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**EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN: AN ANALYSIS**

**E-GOVERNANCE AND ONLINE PUBLIC SERVICE**

**CHANGING SCENARIO OF SMALL ENTERPRISES IN INDIA**

**ROLE OF LAMPS IN TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT**

**ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL DATA**

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# Role of Microfinance in Development of Indian Economy

By N.K. Sathya Pal Sharma and Krishna B.S.\*

The concept of microfinance is not new in India. With the commencement of the co-operatives way back during the 19th century the concept of MF has emerged. In India the first Self Help Group (SHG) emerged in 1985, with the initiative of Mysore Resettlement and Development Agency (MYRADA), a non-governmental organisation (NGO) for promotion of self-help affinity groups, watershed, water and waste-land management, forestry, community management of sanitary and drinking water, housing and habitant, improvement of primary education, micro enterprise generation.

There is a huge expansion in MF sector with large client base and increasing innovative financial services for low income groups in the last 45 years. MF has grown to big stature and now at present attracting the attention of research scholars to study the impact of microfinance services on the low income people and large number of studies has been conducted by individual researchers as well as government departments like NABARD and individual organisations like Sadhan, ACCESS including many international organisations. The data provided by NABARD for the last 4 years is highly valuable and reliable in accessing the significance of MF towards economic development.

Though there is growth in SHGs and credit supply certain fundamental issues remained unsolved. Prime among them are its influence on the lives of people involved, its contribution towards poverty eradication and finally its influence on the living standards of people and contribution towards economic development. But one should not also undermine the contribution of

MF towards the poor and deserved who have no access to formal financial institutions.

MF programmes are currently being promoted as a key strategy for simultaneously addressing both poverty alleviation and women's empowerment. The UN Secretary General calls it "A critical Anti-poverty for the poorest, especially women". Of late MF programmes targeting

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# Corporate Financial Disclosure Practices by Indian Companies: A study among Banking sector companies

By Shijina A.S. and Arun Lawrence\*

Corporate disclosure is a process through which a corporate entity communicates business and financial information to their stakeholders. A strong, informative and transparent system of corporate disclosure is of paramount importance for the efficient and effective allocation of resources as well as integrity of financial markets. High-quality corporate disclosure helps investors and other capital market participants by enabling them to make proper assessment of the potential risks and rewards of alternative investments. Well-informed investment decision-making by capital market participants leads to efficient allocation of capital, which promotes productivity and economic growth.

Nowadays the corporate disclosure practices have assumed greater importance as the after effects of global financial crisis and more retail and institutional investors entered in the capital market. This will lead to disclose minimum information in the annual reports of companies which are listed in the stock exchange. However, particularly large and publicly traded leading companies have gone beyond those minimum requirements. Annual report today is not simply a means of communication; it is now being used as a vehicle of building and enhancing corporate image.

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## Objectives

- To outline the emerging scenario of the corporate disclosure practices.
- To assess the disclosure practices of some selected companies.

The study reveals that the information disclosed in the annual reports of companies today is undoubtedly far more exhaustive and useful than what was being reported earlier. Disclosures are presently made in many forms to address to the needs of shareholders, institutional investors, trade unions and policymakers.

As they currently stand, the compliance with the statutory disclosure requirements is a general phenomenon among Indian companies and financial reports provide a glimpse of past performance. However, many Indian companies have taken the initiative to disclose some additional information keeping in view the diversified needs of the users.

## Methodology

The study accounts only secondary data. Annual reports of companies are the major data source. All the banking sector companies from among the 22 sectors in the S&P CNX Nifty were selected for the present study. Judgment sampling was used to select the sector and sample size was six.

Table-1 represents all the banking companies in the S&P CNX Nifty Index and its market capitalization and its weight in percentage.

## Analysis of Disclosure Practices

For the purpose of analysis, annual reports for the year 2011-2012 were used as the main source of data. In order to study the emerging trends in the corporate disclosure practices 20 mandatory items were included and these are shown in the Table-2 and 20 items of voluntary disclosures are shown in the Table-3.

## Mandatory Disclosure Practices

Only twenty factors are selected for studying mandatory disclosure patterns. In the tables 3, the symbol 'Y' stands for the information on the items disclosed in the annual report whereas the symbol 'N' stands for the nondisclosure of information. The Table-2 shows that the selected companies have disclosed 100 per cent of the mandatory information in the annual reports

## Voluntary Disclosure Practices

In Table-2, the symbol 'Y' stands for the information on the items disclosed (voluntary information) in the annual report whereas the symbol 'N' stands for the nondisclosure of information relating to the referred items. Table-2 reveals that the 60 per cent of the information are disclosed by the Bank of Baroda, 55 per cent by Axis