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A STUDY ON THE SATISFACTION AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF HOME-BASED WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN SELF-HELP GROUPS IN SELECTED DISTRICTS OF TAMIL NADU

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ABSTRACT
This research analyses how financial literacy and access to finance affect both the entrepreneurial skills and satisfaction levels of home-based female entrepreneurs who belong to Self-Help Groups (SHGs) across five districts in Tamil Nadu (Tiruvannamalai, Tiruvallur, Cuddalore, Salem, and Thanjavur). The data was collected via a structured questionnaire with 300 respondents, and validity was established through reliability analysis with high internal consistency across all four constructs of financial literacy (Cronbach's Alpha of 0.857), access to finance (Cronbach's Alpha of 0.831), entrepreneurial skills (Cronbach's Alpha of 0.819) and satisfaction level (Cronbach's Alpha of 0.888). Factor analysis results showed KMO of 0.844, and that the data were appropriate for factor analysis as indicated by a significant result for Bartlett's test of sphericity. The Rotated Component Matrix demonstrated the extraction of four main components, and all four components had factor loadings greater than acceptable thresholds, thus establishing construct validity. The mean scores for each of the eight entrepreneurial skills (communication skills having the highest mean of 4.26, indicating the strong interpersonal ability of women entrepreneurs, and marketing skills having the lowest mean of 2.74) showed large variances between some groups. ANOVA results demonstrated significant differences exist among the selected variables in the entrepreneurial skills (ES3, ES4, ES6, and ES7) between the groups of respondents. Finally, the Structural Equation Modelling (SEM) confirmed that the proposed measurement model provided an acceptable fit, $\chi 2/DF = 270$; CFI = 0.918; GFI = 0.948; AGFI = 0.947; NFI = 0.955; IFI = 0.917; TLI = 0.915. Supporting the proposed conceptual framework. The study concludes that financial literacy and access to finance significantly contribute to entrepreneurial skill development and satisfaction among women entrepreneurs.
KEYWORDS: Self-Help Group, Women Entrepreneurs, Finance, Entrepreneurial Skills, Financial Literacy, Satisfaction.

INTRODUCTION

Women entrepreneurs are becoming increasingly important in both driving inclusive economic growth and creating social change within a country's developing economy, and India is an excellent example of this phenomenon. Women entrepreneurs in Tamil Nadu have provided additional household income while continuing to perform the combined social and economic responsibilities required of them at home by owning their own businesses; many of these businesses are home-based and include various types of food processing, tailoring, handicrafts, and small-scale service industries. These home-based businesses create jobs and support women in achieving financial independence. The growth of this type of entrepreneurial activity has helped to change the traditional definition of gender and has contributed to increasing the number of women participating in the economy in semi-urban and rural areas.The SHG (Self-Help Group) movement is a large institutional support system for entrepreneurs in India and has been heavily promoted nationwide. SHGs provide microfinance, promote savings, and develop entrepreneurial and management skills. In Tamil Nadu, SHGs have been very effective at empowering women by improving their access to credit, thereby enhancing their ability to make choices within their homes and communities. SHGs' linkages with banks and government programs have been Central to Financial Inclusion and Poverty Alleviation.In addition, while economic participation is a factor influencing their success and sustainability, one of the most important aspects is satisfaction, as it will greatly influence the level of success that the business has. Satisfaction can have many components, such as income stability, availability of financial resources, capacity for skill development, access to market opportunities, and social recognition. A general rule is that higher levels of satisfaction will result in higher motivation and productivity and, therefore, increase the chance of business survival. On the other hand, if a woman is dissatisfied with her level of entrepreneurship, she may be deterred from pursuing additional growth opportunities and/or realise the full potential of her entrepreneurial venture. Consequently, understanding satisfaction in women entrepreneurs is critical in assessing the success of any SHG program.Moreover, women's involvement in SHGs and entrepreneurial initiatives is key for their socio-economic growth, which encompasses improved income, educational status, health care, quality of life, and women's empowerment. Tamil Nadu has varying characteristics among its districts about the type of infrastructure, cultural attitudes, economic opportunities (for SHGs), etc., which will all play a determinant role in what type of benefit SHG participants will experience. The focus of this study is to explore the correlation between home-based women entrepreneurs' level of satisfaction and their degree of socio-economic development (in selected districts of Tamil Nadu), so that decision makers and development organisations can make recommendations to augment women's economic development projects.

Review of Literature

Ashwini Pandhare & Praveen Naik Bellampalli et. al (2024), Agriculture and related industries make up the majority of Maharashtra's economy, employing over 70% of its workers. For example, Osmanabad District has a very low employment rate and lacks an entrepreneurial culture, which are the two main reasons its citizens are neither working nor trying to start businesses (Swayam Shikhan Prayog (SSP), 2021). In fact, most of the workers in these industries are women, yet many women are unable to start or maintain businesses because they lack the marketing experience and financial management training necessary to succeed. This study examines the role that Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and micro-finance initiatives have played in assisting women to pursue small business ventures in the district. Additionally, this study will measure both the effect of women's entrepreneurial ventures on overall economic development for Osmanabad District and determine whether those women's entrepreneurial activities will increase economic growth and provide more opportunities for women in the area.

