



## Women in Rural Area

Prof. Basudeb  
Sadhukhan

C/O Acharya Girish Chandra Bose College

**ABSTRACT**

*In our male dominated society, the position of women specially rural women is very neglected and ignored. Their education, health, socio-economic condition are very bad. They have to bear up the social disregards, harassment, insultation and so on. In many cases they are completely dependent on the male. The Govt. of India as well as state Govt. is formulating various policies and programmes for improvement of the neglected women in our country. They are taken various steps from three tier panchayat system. For this reason, their education, health status as well as socio economic condition are improving. Though there are various rules and regulation are taken but the rural women still in the dark position. Social awareness to be required for improvement the women of rural area. If the socio economic position of women would be better, than the economic condition of our country will be better. We expect that in near future there will be no gender discrimination in our society.*

**KEYWORDS :** women, health, dependent, economic, rules, rural, discrimination

**Introduction :-**

The position of women in comparison to male has been neglected and ignored totally in the male dominated society still now in our country. Inspite of reaching at the door of twenty first century, the position of the women has not been changed at all. Rather they have to bear up the social disregard, harassment and insultation more and more. According to the universal customs the first and major work of female in our society are considered to manage the family affairs. So, their participation are very little in the large economic development in our country. As compare the women of developed countries of the world are very much positive to economy growth, they are struggling in the same system like male. The position of women of our country really pathetic. Though half of Indian population in our country i.e. near about sixty crore are women, the economic development is impossible by keeping the neglected.

**Objectives :-**

In India, women specially in rural area, are economically and socially backward in comparison to men. They are literacy rate is very low, in our society there are so many harassment, rape, kidnapping, dowry system, torture etc are faced by the women. If their condition is not improving then our socio-economic condition are not improved. In our modern society, the need for women empowerment is getting realized more and more. It has widely been admitted that improving the status of women in our male dominated society may solve several problems like meeting the basic needs of family, overall social advancement and other issues. As per the norms of United Nations Entity of Gender Equality and Empowerment of women presented seven principles that should be functioning as guiding material against gender discrimination and in order to ensure advancement of women in social contest.

**Present Scenario :-**

Although the condition of women in India are developing in the post independence era, educations are flourishing among them, the role of women is increasing in the field of work, quantity of girl child marriage are gradually decreasing, above all the social and political rights of them are getting strong. As an Indian, women are going to space travel at present. According to that they are achieving the highest legal right of power in the political field. But we have to consider all these matters as the separate incident. There are so many problems are faced by the women in rural area like education, health, employment, social justice and so on. The literacy rate in village women are very poor than urban women.

**Female literacy in India****Table - 1**

Year	Rural (%)	Urban (%)	Overall (%)
1961	10.10	40.50	15.35
1971	15.50	48.80	21.97
1981	21.70	56.30	29.76
1991	30.62	64.05	39.29
2001	46.58	72.99	54.16
2011	58.75	79.92	65.46

From the above table, it shows that there is a huge gap between women and men. Literacy rate of male is 82.14% and female 65.46%. On the other hand literacy rate of women is 79.92% in urban area and is 58.75% in rural area as per 2011 census.

On the other hand, the health and safety concern in Indian women is very dangerous specially in rural area. The health status in rural women are given below :-

**Health status indicator****Table - 2**

Sl.	Parameters	1951	1981	1991	2001	2013
1.	Crude birth rate (per 1000 population)	40.8	33.9	29.5	25.4	21.4
2.	Crude death rate (per 1000 population)	25.1	12.5	9.8	8.4	7
3.	Total fertility rate	6.00	4.5	3.6	3.1	2.4
4.	Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births)	N/A	N/A	398 SRS (1997-98)	301 (2001-03)	178 (2010-12)
5.	Infant mortality rate (per 1000 live births)	146	110	80	66	40

As per report of Govt. of India, crude birth rate (2013) is 21.4 per 1000 people, crude death rate is 7 per 1000 people, maternal mortality is 178 per 100,000 people and infant mortality rate is 40 per 1000 live birth. Although the rate of birth, death, maternal mortality are decreasing from the previous years but these rate are very dangerous than other countries.

The economic as well as social economic condition of women in rural India is much pathetic. They are completely dependent on the male in the large scale apart from education, health and social deception. As if the birth of daughter womb is trying to stop in the Govt. level still the difference between male and female are reducing sufficiently which is inviting the possibility of damaging the social balance. The situation is reaching to such a crucial level in the one or two steps like Hariyana, Rajasthan etc that the political parties are promising in their manifesto to get married bringing the woman from the other states.

**Steps for improvement of Rural Women :-**

The Govt. of India has taken various policies and programmes not only the improvement of women in rural area but also to ensure the active participation in the development process in the country. The Ministry of Rural Development are formulated various programmes keeping in view the above perspective.

Ministry of Rural Development is implementing various poverty alleviation and development of Indian village. These programmes have special components for women some of the major scheme are the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act [MGN-

REGA], Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana [SGSY], now restructured as National Rural Livelihood Mission (Aajeevika) and the Indira Awaas Yojana [IAY]. The implementation of these programmes is monitored specifically with reference to rural women.

