



## IMPACT OF STREE NIDHI THROUGH SHGS ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL WOMEN IN PRAKASAM DISTRICT OF ANDHRA PRADESH: A STUDY

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### **Abstract**

*In India, women were constituted 48.46 per cent in total population. They are playing crucial role in development of family as well as sustainable development of the economy. According to the importance of the women and their role, the constitution providing various laws, plans, policies & programme are meant for women in various dimensions. In this context, 73 and 74 Amendments through constitution has provide 33 per cent of reservation was provide for women in educational institutions, jobs, and also rural and urban area local bodies. The micro finance in India is pressure by the SHGs and their bank linkage programme which is inaugurated and implemented as a pilot study by the NABARD. This scheme main aim is to gain concept like self-sufficiency, self-reliance and self-help yet were core aspects. Under this scheme a small amount will disbursement the Indian people (hundred) through micro finance programme. Main target people of micro finance are rural and urban area households, especially of women borrowers. The present paper highlights the economic development rural women through the Stree nidhi programme in drought prone area of Prakasam district.*

**Key Words: Economic Development, Micro Finance, Women Development.**

### **Introduction**

In India, women were constituted 48.46 per cent in total population. They are playing crucial role in development of family as well as sustainable development of the economy. According to the importance of the women and their role, the constitution providing various laws, plans, policies & programme are meant for women in various dimensions. In this context, 73 and 74 Amendments through constitution has provide 33 per cent of reservation was provide for women in educational institutions, jobs, and also rural and urban area local bodies. “This has enabled women to engage in the mainstream discourse of decision making and development”.

It is urgent need for empowering women why because the number of six based criminal activates has been increased in civilized society. Women have taken right decision in various activities, when they are highly literate and aware about their social & economic right help them. “India today is on the edge of a paradigm shift in its economic growth and position in the emerging world. So we need to think big and start investing in women and girls, both in rural and urban areas which will enhance gender equality, achieve more sustainable development and accelerate progress toward the millennium development goals we should stress on the necessity and highlight the benefits of securing women’s active participation in all stages of decision making, ensuring their legal and political empowerment and their inclusion in devising strong gender responsive legal framework”.

The micro finance in India is pressure by the SHGs and their bank linkage programme which is inaugurated and implemented as a pilot study by the NABARD. This scheme main aim is to gain concept like self-sufficiency, self-reliance and self-help yet were core aspects. Under this scheme a small amount will disbursement the Indian people (hundred) through micro finance programme. Main target people of micro finance are rural and urban area households, especially of women borrowers.



“Credit follows thrift the first stage is the formation of groups by individuals themselves, followed by the mobilization of petty savings and recycling this by lending to group members. The repayment period is generally very short. The amount increases based on the borrower’s repayment. Group members usually create a common fund by contributing their small savings on regular basis. The average deposit and loan size of SHG account is larger than individual accounts under the priority sector”. In case banks will provide various training and developmental programme like enhancing management skills, and entrepreneurship development to the SHG members it would help to them in the process of income generating activities, and will help to improve their credit worthiness capacity to all women.

**Deepika (2022)** presented a research article on Impact of micro finance on SHGs case study of Nalgonda district. The main objectives of this paper are the role of NGOs and financial institution on SHGs in Nalgonda district. She selected 200 sample SHG members comprising various social groups. After selected, the primary data was collected from the selected SHG households through using interview schedule. She concluded from her study that source of repayment of loan amount is a significant, and also borrow to make repayment is also significant to the selected SHG women households in the Nalgonda district of Telangana State.

**Vivian Hoffmann and et al., (2021)** the conducted a empirical analysis on “Relief from usury: Impact of a self –help group lending programme in rural India”. “The total impact of expanded access to low-cost credit through Jeevika on rural households’ financial position can be computed as the sum of two effects: a direct effect of shifting debt from informal lenders to SHGs, and an indirect effect of the lower interest rates paid on the informal debt that remains. The direct effect is simply the difference between the average monthly rate on informal loans in the control group (5.73%, using village level data) and the SHG rate of 2% multiplied by the increase in credit obtained through SHGs in treatment areas (Rs. 1950), which we assume would otherwise have been taken from informal lenders. This amounts to Rs 872 (18.74 USD) per year. The indirect effect is calculated as the mean value of informal loans taken over the past two years in treatment areas (Rs. 16,318), multiplied by the village-based estimate of program impact on the informal interest rate (–0.29 percentage points per month), which comes to Rs 568 (12.19 USD) per year. By the time of follow-up data collection, the total effect of the program was thus to increase household’s annual disposable income by Rs. 1,441, approximately 2.3% of annual household consumption expenditure at follow-up in control villages”.

