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Microcredit, SHGs & rural entrepreneurship in India: A bibliometric study through Scopus

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Abstract

Microcredit through Self Help Groups (SHGs) plays a significant role to promote rural entrepreneurship and underprivileged groups of the society. It facilitates small loans to initiate micro level income generating activities, which promotes financial and self independence among them. It also ensures healthier society and better future of a nation. The objective of the study is to map the growth of literature of rural entrepreneurship through microcredit and self-help group by conducting a bibliometric analysis recovered from Scopus database within 1999-2001. The study aims to investigate the year-wise publications, citations pattern, channel of communication and types of documents from the top cited articles published during the study period. A total of 100 papers were found during the study period. The study also shows the association of keywords by mapping their occurrences from the Title and Abstract field as well as used by Author's. The study concluded with the note that there should be more initiation among the researchers for the growth of the field.

Keywords: Microcredit, SHGs, rural entrepreneurship, rural women, bibliometric analysis

1. Introduction

The term Microcredit and Microfinance are used interchangeably. It refers to a movement that envisages a world in which micro level income groups have accessibility to a range of affordable financial services offered by a variety of retail providers to finance income generating activities, build assets, stabilize consumption and protect against risks. The word "microcredit" used in 1970 by Prof. Muhammad Yunus, (born in 1940, 28th June). He was awarded by Nobel peace prize for founding Grameen Bank & pioneer concept of microcredit & microfinance. It facilitates financial services targeted to individuals and micro level businesses those who lack access to conventional banking and related services.

The growth of rural micro entrepreneurship literature is closely associated with the promotion of microcredit or microfinance studies. Since early 2000s, the publication of the subject is speedily augmented along with the growth of microcredit practiced by rural entrepreneurs. After several conceptual papers produce by the expert (Morduch 1999) [7], the empirical study about microcredit or microfinance grows rapidly especially for developing countries context. It acts as a viable strategy for generating income and self independence of the group members, also contributes positively towards the society (Saha & Roy 2017) [9]. Around the world it has been recognized that microcredit addressed the wellbeing of low income and marginalized community. It is the best approach for reaching out the underprivileged segments and aware about the benefits of small savings by organizing them into small groups. Present paper attempts to map the growth of literature of rural entrepreneurship through microcredit and self help by conducting a bibliometric analysis recovered from Scopus database. The study aims to investigate the year-wise publications, citations pattern, channel of communication and types of documents from the top cited articles published during the study period. The study also shows the association of keywords by mapping their occurrences from the Title and Abstract field as well as Author's used.

2. Literature Review

There is a growing need of credit for diversified development and productive activities in rural areas and in planning the future of reorganized societies, the aim should be to transform them into a single contact point in the village.

For all types of credit, they should also have the capacity to serve other rural producers such as artisans, craftsmen and agricultural laborers in respect of their economic activities, which is also supported by (Sivaloganathan, 2004) ^[11]. The International year of Microcredit 2005 provide unique opportunity for improving awareness, sharing knowledge as well as best practices and lessons learned in the sphere of microfinance. It emphasizes on efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of the SHG-Bank Linkage model in India, in particular the strategies which aim at poverty reduction, women upliftment and entrepreneurship development and sustainability (Lal, 2007) ^[6]. Microcredit act as an approach that has been proven to empower poor segment of the society and pull them out of the poverty by relying on their traditional skill and entrepreneurial instincts, uses small loans, financial services and other supports to start, establish, sustain or expand very small and self supporting businesses (Ahmad, 2008) ^[11]. Microcredit based SHGs are the basic units. The sustainability of the system largely depends upon their stability and performance. Besides the linkage of the SHGs with the banks, it promotes the banking knowledge among the thousands of rural women, makes them self depended and encourages micro entrepreneurship, which could be a positive indicator towards the development (Charantimath, 2009) ^[4]. Present study viewed that Microcredit plays an important role for female participants to initiate small scale businesses in Africa which promotes their financial independence and economic development as well. Based on questionnaire and interviews the study supports that microcredit has gained a special attention to attain social recognition too. The research study focuses on income, savings, credit, financial services for new startups where access to education is crucial for better performances (Belwal *et al.*, 2011) ^[12]. Microcredit through SHGs has been proven as recognized financial services by institutions especially for poor people. Present study has been conducted with SHGs who are microcredit beneficiaries in six community blocks of Khushinagar District of Uttar Pradesh. The study is based on interview method where one member from each group has considered. The study found that majority of the SHGs expanded their micro enterprises after availing microcredit from banks, NGOs and MFIs (Dwivedi, 2016) ^[5]. Based on empirical research the author identifies entrepreneurial success in Sri-Lanka who availed microfinance services such as micro credit, micro savings and micro insurance. The study has considered 464 women availed small loans, obtained using a stratified random sampling techniques. The study proved that micro credit and micro savings have positive relationship to entrepreneurial success (Bernard, *et al.* 2017) ^[3]. Microfinance coordinates underprivileged group of the society in entrepreneurial world but their translation to innovative action depends on

