





National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development

ABOUT THIS HANDBOOK

This handbook is specially prepared for a reasonably educated and helpful local person, who can help the poor to form Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

This book helps to understand the subject in a simple way.

Copies of relevant instructions from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and NABARD are given in the annexure to this book.

Some simple formats of the minimum requirement of account registers, membership registers, minutes book, etc., which are generally used by SHGs are given, for guidance.

The formats of the documents to be submitted by the SHGs, while availing loans from banks are also given as annexure to this handbook.



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Helping to Form SHGs

We read and hear about Self-Help Groups (SHGs) often.

Very poor people form SHGs.

They save very small amounts of money.

They lend these small amounts to each other in the SHG.

They also try to solve many of their problems together.

- Can SHGs be formed in our own village?
- Can we help the poor people to form SHGs?
- What do we do to help them?

This booklet tells you in simple terms how to help the poor to form Self-Help Groups.



What is Self Help?

From our childhood days, we hear sayings like

- 'Self help is the best help'
- 'Unity is strength'
- 'United we stand, divided we fall'

We have heard the story of the birds caught in a net.

They could not escape one by one.

But when they flew together in a group, they escaped.

We know that one stick is easy to break.

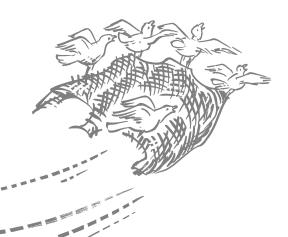
But it is difficult to break a bundle (group) of sticks.

The SHGs show us how unity is strength.

They show us how self help could be the best help.

It is useful if we can encourage and help poor people to form SHGs.





How do We Start?

Even a thousand-mile journey starts with a single step forward.

The first step for forming an SHG is also simple -

- Visit the very poor families in your village
- Talk to them
- If the people do not know you, first talk to them about yourself.

It is important to be known to the people and to win their trust.

◆ Talk to the elders in the village, explain your plan to them and request for their support



You will need to keep a small notebook. A list of items is given in page 7. Please copy this list on your notebook. Use it for every family you visit.

Whenever you visit a poor family,

- Speak to the womenfolk
- Ask what is the most important issue for the family
- Write all details as per your list copied from page 7.

Every time you visit such families, please tell them that you are not distributing or promising any subsidy money under any scheme. This is very important to avoid misunderstanding at later stages.

This is called 'Preliminary Survey'. This helps you to understand the needs of each individual family.

You will need to visit the same families again. When you see them for the second time, you will be able to tell each family how you have seen and spoken to other families, who also have very similar problems like them.

By visiting the families, you will be able to know which of those families could come together in Self-Help Groups. You will also understand what their common requirements and problems are.



How are Groups Formed?

When you speak to families in a locality, you will find that some kind of mutual liking already exists between many of them. Some known reasons for mutual affinities are:

- Similar experience of poverty
- Similar living conditions
- Same kind of livelihood
- Same community or caste
- Same place of origin

It will be easy at this stage to find out which families are likely to get together better.

What type of families do we visit, for forming SHGs?

Ask these questions about each family:

- 1. Does the family have only one earning member?
- 2. Does the family bring drinking water from far away place?
- 3. Are the women compelled to go far in the open in the absence of latrine?
- 4. Are there old illiterate members in the family?
- 5. Are there permanently ill members in the family?
- 6. Are there children in the family who do not go to school?
- 7. Is there a drug addict or a drunkard in the family?
- 8. Is their house made of kuccha material?
- 9. Do they regularly borrow from the moneylender?
- 10. Do they eat less than two meals a day?
- 11. Do they belong to scheduled castes or scheduled tribes?

IF 'YES' IS THE ANSWER FOR THREE OR FOUR OF THESE QUESTIONS, YOU CAN CONSIDER THE FAMILY AS POOR.

How are Group Meetings Organised?

Before Self-Help Groups are formed, hold a meeting of the community leaders and elders of the village. Explain to them your plan to form SHGs. You will get support from them. This is very important.

- This is called community participation.
- This will also give acceptance to your work in the village.

This is the right time to tell everyone that the meetings are not for "giving" anything, but to "enable" the poor families to come together and help each other.

It will be very useful if you explain the basic principles of Self-Help Group in this meeting.



How do SHGs take shape?

After meeting the elders and community leaders, you are now ready to call SHG members for a meeting. You can get one member from each of the identified families to come for a meeting on a convenient day. This can be called "a start up meeting".

