

ASSESSING FINANCIAL STABILITY AND REPAYMENT BEHAVIOURS IN TELANGANA STATE COOPERATIVE APEX BANK

Mary Jasmine James
Assistant Professor
Loyola Academy
Alwal , Hyderabad

Dr. Venkaiah
Guide
Pulla Reddy College

ABSTRACT

Purpose: This study aims to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the financial stability of the Telangana State Cooperative Apex Bank (TSCAB) and explore the utilization of agriculture loans, focusing on repayment behavior among members of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS). The primary objective is to analyze various financial indicators and factors influencing loan utilization and repayment behavior, contributing to a deeper understanding of financial dynamics within cooperative banking systems.

Methodology: The research design adopted for this study is a mixed-method approach, combining quantitative and qualitative methods. Quantitative data is collected through questionnaires distributed to PACS members, capturing insights into loan utilization and repayment behavior. Secondary data is obtained from financial reports of TSCAB to assess its financial stability. Statistical tools such as Ordinary Least Square (OLS) regression and general regression analysis are applied to analyze trends, patterns, and relationships within the data.

Findings: The findings of the study reveal several significant insights. Firstly, favorable loan terms positively impact repayment behavior among PACS members, emphasizing the importance of conducive loan conditions. Larger loan sizes significantly ease repayment, providing resources for productive agricultural investments. Effective technical assistance plays a crucial role in influencing positive repayment behavior, highlighting the importance of support in financial management. Additionally, favorable economic conditions contribute significantly to improved repayment behavior, indicating the impact of macroeconomic factors on loan repayment.

Conclusion: This study presents a thorough evaluation of the financial stability of the Telangana State Cooperative Apex Bank and the utilization of agriculture loans among members of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS). Through rigorous analysis using t-

tests and regression analyses, the study confirms the bank's robust financial performance across key indicators. The positive impact of favorable loan terms, larger loan sizes, effective technical assistance, and favorable economic conditions on loan repayment behavior among PACS members is highlighted. The study recommends enhancing support for PACS members through collaboration with agricultural extension services, which can provide valuable insights and guidance for productive loan utilization and sustainable agricultural practices.

INTRODUCTION

The stability of financial institutions and the behaviour of borrowers are fundamental aspects of any banking system, influencing economic growth, development, and overall financial well-being. In the context of Telangana, a state in southern India with a burgeoning cooperative banking sector, understanding the dynamics of financial stability and repayment behaviours within the Telangana State Cooperative Apex Bank (TSCAB) is of paramount importance. This introduction aims to provide an overview of the significance of assessing financial stability and repayment behaviours within TSCAB, contextualizing the cooperative banking landscape in Telangana and outlining the scope and objectives of the study. Cooperative banking forms an integral part of the financial landscape in Telangana, contributing significantly to financial inclusion and economic development, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas. The cooperative banking sector in Telangana comprises a network of cooperative societies, district cooperative central banks (DCCBs), and the Telangana State Cooperative Apex Bank (TSCAB), collectively serving the banking needs of diverse communities across the state.

The cooperative banking sector in Telangana plays a multifaceted role in driving economic development and social empowerment. By providing accessible and affordable financial services to marginalized communities, cooperative banks contribute to poverty alleviation, rural livelihood enhancement, and agricultural productivity improvement. Additionally, cooperative banking fosters a spirit of cooperation, mutual assistance, and self-reliance among members, promoting community development and resilience. Understanding the significance of assessing financial stability goes beyond mere examination; it's about safeguarding the economic backbone of institutions like TSCAB and ensuring their ability to weather turbulent financial storms. A stable financial institution inspires confidence among depositors, assuring them that their hard-earned savings are secure and accessible when needed. Moreover, financial

stability is the bedrock upon which liquidity flows smoothly, facilitating the funding of productive investments and economic activities.

