

## Research Paper

## Economics



## Role of Institutional Agencies for the development of Women Entrepreneurs in Karnataka

\*Dr. M.V.Raghavalu

\* Associate Professor, Department of PG Studies in Economics, SSA. Government of First Grade College, Bellary-583101, Karnataka.

### ABSTRACT

*According to 2011 census, women represent almost half of our country's total population, the literacy rate of women remains at the level of 39.29 per cent as against 64.13 percent of their male counterparts, indicating low earning capacity; ultimately they depend on men in their families. However, the development of women has always been the central focus in developmental planning since independence. The women and child development department, since its inception of the Five Year Plans has been implementing special programmes designed to improve the socio-economic status of women. Again, there is need for changing the mindset towards women so as to give equal rights as enshrined in the constitution.*

**Keywords : Entrepreneurship, Women entrepreneurs, Institutional support**

According to 2011 census, women represent almost half of our country's total population, the literacy rate of women remains at the level of 39.29 per cent as against 64.13 percent of their male counterparts, indicating low earning capacity; ultimately they depend on men in their families. However, the development of women has always been the central focus in developmental planning since independence. The women and child development department, since its inception of the Five Year Plans has been implementing special programmes designed to improve the socio-economic status of women. There is need for changing the mindset towards women so as to give equal rights as enshrined in the constitution. Our late Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi said, "No society could progress unless women who contribute half of its population, were given equal opportunities". But, the progress towards gender equality is slow and is partly due to the failure to attach women to policy commitments. In the words of Former president AP J Abdul Kalam "empowering women is a prerequisite for creating a good nation, when women are empowered, society with stability is assured. Empowerment of women is essential as their thoughts and their value systems lead to the development of good family, good society and ultimately a good nation".

The concept of developing women entrepreneurship lays emphasis of the productive utilization of women labor-force to generate income and output. The programmes for developing women entrepreneurs would make a dent to alleviate poverty.

The Industrial Policy Resolution of 1991 has also highlighted the necessity to provide special training programmes to develop the women entrepreneurship in all over the country along with Karnataka State. The Government of Karnataka has been taken much attention for the development of women entrepreneurship by establishment of institutional agencies and programmes across the state. An attempt has been made on role of state level institutional agencies for the development of women entrepreneurship in the state of Karnataka, which would hold to the policy makers and researchers to prepare some more programmes and policies effectively.

### STATE LEVEL INSTITUTIONAL AGENCIES

Women Entrepreneurs have been attracting the attention of policy makers and government departments by their excellent performance in this field though they have entered in the

recent decades in the state. In the recent past a couple of women interested to work as officials and owner of industrial units outside the state and countries, especially when unemployment has become a matter of great concern to all. However, the number of women entrepreneurs has been increasing considerably year after year. The Sixth Plan laid great emphasis on, and provided a New deal, for, self-employment by providing a package of services such as training, credit, marketing and general guidance for those who wanted to launch self-employment ventures. The other subsequent plans have been given much importance for the development of women entrepreneurship. The following programmes and schemes are providing help/support at all level to the women entrepreneurs for their socio-economic development.

### UDYOGINI SCHEME

Udyogini scheme is a innovative scheme sanctioned by the state Government during 1997-98 for the self employment especially trade and service sector, Udyogini empowers women by providing loans through banks and other financial institutions and also the schemes provides a subsidy from the corporation for undertaking business activities. In order to reduce the private borrowings, loans are arranged through financial institutions like commercial banks, district co-operative banks and RRBs. The scheme is applicable for all the women including SC/ST having the income limit of Rs. 40000/- to the age-group of 18-45 years in order to get the unit cost maximum of Rs10000/-. But, no income limit is prescribed for women belonging to special category viz. widows, disable women.

### Directorate of Industries and Commerce

Directorate of Industries and Commerce is established to involve in planning, and implementation of industrial development in the state. It has a single window agency which helps in getting all the required clearance in the industry at one place. It also provides financial guidance to unit owners.

### District Industries Centers (DIC)

Prior to 1978, there were a large number of agencies concerned with the development of Village and Small Scale Industries. Many of the central and state level organizations had their own functions working at the regional and in some cases at the district levels and they tended to operate individually with no contact with each other. The proliferated schemes, agencies and organizations confused the Village and Small

entrepreneurs. The DIC frame work has been designed to remove the difficulties and take a systematic programme of identifying new entrepreneurs. The main rationale of the DIC was to provide an easily identifiable focal point at district level for development of small scale and village and cottage industries especially in rural areas and towns with less than 50,000 populations.

