

CHAPTER- 2

Socio- economic profile of Haryana:

In the present chapter socio economic profile of Haryana state and the Mahendergarh district is given. Besides, the profile of self-help groups and Swarojgaris under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) in the Mahendergarh district has also formed part of this chapter.

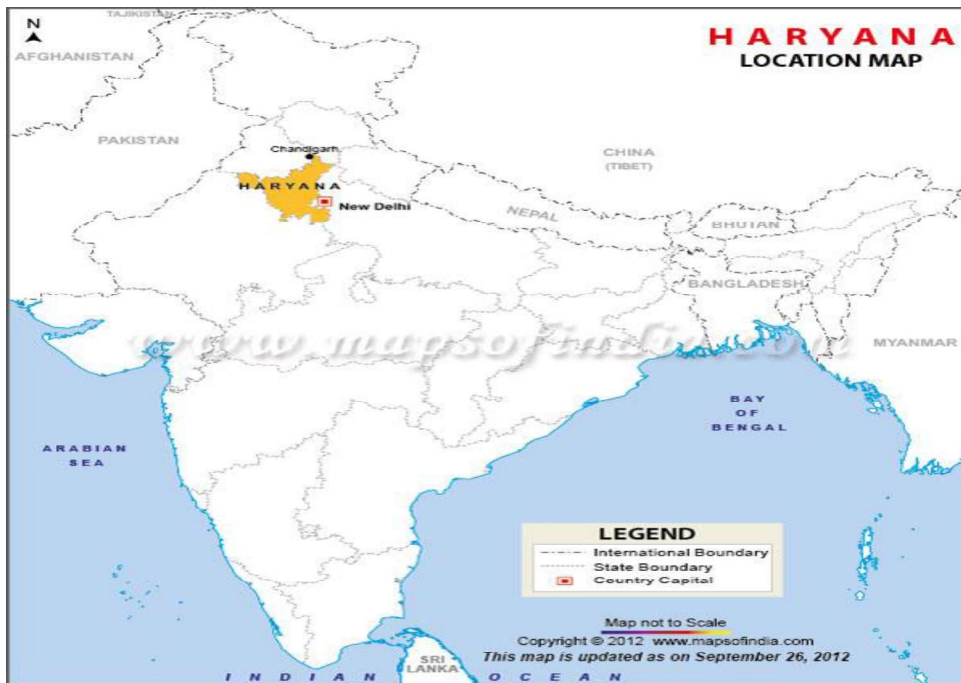
Haryana is one of the most prominent states in India. It is the sixteenth largest state in terms of area and population. The state has very plain and fertile land and is popularly known as the “Green land of India.” It is bounded by Punjab in west, Uttar Pradesh in the east, Himachal Pradesh in the north and Rajasthan in the south. Union territory of Delhi is landlocked on three sides by Haryana. Earlier this state was a part of Punjab. The passage of Punjab reorganization act (1966) lead to creation of this state on November 1, 1966. Chandigarh is the shared capital of both states even today.¹In geographical terms this state can be divided in two natural areas viz. Sub-Himalayan Terai and Indo –Gangetic plain . The plain which slopes north to south is very fertile. But south west parts of Haryanais dry, sandy and barren. Only one river named Ghaggar passes through this state. Since Ghaggar is not a perennial river, people of Haryana have to face scarcity of water. The climate of this state is adverse- very hot in summer and very cold in winter.²

The total area of this state is 44212 sq. km and according to census 2011 its total population is 25,353,081. Majority of the population (about 73%) of this state resides in rural areas. Rural population being 1, 65, 31,493 as against urban population which is 88, 21,588. Density of population of the state is 573 per sq. km. Since the no. of males (13505130) is outnumbered in comparison to the female (11, 84, 7951). So the sex ratio (per thousand of male to female) in this state is 877. The literacy rate of this state is 766. The male segment of the population is comparatively more educated than the female. (Male literacy-85.4 and Female literacy 66.8)There are 4 divisions, 21 districts, 48 sub divisions, 70 tehsils, 119 blocks and 43 sub tehsils in the state. There are 106 towns 6,955 villages in this state (table-2.2).

