

# “Women's empowerment and rural development”

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In building any nation the contribution of women is essential. Women are equally for the development of any economy. In developed countries, most of women in the universe get employed and are economically dependent. In 21<sup>st</sup> century most of women are educated and have sufficient independence in various sectors of the economy. As a result of this, women in developed countries have their own personal savings and wealth and also have the freedom to spend behind their own and family's needs. Women emanate from agriculture, industry and service sectors in urban and rural areas. In this way by increasing productive supply of manpower, the contribution of national income is almost as much as parochial. Thus, the economic empowerment of women is particularly useful in the development of the nation.

## **Women's participation on the economic front in India:**

In the land of the Orthodox society, women in the country have largely stayed behind in higher education and training. Women have limited freedom in the choice of modern businesses. The main goal for women is the care and family responsibilities and the professional careers. On the other hand, in the Indian society the rights of women are considered as theirs. Instead of having wealth in their own names, women give importance to the property of their family or husband. In these circumstances women's economic status seems very poor compared to men. In India, women are likely to own more than one per cent of the total wealth. Most women work with very little returns in traditional and unorganized sectors. The representation of Women in a modern organized, public institutions and government jobs are fewer in number. Hence, in a country like India, economic growth rate has remained low till the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> century and the contribution of women to economic development has been low.

## **The need for women empowerment:**

Women are considered vulnerable because they are far behind men, both socially and economically and this is why the concept of women empowerment has evolved to empower them. If half of human society is unimpressive and vulnerable, the entire society cannot grow completely. Empowerment of women is not only in the interest of women but in the interest of the whole society as the development of women is the development of society. Consequently development of women will make the nation stronger.

Women's empowerment is a process that enhances women's self-sufficiency, their rights to empowerment becomes wider and women's dominance over resources and wealth is effectively established so that it can challenge the factors that neglect and oppress women. Empowerment is a very important process. Various aspects of social empowerment, hygiene, freedom of choice, and crucial role in political and public life are involved in women empowerment.

## **Women's empowerment efforts and program:**

The United Nations declared in 1975 the International Women's Year. She also announced to celebrate the International Women's Day. As a result, extensive awareness was raised against discrimination against women around the world. After this, international movement likes women's liberation movements in relation to women's empowerment came on the surface. Various programs of women's empowerment and women's welfare have been implemented in all countries of the world. Women welfare departments and women security and welfare corporations have been started in government ministries in India. More emphasis was placed on women's rights, education and training. Women have been given an organized tribute with active

role of women commissions in the centers and states. In addition, the voice of women in the public sector was further strengthened by ensuring 5% reservation of women in local self-government institutions. In the economic sector, women are widely involved in micro-finance and self-help groups to make common women's feet and greener.

### **Women's Empowerment in India:**

Due to various women's development programs and women's development policies, there has been a significant increase in women's education in India. The proportion of women in higher education as well as in specialized education and training is increasing rapidly and the gap between men and women at all levels of education is decreasing. This is reflected in the increasing employment of women in the public sector high jobs, the increasing number of women in higher positions in the corporate sector, the increasing dominance of women in the medical and education sectors, etc., in which women become socially and economically independent. Women's representation has increased in local self-government organizations. Women give better fruitful results in almost all stages of education. Thus, women empowerment in the country is increasing rapidly in economic as well as social sector.

### **Women empowerment in rural areas**

In urban areas, the development of women in the social and economic fields seems to be faster. As most of the institutions of education are in the cities, the proportion of education is very high among women. Business opportunities are also high in the urban areas. Which can directly benefit the educated and under-educated? Women in social areas and women's organizations in urban areas can actively participate in social work more socially. However, the empowerment of women in rural areas is relatively low. Nevertheless, women empowerment has begun in the villages as the process of women's empowerment has taken the form of a movement. In rural areas, admission of girls to primary schools is similar to that of adolescents. With the increase in the facilities of vehicles and increasing the facilities of higher education in small towns, there has also been a significant increase in secondary and higher education in the rural areas, whose direct impact is seen in the social and economic situation of women.

With the increase of contact with the cities and higher education, the status of women in freedom has improved significantly with respect to women's clothing, ideas and decisions in particular matters. Women who are educated and trained get employment in rural and urban areas in the modern and organized sectors. Rural areas have the least benefit of growing. Due to the development of education and health sectors in rural areas, women living in cities go for jobs in rural areas. Also rural areas which are located in the cities due to employment, they occasionally go to rural areas. As a result, rural women and urban women are more exposed. As a result, the old ideas and traditions of women in rural areas are diminished and there is a developing and progressive approach. With such small and small things, social change in the rural areas is rapidly changing. This improves the social status of women.

The potential for economic empowerment of women in rural areas seems to be lower than in urban areas. Yet their economic conditions are likely to improve. Three sectors are considered to be useful mainly for the economic empowerment of women in rural areas. (3) Self Help Groups - Women join the Sakhi Mandal so that women can become salaried by getting employment in the fields of home industry, self-employment and trade and services. (2) Women can become financially self-sufficient in the housing industry and in the field of independent business or employment, through training classes run by government industry centers and self-help organizations. (3) In the cooperative sector, milk production can be linked to livelihoods. Apart from this, modernization of farm business like agriculture can make agriculture more rewarding. Organizations like cooperative activities and Sakhi Mandals can be spread more in rural areas and if women join them in greater proportion, then women will become rich.

In the rural areas, there is a growing scope for service sector in respect of Women's Empowerment. As education increases, the need for tuition also increases. In rural areas, facilities like cities are evolving. Taking advantage of it, some women can develop women in rural areas.

The direct impact of women's economic empowerment is done on their social empowerment. Being financially aggravated increases women's independence in terms of spending. Social respect also increases. As the financial contribution of the family increases, the importance of the woman also increases in the family. As a result, women get more freedom in social and economic matters and their area of choice is expanded. And the voice of women becomes stronger.

### **Rural Development with Women's Empowerment:**

Increasing the contribution of women in various economic activities in rural areas increases economic prosperity in rural areas. The productivity growth of agriculture leads to higher income generation through livestock and dairy development, income growth through the development of domestic industries and handicrafts and income growth through development of various services. Rather than having more support on farming, the development of non-agricultural fields has made the foundation of the gram economy more elaborate and more robust. In the weak years of rain, even if agriculture fails, the villages survive due to the development of agricultural fields. With the economic upliftment of women, the villages also become more economically prosperous and they are conducive to the social empowerment of women. Rural women 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.

### References:-

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