

## **Role of Rural Women in the Development of Haryana: An Analysis**

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### **Abstract**

Indian women, and rural women in particular, play many social and economic roles inside as well Rural women have many roles, and they have responsibilities and knowledge that differ from those of men. As farmers, they plant, weed and harvest food crops and tend livestock. As caretakers, they look after children and relatives, prepare meals and manage the home. Many women earn extra income by working as wage labourers, producing and selling vegetables, or engaging in small-scale trading and enterprises. as outside the home, but their contribution does not receive due recognition.

Rural women play a key role in supporting their households and communities in achieving food and nutrition security, generating income, and improving rural livelihoods and overall well- being. They contribute to agriculture and rural enterprises and fuel local and global economies. As such, they are active players in achieving the MDGs. Yet, every day, around the world, rural women and girls face persistent structural constraints that prevent them from fully enjoying their human rights and hamper their efforts to improve their lives as well as those of others around them.

The paper examines the participation of rural women in home and farm activities in the state of Haryana, India. It indicates the invisibility of the majority of women, who act as unpaid workers on the family farm. The research tool and method used in this study is descriptive in nature and the technique applied is Content analysis. Thus finally in the current study an attempt is made to suggest some measures and implications that may help in relegating constraints and problems faced by rural women in development process and poverty alleviation.

### **Introduction**

India is a country which attained independence in 1947, but the rural-urban divide and the rich-poor divide are still plaguing India. 68.84 per cent of the Indian population lives in villages. There are 6, 40,867 villages in India. According to 2011 census, the populations of rural women who are literate are 58.8 per cent. (Census, 2011) According to the “2007 Revision of World Urbanisation Prospects” by the United Nations, India would continue to have the largest rural population in the world until 2050. Women are crucial to the economic development of countries. By empowering women through policies such as greater access to educational opportunities and finance, this results in better economic development for everyone as women with economic resources and control over meaningful decisions tend not only to benefit themselves but also their households and communities. Women’s equality is vital to increasing sustainable economic growth in developing countries, in order to empower more women and girls, there needs to be better access to education, health and opportunities in the labour market. In Haryana, women perform every kind of field labour except ploughing. But employment statistics suggest that women form a very small part of the workforce in Haryana (4.9% in 1981 against an all- India figure of 20.9%). This figure conceals a great deal of work done by women on the family farm.

### **Objective of the study**

The main objective of present study is to know the development Perspective with Reference to Women Empowerment: Development perspectives, Status of women and its strategies for development of rural areas – international perspectives. his paper will suggest the idea for focusing much intensively on the issues of women empowerment through enhancement of her education, workforce participation and social participation with people participation and holistic approach.

## **Role of rural women in different sectors**

In rural India, women play crucial roles as breadwinners, entrepreneurs, and savers. As such, investing in rural women comes with multiplied benefits; their role in supporting and developing the local economy makes investing in them an investment in their entire community. The Invaluable Contribution of Rural Women to Development. They make significant contributions to agricultural production, food security and nutrition, land and natural resource management, and building climate resilience. Even so, women and girls in rural areas suffer disproportionately from multi-dimensional poverty. Attitude towards Women Our customs and traditions still decide how women should dress and what norms will a widow follow. This indicates that women can not take decision by themselves. Purdah is found to be common in many parts. This custom creates a barrier in the participation of women in areas where men are important actors. While most men express disapproval of dowry, they are found to be opposed to an equal share between them and their sisters in parental property. The inequalities inherent in our traditional social structure, based on caste, community and class, have a very significant influence on the status of women in different spheres. Socially accepted rights and expected roles of women, norms governing their behaviour and of others towards them vary among different groups and regions. They are closely affected by the stage and methods of development and the position held by the group in the social hierarchy. This makes broad generalizations regarding women's status unrealistic.

## **Health and Family Welfare**

Women and men face somewhat different kind of health risks throughout their life span. Women are exposed to a particular or specific and major health risk due to child bearing. Good health and family planning services are important for the general well-being of the women, children and the entire family, giving women, in particular, an opportunity to decide when and how many children they want. Reduced infant mortality would give women a better chance to have the desired size of the family with fewer number of pregnancies. Discrimination against a female child is evident from the fact that girls experience higher rate of mortality in younger age-groups as compared to the boys.