1. <http://www.mapsofindia.com/stateprofiles/Haryana/index/htmlvisited>.

2. *ibid*.

2.1 Profile of Haryana State



Map of Haryana



Table 2.1**Haryana: At a Glance**

Sr. No.	Items	Haryana	Mahendergarh
1	Area	44212 sq km	1,899.00 sq km
2	Population(2011)	25353081	921680
3	Rural population	1,65,31493	788705
4	Urban population	8821588	132975
5	Density of population	573 per sq km	485 per sq km
6	Male	13505130	486553
7	Female	11847951	435127
8	Sex ratio	877	894
9	Literacy rate	76.6%	78.9%
10	Male literacy rate	85.4%	91.3%
11	Female literacy rate	66.8%	65.3%
12	Sub divisions Districts	48	NIL
13	Districts	21	NIL
14	Blocks	119	5
15	Towns	106	2
16	Villages	6955	377

Source: Statistical Abstract Haryana, 2010-2011, Economic and Statistical advisor, Planning Department, Govt. of Haryana. Chandigarh, 2011,P-23 &38

Source: Director of census operations, Haryana 2011

About 60% of land of Haryana is irrigated and thus suitable for agriculture. Agriculture and cattle earning are the main occupation of the people residing in Haryana. Thus the economy of Haryana is agrarian in nature. More than 3/4th of the population here is employed in agriculture. Wheat and rice are the main crops of the state. The other important crops that are produced here are oilseeds, sugarcane, potatoes, pulses, barley, millet and maize. Due to the proximity of this state to Delhi and the easy access of farmers to the markets, the use of

fertilizers and improved seed varieties, the rate of food production in this state is sufficiently high. Besides, the people in Haryana are very fond of rearing Murrah Breed of Buffalo and cross bred cows. They are known for their love for cattle –“Haryana State enjoys the exclusive privilege of producing.A dairy animal and Haryana bred cow – A dual breed for milk production and drought power. Roughly 100000 animals have been finding export market from this state. Animals especially Murrah buffaloes crossbred cows/ bulls from the state has gone Philippines, Vietnam, Sri Lanka Nepal etc.”³Besides agriculture and cattle rearing the industrial base of this state is also very sound. It is well connected by road, rail and air network to the other part of the country. Its total road network is of 23106 km.As a result some of its cities like Gurgaon and Faridabad have also been growing rapidly hub of commercial, industrial and agricultural marketing centers. Moreover Delhi, which lies on eastern boundary of this state, serves as the main traffic hub.⁴ Prominent industries in this state includes automobiles, tyres, bicycles, glass, cement, paper and sugar milling, cotton and woolen textiles, scientific instruments etc. “ Haryana is India’s largest producer of automobile spare parts . Haryana produces the largest number of tractors in the country. It is well known for its handloom products. Panipat has earned he reputation of being the Weaver’s City) of India for its exquisite hand tufted woolen carpets and colorful handloom products”⁵. Mahendergarh is one of the twenty first district of Haryana states. It is one of the oldest districts in the state which was formed in 1948 by grouping different tracts of erstwhile princely states: Narnaul and Mahendergarh tehsil from Patiala state, Dadri from Jind district and part of Bawal Nizamt from Nabha state.⁶ In November 1980, Rewari was carved out of Mahendergarh district and makes a separate district. At present headquarters of Mahendrgarh district are located at Narnaul.Narnaul town is well known on historical map of⁶ India as the famous battle of 1857 was fought at Nasibpur village of this district which is only 3 km from this town ⁷ Narnaul town is the district headquarter and is situated on Rewari -Singhana road at a distance of 27 km from Mahendergarh town.

