



## **Empowerment of rural women in India**

**Dr. Arvind Rathore**

Associate Professor & HOD, Department of Sociology, Shree Bhawani Niketan girls PG. College, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

### **Abstract**

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.

**Keywords:** women, development, productivity

### **Introduction**

Empowerment of women in villages will not only lead to emergence of women leaders but will also accelerate development of the entire community. Research has shown that bringing women into leadership positions helps the larger community, given that women think about the impact of their decisions on their families and surroundings. Indian law recognizes the importance of women's inclusion, offering a minimum of 33 percent of seats for women in panchayati raj institutions. The need of the hour is to equip rural women with information and skills that can build their confidence to be leaders who catalyze rural development. Millions of rural women are unaware of their equal rights as Indian citizens, or of ways in which they can become involved in their village-level institutions. This means women are kept from participating in the essence of Indian democracy and decentralized governance. Structured, local means of engaging women to learn about their rights goes a long way in helping them become well-informed citizens who will eventually take on leadership roles to improve their lives and their communities. By knowing their rights, these women drive better delivery of public services and take problems with delays or denial of benefits and services directly to government line departments, resulting in improved transparency and accountability.

Rural women in village-level institutions, such as panchayats and school management committees, are often reluctant to voice their opinions in mixed gatherings. Patriarchal norms, lack of education, limited access to information, and restricted mobility discourage women from actively contributing to community development.

All-women gatherings, such as mahila sangathans (women's collectives) provide a safe space for women to discuss problems and gain confidence before bringing them up in a larger forum. Here, women leaders are more able to raise fundamental - but oft-ignored - development issues that men often do not recognize, such as female literacy, alcoholism, access to clean water, and lack of toilets. However, in rural

areas, where most women are semi-illiterate or illiterate, important messages in print publications, wall paintings, posters, and other traditional rural media fail in providing them crucial information. In communities where women and girls lack freedom to attend meetings, they have few ways to find answers to their questions, or speak with outsiders, especially males. New technologies overcome the bottlenecks, but they require a steady electricity supply, freedom of access, and some degree of literacy and training.

### **Rural Women's Empowerment in Today's Perspective**

Indian rural life is difficult to comprehend in the realities. On other hand small minority of people in large state have got very good rural farmer is profited from information technology kranti in some old years in India country, their lives & life change with difficult. A low landlord's majority of cannot improving sustainable economies condition, they think oppression doing on the women & lower caste people, higher castes people and government people or servant support a good life for his life. Private sector rules are low strong according as comparison government rules, they ready preserve own power has on every step punishment. For example today government health care scheme is all over of rural family in India is a free government service in government hospital, In original way we see that the first stage of primary health care scheme is totally failed. A lot of charitable trust and most non-governmental organizations doing very good character, usually from government grants and non-Indian people donations. NGO, s and civil society at large in order to use the research document as a springboard to launch a sustained advocacy strategy to achieve the MDG-3 target of 33% of women in parliament. Our operating premise is that improving, economic and political opportunities for women improve societies as a whole.

Empowerment of women involves many things - economic opportunity, social equality, and personal rights. Women are deprived of these human rights, often as a matter of tradition. In rural areas, women are generally not perceived to have any

meaningful income generation capacity, and hence, they are relegated mainly to household duties and cheap labour. Without the power to work and earn a good income, their voices are silenced. Even in matters of sex and child bearing, women often do not have the ability to oppose the wishes of their men.

When people can control on reproductive birth control of ladies and they can't do this that day women health care, economics and education. Until this reality is accepted, the desired changes may not be attainable in the foreseeable future. In a society where men control the destiny of women, how is it possible to empower women? Simply encouraging women to resist the wishes of men would not only fail, but would create mistrust of any goodwill attempts from "the outside" to help rural communities. Women will gain power only when both men and women begin to respect and accept the contribution of women. Developing women's capacity for income generation without threatening men is key.

### **Need for Women Empowerment**

In spite of the various measures taken up by the government after Independence and even during British rule the Women haven't been fully empowered. We may be proud of women in India occupying highest offices of President, Prime Minister, Lok Sabha Speaker, Sonia Gandhi, and Leader of the Opposition or women like Ms. Chandra Kochar occupying highest positions in the Corporate Sector but the fact remains that we still witness dowry deaths, domestic violence and exploitation of women. Some create history in space & sport like Sunita Williams & Saina Nehwal, Sania Mirza & Anju Bobby George The female feticide is common phenomenon. The male female ratio though improved over last few years is still far from satisfactory. It is 940 women per 1000 men for India in some states it is as much lower as 877. These are the states where female feticide is maximum. The female literacy rate is also lower than the male literacy rate. The ground reality is deprivation, duration and exploitation of women specially women from rural areas and those belonging to deprived sectors of the society. The Urban élite class women have no doubt been benefitted by the efforts of women empowerment.

### **Conclusion**

The Empowerment of women has become one of the most important Concerns of 21st century not only at national level but also at the international level. Efforts by the Govt. are on to ensure Gender equality but Government initiatives alone would not be sufficient to achieve this goal. Society must take initiative to create a climate in which there is no gender discrimination and Women have full opportunities of Self decision making and participating in the Social, Political and Economic life of the Country with a sense of equality. Then only the Vedic verse "Wherever Women is respected, God resides there" would come true. Today parents can give best gift to his daughters in role of education. If we can choose women has low knowledge, on other side then all the effects doing by the Indian government and women activists will go in vain. Even in twenty-fifth century, they will remain backward and will be paying a heavy price for their dependence, so, it is a wake-up call for women to awake from

their deep slumber and understand the true meaning of their empowerment. In the end I would like to conclude with the following words, "Women as the motherhood of the nation should be strong, aware and alert".

According to despite the difficulties condition that are likely to be encountered, we confidence that it is possible to bring about major improvements to their lives of women life in rural Indian area. Good-planning and properly managed private initiatives can succeed in empowering women, provided the approach taken is sufficiently holistic. The time has come to go beyond small pilot projects that hardly ever lead to major undertakings. There has been much needless suffering for too long by a majority of the world's population. It would be a noble and worthwhile effort to prove the concept on a large scale, probably for several million people in an area. That would require considerable organizational skills and management talent, with a clear focus on accomplishing set goals in a time-bound fashion. The success of such a program would be the model that international funding agencies and philanthropic institutions can build upon, and serve as a departure to the failed policies and programs of the past.

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