



“A study on impact of Government Policies in Rural Women Empowerment”

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“When woman moves forward, the family moves, the village moves and the nation moves”

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

Introduction

India is the land of village and 70 per cent of India's population stays in rural India. Rural India has myriad problems such as dependency on Monsoon ,agriculture, jobs, poor wages, distress migration, malnutrition, poor implementation of government schemes and lack of access to quality education,transport and health-care facilities. As per rural Tradition , a woman’s place has been at home and a decade ago, women employment outside the home was looked down upon by the society.Now situation has changed. Because to Empower rural women is became a necessity for the society to ensure sustainable development of the country Rural Women also started seeking employment outside their homes through gross economic necessity followed by the desire to raise economic status, to have an independent income, to make use of education, to pursue a career etc .To empower rural women government passes many bills and policies .The ground reality clearly reflects the active participation of women in rural economic development. Empowerment of Rural women implies both the economic betterment of rural population as well as greater social transformation. .

Objectives of the study:-

To study role of rural women in economy.

To review available government offerings with respect to women empowerment.

Hypothesis of the study:-

H1 Rural women have a significant contribution in national labour force of India. .

HO1 There is no significant contribution of rural women in national workforce

(H2 Government policies doesn't play a pivot role to make rural women economically empower.

H02 Role of government policies is significant to make rural women economically empower.)

Review of literature:

Many researchers found that women empowerment is the need of hour and women empowerment can be possible if we empower women economically .some major research are

Mr.Sanjeev (2014) wrote in his research paper there is a strong need to invest in building capacity of local talent, entrepreneurs, institutions and networks to be able to align and speak the language of self-sustenance and empowerment.as per his research he found that women entrepreneur can perform better then man entrepreneur because they easily identify the choice of products and acceptance levels of domestic products.

Shettar M,Rajeshwari (2015) studied that practically women empowerment is still an illusion of reality,women of India are relatively dis-empowered and they enjoy some what lower status that of men in spite of many efforts under taken by government .

Panda Ankita,Nayak Debendra(2017) explained in their study that role of good governance and leadership to improve,promote ,support and in improving status of women in society is remarkable since last decade,but their is also a large gap between the fund meant for women and actual beneficiaries,they also suggest to boost decision-making power and make the women feel that they are also valued in family and society more plans and initiatives needed.

Devi Rama T.(2017)researched and give recommendations as women constitute one-half of India's population ,without their engagement and empowerment ,rapid economic progress is not possible ,for sustainable development women empowerment is of utmost value.along with government ,civil society organizations and all other stake holders must come forward and involve in the women empowerment process it is the need of hour.

Beg Danish Mirza(2018) wrote in his research paper that this is a time when Indian rural need transformation,government should design smart plans with technical support.In India we need smart technologies for development like other countries.

Dutta ,V Mittal (2019) explained in study that education is a key factor in empowering women and bringing them enable to take decision,as per research empowerment includes raising awareness and literacy.an educated woman can face any challenges of life better than an uneducated one.

Research Methodology

This paper is completely descriptive and analytical in nature ,the data used for research it is purely collected from secondary as per the requirement of paper.

Limitations of study

This paper is only dealing with economical empowerment of rural woman,and based on secondary data.

Women empowerment

Women empowerment means increasing and improving the economical ,political and legal strength of the women,to ensure equal rights to women ,and make them confident .however government launched and run many policies for women development and empowerment like:-

- Rashtriya Mahila Kosh(1993);3
- Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS-1975)

- Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG-2010)
- Ujjawala (2007)
- Swadhar
- Scheme for Gender Budgeting(XI Plan)
- National Mission for Empowerment of Women
- Beti Bachao Beti Pado
- DhanLaxmi(2008)
- Support to Training and Employment Program for women(STEP)

Government policies to empower Rural women

To empower rural women followings top measures taken by government:-

❖ **Pradhan mantri Mahila shakti kendra**

Government of India has approved a new scheme , Pradhan Mantri Mahila Shakti Kendra (MSK) for 2017-18 up to 2019-20 to empower rural women through community participation and to create an environment in which they realize their full potential. It provides an interface for rural women to approach the government for availing their entitlements also empowering them through training and capacity building.in this scheme State Resource Centre for women SRCW) is meant for all States/UTs. District Level Centre for women (DLCW) setup in 640 districts in a phased manner. In the first year (2017-18), DLCW set up in 220 districts, in the second year 220 new districts will be covered and in the third year (2019 - 20) 200 new districts will be covered. Block Level initiative will cover 115 most backward blocks (as identified by NITI Aayog).

