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Self-help group and empowerment of women- A case of Haveri district of Karnataka

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ABSTRACT

Self Help Groups (SHGs) Women's self-help groups (WSHGs) in particular, represented a form of intervention that is a radical departure from most current programmes. They are an effective strategy for poverty alleviation, human development, and social empowerment. Poverty represents a negative facet of human development. The state of Karnataka has always recognized the need for, and value of financial services to the poor. Yet there is no reason to believe that the basic reasons why people need money. The poor borrow money to life events like births, deaths, wedding etc. And to meet emergency needs related to the accidents drought and illness and for others unforeseen contingencies.

Keywords— Self Help Groups, Women Social Empowerment, Bank linkage, Poverty alleviation

1. INTRODUCTION

Women's empowerment has become a central feature in India. The key instrument for supporting women's empowerment is self-help groups. These self-help groups are the financial intermediary which may be registered or unregistered committees supporting socio-economically backward people to overcome the hurdles that they face in their day to day life by providing financial support for the betterment of their life. Self-help groups consist of ten to twenty members usually women as a mixed group of men and women is not preferred who contribute their small savings to the common fund until there is enough capital formed for lending purpose back to the needy members as per the decisions taken by the group members. Through the self-help groups, it is possible for the rural and urban women to be economically independent and also motivates them to take independent decisions.

Self Help Groups (SHGs) Women's self-help groups (WSHGs) in particular, represented a form of intervention that is a radical departure from most current programmes. They are an effective strategy for poverty alleviation, human development, and social empowerment.

Poverty represents a negative facet of human development. The state of Karnataka has always recognized the need for, and value of financial services to the poor. Yet there is no reason to believe that the basic reasons why people need money. The poor borrow money to life events like births, deaths, wedding etc. and to meet emergency needs related to the accidents drought and illness and for others unforeseen contingencies.

Shakti Groups comes under NABARD's self-help group bank linkage programme, borrows from banks once they have accumulated a base of their own capital and have established a track record of regular payments. Normally Stri shakti groups must have actively worked at least for six months to get introduced to the bank. The group must have regular savings and maintenance of loan accounts and functioning successfully.

Since Stri Shakti self-groups depends upon the individual savings of the members, inculcate the habit of savings among the rural woman. This study aims to reflect the performance and maintaining the accounts in the study area.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

1. **Ajit Borah (2014)** passed the empowerment of women through SHGs by studying in Nagaun District of Assam. The researcher concluded that women are part and parcel of our society, so it is essential to empower them.
2. **Perways Alam and Mohammad Nijamuddin (2013)** examined the women empowerment through self-help groups in district Mewat of Haryana. The results of the study revealed that SHGs had a greater impact on both economic and social aspects of the beneficiaries.

3. **Sahu Lopamudra, Singh Suresh K (2012)** explained the women empowerment is an essential precondition for elimination poverty. Many International and National bodies have stressed on women empowerment giving attention to their participation in society, decision-making, education, and health. Their study concluded that SHGs had provided women a common platform to discuss and solve their individual and community's problems.
4. **Motha K (2004)** this study was conducted in Indore district of Madhya Pradesh by taking 50 women entrepreneurs. The objective was to know about rural women entrepreneurs who took initiative to start business and reason behind that decision. This study concludes that the most compelling reasons for entering into the business field were economic in nature.

3. OBJECTIVES

- To study the socio-economic profile of the SHG.
- To determine the impact of women savings in SHG in enhancing their economic empowerment.
- To analyze the operating performance of SHG

4. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The present study evaluated the socio-economic profile of the women in SHG and their empowerment through SHG by selecting the women self-help groups and its members in Haveri district of Karnataka

5. HYPOTHESES

HO: There is no significant difference in savings by SHG members before and after joining SHG

H1: There is a significant difference in savings by SHG member before and after joining SHG

HO: There is no significant difference in accessing loans by SHG members before and after joining SHG

H1: There is a significant difference in accessing loans by SHG members before and after joining SHG

6. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Earlier women were restricted to take part in any social activities and not given roles in decision making in her family. The situation was, even more, worsening in rural and remote areas. Now the situation has been changed. She is given the freedom to do what she wishes. In today's scenario more, women are engaged in income-generating activities. This is because of NGO and other financial institution came forward to provide microfinance to poor women. They believe that a woman is the small credit risk and often benefits the whole family. The main aim of microfinance is to empower women. This induced the researcher to focus more on the empowerment of rural women who participates in the microfinance.

7. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study is undertaken in rural areas of Haveri district. Both primary and secondary data is used. Primary data is enumerated from a field survey in the study region. Secondary data is collected from books 'magazines, journals, and internet. Total 100 samples have been collected for the research from the taluks of Haveri district of Karnataka. The data thus collected was properly analyzed and interpreted using proper tools and tables.

Table 1: Women entrepreneurs in Haveri district

S. No	Taluk	No. of Entrepreneurs	Percentage
01	Haveri	335	14.92
02	Ranebennur	485	21.61
03	Shiggoan	263	11.71
04	Hanagal	285	12.69
05	Hirekerur	368	16.39
06	Savanur	264	11.76
07	Byadagi	245	10.92
	Total	2245	100.00

Source: District Industry center, Haveri

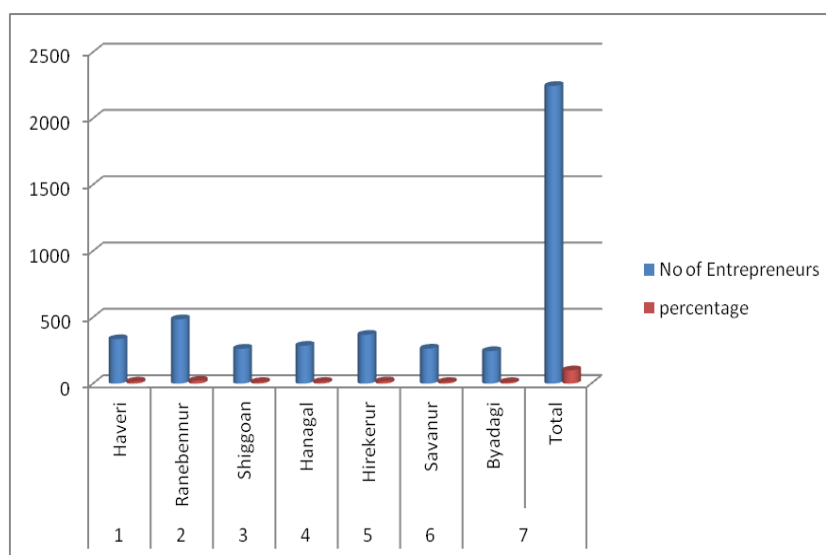


Fig. 1: Graph showing women entrepreneurs in Haveri district

Table 1 discloses the total number of women entrepreneurs of all 7 taluks of Haveri district. A total number of women entrepreneurs increased from 2007 to 2016 is 2245. Ranebennur is topping the list whereas Byadagi is at the last place. It reveals that entrepreneurial activities are more in some taluks and less in others, which creates an imbalance of entrepreneurs in the district. So, the need arises to create a balance in a number of women entrepreneurs in the district. This will bring development in the district as a whole.

Table 2: Growth of women entrepreneurs in Haveri district

S. No.	Year	No of Entrepreneurs	Percentage
01	2007	139	6.19
02	2008	146	6.51
03	2009	184	8.19
04	2010	210	9.36
05	2011	221	9.84
06	2012	243	10.82
07	2013	254	11.32
08	2014	268	11.94
09	2015	279	12.42
10	2016	301	13.41
	Total	2245	100.00