During the meeting, you will get a lot of questions. Your answers will help them slowly understand the concept further.

Please allow sufficient time for the members to understand the different aspects of group formation.

- The process of forming groups normally takes five to six months.
- Once the group is formed, it takes one to one and a half years to settle to a stable pattern.

Membership

During the initial meetings, following things may happen:

- Some members leave
- Some new members come in
- The members slowly learn to decide subjects for meetings
- They learn to conduct meetings
- They understand the value of records and documents
- They want to remain together and help each other

These are normal stages. This will give you the confidence that you are moving in the right direction.

Leadership

One member of the group needs to take the lead.

How is this person identified?

The best way is to ask the following questions within the group:

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
Who should decide everything for the SHG ?	All members should decide
Who benefits from the SHG ?	All members benefit
Who should do the work ?	All should share the work
How can the work be shared?	Agree on one person to take up the work by rotation

This way, the members will understand the reason for rotation of the responsibilities. This will make it easy to choose a member to take initiative for the following main activities

Book keeping



How do SHGs function?

Simple rules are required for SHGs to function. The following are some important rules:

- Common agreement on when to meet
- Decision on time and place of meetings
- Agreed penalties for non-attendance
- Agreement on amount of saving
- Giving small loans to each other
- Taking loan from banks, repayment habits

Training of the members is an important need for proper functioning of SHGs. These areas for training could do well to the members :

- Basic mathematics
- Writing of books
- Scheduling of meetings
- Social aspects like women empowerment
- Basics of lending money, borrowing, repaying

Most effective method of training of SHG members is to take them to a good working SHG and allowing free interaction with its members.

Let us now look at an SHG little closely, and understand its characteristics and functions.

Characteristics and Functions of SHGs

Characteristics

- The ideal size of an SHG is 10 to 20 members.
 (In a bigger group, members cannot actively participate.)
- The group need not be registered.
- From one family, only one member.
 (More families can join SHGs this way.)
- The group consists of either only men or of only women.
 (Mixed groups are generally not preferred.)
- Women's groups are generally found to perform better.
- Members have the same social and financial background.
 (Members interact more freely this way.)
- The group should meet regularly.
 (Members understand each other better if they meet weekly.)
- Compulsory attendance.
 (Full attendance for larger participation.)



Book keeping by the SHG:

- Simple and clear books for all transactions to be maintained.
- If no member is able to maintain the books, someone to be engaged by the group for the purpose.
- Animator can also help.

Minutes Book :

The proceedings of meetings, the rules of the group, names of the members, etc. are recorded in this book.

Savings and Loan Register:

Shows the savings of members separately and of the group as a whole.

Details of individual loans, repayments, interest collected, balance, etc. are entered here.

• Weekly Register:

Summary of receipts and payments on a weekly basis. Updated every meeting.

Members' Pass books :

Individual members' passbooks encourage regular savings.

Functions of SHGs:

(a) Savings and Thrift:

- The amount may be small, but savings have to be a regular and continuous habit with all the members.
- 'Savings first Credit later' should be the motto of every group member.
- Group members learn how to handle large amounts of cash through savings. This is useful when they use bank loans.

(b) Internal lending:

- The savings to be used as loans for members.
- The purpose, amount, rate of interest, etc., to be decided by the group itself.
- Proper accounts to be kept by the SHG.
 (Specimen formats given as an Annexure at the end of this book)
- Opening savings bank account with bank.
- Enabling SHG members to obtain loans from banks, and repaying the same.

(Details may be seen in the next chapter)

(c) Discussing problems:

 Every meeting, the group will discuss and try to find solutions to the problems faced by the members of the group.

Linking of SHGs to Bank



- Opening of savings bank account
- Internal Lending by the SHG
- Assessment of the SHG
- Checklist for assessment of SHG
- Repayment of loans by the SHG

Soon after an SHG is formed and one or two meetings held where the savings are collected, a savings bank account can be opened in the name of the SHG.

The following steps will explain to you how this can be done.

Step 1 - Opening of S/B Account for the SHG

The Reserve Bank of India has issued instructions to all commercial banks and regional rural banks, permitting them to open SB A/cs of registered or unregistered SHGs.

SB A/c in the name of SHG could be opened after obtaining from the group the following documents:

Resolution from the SHG:

The SHG has to pass a resolution in the group meeting, signed by all members, indicating their decision to open SB A/c with the bank. This resolution should be filed with the bank.