The evaluation of financial stability encompasses a multifaceted approach, scrutinizing indicators such as capital adequacy, asset quality, profitability, and liquidity. These metrics serve as early warning signs, signalling vulnerabilities and strengths within the institution's operational framework. Capital adequacy ratios, for instance, reveal the bank's capacity to absorb losses and remain solvent during adverse economic conditions. Asset quality metrics shed light on the health of the loan portfolio, indicating the level of credit risk and potential loan defaults. Profitability metrics assess the institution's ability to generate sustainable returns over time, ensuring its long-term viability and competitiveness in the market. Liquidity indicators, on the other hand, gauge the bank's ability to meet its short-term obligations promptly, preventing liquidity crises and ensuring smooth operations. For policymakers, regulators, and stakeholders, understanding the factors influencing financial stability within TSCAB is paramount. It enables them to formulate and implement targeted interventions and policies aimed at mitigating risks and enhancing stability. Whether it's enhancing capital buffers, improving asset quality through prudent lending practices, or bolstering risk management frameworks, proactive measures can help fortify TSCAB against unforeseen challenges.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Adegbite D., A., (2005). This paper examines determinants of loan repayment among beneficiaries of the Nigerian Agricultural Cooperative Bank Small Holders' loan Scheme in Ogun State between 1981 and 1999. Utilizing cross-sectional and time series data, the study identifies loan volume, sex, and farming experience as significant factors influencing repayment. Repayment is found to be selective based on family size, loan volume, and proximity to the financial institution. The paper advocates for enhanced financial policies, including savings mobilization, diversified loan portfolios, and appropriate interest rates, to improve the efficacy of the Nigerian Agricultural Credit and Rural Development Bank following its merger in 2000.

Martin, Cihak., Heiko, Hesse. (2007). This paper empirically investigates the contribution of cooperative banks to financial stability, revealing that they exhibit greater stability compared to commercial banks, contrary to some literature. This stability stems from the lower volatility

of cooperative banks' returns, outweighing their reduced profitability and capitalization. Cooperative banks' utilization of customer surplus as a buffer during downturns likely contributes to this resilience. Overall, while the presence of cooperative banks positively impacts bank stability on average, its significance varies across specifications.

Gandhimathi., S., Vanitha. (2009). This study examines repayment behaviour and causes of overdues among farm-households, distinguishing between defaulters and non-defaulters. Using discriminant analysis, factors discriminating between the two groups were identified, while logistic regression analysed the probability of wilful and non-wilful defaulting. Results indicate that credit utilization and non-farm income were key factors in distinguishing defaulters from non-defaulters, while farm income and consumption expenditure significantly influenced wilful defaulting. Additionally, the sources of credit availed and interest rates played a significant role in determining the extent of non-wilful defaulting. These findings highlight the importance of considering various factors in understanding and addressing repayment behaviour among agricultural borrowers.

Malimba, Musafiri, Papias., P., Ganesan. (2009). This study aims to investigate factors influencing credit repayment behavior among members of savings and credit cooperative societies in rural Rwanda. Employing both exploratory and descriptive research designs, primary data was collected on various variables related to repayment behavior. Subsequently, a binary logistic regression model was utilized to estimate the impact of each variable on credit repayment rates. The findings shed light on the determinants of repayment behavior within these cooperative societies, providing valuable insights for enhancing the sustainability of rural credit markets in Rwanda.

Franco et al (2013). In their examination of European cooperative banks from 1998 to 2009, the researchers investigated the correlation between competition and bank stability. Employing Granger causality tests, they confirmed Boyd and De Nicolo's (2005) competition-stability theory, revealing a positive link between competition and stability. Despite the 2007-2009 financial crisis negatively affecting cooperative banks' risk exposure, it did not alter the competition-stability relationship. Additionally, the study unveiled a positive impact of herding behavior on bank soundness. These findings underline the significance of regulatory measures aimed at bolstering the stability of the financial system.

Laura et al (2013). This paper analyzed a sample of banks across eleven European countries from 2001 to 2010 to assess the stability of cooperative banks relative to other business models

and their impact on overall banking soundness. The findings indicate that cooperative banks positively influence average bank stability, particularly during periods of financial distress, contrary to prior studies attributing banking fragility to non-profit maximizing entities. Mutualized banking systems, predominantly represented by cooperative banks, demonstrated greater resilience during crises, fostering increased customer confidence in banking stability. These results underscore the importance of cooperative banks in enhancing overall banking system stability and resilience.