❖ **Mahila coir yojna**

Mahila Coir Yojana is women oriented self employment programme with a aim to providing self employment to rural women artisans in regions producing coir fibre. The conversion of coir fibre into yarn provides scope for large scale employment, this scheme also improve productivity and quality, as well as better working conditions and higher income to rural women.The scheme is being implemented by the Government through the Coir Board under its Coir Vikas Yojana.

The scheme is prevalent in coir producing coastal States such as Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, , Telangana, Odisha, Maharashtra,Lakshadweep, , Gujarat,Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Puducherry, A& N Islands, West Bengal and Kerala.

To avail benefits of this scheme women artisans have successfully completed training programme in spinning of coir yarn through any of the training centers of the Coir Board and Not more than one artisan per household would be eligible to receive assistance under the scheme.government provides financial assistance for procurement of machines up to maximum 25 lakh.

❖ **Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojna**

This scheme aims at empowering women self -help model across the country ,presently this ,scheme has been redesigned as National rural livelihood mission,also known as Aajeevika under this scheme government provides a loan of 3 lakh rupee at an interest rate of 7% which can be reduced up to 4% at the time of repayment.

❖ **Support to States Extension Programme**

In order to encourage women farmers' participation in planning and decision making process, their representation in Farmers' Advisory Committee at Block, District and State level has been provided under this scheme,as per this scheme its mandatory to ensuring utilization of minimum 30% of resources on programme and activities for women farmers and women extension functionaries.

❖ **Sub Mission on Seed and Planting Material (SMSP)**

As per this scheme training is provided under the components of the Scheme Seed Village Programme and Quality Control Arrangement of Seeds in which women farmers are equally benefited. State Governments are also advised to allocate adequate funds to women farmers.

❖ **National Food Security Mission (NFSM)**

As per the guide line and provisions the State governments are implementing the NFSM and this scheme is implemented in 28 states, 30% of allocation of fund is being earmark for women farmer. There is also an intervention under NFSM providing cropping system based training to farmers including SC, ST and women farmers to create awareness on improved technology for increasing production and productivity of crops.

❖ **National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP)**

In this scheme 30% of budgetary allocation is being earmarked for women beneficiaries, Concerned implementing agencies will be responsible for monitoring implementation of these components .

❖ **Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM),**

In this scheme Women beneficiaries are also provided 10% additional financial assistance for purchase of various agricultural machines and equipment.

❖ **National Horticulture Mission,**

To make women self -reliant and with a purpose to provide technological & extension support this programme organized into Self Help Groups and farm inputs .

❖ **Women Food Security Groups (FSGs)**

Under this scheme women farmer established and supported under ATMA Cafeteria as a mandatory activity @ Rs.0.10 lakh per group/year to achieve food security at the domestic level through setting up of kitchen garden, promoting off farm activities such as piggery, goat-rearing, bee-keeping etc.

Other supportive steps taken by government to empower rural women :-

➤ Training program for women farmer

With a aim to give technological empowerment of rural women The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has established a network of 645 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the country under this training programs farmer women gets training under the thematic areas, namely Drudgery Reduction, Farm Mechanization, Health and Nutrition, Processing and Value, Production and Management, Energy Conservation, Small Scale Income Generation, and Storage Techniques. The major enterprises included mushroom, sericulture, vermi- compost production, nutritional gardens etc. 339681 Farm women were trained in the crop production training programme.

