

An Analysis of Government Initiatives towards Rural Women's Empowerment in India

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ABSTRACT

Women's empowerment has become a significant topic of discussion in development and economics. It can also point to approaches regarding other trivialized genders in a particular political or social context. Empowering women to participate fully in economic life across all sectors is essential to build stronger economies, achieve internationally agreed goals for development and sustainability, and improve the quality of life for women, men, families and communities. The local ordinance empowers the board of health to close unsanitary restaurants. Women empowerment can be defined in very simple words that it is making women powerful so that they can take their own decisions regarding their lives and well-being in the family and society. It is empowering women to make them able to get their real rights in the society. Women's Empowerment Principles: Equality Means Business. Empowering women to participate fully in economic life across all sectors is essential to build stronger economies, achieve internationally agreed goals for development and sustainability, and improve the quality of life for women, men, families and communities. As we all know that India is a male dominated country where males are dominated in every area and females are forced to be responsible for only family care and live in the home including other many restrictions. Almost 50% of the population in India is covered by the female only so the full development of the country depends on the half population means women, who are not empowered and still restricted by many social taboos. In such condition, we cannot say that our country would be a developed in the future without empowering its half population means women. If we want to make our country a developed country, first of all it is very necessary to empower women by the efforts of men, government, laws and women too. The Government of India initiated so many Schemes for empowerment of Women. Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India has started so many Programmes.

1. Introduction

The concept of women empowerment has changed from welfare to equity approach by which the feeble pick up control over their lives and assets to beat outside hindrances (lack of wellbeing, mobility, instruction and mindfulness, status in the family, support in basic leadership) and increase internal qualities, for example, mindfulness and self-assurance. Along these lines, women's empowerment has turned into a pre imperative for the financial advancement of any community during the time spent change.

The SHG is a strategy for organizing the poor rural women to meet up to tackle their issues as a gathering. Here, women collect their funds and place it in a bank. Consequently, they can access to advances with a little rate of enthusiasm with the primary target to begin a smaller scale endeavour. It is shaped with 15-20 individuals living in a specific locality. A large number of poor and marginalized women in India are building their lives and societies through these gatherings. In reality, this development has turned out to be vital for the financial services delivery yet in addition for the vocations' promotion, community improvement and women's empowerment [1].

In all the developing nations including India, poor rural individuals look with illiteracy, lack of skills, human services,

and so forth. These are issues that can't be tackled independently and can be understood through collective endeavours. Today, this collective activity is known as Self-Help Groups, thought about the vehicle of progress for poor people, for the most part for marginalized women.

2. Women's Development

Joined Nations resolved to work for the empowerment of women in the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994 and later on in the Social Summit in Copenhagen in 1995. Around a similar time, this commitment came into a movement outline at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing where the lawmaking bodies perceived the benefit of chance of thought, still, little voice, religion and conviction of women to develop their greatest limit in general society field and shape their lives as per their aspirations.

In 2000, 189 countries of the United Nations communicated 8 thousand years destinations with the inspiration driving accomplishing improvement on the planet. Among these, the third one is associated with the empowerment of women searching for diminishing markers of uniqueness by 2015, advancing sexual orientation

correspondence and engaging women through wage work and political cooperation [2].

Universalizing women empowerment has been fundamental since it adds to diminish the population development and adolescent mortality; improves nourishment, neatness and strength of families, children's execution in schools; task of family resources; and adds to the financial development all things considered. In any case, sexual orientation inclination, discrimination, confinement of women to the private place, impediments on their movability, poor access to prosperity organizations, nourishment, direction and business, incongruities in available openings, and rejection from the all-inclusive community and political circles are as yet a portion of the primary blocks for women empowerment/improvement over the world.

3. The Self-Help Groups

In India, the SHGs are town construct associations that consideration in light of building the hold funds and recognize, and also the social empowerment of their people. An ordinary collect has 10-20 poor women having similar financial foundations that meet once seven days to pool investment funds and examine issues of shared significance. The store is kept in the social event's financial adjust which is available for offering credit to the people in require. One of their destinations is to enhance assemble issues, for instance, the mishandlement of women, alcohol manhandle, the blessing system, educational quality, and lacking infrastructure.