Liliana, Aurora, Constantinescu. (2015). This article examines measures to protect depositors and enhance deposit guarantee schemes in the banking system, particularly in light of deficiencies revealed during the global financial crisis. Cooperative banks aspire to bolster the banking sector in the expanded EU and provide tailored services to clients. It delineates the implementation of credit guarantee schemes in European Cooperative Banks, highlighting challenges faced and advantages gained. Overall, the study underscores the importance of robust deposit protection mechanisms in ensuring financial stability and customer confidence in cooperative banking.

Deepak, Shah. (2016). This study examines the financial health and operational efficiency of central level credit cooperatives in Maharashtra, India, through case studies of Sangli District Central Cooperative Bank (SDCCB) and Buldana District Central Cooperative Bank (BDCCB). It reveals significant deterioration in SDCCB's financial health and gross inefficiency in BDCCB's functioning, primarily attributed to mounting NPAs. The gap between break-even levels of loan advances/deposits and actual figures is substantial, particularly in BDCCB. To revive rural credit delivery, innovative approaches like linking SHGs and NGOs with financial institutions, along with tackling high transaction costs and NPAs, are crucial. Emphasizing sustainability, operational efficiency, and small farmer coverage is essential for rejuvenating rural credit delivery through cooperatives.

Michael, Marin. (2017). This paper explores the resilience of cooperative banks in comparison to corporate banks during the Global Financial Crisis, focusing on their organizational structure and legal framework. By analyzing the governing laws of cooperative banks in the US and UK, it elucidates how these factors influence financial stability. These mechanisms ensure management acts in the best interests of customers, mitigating the profit motive more effectively than post-Crisis reforms.

Simkhada, N. R. (2017), this paper employed expert interviews and focus group discussions to identify and recommend indicators for measuring financial cooperative performance. Methodologically, 32 financial ratios across eight performance dimensions and 25 self-governance indicators were piloted with 210 cooperatives. Findings underscored the need for a comprehensive institutional assessment tool tailored to the cooperative context. Implications of the findings were discussed, while study limitations were acknowledged, emphasizing the importance of context-specific performance measurement in cooperative institutions.

Jarale, S. M., & Patel, S. (2018) this study explored the lending activities of Shri Basaveshwara Urban Co-operative Credit Society Ltd. Methodologically, it examined the acquisition of working capital through public deposits and subsequent issuance of loans and advances. Findings revealed the society's mission-driven approach to profitability amidst competition from nationalized banks. In conclusion, it emphasized the pivotal role of co-operative banks in fostering local economic development through prudent lending practices.

Cristian, Barra., Roberto, Zotti. (2019). This paper investigates the relationship between bank performance and financial stability, considering market concentration, using highly disaggregated data from labour market areas. However, differences in the performance-stability relationship are more attributable to bank type rather than levels of market concentration. Moreover, higher market concentration among cooperative banks adversely affects systemic stability by lowering the z-scores of non-cooperative banks, suggesting that the presence of non-profit-maximizing entities can impact the stability of other financial institutions.

Vincenzo, Pacelli, Quaranta. (2020) this paper examines Euro Area banks in 2018, categorizing them into homogeneous groups based on systemic risk indicators. Methodologically, it introduces a novel procedure to assess cooperative banks' involvement in mechanisms contributing to systemic risk. Findings indicate that cooperative banks are more prevalent in groups associated with lower probabilities of contributing to systemic risk. This study contributes to a sparse literature on the subject and underscores the potential of cooperative banks in managing systemic risk within the banking sector.

Stefan et al (2021), Focused on exploring the cooperation dilemma in microfinance, this study utilized evolutionary theories to analyze loan repayment behavior among low-income borrowers. Findings revealed surprising trends: while kinship showed negative associations with repayment efficacy, prior interaction and partner choice were positively associated. These

results underscored the potential of evolutionary theory to offer systematic insights into human responses to economic interventions, emphasizing the need for further research in this area.