suitable stimuli and environment, where facilitating training, marking, skill development and finance are the predominant way through which these stimuli can be aroused in era of LPG and IT revolution (Saha & Roy 2018) ^[10] also help them to drag them towards entrepreneurship. Present study viewed that the SHGs formation encourages not only the rural entrepreneurs also strengthen economy to support Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. Using personally structured interview schedule with 100 respondents from SHGs of six taluks of Shivamogga District, Karnataka state, India the study proved the significance of SHGs and rural entrepreneurship development. It also appreciates the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, SWARAJYA and SURAJYA concept of Mahatma Gandhi (Sudharshan, 2020) ^[12].

3. Objectives

- To know the year wise literature growth of rural entrepreneurship through microfinance and SHGs.
- To know the authorship pattern of the literature
- To know the citation pattern
- To know the channels of communication
- To know the types of documents
- To map the keywords occurrences of terms used in the title and abstract field as well as by the authors.
- To highlights the most cited papers in fields of study.

4. Methodology

The data was collected from Elsevier's Scopus multidisciplinary database for the study. Initially 137 papers were retrieved by not entering any inclusion or exclusion criteria, then the whole dataset were limited to India and 100 articles were identified and considered for the study. The Search String formulated for retrieving the data was as below -

Title-abs-key (micro AND credit OR rural AND entrepreneurs OR SHGs OR self AND help AND groups). The data were extracted as CSV file format from Scopus then analysed according to the objectives. Also the mapping of keyword occurrences and most cited papers has been done with the VOS viewer analyzing tool.

5. Results and Discussion

This section presents the research output in the field of rural entrepreneurship through microcredit and self help by conducting a bibliometric analysis recovered from Scopus database. During the study period it investigates the year-wise publications, citations pattern, channel of communication, types of documents and keyword occurrences from the published literature. The analysed data have summarised in the following tables where the time horizon is divided into 1999-2021 to facilitate analysis.

Table 1: Year wise growth of literature

Published Year	Total Publications	Citation Patterns				Total Citations
		Zero Citation	Citations <10	Citations 11-50	Citations >50	
1999	1	0	1	0	0	2
2000	-	-	-	-	-	
2001	4	0	3	1	0	27
2002	1	0	1	0	0	1
2003	1	0	0	1	0	32
2004	-	-				
2005	1	0	1	0		1
2006	3	0	1	2		49

2007	1	0	1	0		2
2008	-	-	-	-	-	-
2009	5	1	4	0	0	17
2010	5	2	2	1	0	17
2011	8	4	4	0	0	6
2012	6	2	4	0	0	12
2013	3	2	0	0	1	140
2014	7	2	3	2	0	50
2015	8	3	4	1	0	25
2016	9	3	5	1	0	24
2017	7	3	4	0	0	6
2018	8	0	8	0	0	21
2019	9	9	0	0	0	0
2020	10	7	3	0	0	9
2021	3	1	2	0	0	4
Total	100	39	51	9	1	331

Citation analysis refers to the measurement of research productivity of an article. It detains relation between documents. Table 1 lists the year wise growth of literature and the most cited paper in the mentioned field. The study is limited to India and a total of 100 papers were found from Scopus database for the mentioned period where 51 papers

have been found with less than 10 citations, 9 papers in between 11 to 15 citations and only one paper has been assert with more than 50 citations, where in 2013 the most cited publications were shown with a total of 140 followed by 2014 and 2006.