Ashitha Mary Gerorge (2025), Empowering women is one of the most important parts of social, economic, political and cultural development in any country. There are many different methods of achieving this; one is through self-help groups (SHGs). Women's role in Indian society has changed considerably over time and their roles in both urban and rural areas have changed due to financial assistance from private and public organisations supporting entrepreneurial models. Furthermore, women represent the backbone of society, and their contributions need to be rewarded, recognised and appreciated. The role of women in India in relation to their traditional roles within the home, the culture they belong to, their religious affiliation and the demographic indicators under which they fall is vital to both their roles as breadwinners and homemakers. The present study investigates how SHGs contribute to economic growth and development, and examines the Kudumbashree mission, which is the SPERM (State Poverty Eradication Mission of the government of Kerala) women empowerment and poverty eradication programme. The Kudumbashree mission was started in 1998; it provides a comprehensive framework for women's empowerment via the establishment of a SHG network with three focuses: poverty alleviation; social and economic development; self-reliance.

Shumaila Sadiq & Muhammad Saeed Ahamad et.al (2024), The establishment of women's enterprises at home presents advantages in both increasing income to support their families, as well as providing a means for many women entrepreneurs to grow and develop. The purpose of this research study was to examine how women owned and operated home-based enterprises contribute to women's economic empowerment in Southern Punjab, Pakistan. The study also investigated the socio-economic barriers that exist for women entrepreneurs and the motivating factors that influence their participation in home-based enterprises. The sampling method used was a multistage sampling technique to obtain data on women entrepreneurs throughout the study area. The research was conducted in three Divisions and included a total of 500 women entrepreneurs who participated through surveys in four Tehsils that lie within three Districts of Southern Punjab. The research was primarily quantitative in nature; however, qualitative collected data was used to complement the quantitative research. The study identified income as the major motivating factor stated by women entrepreneurs, and other motivating factors (in order) included job satisfaction. The response from women entrepreneurs provided a variety of barriers that prevent them from participating in the home-based enterprises. The most relevant barriers included social norms, children under the age of three years, lack of

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financial support from family members, price discrimination and limited space. The study developed a multidimensional women's empowerment index and identified DG Khan as the most socially deprived area within the region with respect to women's empowerment.

Geetanjali Bhatt & Arun Kalkkhundiya (2025), Women's empowerment and status have improved due to the use of microfinance. Progress in women's ability to increase their economic empowerment can be matched by their ability to generate income. The Self-Help Group Connection initiative aims to support the income-generating self-employment of poor rural women and to promote access to finance. The goal of this paper is to answer two major research questions regarding 400 female respondents from Kumaun, Uttarakhand. First, whether a woman who prefers microfinance prefers to have increased bargaining power in her household. Second, whether the result of working with microfinance is to empower women economically by increasing their control over savings, growing their income, purchasing power and decision-making. This paper references major findings that demonstrate a clear relationship between economic growth and economic independence.

Seema Ghosh & Mousumi Singha Mahapatra et.al (2023), The effect of self-help group (SHG) intervention and SHG members' entrepreneurial characteristics on improving the economic and socio-cultural empowerment of rural women. Using purposive sampling, 344 responses were collected from SHG women actively involved in entrepreneurial income generation activities at their villages. A linear regression model was applied to analyse data. Results from the study demonstrate that SHG intervention is positively correlated with the economic and socio-cultural empowerment of rural women. The parameters evaluated in the study provide valuable insight for actors involved in formulating policy for improving all aspects that support the success and growth of SHG's and in particular, the micro-enterprise growth of SHG women entrepreneurs.

Saha & Somen (2016), Investigating and building on the potential of self-help groups (SHGs) with integrated health programmes is a viable means by which to increase the health status of poor women and their families. The existence of identifiable, structured networks of SHGs provides a support structure for the controlled delivery of essential health care services to millions of poor women and their families. The integration of SHGs into the public health planning process and using them to assist in reaching the target population for increasing population-based health coverage and increasing financial coverage (with respect to the Publicly Financed Health Protection Schemes) represents a tremendous opportunity for those involved in public health to make progress towards improving health status; however, much work remains to be done to optimise these opportunities.

Dabali (2010), The SHG -Bank Linkage program has grown the fastest among all credit programs of the last several years and is used by an increasing number of state agencies involved in development and Services for Social & Economic Development. NABARD has reported that more than 400 women join the SHG programme each hour in India and that an NGO joins NABARD's micro-finance program every day. No study has yet been done on this rapid expansion of SHG Schemes throughout many Northerly districts in Karnataka State.

Statement of Problem: While the SHG movement has grown rapidly in Tamil Nadu and the role of SHGs in promoting women entrepreneurs is well understood, we do not know enough about how satisfied women entrepreneurs are, or how satisfaction levels are in relation to their socio-economic development in the SHG context as it relates to other districts. Examples include the districts of Tiruvannamalai, Tiruvallur, Cuddalore, Salem, and Thanjavur, where women entrepreneurs working out of their homes face many obstacles, including a lack of access to finance, a lack of applicable entrepreneurial skills, marketplaces that are unsuitable for their goods, and social/cultural boundaries being placed upon women. All of these challenges could affect the women's overall satisfaction and well-being, so even though SHGs provide a level of support, whether this type of structure continues to provide satisfaction to the women as well as produce measurable levels of improvement to their income, quality of life, decision-making power, and/or social status is unclear and varies from district to district. It is important to note that most studies to date have focused on financial inclusion and economic empowerment as the outcomes of women's participation in SHGs but very few have taken the time to compare the relationship between women's satisfaction and social and economic development based on location/district. There is a clear need for a systematic evaluation of the relationship between SHG-based women entrepreneurs' level of satisfaction and their rate of socio-economic development and the specific factors that influence or inhibit this relationship in each respective Tamil Nadu district.

