

# DEVELOPMENT OF MICRO- ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN RURAL WOMEN THROUGH SELF HELP GROUPS (SHGS) & THE PROBLEM OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

(A case study of West Champaran)

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## Abstract

Women constitute 90% of total marginal workers of the country. Rural women who are engaged in agriculture form 78% of all women in regular work. Men and the project administrators are low that determine extent to which empowerment may or may not take place. Micro enterprises are noting but the business units concerned with either the production of various goods and services or distribution as well as sell of industrial and agricultural products though establishing a micro or very small business units. It requires a very small amount of capital without going in detail it would pertinent to focus on the maximum investment limit for the establishment of micro-enterprises. Role of Self- Help Group's is to improve the social and economic development of women and give the better status to women in households and communities at large. The micro entrepreneurship is strengthening the women and removing the gender inequalities the rural women are engaged in small scale entrepreneurship programs with the help of Self - Help Groups. Through that they were economically empowered and attaining very good status in family and community.

Simple method of analysis is used to analyse the primary as well as secondary data collected through micro-study in this regard. The whole discussion mode so far is classified in to five sections. Section-I Presents an introductory note on the topic, section-II Development Of Rural Women Through Self Help Groups (SHGS), section-III Importance Of MSMEs In Enhancing Women's Empowerment. Section-IV analyses the findings of the micro-study undertaken in this regard and Section-V reflected the summary and concluding remarks of the study with the suitable suggestions for making this programme most effective and efficient. The whole discussion made so far in the present study enables us to say that women, the half part of our total population require a lot of efforts for their empowerment.

This study is mainly concerned with the economic empowerment of women. The variables taken in to consideration is micro-finance, money income and micro enterprises. The hypothesis tested in this study is based on the hypothesis that micro enterprises have positive impact on the socio-economic and cultural academic status of women.

The finding of this study highlights that the availability of micro-finances accelerates the process of micro-enterprises establishment which in turn in fuels the process of women empowerment.

## INTRODUCTION

Micro – enterprises play an important role in the industrial Development. It acts like the backbone of economy and social development in the state or country. Even after 73<sup>rd</sup> years of independence, the situation in India was not much in Micro-Entrepreneurship. The main reason for this is the narrow thinking towards woman spread in the society, who have got freedom not only about the households item or the working object of the house, but our society did not allow them to go onto some kind of industrial area, big or small and Micro. Women occupy a pivotal role in civilized society. During the process of development and marketization their place in our society in general and that of in rural economy in particular have changed. The dominance of male counterparts has not only marginalised the role and status of women. While we look in to the role and status of women in our ancient Indian culture we found that women are worshipped and treated as an ideal of sacrifices. But in the realm of development, the attitude and attention of men have changed. Women have considered as a consumer goods and hence the process of multiple exploitation have started. Since then the women's problems have gotten momentum and the socio economic as well as psy-political status of women have marginalised and they are now considered as a weaker sex of the society. But such type of women's problems has gotten momentum only in developing nations. The role and status of women in developed nations are quite satisfactory. Because, in those nations' women are not only considered as the equal partner of development but allowed to work in all walk of life also. In such scenario one can easily become able to understand the distinction of thoughts and feelings of male counterpart in developed and developing nations in regard to women. The magnitude and dimensions of women's problems are not only multiplied but caused the UNO to call a special meeting of member countries to discuss about the amicable solutions of women's problems in 1975 and 1975-1985 was declared as women's Decade during which a composite effort along with concrete programmes and policy prescriptions will be undertaken to solve their problems. At the same time the nations are directed to take it seriously and formulate a special development programmes for women's development. In other words, in the UNO's conception in regard to women are treated as an equal partner of the path of development and allowed to work with men. In true sense, women and men should not be distinguished on the basis of sex. As it has widely been accepted that men and women are the two-equal partner of human beings and one can't be succeeded to go ahead without the help as well as cooperation of others.

Participation of rural women in small scale industries or entrepreneurs is much more interesting but hard working one. A number of rural women are normally engaged in small scale and tiny business such as vegetables, fruits, other necessary items needed in households in daily life are some of the most important business undertaken by these women of rural area. As it has widely been accepted that nearly 80 % of rural women are residing in rural area and worked as the most active and effective partner of the rural economy. To have an exact idea about their role and importance in SSIs, it would be advised to go through the.

The participation of women in SSI (small- scale industries) sector has been identified in three different roles. Some women were owners of enterprises, some were managed of enterprises and some were employees. With regard to ownership, an SSI or a SSSE managed by one or more women entrepreneurs in proprietary concerns, or in she/ they individually or jointly have a shares capital of not less than 51% partners/shares holders/ Directors of private limited company/ Members of Co-operative society is called a 'Women enterprise'.

