

Akash Kishor Gavhane (2020). Role Of Self-Help Groups in Promoting Tribal Knowledge and Biodiversity Conservation: An Economic Study of Jalgaon District. International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research & Reviews, Vol.2020, n^o1, pp. 1-6.



**INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF
MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH & REVIEWS**

journal homepage: www.ijmrr.online/index.php/home

ROLE OF SELF-HELP GROUPS IN PROMOTING TRIBAL KNOWLEDGE AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION: AN ECONOMIC STUDY OF JALGAON DISTRICT

Dr. Akash Kishor Gavhane

Assistant professor, KES Pratap College (Autonomous) Amalner, Dist. Jalgaon, India.

Mail Id: - akash.gavhane2712@gmail.com

How to Cite the Article: Akash Kishor Gavhane (2020). Role Of Self-Help Groups in Promoting Tribal Knowledge and Biodiversity Conservation: An Economic Study of Jalgaon District. International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research & Reviews, Vol.2020, n^o1, pp. 1-6.

Keywords	Abstract
<i>Self-Help Groups (SHGs); Tribal Knowledge; Biodiversity Conservation; Indigenous Knowledge; Tribal Livelihoods; Jalgaon District; Women's Empowerment; Sustainable Development; Economic Development.</i>	Self-Help Groups (SHGs) have emerged as important institutions for promoting sustainable livelihoods, women's empowerment and community participation in rural and tribal areas. In Jalgaon district of Maharashtra, tribal communities possess rich indigenous knowledge related to medicinal plants, forest resources, traditional agriculture and biodiversity conservation. This study examines the role of SHGs in preserving tribal knowledge and promoting biodiversity conservation using secondary data published up to 2018. The study adopts a descriptive and analytical research design based on government reports, published research articles and official statistics. The findings indicate that SHGs have contributed to income generation through the sustainable use of non-timber forest products, medicinal plants, organic farming and traditional handicrafts. They have also enhanced women's participation in biodiversity conservation, strengthened community awareness and encouraged the preservation of indigenous ecological knowledge. However, inadequate financial support, limited market access, declining forest resources and insufficient institutional coordination remain major challenges. The study concludes that strengthening SHGs through capacity building, financial assistance and policy support can contribute significantly to biodiversity conservation and



**The work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution
Non Commercial 4.0 International License**

Akash Kishor Gavhane (2020). Role Of Self-Help Groups in Promoting Tribal Knowledge and Biodiversity Conservation: An Economic Study of Jalgaon District. International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research & Reviews, Vol.2020, n^o1, pp. 1-6.

	sustainable tribal livelihoods in Jalgaon district. The findings highlight the importance of integrating indigenous knowledge with rural development and environmental conservation programmes.
--	---

1. Introduction

Tribal communities possess valuable indigenous knowledge regarding the sustainable use of forests, medicinal plants, agriculture and natural resources. Their traditional ecological knowledge has been transmitted from one generation to another and has contributed significantly to biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods. In recent decades, however, modernization, deforestation and changing socio-economic conditions have threatened both biodiversity and traditional knowledge systems.

Self-Help Groups (SHGs) have become an effective strategy for empowering tribal women by promoting savings, credit, entrepreneurship and community participation. In tribal regions of Jalgaon district, SHGs have encouraged income-generating activities based on forest products, traditional agriculture and medicinal plants while strengthening local conservation practices. Ethnobotanical studies from Jalgaon document the continued importance of tribal knowledge about plant resources and their cultural and medicinal uses.

Jalgaon district, situated in northern Maharashtra, is home to tribal communities such as the Bhil, Pawara and Tadvi, who maintain a close relationship with forest ecosystems. Their knowledge of medicinal plants, wild foods and biodiversity forms an important component of sustainable rural development. Recognizing and strengthening this knowledge through SHGs can improve both economic opportunities and biodiversity conservation.

The present study analyses the role of SHGs in promoting tribal knowledge and biodiversity conservation in Jalgaon district using secondary data available up to 2018 from an economic perspective.

