

Importance of the Self Help Groups in Women Empowerment

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Abstract: The paper deals with the empowerment of women and their financial security in the rural Indian region. As the Indian economy is agricultural dependent, and agriculture does not guarantee fixed income, a marginal number of people with a rural background do not have a fixed and continuous source of earnings to support the daily needs of their family. The jobs of the people in the rural area are disguised as a kind and a lot of people rely on a single source of income or a piece of land. The government has introduced the micro finance system in order to support these people, and the establishment of the self-help group (SHG) is part of the micro finance system. SHGs have proved to be a milestone in empowering women in villages, especially where a group of women (usually 10 to 20) come together to achieve a financial goal in order to support each other.

Keywords: Women empowerment, women entrepreneurs, self-help groups, rural, micro finance, empowerment.

INTRODUCTION

India is predominantly an agricultural economy, with up to 70 percent of the population living in India's villages and rural areas. Unfortunately, it is not so much the income of the people engaged in agriculture that can completely satisfy their every economic need along with giving a sense of financial security. The poverty problem has been faced by a number of the people in rural area and the main reason of the poverty problem is the less or no exposure of the education, availability of the inferior technology, less availability of the health services and problems in getting finance etc. after India gets free, the problem of availability of the finance was not solved, there was only source to get finance was the money lenders[1].

The preamble of the Constitution has given every citizen, regardless of their gender, the guarantee of the fundamental right, the preamble and the Directive Principle of the Indian Constitution have given a thorough description of the rule to save women's right, in addition to giving women the power to live as free as a male, even states have the power to make and enforce it[2]. Despite of the multi dimensional progress in almost every segment of the life and businesses, women role have not been given that much of the attention as it should have given. But still a lot of the women have tried to participate in the mainstream in order to earn their living in addition to support their family economically.

The number of women has increased day by day, and it has shown a good sign in the labour market that women are willing to take the job and therefore a good sign of the economic situation of the nation and nation by contributing to gross domestic production (GDP) and increasing the family's purchasing power and especially making women self-dependent [3]. Earlier, only a male member of the family is considered as the bread earner but now a women is also take the half responsibility of earning the bread along with contributing the long term saving of the family to lead a decent life in this world. After analysis of the lot of the survey and observation, it has been concluded that a women is even a better manager at work place than his counterpart.

Women empowerment is significantly interconnected with the gender quality as gender equality places a critical role in the society [4]. The equality of the gender promotes the legal as well as casual rights in addition to availability of various resources such as education, vocational training, have freedom to decide their individual goal etc. In general, men don't want to lose authority over the decision making power and dominate the women but as the time has changed, the biased mentality also has changed and men itself ready given the space to women in different segment of the life to pave the way for multi sectoral and multidimensional growth and development.

This term for women's entrepreneurship plays an important role in the advancement of women, i.e. women must be a powerful source of socio-economic development through gender equality. For several multinational corporations and with the emergence of these companies, the age of globalization and privatization has opened the door to the Indian economy; the employment rate has also gotten a boost. The economic reform was taken by the Indian government in the 1991 proved a helping hand in improving the position of the women. As a result, women have increased their financial power and, consequently acquire authority over choice of decision making regarding their own life and work preferences.

Empowering women is a process or social action in which women elaborate and recreate what it is to be in a situation in which they have been traditionally rejected. When talking about the empowerment of a woman, however, empowerment implies accepting and welcoming people (women) who are outside the decision-making process into it. Empowerment can be described in several ways [5]. This places a strong focus on involvement in political systems and structured decision-making and, in the social realm, on the opportunity to gain a livelihood that allows participates in community decision-making. Empowerment is the mechanism that gives people control over their own lives, culture, and societies..

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

Deininger, Klaus has published a paper in 2013 about the impact of the micro finance services in Indian people, especially in the life of the rural people. The main aim of the micro finance services is to help the poor person of the rural area by increasing their economical power. The micro finance services address their individual needs as well as help them to increase their economical potential. The study has found the measure to support the poor and step taken by the government to empower the women as well as their nutritional level. The microfinance system also include the self help group, where a cluster of the people come together with a common goal i.e. the financial stability [6].

Ranbir Singh et al studied that entrepreneurship is recognized as one of the most major factors contributing to society's economic growth. In initiating and sustaining socio-economic growth, entrepreneurs have been deemed instrumental. In India, the notion of women's entrepreneurship has recently arisen. Women are becoming aware of their rights and circumstances and have joined various fields of industry. They have built prosperous business empires of their own. They contribute to economic development and to the development of their socio-economic conditions. The government has given prime attention to the development of women in the country and many schemes for the upliftment of women entrepreneurs have been launched. Due to the rise in the rate of women's literacy in India, the ratio of women employees in the country is increasing [7].

SELF HELP GROUP: A PATH TO INCLUSIVE GROWTH

A self help group is characterized as the pool of the 10 to 20 persons who come together for a common purpose and work for making their and surrounding people's life financial stable. This group can be understood as a system of the mutual help or support system in need of the emergency. All the member of the group is dedicated to help each other and works toward the financial stability. The self help groups are the

initiative taken under the micro finance system to make the rural people empowered[8]. Currently, there is a number of the group running in the country that make the people empowered. This initiative is proved as a boon for the women and rural women have benefitted most with the initiative of the self help group.

The main concept behind the group formation is that it is quite possible that an individual alone cannot get the success in their endeavor but success rate of the group is very high in comparison of an individual effort. To alleviate the poverty and create an own financial system, these group have doing a remarkable works.

Women Empowerment:

Empowering women is a process or social action in which women elaborate and recreate what it is to be in a situation in which they have been traditionally rejected. However, empowerment means welcoming and inviting individuals (women) who are on the outside of the decision-making process into it when talking about women's empowerment. It is possible to explain empowerment in many ways[6]. Empowerment is the process that gives people influence over their own lives, communities, and economies. This puts a strong emphasis on involvement in democratic processes and organized decision-making and, in the economic sphere, on the ability to earn an income that allows economic decision-making participation. People are empowered when the services available to them, such as in education, can be accessed without restrictions and limitations[9].

A woman has to face a lot of obstacles on the road to women's advancement because the male dominated culture and companies do not readily embrace women's development and do not want to help her. The key problem is the arrangement of finance since finance is the most important resource for the start of any Endeavour and without finance one cannot think of starting the venture. Since the microfinance scheme has the provision to support the most rural people in the background as well[10]. In addition, government and private banks have different provisions to provide the appropriate individuals with the loan. The second barriers along the road are the prejudices of family and culture. In addition to these, the primary element in helping one to achieve their objectives is education.

CONCLUSION

The nation needs all of its resources, particularly human resources, to be mobilized and fully utilized. Women's involvement in economic activity is important from not only the perspective of human capital, but also from the perspective of increasing the status of women in society. The status of female empowerment is now recognized as an indicator of the growth process of societies and it is therefore essential for the organization to frame policies for the entrepreneurial development of women. The long-term objectives of women's development initiatives should be aimed at raising their economic and social status in order to place them at the centre of national life and development. For this purpose, the role and participation of women in various social, political, economic and cultural activities must be given due recognition.

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