

Original Research Paper

Management

An Insightness of Women Empowerment Through Self Help Groups in Tamil Nadu, India

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ABSTRACT

Self Help Groups are an innovative organizational setup in India for the women upliftment and welfare. When the SHGs arrange training facilities to carry out certain kind of work which are suitable for women in India, arranging marketing facilities while the governments will procure the product of SHGs, arrange for enhancing the capacity of women in

terms of leadership quality and arranging for the management of SHGs by themselves so as to have administrative capacity, to know the national level schemes and programmes for women empowerment to motivate women taking up social responsibilities particularly related to women development.

KEYWORDS:

Introduction:

SHGs are novel and innovative organizational setup in India for the women upliftment and welfare. All women in India are given chance to join any one of SHGs for training and development, so as to be prospective entrepreneur and skilled worker. The SHGs are promoted by the Government as if women in India may not be resourceful enough to be entrepreneurs. When the SHGs arrange training facilities to carry out certain kind of work which are suitable for women in India, bank must arrange financial assistance to carry out manufacturing and trading activities, arranging marketing facilities while the Governments will procure the product of SHGs, arrange for enhancing the capacity of women in terms of leadership quality and arranging for the management of SHGs by themselves so as to have administrative capacity. As a social movement with government support. SHGs become more or less a part and parcel of the society.

Overview of Self Help group in Tamil Nadu:

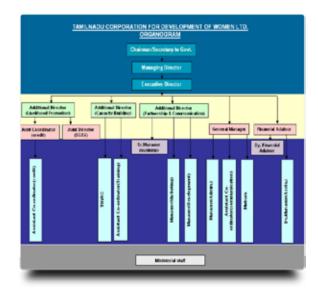
Self Help Group (SHG) is a group of 12 to 20 women of the same socio-economic background who come forward voluntarily to work together for their own upliftment. The unique feature of the SHG is its ability to inculcate among its members sound habits of thrift, savings and banking, Regular savings, periodic meetings, compulsory attendance, and systematic training are the salient features of the SHG concept. Each group selects one animator and two representatives from among themselves. The animator is responsible for providing leadership to the group and to maintain the various registers. The representatives assist the animator and maintain the bank accounts of the group.

Self Help Groups consist of BPL women members in the age group 18-60 years residing in the same area. NGOs and PLFs affiliated with TNCDW undertake the formation of SHGs. They are trained to become cohesive as a group through regular meetings and encouraged to cultivate savings habit. Capacity Building Programs such as SHG and A & R training are parted to the Group members and within a period of six months, after a period of 6 months, SHGs are rated for Credit Linkage by a Committee consisting of Bankers, APOs, NGOs, Block level officer and PLF Representative. For the eligible Credit rated SHGS, credit facilities are largely made available through Banks, both for revolving fund and economic activity. And other sources of funding for Credit linkage are SGSY, TAHDCO, and NABARD & SJSRY. Under various Skill Training Programmes, eligible SHG members are encouraged to start economic activities or undertake self employment. Efforts are made by TNCDW for marketing the products produced by SHGs wherever possible locally and for sale in exhibitions.

The Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of women (TNCDW) was established in 1983 with the prime objective of bringing about socio-economic development and empowerment of women. The Corporation implements Mahalir Thittam, IFAD assisted Post Tsunami Sustainable Livelihoods Programme and also SGSY, a major anti-pov-

erty programme meant for self employment of rural poor. In order to bring about greater synergy and better coordination in implementing various schemes for Self Help Groups, Tamil Nadu Corporation for development of women Ltd was brought under the control of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department from July 2006. Further the Board of TCDW was broad based and reconstituted vide G.O.Ms. No:148, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (CGS-II) Department, dated 12.10.2006 to include representatives from industry, NGO sector, Banks and Specialists who can positively guide the Corporation with their valuable inputs.

Tamil Nadu Women Empowerment and Poverty Reduction Project was launched to reduce poverty and empower the women. Apart from regular savings, Self Help Groups are engaged in business activities to uplift themselves financially and economically. Self Help Groups in the state are engaged in giving training for sewing, coir knitting and sale, manufacturing of soaps, manufacturing of toys and wires, manufacturing of blue, bringing up of mushrooms etc. Many workshops were conducted for 4 the welfare and awareness of self help group members and people community. Watershed development, Agricultural extension, Health and Sanitation programmes, AIDS awareness programmes, Family welfare programmes etc., are some of the vital activities in this context. Public distribution scheme outlets are also run by Self Help Groups in Tamil Nadu.