Sources: District Industry Centre, Haveri

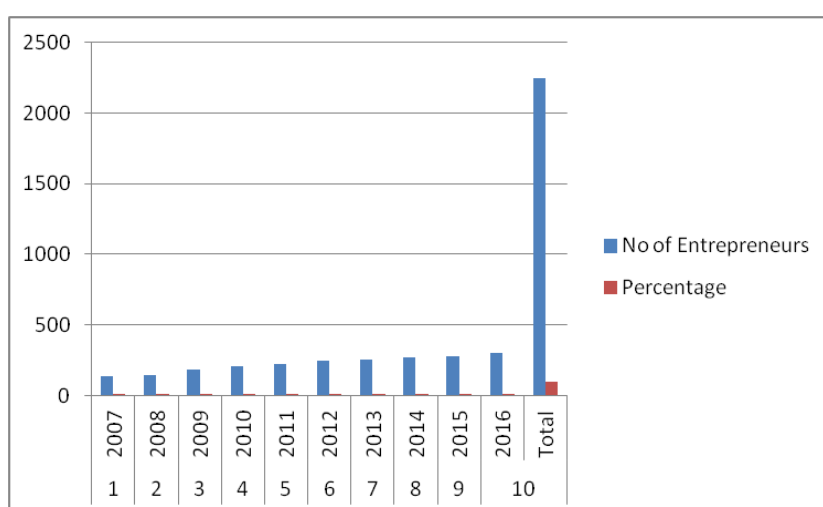


Fig. 2: Graoh showing growth of women entrepreneurs in Haveri district

Table 2 shows that the growth of women entrepreneurs in the study area is in increase tread year by year, it identifies that the participation of women entrepreneurs is in increasing trend in the study area. It starts with 6.19 during 2007 and reaches its goal in 2016 with 13.41 percentage of growth.

Analysis: The data collected in the field is analyzed as follows:

Table 3: Age level of respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage
Below-30	12	12%
30-40	58	58%
40-50	22	22%
Above-50	08	08%
Total	100	100%

Sources: Field survey

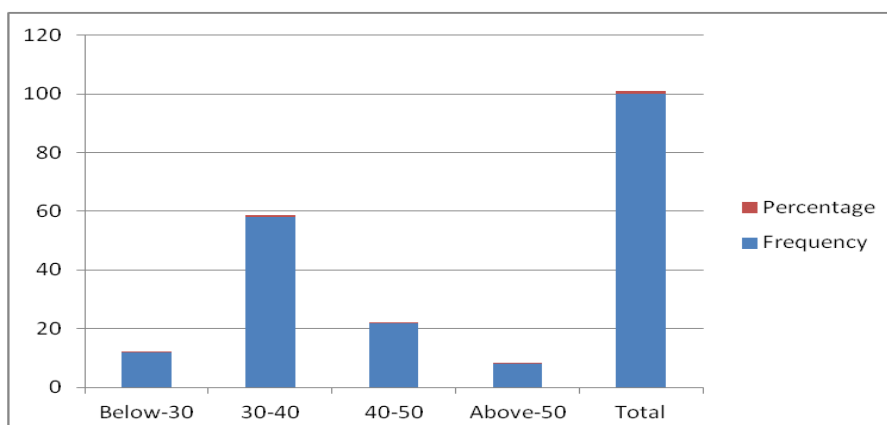


Fig. 3: Graph showing age level of respondents

Table 3 displays that out of 100 respondents selected for the study, 58% of the members are in between 30-40 years. It is followed by 22% of the members are in between 40-50 years. The members below 30 and above 50 are only 20%.

Table 4: Religion of respondents

Religion	Frequency	Percentage
Hindu	56	56%
Muslim	32	32%
Christian	10	10%
Others	02	02%
Total	100	100%

Sources: Field survey

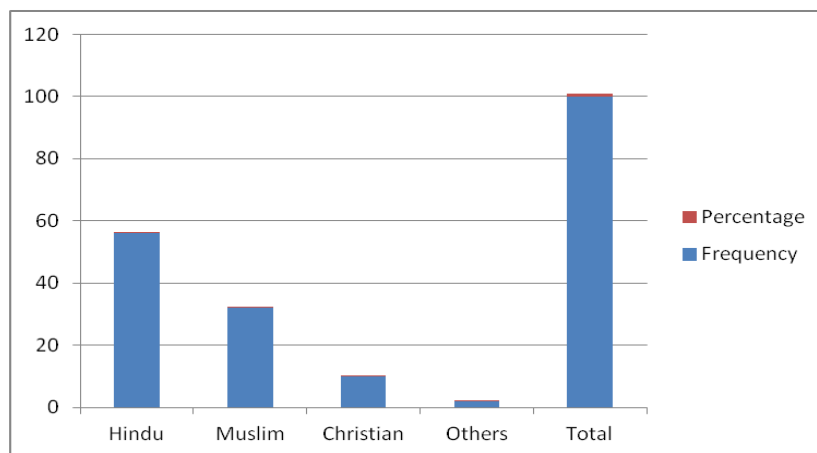


Fig. 4: Graph showing religion of respondents

As depicted in Table 4 most of the respondents were Hindu; they represented 56% of the total sample size. Muslim and Christian were 32% and 10% respectively. Other religions were only 2%.