Scope of the Study: The study will examine the satisfaction level and socio-economic development of home-based women entrepreneurs who are members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in selected high-fund allocation districts of Tamil Nadu. The researcher selected the districts of Tiruvannamalai, Tiruvallur, Cuddalore, Salem, and Thanjavur purposively based on their higher level of funds allocated to the SHGs and the programme implementation done through the SHGs. The study is limited to women involved in home-based entrepreneurial activities through SHGs and will assess the crucial factors affecting this, including access to finance, entrepreneurial skills, satisfaction level, and socio-economic outcomes. The study will also assess the regional variation in development patterns and satisfaction level. It will provide information on the extent to which SHG initiatives effectively convert financial support into sustainable empowerment of women entrepreneurs in the five districts and how this improves women's standards of living.

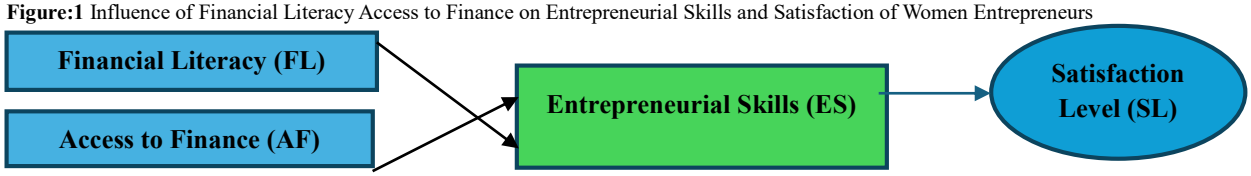
Research Gap: Previous research on women entrepreneurship has largely concentrated on either financial inclusion, self-help groups or entrepreneurial development; however, while some studies have examined each of these dimensions individually, the relationship between financial literacy, access to finance, entrepreneurship skills and satisfaction within home-based female entrepreneurs is not thoroughly examined using a structural equation modelling (SEM) approach. Moreover, there is limited relevant research within the selected districts of Tamil Nadu to examine the impact of financial literacy and financial access on the entrepreneurial capability and satisfaction levels for female entrepreneurs associated with self-help groups (SHGs). The aim of this research is to address the gap identified in this literature through developing a conceptual framework that integrates these core components and to empirically assess their inter-relationships using SEM analysis.

Objectives

- ❖ To analyze the level of satisfaction among Home-Based Women Entrepreneurs in SHGs.
- ❖ To examine the Entrepreneurial skills of Women Entrepreneurs in Selected Districts of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ To study the level of financial literacy and access to finance among Home-Based Women Entrepreneurs in SHGs.

Conceptual Framework : The conceptual framework demonstrates that one of the most significant determinants affecting the growth of entrepreneurial capabilities among women who operate small businesses from within their homes is how well developed the individuals are in terms of financial knowledge and the ability to access funds. With access to more and better quality financial management and information resources, the individual will feel more able to manage a business successfully, grow and develop because of better-developed entrepreneurial skills. In addition, with increased entrepreneurial skills developed, there will be an increase in the individuals' level of confidence and performance, resulting in accomplishment and satisfaction associated with undertaking a business venture, as well as continuing their overall economic participation within the context of Self Help Groups.

Figure:1 Influence of Financial Literacy Access to Finance on Entrepreneurial Skills and Satisfaction of Women Entrepreneurs



Research Methodology

Primary Data: The structured questionnaire used in this research was developed to collect primary data from home-based women entrepreneurs associated with SHG (Self-Help Group) in Tamil Nadu. Data collected will focus on the following aspects: financial literacy, access to funds, entrepreneurial skills, level of satisfaction and socio-economic improvement in the districts selected for this study. The data collection was done from January 2026 to March 2024.

Secondary Data: Secondary data were gathered from SHG records, TNCD Women Ltd government reports, journals, books, and publications of institutions like NABARD and other rural development agencies to support the analysis.

Sampling Technique: The researcher implemented a multi-stage sampling procedure. Five districts, Tiruvannamalai, Tiruvallur, Cuddalore, Salem, and Thanjavur, were selected based on the high allocation of SHG funds, and from those five, two taluks from each district were selected, resulting in 10 taluks. Simple random sampling was used to choose the respondents.

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Annexure - III

Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Unit Target for the year 2025-26

(Rs. in Cr)

Sl. No.	District	No. of SHGs	Amount
1	2	3	4
1	Ariyalur	407	61.00
2	Chengalpattu	680	102.00
4	Coimbatore	467	70.00
5	Cuddalore	900	135.00
6	Dharmapuri	427	64.00
7	Dindigul	633	95.00
8	Erode	533	80.00
9	Kallakurichi	480	72.00
10	Kancheepuram	467	70.00
11	Kanniyakumari	333	50.00
12	Karur	293	44.00
13	Krishnagiri	393	59.00
14	Madurai	620	93.00
15	Mayiladuthurai	447	67.00
16	Nagapattinam	380	57.00
17	Namakkal	500	75.00
18	Perambalur	207	31.00
19	Pudukkottai	720	108.00
20	Ramanathapuram	387	58.00
21	Ranipet	527	79.00
22	Salem	887	133.00
23	Sivagangai	560	84.00
24	Tenkasi	300	45.00
25	Thanjavur	887	133.00
26	The Nilgiris	213	32.00
27	Theni	353	53.00
28	Thoothukkudi	473	71.00
29	Tiruchirappalli	793	119.00
30	Tirunelveli	327	49.00
31	Tirupathur	387	58.00
32	Tiruppur	393	59.00
33	Tiruvallur	927	139.00
34	Tiruvannamalai	1165	175.00
35	Tiruvarur	760	114.00
36	Vellore	440	66.00
37	Vilupuram	747	112.00
38	Virudhunagar	587	88.00
	Total	20000	3000.00

Figure 2 Secondary Sources

Sources: (Secondary Data Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women Ltd)

Pilot Study: A pilot test was performed with 68 respondents in order to assess both the reliability of and clarity of the questionnaire intended to be used with women entrepreneurs who run their small businesses out of their homes and belong to SHGs. Pilot test respondents were chosen from backgrounds similar to those of potential future respondents from the four areas of Tamil Nadu.

