



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT: ROLE OF NGOS

¹Preethi S. L., ²Dr. Bharath Kumar K. K. ,

¹Assistant Professor, ² Assistant Professor

¹Department of MBA

¹GSSSIETW, Mysuru, India

Abstract:

Women empowerment is crucial for the growth and development of the nation. This paper tries to demonstrate the role of Non-Governmental Organisation (NGOs) to long term community development. Women empowerment can be attained through provision of adequate education facilities, political support, and effective legislation system and employment generation for women. NGO's play a very vital role in women's empowerment by providing basic education, vocational training, training for self-employment, legal aid, protection for women, and self-awareness programs. This paper investigates the process by which women empowerment is achieved and women's status is improved in the Indian context with the assistance of NGOs.

Key Words: Women Empowerment, NGOs.

Introduction:

Women's empowerment refers to the process of increasing women's access to control over strategic life choices that affect them and access to opportunities that allow them to fully realize their capacities, based on the assumptions that women differ from men in their social positions and that those differences consist of asymmetric, unequal power relations between the genders.

In order to improve women's quality of life, women's empowerment as an economic, political, and socio-cultural process challenges the system of sexual stratification that has resulted in their subordination and marginalization.

Non-Governmental Organizations, or NGOs, as they are called in common parlance, are organizations which are involved in carrying out a wide range of activities for the benefit of underprivileged people and the society at large.

Literature Review:

1.Minisha Gupta(2021) aims to identify the role of non-government organisations (NGOs) in promoting women empowerment through immediate livelihood facilities. Women are creative enough to start their own venture, but they are not able to explore the available opportunities because of male dominance, lack of education and proper government support. Thus, NGOs play a major role in training and empowering women to attain immediate livelihood.

2. Diriba Ayele, Sori Tefera(2020) emphasizes to investigate the effects of NGOs on socio-economic empowerment of women by conceptualizing and developing five basic dimensions of women empowerment including income, saving, decision-making ability, expenditure level, and assets ownership rights of women based on empirical evidence from some NGOs operating in Ethiopia.

3. Devaraj Dutta (2020) study is an attempt to evaluate the role of Non-Governmental Organizations in protection and promotion of child rights. The study was carried out in North Lakhimpur Sub-Division of Lakhimpur District of Assam State. The study is based on both theoretical and empirical data.

4. Sharda jai haryani, bharati motwani(2020) The study identified a positive impact of NGO initiatives on the empowerment of rural women. Thus we can conclude that NGOs in India are effectively working towards upliftment of socioeconomic status of the poor women in the rural areas thereby attaining the goal of rural management.

5. Dr. Kunhi Sikha Bhuyan(2020) states about women empowerment through education; the problems, the historical background of women education, constitutional provision and also forwarded some suggestions. Hope that our paper will help about to understanding the women educational scenario and importance of education in her development and empowerment.

Objectives of the Study:

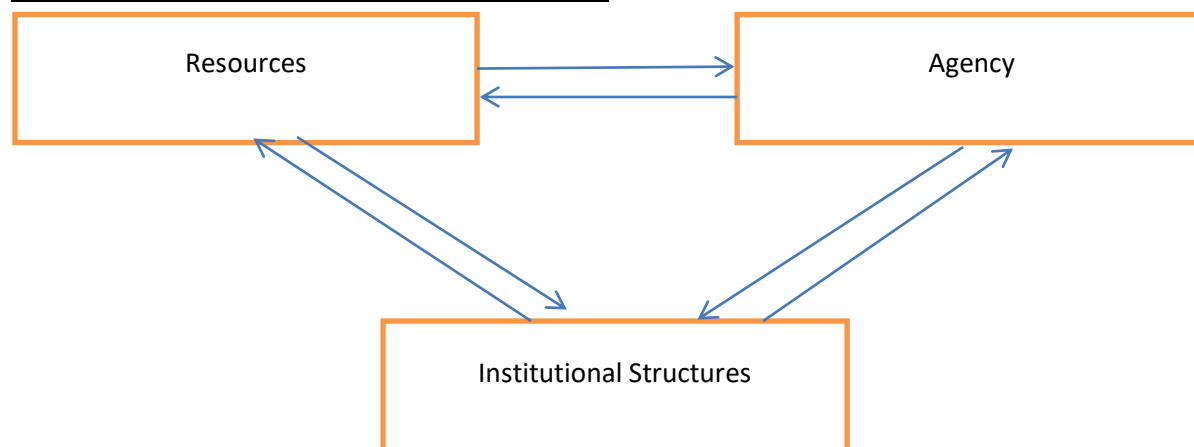
- To study the Role & Functions of NGOs in women empowerment.
- To understand the key components of women's empowerment.
- To know the Schemes /Programmes for Empowerment of Women.
- To identify the Features of NGO's.