## **MSMEs Units Undertaken by Women.**

The total number of women enterprises in total SSI sector was estimated at 10,63,721 (10.11 Percent). The estimated number of enterprises actually managed by women was 9,95,141 (9.46 percent). In the states of Mizoram, Orissa, Karnataka, Goa, Lakshadweep, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry, the share of women employment was significantly higher (more than 20 percent)

## **Section-II**

### **DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL WOMEN THROUGH SELF HELP GROUPS (SHGS):**

A self- help group (SHG) is a village –based financial intermediary committee usually composed of 10-20 local women or men. Member make small regular saving contribution over a few month there is enough capital in the group to begin lending funds may then be lent back to the members or to other in the village for any purpose in India, many SHG are linked to the banks for the delivery of micro – credit.

The SHG mechanism has provided a great opportunity for economically weaker section (special for women) to participate in the financial ecosystem and derive benefits of regular saving and even develop entrepreneurship.

Microcredit is the extension of very small loans (microloans) to poor borrowers who Typically lack collateral, steady employment and a verifiable credit history. It is designed to spur entrepreneurship, increase incomes, alleviate poverty and often also to empower women. Microcredit is a part of microfinance, which is the provision of a wider range of financial services, in particular savings, to the poor.

Micro-credit financing system uses the social trust as the collateral. Although there are different micro-credit financing models, the borrowers in the pioneering models are usually members of small groups. Loans are given to individuals, but an entire group is responsible for the repayment. Hence, the borrower who does not fulfill his commitment to repay back will lose his/her social capital. Today, there are millions of poor people around the world who turn to be entrepreneurs through the micro-credit sector.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Women's empowerment can be measured by factors contributing to each of the following i.e. their personal, economic, familial, and political empowerment. Household and interfamilial relations are to be included which is believed to be a central locus of women's dis-empowerment in India. To understand the change women undergo in becoming empowered we look at the above aspects. Various studies show that the women have been empowered based on factors such as income, households, political, decision making etc.

## **MICRO- ENTERPRISES, RURAL WOMEN AND SELF HELP GROUPS (SHGS):**

Women constitute 90% of total marginal workers of the country. Rural women who are engaged in agriculture form 78% of all women in regular work. Men and the project administrators are low that determine extent to which 229 empowerment may or may not take place. Micro credit is promoting the small-scale business enterprises and its major aim is to alleviate poverty by income generating activities among rural women. Therefore, they could achieve self-sufficiency. Role of Self- Help Group's is to improve the social and economic development of women and give the better status to women in households and communities at large. The micro entrepreneurship is strengthening the women and removing the gender inequalities the rural women are engaged in small scale entrepreneurship programs with the help of Self -Help Groups. Through that they were economically empowered and attaining very good status in family and community. The delivery of micro finance to the poor is smooth, effective and less expensive if they are organized into Self Help Groups. All Self-Help Groups are promoting micro enterprise through micro-credit intervention. Micro-entrepreneurship is not only enhancing national productivity, generate employment but 230 also help to develop economic independence, personal and social capabilities among rural women like Economic empowerment Improves standard of living Self-confidence Increases social interaction Engagement in political activities Increases participation in different meetings and seminars Enhance awareness Sense of achievement Improves the leadership qualities Improves decision making capacity in family and Community Expertness in problem solving matters related to women And community.

## Section-III

# IMPORTANCE OF MSMEs IN ENHANCING WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Participation of rural women in small scale industries or entrepreneurs is much more interesting but hard working one. A number of rural women are normally engaged in small scale and tiny business such as vegetables, fruits, other necessary items needed in households in daily life are some of the most important business undertaken by these women of rural area. As it has widely been accepted that nearly 80 % of rural women are residing in rural area and worked as the most active and effective partner of the rural economy. To have an exact idea about their role and importance in SSIs, it would be advised to go through the. The participation of women in SSI (small- scale industries) sector has been identified in three different roles. Some women were owners of enterprises, some were managed of enterprises and some were employees. With regard to ownership, an SSI or a SSSE managed by one or more women entrepreneurs in proprietary concerns, or in she/ they individually or jointly have a shares capital of not less than 51% partners/shares holders/ Directors of private limited company/ Members of Co-operative society is called a 'Women enterprise'. 5.10.1 MSMEs Units Undertaken by Women. The total number of women enterprises in total SSI sector was estimated at 10,63,721 (10.11 Percent). The estimated number of enterprises actually managed by women was 9,95,141 (9.46 percent). In the states of Mizoram, Orissa, Karnataka, Goa, Lakshadweep, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry, the share of women employment was significantly higher (more than 20 percent).