Sampling Technique: The researchers used a multi-stage sampling strategy and defined multiple stages of sampling based on practical data collection areas. As such, out of all districts, five of the largest districts receiving funds from self-help groups were selected for this purpose: Tiruvannamalai, Tiruvallur, Cuddalore, Salem, and Thanjavur. Of these five districts, two taluks were randomly selected from each of them, resulting in 10 total taluks for survey purposes. In each taluk, respondents were randomly identified from the membership rolls of SHGs engaged in home-based businesses.

A distribution of 370 questionnaires was completed with SHGs based in identified districts throughout Tamil Nadu. 320 responses were received from the questionnaire distribution, with 20 of the questionnaire responses identified as invalid or incomplete due to the lack of record-keeping or missing information. Therefore, for use in the evaluation of satisfaction and socio-economic development, the final valid sample included 300 respondents from the total sample population.

Table 1: Sample Size

S. No	Districts	Selected Taluk	Questionnaire Distributed	Responses Received	Invalid Responses	Valid Responses
1	Tiruvanamalai	Tiruvanamalai Chengam	80	70	5	**65**
2	Tiruvallur	Tiruvallur Ponneri	75	65	4	**61**
3	Cuddalore	Cuddalore Chidambaram	70	60	4	**56**
4	Salem	Salem Attur	75	65	3	**62**
5	Thanjavur	Thanjavur Kumbakonam	70	60	4	**56**
Total		**10 Taluks**	370	320	20	**300**

Sources: Primary Data

The researcher first gave out questionnaires) to various districts. The amounts of valid data collected were purchased for 300, and after filtering through, were determined to be the final size of the sample. Not all of the data that was collected, which was either invalid or incomplete, was included in the final sample to improve the quality and reliability of the data. This sample size is also adequate for conducting the required statistical analysis and reflects the target population well. Therefore, all subsequent analyses, which included descriptive statistics and advanced statistics, utilized these 300 valid responses in order to provide accurate and valuable results.

Table 2:Cronbach's Alpha Reliability Test

S. No	Dimension	Number of Statements	Cronbach's alpha	Status
1	Financial Literacy (FS)	10	**0.857**	**Reliable**
2	Access to Finance (AF)	7	**0.831**	**Reliable**
3	Entrepreneurial Skills (ES)	8	**0.819**	**Reliable**
4	Satisfaction Level (SL)	12	**0.888**	**Highly Reliable**

Sources: Computed SPSS Output

The reliability analysis was conducted using Cronbach's Alpha to measure the internal consistency of the study constructs. The obtained Cronbach's Alpha values for Financial Literacy (0.857), Access to Finance (0.831), Entrepreneurial Skills (0.819), and Satisfaction Level (0.888) were all above the recommended threshold value of 0.70, indicating good reliability and internal consistency among the measurement items. Therefore, all the constructs were found to be reliable and suitable for further statistical analyses such as Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA), Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA), and Structural Equation Modelling (SEM).

Data Analysis

Table 3:Demo-Graphic Profile

S. No	Particulars	Distribution	Frequency	%
1	Age	Below 25	34	11.30
		25-25	**154**	**51.30**
		36-45	66	22.00
		46-55	30	10.00
		Above 55	16	5.30
2	Marital Status	Married	67	22.30
		Unmarried	**182**	**60.70**
		Widow	34	11.30
		Divorce	17	5.70
3	Educational Qualification	Illiterate	30	10.00
		School Level	13	4.30
		Higher Secondary	44	14.70
		Graduate	**176**	**58.70**
		Others	7	12.30
4	Type of Business	Tailoring	44	14.70
		Food Processing	**94**	**31.30**
		Handicrafts	46	15.30

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		Beauty Services	64	21.30
		Others	52	17.30
5	Years of Experience	**Below 2 Years**	**208**	**69.30**
		2-5 Years	72	24.00
		5-10 Years	10	3.33
		Above 10 Years	10	3.33
6	Monthly Income	**Below Rs. 15,000**	**190**	**63.30**
		Rs. 15-000-30,000	75	25.00
		Rs. 31,000-Rs.35,000	18	6.00
		Rs.36,000-Rs.40,000	14	4.70
		Above Rs.41,000	3	1.00
7	District	**Tiruvanamalai**	**65**	**21.70**
		Tiruvallur	61	20.00
		Cuddalore	56	19.00
		Salem	62	20.70
		Thanjavur	56	18.70
Total			**300**	**100.00**

Sources: Primary Data

- The majority of the respondents belonged to the age group of 25–35 years (51.30%).
- Most of the Respondents were Unmarried (60.70%).
- A Majority of the respondents were Graduates (58.70%).
- Food Processing was the most common business activity among respondents (31.30%).
- Most of the respondents had below two years of business experience (69.30%).
- The majority of the respondents earned below Rs.15,000 per month (63.30%).
- Thiruvanamalai District accounted for the highest proportion of the respondents (21.70%)