3. <http://panipat.nic.in/animalhusbandry.html>.

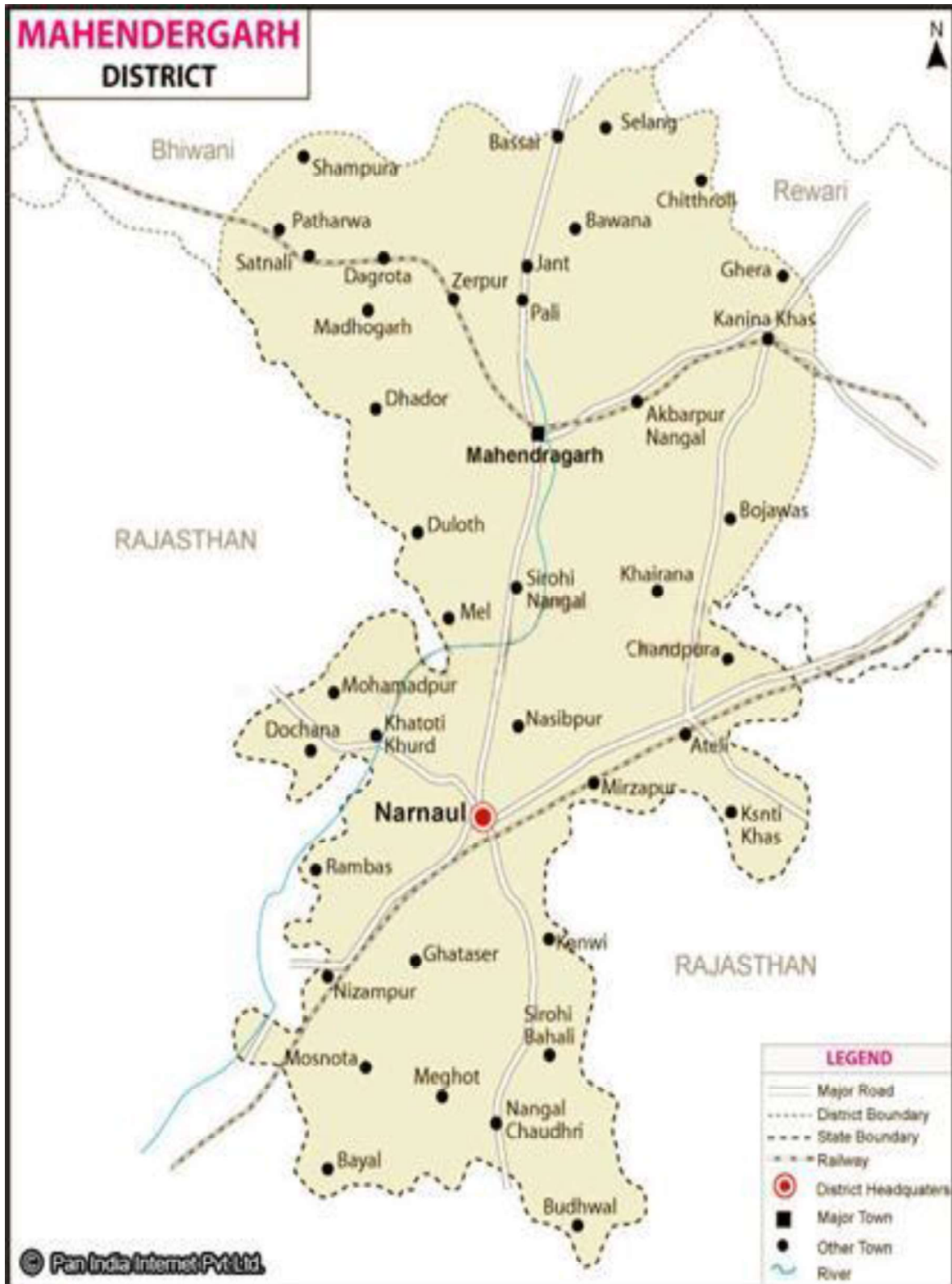
4. <http://www.mapsoindia.com/stateprofiles/Haryana/index/html>.