**Senthilkumar, et al. (2020)** They conducted an empirical study found and given suggestions about the SHGs, the non-Govt organizations and government authorities will take better policies for development of the rural people who have members in SHGs in Tamil Nadu State. “And also suggested that forcing sanctions is a negative impetus as is found in the investigation. So, negative act doesn’t generally yield results. In this manner individuals ought to be illuminated and propelled to go to the gatherings routinely. Increasingly more essential SHGs must be unified and town associations must be shaped. This helps the administration in the executives of the SHGs and usage of the neediness easing programs in a successful way in the locale”.

## Objectives

1. To study the importance of the micro finance.
2. To analyse the economic development of women respondents through micro fiancé (SHGs- Stree Nidhi).



### Sampling design

The present study to examine the above objectives the present study would like to take the Prakasam district as a sample study area. The following table discloses the selection of sample size.

**Table 1, Details of sample design**

S.No	Sample mandal	Sample village	Sample size
1	Giddalur	KS Palli	20
		Jayarampuram	20
		Mundlapadu	20
		Ambavaram	20
		Vellupalli	20
2	Bestavaripeta	Chetticherla	20
		Pusalapadu	20
		Mokshagundam	20
		Konapalli	20
		Galijerugulla	20
3	Cumbum	Chinna Cumbum	20
		Turimella	20
		Yerrabalem	20
		Lingapuram	20
		Mohiddinupuram	20
		<b>Total</b>	300

In present study, the researcher has selected sample Stree Nidhi SHG women members from the Prakasam district. The researcher has used multi stage random sampling techniques for selection of the sample size. According to this, three mandals were selected in first state like Giddalur, Bestavaripeta and Cumbum, each mandal five panchayat were selected in second stage, and each panchayat 20 sample stree nidhi women respondents. Altogether, three mandals, fifteen panchayat and 300 sample respondents were selected from Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh state.

### Data collection

The present study is depends on both primary and secondary data. The primary data were collected a structured interview-Schedule and it consist of various sections but the present paper highlights the economic development of women through stree nidhi activities which are related to micro finance system.

### Tools used

In the process of analysis of the research study, simple techniques were used like mean, percentages, weighted average and Chi-square test and also used some graphs and figures for easy understanding of readers.



**Table 2, Details of various benefited availed by the SHG Stree nidhi members in the study**

S.No	Programmes	No. of Stree nidhi members	Percentage
1	Bank linkage	265	88.00
2	Pavala vaddi	201	67.00
3	Land development	46	15.00
4	Collective Marketing	41	14.00
5	Nutrition and Health	67	22.00
6	Dairy Development	32	11.00
7	YSR Abhaya Hastam	38	12.00
8	Abhaya Hastam Scholarship for SHG members childrens	110	37.00
9	Jobs for SHG childrens	21	07.00

Source: Field Survey

One of the basic theme of SHG programme is to empowered the women in overall development for their own strategies. In this context, the SHG will help poor households in rural areas in Andhra Pradesh in general and selected Prakasam district households in particulars. In this context, a question was addressed to the SHG members to elicit their opinion on various benefits enjoyed by the SHG member. The details are shown in table 2 and it can be also presented that 88 per cent of the beneficiaries was availed bank loans, 67 per cent represent 201 reported that they availed loans amount with pavala vaddi, 37 per cent of the respondents of women have got scholarship to members childrens through Abhaya Hastam. It is further found that Nutrition and Health scheme benefited by the SHG members and it represent 22 per cent, seven per cent have opined that their children were got job in both private and government jobs through various coaching taken by the SHG member childrens, and some of the respondents have stated that they have been benefited in various dimensions like land development, collective marketing and dairy development etc. “Thus, it can be concluded SHG programme and its sub-schemes have benefits the SHG members in Prakasam district”.