**The programmes which are implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development for the improvement of women are discussed below :-**

**Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act [MGNREGA]:-**

This scheme guarantee of employment for 100 days in a financial year to any rural household whose adult members are willing to do unskilled manual work. It is provided in the Act that while providing employment, priority shall be given to women in such a way that at least one third of the beneficiaries shall be women who have registered and requested for work under the act.

During the year 2012-13 (upto Dec 2012) total employment was generated of 134.76 crore person – days. Out of these days, the employment generated for women were 71.88 crore person-days, which is 53.34% of total employment generated under this programmes.

**National Rural Livelihood Mission [NRLM] :-**

Under this Mission a small self help group (SHG) of women in general (5-20 in difficult area) is credited the primary building block of the NRLM institutional design. The purpose of creating these SHGs at village level for providing women members space in self-help, mutual co-operation and collective action for social and economic development. NRLM is working with groups of exclusive women membership because it recognizes that women are marginalized in the economy as well as the society.

During the year 2012-13 out of 569912 Swarojgaris assisted, 477,944 Swarojgaris (83.86%) were women.

**The Indira Awaas Yojana [IAY] :-**

The aims and objectives of this yojana to assist to the poor or BPL people in rural areas for the construction of Pakka Houses. Under this scheme, priority is extended to widows and unmarried women in rural areas.

Under this scheme, total number of dwelling houses sanctioned during the period 2012-13, was 2215637 out of which 1329550 (60%) were sanctioned in the name of women and 561962 (25.36%) houses were sanctioned jointly in the name of husband and wife.

The Ministry of women and child development was established as a department of the Ministry of Human Resources Development in the year 1985 in our country. In the year 2006, this department was given a separate status of a Ministry. This department also prepare plans, policies, legislation and co-ordinating the efforts of both governmental and non governmental organisation who are working in the field of women and child development. Swayamsidha Programme was implemented for the empowerment of women at a total expenditure of Rs. 116.30 crores. This programmes will benefit about 930000 women with the setting up of 53000 self help groups, 26500 village societies and 650 block society. Under the umbrella of Ministry Women and Child Development, the National Commission for Women was setup for reviewing legal constitutional safeguards for women, recommending remedial legislative majors and advising the Govt. of India on all policy matters affecting women.

There are so many steps taken for the improvement of rural women , for that reason there literacy rate improved from 10.10% (1961) to 58.75% (2011) , the health status indicator have shown significant improved i.e. crude birth rate decreasing per 1000 population – 40.8% to 21.4% in 2013 , infant mortality rate per 1000 live birth from 146 to 40 in 2013 , total maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live birth from 398 in 1991 came down to 178 in 2012.

**The most remarkable change is noticeable in the field of politics. In the three tier panchayet system in India , the women's positions is far better. These shows in the following table:-**

**Number of elected women members in various states (2008)**

**Table – 3**

Sl.	State	Village Panchayet		Panchayet Samity		District panchayet		Total	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1.	Bihar	64152	54.6	5671	49.2	577	49.87	70400	54.12
2.	Karnataka	39318	43.0	1519	41.2	373	37.11	41210	42.9
3.	Manipur	730	43.6	--	--	28	45.9	758	43.66
4.	Assam	8977	39.2	791	36.8	135	34.62	9903	38.93
5.	Uttar Pradesh	273,229	38.8	24,674	37.6	1122	41.59	299,025	38.75
6.	West Bengal	18,150	36.6	2953	34.5	248	34.44	21351	36.29
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Total	-----	974,255	36.82	58012	37.1	5778	37.08	10,38,045	36.84

**Suggestion & Recommendation :-**

**Following steps are to be taken for improvement of poor and needy rural women. These are :-**

If the amount spent for improvement of women are to be distributed directly to the poor women through different Govt. distribution system instead of present system then leakage of money i.e. misuse of money will be reduced.

Rules and policies are to be formulated on the basis of needs and problems of poor people basically poor women, and then this policies are to implemented.

The economic condition of women is to be improved, if the economic position of women are not changed, then other problems like education, health, etc of women not changed. For this purpose various SHG to be established in village level and money lend to SHG for different profession of women like farming, agriculture, small business etc.

For improvement of women, education is utmost important. If proper education is not given, the other problems are not solved. Proper supervision to be required for expenses paid by Govt. More girls school to be established for the education of poor and meritorious girl child.

More expenditure in Govt. and non Govt. level are to be required for better health condition in rural area.

Social awareness to be required for stop dowry system, harassment, rape etc.

**Conclusion :-**

In our main dominated society, the women are neglected in all areas. If their socio-economic condition is not changed, then our economic growth to be hampered. Women in developed counties like USA, UK etc is very powerful and their health, education and other conditions are very good. So their economic position is better as compare to our country. In a country, socio-economic condition would be better if women are mostly educated and cultured. We expect that in near future there will be no gender discrimination in our society.

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