Singh, A., & Wadkar, S. K. (2023), Focused on the challenges of credit expansion in rural co-operative banking, this case study examined the role of Andhra Pradesh State Co-Operative Bank (APCOB) in facilitating agricultural financing. Through analysis of APCOB's efforts to integrate unconventional lending practices and engage farmer organizations, the study highlighted the complexities of rural credit structures. Findings underscored the importance of tailored product offerings and streamlined processes in addressing the unique needs of agricultural borrowers. Ultimately, the case emphasized the pivotal role of apex co-operative banks in fostering sustainable agribusiness development.

RESEARCH GAP

The research gap identified in the study "**Assessing Financial Stability and Repayment Behaviors in Telangana State Cooperative Apex Bank**" is that while previous studies have explored various aspects of financial control, financial analysis of specific banks, stability of financial systems in different countries, and the impact of public sector lending on financial stability, there is limited research focusing on the assessment of financial stability and repayment behaviors specifically within cooperative banks in the Telangana State region. This study aims to fill this gap by providing insights into the financial stability and repayment behaviors within the Telangana State Cooperative Apex Bank, contributing to a deeper understanding of cooperative banking dynamics in the region.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To Assessing the financial stability of Telangana State Cooperative Apex Bank.
2. To Investigating the utilization of agriculture loans and repayment behavior among members of PACS.

HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

H₀: There is no significant financial stability of Telangana State Cooperative Apex Bank

H₀: There is no significant utilization of agriculture loans and repayment behavior among members of PACS

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The scope of this study encompasses a comprehensive assessment of the financial stability of Telangana State Cooperative Apex Bank and the utilization of agriculture loans, focusing on the repayment behavior among members of PACS (Primary Agricultural Credit Societies). The study aims to analyze a wide range of financial indicators and variables related to stability and loan utilization, drawing insights from both secondary data sources for the bank's financial performance and primary data gathered from PACS members regarding loan utilization and repayment behavior. The scope also includes the application of statistical tools such as Ordinary Least Square (OLS) regression and general Regression analysis to uncover patterns and relationships within the data, contributing to a deeper understanding of financial dynamics and member behavior within cooperative banking systems.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Design: The study adopts a mixed-method research design, incorporating both quantitative and qualitative approaches to assess the financial stability of Telangana State Cooperative Apex Bank (TSCAB) and investigate the utilization of agriculture loans and repayment behavior among members of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS).

Data Collection: Primary data is collected from members of PACS through the distribution of questionnaires, capturing firsthand insights into their loan utilization and repayment behavior. Secondary data is obtained from financial reports and records of Telangana State Cooperative Apex Bank for assessing its financial stability.

Data Type: The study employs both qualitative and quantitative data types. Qualitative data from open-ended survey questions provides in-depth understanding and insights into members' perceptions and experiences. Quantitative data from closed-ended questions and financial records enables statistical analysis and measurement of variables.

Sample Size: The study targets a sample size of 120 participants, comprising members of PACS for primary data collection and financial reports of Telangana State Cooperative Apex Bank for secondary data analysis.

Data Period: Data collection spans from 2017 to 2023, allowing for a comprehensive analysis of trends, patterns, and changes in financial stability and loan utilization behavior over time.

Statistical Tools:

Ordinary Least Square - Ordinary Least Square (OLS) regression analysis, employed for the first objective of assessing the financial stability of Telangana State Cooperative Apex Bank using secondary data, is a robust statistical tool commonly used to model relationships between variables and determine their impact. OLS allows for the examination of trends and patterns in financial data, providing insights into factors influencing stability over time.

Regression - Regression analysis, utilized for the second objective of investigating the utilization of agriculture loans and repayment behavior among members of PACS using primary data, is a powerful statistical method to analyze relationships between variables and predict outcomes. Through Regression analysis, the study aims to understand how the utilization and repayment of agriculture loans impact the behavior of PACS members, providing valuable insights for financial institutions and policymakers.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Objective 1 To Assessing the financial stability of Telangana State Cooperative Apex Bank.

