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## MICRO FINANCE'S IMPACT ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT VIA SELF-HELP GROUPS: A STUDY

Mr. Pooran Singh\*

\*SMAC,

Sanskriti University, Mathura,

Uttar Pradesh, INDIA

Email id: registrar@sanskriti.edu.in

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### ABSTRACT

*The current research looked at the effect of microfinance on women's empowerment via Self Help Groups (SHG). A total of 150 SHG members from three taluks in Tirunelveli District participated in the research. Through an interview schedule, both quantitative and qualitative data were collected. Statistical techniques were used to examine them. According to the findings, women in SHGs are breaking out of their shells, rejecting their position as second-class citizens, and using their abilities and skills for personal and societal gain. The study's Chi-square test shows that respondents' income, savings, and degree of satisfaction vary substantially before and after joining SHGs. Microfinance via SHGs has a beneficial effect on women's empowerment, according to ranking scales and factor analysis. The research finds that not only does the position of women need to improve, but so does society's attitude toward them. As a result, transforming women's perceptions from passive onlookers and recipients to positive doers and achievers must be a top priority. The significance of this research and the ramifications of these results are addressed.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Government Initiatives, Micro-finance Self-Help Groups, Small-Scale Financing, Women Empowerment.*

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