Since freedom in 1947, there have been a couple of changes in game plan comes closer from the possibility of 'welfare' till the 70's to 'change' in the 80's and now to 'empowerment' where the SHGs accept an imperative part to enhance need's kin life. From the First Five Year outline (1951-56) the facilitating of dejection has been one of the destinations of the organization of India who has moved some business and pay age gets ready for women in nation domains to give a wellspring of pay, look after employments, and execute destitution [3]. Inside these plans, the SHGs have been associated with microfinance to enhance the desires for ordinary solaces of the needy individuals, fortify their beneficial potential, and offer chances to being a bit of the financial procedure.

4. SHGs' Models

There are three primary models that the SHGs can take after as indicated by their necessities, want and availability, and they are:

- i. Bank-SHG members: the bank goes about as a SHG promoting institution. It deals specifically with the gatherings, opens accounts, and furnishes financial assistance and loans with a credit rate that is chosen with the members.
- ii. Bank-facilitating agency-SHG members: NGOs, government agencies, or other community-based organizations shape the gatherings acting as facilitators. They nurture them and give preparing about thrift and credit management. Banks give loans specifically to the gatherings (they choose the credit rates) and open sparing records. This is the best and prominent model in India.
- iii. Bank-NGO-MFI-SHG members: NGOs go about as facilitators and microfinance mediators. First they promote the creation of the gatherings, nurture and prepare them, and after

that they way to deal with the banks for advance assistance for lending to the SHGs.

5. Characteristics of the SHGs

The fundamental qualities of these gatherings are:

- 10 to 20 members (dynamic support) From one family, just a single member
- Only men or just women (not blended gatherings women's gatherings by and large perform better)
- Members with a similar social and financial foundation
- Regular gatherings

6. Importance of the SHGs

The Self-Help Groups are vital in India on account of the accompanying reasons:

- To alleviate poverty
- To increment employment opportunity
- To accelerate economic growth
- To raise status in society
- To promote pay generating exercises
- To collaborate with other social gatherings
- To improve collective dealing position
- To amass exceptionally destitute individuals

For these and different reasons, the SHGs are considered as the vehicle of progress for poor people and marginalized women where they can take an interest as subjects and not as objects of the development procedure.

7. Women welfare and empowerment schemes of government of India:

Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India have come up with various schemes, programmes, social welfare schemes, Health and Nutrition, scholarship for women empowerment, Girl Child pregnant women, mothers, ward members, Anganwadi Workers, Women Health Volunteers, the women living in the rural & tribal areas, ex-servicemen, physically handicapped, nursing women, Lactating mother, widows/destitute, Old age women, women self-help group (SHG), Women Entrepreneurs and Adolescent Girls'. Also, it helps to the women and child belonging to Scheduled Caste(SC) and Scheduled Tribe(ST), Other Backward Classes(OBC), Socially and Educationally Backward Classes(SEBC) Minority Category, below poverty line(BPL) and also for General Category This scheme provides assistance for Education, Training, Financial assistance/Cash, Subsidy on the loans, Scholarship, Nutrition, self-employment and other facilities. The prime goal is for empowerment, development, protection and welfare of Women & Child.

The need of women empowerment arose because of the gender discrimination and male domination in the Indian society since ancient time. Women are being suppressed by their family members and society for many reasons. They have been targeted for many types of violence and discriminatory practices by the male members in the family and society in India and other countries as well. Wrong and old practices for the women in the society from ancient time have taken the form of well-developed customs and traditions. There is a tradition of worshipping many female goddesses in India including giving honour to the women forms in the society like mother, sister, daughter, wife and other female relatives or

friends. But, it does not mean that only respecting or honouring women can fulfil the need of development in the country. It needs the empowerment of the rest half population of the country in every walk of life.