5. <http://www.mapsoindia.com/stateprofiles/Haryana/index/html>.

6. Haryana District Gazettters Mahendragarh, Haryana Gazettters organization, Revenue Department Chandigarh (India) 1988, p-1

7. ADC-cum- CDPO, Narnaul, District plan Documents, (City Planning and Development officer) Report 2011-12

2.3 Profile of Mahendergarh District



The town is well connected with railway and has its own station on Rewari- Bikaner line. Soil of the block area is less fertile and there is no big canal in this area and water level is very deep. Dohan River has an important status for this block. Banking institutions are sufficient in the area and there is substantial untapped potential for industrial growth.

2.4 Origin and history:

The main town of Mahendergarh district viz., Narnaul dates back to the Mahendergarh as Nai- Rashtia according to legend. Another one puts it to be about 900 years old , where lions roamed free in jungles thus the name: Narnaul(lions fear) ⁸. There is still another story about how this one Raja laun karan named at Narnaul after his wife, which with the passage of time changed and now it is called Narnaul. The town was under the Tugluks and remained with them with the regimen of Akbar and his successors. Afterwards, it was under the rule of Sikhs and maharaja of Jind.⁹ However after uprising of 1857 against the British, Narnaul passed into the hands of the ruler of Patiala, Maharaja Narender Singh, for helping the British. The battle of Narnaul was undoubtedly one of the most decisive battles of the uprising of 1857. Rao Tula Ram was the hero of first battle of independence who fought against British rule at Narnaul¹⁰.

After independence and consequent upon the formation of PEPSU in 1948, the three tracts of Narnaul viz Mahendergarh from Patiala, Dadri from Jind and Ateli from Nabha were combined to form Mahendergarh. The entire state of PEPSU was merged into Punjab in November 1956 and later on Mahendergarh became one of the district of Haryana states when this state was carved out of Punjab in November 1966.¹¹ Mahendergarh district was previously known as Kanaud which took its name from Kanandia group of Brahmans. It was found by Malik Mohammad Khan, a servant of Babar. ¹²

8. Narnaul Town, History, <http://www.mapsoindia.com/Haryana/Narnaul/index/html>

9. Narnaul Town, City planning and Development officer, District plan, Documents report - 2011

10. Narnaul Town, History, <http://www.mapsoindia.com/Haryana/Narnaul/index/html>.

11. Narnaul History, City Planning and Development officer, District plan, Documents Narnaul, CDPO-Cum-ADC

12. SGSy, Annual Action Plan, DRDA, Narnaul District Mahendergarh, Haryana, 2009-10, p-5

There was a fort in Mahendergarh which was built by Maratha ruler, Tanita Tope during the 17th century. The above fort was named as Mahendergarh in 1861 by Narender Singh, than ruler of the erstwhile princely state of Patiala, n honour of his son Mahender Singh and perhaps since then the town came to be known as Mahendergarh.¹³

2.5 Location and Boundaries:

The district lies between North latitude 27°48' to 28°28' and earth longitude 75°56' to 76°52'.¹⁴ It is bounded by North by Bhiwani and Rohtak district, on East by Rewari district and Alwar district of Rajasthan, o the South by Alwar , Jaipur and Sikkar district and the west by Sikar and Jhunjhunu district of Rajasthan.

2.6 Area:

The district has an area of 1899 sq km .It comprising two tehsils covering the area given below:

Table- 2.2

Area Profile

Tehsil	Rural area (sq km)	Urban area(sq km)	Total area (sq km)
Narnaul	750.17	7.13	957.30
Mahendergarh	753.51	11.43	764.94

Source: Haryana district gazetteers Mahendergarh

2.7 Demography:

Population of Mahendergarh district according to census 2011 is 921680 out of which 486553 are male and 435127 are female. Sex ratio is 894 female per thousand male and 778 girls per 1000 boys which is the 2nd lowest among the district in the state. The district has a literacy rate of 78.9 % and 91.3 % of male which is higher than that of the state average of 65.3 % female literate.¹⁵ According to revenue record of Mahendergarh, the tatal area of the district is 1899 sq km.