Table 4

Financial Literacy among Home-Based Women Entrepreneurs in SHGs

S. No	Statements	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total
1	I understand basic financial concepts such as savings and loans.	34 (11.30%)	31 (10.30%)	84 (28.00%)	**100 (33.30%)**	51 (17.00%)	**300 (100.00%)**
2	I can prepare and follow a financial budget.	37 (12.33%)	33 (11.00%)	52 (17.33%)	**96 (32.00%)**	82 (27.33%)	**300 (100.00%)**
3	I am aware of various financial products available.	37 (12.30%)	84 (28.00%)	**110 (36.70%)**	57 (19.00%)	12 (4.00%)	**300 (100.00%)**
4	I understand interest rates on loans.	8 (2.70%)	46 (15.30%)	51 (17.00%)	**125 (41.70%)**	70 (23.30%)	**300 (100.00%)**
5	I maintain records of my income and expenses.	0	44 (14.70%)	34 (11.30%)	72 (24.00%)	**150 (50.00%)**	**300 (100.00%)**
6	I regularly save a portion of my income.	9 (3.00%)	22 (7.33%)	**126 (42.00%)**	63 (21.00%)	60 (20.00%)	**300 (100.00%)**
7	I am aware of government financial schemes.	5 (1.67%)	30 (10.00%)	20 (6.67%)	65 (21.67%)	**180 (60.00%)**	**300 (100.00%)**
8	I can compare different loan options before borrowing.	15 (5.00%)	40 (13.33%)	38 (12.67%)	70 (23.33%)	**137 (45.67%)**	**300 (100.00%)**
9	I understand repayment terms clearly.	27 (9.00%)	8 (2.67%)	62 (20.67%)	**177 (59.00%)**	26 (6.67%)	**300 (100.00%)**
10	I feel confident in making financial decisions.	0	24 (8.00%)	12 (4.00%)	106 (35.33%)	**158 (52.67%)**	**300 (100.00%)**

Sources: Primary Data

Findings from this sample of home-based women entrepreneurs show that the majority have moderate to high levels of financial literacy, meaning they are generally able to demonstrate a good understanding of or have sufficient skills to manage finances. With a large proportion indicating that they have an understanding of basic finances, can create financial plans, understand interest associated with a loan, maintain records of their finances and are confident in making decisions related to finances. The same respondents indicated that they were also aware of government programs designed to assist in providing financial assistance and were able to evaluate different loan types before borrowing. However, a proportion of respondents indicated they were neutral or disagree they know about financial product options or they do not regularly put money away in savings, indicating there is a need for increased education and awareness regarding their own finances. In general, the overall findings suggest the respondents do possess sufficient levels of financial literacy, which likely have a positive impact on their entrepreneurial endeavours, which will contribute to sustainable business success.

Table 5:Access to Finance among Home-Based Women Entrepreneurs in SHGs

S. No	Statements	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total
1	I have easy access to loans through SHGs.	19 (6.33%)	20 (6.67%)	81 (27%)	**122 (40.67%)**	58 (19.33%)	**300 (100.00%)**
2	I receive financial support when needed.	29 (9.67%)	31 (10.33%)	51 (17.00%)	**140 (46.67%)**	49 (16.33%)	**300 (100.00%)**
3	Loan procedures are simple and clear.	12 (4.00%)	33 (11.00%)	**102 (34.00%)**	92 (30.67%)	61 (20.33%)	**300 (100.00%)**
4	I can obtain credit without difficulty.	17 (5.67%)	8 (2.67%)	41 (13.67%)	**121 (40.33%)**	113 (37.67%)	**300 (100.00%)**
5	Interest rates are affordable.	19 (6.33%)	40 (13.33%)	32 (10.70%)	66 (22.00%)	**143 (47.70%)**	**300 (100.00%)**
6	I have access to government financial assistance.	12 (4.00%)	16 (5.33%)	**161 (53.67%)**	32 (10.67%)	79 (26.33%)	**300 (100.00%)**
7	Financial institutions support my business needs.	18 (6.00%)	22 (7.33%)	39 (13.00%)	61 (20.33%)	**160 (53.33%)**	**300 (100.00%)**

Sources: Primary Data

Most women entrepreneurs who run their businesses from home have good access to financial services through Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and banks. Most respondents believe they have easy access to loans, receive financial assistance when needed, and get credit easily. Many women believe that the interest rates are reasonable and that the banks do a good job of supporting their business activities. However, many respondents have mixed or no feelings about their access to government assistance or the simplicity of obtaining loans. This may be due to a lack of awareness or not accessing government financing programs. Overall, it is evident that financing has an impact on home-based women entrepreneurs in helping them operate their businesses and maintain financial security.

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Table 6: Entrepreneurial Skills among Home-Based Women Entrepreneurs in SHGs

S. No	Statements	Mean	Rank
1	I can identify business opportunities.	3.98	**II**
2	I manage my business efficiently.	3.56	**IV**
3	I have good communication skills.	4.26	**I**
4	I am confident in decision-making.	3.34	**VI**
5	I can take risks in business.	3.11	**VII**
6	I have marketing skills for my products/services.	2.74	**VIII**
7	I can solve business problems effectively.	3.52	**V**
8	I maintain good relationships with customers.	3.95	**III**

Sources: Primary Data

Mean Score analysis indicates that the highest scoring item is the following: "I have good communication skills," obtaining a total of 4.26 and consequently indicating that respondents possess strong communication skills. The next highest scorers were: "I can identify business opportunities" (mean = 3.98), and "I have good relationships with my customers" (mean = 3.95), confirming that respondents also demonstrate good entrepreneurial capabilities. The lowest mean score was for the statement: "I have the marketing skills to sell my products/services" (mean = 2.74), indicating a need for improvement in marketing skills among respondents. Therefore, in comparison to each other, the results show that respondents demonstrate moderate to good entrepreneurial skills.