Table 5: Level of education of respondents

Level of Education	Frequency	Percentage
Illiterate	31	31%
Primary	53	53%
Secondary	07	07%
Intermediate	05	05%
Degree and above	04	04%
Total	100	100%

Sources: Field survey

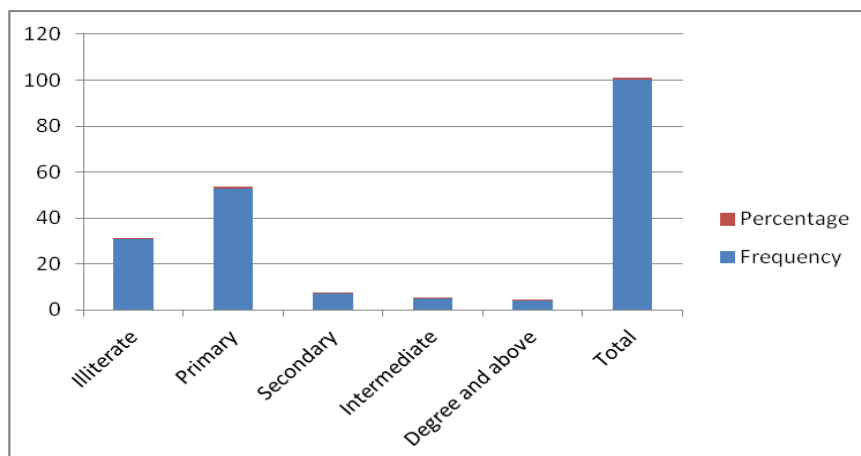


Fig. 5: Graph showing level of education of respondents

As displayed in table 5, 31% of the respondents are illiterate. 53% of the respondents had primary education. Secondary and intermediate education holders represented 7% and 5% sample date respectively. Only 4% of respondents had a degree and above.

Table 6: Marital status of SHG members

Marital Status of SHG	Frequency	Percentage
Married	92	92%
Unmarried	08	08%
Total	100	100%

Sources: Field survey

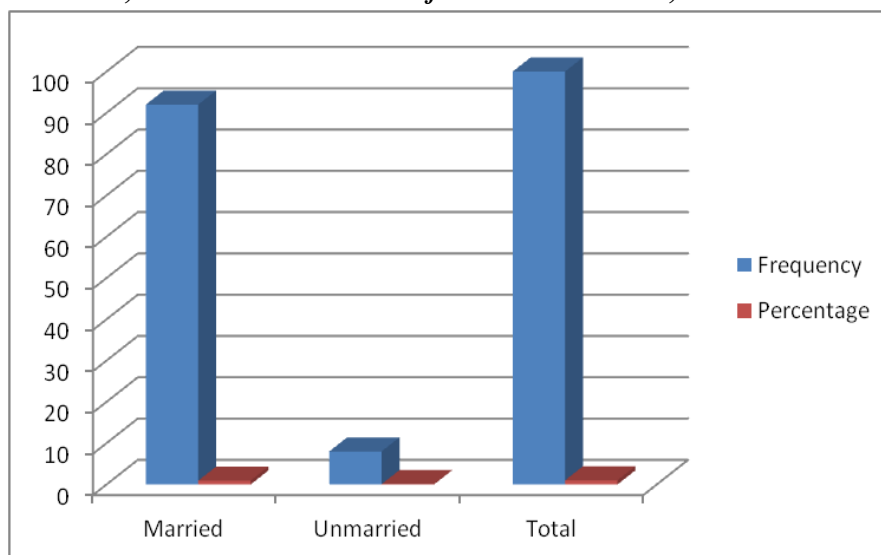


Fig. 6: Graph showing marital status of SHG members

Table 6 shows the marital status of the SHG members. Out of the total respondents, 92% of them are married and only 8% of the respondents are unmarried.