**Table 3,Opinion of the respondents on major life changes through SHG**

S No	Changes	No. of Members	Percentage
1	Improved my knowledge about society	37	12.00
2	Improved my children’s education	115	38.00
3	Maintaining good human relations with other caste people	33	11.00
4	Increased family income through stree nidhi	115	38.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey

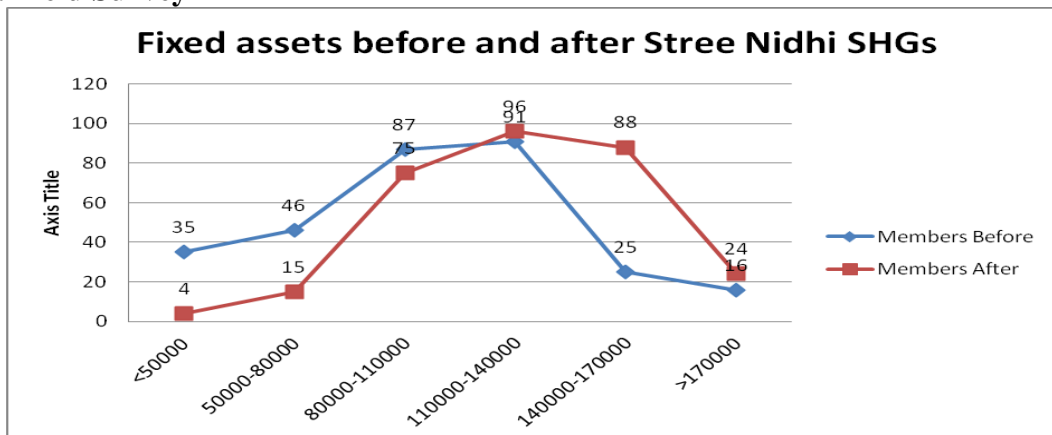


The “very purpose of the any poverty alleviation programme including SHG is aimed at creating work, earn good family income and ensure socio-economic upliftment of the families of the poor people. Keeping this inview, a question is designed and sought the opinion of the SHG members on the major changes in their life styles because of their association with SHG. The details of the opinion expressed by the selected beneficiaries are depicted in table 3. It is quite interesting to note that out of 300 SHGs as many as 115 house holds could improve their family income through the SHG followed by improving their children’s education, (38 per cent) maintaining good relations with fellow communities (11 per cent) and get exposure towards knowledge about the society. From this, it can be inferred that the SHG could bring a tangible impact in generating income, improving the education levels of the children of the households and moving freely with other caste people and gained knowledge about the society. The overall observation of the findings stated in the table, it can be concluded that the impact of SHG could be seen obviously in increasing family income, improving their children’s education, maintaining good relations with other caste people and well exposure and knowledge about the society”.

**Table 4, Impact of SHG Stree nidhi on permanent assets of select women**

S No	Fixed assets (in Rs)	Members	
		Before	After
1	<50000	35 (12.00)	04 (01.00)
2	50000-80000	46 (15.00)	15 (05.00)
3	80000-110000	87 (29.00)	75 (25.00)
4	110000-140000	91 (30.00)	96 (32.00)
5	140000-170000	25 (08.00)	88 (29.00)
6	>170000	16 (05.00)	24 (08.00)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b> <b>(100)</b>	<b>300</b> <b>(100)</b>