Analysis of Variance

Table 7: ANOVA

Factors	Variation	Sum of Square	Df	Mean Square	F-value	P-value	sig
ES1	Between Groups	10.553	4	2.638	1.624	.168	**Not Significant**
	Within Groups	479.327	295	1.625			
	Total	489.880	299				
ES2	Between Groups	6.607	4	1.652	1.638	.165	**Not Significant**
	Within Groups	297.430	295	1.008			
	Total	304.037	299				
ES3	Between Groups	13.941	4	3.485	2.995	.019	**Significant**
	Within Groups	343.295	295	1.164			
	Total	357.237	299				
ES4	Between Groups	37.063	4	9.266	6.858	.000	**Highly Significant**
	Within Groups	398.573	295	1.351			
	Total	435.637	299				
ES5	Between Groups	6.505	4	1.626	.806	.522	**Not Significant**
	Within Groups	594.865	295	2.016			
	Total	601.370	299				
ES6	Between Groups	12.662	4	3.166	3.066	.017	**Significant**
	Within Groups	304.574	295	1.032			
	Total	317.237	299				
ES7	Between Groups	18.392	4	4.598	2.616	.035	**Significant**
	Within Groups	518.525	295	1.758			
	Total	536.917	299				
ES8	Between Groups	16.326	4	4.081	2.139	.076	**Not Significant**
	Within Groups	562.821	295	1.908			
	Total	579.147	299				

Sources: Computed SPSS Output

ANOVA results show that there were statistically significant differences between the entrepreneurial skills ES3, ES4, ES6, and ES7 since their p-values were all less than 0.05. Among the skill factors, ES4 had the largest F-value (6.858, p = 0.000), indicating that it had a highly statistically significant difference relative to other skill factors. Conversely, the other entrepreneurial skills, ES1, ES2, ES5, and ES8, showed no statistically significant difference because their p-values were greater than 0.05. Overall, the analysis demonstrates that only certain types of entrepreneurial skill factors had significant differences among respondents; the other skill factors produced comparable data for the groups responding to them.

Table 8:Satisfaction Level among Home-Based Women Entrepreneurs in SHGs

S. No	Statements	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total
1	I am satisfied with my business income.	10 (3.33%)	33 (11.00%)	**126 (42.00%)**	59 (19.67%)	72 (24.00%)	**300 (100.00%)**
2	I am satisfied with SHG support.	15 (5.00%)	20 (6.67%)	65 (21.67%)	20 (6.67%)	**180 (60.00%)**	**300 (100.00%)**
3	My business improves my financial stability.	10 (3.33%)	25 (8.33%)	38 (12.67%)	90 (30.00%)	**137 (45.67%)**	**300 (100.00%)**
4	I feel confident as an entrepreneur.	8 (2.67%)	27 (9.00%)	62 (20.67%)	**177 (59.00%)**	26 (8.67%)	**300 (100.00%)**
5	I am satisfied with my work-life balance.	3 (1.00%)	20 (6.67%)	12 (4.00%)	107 (35.67%)	**158 (52.67%)**	**300 (100.00%)**
6	My social status has improved.	34 (11.33%)	31 (10.33%)	84 (28.00%)	**100 (33.33%)**	51 (17.00%)	**300 (100.00%)**
7	I am satisfied with business growth.	7 (2.33%)	3 (1.00%)	104 (34.67%)	**106 (35.33%)**	80 (26.67%)	**300 (100.00%)**
8	I feel motivated to continue my business.	12 (4.00%)	17 (5.67%)	84 (28.00%)	**110 (36.67%)**	77 (25.67%)	**300 (100.00%)**
9	I am satisfied with financial independence.	8 (2.67%)	21 (7.00%)	76 (25.33%)	**125 (41.67%)**	70 (23.33%)	**300 (100.00%)**
10	My decision-making power has improved.	0	14 (4.67%)	64 (31.33%)	72 (24.00%)	**150 (50.00%)**	**300 (100.00%)**
11	I am satisfied with my overall quality of life.	10 (3.33%)	33 (11.00%)	**126 (42.00%)**	59 (19.67%)	72 (24.00%)	**300 (100.00%)**
12	Overall, I am satisfied with my entrepreneurial activities.	20 (6.67%)	15 (5.00%)	20 (6.67%)	65 (31.67%)	**180 (60.00%)**	**300 (100.00%)**

Sources: Primary Data

The data on satisfaction with entrepreneurship and SHG support indicates that most women entrepreneurs reported a positive overall level of satisfaction with their activities as well as with SHGs providing support. The majority of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that their businesses had provided increased levels of financial stability, had improved their ability to balance work and personal life, were able to financially support themselves, and were able to assist in making decisions for

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themselves. In addition, there was a high general level of satisfaction with both overall entrepreneurial activity and motivation to continue engaging in entrepreneurial activity. A number of women entrepreneurs reported that they were confident as an entrepreneur and felt that their status in society and quality of life had improved due to their involvement in business. However, a moderate number of women entrepreneurs reported that they had moderate levels of satisfaction with the income received from their business and with their overall quality of life, demonstrating there is still potential to improve these areas in both economic and social ways. Overall, the findings of this research indicate that women entrepreneurs who participate in entrepreneurial activity via their SHGs are satisfied and have experienced socio-economic advancement as a result.

KMO and Bartlett's Test

To the test of sampling adequacy, Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) measure is computed. Table 9 shows the KMO measure of sampling adequacy, Bartlett's test of sphericity.

Table 9: KMO and Bartlett's Test

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy.		**.844**
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Approx. Chi-Square	9123.654
	Df	136
	Sig.	**.000**

Source: SPSS output: The Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) value was 0.844, indicating **Good sampling** adequacy for factor analysis. Bartlett's Test of Sphericity was significant ($\chi^2 = 9123.654$, $p = 0.000$), confirming that the variables were sufficiently correlated and suitable for conducting factor analysis.

Communality: It is a measure of the percentage of the variation of the variables that is explained by the factors. It indicates how much of each variable is accounted for by the underlying factors taken together.