◆ Authorisation from the SHG:

The SHG should authorise at least three members, any two of whom, to jointly operate upon their account. The resolution along with the filled in application form duly introduced by the promoter may be filed with the bank branch.

◆ Copy of the rules and regulations of the SHG:

This is not a must. If the group has not formulated any such rules or regulations, loans can be sanctioned without them.

A savings bank account passbook may be issued to the SHG. This should be in the name of the SHG and not in the name of any individual/s.

Step 2 - Conduct of internal lending by the SHG

- After saving for a minimum period of 2 to 3 months, the common savings fund should be used by the SHG for lending to its own members.
- The purpose, terms and conditions for lending to its members, rate of interest etc., may be decided by the group through discussions during its meeting. (RBI and NABARD have permitted the members to decide on these aspects.) The interest is usually kept as 2 or 3 rupees per hundred rupee per month. Please remember that interest per month is better understood in villages, than annual interest.
- Simple and clear books of account of savings and lending should be kept by the SHG.

(Specimen formats of books to be kept by the SHGs are annexed to this book)

Through internal lendings,
the members of the SHG will
learn to properly manage,
utilise and repay their SHG loans.
This will be of help,
when they later borrow from the bank.

Step 3 - Assessment of SHGs

We need to know whether the SHG has been functioning well.

 The check list given below will help us to assess each SHG in a simple, but effective manner.

CHECK LIST TO ASSESS THE PERFORMANCE OF AN SHG

Sr. No.	Factors to be checked	Very good	Good	Unsatisfactory
1.	Group Size	15 to 20	10 to 15	less than 10
2.	Type of members	Only very poor members	2 or 3 not very poor members	many not poor members
3.	Number of meetings	Four meetings in a month	Two meetings in a month	Less than two meetings in a month
4.	Timings of meetings	Night or after 6 p.m.	Morning between 7 and 9 a.m.	Other timings
5.	Attendance of members	More than 90%	70 to 90%	Less than 70%
6.	Participation of members	Very high level of participation	Medium level of participation	Low level of participation
7.	Savings collection within the group	Four times a month	Three times a month	Less than three times a month
8.	Amount to be saved	Fixed amount	Varying amounts	_
9.	Interest on internal loan	Depending upon the purpose	24 to 36%	More than 36%
10.	Utilisation of Savings amount by SHG	Fully used for loaning to members	Partly used for loaning	Poor utilisation
11.	Loan recoveries	More than 90%	70 to 90%	Less than 70%
12.	Maintenance of books	All books are regularly maintained and updated	Most important registers (minutes, savings, loans, etc.) are updated	Irregular in maintaining and updating books
13.	Accumulated savings	More than Rs. 5000/-	Rs. 3000-5000/-	Less than Rs. 3000/-
14.	Knowledge of the Rules of the SHG	Known to all	_	Not known to all
15.	Education level	More than 20 percent of members can read and write	_	Less than 20 per cent know to read and write
16.	Knowledge of Govt. programs	All are aware of Govt. programs	Most of the members know about Govt. programs	No one knows

Important:

- 1. SHGs with 12 to 16 "very good" factors can get loans immediately.
- 2. SHGs with 10 to 12 "very good" factors need 3 to 6 months' time to improve, before loan is given.
- 3. SHGs with rating of less than 10 "very good" factors will not be considered for loan.

Step 4 – Sanction of Credit Facility to the SHG

In whose name is the loan issued?

The loan is *always* sanctioned and issued in the name of the group. (Not in the name of the individual members.)

What is the quantum of loan? How is the quantum decided?

The amount of loan to the SHG can be to the tune of 1 to 4 times of its savings.

What constitutes the savings of the group?

- The group's balance in the SB A/c
- Amount held as cash with the authorised persons
- Amount internally lent amongst the members
- Amount received as interest on the loans
- Any other contributions received by the group like grants, donation, etc.

What are the purposes for which the loan can be given to the SHG?

Loan may be granted by the SHG for various purposes to its members. The bank does not decide the purposes for which the SHG gives loans to its members. The purpose can be emergency needs like illness in the family, marriage, etc. or buying of assets for income generation acquisition of assets. The group will discuss and decide about the purpose for which loans are to be given to its individual members by the SHG.

♦ Who makes the repayment?

The SHG makes the repayment to the bank. (The group is collectively responsible for the repayment of the loan.)

What is the collateral security for the bank?

RBI/NABARD rules stipulate that no collateral security should be taken from SHGs by banks.