13. www.mahendergarh.nic.in/April21,2011

14. SGSY, Annual Action plan, op-cit, p.s

15. <http://www.censusindia.gov.in/may,2013>

Table-2.3

Population Data Sheet

State/Haryana	No of villages	Total Population	Male	Female	Sex Ratio	Sex Ratio (0-6)	% of 0-6 Total Population	Male Literacy Rate	Female Literacy Rate
Haryana	6955	25353081	1350130	11847951	877	13	76.6	85.4	66.8
M/Garh	377	921680	486553	435127	894	11.9	78.9	91.3	65.3

Source: <http://www.censusindia.gov.in/may,5,2011>

2.8 Economic Profile:

The economy of district is primarily based on agriculture. The main Kharif crops are bajra and Guar. The main Rabi crops are wheat, gram and mustard. The area genes a good output on mustard.¹⁶ the major problem here is the declining water table coupled with very scanty rainfall, absence of rivers and sand soil. As far as canals are concerned, they are not able to fulfill the water needs of the people whose fields are at the tail and of the canal. Since there is no streams and scanty rain there is no recharge of grounder water. Till about 1500 feet also water is not available. The soils are deficient in organic matter and require heavy doses of manure but heavy growing is not possible without abundant water supply which is not available. The soil is also bedded with lime, kankar, stone, and rock. According to revenue department 35000 hectares area (18% of district area) was not available for cultivation. 22000 hectares was put under non agriculture and 13000 hectares was barrani. Hence total cropped area is 274000 hectares.¹⁷

Nothing the day land agriculture family came in supplemental through animal husbandry.

The district is known for its Murrah and Haryana breeds of buffaloes. There 2 chilling centres in Narnaul. It has been also told that the district has a good catch of fish room its ponds.¹⁸

16. BRGF, Annual Action plan, year2010-2011, District Rural Agency Narnaul, p-15

17. Narnaul, ADC-cum-CDPO district plan documents 2010-2011, p-9

18. BRGF, Annual Action plan, year 2010-11, District Rural Agency Narnaul, Distt. Mahendergarh, p-16

Agriculture is basically rain based. The years with a good rain are able to give a high productivity. The district is also experimenting with crop diversification to the ongoing National Horticulture Mission (NHM). The govt. is also trying to reach on agreement with neighbouring state to enable it to complete the Hansi- Butana link canal. Once this canal system becomes operational the district will become one of the most prosperous districts in the state. There are some mines and minerals in many villages such as Dancholi, Rambas Dhanota, Raghunathjoura, Ghatasear, Mehrampur, Nangal- Khata, Gelhi, Jakhani, Khatoti Kalan, Khatoti- Khurd, Bhankari and Khudma. The biggest irony is that this district has the maximum tourist places but Haryana tourism has no business here, no office and no hotel. Hence the economic condition of the people is not very well due to some natural problems and political problems. People of this area are living a simple life but they are not advance in politics and this is the main reason of their backwardness. Shortage of water and rainfall is the 2nd main reason of their backwardness.

2.9 Activities of Industrial Department:

Mahendergarh district has been declared industrially backward under new industrial policy 2005 and the following schemes are being provided to the new industrial units: Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Haryana Industrial Promotion Rules 2007, Incentives for megaprojects in backward area, incentives for food processing industries, small scale industrial undertaking registration of firms and societies.¹⁹Sand and calcites are the main products used for construction of buildings. Banking institutions are sufficient in the area and a potential is there for the industrial growth.²⁰Commercial banks as on 31st March 2008 in the district are 72 in number. Co-operative societies are 250 in the district²¹ and provide necessary services to the people.