## **Women are Subordinate in Society**

Exposure to and interactions with the outside world are instrumental in determining the possibilities available to women in their daily lives. The situation of women is affected by the degree of their autonomy or capacity to make decisions both inside and outside their own household. "The position of women in northern India is notably poor. Traditional Hindu society in northern rural areas is hierarchical and dominated by men, as evidenced by marriage customs. North Indian Hindus are expected to marry within prescribed boundaries: the bride and groom must not be related, they have no say in the matter, and the man must live outside the woman's natal village Women work roughly twice as many hours as men

## **Women's contribution to agriculture –**

Whether it be subsistence farming or commercial agriculture – when measured in terms of the number of tasks performed and time spent, is greater than men. "The extent of women's contribution is aptly highlighted by a micro study conducted in the Indian Himalayas, which found that on a one-hectare farm, a pair of bullock's works for 1,064 hours, a man for 1,212 hours and a woman for 3,485 hours in a year."

## **The impact of technology on women**

Women make important contributions to the agricultural and rural economies of all regions of the world. However, the exact contribution both in terms of magnitude and of its nature is often difficult to assess and shows a high degree of variation across countries and regions. This paper presents an overview of the evidence on the roles of women in agriculture and in rural labour markets. It also looks at demographic trends in rural areas with regard to the gender composition of rural populations.

## **Role of women in panchayati raj**

At the local level the 73rd Constitutional Amendment act of 1992 has made two important provisions for the involvement of women in decision making and preparation of plan for development. This Amendment has made a provision that at least one-third of women would be members and chair persons of Panchayats.

## **Role of women in education**

Educating and empowering women can help to build a progressive family, society and nation. An educated woman can help to uplift many lives. Therefore, Rural India requires to empower women by building education and employment opportunities for them.

## **Role of women in Government sector**

Rural women are key agents for achieving the transformational economic, environmental and social changes required for sustainable development. But limited access to credit, health care and education are among the many challenges they face, which are further aggravated by the global food and economic crises and climate change. Empowering them is key not only to the well-being of individuals, families and rural communities, but also to overall economic productivity, given women's large presence in the agricultural workforce worldwide. The shift from subsistence to a market economy has a dramatic negative impact on women. The Green Revolution, which focused on increasing yields of rice and wheat, entailed a shift in inputs from human to technical. Women's participation, knowledge and inputs were marginalized, and their role shifted from being "primary producers to subsidiary workers."

## **Conclusion**

The cataloguing effort undertaken above seeks to offer an addition to our understanding of the nature of neglect of working women in development policy in India. By highlighting the continuity existing within policy on the question of women's development, this paper sought to outline the incomplete vision of the working woman that has consistently been in operation

within policy. It is important to clarify that this continuity in vision has been identified at the level of discourse in this paper, and in doing so it has relied on the Five-Year Plan documents. Further inquiries into the translation of this continuity into actual practice would provide more insights. After 2001 census central government of India and Haryana state government took much initiative policy like as "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" (save daughter and educate daughter); "Ladly Scheme" (scheme for daughters); "Sukanya Dev Yojna" (money scheme for daughters); "Kanya Kosh" (funds for females); "Dhana Lakshmi Scheme" (a scheme for daughters, generally in India,

girls are understood as „Dhanlaxmi“ that represents the goddess of wealth) and “Apni Beti Apna Dhan” (our daughter is our wealth). The government of India also launched the National Mission for Empowerment of Women on International Women’s day in 2010. The main aim of this program was the women’s welfare and socio-economic development, gender equality and gender justices through the inter-sectoral convergence of programs that impact women. All these schemes were mainly for raising the status of women, especially in the rural areas. Consequently, it was found that particularly in the rural areas, people were more acceptor of these schemes. As a result, the evidences of increasing sex ratio have been observed and with the increasing women workforce participation, the autonomy of women has also enhanced in the state in the recent decade.

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