Table 7: Reasons for joining the SHG

Reasons	Frequency	Percentage
Improve Social Status	17	17%
Improve Economic Status	23	23%
Promote Saving Habit	18	18%
Obtain Financial Support	30	30%
Initiate Group Activities	08	08%
Community Development Activities	04	04%
Total	100	100%

Sources: Field survey

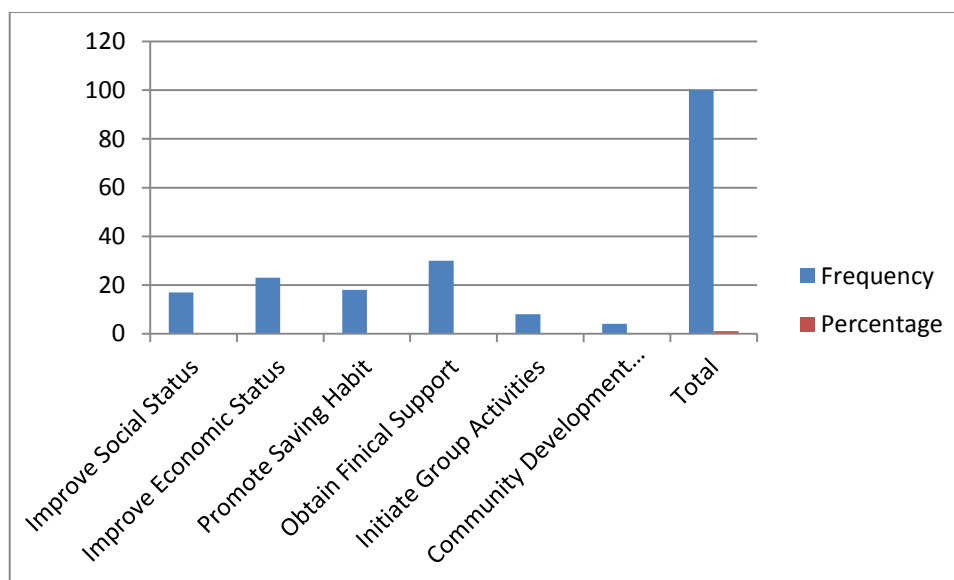


Fig. 7: Graph showing reasons for joining the SHG

Table 7 indicates that 30% of the members have joined with an intention of the financial facilities for doing their own business.

Table 8: SHG member's saving patterns before and after joining SHG

Savings before joining	Frequency	Percentage	Savings After joining	Frequency	Percentage
No	88	88%	NO	0	0%
Yes	12	12%	Yes	100	100%
	100	100%		100	100%

Sources: Field survey

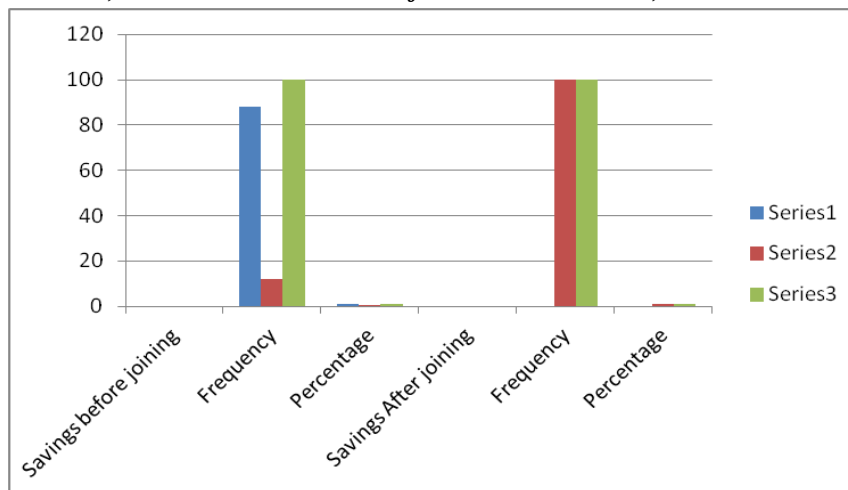


Fig. 8: Graph showing SHG member's saving patterns before and after joining SHG

As depicted in table 8 the numbers of SHG members who made savings before joining SHG were only 12% of the respondents, after joining SHG all respondents 100% reported to be making savings. A shift of 88% on women participation in savings shows that the SHG has inculcated the saving culture among its members.