Table 2: Authorship Pattern

Year	Total Publications	Authorship Pattern		Occurrence of Authors
		Single-authored	Multi-authored	
1999	1	1	0	1
2000	-	-	-	-
2001	4	1	3	7
2002	1	1	0	1
2003	1	1	0	1
2004	-	-	-	-
2005	1	0	1	2
2006	3	1	2	5
2007	1	1	0	1
2008	-	-	-	-
2009	5	2	3	10
2010	5	0	5	12
2011	8	2	6	22
2012	6	2	4	12
2013	3	2	1	4
2014	7	0	7	20
2015	8	1	7	16
2016	9	3	6	18
2017	7	0	7	19
2018	8	1	7	22
2019	9	1	8	22
2020	10	1	9	23
2021	3	0	3	11
Total	100	21	79	229

Table 2 represents the authorship pattern where a total of 229 occurrences of authors have been depicted; the data reveals 21 papers by single authored and 79 multi authored during the study period. It means average authorship of a

paper is 2.29 and it also denotes that most of the research in the field has been done collaboratively. From 2017 to 2020 the collaboration noted highest of the research papers taken for the study.

Table 3: Document Types

Year	Document Types					Total
	Journal Articles	Conference Papers	Book Chapters	Review	Book	
1999	1	0	0	0	0	1
2000	-	-	-	-	-	-
2001	4	0	0	0	0	4
2002	1	0	0	0	0	1
2003	1	0	0	0	0	1
2004	-	-	-	-	-	-

2005	1	0	0	0	0	1
2006	2	0	0	1	0	3
2007	1	0	0	0	0	1
2008	-	-	-	-	-	-
2009	5	0	0	0	0	5
2010	4	1	0	0	0	5
2011	4	2	0	2	0	8
2012	6	0	0	0	0	6
2013	3	0	0	0	0	3
2014	3	1	3	0	0	7
2015	8	0	0	0	0	8
2016	8	0	0	1	0	9
2017	4	1	2	0	0	7
2018	5	0	0	1	2	8
2019	9	0	0	0	0	9
2020	7	0	1	1	1	10
2021	2	1	0	0	0	3
Total	79	6	6	6	3	100

Table 3 represents the document types retrieved from the database during the study period, where 79 journals articles have been found, 6 conference papers, 6 book chapters, 6 reviewed papers, and 3 books in the mentioned field of rural entrepreneurship through micro credit and SHGs.

5.1 Keywords Occurrence

Keyword occurrence means the words mostly used in a specialized field of research. It highlights the areas where the most researches are presently occurred. Keywords could be extracted in different ways with the use of VOS viewer analyzing tool. Here in figure 1 the keywords used in the field of title and abstract are shown with their strength of linking to other terms. Minimum number of occurrences of a term for the analysis has been taken as 10 and as a result out

of total 2946 terms, 57 meet the condition. The association of these 57 terms has presented in respect to their link strength. Total 4 clusters have been identified in the diagram, the first one consists of 11 terms and rests are having 9, 8 and 6 terms respectively. Some of the important keywords used in the field are rural woman, credit, micro enterprise, self help groups, rural area, rural India etc. In every research paper author has to give some keywords for the highlighting of the main themes covered by that research paper. Co-occurrence map of author keywords has presented in figure 2, where keywords are highlighted in terms of their link strength to other words. Most occurrences have been identified in the field of study are – microfinance, woman empowerment, self-help groups, empowerment, financial inclusion, micro credit etc.

