

Rural women empowerment through inclusive growth:

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Abstract: The implications behind bringing about rural women empowerment through inclusive growth is a serious topic being debated across the globe. In India Rural population comprises nearly 70 % of the total population needs inclusive agenda reorientation .The basis of inclusive growth are indicators to a nation’s positive progress & they also reflect strategies towards women empowerment. Enhancing educational opportunities for women is the primary need which the policy makers have to spotlight while formulating strategies towards inclusive growth. This paper examines the problems of rural inclusiveness & strategies to revamp women empowerment programs with way for inclusive growth. The present paper also focus on role of government in promoting rural inclusiveness

Key words: Rural community. Inclusive growth, inclusive rural community

“Almost half of the population of the world lives in rural regions and mostly in a state of poverty. Such inequalities in human development have been one of the primary reasons for unrest and, in some parts of the world, even violence”- APJ Abdul kalam

Introduction:

The role of women has become more strategic because post liberalization period in India has witnessed heavy structural changes in rural socio economic

scenario. these days due to easy communication system rural areas have become easy targets of Multinational companies & rural men are migrating on a larger note towards cities. (Report on the farm sector 2012) .The census

report of 2011 says that the total number of people involved in agriculture has increased 12% from 234.1 million in 2001 to 263 .1 million in 2011. (Report On The Census Of India 2011).

Objectives of study

1. to analyze the issues relating to rural inclusiveness
2. to focus on strategies to revamp women empowerment programs for inclusive growth
3. to focus on role of government in promoting rural inclusiveness

Methodology

This paper has been prepared through studies relating to government publications & official reports. the official websites information of the agricultural department have also been used.

The Indicators

The studies carried out so far in the field of agriculture indicate that despite the key role of women in crop husbandry, animal husbandry, fisheries, forestry and post-harvest technology, those in

charge of formulating packages of technologies, services and public policies for rural areas have often tended to neglect the productive role of women. (Report on the farm sector - Government Of India Publication , Ministry of Home Affairs 2011).Consequently, the developments of technologies, specifically tailored to women-specific occupations and the involvement of women in technology development and transfer have received inadequate attention from both scientific and administrative Departments of Government. (Report On Gender Resource Center 2012).

Impact of rural structural change

The rise of SEZs (special economic zones) have displaced farm people out of their lands with women having no rights on their lands have been the victims of such heavy displacement across India Women lack mobilization & their organizational support has been very less. Establishment of farm collectives needs to be augmented.(Report on the farm

sector - Government Of India Publication , Ministry Of Home Affairs 2011).With wide spread distress growing in Indian farm sector the position of women has slipped down further & she has become a mere wage laborer balancing the domestic as well as livelihood means with great difficulty.

1. Increase In Agricultural Laborers : There has been a 24 % increase in the number of female agricultural laborers from 49.5 million in 2001 to 61.6 in 2011 this exhibits the increase in male migration & increase in women dependence on wage labor (Report On The Census Of India 2011).
2. Increase in wage labor - nearly 98 million Indian women have agricultural jobs but around 63% of them or 61.6 million women are agricultural laborers who work for wages less than their male counterparts (Report On The Census Of India 2011)
3. Increase in Population- the census report of 2011 says that the total number of people involved in agriculture has

increased 12% from 234.1 million in 2001 to 263 .1 million in 2011.while India's share in gross domestic product has declined from 22% to 14% over the same period(Report On The Census Of India 2011).

4. Women in Agricultural Jobs- the number of women with agricultural jobs has come down from 39% to 37% the overall population of the women increased 18% from 2001 496.5 million to 587.4 million in 2011(Report On The Census Of India 2011)

Despite significant contribution of women in the production process, an all pervasive bias of development planners in treating them primarily as consumers of social services rather than producers, kept them away from the development programmes in agriculture and allied sectors. (Report On The Census Of India 2011). As men and women have different roles and needs and face gender-specific constraints, women may not automatically benefit from development activities, but may remain

excluded. (Report on Gender Resource Center 2012).

Monitoring Agencies - The following agencies can be induced to assist each other towards empowering women

1. Government -local / state / central organizations
2. Nonprofit NGOs
3. private organizations
4. Private public partnership agencies
5. Field workers -Ad hoc / permanent
6. Trainers including master trainers & transitory trainers
7. Teachers
8. miscellaneous associational support

Prospective Strategies and the role of Government

1. **Adding empowerment strategy through education-** Enhancing educational opportunities for women is the primary need which the policy makers have to spotlight. Adding empowerment strategy through education is needed because only educating rural women can empower them with awareness

about their rights & responsibilities. Education should be strengthened towards adding a certificate program, capacity building training, skill enhancement training , risk management training , disaster management training, etc

2. **Priority funding for rural youth empowerment programs** -An integrated approach in funding rural youth empowerment programs is needed .Collective strategies to reflect rural characteristics are needed.

3. **Role of SHGs-** SHGs can help rural empowerment through conducting annual community gatherings & creating awareness about women empowerment & gender equity through SHGs is needed.

4. **Role of case studies-** Enhancing case studies can help the policy framers to address issues relating to women. The case studies help to create awareness about women empowerment & gender equity. The Studies towards sharing personal experiences & group experiences go a long way in

making women understand the issue related to empowerment.

5. Extending outreach programs- Enhancing leadership training & capacity building for women can be a handy tool in inclusive growth of women. This enhances the leadership qualities among women. Fostering debate among community members through personal experience sharing.

6. Establishing research partnerships - Establishing research partnerships towards building an inclusive local community focusing on women empowerment is needed. As indicated by the planning commission research partnerships can go a long way in empowerment process (Report Of The Planning Commission Of India On Urbanization 2011).

7. Government funded community youth services - Government funded community youth services to help the improvement in the mental health of the rural youth adolescents, Highlighting good practices of community inclusive growth,

Highlighting women empowerment program, Joint venturing through local community youth leaders to build a sustainable community.

8. NGOs youth organizations - NGOs youth organizations community leaders Self-help groups etc . Streamlining socio economic advancement programs streamlining women can be effective tool. Supporting research through gender equity work with Taking the support of youth enterprises ,Teaching materials & practice tools to enable leadership among rural youth. The policy framers should include a strong government supporting monitoring evaluating to NGOs resource persons field workers administrators, trainers, teachers, etc

Conclusion:

Women issues can be best addressed by the strategies towards establishing rural inclusive growth should be seriously attended. Rural women population comprising nearly half of the total rural population needs

reorientation through various capacity building activities. As inclusive growth with gender equity are indicators to a nation's constructive progress, strong strategies towards inclusive growth can support its positive growth. Providing an institutional accountability mechanism creating awareness & starting a national dialogue is very much necessary to achieve inclusive growth. Hence strategies towards building an inclusive rural community is needed & the need for an integrated approach towards building an inclusive rural community can be best supported through governmental mechanism.

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