2. Objectives of the Study

- To examine the role of Self-Help Groups in promoting tribal knowledge.
- To study the contribution of SHGs to biodiversity conservation in Jalgaon district.
- To analyse the economic benefits of SHGs for tribal communities.
- To suggest measures for strengthening SHGs for sustainable development.

3. Research Methodology

The study is based on secondary data published up to 2018 and follows a descriptive and analytical research design. Data were collected from government reports, Census publications, NABARD reports, Maharashtra Government publications and peer-reviewed research articles. The data were analysed using descriptive and content analysis methods.



Akash Kishor Gavhane (2020). Role Of Self-Help Groups in Promoting Tribal Knowledge and Biodiversity Conservation: An Economic Study of Jalgaon District. International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research & Reviews, Vol.2020, n^o1, pp. 1-6.

4. Review of Literature

NABARD (2015) reported that Self-Help Groups (SHGs) promote poverty reduction, financial inclusion, women's empowerment, and sustainable rural development by improving savings, income generation, and community participation.

Planning Commission of India (2014) highlighted the socio-economic challenges faced by tribal communities and recommended strengthening SHGs to enhance livelihoods and inclusive development.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs (2016) emphasized the importance of preserving indigenous knowledge of forest resources and medicinal plants for biodiversity conservation and sustainable tribal livelihoods.

Government of Maharashtra (2017–18) noted that SHGs have significantly improved rural employment, women's entrepreneurship, and the socio-economic status of tribal women.

National Biodiversity Authority (2017) recognized the vital role of indigenous communities and SHGs in biodiversity conservation through traditional ecological knowledge.

Rathore (2015) found that SHGs enhance tribal women's participation in sustainable utilization of non-timber forest products and improve income generation.

Sharma and Singh (2016) concluded that SHGs strengthen environmental awareness, community participation, and sustainable livelihood practices by integrating indigenous knowledge with biodiversity conservation.

5. Results and Discussion

The analysis of secondary data indicates that Self-Help Groups have made a significant contribution to the socio-economic development of tribal communities in Jalgaon district. Besides promoting savings and credit activities, SHGs have encouraged sustainable livelihood practices based on indigenous knowledge and biodiversity conservation.

5.1 Preservation of Tribal Knowledge

SHGs have helped document and preserve traditional knowledge related to medicinal plants, herbal medicines, forest resources, indigenous seeds and sustainable farming practices. Elderly tribal members have transferred this knowledge to younger generations through community meetings and training programmes, reducing the risk of losing valuable indigenous knowledge.

5.2 Biodiversity Conservation

SHGs actively participate in protecting forests, conserving medicinal plants, promoting organic farming and encouraging sustainable harvesting of non-timber forest products. These activities have contributed to maintaining local biodiversity while reducing pressure on natural resources.



Akash Kishor Gavhane (2020). Role Of Self-Help Groups in Promoting Tribal Knowledge and Biodiversity Conservation: An Economic Study of Jalgaon District. International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research & Reviews, Vol.2020, n^o1, pp. 1-6.

5.3 Economic Benefits

Self-Help Groups (SHGs) have promoted various livelihood activities, including the collection and marketing of medicinal plants, bamboo and handicraft production, organic farming, honey collection, processing of minor forest produce, and small-scale agro-based enterprises. These income-generating activities have enhanced household earnings, diversified livelihood opportunities, and reduced dependence on seasonal wage labour, thereby contributing to the socio-economic empowerment of tribal communities.

5.4 Women's Empowerment

The study indicates that SHGs have significantly improved the socio-economic status of tribal women by promoting savings, access to credit, entrepreneurship and leadership. Women have become more actively involved in household decision-making and community development activities.