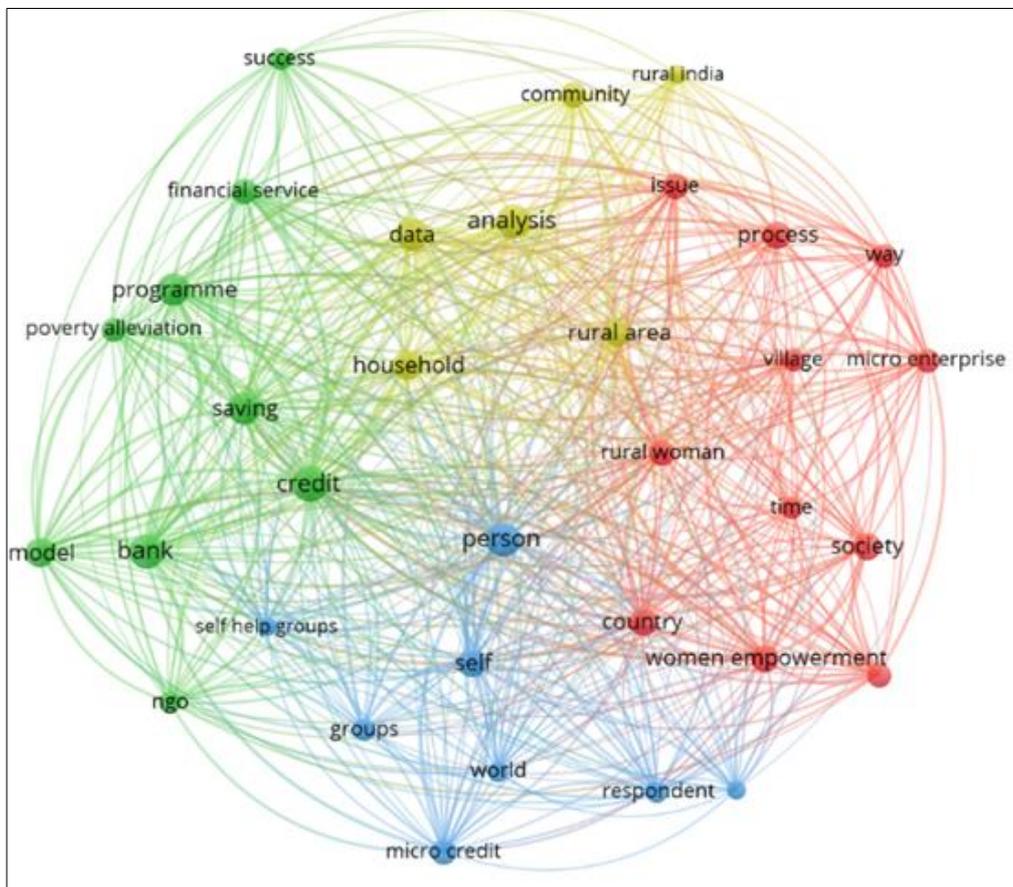


Fig 1: Co-occurrence of Keywords Extracted from Title-Abstract Fields

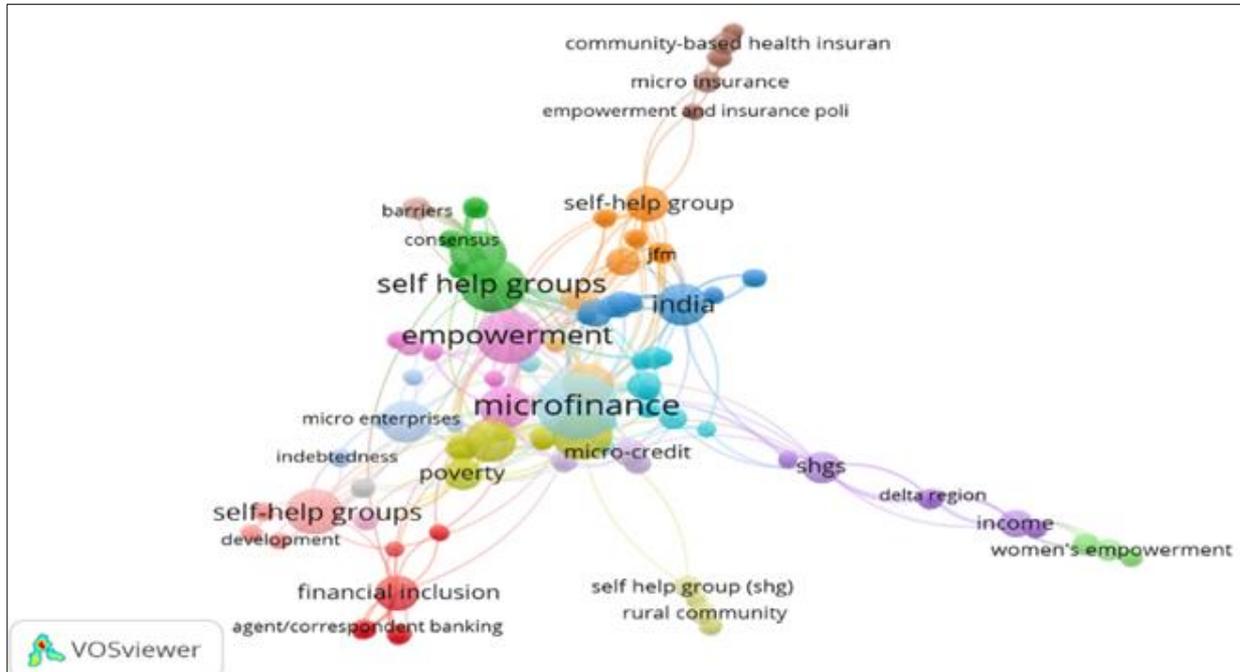


Fig 2: Co-occurrence of Author Keywords

5.2 Citation Analysis

Citation is one of the important quantitative indicators which help to understand which are the most influential research in the field. It also denotes which are the most productive research on the field. To draw a network map

with most cited papers in the field of the study the consideration has been made papers which are at least 3 citations received, and then out of 100 documents 31 meet the threshold (figure 3).

