

CHANGING ROLE OF WOMEN IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

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Introduction

Women have been playing crucial role as key agents in development process of rural area. They play significant role towards socio-economic and cultural achievement for rural development in India. About half of the globe population is women. India is additionally no exempt for this. The common household in rural India has near five members, and only 12.8 per cent of them are headed by women, but in the Lakshadweep Union Territory, over 40 per cent of its rural households headed by women. Present study try to assess the changing role of women in rural development because empowering women is important, not just for well-being of themselves, families and rural areas, but also for overall socio-economic and cultural development of the nation.

Keywords: Empowerment, Employment, Households, Population, Rural Development

Demographic Scenario of Rural Women

India is country of villages. Total 6,40,867 villages with 68.84 percent of agriculture population in the country. In line with the 2019 revision of world population prospects population of India stood 135.26 crore with 1.1 growth rate (2020). Sex ratio in India has been an upwards trend for the last 20 years and it reached at 944 females for 1000 males in 2016 with 12th rank of 214 countries within the world. Overall literacy rate is 74.03 you bored with 82.14 per cent male literacy and 65.46 this feminine literacy in country. The best women literacy was observed in Kerala (91.98 per cent) followed by Mizoram (89.40 per cent), Lakshadweep (88.25 per cent) and Jammu & Kashmir (86.61 per cent). Women literacy in Maharashtra was 75.48 per cent which is beyond national average. Female population is a smaller amount than male in 0 to 54 year cohort but it's beyond men in above 54 year age. It's also observed that the upper age groups having higher female population as compare to men population. It means sex ratio is higher in above 54 years population; there's direct correlation between female population and age above 54 years, but share of those age groups is incredibly less in total population of India. In short, overall sex ratio is estimated (2020) 1079 males per 1000 females in India. At birth its highest 1110 lifetime of women (71.2 years) is beyond male (68.4 years). In India, birth rate is estimated 2.35 children per woman in 2020.

Women in Rural India

In India, 68.84 per cent population resides in rural areas and remaining 31.16 per cent population is in urban areas (2011 census) and in line with the globe Bank, rural population of India was reported 70.09 per cent in 2008 it's decreased continuously and reached at 65.97 per cent (89.23 crore) in 2018. India would still have the biggest rural population within the world until 2050 (UN report 2007). National Statistical Offices defined rural population means people

living in rural areas. Rural population of women is 32.82 per cent to total population while rural male population is 34.44 per cent to total population of the country. It means sex ratio in geographical area is a smaller amount. Overall employment to population ratio of above 15 years women is estimated 22.58 per cent in India it slightly higher in rural areas. In India, labour force participation rate stood at 49.80 per cent and unemployment rate is 7.80 per cent with 23.70 per cent youth unemployment rate in 2017-18.

Role of Women in Rural Development of India

Agriculture sector accounts only Bastille Day contribution to Indian economy except for 42 the utilization is generated. As around 55 per cent India's arable land depends on precipitation, the quantity of rainfall during the monsoon season is incredibly important for agriculture economy of India. Rural women have facing economic poverty as well as information poverty. They're vital and productive workers within the economy. There is some statistical bias in estimating the role of rural women in developmental process. Women work for more hours than men for contribute substantially to family income, they're not perceived as productive workers. They're ignored workers who are struggling to complete her household duties from dawn to dusk. But, still, within the family, many a times, she is criticized for not being sincere in her job. Real worth of ladies can realize if the members of the family had to pay money for the full household work and therefore the free labour she provides within the small agricultural land of the agricultural families. Demand for equal pay money for equal work is one in every of the crucial aspects of rural inequality in wage structure between women and men. There has been little progress in terms of parity of wages for men and women for equivalent add organized sectors, but on the opposite hand, it not yet happens in unorganized sectors like agriculture and allied sectors in India. In other words, the very fact that while wage disparities have always existed in rural parts of the country, in some spheres of activity, the divide has widened. So while men were paid 70 to the next wages than women for ploughing work on the tip of 2004-05, the difference rose to 93.6 per cent in 2013-14. While men were paid 75 one more than women for well-digging add 2005, the difference stood at 80 per cent in 2013-14. The discrimination in wages paid to women were observed higher in ploughing and well-digging which are physically intensive activities, but lower within the case of less physical intensive works like sowing and harvesting.

