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Economic Development of Women through Welfare Programmes in K.V.B. Puram Mandal of Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh

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Keywords :

Empowerment of women that will have lasting impacts must involve consciousness raising before the social construction of gender, which subordinates women in the family, class, caste, religion, or society, can be changed. The economic empowerment approach has relied on improving women's control over economic resources and strengthening women's economic security. The results also suggest that policies to raise women's age at marriage, enhance their educations and open greater employment opportunities will also help to empower them, at least in some respects. Our goal is to cause policy, institutional and individual change that will improve the lives of women and girls everywhere.

Various Welfare Programmes are implemented by the Government which seek to eradicate poverty and improve general status of the poor people including women. Such programmes include Indira Kranthi Patham (IKP), Indiramma Housing Programme, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (M.G.N.R.E.G.P), Pensions, National Family Benefit Scheme (N.F.B.S), etc. The study focuses on availing of the programmes and economic empowerment achieved by the selected sample.

Quantitative research methodology has been used for the present study.

The Objectives of the study are

- to find about the general development of respondents through welfare programmes and
- To enquire about the economic development of respondents.

All the respondents have used selected welfare programmes in K.V.B. Puram Mandal. Many one using more than one programme. They have acquired fixed and more able assets. They are mostly facing group-specific problems like non-response from group leaders and groups members and irregularities by the leaders.

Empowerment of women that will have lasting impacts must involve consciousness raising before the social construction of gender, which subordinates women in the family, class, caste, religion, or society, can be changed. The economic empowerment approach has relied on improving women's control over economic resources and strengthening women's economic security. The results also suggest that policies to raise women's age at marriage, enhance their educations and open greater employment opportunities will also help to empower them, at least in some respects. Our goal is to cause policy, institutional and individual change that will improve the lives of women and girls everywhere.

The principle of gender equality is enshrined in the Indian Constitution in its Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles**.** The Constitution not only grants equality to women, but also empowers the State to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favour of women

Economic Empowerment of women

Poverty Eradication

Since women comprise the majority of the population below the poverty line and are very often in situations of extreme poverty, given the harsh realities of intra-household and social discrimination, macroeconomic policies and poverty eradication programmes will have to specifically address the needs and problems of such women. There should be improved implementation of programmes which are already women oriented with special targets for women. Steps are to be taken for mobilization of poor women and convergence of services, by offering them a range of economic and social options, along with necessary support measures to enhance their capabilities.

Micro Credit

In order to enhance women's access to credit for consumption and production, the establishment of new and strengthening of existing micro-credit mechanisms and micro-finance institutions will have to be undertaken so that the outreach of credit is enhanced. Other supportive measures should be taken to ensure adequate flow of credit through extant financial institutions and banks, so that all women below poverty line have easy access to credit**.**

Women and Economy

Women's perspectives have to be included in designing and implementing macro-economic and social policies by institutionalizing their participation in such processes. Their contribution to socio-economic development as producers and workers are to be recognized in the formal and informal sectors (including home based workers) and appropriate policies relating to employment and to her working conditions have to be drawn up. Such measures could include:

Goals

The goal of various programmes relating to women is to bring about the advancement, development and empowerment of women. They have to be widely disseminated so as to encourage active participation of all stakeholders for achieving its goals.

Specifically, the objectives of the programmes include;

- Creating an environment through positive economic and social policies for full development of women to enable

them to realize their full potential.

- The *de-jure* and *de-facto* enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedom by women on an equal basis with men in all spheres – political, economic, social, cultural and civil.
- Equal access to participation and decision-making of women in social, political and economic life of the nation.
- Equal access to women to health care, quality education at all levels, career and vocational guidance, employment, equal remuneration, occupational health and safety, social security and public office, etc.
- Strengthening legal systems aimed at elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.
- Changing societal attitudes and community practices by active participation and involvement of both men and women.
- Mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development process.
- Elimination of discrimination and all forms of violence against women and the girl child; and
- Building and strengthening partnerships with civil society, particularly women's organizations.

Methodology

Quantitative research methodology has been used for the present study.

Table -1

Village-wise distribution of the Respondents

Mandal	Village	Frequency
K.V.B. Puram	K.V.B.Puram	36
	K.V.B. Puram S.T. Colony	12
	Rajulakandriga	24
	Bodi Reddy Kandriga	28
	Total	100

In K.V.B. Puram Mandal four villages were selected by random sampling method. The sample selected was 100 out of than 36 respondents more from K.V.B. Puram main village, 12 respondents from K.V.B. Puram ST colony, 24 respondents from Rajulakandriga and 28 respondents from Bodi Reddy Kandriga.

Table -2

Programme-wise coverage of the smple

Mandal	PROGRAMMES	Frequency
K.V.B. Puram	IKP	100
	Indiramma Housing	95
	NREGP	85
	Pensions	15
	N.F.B.S	5

Four welfare programmes ware covered in the study. The coverage of IKP Programme was total. 95 respondents used Indiramma Housing Scheme, 85 respondents utilized Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, 15 respondents benefited from Pensions and 5 respondents from National Family Benefit Scheme. It can be concluded that the coverage of the welfare programmes is very widespread.

Table-3

Economic development through welfare programme

Type of assets	Frequency
House site	15
Gold	10
Agriculture land	5
Cows	25
Sheep	30
Others	15
Total	100

The respondents of the study area developed economically and acquired fixed and movable assets after joining welfare programmes. The type of assets acquired are presented in the Table-3.

The table explicitly shows that 10 respondents acquired gold, 15 respondents acquired house site, 30 respondents bought sheeps, 25 respondents bought cows and 5 respondents acquired agricultural land. It is quite interesting to note that 15 respondents acquired other assets. It can be inferred that all respondents got benefitted economically and acquired more able and fixed assets.

Table-4

Problems faced while using the welfare Programmes

problems	Frequency
Non response for the Govt. officials	7
Corruption in the Govt. offices	4
Non response from the group leaders	34
Irregularities of the group leaders	15
Non response from the group members	35
Others	5
Total	100

The respondents had to be face more problems while seeking to use the welfare programmes, lot of problems. The type of problems faced by the respondents are presented in Table - 4

A majority of the respondents (35%) stated lack of response from group members as the main problem. An almost equal number (34%) stated the same from group leaders. About 15% complained of irregularities by group leaders like misappropriates faulty accounting, etc. 7% stated absence cooperation from Govt. officers both at the higher and lower levels. A small number of 4% complained of corruption in the Govt. officers and almost 5% mentioned other problems.

Conclusion

All the respondents have used selected welfare programmes in K.V.B. Puram Mandal. Many one using more than one programmes. They have acquired fixed and more able assets. They are mostly facing group-specific problems like non-response from group leaders and groups members and irregularities by the leaders.

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