Source: http://www.tamilnadumahalir.org/site-map/about-us.html

Status of Women in India:

In previous times, the status of women in India was inferior to men in the practical life. However, they had a higher status in scriptures. They are considered as the perfect home maker in the world. With their incomparable quality of calmness of their mind, they can easily handle even toughest situation. Indian women are completely devoted to their families. They're preached in the names of Goddess Saraswati, Goddess Durga, Parvati & Goddess Kali. Their condition remains unchanged even during the modern times with only little changes. In India, women were never given any right of liberty & equality. Their condition becomes even worse when they gave birth to girls. Men treated them in a humiliated manner. They were not only permitted not to step outside their house but also abstained from being educated.

They were also supposed to eat after their husbands or even sometimes to eat their husband's leftovers. Women were prohibited from prohibited from taking external matters as well as domestic matters. They were under the influence of their parents before marriage & their husband after marriage.

Women Status in Modern India:

During this time there was a little development in the women status. There were many women reformers in India who worked for the uplift & betterment of their female counterparts. The begun of Bhopal discarded the 'Purdah' & fought in the revolt of 1857. Their education was elevated and English was introduced during this period. Various female writers emerged in the society. In the modern time, women in India were given freedom & right such as freedom of expression & equality as well as the right to be educated. Various prestigious positions at this period were held by women. They're enjoying the 'ladies first' facility in different fields. However, some problems such as dowry, domestic violence, sex selective abortion, female infanticide are still prevalent.

Women Empowerment



Empowerment is a process of awareness and capacity building leading to greater participation, to greater decision making power and control and transformative action. Empowerment as a concept was introduced at the International Women's Conference at Nairobi in 1985. The conference defined empowerment as "A redistribution of social power and control of resources in favour of women. It is "the process of challenging existing power relations and of gaining greater control over the sources of power". Empowerment is a multi-faceted process which encompasses many aspects i.e. enhancing awareness, increasing access to resources of economic, social and political etc.

Women Empowerment in India

There are still uneducated and poor town ladies fiscally reliant on their relatives, despite the fact that they are persevering and have their own particular capacities to be monetarily self-subordinate. Still, they won't land any great position and no money related backing to begin their own particular family unit businesses and additionally fare the well.

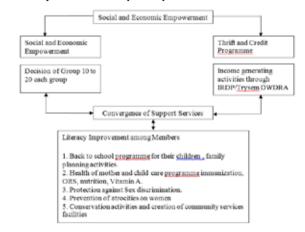
Barriers to Women Empowerment

Many of the barriers to women's empowerment and equity lie ingrained in cultural norms. Many women feel these pressures, while others have become accustomed to being treated inferior to men. Even if men, legislators, NGOs, etc. are aware of the benefits women's empowerment and participation can have, many are scared of disrupting the status quo and continue to let societal norms get in the way of development. Research shows that the increasing access to the internet can also result in an increased exploitation of women. Releasing personal information on websites has put some women's personal safety at risk. In 2010, Working to Halt Online Abuse stated that 73% of women were victimized through such sites. Types of victimization include cyber stalking, harassment, online pornography, and flaming and recent studies also show that women face more barriers in the workplace than do men. Gender-related barriers involve sexual harassment; unfair hiring practices, career progression, and unequal pay where women are paid less than men are for performing the same job. Such barriers make it difficult for women to advance in their workplace or receive fair compensation for the work they provide.

Schemes of Women Empowerment

- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme
- 2. One Stop Centre Scheme
- 3. Women Helpline Scheme
- UJJAWALA: A Comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of trafficking and Resue, Rehabilitation and Re-integration of Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation
- 5. Working Women Hostel
- Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme For the Children of Working Mothers
- Ministry approves new projects under Ujjawala Scheme and continues existing projects
- 8. SWADHAR Greh (A Scheme for Women in Difficult Circumstances)
- Revision under IGMSY in Accordance with National Food Security Act, 2013 in XIIth Plan
- Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP)
- 11. Nari Shakti Puraskar
- Awardees of Stree Shakti Puruskar, 2014 & Awardees of Nari Shakti Puruskar
- 13. Awardees of Rajya Mahila Samman & Zila Mahila Samman
- Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY) A Conditional Maternity Benefit Scheme
- Release of 2nd Installment of Grant for 2015-2016 for all the States under IGMSY

Activity of the Self-Help Groups of Women



Conclusion:

The women play a strategic role in the society and in the economy. The status of women in India is not even in all the times. Though the women's has to come forward without any fear or hesitation to take them into high position. Empowerment is the context of womens development it is the way of defining, Challenging and overcoming barriers in a women's life and environment. The government of India has many arms to exchange blows for women empowerment, the prompt and strict execution is quite essential. Unless the Acts, Policies, Rules, Regulations, etc, are strictly implement the idea of women empowerment remains unachieved. Hence the awareness of schemes need more to the women's which is offering by the government

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