

UGC – STRIDE COMPONENT-2

Part-A

1. Subject Applied: **Management & Commerce**

2. Broad Area: **Rural Economic Development and Management**

3. Principal Investigator

i) Name: Dr Parmila Devi

ii) Sex: Female

iii) Date of Birth: 01/01/1980

iv) Qualification: M Com, M Phil, Ph.D., MBA,

Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Development

v) Designation: Assistant Professor

vi) Address:

a) **Office:** Kanya Mahavidyalaya, Rohtak Road, Near Bus Stand Kharkhoda,
Distt Sonipat (Haryana) Pin Code: 131402

(b) **Residence:** House number 101, Sec-23, Sonipat (Haryana) Pin Code:
131001

4. Co – Investigator(s): Dr Namita, Assistant Professor,

Kanya Mahavidyalaya, Kharkhoda

5. Teaching and Research Experience of Principal Investigator:

a) Teaching: 16 Years

b) Research: 10 Years

c) Year of Award of Doctoral Degree: 2012

d) Title of thesis for Doctoral Degree: “Marketing of Financial Services in
Private Sector Banks”

6. Publications (during the last 05 years):

a) Research Papers: 4

b) Books/Book Chapters: 3

7. Name and Address of the College:

Kanya Mahavidyalaya, Rohtak Road, Near Bus Stand Kharkhoda, Distt Sonipat
(Haryana) Pin Code: 131402

8. Whether the teacher has received support for the research project from UGC under Major/Minor scheme of support for research or from any agency?

Minor Research Project got approved by UGC in session 2015-16 but funds not released yet.

9. Institutional and departmental facilities available for the proposed work:

a) Equipment: Wi-Fi

b) Other Infrastructure: Library

10. Any other information which the Principal Investigator may like to give in support of this project proposal which may be helpful in evaluating:

Researcher feels that her exposure as a researcher in writing the research papers in past and organising of International/National Seminars/Conferences/Workshops at her institution and insights gained from it will immensely help her in carrying out the proposed study. To put it briefly, she has presented more than 60 research papers in International/National Seminars/Conferences/Workshops and have organised three national seminars and one national workshop in Commerce, one national seminar in Women cell and Road safety, was member of organising committee in national seminars in Hindi, English and Sports Management. Acted as chairperson and Resource

person in one National Seminar and one National workshop respectively. Her two research papers were adjudged as the best papers presented in national seminars. As the institute of researcher come under the rural region of Sonipat District and the students mainly come from villages so she is well conversant with the basic problems faced by the rural women and it will help her in selecting the sample, in forming the questionnaire for collection of data and analysing data and finding solutions from the proposed study in a better way.

PART – B

(Proposed Research Work for UGC-STRIDE – Component - 2)

1. Project Details:

1) **Broad Area of Research:** State of Haryana has a robust economy and apart of agriculture, it has taken a big lead in the last two decades in terms of industrialization. The focus of the study is how the state stands out in the improvement of the quality of life for its residents especially the poor women through the assistance of micro finance in empowering them.

2) **Statement of Purpose (500 – 800 words):** Micro finance as a toll for empowering women and alleviation of poverty has gained credence in development dialogue world over and it is the new fad in the Indian financial system. It is growing rapidly and getting attention from the financial institutions, NGOs and Government as an instrument that can transform the lives of the poor women. Advocates argue that women are preferred for micro credit to strong development effect. The reason is that women tend to be more concerned for children's health and education than men. Women empowerment therefore is the process by which women gain greater control over material and intellectual resources and challenge the ideology of patriarchy and the gender based discrimination against women in all institutions and structures of society.

A Significant feather of the Microfinance movement in India is that it has relied heavily on the existing banking infrastructure, in this process, obviating the need for a new institutional setup. Banks lend micro credit through SHGs and to local micro finance institutions that have contact in small villages. India's SHGs- Bank Linkage programme is the biggest in the world.

3) **Project Title: “Microfinance: A Key for Women Empowerment”**

4) Introduction

a. **Origin of the research problem:** Microfinance is the provision of financial services to low-income clients through micro-credit, compulsory savings,

micro-insurance within the reach of millions who are classified as too poor to be dependent on informal sources of finance at exorbitant interest rates. Microfinance often targets women and as such has become a critical tool in empowering women. Women under microfinance interventions not only increase in own income, savings and assets but also exercise control over such economic resources.

It is a universal phenomenon that women have been the most underprivileged part of the society. From the last 30-40 years Microfinance Programmes have been instrumental for empowering women by increasing their participation in financial sector and eventually in economic growth and nation building. The present study addresses the challenging issues of whether micro credit programmes are effective tools for empowering poor women.

b. Trans-disciplinary relevance: Microfinance is an effective tool to meet basic financial needs of poor women. It empowers them holistically not only economically. Proposed study will be useful for different disciplines like Sociology, Political Science, and Psychology etc.