The study examined the financial stability of the TSCAB by considering the CAMELS ratios with the help of one sample t test.

Table No -1: One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Return on Assets (%)	15.411	6	0	0.50429	0.4242	0.5844
Capital Adequacy Ratio	18.837	6	0	96.20643	83.7095	108.703
Asset Quality Ratio	5.895	6	0.001	0.15607	0.0913	0.2208
Management Efficiency Ratio	48.084	6	0	1.13429	1.0766	1.192
Earning Profitability	12.634	6	0	20.54643	16.5672	24.5257
Liquidity Ratio	16.549	6	0	14.55429	12.4023	16.7063
Solvency Ratio	34.756	6	0	140.98143	131.0561	150.907

Source: Primary Data

The one-sample t-tests were conducted to assess various financial indicators of the Telangana State Cooperative Apex Bank, as part of evaluating its financial stability. Results indicate significant differences from the test value of 0 across all indicators, including Return on Assets ($t = 15.411$, $p = 0$), Capital Adequacy Ratio ($t = 18.837$, $p = 0$), Asset Quality Ratio ($t = 5.895$,

$p = 0.001$), Management Efficiency Ratio ($t = 48.084$, $p = 0$), Earning Profitability ($t = 12.634$, $p = 0$), Liquidity Ratio ($t = 16.549$, $p = 0$), and Solvency Ratio ($t = 34.756$, $p = 0$). The mean differences and their associated 95% confidence intervals further support the robustness of these findings. The study rejects the H_0 and accepts the H_1 . The consistent significance across multiple indicators underscores the Telangana State Cooperative Apex Bank's strong financial stability. These results affirm the bank's sound performance across critical areas, indicating its ability to effectively manage its assets, maintain adequate capital reserves, ensure asset quality, enhance management efficiency, generate profits, maintain liquidity, and meet solvency requirements.

2nd Objective: To Investigating the utilization of agriculture loans and repayment behavior among members of PACs.

The study Investigating the utilization of agriculture loans and repayment behavior among members of PACs. The study applied the linear regression method.

Table No –2: ANOVA of utilization of agriculture loans and repayment behavior

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	100.732	10	10.073	62.256	.000 ^b
	Residual	17.637	109	.162		
	Total	118.369	119			

Source: Primary Data

The analysis of variance (ANOVA) table indicates a significant relationship between the predictors and the dependent variable, repayment behavior. The regression model, comprising ten predictors, accounts for a substantial amount of variance in repayment behavior, as evidenced by the high F-statistic of 62.256 ($p < .001$). This suggests that the included predictors collectively have a strong influence on repayment behavior. The regression model's R-squared value suggests that approximately 85% of the variance in repayment behavior can be explained by the predictors. These findings imply that factors such as economic conditions, credit culture, loan usage, risk management, interest rates, regulatory framework, loan characteristics, collateral, and technical assistance play crucial roles in determining repayment behavior.

Table No -3
Utilization of agriculture loans on repayment behavior among members of PACS

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	-.375	.282		-1.327	.187
	How do loan terms affect repayment	.161	.035	.178	4.576	.000
	Interest Rate access impact on borrowing.	.062	.034	.070	1.849	.067
	How does loan size affect repayment ease	.381	.017	.850	22.013	.000
	Using loans productively improve repayment	-.064	.061	-.041	-1.037	.302
	How important is risk management for loan confidence	-.296	.076	-.148	-3.878	.000
	How effective is technical assistance for income and repayment	.077	.030	.105	2.606	.010
	Impact of collateral on financing access	-.072	.090	-.032	-.801	.425
	Credit culture influence on repayment	-.069	.044	-.060	-1.561	.121
	Regulatory framework impact on confidence	.016	.079	.008	.198	.843
	Economic conditions and loan repayment	.282	.036	.305	7.927	.000
a. Dependent Variable: repayment_behavior						

Source: Primary Data

The table presents the coefficients of utilization of agriculture loans and repayment behavior among members of PACS (Primary Agricultural Credit Societies), with a focus on various factors influencing repayment behavior. The table resulted that, Loan terms exhibit a positive coefficient of .161 ($p < .001$), suggesting that favorable loan terms positively impact repayment behavior among PACS members. Similarly, the coefficient for loan size is .381 ($p < .001$), indicating that larger loan sizes contribute significantly to easier repayment. Larger loan sizes provide PACS members with greater financial resources to invest in productive agricultural activities, such as purchasing high-quality seeds, fertilizers, and modern farming equipment.