#### **Karnataka State Small Industries Development Corporation (KSSIDC)**

The Karnataka State Industries Development Corporation has aimed to promote small scale industries in Karnataka. It provides a package of services to the SSI units in the state such as industrial sheds, industrial estates, raw material, transfer of technology, training, management guidance to SSI entrepreneurs, technical library facilities etc. In other words it renders basic infrastructural facilities to the SSIs in the state. The State Small Industries Development Corporation (SSIDC) was set up in various states under the companies act 1956. It has a net work of 24 depots for raw material distribution in the state.

#### **Marketing assistance scheme**

In order to provide better marketing facilities, the state government sectioned a scheme namely marketing assistance scheme during 1997-98. Under this scheme, Karnataka state women's development corporation is providing marketing facility by organizing at the district level and the state level. The scheme also allows to create market avenues and linkages and to organize exhibitions and sales throughout the state.

#### **Urban shrishakti scheme**

Urban Shrishakti scheme is especially designed scheme to improve self reliant capacity and improve the socio-economic status by forming the Shrishakti groups covering poor, needy and physically handicapped women in the urban areas.

#### **TECHNICAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES ORGANIZATION OF KARNATAKA (TECSOK)**

TECSOK is a professional industrial technical and management consultancy organization promoted by the government of Karnataka and other state level development institutions way back in 1976. It is a leading investor-friendly professional consultancy organization in Karnataka. Its various activities are investment advice, procedural guidance, management consulting, mergers and acquisition, process reengineering studies, valuation of assets for takeovers, impact assessment of socio-economic schemes, critical infrastructure balancing; IT related studies, detailed feasibility studies and reports. TECSOK has expertise in rehabilitation of sick industries by availing rehabilitation packages offered by the government and financial institutions.

#### **Kaigarika Vikasa**

The scheme is being implemented for industrialization of 79 most backward and more backward Talukas identified by Dr. D.M. Nanjundappa Committee on Redressed of Regional imbalances. The scheme envisages creation of new economic opportunity by utilizing local resources, skill and demand by providing ready to use infrastructure, human resource development etc.,

#### **Vishwa**

The main objective of the Vishwa programme is to provide continuous productive employment opportunities in rural areas by promoting cottage and village industries by utilizing local resources for manufacture of goods and services for mass consumption. The scheme contemplates institutional support for training, establishment of production units, support services like supply of raw-materials and marketing through DSMS and State level Boards and Corporations.

#### **RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND SELF EMPLOYMENT TRAINING INSTITUTIONS (RUDSETIs)**

As per the Industrial policy of 2001-06, it was proposed to establish a Model RUDSETI centre. The rural development and self employment Training institutes are being established in coordination with the Banks with an objective of preparing the rural youths to have their own Industrial / service ventures by imparting training and guidance.

#### **SWARNA JAYANTHI GRAM SWAROZGAR YOJANA (SGSY)**

Swarna Jayanthi Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) started from April 1<sup>st</sup> of 1999. The scheme formed by merging various programs such as IRDP, TRYSEM, DWCRA, TOOLKITS, GKY and 'MWS etc. Under this programme, 10 per cent of the funds are earmarked for training, 10 per cent for revolving fund, 20 per cent for infrastructure development and the remaining 60 per cent utilized as subsidy for taking economic activities with thrust on group activities.

#### **ARTISANS INITIATIVES**

In order to develop the artisan activities, several boards and corporations are established in the state like Karnataka State Handicraft Development Corporation, Urban Haat, khadi and Village Industries Board, Karnataka State Coir Development Corporation Ltd, Karnataka Leather Industries Development Corporation Ltd.

To sum up, the growth and development of women entrepreneurs both in India and Karnataka depends on effective economic policies and supportive institutional agencies and its programmes/schemes. The recent governments have been given much attention for the improvement of socio-economic status of women and women entrepreneurship across the country. The Five Years Plans and Industrial policies and women reservation bill, special programmes for women entrepreneurship development are some of the examples for promotion of women entrepreneurship in India and in Karnataka. Women entrepreneurs would lead the industrial sector if the programs and agencies are continuously effectively working with better coordination and cooperation each other.

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