19. NIC, National Informatics Centre, Narnaul, <http://mahendergarh.gov.in/industry.aspx>.

20. Narnaul Town, ADC cum CDPO, Annual Action plan 2010-2011, p-18.

21. Statistical information of District, <http://mahendergarh.gov.in/district-administration>

2.10 Administrative:

Mahendergarh district has 2 subdivisions: Mahendergarh and Narnaul. And 2 tehsils: Narnaul and Mahendergarh. It has 3 sub- tehsils: Ateli, Kanina and Nangal Choudhary. It has 5 blocks: Narnaul, Nangal Choudhary, Kanina, Ateli, and Mahendergarh. The structure of district administrative is as follows:

Sub- Division	Tehsil	Sub- tehsil	Blocks	Villages
1. Narnaul	1. Narnaul	1.Nangal Choudhary	1.Mahendergarh	377
2. M/Garh	2. M/Garh	2.Ateli 3.Kanina	2. Kanina 3.Narnaul 4.N/Choudhary 5.Ateli	

Mahendergarh is the part of Bhiwani- Mahenderharh parliamentary constituency. There are 4 legislative constituencies in this district: Mahendergarh, Narnaul, Ateli, and Nangal Choudhary. Narnaul became a class 3rd municipality in 1950 and Mahendergarh, Ateli and Kanina in 1956²². With the passage of Haryana Municipal Act 1973. Kanina, Ateli and Mohindergarh were declared notified area.²³The zila parishad at the district level was abolished in 1973, which was restored in 1977-78. There are 566 Gram Panchayat with 670 sc panchayat and 566 women panchayat. There are total 37 villages in district Mahendergarh out of which 221 villages are under administration of Narnaul tehsil and 149 villages are under administration of Mahendergarh tehsil ²⁴.

2.11 Profile of Self-Help-Groups and Swarajgaris :

The concept of poor coming together as an informal, people –level micro-institution is not entirely alien to the cultural ethos of the rural societies of several states in

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22. Election Commission of India constituency wise report of electors in the final roll-2011, date of final publication, 05-01- 2011, state Haryana.
 23. BRGF, Annual Action plan, year 2010-2011 District Rural Development Agency Narnaul, District mahendergarh, p-22
 24. DSO- report, District social economic revolution report 2008-09, District Mahendergarh.

India. People do come together in small groups for cultural, social and even at times economic purposes. In fact, the caste ties are strong indicators of people's choice to live in small groups for day-to-day transactions. However, instances of individual households coming activities, particularly non-farm enterprises are few. This is because of lack of skills and capabilities to sort out the conflicting perceptions regarding the sharing of the resources, infrastructure and institutions for economic gains. When the poor in the study areas, particularly women, were organised into SHGs under DWCRA in the late 1980s, the rural communities were formally exposed to the concept of self-help for the first time. However, the institution of SHGs did not strike roots in these communities because few groups were trained and built for sustenance. In the study areas, most of them were formed to meet targets and by the late 1990s, almost all of them ceased to exist. With the launching of the SGSY in 1999, the SHGs were promoted afresh.

In relative sense, the SHG movement in the Mahendragarh district chosen for the study is a later starter. Unlike the south, in this district lost considerable time in sowing the seeds of SHG concept during the DWCRA years. The SHGs formed in these years were not taken to their logical end. Almost all of the groups were left unattended to and became dormant and disintegrated. For almost five years, the number of SHGs in these states remained at an insignificant level. Interactions with the SHG members and the office-bearers at the grassroots level very clearly indicate that the groups were formed to meet the targets.

