



## **The women empowerment in villages a study with respect to self-help groups**

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### **Abstract**

The Indian women are very hard working and sincere to their work if they are properly trained and motivated the women empowerment can be possible in real sense. The Indian villages are under developed though after Indian Freedom lot of efforts were taken by the government and the scope for village development still lies in the hands of interested parties and people of India. The women constitute the 50% population in the villages in India. The systematic efforts from all the concerned will develop the villages if women in the villages take active part in the development of the villages. How can we do this the major part is education all the women in the villages have to take proper education. The authors have taken the detail study of the contribution done by village women till now and how we can achieve village development with the help of women. The self-help groups are playing important role in these areas.

**Keywords:** women empowerment, villages, self-help groups

### **Introduction**

The Indian women are hard working, sincere and very motivated to get better life style in villages. The women in villages have following drawbacks due to geographical limitations, availability of resources, financial support from government and social organization are major players many have tried to develop the villages in India but still lot can be done since the villages can not be developed without the contribution of women in India.

The history of Indian women is very motivating and they are very hard working only some systematic and scientific efforts are required to make them better and develop the villages in India.

The villages are having problem of water sanitation health and electricity to a large extent in India. Due to this the development is not seen. The major facilities should be provided in villages soon to get these villages in main stream of development.

The women have to take active part in education of their own with the help of available technology and available resources.

### **Rural women and their strength**

The women in villages are key agents for development. They play a catalytic role towards achievement of transformational economic, environmental and social changes required for sustainable development. But limited access to credit, health care and education are among the many challenges they face. These are further aggravated by the global food and economic crises and climate change. Empowering them is essential, not only for the well-being of individuals, families and rural communities, but also for overall economic productivity, given women's large presence in the agricultural workforce worldwide.

Women play a key role in food production and form a large proportion of the agricultural work force globally.

### **Education of women in India**

Education to women is the most powerful instrument of changing their position in society. Education also brings about reduction in inequalities and also acts as a means to improve their status within the family. In order to encourage education of women at all levels and to dilute gender bias in the provision and acquaintance of education, schools, colleges and even universities were established exclusively for women in the State. To bring more girl children, especially from marginalized BPL families, into the main stream of education, Government has been providing a package of concessions in the form of free supply of books, uniform, boarding and lodging, clothing for hostilities, mid-day meals, scholarships, free bicycles and so on. As a result women's literacy rate has grown over the three decades and the growth of female literacy has in fact been higher than that of male literacy rate. The education plays an important role to get best result in village development.

### **Health and well-being of Indian women**

Women health is a very important factor in villages. Lack of health awareness and health facilities are to be very well planned by the government of the state and country as well. Health and well-being is a concept related to the substantial differences between women and men in their access to sufficient nutrition, healthcare and reproductive facilities, and to issues of fundamental safety and integrity of person. According to the World Health Organization, 585,000 women die every year, over 1,600 every day, from causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. The complexity of the social and cultural issues, combined with the stigma and fear of disclosure lead to a situation where only a small proportion of the crimes of sexual assault, child abuse, wife battering and gun related violence are ever reported, making accurate data extremely difficult to obtain. The women in India are to be

very healthy and contribute to the village development.

## Major Problems in Overall Development of Women and How to Overcome

### 1. Limited Access to Resources (Land)

Access to assets is the single most urgent need for the upliftment of women in general and farm women in particular. Though the Indian legislation permits equal right of man & women in property yet the condition in actual sense is not so. Rural women still do not have ownership on land and the pattas are allotted in the name of their husband. Due to this they can not take independent decision on various agricultural aspects. Therefore, concerted efforts are needed to promote women access to resources. For promoting women's access to land, the measures can be-

- distribution of land to the landless women should also be included in the existing Govt.,
- Policies on distribution of joint pattas to husband & wife and
- Short term operational ownership of land female farmers while giving land on leasing may be arranged.

### 2. Limited access to input & credit

#### Limited finance in the village is the major problem in the village development

Though women make substantial contributors to agriculture development, their access to the most crucial input credit is limited. Since they are not land owners, the credit flow generally goes in the name of male members (i.e. owners). For promoting women's access to farm input & credit, following measures may be taken:

- Credit flow to rural women could be channeled through credit & thrift societies.
- Voluntary agencies in each district may be identified which could help in developing women organizations.
- Credit organizations should simplify the procedures & modalities to suit the educational level of rural women & also organize credit camps in village exclusively for women.
- Farm women should also be recipient of credit for which possession of assets may not be insisted upon.

## Women Empowerment through SHG Development Programmes

### The various activities planned and carried out are

- Formation and Training of Self Help Groups
- Group Development and group participation
- Capacity Building and innovation
- Income Generation Activities
- Credit and Savings Mobilization and bank loan system
- Establishment of linkages with NGOs and Government.

These activities had made impressive impacts in empowering women and improving their economic and social status in their families and communities.

### What Activities Can Be Conducted By Women in Village for Development

The self-help groups are playing important role in village development since last 10 years in India, Government is helping them in all respect. SHG members take up different

income generating activities. SHPIs play an important role in taking up the suitable IGAs by the members based on the skills. Income Generation Activities of SHG

- Agriculture •Chicken shops •Animal husbandry •Mess
- Hosiery •Mid day meals •Candle Preparation •Embroidery
- Cane items •School uniform stitching units •Carpets •Brick making
- Khadi, leather items •Pot making •Spinning and weaving
- Saree business •Basket weaving •Candle making •Woolen blankets weaving
- Agarbatti making •Sale of fruits and pongamia seeds •Pickle making •Vegetable vending •Fenile making

## Images of Women Taking Active Part in Various Developmental Activities in India



Fig 1: Computer Literacy



Fig 2: SHG Activity in action

## Conclusion

The women play a important role in village development and if they are supported by men in the village the output can be seen in very short time. Though they make half of the world population, women have remained as an oppressed group from the beginning of the history. Though some societies regard women as superior in the family and community, most of societies of the world have been treating women as second class citizens. Because of religious and cultural values and physical structure, women are forced to remain as dominated group around the globe, especially in the least developed nations. women's participation in almost fields has been minimized because of male dominance. Self Help Groups are important source of income to women in villages.

The author has studied the problems in village development with respect to women contribution and have systematically discussed the activities that can be conducted to get the best results.

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