

# Project Outline

Develop a  
conceptual  
framework for  
**Women's  
Economic  
Empowerment**  
in relation to  
**TCSR D's female  
SHGs**



The focus of this project is specific however the hope is that the knowledge gained can be related to other TCSR D interventions and other forms of empowerment

# Project Outline



## **CURRENT SITUATION:**

- ✦ TCSRDR Babrala facilitates over 60 female SHGs
- ✦ Women's Economic Empowerment is integral to the TCSRDR SHG model both as an:

**Objective** (end in itself)

**Instrument** (means for other ends)

- ✦ Empowerment as a concept is hard to ground & the processes by which empowerment comes about and by which it might bring further outcomes are difficult to understand
- ✦ This reflects a need in TCSRDR to relate empowerment to its initiatives

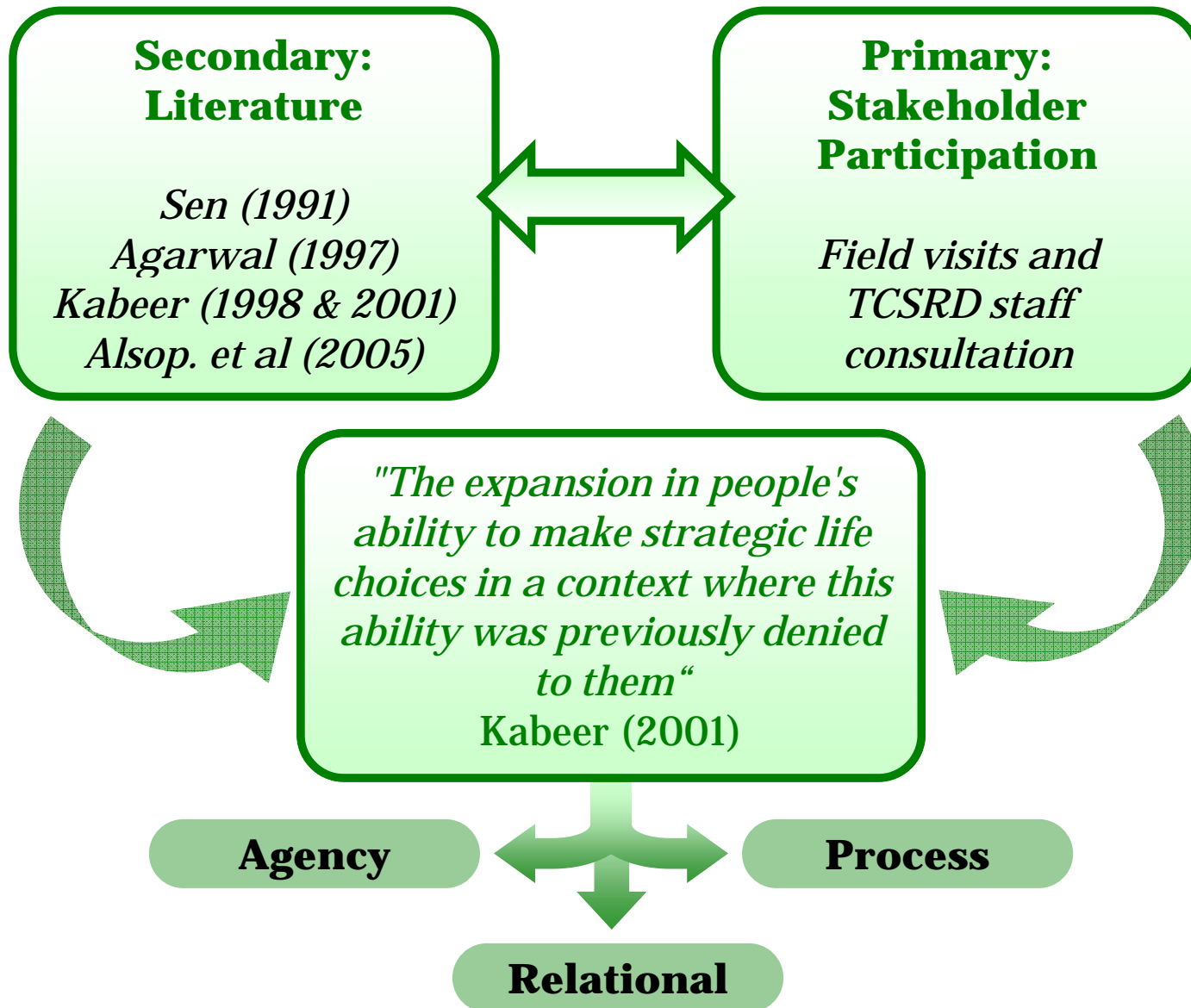
## **KEY QUESTIONS:**

- ✦ What is 'empowerment'?
- ✦ How is it possible to attain it?
- ✦ How is it possible to monitor its attainment?

