

Empowerment of Women through Self-Help Groups (SHGs): A Case Study of Viswa Santhi Balananda Kendram (VSBK)

K. Prabhakar*, K. Lavanya Latha and A. Papa Rao***

**Department of Anthropology, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati 517 502,
Andhra Pradesh, India*

***Department of Management Studies, Pondicherry University, Puducherry 605 014, India*

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ABSTRACT The rise of the NGOs in the global context is identified as an important phenomenon, which has implication for the development prospects of the poor. In recent years, all the developmental sectors emphasise on incorporation of women's participation in development. Different social and religious values, belief, norms, prejudices have kept the women far away from such development. Many development organisations throughout the country are putting concerted efforts towards women empowerment through SHGs and one such organization is Viswa Santhi Balananda Kendram (VSBK), Andhra Pradesh. The headquarters of the organisation is in Guntur and it works in the districts of Guntur and Prakasam districts of Andhra Pradesh. It focuses on the effects of the SHGs on women's participation and exercising control over decision- making, both in family matters and in group activities.