Collateral security is not necessary for the loans sanctioned to SHGs because :

- The members of SHGs know that the bank loan is their own money like savings.
- They are aware that they are jointly responsible for the repayment.
- Therefore, they exert moral pressure on the borrowing members for repayment.
- Because of this, the bank gets a much better repayment from the SHG.

Can the bank hold the SB A/c balance of the SHG as a security?

No. This will prevent the SHG from lending from its internal savings.

What is the rate of interest to be charged for the loans granted to SHG by the bank?

- The Reserve Bank of India has allowed the banks freedom to decide on the interest rates to be charged to the SHGs.
- What is the rate of interest to be charged by the SHGs to its members?

The rate of interest to be charged by the group to its members should be left to the group. This is usually 2 or 3 rupees per hundred rupees of loans.

List of documents required by banks for lending to SHGs

- (i) Inter-se Agreement to be executed by all the members of the Self Help Group. (This is an agreement by the members with the bank, authorising a minimum of three members to operate the group's account with the bank.)
- (ii) Application to be submitted by SHG to bank branch while applying for loan assistance. (This includes details of the purposes for which the SHG gives loan to its members.)
- (iii) Articles of Agreement for use by the bank while financing SHGs.

(This contains the duly stamped agreement between the bank and the SHG wherein both the parties agree to abide by the terms and condition set thereon.)

(All the above formats are given as annexures to this book.)

The group members are collectively responsible for the repayment of loans to the bank. Under no circumstance, the SHG should allow any of its members to default to the bank.



Spreading the Message of SHGs

How can you spread the message of SHGs?

You can involve effectively in formation, nurturing and linking the SHGs to a local bank. Please get in touch with our regional office in your State, who will be happy to provide you with all information and support in this regard. The address of our Regional Offices is given in page No. 32.

ANNEXURE - I

[TO BE STAMPED AS A GENERAL POWER OF ATTORNEY]

INTER-SE AGREEMENT TO BE EXECUTED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE SELF HELP GROUP

THI	S AGREEMENT made 19	this	day
	WEEN		
1.	Shri/Smt/Kum.		Son/Wife/Daughter
	of residing at	, aged	years.
_	-		
2.	Shri/Smt/Kumof	aged	Son/Wite/Daughter vears
	residing at		
3.	Shri/Smt/Kum.		Son/Wife/Daughter
	of residing at	, aged	years. · and
4.	rosiding di		_, and
5.			
J.			
•			
20.			al'araha ara #Tha Call Hala
Gro	o are members of the group, houp (SHG) Members" which expression shall, unless rembers of the said SHG and their respective legal heirs,	pugnant to the context or	meaning, include every
WH of t	EREAS all SHG members are residents of he State and are known to eac	Village in h other.	taluka
WH carr	EREAS the SHG members above named have joined vol y on savings and credit and other economic activities fo einafter appearing:	untarily together and forme	
NO	W THEREFORE THIS AGREEMENT WITNESSETH THAT :		
1.	Each member of the SHG shall save a sum of Rs. only) or such sum as may be decided by the Group, deposited with the authorised member of the group.		
2.	Each member shall strive for the success of the SHG business interests of the SHG.	and shall not act in any mo	anner detrimental to the
3.	The SHG members shall be jointly and severally liabl		
4.	All assets and goods acquired by the SHG shall be in and shall ordinarily be in the constructive custody of and shall be kept at the place of business at consent of the SHG members.	such member as may be c	authorised by the Group
5.	The SHG members hereby duly elect and appoint Sh	ri/Smt/Kum	as,
	Shri/Smt/Kum.		
	Shri/Smt/Kum		
	[by whatever name designated] to look after and ma and also act in their name and on their behalf representatives, may however, be removed at any representatives elected.	in all matters relating t	hereto. The authorised

- Each of the SHG members hereby agrees to abide by and ratify all such act, deeds and things as the 6. authorised representatives may do in the interest of the said activities. The authorised representatives shall take decisions in the day to day working of the SHG and each 7. representative shall actively involve herself or himself and co-operate in looking after the day-to-day affairs of the SHG activities in particular to attend to the following activities. — Every member of the SHG hereby authorises the representatives to apply for the loan on behalf of the SHG and execute necessary agreements/documents on behalf of the SHG for the purpose. The authorised representative may collect loan amounts from the bank on behalf of SHG, deposit the same in the savings account of the SHG for onlending to members in accordance with the decision of the SHG
- and also deposit recovery of loan instalment from members in the loan account/s of SHG with the bank. 8