# Key Objectives

- 1 Conceptualise Women's Empowerment, taking account of the multi-dimensional aspects in the social, economic & state spheres to come up with an accepted definition that can be measured and tracked
- 2 Identify the pathways to achieving economic empowerment, the barriers faced, and the actors involved, at the local, intermediary & macro levels
- 3 Determine the indicators and mechanisms for monitoring progress and impact of economic empowerment at the project and policy level

# 1 Conceptualise Women's Empowerment





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## Identify the pathways to achieving economic empowerment

- ♦ **Profile the women as economic actors**
- ♦ **Explore how rules/processes in the economic domain are enacted**
- ♦ **Identify both the barriers and enabling factors for economic empowerment**



### **Primary Research:** PRA Exercises

- ♦ **Household Level:**  
*Daily activity timeline, Matrix scoring of expenditure*
- ♦ **Community Level:**  
*Awareness & access chapatti*

### **Secondary Research:** Literature

- ♦ **Bargaining models:**  
*Agarwal (1997), Kabeer (1998), Kantor (2005)*
- ♦ **Empowerment Framework:**  
*Alsop & Heinsohn, 2005, Alsop et al. (2006)*

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## Identify the pathways to achieving economic empowerment



24/07 BKM

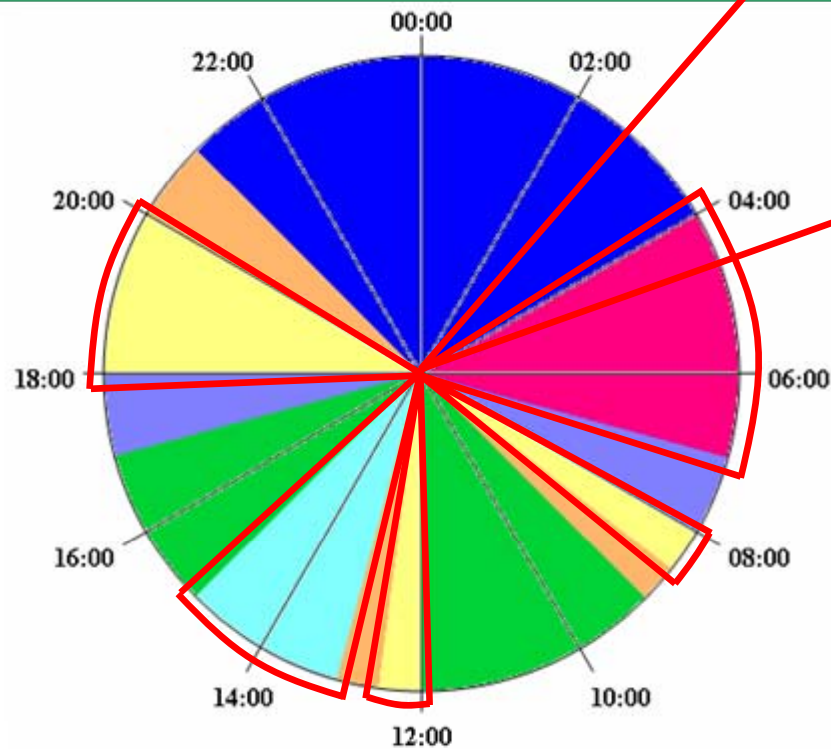
✓ Daily activity timeline

### Gendered Production

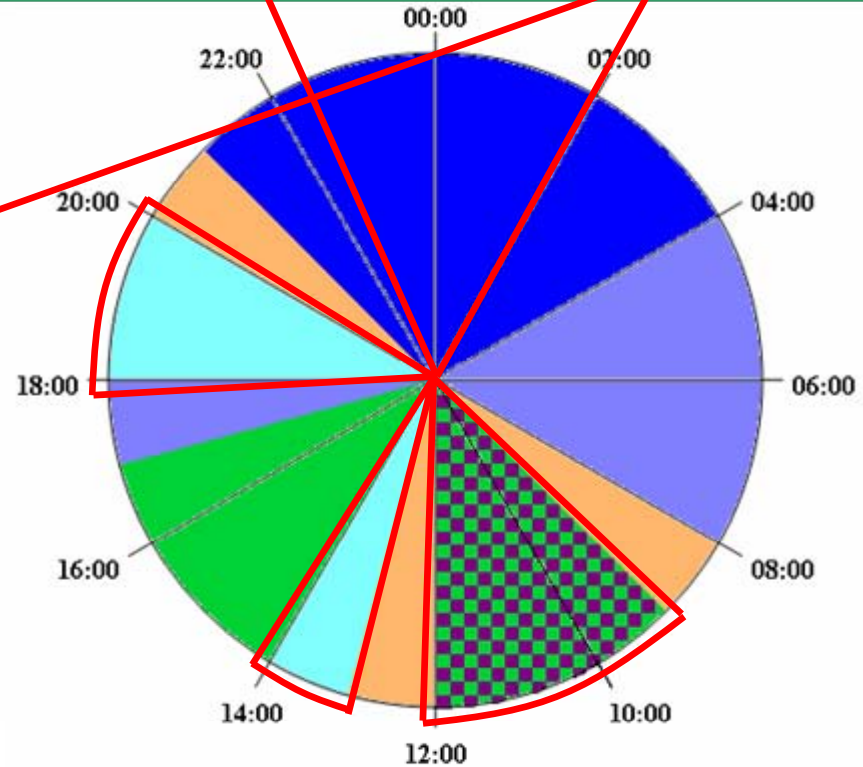
◆ Women only activities

◆ Men only activities

◆ Leisure time comparison



Women's Daily Routine



Men's Daily Routine

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# Identify the pathways to achieving economic empowerment

22/07 Jadhaspur

## ✓ Matrix scoring of household expenditure

Items Criteria	Agriculture	Land	Animal Husbandry	Daily household expenditure	Other	Other	Other	Other	Other	Other
Availability of Finance	◆◆◆ ◆◆◆ ◆◆◆	◆◆◆ ◆◆◆ ◆◆◆	◆◆◆ ◆◆◆ ◆◆◆	◆			◆	◆◆		
Personal Priority	◆◆◆ ◆◆◆ ◆◆◆	◆◆◆ ◆◆◆ ◆◆	◆◆◆ ◆◆◆ ◆◆	◆◆◆ ◆◆	◆◆◆ ◆◆◆ ◆◆	◆◆◆ ◆◆◆ ◆◆	◆◆◆ ◆◆◆ ◆◆	◆◆◆ ◆	◆◆	◆
Importance of Item (in relation to social status)	◆◆◆ ◆◆◆ ◆◆◆	◆◆◆ ◆◆◆ ◆◆◆	◆◆◆ ◆◆◆ ◆◆◆	◆◆◆ ◆	◆◆◆ ◆◆◆ ◆	◆◆◆ ◆◆◆ ◆◆◆	◆◆◆ ◆◆◆ ◆◆◆	◆◆◆ ◆◆◆ ◆◆	◆◆	◆
<b>Total Score</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Rank</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>

- ◆ Consultation process
- ◆ Men with ownership
- ◆ A need to increase women's bargaining power





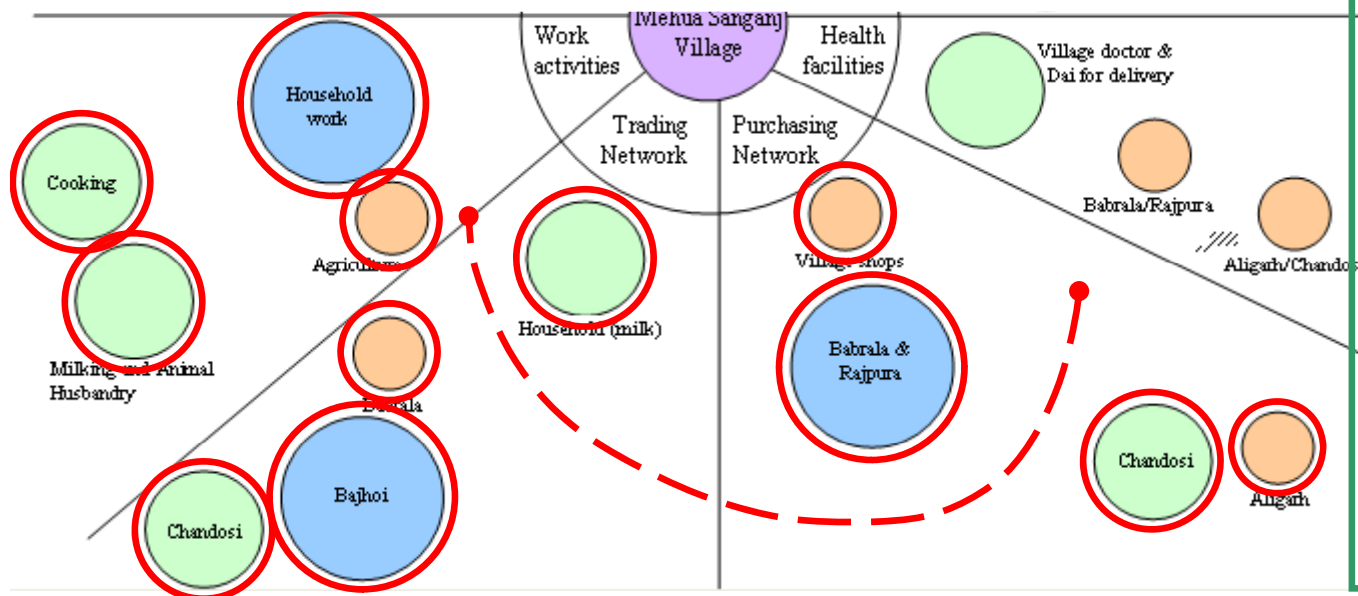
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## Identify the pathways to achieving economic empowerment