India is a famous country proving the common proverb like 'unity is diversity', where people of many religious beliefs are in the Indian society. Women have been given a special place in every religion which is working as a big curtain covering the eyes of people and help in the continuation of many ill practices (including physical and mental) against women as a norm since ages. In the ancient Indian society, there was a custom of sati pratha, nagarvadh system, dowry system, sexual violence, domestic violence, female infanticide, pardapratha, wife burning, sexual harassment at work place, child marriage, child labour, devadashpratha, etc including other discriminatory practices. All such type of ill practices is because of male superiority complex and patriarchal system of the society. The most famous saying said by the Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru is "To awaken the people, it is the women who must be awakened. Once she is on the move, the family moves, the village moves, the nation moves". In India, to empower the women, first it needs to kill all the demons killing women's rights and values in the society such as dowry system, illiteracy, sexual harassment, inequality, female infanticide, and domestic violence against women, rape, prostitution, illegal trafficking and other issues. Gender discrimination in the nation brings cultural, social, economic and educational differences which push country back. The most effective remedy to kill such devils is making women empowered by ensuring the Right to Equality mentioned in the Constitution of India. Giving priority to the gender equality facilitates women empowerment all over the country. To get the high level goal of women empowerment, it should be promoted from the childhood in each and every family. It needs women to be strong physically, mentally and socially. Since the better education can be started at home from childhood, the upliftment of women needs healthy family to bring a holistic development of the nation. Still in many backward areas, there is a trend of early marriage and childbirth because of the poverty, insecurity and illiteracy of the parents. In order to empower women, various steps have been taken by the government to prevent violence, social separation, gender discrimination and abuse against women. 108th Constitutional Amendment Bill (also called Women's Reservation Bill) was passed to reserve one-third of the seats for women only in the Lok Sabha to make them actively involved in every area. In other fields also the seats for women have been reserved for their active participation without any limitation and competition. Various mass campaigns need to be organized in the backward rural areas to make them aware about the real values of women and all the facilities available by the government for their bright future. They need to be promoted for the survival and proper education of female child to really bring the dream of women empowerment come true. Gender inequality is the main social issues in India in which women are getting back in the male dominated country. Women empowerment needs to take a high speed in this country to equalize the value of both genders. Uplifting of women in all means should be the utmost priority of the nation. Inequalities between men and women in the society generate lots of problems which become a big obstruction in the way to

success of nation. It is the birth rights of the women to get equal value to the men in the society. To really bring empowerment, every woman needs to be aware about their rights from their own end. They need to take positive steps and involve in every activities instead of only involving in the household chores and family responsibilities. They should know about all the happenings in their surroundings and country. Women empowerment has the power to change many things in the society and country. They are much better than men to deal with certain problems in the society. They can better understand the disadvantages of the overpopulation for their family and country. They are fully able to handle the economic conditions of the family and country through proper family planning. Women are capable enough to handle any impulsive violence in comparison to the men whether in the family or society. Through women empowerment, it can be possible to change the male dominated country into the equally dominated country of rich economy. Empowering women may easily help to grow each and every member of the family without any extra effort. A woman is considered to be responsible for everything in the family so she can better solve all the problems from her own end. Empowerment of the women would automatically bring empowerment of everyone. Women empowerment is the better treatment of any big or small problems related to human being, economy or environment. In few last years, the advantages of the women empowerment are coming out in front of us. Women are being more conscious about their health, education, career, job and responsibilities towards family, society and country. They are taking part in the every area and showing their great interest in each field. Finally, after long years of hard struggle they are getting their rights to go ahead on the right track. In this way The Government of India Started so many Schemes for empowerment of Women.

8. Conclusion:

Women empowerment is empowering the women to take their own decisions for their personal dependent. Empowering women is to make them independent in all aspects from mind, thought, rights, decisions, etc. by leaving all the social and family limitations. It is to bring equality in the society for both male and female in all areas. Women empowerment is very necessary to make the bright future of the family, society and country. Women need fresh and more capable environment so that they can take their own right decisions in every area whether for themselves, family, society or country. In order to make the country fully developed country, women empowerment is an essential tool to get the goal of development. The government and other private institutions are supporting women in the leadership positions in public sector. Leadership of women in the public sector is the key of development in the nation. Representing women in public sector is only the matter of justice however it needs to bring forward all the perspectives to make of women empowerment effective. Women and men both have unique and different experiences so both are important to bring influence into the decision making process. Equalising the rights of women and men in the society improves work quality and thus economic status of the nation. In order to really bring women empowerment in the Indian society, it needs to understand and eliminate the main cause of the ill practices against women

which are patriarchal and male dominated system of the society. It needs to be open-minded and change the old mind set against women together with the constitutional and other

legal provisions. Thus In India so many schemes for women empowerment.

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