Under the proposed project Economic point of view is exhibited when the income of women, their savings, their holding of assets is studied. When we talk of sociology, women as a participant of Microfinance, their decision making power in family, improvement in education, contribution towards children's education is studied in this domain. Her decision regarding casting of votes independently, her participation in community welfare schemes after making use of microfinance is studied under the sphere of Political Science. Under Psychological point of view, their self confidence and satisfaction can be observed by interviewing them on different aspects.

c. Societal Relevance: Women empowerment study helps society to get rid of social evils. The present one will endeavour to examine the outreach of micro

finance programme, involvement of SHGs entrepreneurs in micro enterprises and to identify their problems in managing the credit to examine whether it leads to the empowerment to women and to suggest remedial action. The results of this research could encourage more women to participate in microfinance activities and development project.

d. Relevance to National Missions / Priorities:

State of Haryana has a robust economy and apart agriculture has taken a big lead in the last two decades in terms of industrialization. NCR Region has been the growth engine for the state. The focus of the study is how the state stands out in the improvement of the quality of life for its residents especially the poor women through the assistance of micro finance in empowering them.

e. Review of Research and Development in the Subject:

i. International Status

Mafizur Rahman Mohammad & Khanam Rasheda observed that microfinance has a positive impact on women's empowerment in Bangladesh. The study also revealed that Micro credit must be supplemented by a significant amount of skills training and educational opportunities for the poor women.

ii. National Status

Loomba Shuchi conducted a study to examine the role of microfinance in women empowerment in India. The study showed that despite of bottlenecks, microfinance is capable of helping the poor to upscale themselves to a better living and playing a significantly positive role in upgrading women empowerment.

Malathi and Vijayarani examined the relationship between microfinance and women empowerment in rural areas of Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu in India. Chi-square and t-test were used to analyze the data using 100 sample

sizes. Findings of this study revealed that microfinance help women in gaining empowerment. Empowerment is judged on the basis of economic position before and after joining the SHG program and education respectively.

A study by Naved showed that women were more active in household decision making and had more control over household income after participating in microcredit programs. Moreover, participation in microcredit programs helps to increase women's welfare and reduce male bias.

Aruna and Jyothirmayi examined the influence of microfinance on women empowerment through regression analysis in Hyderabad, India. Results revealed that microfinance had significant influence on socio-economic indicators. These indicators are considered as economic position, decision making power, knowledge and self worthiness.

Pitt et al. found that participation in microcredit programs help women to have access to financial and economic resources, significant role in household decision making, have greater social networks, have greater communication in general and knowledge about family planning and parenting concerns and have greater freedom of mobility.

Sujatha Gangadhar and Malyadri argues that microfinance is a powerful tool in enhancing women empowerment for its all indicators like household economic decision making, economic security, family decision making, mobility and legal awareness. Only participation in microfinance program does not lead to increase in women empowerment but when it is coupled with participation in seminars, workshops and training then it helps women in enhancing their empowerment. These training programs not only provide self employment training but also facilitate good decision-making.

iii. **Significance of the study:** Very few studies have been conducted in the northern region of India on the role of Microfinance to empower women residing in villages especially in state of Haryana. It is still unclear whether microfinance has benefited women in all spheres or not. In this direction, an empirical study using the first hand data is needed particularly in the context of developing nations to further support the nation that microfinance has really empowered women in a holistic way.

5) Objectives

- To examine the impact of micro finance programme on women empowerment.
- To analyse how Micro- credit is used by poor women for productive purpose.
- To study the impact of micro finance intervention on women's income and employment.
- To identify the challenges and problems faced by the women in the investing and managing the funds/ credit and suggest the remedial action.

6) Methodology:

Study Area: The study aims at investigating the complex relationship between Microfinance and Women's Empowerment process in selected Districts - Rohtak and Sonapat of Haryana. The researcher has selected the proposed districts for her study as according to 2011 censuses, literacy rate of Haryana State is 76.6% and the literacy rate of female is 66.8% while female literacy rate of Rohtak and Sonapat districts is 71.2% and 70.9% respectively which is above the average rate; Moreover these districts come under NCR region also, which has been the growth engine of the state.

Sources of Data: The study will be based on both primary as well as secondary data. Primary data will be collected through well-structured questionnaire filled

in by the respondents selected from the two districts namely – Rohtak and Sonapat of Haryana.

Statistical Tools: Following Statistical tools will be used for analysis of the data: Weighted Mean, Likert Scale and Paired ‘t’ Test etc.

H_0 = There is no difference in mean income of respondents before and after availing Microfinance.

7) Year wise Plan of work and targets to be achieved.

