

**Entrepreneurship Qualities of Members of Self Help Groups in  
Dharwad District of Karnataka State**

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**ABSTRACT** The women self help groups play an important role in the entrepreneurship development in the rural areas. The nationwide development programmes are focusing on the formation of women self-help groups at the village level and through these groups the rural families can march towards the overall development of the quality of life of women. The development of the women entrepreneurial skills gained its importance in India after the declaration of the International decade for women by the United Nations Organization, i.e. from 1975 to 1985. The hidden entrepreneurial potentials of women have gradually started changing with the growth sensitivity to the role and economic status in the society. The present study focuses on the various enterprises taken up by the self-help groups in the selected area and the identification of entrepreneurial qualities of women members of these groups organized in the rural areas of Dharwad District. The study revealed that out of the 15 self-help groups, three were registered and all groups had the bank account with joint signatories and conducted regular meetings. As high as 85.97 percent members participated in the wholesale purchase and sale of consumer goods with marginal profit to the society or self-help group. The traditional enterprises of leaf plate production and marketing was taken up by maximum percentage of women (31.7%). About 40.2 percent members were identified to have the quality 'cooperation' followed by the qualities 'contribution of new ideas in meeting' (17.95% and 'purchasing abilities'(17.56%). Qualities like 'innovative ideas' and 'self confidence' were identified in the least percentage of members of the selected self-help groups.