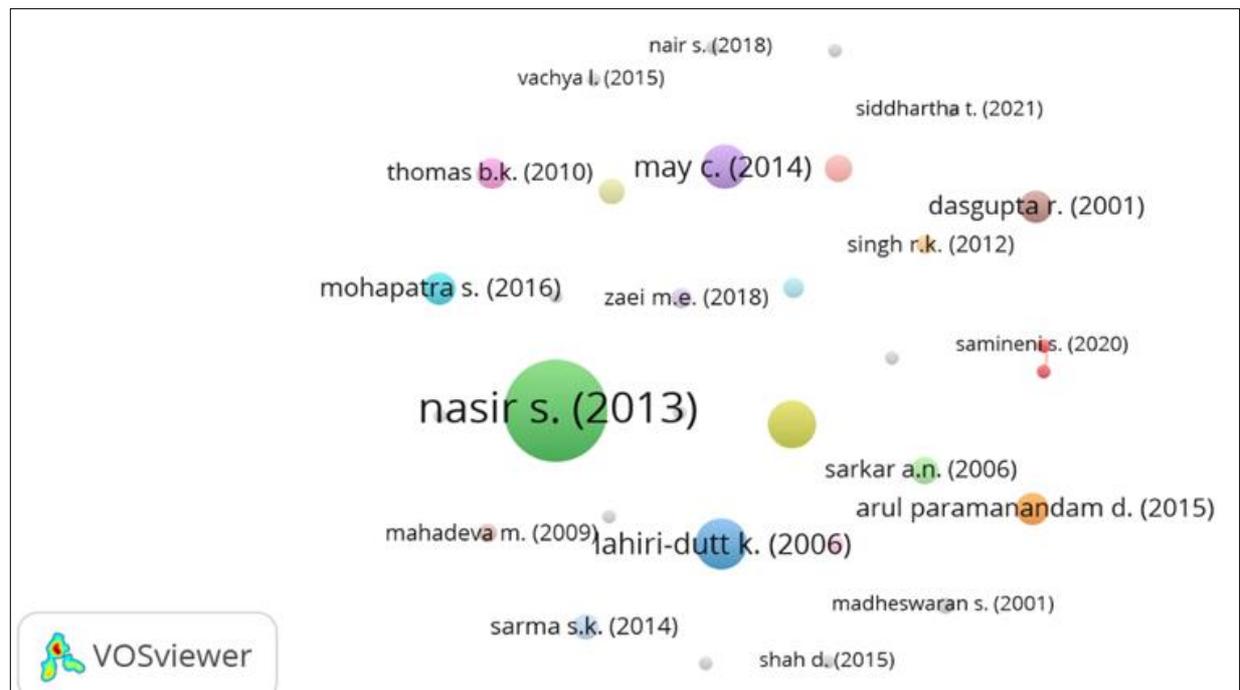


Fig 3: Most Cited Documents

Authors: nasir s.
Title: microfinance in india: contemporary issues and challenges
Source: middle east journal of scientific research, 15(2), 191-199
Year: 2013

Authors: lahiri-dutt k.; samanta g.

Title: constructing social capital: self-help groups and rural women's development in india

Source: geographical research, 44(3), 285-295

Year: 2006

Authors: premchander s.

Title: ngos and local mfis-how to increase poverty reduction through women's small and micro-enterprise

Source: futures, 35(4), 361-378

Year: 2003

Authors: mohapatra s.; sahoob k.

Title: determinants of participation in self-help-groups (shg) and its impact on women empowerment

Source: indian growth and development review, 9(1), 53-78

Year: 2016

Top four documents with their bibliographic details have showed in Fig 3. Microfinance in India: Contemporary Issues and Challenges Published in 2013 by Nasir, S. has got the greatest number of citations. The other titles with the greatest number of citations covered the topics like self-help groups, micro enterprise, rural India, women empowerment etc.

6. Conclusion

The analysis of the research focuses on year-wise publications, citations pattern, channel of communication, types of documents and keyword occurrences on mentioned topic of rural entrepreneurship through micro credit and SHGs from the published literature during the study period recorded in the Scopus database. The study reveals that there are only 100 papers published in a span of 22 years from 1999-2021, which indicates that the research published on the topic is very less. For the growth of the field there should be a certain amount of research evidences is always necessary for the stakeholders or for the decision makers. The growth of any field largely depends on the research already done on that particular area. So, the study concluded that the researcher of the field should initiate more and more research for the growth of the field.

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