1st Year: Introduction and Development of Research Work, Literature Review and Data Collection

2nd Year: Data Entry and Analysis, Preparation of Research Report

8) Details of Collaboration with Government/ Industry/NGOs, if any intended: No

9) Expected Output and Outcomes:

The results of the research could encourage more women to participate in microfinance activities and development schemes of the government and findings of the study can help to policy makers to adopt appropriate policies for women empowerment.

2. Financial Assistance required Item Estimated Expenditure:

a) Project Fellow	Rs 2,40,000
b) Hiring Services	Rs 50,000
c) Field Work and Travel	Rs 1,00,000
d) Contingency (including special needs)	Rs 30,000
e) Honorarium	Rs 50,000
f) Books and Journals	Rs 80,000
g) Equipment, if needed (please specify name and approx. cost) Laptop and Printer:	Rs 50,000
Total:	Rs 6,00,000

3. Any other information which the investigator may like to give in support of project proposal which may be helpful in evaluating: Researcher feels that her exposure as a researcher in writing the research papers in past and organising of International/National Seminars/Conferences/Workshops at her institution and insights gained from it will immensely help her in carrying out the proposed study. To put it briefly, she has presented more than 60 research papers in International/National Seminars/Conferences/Workshops and have organised three national seminars and one national workshop in Commerce, one national seminar in Women cell and Road safety, was member of organising committee in national seminars in Hindi, English and Sports Management. Acted as chairperson and Resource person in one National Seminar and one National workshop respectively. Her two research papers were adjudged as the best papers presented in national seminars. As the institute of researcher come under the rural region of Sonipat District and the students mainly come from villages so she is well conversant with the basic problems faced by the rural women and it will help her in selecting the sample, in forming the questionnaire for collection of data and analysing data and finding solutions from the proposed study in a better way.

References

1. <https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/87d8/f8b7190e8fe4888725a4e3f616667785a01e.pdf>
2. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/329758824_Microfinance_and_Women_empowerment_A_Brief_Review_of_Literature
3. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/285176324_Effect_of_Microfinance_on_Women's_Empowerment_A_Review_of_the_Literature
4. [https://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/173035/11/11.chapter%202%20-%20literature%20review%20\(18-53\).pdf](https://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/173035/11/11.chapter%202%20-%20literature%20review%20(18-53).pdf)

5. <https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/978-1-78714-425-520171002/full/html>
6. https://www.academia.edu/28100718/Effect_of_Microfinance_on_Women's_Empowerment_A_Review_of_the_Literature
7. https://editorialexpress.com/cgi-bin/conference/download.cgi?db_name=IAFFE23AC&paper_id=41
8. <https://www.gssrr.org/index.php?journal=JournalOfBasicAndApplied&page=article&op=view&path%5B%5D=2198?journal=JournalOfBasicAndApplied&page=article&op=view&path%5B%5D=2198>
9. http://ijbssnet.com/journals/Vol._1_No._2_November_2010/21.pdf
10. https://asiaandthepacificpolicystudies.crawford.anu.edu.au/rmap/devnet/devnet/gen/gen_status.pdf#page=13
11. Naved RT (1994) Empowerment of Women: Listening to the Voices of Women. The Bangladesh Development Studies, Women, Development and Change pp 121-178.
12. Mahmud S (2003) Actually how Empowering is Microcredit? Development and Change pp 577-605.
13. Pitt M, Khandker S, Cartwright J (2003) Does Micro-Credit Empower Women? Evidence from Bangladesh. World Bank: Policy Research Working Paper, Washington D.C.
14. Aruna M, Jyothirmayi R (2011) The role of microfinance in women empowerment; A study on the SHG Bank Linkage Program in Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh). Indian Journal of Commerce and Management Studies pp 77-95.
15. Malathi S, Vijayarani K (2012) Microfinance and Women Empowerment in the Rural Areas of Cuddalore District of Tamilnadu. Language in India pp 174 -182.
16. Rahman Mohammad Mafizur & Khanam Rasheda (2017), "The Effects of Microfinance on Women's Empowerment: New Evidence from

Bangladesh”, International Journal of Social Economics, Vol. 44
Issue:12, pp.1745-1757.

17. <https://www.omicsonline.org/open-access/impact-of-microfinance-on-women-empowerment-an-empirical-evidence-from-andhra-pradesh-2169-026X-1000141.pdf>

To certify that:

1. The University/College/Institute is approved under Section 2(f) and 12 B of the UGC Act and is t to receive grants from the UGC.
2. General Physical Facilities (furniture/space etc.) are available in the Department/College.
3. I/we shall abide by the rules governing the scheme in case assistance is provided to me/us from the UGC for the above project.
4. I/we shall complete the project within the stipulated period. If I/we fail to do so and if the UGC is not satisfied with the progress of the research project, the Commission may terminate the project immediately and ask for the refund of the amount received by me/us.
5. The above Research Project is not funded by any other agency.

Signature:

Name:

Principal Investigator

Principal

(Signature with Seal)