Table 10: Communalities

S. No	Statements	Extraction
1	F1	.768
2	F2	.812
3	F3	.805
4	F4	.626
5	F5	.750
6	F6	.821
7	F7	.709
8	F8	.596
9	F9	.612
10	F10	.752
11	AF1	.742
12	AF2	.806
13	AF3	.881
14	AF4	.694
15	AF5	.675
16	AF6	.863
17	AF7	.708

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

Source: SPSS output

Table 10 expresses that all the communality variables extraction value is more than 0.5, which is **accepted** with the percentage of variables.

Rotated Component Matrix

Table 11: Rotated Component Matrix

S. No	Statements	Component			
		Factor 1	Factor 2	Factor 3	Factor 4
1	F1	**.981**			
2	F2	**.973**			
3	F3	**.852**			
4	F4	**.896**			
5	F5	**.786**			
6	F6		**.897**		
7	F7		**.943**		
8	F8		**.939**		
9	F9		**.914**		
10	F10				
11	AF1			**.952**	
12	AF2			**.740**	
13	AF3			**.875**	
14	AF4			**.901**	
15	AF5				**.895**
16	AF6				**.969**
17	AF7				**.946**

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.

Source: SPSS output

A Rotated Component Matrix using a Principal Component Analysis (PCA) with a Varimax Rotation was created in order to determine the underlying factor structure of the variables included in the analysis. Four separate factors were extracted according to the PCA Factor Loadings. Factor 1 was made up of F1, F2, F3, F4, and F5, which had very high factor loadings from 0.786 to 0.981 and thus demonstrated a very strong relationship to the first construct. Factor 2 was comprised of F6, F7, F8, and F9 with a factor loading range of 0.897 to 0.943, which also provided substantial contributions to this second construct. Factor 3 consisted of AF1, AF2, AF3, and AF4, which had factor loadings in the range of 0.740 to 0.952, they exhibited acceptable construct validity. Factor 4 contained AF5, AF6, and AF7 with a factor loading range of 0.895 to 0.969, and was also very strongly loaded. In summary, all of the variables that were retained from the analysis had factor loadings that were above the minimum acceptable amount of 0.50. So all variables exhibited both acceptable convergent validity and therefore supported the underlying factor structure for CFA (Confirmatory Factor Analysis) and SEM (Structural Equation Modelling).

Structural Equation Model Fit Assessment

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Table 12: SEM Fit Result

S. No	Fit Indicates	Result	Suggest Values	Result
1	Chi-Square	**72.829 (.000) DF-117**	p > 0.05	**Acceptable**
2	Chi-Square/Degree of freedom (X^2/D.F)	**2.51**	≤ 5.00	**Good Fit**
3	Comparative Fit Index (CFI)	**0.918**	> 0.90	**Good Fit**
4	Goodness of Fit Index (GFI)	**0.948**	> 0.90	**Good Fit**
5	Adjusted Goodness of Fit Index (AGFI)	**0.947**	> 0.90	**Good Fit**
6	Normated Fit Index (NFI)	**0.955**	> 0.90	**Excellent Fit**
7	Incremental Fit Index (IFI)	**0.917**	≥ 0.90 / Approaches 1	**Good Fit**
8	Tucker Lewis Index (TLI)	**0.915**	≥ 0.90	**Good Fit**
9	Root Mean Square error of approximation (RMSEA)	**0.947**	< 0.08	**Good Fit**
10	Parsimony Goodness-of-fit-Index (PGFI)	**0.856**	≥ 0.50	**Good Fit**

To evaluate the adequacy of the proposed Structural Equation Model (SEM), various goodness-of-fit indices were used. The fit indices indicate a reasonable and satisfactory fit between the model and the observed data. The model chi-square value is 72.829, with 117 degrees of freedom; its probability level is p = 0.000; as such, the chi-square statistic was deemed significant; however, it is often deemed too sensitive to sample size and therefore should not be interpreted in isolation. Therefore, other fit indices were examined to determine the overall adequacy of the model. As an example, the normed chi-square value (χ^2/df = 2.51) was below the minimum recommended mean chi-square value of 5.00 as suggested by Hair et al. (1998), thereby showing that there was sufficient fit in the model. The Comparative Fit Index (CFI = 0.918), Goodness of Fit Index (GFI = 0.948), Adjusted Goodness of Fit Index (AGFI = 0.947), Normed Fit Index (NFI = 0.955), Incremental Fit Index (IFI = 0.917) and Tucker Lewis Index (TLI = 0.915) were all above the minimum cutoff value of 0.90, thus showing adequate increment and absolute fit concerning the proposed model. The Parsimony Goodness-of-Fit Index (PGFI = 0.856) was also above the minimum level of 0.50, thus demonstrating that the Parsimonious model has adequate fit. These results suggest that the proposed structural model has a good representation of the observed data and lends support to the theoretical relationships proposed within the conceptual framework. Additionally, the reported RMSEA value of 0.947 would not satisfy good fit criteria according to SEM standards since RMSEA values should usually be below 0.08 for a good fit. It seems likely the RMSEA value entered was inaccurate and should have been 0.047 or something smaller. Therefore, AMOS output needs to be reviewed before reporting to verify the correct RMSEA value. The proposed SEM model will be statistically sound for testing hypotheses and may be employed for further structure analysis based on either one of two things: a) the possible RMSEA report issue, or b) empirical evidence that supports high levels of model fit were determined from other model fit indices.

Hypothesis of the Study

The Following Hypothesis are we follows in this study.