Self-Help-Groups:

The Self-Help-Groups is an association of people belonging to similar socio-economic characteristic, residing in same locality. The SHGs is voluntary associations of people formed to attain some common goals. These are groups which have similar social identity, heritage, caste or traditional occupations, and come together for a common cause and manage resources for the benefit of the group members. The SHGs is a group of rural poor who have volunteered to organize themselves into a group for eradication of poverty of the members. They agree to save regularly and convert their savings into a common fund. The members of the group agree to use this common fund and such other funds that they may receive as a group through a common management. The SHGs usually generate a common fund out of small savings from persons of groups collected on a regular basis.

Membership Size, Age and Income Status :

In the study areas, the membership size of the Self-Help-Groups varied from 10 to 13 with an average membership of 11. Membership size in Narnaul block (13) was the highest. In Mahendergarh block, average size of a group was 11.32. One of the factors for the size being restricted to 12 is that the subsidy component is limited to a maximum of Rs.1.25 lakh per group or Rs.10, 000 per member. The proportion of APL members ranged from two per cent in Ateli to 24 per cent in Kanina. Fifty six per cent of the members fell in the age group of 18-35 years and the remaining 44 per cent between 36-60 years. In Narnaul block, more than 71 per cent of the members were in the age group of 18-35 years.

Gender:

The Self-Help-Groups are predominantly female oriented as 90 per cent of the members were women. In Narnaul block 95 per cent of the members were women, and in Ateli block the per cent of women was as high as 98. Kanina block and Mahendergarh block also showed a high proportion of women in Self-Help - Groups .Nangal/Choudary block the proportion of women membership was lower 80 per cent.

Social Background:

The Swarojgaris belong to Scheduled caste (SC) 70 per cent and Backward classes (BC) 25 per cent . Of these, SC and BC category swarojgaris together accounted 95 per cent .these were followed by other communities (OCs) (4 per cent) and Handicapped (1per cent). The high proportion of SC members Self- Help –Groups.

Literacy Level

Low literacy level is the characteristic of the swarojgaris. Of the total Self-Help-Groups, 50 per cent members to be illiterate.SHG's with primary level of education accounted for just 30 per cent and the ones with primary-plus educational level 20 per cent of the total SHG's in Mahendergarh district.Unfortunately, due to lack of proper training and capacity building, this higher level of primary education could not be translated into an advantage in building the capacity of the swarojgaris for effective participation in the SHG movement.

Homogeneity of the Group:

While forming the group, it is recommended that members belonging to same occupation, caste ,ethnic and socio-economic status may be mobilised together so as to ensure cohesiveness of the group.Members heterogeneous profile can pull the group in different directions leading to group disintegration . A maximum of Self-Help-Groups same socio-economic conditions in Mahendergarh district.

Internal Lending:

Self-Help-Groups are meant to engage in internal lending to members, from their corpus. This provides members with opportunities to acquire skill for prioritising the use of scarce resources, to asses the financial discipline of each member, to finalise the loans and monitor the schedule of the repayment, and fix interest rates .This enables the group to develop skills in financial management, maintenance of accounts, establishing rapport the bank,and providing opportunities to acquire banking habit . This being a crucial indicator of the group's financial maturity .about the 30 per cent self –Help Groups have not taken up internal lending. In Mahendergarh district about 70 per cent SHGs have undertaken regular and continuous internal lending.

1.11.8 LivelihoodActivities:

The objective of Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana is to bring appreciable improvement in the economic status of the swarozgaris and to bring them above poverty line. In Mahendergarh district ,An overwhelming majority of self-help groups members engaged in dairy activities.95.98 per cent SHGs engaged in dairy activities 2.02 per cent SHGs involved in farm-activity,one per cent SHGs running shops and one per cent engaged in mix and miscellaneous activities, such as pickle manufacturing,sewing,handloom,cooks in Government school.

On the issue of choice of dairy as a key activity by a vast majority of self-help groups in Mahendergarh district, the Project Economists claimed that it is not the violation of the scheme. They held that dairy is one of the key activities in this district and that the choice of activity was the prerogative of the self-help groups.