Conversely, risk management importance for loan confidence has a negative coefficient of -.296 ($p < .001$), implying that a higher emphasis on risk management negatively affects repayment behavior. The table indicates that, Technical assistance for income and repayment

shows a positive coefficient of .077 ($p = .010$), indicating that effective technical assistance positively influences repayment behavior. Also, the Economic conditions and loan repayment also exhibit a positive coefficient of .282 ($p < .001$), suggesting that favorable economic conditions contribute significantly to improved repayment behavior. However, interest rate access (.062), impact on borrowing, using loans productively to improve repayment (-.064), impact of collateral on financing access, credit culture influence on repayment (-.069), and regulatory framework (.016) impact on confidence do not show statistically significant coefficients. Reason for above factors not being statistically significant might be, interest rate access may not vary significantly across different PACS, with members having similar access to loan interest rates. Similarly, factors like credit culture influence and regulatory framework may be relatively uniform across the region, resulting in minimal variation in their impact on repayment behavior among members.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

1. The study demonstrates that favorable loan terms (coefficient = 0.161, $p < 0.001$) have a positive influence on repayment behavior. This finding suggests that offering loans with flexible repayment schedules, reasonable interest rates, and manageable terms enhances borrowers' ability and willingness to repay loans promptly. Favorable loan conditions promote borrower confidence and financial stability, fostering a conducive environment for successful loan repayment.
2. Larger loan sizes (coefficient = 0.381, $p < 0.001$) significantly ease repayment, providing borrowers with adequate resources for productive agricultural investments. This finding implies that access to sufficient capital empowers borrowers to make strategic investments in their agricultural activities, generating income and improving their capacity to repay loans.
3. Effective technical assistance (coefficient = 0.077, $p = 0.010$) positively influences repayment behavior by providing essential support in financial management and agricultural practices. This highlights the importance of offering tailored guidance and training to borrowers, enhancing their skills in budgeting, financial planning, and agricultural production.
4. Favorable economic conditions (coefficient = 0.282, $p < 0.001$) significantly contribute to improved repayment behavior. This finding underscores the influence of macroeconomic factors, such as economic growth, market stability, and income levels,

on borrowers' ability to honor loan commitments. Strong economic conditions provide a supportive backdrop for agricultural activities, reducing financial constraints.

CONCLUSION OF THE STUDY

The study provides a comprehensive evaluation of the financial stability of Telangana State Cooperative Apex Bank and the utilization of agriculture loans among members of PACS. Through a combination of one-sample t-tests and regression analyses, significant insights have been gained regarding the bank's financial performance and the factors influencing loan repayment behavior. The findings underscore the bank's strong financial stability across critical indicators, including return on assets, capital adequacy ratio, asset quality ratio, management efficiency ratio, earning profitability, liquidity ratio, and solvency ratio. These results affirm the bank's ability to effectively manage its assets, maintain adequate capital reserves, ensure asset quality, enhance management efficiency, generate profits, maintain liquidity, and meet solvency requirements. The study found that the positive impact of favorable loan terms, larger loan sizes, effective technical assistance, and favorable economic conditions on loan repayment behavior among PACS members. The study suggests that the Telangana State Cooperative Apex Bank could enhance support for PACS members by collaborating with agricultural extension services. These services offer valuable insights, technical knowledge, and best practices related to agricultural investments, productivity enhancement, and income generation. Through partnerships with agricultural experts, the bank can ensure that members receive comprehensive support and guidance, enabling them to utilize loans productively. This approach would enhance their repayment capabilities while promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

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