➤ Central Institute for Women in Agriculture

This institute has been in the forefront undertaking research on issues affecting women in agriculture. It has focused on participatory action research in different technology based theme areas involving rural women to test suitability of technologies for women and suggest their refinement. The Institute is also working to catalyse and facilitate R & D institutions to bring in farm women perspectives in their program. For gender mainstreaming and empowering women in agriculture, various projects are being implemented to address issues related to women in agriculture in the areas of integrated farming system, IPM, drudgery, livestock and fisheries, extension methodologies and gender indices etc.

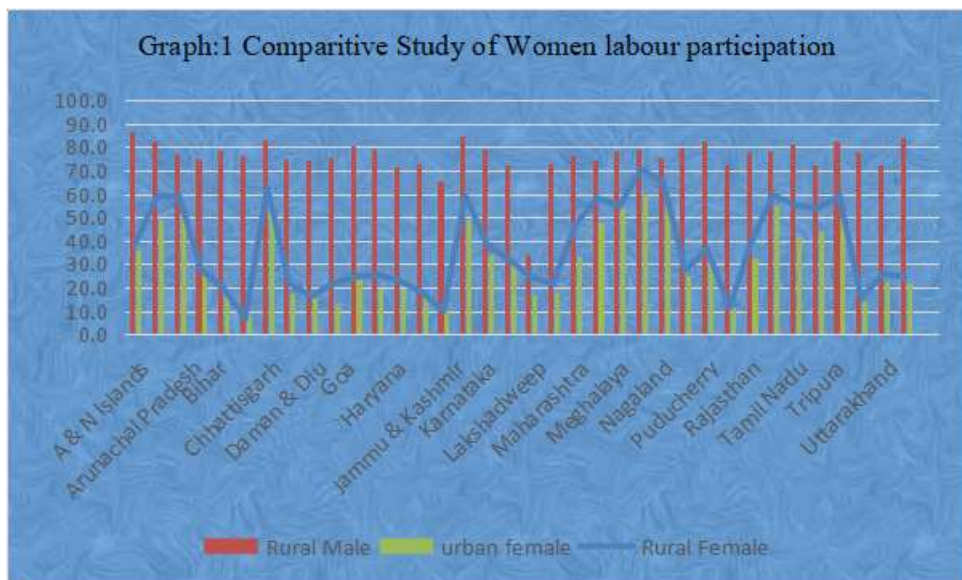
Data analysis

Labour Force Participation Rate for persons aged 15 years & above (State-wise) : 2015-16