5.5 Challenges Faced by SHGs

Despite their significant contributions, Self-Help Groups (SHGs) continue to face challenges such as limited financial support, poor market access, inadequate technical training, declining forest resources, climate variability, weak institutional coordination, and lack of value-addition facilities. These constraints reduce their income-generating capacity and hinder the sustainable utilization of natural resources. Consequently, the overall effectiveness of SHGs in promoting biodiversity conservation and improving tribal livelihoods remains limited.

5.6 Discussion

The findings reveal that SHGs have emerged as effective institutions for promoting tribal knowledge, biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods in Jalgaon district. Their activities have strengthened women's empowerment, encouraged community participation and improved income generation through the sustainable use of natural resources. However, greater institutional support, improved market linkages, financial assistance and capacity-building programmes are necessary to enhance the long-term sustainability of SHGs and ensure effective conservation of tribal knowledge and biodiversity.

6. Conclusion

The study concludes that Self-Help Groups have played an important role in promoting tribal knowledge, biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods in Jalgaon district. SHGs have strengthened women's empowerment, encouraged community participation and generated additional income through the sustainable utilization of forest resources and indigenous knowledge. They have also contributed to preserving traditional ecological practices that support biodiversity conservation.



Akash Kishor Gavhane (2020). Role Of Self-Help Groups in Promoting Tribal Knowledge and Biodiversity Conservation: An Economic Study of Jalgaon District. International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research & Reviews, Vol.2020, n^o1, pp. 1-6.

Despite these achievements, several challenges continue to affect the effectiveness of SHGs, including inadequate financial support, limited market access, insufficient technical training and declining forest resources. Addressing these issues requires stronger institutional support and improved coordination among government agencies, financial institutions and community organizations.

From a social work perspective, SHGs serve as an effective mechanism for community empowerment, environmental conservation and inclusive rural development. Integrating indigenous knowledge with sustainable livelihood programmes, strengthening community participation and expanding access to government welfare schemes can improve the socio-economic conditions of tribal communities while conserving biodiversity. Future research based on primary field surveys in Jalgaon district would provide deeper insights into the long-term impact of SHGs on tribal livelihoods and biodiversity conservation.

AUTHOR(S) CONTRIBUTION

The writers affirm that they have no connections to, or engagement with, any group or body that provides financial or non-financial assistance for the topics or resources covered in this manuscript.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

PLAGIARISM POLICY

All authors declare that any kind of violation of plagiarism, copyright and ethical matters will take care by all authors. Journal and editors are not liable for aforesaid matters.

SOURCES OF FUNDING

The authors received no financial aid to support for the research.

REFERENCES

- Census of India. (2011). Primary Census Abstract. Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, Government of India.
- Government of Maharashtra. (2018). Economic Survey of Maharashtra 2017–18. Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Mumbai.
- Government of Maharashtra. (2018). Statistical Abstract of Maharashtra 2017–18. Directorate of Economics and Statistics.
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs. (2016). Annual Report 2015–16. Government of India.
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs. (2018). Annual Report 2017–18. Government of India.



Akash Kishor Gavhane (2020). Role Of Self-Help Groups in Promoting Tribal Knowledge and Biodiversity Conservation: An Economic Study of Jalgaon District. International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research & Reviews, Vol.2020, n^o1, pp. 1-6.

Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. (2018). Agricultural Statistics at a Glance 2018. Government of India.

NABARD. (2015). Status of Microfinance in India 2014–15. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development.

National Biodiversity Authority. (2017). India's Biodiversity: Conservation and Sustainable Use. Government of India.

Planning Commission of India. (2014). Report of the High-Level Committee on Socio-Economic, Health and Educational Status of Tribal Communities of India. Government of India.

Rathore, M. S. (2015). Role of tribal women in biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihood. Indian Journal of Social Research, 56(3), 321–334.

Sharma, R., & Singh, P. (2016). Self-Help Groups and sustainable rural development in India. International Journal of Rural Development Studies, 8(2), 45–58.

United Nations Development Programme. (2016). Human Development Report 2016: Human Development for Everyone. UNDP.

World Bank. (2018). World Development Report 2018: Learning to Realize Education's Promise. World Bank.