Source: Field Survey





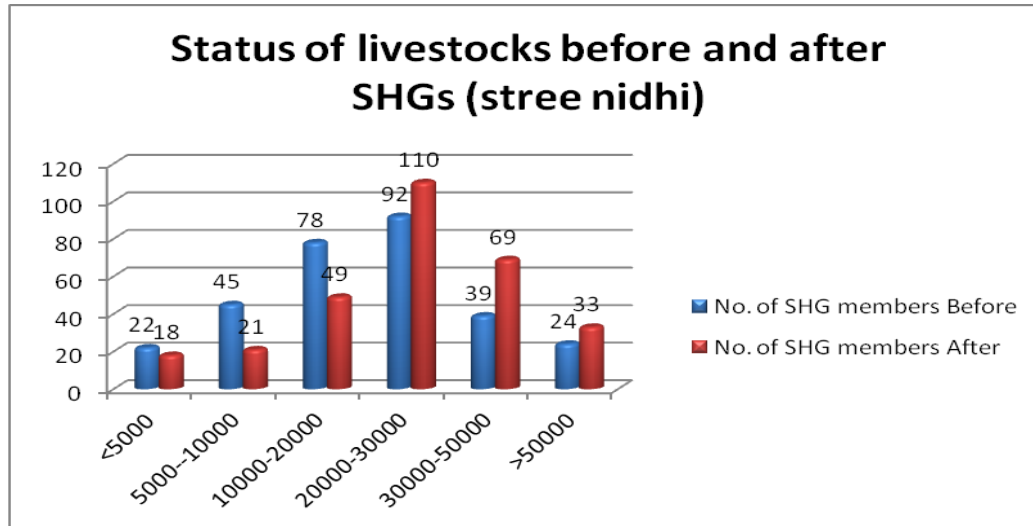
A “question was also asked to the SHG members of the Stree nidhi to state how far the scheme helped them in procuring the permanent assets like agricultural land, house and house –sites. The details of such assets in terms of money are shown in table 4. It is evident from the table that out of 300 Stree nidhi beneficiaries the procurement of permanent assets in terms of money has been found increasing. More specifically, it is noticed that 8 per cent of the SHG members had their permanent assets less than Rs. 50000 prior to their joining to stree nithi, 46 members constituting 15 per cent in between Rs. 50000-80000, 29 per cent in between Rs. 80000-110000, 30 per cent of the households in between Rs. 110000-140000, 8 per cent of the SHGs members and their permanent assets worth was in between Rs. 140000-170000 lakhs, while 5 per cent of them had their permanent property to the tune of greater than Rs. 170000 lakhs”.

It is quite interesting “to found in the findings that are depicted in the table that as many as 102 households constituting 32 per cent could procure and improve their permanent assets in between Rs. 110000-140000, 29 per cent could earn the permanent assets ranging Rs. 140000-170000 lakhs while more than one –fourth of the Stree nidhi self-help group members could improve their assets worth in between Rs. 50000-70000. Similarly, 8 per cent could procure the worth of more than Rs. 170000 lakhs. The overall observation of the table brings us to infer that the stree nidhi programme and with its association, the SHG members could procure and improve their permanent assets quite satisfactorily. From this, one can deduce that the stree nidhi has brought a positive impact in procuring permanent and fixed assets like agricultural, land permanent house and sites for their houses. Even when the informal discussions were made both with the stree nidhi self-help groups leaders and members; they firmly stated that the programme has helped them to a larger extent in procuring their fixed assets”.

**Table 5, Impact of stree nidhi in improving Live Stocks among the selected beneficiaries before and after joining the SHGs**

S No	Live Stocks (Rs)	No. of SHG members	
		Before	After
1	<5000	22 (07.00)	18 (06.00)
2	5000-10000	45 (15.00)	21 (07.00)
3	10000-20000	78 (26.00)	49 (16.00)
4	20000-30000	92 (31.00)	110 (37.00)
5	30000-50000	39 (13.00)	69 (23.00)
6	>50000	24 (08.00)	33 (11.00)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>300 (100)</b>	<b>300 (100)</b>

Source: Field Survey



One of the “prime objectives of stree nidhi is to improve the possession of livestock such as Milk-cows, buffallos, bullocks, sheep, goat, etc and there by enhance their economic earnings in terms of money. Keeping this in view, the selected stree nidhi SHGs members were asked to mention the impact of the programme prior and after their association with the programme. The opinions so collected are shown in table 5. According to the figures with regard to the possession of live stocks prior to their association with the stree nidhi programme, 7 per cent of the members have stated that their live stocks worth was less than Rs. 5000, 15 per cent have in between Rs. 5000-10000, 26 per cent in between Rs. 10000-20000, 31 per cent of the stree nidhi self help group members have stated that their live stock worth was in between Rs. 20000-30000. Similarly, 13 per cent of stree nidhi members and their livestock worth were in between Rs. 30000-50000 and 8 per cent of members have said that their live stock worth was more than Rs. 50000”.