Table 1.1

States/UTs	Rural			Urban			Total		
	Female	Male	Person	Female	Male	Person	Female	Male	Person
A & N Islands	39.0	86.7	63.2	29.9	82.0	57.9	36.2	85.2	61.5
Andhra Pradesh	59.0	82.4	70.9	22.2	67.9	44.9	48.8	78.5	63.8
Arunachal Pradesh	58.5	77.4	68.2	20.1	63.6	42.2	53.2	75.5	64.6
Assam	27.5	75.3	53.1	22.1	75.6	50.1	26.7	75.3	52.7
Bihar	19.6	78.6	51.4	8.3	73.6	43.5	18.5	78.1	50.7
Chandigarh	6.9	76.3	45.9	8.3	62.8	38.2	8.2	63.2	38.4
Chhattisgarh	62.6	83.1	73.0	22.2	72.1	48.5	54.8	80.9	68.2
D & N Haveli	21.6	74.9	50.2	12.0	66.5	42.4	17.4	71.0	46.7
Daman & Diu	16.4	74.7	47.6	15.3	83.2	51.0	15.5	81.2	50.2
Delhi	21.8	76.0	51.2	12.3	66.7	41.8	12.6	67.0	42.1
Goa	24.6	80.8	51.9	25.3	71.3	47.4	25.0	75.0	49.1
Gujarat	25.4	79.1	53.3	10.3	71.5	42.1	20.0	76.4	49.3
Haryana	22.9	71.7	48.3	12.6	68.2	41.5	19.7	70.6	46.2
Himachal Pradesh	18.2	72.9	45.7	16.9	69.4	44.1	18.0	72.5	45.5
Jammu & Kashmir	10.1	65.7	39.2	12.2	65.2	39.7	10.6	65.6	39.3
Jharkhand	59.2	84.4	72.7	14.9	73.2	45.6	49.0	82.0	66.6
Karnataka	38.1	79.3	59.3	26.5	74.3	50.8	33.9	77.5	56.2
Kerala	31.9	72.6	51.2	30.9	70.5	49.6	31.4	71.7	50.5
Lakshadweep	24.5	34.0	29.0	15.8	62.3	37.3	16.9	58.3	36.2
Madhya Pradesh	21.5	73.0	48.6	9.0	66.1	39.0	18.3	71.2	46.2
Maharashtra	46.9	76.5	61.9	12.9	64.4	39.8	33.4	71.5	53.0
Manipur	58.2	74.7	66.6	31.1	79.8	54.2	47.7	76.5	62.0
Meghalaya	54.8	78.2	66.8	49.1	71.8	60.2	53.6	77.0	65.5
Mizoram	70.6	79.3	75.0	50.2	74.2	61.3	60.4	77.0	68.4
Nagaland	64.8	75.7	70.6	45.5	69.6	57.9	59.6	74.1	67.2
Odisha	27.4	80.0	54.7	14.2	72.9	44.7	25.4	78.9	53.2
Puducherry	36.4	82.4	57.6	27.9	74.3	50.9	31.3	77.3	53.4
Punjab	11.5	72.6	43.0	11.8	69.2	41.9	11.6	71.5	42.7
Rajasthan	39.2	77.6	59.3	9.9	67.6	40.0	32.8	75.4	55.1
Sikkim	59.5	78.6	69.5	40.3	76.4	59.9	55.6	78.1	67.4
Tamil Nadu	55.2	81.2	68.2	25.0	69.1	46.8	41.5	75.8	58.5
Telangana	53.7	72.3	63.0	26.7	70.2	49.1	44.5	71.5	58.1
Tripura	59.1	82.9	71.0	36.2	84.7	59.4	54.4	83.3	68.7
Uttar Pradesh	15.6	77.5	48.5	7.8	65.1	38.1	14.0	75.0	46.4
Uttarakhand	26.0	72.6	49.9	11.6	65.5	40.5	22.5	70.7	47.5
West Bengal	24.4	83.7	55.1	16.2	75.2	46.3	22.0	81.3	52.5
India	31.7	78.0	55.8	16.6	69.1	43.7	27.4	75.5	52.4

Source: Fifth Annual Employment -Unemployment Survey, Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour & Employment.



Interpretation

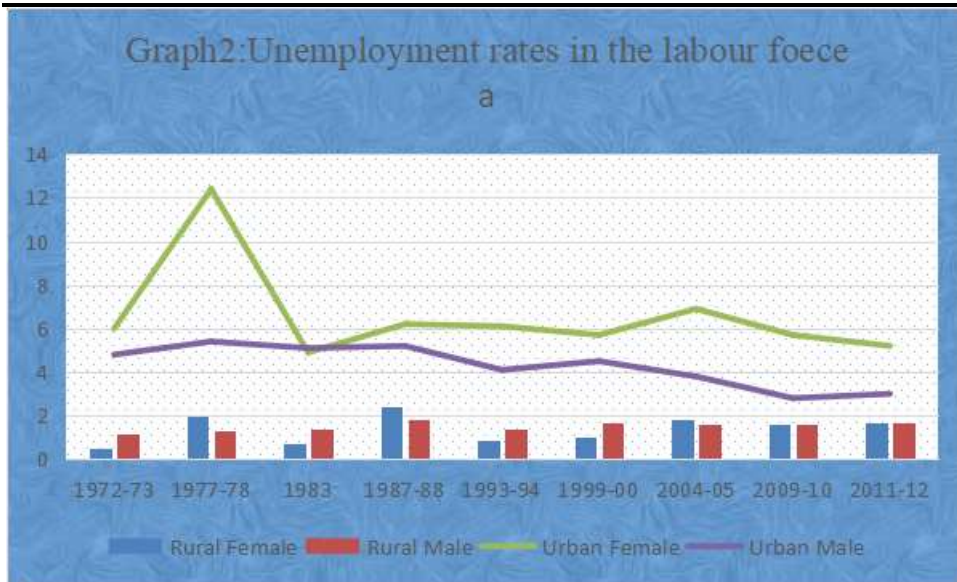
If we analysis latest report of 29th march 2019 of 20th Issue of Social Statistics Division, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation Government of India, it clearly reflect that rural women participation in national labour force is average in proportion of urban women and even in some states its more than urban women like Meghalaya ,Arunachal Pradesh & in Nagaland.