### Agency affected by:

- ♦ Formal structures: e.g. infrastructure & transport
- ♦ Informal structures: e.g. social norms
- ♦ Ability (real and perceived): e.g. skills/knowledge but also confidence

### ✓ Awareness & Access Chapatti





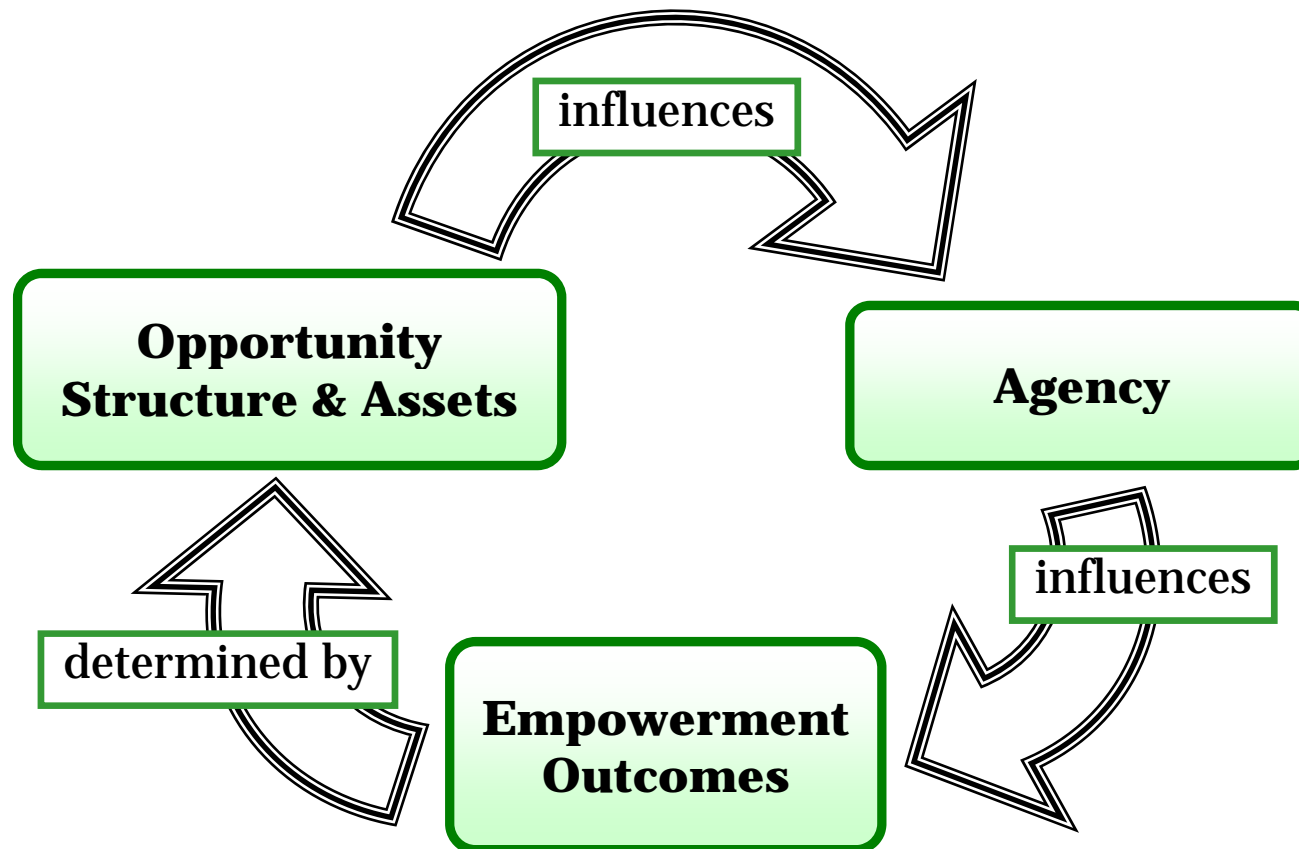
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## Identify the pathways to achieving economic empowerment