In rural India, women have fewer shares in land ownership and productive assets. Men engaging skilled and semi skilled work on machinery and women are the most agricultural laboures in rural areas. Agriculture is main occupation in economy which sustained for the foremost part by the feminine workforce. Rural women from childhood days need to bear the burden of taking care of entire house which incorporates cooking food, engaging in domestic chores, taking care of the fodder of the farm animals. Women comprise a mean 43 percent of the agricultural labour force of developing countries. It is general observed that as care takers; women take care of children and relatives, prepare meals and manage the house. But in rural areas, except for domestic works, women have key role in running households and make major input to agricultural production and agriculture allied activities. Rural women have many roles, and that they have responsibilities and knowledge that differ from those of their partner. As

farmers, women are plant, weed and harvest food crops and rare livestock. Furthermore, many ladies earn extra income by working as wage labourers, producing and selling vegetables, or engaging in small-scale trading and enterprises for met the increasing family expenditures. Added to those multiple tasks, women in tribal areas are spending long hours fetching water and collecting firewood. Agriculture of small and marginal farmer's is changing rapidly as a results of small size, commercialization, globalization, environmental changes, advanced technology and migration patterns, it's important to acknowledge the key role women play in agriculture. They have support to assist them adapt to those changes and to seize emerging opportunities. Investing in women can generate significant improvements in productivity and efficiency of agriculture and food security. Entire communities benefit socially and economically when women have access to resources like land, water, education, health, training, financial services and robust organizations.

International Scenario of Rural Women

The share of women as agricultural labour force ranges from about 20 percent within the Americas to almost 50 percent in East and geographical region and Sub-Saharan Africa. Economically and socially empowered women are a potent force for change. In line with IBRD report, in many countries of sub- Saharan Africa, food production could increase by 10 to 20 per cent if women faced fewer constraints. The empowerment of girls and equal opportunities for both men and ladies are fundamental in reducing poverty, hunger and malnutrition. Women are fully engaged within the livestock sector. Particularly women often have a prominent role in managing poultry and dairy animals furthermore as small-scale pig production. The role of girls in meeting the rising demand for livestock products may diminish because the sector becomes more commercialized because women often find it tougher to begin their own business and have a tendency to lose control over profitable activities. About 12 young women have been working as fishers and fish farmers within the primary sector within the world. But women represented a share of 21 to 24 per cent, of all fishers and fish farmers in China and India respectively. They play very significant part altogether regions within the processing and marketing stages. Women are lacking not only command over resources but also control over regulatory institutions and deciding bodies. Insufficient involvement of girls in deciding could be a one in every of the main constraints on women participation. Farm women's participation in decision-making on agricultural practices, marketing etc. varies from region to region. Permitting farm women to own access to their earnings will confer them with deciding authority in their families. Within the primary sector women contribute sometimes over men, but enjoy no control over their earnings. It's generally observed that one in every of the chief reasons for a female's lack of familial status is that the absence of control over income or earnings. Many social class working women find themselves no better than the other house wife in terms of possessing any authority in earnings. Actually rural women are working in agriculture and agriculture allied activities but earnings are going into male's account because the assets and property are concentrated with male. While legally women have right in father's property while inheritably land, houses and other properties are transferred on the account of males.

Problems facing to Rural Women

Women in rural areas faces many problems like access basic amenities such good shelter, lack of sanitation and unavailability of drinking, poverty, gender discrimination and inferior status and secondary treatment within the house and society, violence, child marriage, nutrient diet, no access of quality and professional education etc. they're illiterate and not alert enough to tackle the problem which isn't the case for urban Indian women. Now a day with changing socio cultural environment, women have facing many difficulties such as various crimes against women, poverty, corruption, bias in the official functioning, bureaucratic, politics discrimination, etc. In brief, since long ago rural women have facing difficulties but recently nature of difficulties have changed.

Conclusion

Half of the human resources are women within the world, while it doesn't utilize optimally in process of economic development especially in rural India, only a few women have been participated in economic activities otherwise many are working as housewife. Only a few women have ownership over land or productive assets. They are the most agricultural laboures in rural areas. For all round development of rural area, women workforce should participate in productive activities with good entrepreneurial skills.

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