On the basis of above graph

Hypothesis 1 Rural women have a significant contribution in national labour force of India. Is accepted because in India total rural labour population is 55.8% out of which contribution of rural women is 31.7%. while on national level rural and urban women workforce contribution is 27.4% out of total labour force of 52.4% of total population and alternate hypothesis There is no significant contribution of rural women in national workforce is rejected.

Unemployment rates (in the labour force) according to usual status
Table 2

Year	Rural		Urban	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
1972-73	0.5	1.2	6	4.8
1977-78	2	1.3	12.4	5.4
1983	0.7	1.4	4.9	5.1
1987-88	2.4	1.8	6.2	5.2
1993-94	0.9	1.4	6.1	4.1
1999-00	1	1.7	5.7	4.5
2004-05	1.8	1.6	6.9	3.8
2009-10	1.6	1.6	5.7	2.8
2011-12	1.7	1.7	5.2	3



Source: National Sample Survey Office, 68th Round, July 2011 - June 2012

Interpretation

After Independence women empowerment was thrust upon to achieve till date government come up with lots of plan to achieve target above table depict about unemployment rate of women in labour force, this data reflect that since 1972-73 to last national sample serve 2011-12 urban female unemployment rate is higher than urban male and rural female while rural female unemployment rate is higher than rural man only in 87-88 and 2004-05 to 2011-12 its almost same with rural man. On the basis of unemployment rate it also conclude that there is an increase in rural women labour force, and its almost equal to rural man since 2004-05 to 11-12 its equal.

Findings

In the word empower "Power" is at the root term of the empowerment, it all about self-esteem awareness and confidence, basically it focus on participation into decision-making process. these are the some key areas need to improve to achieve complete empowerment of human being

Rural women should also have complete control of over their life, they have a right to make their choice and take decisions.

In rural area there is a need for comfortable and safe working environment.

✓ A woman can empower if she has power of education, in rural area a huge requirement for equal education right.

✓ A woman should have an equal right for employment opportunity without any gender bias & in rural it is observed that girls don't have this opportunity because of many barriers like early marriage, safety reasons, distance, economical reasons. many times a rural girl child heavily loaded with family responsibilities.

✓ A rural woman (whether she is uneducated) must have a strong right to live her life with a sense of self-worth, respect and dignity.

✓ As per census 2011, the Workforce Participation Rate at all India level was 25.51% for female and 53.26% for males. While there was no rural-urban gap for males (53%), there was a considerable rural-urban gap for females (rural - 30%, urban - 15.4%).

As per NSS 2011 - 12, 59.3% of the female workers in rural India are self employed while in urban areas the corresponding figure was 42.8%. Among the male workers, 54.5% in rural areas and 41.7% in urban areas are self employed. In rural areas the share of regular wage/ salaried employees was less for both females (5.6%) and males (10%) compared to urban areas (42.8% - females, 43.4 - males).

Conclusion

To make all provided schemes successful in empowering rural women ,it is very necessary that they should participate in large number in open rural assembly (Gram shabha,Gram Panchayat)and voice their preferences and concerns regarding the implication of government schemes.as we all know that in the Indian culture ,women is being worshiped as “LAXMI””SARASWATI”and “DURGA”all three goddess reflects complete women empowerment ,means if we want to empower a women we have to give her power of all three I.e. Wealth,Wisdom and strength.government initiatives alone would not be sufficient ,society must take measures to create a climate in which women have full opportunities of participating in political and social life.women empowerment could be achieved if their economic and social status is improved.A empowered woman is more powerful to face the challenges of life,to overcome the inequalities,she can realized her full identity and powers in all spheres of life

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