8.	The	SHG members hereby specifically authorise the re	oresentatives:-					
	(i)	To open Savings, Fixed Deposits and other accounts in () bank approved by the SI and operate the same under the joint signature of any two of the following authoris representatives.						
		Shri/Smt/Kum.						
		Shri/Smt/Kum.						
		Shri/Smt/Kum.						
	(ii)	To keep or cause to be kept proper books of accounts of the savings, made by the SHG Members, loans granted to them and the recoveries made from them and render every year the full accounts to the SHG members for their approval and adoption;						
	(iii)	To receive all payments due to the SHG and issue requisite receipts or acknowledgements for and on behalf of the SHG;						
	(iv)	To institute and defend on behalf of the SHG me interests of each member of the said SHG and for advocate or agent and incur the necessary legal	this purpose engage or disengage any lawyer or					
9.		he event of death of any of the members of the sefits and be liable for the obligations of the decease						
10.		s agreed that no new person shall be inducted as a member of the SHG without consent of all the sting members.						
IN V plac	VITNI e	ESS WHEREOF the aforesaid members of the SHG and on year first herein appearing.	have set their respective hands hereunto at the					
mon	th	year first herein appearing.						
Nam	ne of	member SHG	Signature/s/Thumb of the impression					
(1)								
(2)								
(3)								
(4)								
(20)								
\	LICC	rc						
	NESS							
(1)								
(2)								

(Note: The SHG shall not consist more than 20 persons).

ANNEXURE - II

Bran Nam Addi Form If reg furni Num	cimen of application to be submitted by SHG to Bank anch while applying for loan assistance are of the Self-Help Group: ress: med/Established on gistered: give number and date and ish true copy of the Certificate of Registration. mber of members in the Group: ne of SHPI/NGO/VA assisting the Group: if any,	Registered : Yes/No
To:		D .
	Branch Manager Bank Branch	Date
Dea	r Sir,	
APPL	LICATION FOR LOAN	
We Rs The	the duly authorised representatives of the above SF	IG hereby apply for a loan aggregating only) for on lending to our members are given in the enclosed sheet.
REPA	AYMENT SCHEDULE	
2. 3.	We agree to repay the loan amount as per the repayment A copy of the Inter-se Agreement executed by all the mer borrow on behalf of the SHG is enclosed.	
4.	We hereby declare that the particulars given above are true belief.	e and correct to the best of our knowledge and
5.	We hereby authorise the Bank to disclose all or any particle loan accounts with the Bank, to any other financial instituted agency as may be considered necessary or desirable by disqualify the SHG from receiving any credit facilities from or any part thereof granted on this application, if any furnished herewith is found incorrect and/or containing missing the second sec	the Bank. It will be in order for the Bank to the Bank and or recall the entire loan amount of the information pertaining to the group,
Your	rs faithfully,	
1. 2.		
	horised representatives]	
	F HELP GROUP Incial Particulars as on	
Sr.	No. Particulars	Amount (in Rs.)
1. 2. 3.	Seed Money from SHPI [NGO/VA], if any	
4. 5.	Loan outstanding against members	
6. 7.	, 1	

ANNEXURE - III

FORMAT OF ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT FOR USE BY BANKS WHILE FINANCING SELF-HELP GROUPS

The	: Articles ot Agreement made o	n this	day ot	
199	P at	By and Betwee	en M/s	[name of SHG]
	an unregistere	d association of person	ns/individuals having its office at	
repi	resented by its authorised repre	esentative Shri/Smt		
·	,	·	(Name)	
		and Shri/Smt		
	(Designation)		(Name)	
forn to the thei (nai its h	ns part of this agreement), herein he subject or context thereof, me ir respective successors, legal he me of the bank) a body corporate Head Office at	nafter referred to as the an and include membe eirs, administrators and econstituted under the and the Branches shall unless repugnant t	a copy of such Authorisation is an "borrower" which expression shaurs of the unregistered association assigns of the one part and Act, interalia, one at to the subject or context thereof m	Il unless repugnant for the time being, have hereinafter
			rsons who have interse agreed to g the socio-economic conditions	
Wh	ereas having formed the asso	ociation as a self help	group, the Borrower as per	
Shri	i/Smt			
		(Name)	(Designation)	
and	Shri/Smt			
		(Name)	(Designation)	
Ban	nk to *grant a loan/extend	credit facility of *R	[copy enclo ds/- up only) for onlending to its membe	to the limit of
	d whereas the Bank has agreed t ditions.	o grant the *loan/exten	d credit facility to the borrower or	n certain terms and
And	d whereas the Bank and the bor	rower are desirous of r	reducing the agreed terms into w	riting.
Νον	w, therefore, this agreement witr	nesseth as follows:		
1.	(clean) upto the limit of Rs has opened (SPECIFY THE KIN	/- (ND OF LOAN ACCOU	agreed to borrow by way of tent Rupees/- on the NT) A/C No rrower in its book of accounts.	
2.	In case the facility availed is	cash credit the Borrowe Borrower shall repay t	ers will operate the cash credit ac the outstanding liability in the a	