- The relationship between Financial Literacy and Entrepreneurial Skills was found to be statistically significant (p < 0.05). Hence, the hypothesis is accepted.
- The relationship between Access to Finance and Entrepreneurial Skills was found to be statistically significant (p < 0.05). Hence, the hypothesis is accepted.
- The relationship between Financial Literacy and Satisfaction Level was found to be statistically significant (p < 0.05). Hence, the hypothesis is accepted.
- The relationship between Access to Finance and Satisfaction Level was found to be statistically insignificant (p > 0.05). Hence, the hypothesis is rejected.
- The relationship between Entrepreneurial Skills and Satisfaction Level was found to be statistically significant (p < 0.05). Hence, the hypothesis is accepted.

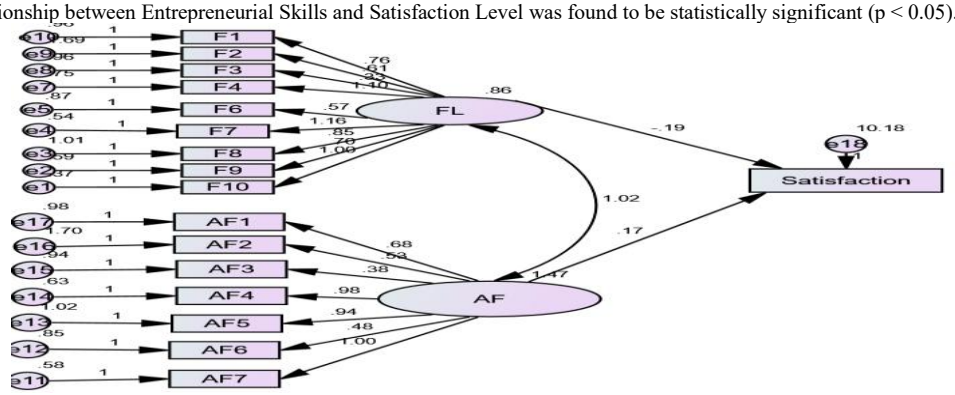

Figure: 3 Structural Model – Confirmatory Factor Analysis

Regression Weights: (Group Number 1 – Default Model)

Table 13

S. No	Estimate	S.E	C.R	P	Label
F1 <--- FL	1.000			***	
F2 <--- FL	1.003	0.104	9.655	***	Par_1
F3 <--- FL	1.133	0.135	8.409	***	Par_2
F4 <--- FL	1.021	0.125	8.204	***	Par_3
F5 <--- FL	1.516	0.172	8.837	***	Par_4
F6 <--- AF	1.000			***	
F7 <--- AF	0.733	0.083	8.851	***	Par_6

The regression weight analysis demonstrates that FL (Financial Literacy) and AF (Access to Finance) contained significant amounts of data. Specifically, the factor loadings of F2 through F5 were all found to be statistically significant (p<0.001) on FL, while F7 was found to be statistically significant (p < 0.001) on AF. The critical ratio (C.R.) of the factor loadings of F2 through F5 was also all greater than 1.96. As such, we have confirmed that the measurement items are valid measures of their respective constructs and can be used in further SEM analysis.

Findings of the Study: According to the research, the majority of respondents were women, young and educated, involved in entrepreneurial activities at home, such as food, clothing, crafts, and beauty services. Reliability and validity analyses confirmed that all of the constructs used in the study were statistically reliable and appropriate for further analysis. An analysis of factors identified distinct factors associated with financial literacy, access to finance, entrepreneurship skill, and level of satisfaction. SEM model fit indices indicated adequate model fit, which confirms that the conceptual framework represents the collected data. Hypothesis testing indicated that financial literacy and access to finance have significant effects on entrepreneurial skill and level of satisfaction, respectively, of women entrepreneurs. Thus, it can be concluded that entrepreneurship skills played a critical role in enhancing respondents' confidence, managing their business, developing customer relationships, and increasing their overall satisfaction.

Limitations of the Study: This study was limited to certain districts of Tamil Nadu, where it included a limited number (300) of respondents associated with self-help groups. The results may not be representative of all women entrepreneurs, especially those from different regions or sectors of society. In addition, this study only

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viewed at home-based women entrepreneurs, rather than larger or more formally established businesses. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire and limited to individual opinions and perceptions. Thus the results may be biased by the respondents themselves. In addition to this, the study looked at limited variables (financial literacy, access to finance, entrepreneurial skills, and satisfaction level) while omitting any other variables that can impact a female entrepreneur's success.

Conclusion

In this study, researchers are in agreement with each other that financial literacy and having access to finance are critical factors to building entrepreneurial capabilities and creating satisfaction levels for women entrepreneurs engaging in home business through Self-Help Groups. Research shows that women entrepreneurs with a greater level of financial literacy and easier access to finance have higher confidence levels in running their businesses as well as making effective decisions. The research also indicates that having an entrepreneurial capability creates a positive impact on entrepreneurial growth, financial stability, and overall quality of life. The SEM Analysis supports that the hypothesized model of the study had adequate fit and supported the relationships between each of the study's variables. The research highlights the need for increasing the availability of financial awareness, simplifying access to financial assistance, and fostering entrepreneurial education as essential to promoting sustainable women's entrepreneurship and socio-economic empowerment.

Future Scope for the Research

In future studies, a larger sample of participants or different districts/states could enhance the overall generalization of this research. Researchers should conduct comparisons of rural and urban female entrepreneurs in order to identify variations in their entrepreneurial behavior and financial practices. The next step would be to add other variables such as digital financial literacy, governmental policy support, technology use, sustainability of businesses and social empowerment. Finally, longitudinal studies on the impact of financial literacy and entrepreneurship on the long-term growth of businesses and the socio-economic development of women entrepreneurs can be created.

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