Role & Functions of NGOs in Women Empowerment:

Women's empowerment has been at the forefront of both government and non-governmental organization efforts. Voluntary action encouraged by development agencies plays a key role at the integral in the regions of Karnataka for the success of rural development, which is dependent on the active participation of the people through non-governmental organizations (NGO). For a better understanding, the following NGOs' roles are described:

- Supplementation of Government Efforts
 - Efforts Organizing the Rural Women
 - Building various Model and Experiment
 - Ensure Women's Participation in their empowerment
 - Mobilizing the optimum Resources
 - Promoting Rural Leadership
 - Representing the Rural Women
 - Promoting Technology in Rural areas
 - Activating the Rural Delivery System
 - Providing effective & efficient Training to Rural Women.
- Monitoring and Evaluation.
 - Impact assessment.
 - Planning and Implementation

Key components of Women Empowerment:



1. **Agency:** Agency is at the heart of our model of empowerment; it refers to the capacity of women to take purposeful action and pursue goals, free from the threat of violence or retribution. The three core expressions of agency are decision-making, leadership, and collective action. These are not simply ingredients for agency; rather, they are ways that women can exercise agency in their lives.
2. **Institutional structures:** They are the social arrangements, including both formal and informal rules and practices, that shape and influence women ability to express agency and assert control over resources. Institutional structures can be found in the spheres of the family, community, market, and state. They comprise formal laws and policies as well as norms that shape relations among individuals and social groups.
3. **Resources:** They are tangible and intangible capital and sources of power that women and girls have, own, or use individually or collectively in exercising agency. The key resources highlighted in our model include women and girls' bodily integrity (health, safety, and security), critical consciousness, and assets (financial and productive assets, knowledge and skills, time, and social capital).

Each of these elements and their dimensions are interrelated and can be mutually reinforcing, offering entry points for interventions when addressed explicitly and intentionally.

Various schemes about women's empowerment in India

The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing various schemes/ programmes to bring women into the mainstream of all the sectors in the country in order to empower them. The details are as under:

1. **One Stop Centre and Universalization of Women Helplines:** Ministry of WCD is administering two schemes from Nirbhaya Fund namely One Stop Centre and Universalization of Women Helplines. The One Stop Centres (OSCs), popularly known as Sakhi Centres, aim to facilitate women affected by violence (including domestic violence) with a range of integrated services under one roof such as Police facilitation, medical aid, providing legal aid and legal counselling, psycho-social counselling, temporary shelter etc. The Women Helpline (WHL) Scheme provides 24 hours emergency and non-emergency response to women affected by violence, both in public and private spaces by linking them with appropriate authority such as Police, One Stop Centre, Hospital, Legal Services etc. WHL also supports women in distress with rescue van and counselling services in addition to providing information about women welfare schemes and programs across the country. Women can dial 181 short code to avail services from Women Helpline.
2. **Swadhar Greh Scheme:** The Swadhar Greh Scheme is is being implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for women who are victims of difficult circumstances in need of institutional support for rehabilitation so that they could lead their life with dignity.
3. **Ujjawala Scheme:** The Ujjawala Scheme is being implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Prevention of trafficking and for Rescue, Rehabilitation, Reintegration and Repatriation of victims of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation.
4. **Working Women Hostel:** Working Women Hostel Scheme is implemented by the Government with the objective to provide safe and conveniently located accommodation for working women, with day care facility for their children, wherever possible, in urban, semi urban, or even rural areas where employment opportunity for women exist.
5. **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao(BBBP) :** Beti Bachao Beti Padhao(BBBP) Scheme was launched on 22nd January 2015 with an aim to address declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and related issues of empowerment of girls and women over a life cycle continuum. The objectives of the scheme are, to prevent gender biased sex selective elimination, to ensure survival and protection of the girl child and to ensure education and participation of the girl child.
6. **Mahila Shakti Kendra (MSK):** The Mahila Shakti Kendra (MSK) Scheme was approved in November, 2017 as a centrally sponsored scheme to empower rural women through community participation. The aims to facilitate inter-sectoral convergence of schemes and programs meant for women. The scheme is implemented through State Governments and UT Administrations with a cost sharing ratio of 60:40 between

Centre and States except for North East & Special Category States where the funding ratio is 90:10. For Union Territories 100% central funding is provided.

