICS OF KNOWLEDGE COMPARES THE MEAN, STD.DEVIATION AND ERROR

	Micro fin...	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Knowledge_about_Savings	Yes	17	1.0588	.24254	.05882
	No	13	2.0000	.00000	.00000

TABLE 2: THE POTRAY THE INDEPENDENT SAMPLE T-TEST COMPARES THE MEANS OF TWO INDEPENDENT GROUPS

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
									Lower	Upper
Knowledge_about_Savings	Equal variances assumed	3.451	.074	-13.933	28	.000	-.94118	.06755	-1.07954	-.80281
	Equal variances not assumed			-16.000	16.000	.000	-.94118	.05882	-1.06588	-.81648

The above Table 1 and Table 2 portrays the Independent Sample t-test compares the means of two independent groups the t value is -13.933 while the p-value is .000 which is lesser than 0.05. Thus, we reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis that there is a significant relationship between the DwakraSangham SHGs and financial knowledge among the women in the study area[8].

TABLE3: ILLUSTRATES THE ONE-SAMPLE STATISTICS.**One-Sample Statistics**

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Profits_Earned	30	2.1667	.87428	.15962

TABLE 4:ILLUSTRATES THE ONE-SAMPLE TEST.**One-Sample Test**

	Test Value = 0					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Profits_Earned	13.574	29	.000	2.16667	1.8402	2.4931

The above Table 3 and Table 4 portrays that the t-table value is 1.699 while the t calculated value is 13.574. The p-value is .000 which is lesser than 0.05. Thus, reject the null hypothesis and accepts the alternative hypothesis that there is a significant improvement in the profits earned which in turn improves the standard of living of women who are part of DwakraSangham SHGs in the study area[9].

Under this, a group of people will start investing on a monthly installment basis and every month one person from the group will be getting the money through auction and whoever takes money in early months they will lose dividend and the people who wait for till last month will gain dividend. And the bidder will get the fixed income for every month. Under DwakraSangham there are different groups, in this data collection the researcher collected data from three different groups, AkkammaMahilaSangham, Sadhana Group, Kumara Swami group. Different groups get a different range of loans, like AkkammaMahilaSangham members, are getting Rs.90,000 which they need to pay in 30 months and other groups are receiving a different level of income and they need to pay within the prescribed months based on the amount[10].

5. CONCLUSION

The study was undertaken to examine the improvement in the standard of living among women through the Dwakra Sangham in the Anantapur district. It is found that the socio-economic factor has been changed after joining the Dwakra Sangham among the women. There is a need for improvements in strengthening the dwakrasangham like providing loans only to the women who are really part of any business. From this, we conclude that Dwakra Sanghams are successful in increasing the standards of living of women and also played a potential role in enhancing financial awareness among women who are part of DwakraSangham in the Anantapur district, Andhra Pradesh.

REFERENCES

1. J. A. Laub, "Assessing the servant organization; Development of the Organizational Leadership Assessment (OLA) model. Dissertation Abstracts International," *Procedia - Soc. Behav. Sci.*, 1999.
2. N. V. Namboodiri and R. L. Shiyani, "Potential role of self-help groups in rural financial deepening," *Indian J. Agric. Econ.*, 2001, doi: 10.22004/ag.econ.297828.
3. S. T. S.Thangamani, "A Study on Women Empowerment through Self- Help Groups with

Special Reference to Mettupalayam Taluk In Coimbatore District,” *IOSR J. Bus. Manag.*, 2013, doi: 10.9790/487x-0861724.

4. M. Bhuvana and S. Vasantha, “Self Help Group Bank Linkage Programme- An Index of measuring financial inclusion,” *Indian J. Sci. Technol.*, 2016, doi: 10.17485/ijst/2016/v9i43/104757.
5. K. Kondal, “Women Empowerment through Self Help Groups in Andhra Pradesh, India,” *Int. Res. J. Soc. Sci. ISSN Int. Res. J. Soc. Sci.*, 2014.
6. G. V. Ramana, “REGRESSION ANALYSIS OF RAINFALL AND RUNOFF PROCESS OF A TYPICAL WATERSHED,” *Int. J. Sci. Adv. Inf. Technol.*, 2014.
7. S. Choi, “THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT’S MEDICAID EXPANSION: THE EFFECTS ON LOW-INCOME MID-LIFE ADULTS,” *Innov. Aging*, 2017, doi: 10.1093/geroni/igx004.3993.
8. R. Geethanjali and K. Prabhakar, “Economic Development of Women through Self Help Groups in YSR District, Andhra Pradesh, India,” *Stud. Home Community Sci.*, 2013, doi: 10.1080/09737189.2013.11885389.
9. Sk.Khadar Basha, “rough self-help Groups and providing various earning An empirical study on rural women empowerment opportunities in rural Villages in Prakasam District, Andhra Pradesh,” *Int. J. Sci. Res. Publ.*, 2017.
10. K. U. Devi and L. Narasaiah, “Women empowerment through self-help groups: An empirical study in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh,” *Int. J. Appl. Res.*, 2017.