other within the period stipulated in terms of sanction.

In case loan availed is Demand Loan, without prejudice to the right of the Bank to recall the loan on demand the Borrower undertakes to repay the loan with (*Delete whichever is not applicable) interest and

- 4. In case the credit facility availed of by the borrower is a term loan the same shall be repayable in instalments in the manner specified herebelow in the repayment schedule. (to be specified) Besides the borrower will pay interest at the rates that may be prescribed for such lending by RBI/NABARD from time to time.
- 5. It is clearly understood by and between the parties hereto that in the event of the borrower's failure to utilise the proceeds of the credit facility for the purpose for which the same has been made available by the bank to the borrower, the borrower shall repay immediately on demand without demur together with interest without prejudice to Bank's right to initiate other legal action.
- 6. The borrower shall pay interest on the loans to be calculated on the daily balances in the loan account and be debited thereto at quarterly rests or as the bank may decide.
- 7. The borrower should utilise the proceeds of the credit facility for the purpose of lending to is members to improve the socio-economic conditions of their members and their families.
- 8. The borrower shall repay the credit facility availed of together with interest payable as per the interest rates that may be fixed by RBI/NABARD from time to time for such lendings.
- 9. The borrower shall be liable to repay the facility on demand together with the interest and other charges payable by the borrower to the bank in accordance with the rules of the bank.

REPAYMENT SCHEDULE

Please specify		
•	ir signature on the year first herein above written.	date and the
FOR SHG	FOR BANK	

- (1) AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVE
- (2) AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVE MANAGER

ANNEXURE - IV

SELF HELP GROUP	
_	

Date	Particulars	Debit/wi	thdrawal	Credit/	Deposit	Balan		Initials
Dale	raniculars	Rs.	Ps.	Rs.	Ps.	Rs.	Ps.	

ANNEXURE - V

SELF HELP GROUP
Loan A/c

Member's name	_ S.B.A/c No
Loan A/c. No.	
Purpose of Ioan	
Repayment Instalment Monthly/Quarterly/Half yearly/Annual Rs	

Date	Particulars	Loan Amount	Interest	Amount repaid		Balance		Signature of
				Principal	Interest	Principal	Interest	A/c holder/ Member
					_			

ANNEXURE - VI

Cash Book

Date	Particulars	Cheque No.	Debit	Credit	Balance		Total	Signature
		140.			Cash	Bank		

ANNEXURE - VII

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA
CENTRAL OFFICE
DEPARTMENT OF BANKING OPERATIONS
& DEVELOPMENT "CENTRE — I"
WORLD TRADE CENTRE, CUFFE PARADE,
COLABA, MUMBAI 400 005

Ref. DBOD. No. BC. 63/13:01:08/92-93

January 4, 1993 Pausa 14, 1914 (S)

All Scheduled Commercial Banks (including Regional Rural Banks)

Dear Sir.

Opening of Savings Bank Accounts in the name of Self-Help Groups

Please refer to para 3 (i) of our directive DBOD. No. Dir. BC. 151/C.347-85 dated 27th December 1985 in terms of which banks have been prohibited from opening of Savings bank accounts in the name of certain bodies/organizations. The issue relating to opening of savings bank accounts by Self-Help Groups financed by banks under a pilot project launched by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (c.f. circulars RPCD. No. Plan BC.13/PL-09.22/90-91 dated 24th July 1991 and No. DPD 104/DPD. FS.4631/92-A/91-92 dated 26th February 1992 issued by our Rural Planning and Credit Department and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development respectively) has been examined and it has been decided that such Self-Help Groups, registered or unregistered, may be allowed to open Savings Bank Accounts with Banks.

Please acknowledge receipt.

Yours faithfully

(B. D. Nitsure)Deputy Chief Officer.

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