## RURAL WOMEN THROUGH SELF HELP GROUPS (SHGS):

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## Section- IV

### ANALYSIS OF PRIMARY DATA

The Government of Bihar's flagship JEEVIKA program operates in all 534 blocks of the 38 districts of the state, with the goal to economically and socially empower women. JEEVIKA mobilizes women from marginalized households (especially from Scheduled Caste and Tribe households) into women's self-help groups (SHGs), which are federated into Village Organizations (VOs) and Cluster Level Federations (CLFs). Once this pyramid of institutions is established in a village, the project delivers targeted funds for micro-credit, food security, insurance against health emergencies, and promotes livelihood opportunities in the community. Additionally, the project supports these institutions to leverage other government programs, and to facilitate collective action to resolve social and service delivery problems at the village level.

#### Composite Index for Performance on JEEVIKA

- Number of SHGs formed
- Number of village organizations
- Number of cluster level federations
- Number of farm producer groups formed
- Number of non-farm producer groups formed
- Number of livestock producer groups formed
- Global evidence shows that women's collectives like SHGs facilitate:
  - Financial inclusion: Increase in savings.
  - Support improved health outcomes: Adopt maternal and child health practices, access health services.
  - Promote & support livelihoods: Enhance access to and enable better use of inputs (including assets), technology adoption, crop diversification.
  - Catalase gender empowerment: Control over decision making, money, mobility and political participation.

## MICRO- ENTERPRISES:

As it has widely been accepted that the role of Micro- Enterprises is quite important. Become, the process of women empowerment requires economic empowerment and the process of economic empowerment is nothing but the process of economic independency. For economic independency of women it would become necessary to make them efficient to run their own business unit.

Table-1

Distribution of Samples with respect to social groups

S.N.	Types of micro Enterprises	Social Group of Women Enterprises					Total Funds Rs in lacs
		SC	ST	OBC	OTH.	Total	
1	Paper/Wari/Audhori	03	01	07	08	19	1.00
2	Achar Mix	07	02	04	10	23	2.00
3	Fruits	10	04	06	16	36	1.5
4	Garments Making	06	05	08	11	30	7.0
5	Children Dress Materials	08	10	07	13	38	10.0
6	Tarling Training centre	02	01	09	09	21	10.0
7	Others	01	03	05	06	15	4.0
8	Total	37	26	46	73	182	35.5

Source: survey data.

Table- 2

Percentage distribution of samples with respect to social group

S.N	Types of Micro Enterprises	Social Group of Women Enterprises in percentage				
		SC	ST	OBC	OTH.	Total
1	Paper/Wari/Avdhor	15.79	5.26	36.84	42.11	100
2	Achar Mix	30.43	8.70	17.39	43.48	100
3	Fruits	27.78	11.11	16.67	44.44	100
4	Garments Marketing	20.00	16.67	26.66	36.67	100
5	Children Dress materials	21.05	26.32	18.42	34.21	100
6	Tailoring Training Centre	9.52	4.76	42.86	42.86	100
7	Others	6.67	20.00	33.33	40.00	100
8	Total	20.33	14.29	25.27	40.11	100

Sources: On the basis of survey.

Table- 3

Percentage distribution of samples with respect to type of micro enterprises taken into consideration.

S.N.	Types of Micro Enterprises	Social Group of Women Enterprises in percentage				
		SC	ST	OBC	OTH	TOTAL
1	Paper/Wari/Avdhor	8.11	3.85	15.22	10.96	10.44
2	Achar Mix	18.92	7.69	8.69	13.69	12.64
3	Fruits	27.03	15.38	13.04	21.92	19.78
4	Garments Marketing	16.22	19.23	17.39	15.07	16.48
5	Children Dress materials	21.62	38.46	15.22	17.81	20.88
6	Tailoring Training Centre	5.40	3.85	19.57	12.33	11.54
7	Others	2.70	11.54	10.87	8.22	8.24
8	Total	100	100	100	100	100

**Sources: On the basis of survey data.**

Without going in detail, it could be advised to go through the data of above tables; we conclude that micro enterprises are the most important means to initiate empowerment schemes. the success rate of these enterprises is quite satisfactory. As far as the case of global business is concerned, it has positive impact on the empowerment.

**SECTION -V****CONCLUDING REMARKS**

We would like to say that development Micro-enterprises in rural women through SGHs the most important, effective and efficient means for women empowerment. As we know that Japanese's women are much more empowered and able to work at par with men. Their type of empowerment is outcome of influence flow of micro-enterprises in Japan. It is difficult in Japan to have a house or family without any enterprises. In other words, we may say that it is Self Help group is very important role play in women empowerment which provides energy to flourish the impression of women. West Champaran district is very backward in Industries area. There is no shortage of resources here, but if there is shortage of capital hence SGH has played a very important role for capital for Micro- enterprises. Especially in women from rural areas, SGH is acting like a panacea in Micro- enterprises development.

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