7. **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY):** Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) is a Centrally Sponsored Conditional Cash Transfer Scheme, for implementation across the country with effect from 01.01.2017. The maternity benefit under PMMVY is available to all Pregnant Women & Lactating Mothers (PW&LM), excluding PW&LM who are in regular employment with the Central Government or the State Governments or Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) or those who are in receipt of similar benefits under any law for the time being in force, for first living child of family. Under the scheme Rs.5,000/- are provided to the eligible beneficiary in three installments during pregnancy and lactation in response to individual fulfilling certain nutrition and health seeking conditions. The eligible beneficiary also receives the remaining cash incentive as per approved norms towards maternity benefit under Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) after institutional delivery so that on an average, a woman gets Rs.6,000/-.

Recently, Ministry has launched 'Mission Shakti' (Integrated Women Empowerment Programme) - an Umbrella Scheme in a mission mode aimed at strengthening interventions for safety, security and empowerment of women.

FEATURES OF NGOS

NGOs are basically focused towards improving the socio economic conditions of the people with whom they work. The following are the important characteristics that an NGO requires to have in order to be effective:

- **Voluntary:** NGOs are voluntary organizations and are formed by a few concerned people who have their own self-interest towards societal development. They are not formed out of anybody's compulsion. If formed so, then it will not be effective in its functions.
- **Legal Status:** NGOs are registered with the Government under the Societies Act, Trust Act, Companies Act etc. They are also registered under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) with the ministry of Home Affairs of The Government of India. This enrollment with FCRA is required to be entitled to obtain funds from abroad.
- **Independent:** NGOs need to be independent in planning and implementation of their programs. Any other sort of external intervention may not allow the NGO to perform to its fullest capacity
- **Flexible:** NGOs must be flexible to interventions. They are not bound by red-tapism and other bureaucratic obstacles.
- **Quicker in decision making:** NGOs take quick decisions in response to the needs of the society. The more quickly the decisions are taken, the faster the services reach the deprived
- **High motivation:** The members and the staff are endowed with high motivation and inspiration to work for the cause of the people. They strive tirelessly to achieve their purpose for the benefit of the target groups.
- **Freedom in Work:** NGO workers need to enjoy freedom in their field work, in organising the community and carrying out the development schemes
- **Catalytic:** NGOs enhance and induce the communities into social action but they do not dilute and distort themselves in the process of intervention.
- **People-Centered:** NGOs encourage people's participation. They plan things for the people and implement the same through the people. They make decisions by discussing with voluntary people and implement a decision that is the most effective towards helping people develop.

• **Non-profit oriented:** NGOs are not run with intentions of profit. The surplus and gains from economic projects, if any, are not distributed amongst the members or stakeholders. They are re-used for some other development purposes.

Conclusion:

The present study is focused on the NGOs that promote women's empowerment in India. The paper has highlighted features and various roles and functions performed by NGO's in India. Further, this study focuses on key components of women's Women Empowerment which would be adopted by NGOs to help women attain empowerment. And the NGOs and government shared a mutually complementary relationship towards women empowerment in India.

References:

1. Devaraj Dutta (2020) The Role of Non-Governmental Organizations in Protection and Promotion of Child Rights in the North Lakhimpur Sub-Division of Lakhimpur District of Assam, International Journal of Recent Technology and Engineering (IJRTE) ISSN: 2277-3878, Volume-8 Issue-6, March 2020.
2. Diriba Ayele, Sori Tefera(2020) The Effects of NGOs on Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women: Empirical Evidence from Some NGOs Operating in Ethiopia, . Journal of Economics and Sustainable Development www.iiste.org ISSN 2222-1700 (Paper) ISSN 2222-2855 (Online) Vol.11, No.1, 2020 42.
3. Minisha Gupta(2021) Role of NGOs in women empowerment: case studies from Uttarakhand, India. Journal of Enterprising Communities: People and Places in the Global Economy, ISSN: 1750-6204.
4. Sharda jai haryani, bharti motwani (2020) Impact Of Ngo Initiatives On Empowerment Of Rural Women, International Journal of Psychosocial Rehabilitation 24(6):5827-5835.
5. Dr. Kunhi Sikha Bhuyan. (2020). Women Empowerment: The Role of Education in Women Empowerment. International Journal of Advanced Science and Technology, 29(7), 14698-14703.
6. <https://pib.gov.in/>
7. www.google.com