It is also cleared that the calculated value of the Chi-Square test is 136.14 and its critical value at 5% level of significance of 1 def. is 3.841 which is less than the computed value. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected. This signifies that there is a significant difference in making savings by SHG members before and after joining SHG.

Table 9: Number of SHG members who have access bank before and after joining SHG

Bank loan before joining	Frequency	Percentage	Bank loan After joining	Frequency	Percentage
No	93	93%	NO	12	12%
Yes	07	07%	Yes	88	88%
	100	100%		100	100%

Sources: Field survey

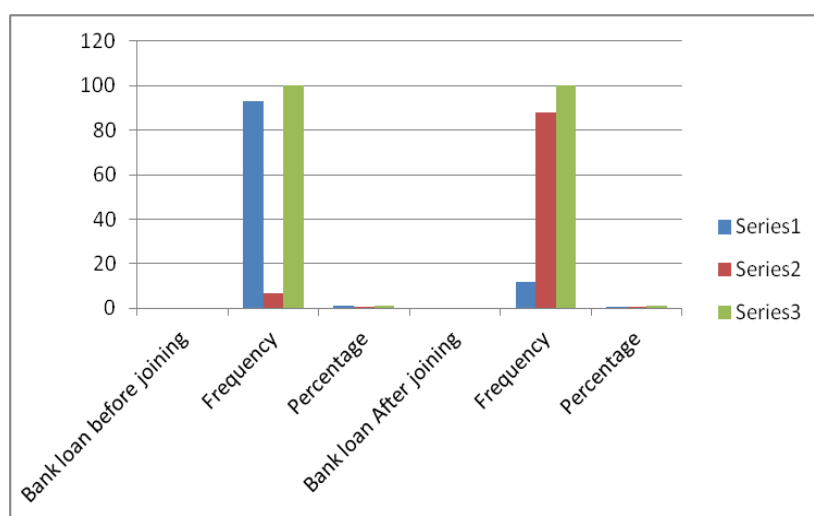


Fig. 9: Graph showing number of SHG members who have access bank before and after joining SHG

As depicted in table 9 only 7% of the respondents had taken a bank loan, the other respondents 93% had not taken bank loan before joining SHG. After joining SHG 88% of the respondents took a bank loan and 12% have not taken bank loan despite being in SHG. A shift of 88% shows that by participating in SHG, most respondents have been able to access bank loan. This may be attributed to the fact that there are no collateral securities required for group loans and that is the reasons most respondents were able to access bank loans.

It is cleared that the calculated value of Chi-Square test is 131.54 and its critical value at 5% level of significance of 1 def. is 3.841 which is less than the computed value. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected. This signifies that there is a significant difference in accessing by SHG members before and after joining SHG.

8. FINDINGS

1. Majority of the respondents have joined SHG to maintain house expenditure and to promote income generating activities.
2. It is found that 58% of the total respondents are between the age group of 30-40 years.
3. Majority of the members of SHG are Hindus.
4. Most of the respondents that are 56% of the total had primary education. A number of illiterate members in SHGs is 31%. We can see that illiterate women also actively participated in SHG.

5. Married women members are more than the unmarried women members in SHG.
6. Savings of the members is increased after joining the SHG compared to before joining the SHG.
7. The number of respondents is increasing after joining SHG in accessing bank loans compared to before joining the SHG and statically proved by Chi-Square test that there is a significant difference in accessing loans by SHG members before and after joining SHG.

9. SUGGESTIONS

In the light of the findings made in this study, the following suggestions are made.

1. Through the SHG, the government should provide basic education to illiterate women members.
2. There is a need to train SHG members and its leaders about organization skill and leadership skills.
3. There is a need to train the SHG members to manage the savings made by them.
4. Periodical exhibitions should be organized at the national level where the products of SHG can be displayed. This will build the confidence of members and it will also act as a marketing strategy.

10. CONCLUSION

SHG is an important tool which helps the women to acquire power for their self-supportive life and nation-building efforts. The conclusion is that participating in SHG is an increased self-economic empowerment in terms of savings, access to loans and training etc. Participating in SHG is not only empowering the women but also for the family and community. Hence the government should work closely with these structures to reduce the unequal income gap among the citizens.

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