**Empowerment framework** outlined in Alsop & Heinsohn (2005) and Alsop et al (2006) breaks factors affecting agency down into:

**Assets** → equates to my use of ability

**Opportunity Structure** → equates to my use of formal & informal structures



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# Indicators & mechanisms for monitoring empowerment

DOMAINS

Expected Empowerment and Indicators

PRIORITISATION

LEVELS

TCSRDSHC empowerment indicators summarised using empowerment framework

		= primary level empowerment indicators		=secondary level empowerment indicators		=tertiary level empowerment indicators	
Domain		Macro		District or block level (intermediary)		Household or village level (local)	
		A	OS	Assets (Agency)	Opportunity Structure	Assets (Agency)	Opportunity Structure
State	Justice, Politics					Increased confidence in public-speaking	Increased participation of women in community-level organization*
Market	Production, Saving/ Loaning & Consumption			Increase in economic skills	Increased capacity of women in managing economic resources beyond the local	Increase in economic skills	Increased capacity of women to manage economic resources on a local level*
				Increase in income-generating skills	Increased capacity of women in IG activities beyond the local	Increase in income-generating skills	Increased capacity of women to manage IG initiatives on a local level*
Society	Intra-community, Intra-household			Increase in awareness of opportunities beyond the village	Expansion of women's capacity for independent movement*	Increase in social capital	Increased capacity of women to manage household economic resources: increased capacity of women to make domestic economic choices
						Willingness to contribute to economic decision making	Increased level of collective action
						Feeling of control over one's life	Increased capacity of women to make other domestic choices

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## Indicators & mechanisms for monitoring empowerment



### Monitoring Mechanisms

- ◆ Development of **Focus Group Discussions** to relate indicators to the beneficiaries level of empowerment
- ◆ **Testing & Refining** of indicators and data collection method:
  - 3 preliminary FGDs
- ◆ **Village Case study**  
Village chosen to conduct a final set of FGDs within one village:
  - 3 FGDs with female SHGs
  - FGD with male SHG
  - Interview with TCSR paid volunteer

## Refines indicators and methodology

e.g. A lack of familiarity with 'skills' demanding sensitive discussion design

## Indicates degree to which and ways in which empowerment is occurring

e.g. The most recognisable empowerment outcomes are not directly related to the economic: confidence & social capital.

**The empowerment framework acts as a predictive model providing a 'theory of change'**

## Reveals potential of how to develop policy & project

Empowerment as a process relies on the beneficiaries to recognise and utilise their assets

Economic empowerment outcomes are complex, its process can be traced through increasing bargaining power in the HH and/or increasing routes to extra IG where women have ownership





# Recommendations

## A model for female-SHG empowerment assessment

Use both proxies and face validity: FGD & Survey, **model formats submitted**

- ✦ FGD: quarterly w/double aim
- ✦ Survey: annual assessment

Use more than one indicator in a dimension to triangulate data and isolate contradictions

Repeat at regular intervals in order to objectively measure empowerment as a **process**

Involve and train **project staff** as fully as possible.

Empowerment should be validated by the **beneficiaries** through participatory processes

Maintain links between **monitoring and implementation** so that project & policy are flexible learning systems



# Recommendations

## A model for evidence-based policy analysis and project management

### PROJECT LEVEL MONITORING

1. Conceptualise empowerment and identify pathways to empowerment

2. Set out initiative's inputs

3. Set out projected empowerment outcomes

4. Measure effectiveness against indicators

5. Subsequent modification of inputs



### POLICY FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

1. Commit to operationalise empowerment across TCSR initiatives

2. Identify the areas for enquiry to understand empowerment processes

3. Establish a transparent set of assumptions predicting interventions' impacts

4. Monitor empowerment interventions and thereby policy interventions to have the greatest impact



# Personal Learning



◆ **Personal**

◆ **India**

◆ **Community  
Development**

◆ **TATA**