The “responses of the stree nidhi self-help group members about their live stock especially after joining with the programme, it is quite satisfactory to notice that 37 per cent of them could get improve their livestock position in between Rs. 20000-30000, 23 per cent could possess the livestock in between Rs. 30000-Rs. 50000, 16 per cent could procure in between Rs. 10000-20000, and 11 per cent procure more than Rs. 50000 worth of live stock. The analysis and findings of the study led us to conclude that the stree nidhi programme helped the SHG members in improving live stock possession especially after joining in the programme”.

**Table 6, Impact of the stree nidhi on the living standards among the SHG members**

S.No	Factors	No. of respondents	
		Yes	No
1	Food habit were changed	282(94.00)	18(06.00)
2	Change of dress pattern	191(64.00)	109(36.00)
3	Got awareness bout disease and health care	182(61.00)	118(39.00)
4	Need and importance of children education	272(91.00)	28(09.00)
5	Caution about repayment of old debts	255(85.00)	45(15.00)
6	Awareness about the importance of sanitation hygiene conditions	220(73.00)	80(27.00)

Source: Field Survey



Table 6 “furnishes the details about the impact of stree nidhi on the living standards of group members in Prakasam district. It is evident from the findings that there is a positive impact on the food habits, clothing pattern, awareness about chronic diseases and health care practices, identifying the need for and importance of children’s education, caution about repayment of old debts and awareness about the importance of sanitation and hygiene conditions in and around house premises. More specifically, it is further observed that out of 300 group members, as many as 282 respondents 94 per cent have aware of and changed their food habits, 91 per cent have recognized the need and importance of children’s education, 85 per cent are cautioned by themselves in repayment of their old debts, 64 per cent have changed their dressing pattern after joining Stree nidhi and as many as 73 per cent are aware of the importance of sanitation and hygiene conditions. However, 27 per cent, 39 per cent and 36 per cent of the stree nidhi group members are still not aware of the importance of sanitation and hygiene conditions, chronic diseases and health care and dressing pattern respectively. Similarly 15 per cent of the stree nidhi members are unaware of and not exposed well about the children’s education and a caution about repayment of old debts. Thus, from the analysis it can be concluded that the impact of stree nidhi could not be seen much in knowing the need and importance of sanitation, awareness about chronic diseases and health care practices, dressing pattern, awareness about the need and importance of children’s education and precautions about repayment of old debts”.

**Table 7, Annual income of the SHG members before and after joining SHG**

S.No	Annual income(in Rs)	Before	After
1	Less than 30000	26 (08.00)	29 (10.00)
2	30000-60000	198 (66.00)	117 (39.0)
3	60000-90000	45 (15.00)	96 (32.00)
4	90000 and above	31 (10.00)	58 (19.00)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>300 (100)</b>	<b>300 (100)</b>

**Source: Field survey**

Chi-Square Value : 47.63  
P-value : <0.00001  
Significant level : 0.05 level

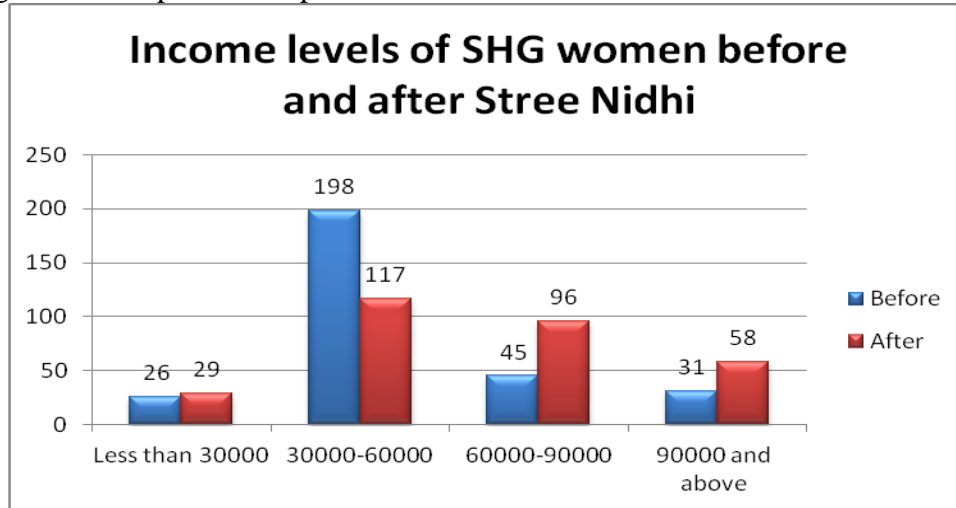
The main objective of the SHG is to be maintaining saving attitude through various economic activities. The women will not conduct economic activity, without any financial supporting. Hence, the government will provide financial assistance doing economic activity and earn something to support family income. The table presents the annual income of the SHG member before and after joining the SHGs. As many as 26 women respondents annual income is less than Rs. 30000, Rs. 30000-Rs.60000 annual income got by the 66 per cent of the respondents, 15 per cent of the respondents annual income ranges from Rs. 60000-Rs.90000 and 10 per cent of them have stated that their annual income is above Rs. 90000 before joining as a SHG member in the study area (table 7).

It is quite interestingly found that their annual income have significantly improved after joining SHGs. It can be found that 7 per cent of the respondents income were increased from Rs. 60000 –Rs.90000,





nine per cent of the respondents income were also increased. It can be concluded from the above table that SHG programme has positive impact on income levels of the SHG women members.



**Table 8, Suggestions given by the stree nidhi SHG members for effective functioning of SHGs**

S. No	Suggestions	No. of SHG members	Percentage
1	Quick redressal of conflicts among group members	148	49.00
2	Conduct of regular meetings	195	65.00
3	Moral support to Group leaders by members	182	61.00
4	Creating awareness about various poverty alleviation programmes	162	54.00
5	Educating the members of SHG about the importance of meetings	237	79.00
6	Timely training on effective utilization of borrowed loans	246	82.00
7	Proper maintenance of accounts books	142	47.00
8	Training programmes are to be conducted with good spirit	156	52.00
9	Evaluation and feed back about training programmes	112	37.00

**Source: Field Survey**

The details of suggestions are presented in table 8. “It is clear from the table that as many as ten suggestions were offered by the selected SHG respondents. More particularly it is found that as many as 82 per cent of the respondents have said that timely training to members on effective utilization of borrowed loans ensures for effective functioning of self help groups. In the next order, educating the importance of meetings of SHGs, conduct of regular meetings, training programmes to the SHG members with good spirit, proper maintenance of books of accounts, moral support to the group leaders are important suggestions offered by the members for effective functioning of SHG. According to them if suggestions are followed properly, the effective and efficient functions of SHGs can be possible. It is, therefore, suggested that the officials of both government and non-government organizations should pay much attention to the above suggestions for formulation of any strategies for empowering women communities in Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh”.



**Table 9, Different problems being faced by the SHG members of stree nidhi in Prakasam District**

S.No	Suggestions	No. of SHG members	Percentage
1	Lack of guidance in proper use of the loan amount	119	40.00
2	Training has not been imparted in effective utilization of the resource	95	32.00
3	Biased treatment of the SHG leaders	72	24.00
4	Not aware of the rules and regulations	154	51.00
5	Problems in regular savings	38	13.00
6	Insufficient credit	89	30.00
7	Inconvenient payment schedule	103	34.00
8	No-proper check on the end use of the credit	74	27.00
9	Non co-operation by the family members	28	09.00
10	Sub-programmes under the umbrella of IKP are not functioning well to the satisfaction of the members	163	54.00

**Source: Field Survey**

Table 9 depicts the problems being faced by the SHG member in Prakasam district. It is witnessed from the table that as many as 54 per cent of the members have opined that the functioning of sub-schemes under Stree nidhi is not upto their satisfaction, and hence viewed that this is the major problem. This is followed by unaware of rules and regulations to run the SHGs (51 per cent) lack of proper guidance in proper use of the loan amount (40 per cent) inconvenient pay schedules of loans borrowed (34 per cent) improper training is effective utilization of the resources (32 per cent) insufficient credit to run the economic activity chosen (30 per cent) no proper check on the end use of the credit (27 per cent) biased treatment of the group leaders (24 per cent) problems in regular savings (13 per cent) non-cooperation by the family members in yet another constraints being faced by the SHG members. On the whole, it is observed that the sub-schemes under the stree nidhi are not functioning well on the satisfaction of the it's numbers because of various reasons as stated by.

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