

## **Mechanisms for Sustainable Community Building through Participation & the Case of Rural Women**

Shivaramaih , Assistant professor , Dept. of political science  
Government first Grade College , Chikkanayakanahalli taluk, Tumkur  
district, Karnataka state

**Abstract:** Rural women are the key players in the rural improvement. They work in various capacities such as they tilling the lands, sowing, harvesting, milking the cows, feeding the livestock, attend their children & other domestic work etc. Post liberalization period has seen several changes in farm sector & these days farm women are active agents in .farm producing, marketing, processing, storing etc. The role of women has become more strategic because post liberalization period in India has witnessed heavy structural changes in rural socio economic scenario. This paper analyses the role of women in rural development & considers various mechanisms for sustainable community building through rural women participation. This paper also considers the role of government in the empowerment process of rural women through capacity building activities. The role of government can be attended through consideration of this research.

**Key Words:** women, economic policies, structural changes, prospective strategies, government

### **Introduction**

In the present 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 farm women are left behind in villages where their livelihood opportunities not only waning but they are meager. The role of women has become more strategic because post liberalization period in India has witnessed heavy structural

changes in rural socio economic scenario. In the light of these economic developments debates over placing high priority on women in recognizing & main streaming her role in changed agricultural scenario has increased. Appropriate structural functional & institutional measures are proposed to be initiated to empower women & build their capacities & improve their access to inputs such as land, land credit & other agricultural technologies. The debates over considering creation of strategies towards sustainability & equity have thus become essential. (Report on the farm sector 2012)

### **Objectives of the Study**

1. This paper reflects on recognizing & main streaming role of women in changed agricultural scenario
2. This paper reflects on considering creation of strategies towards sustainability & equity for rural women
3. This paper reflects on the role of government in the

empowerment process of rural women through capacity building activities

4. This paper analyses the role of women in rural development & considers various mechanisms for sustainable community building

### **Methodology**

This paper has been prepared with the support of primary sources such as government reports as well as secondary sources such as books

### **Key Indicators of Women Participation**

The role of women has become more strategic because post liberalization period in India has witnessed heavy structural changes in rural socio economic scenario. In the light of these economic developments debates over placing high priority on women in recognizing & main streaming her role in changed agricultural scenario has increased. The rise of SEZs 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. (Report on World Development Indicators Participation In Education World Bank Report 2014). Establishment of farm collectives needs to be augmented. With wide spread distress growing in Indian farm sector the position of women has slipped down further she has become a wage laborer. (Report on World Development Indicators Participation In Education World Bank Report 2014). The Statistics indicate that

5. There has been a 24 % increase in the number of female agricultural laborers from 49.5 million in 2001 to 61.6 in 2011 (Report On The Census Of India 2011 ).

6. This exhibits the increase in male migration & increase in women dependence on wage labor ( Report On The Census Of India 2011).

7. 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)

8. 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 ).

9. 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 ).

10. 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 ).

11. The women with proprietary rights is just 13% while urban women is 28% both fall short of the ratio of males.

(Report On The Census Of India 2011 ).

### **Challenges of Sustainable Community Building**

There are several serious challenges which are hindering the process of sustainable community building. The following are some of the constraints.

1. Absence or lack of access to information technology in rural areas
2. Adolescent rural girls & their problems of protection
3. Adolescent rural girls health issues
4. Cattle & rural livestock health management
5. Child care issues in rural settings
6. Child marriage issues
7. Cultural diversity issues caused due to caste hierarchies
8. Displacement of rural villages in the name of big irrigation projects /defense projects / airport projects etc

9. Insufficient or non-availability of pure & safe drinking water
10. Insufficient rural Education / literacy programs
11. Issues of housing in rural setting
12. Liquor, drug addiction & connected health issues
13. Problems of rural aged people
14. Rural Environmental protection issues
15. Rural Policing & crime controlling issues
16. Rural Pregnant women & their health issues
17. Rural Sanitation problems
18. Rural Tank management issues
19. Rural Transport & roads connectivity issues
20. Rural Waste water management problem
21. Rural Water management problem
22. Rural Well management problem
23. Rural Youth migration problem

## **Prospective Strategies – The role of Government**

1. The government mechanism towards sustainable community building involving rural women is the need of the hour. This assists to identify their community issues with an intention of social inclusion & providing equity in all policy matters & decision making process.

2. The government mechanism towards sustainable community building should attend to maximizing positive community participation of rural women in identification of issues through individual interaction & deliberation

3. The government mechanism towards sustainable community building should ensure that cultural pluralism is not disturbed while identifying issues or discussing solutions. (Kishore Choudhary-Effect of Globalization on Rural Entrepreneurship in India 2011).

4. The government mechanism towards sustainable

community building should stimulate neighborliness among community members to display their shortfalls in understanding community problems. there by creating awareness about community issues (Ganeshamurthy V S- Empowerment Of Women In India 2014 )

5. The government mechanism towards sustainable community building should make provisions for community participation through regular community sessions, community sittings & community meetings. These can be sponsored by SHGs involving all women of the community irrespective of discrimination. (Ganeshamurthy V S- Empowerment Of Women In India 2014 ).

6. The government mechanism towards sustainable community building should promise community sustainability through proper & timely identification of community issues (Report on World Development Indicators Participation In Education World Bank Report 2014).

7. The government mechanism towards sustainable community building should draft impact assessments on case studies which should include solutions for displacement, farm women education initiatives, obtaining access to governmental programs, models for demanding women rights, and women literacy improvements. (Santhi N. and Rajesh Kumar S, Entrepreneurship Challenges and Opportunities in India 2011).

8. The government mechanism towards sustainable community building should set up management systems, prepare training modules, offer workshops, and promote women to undertake research studies related to understanding the social actors of governance. (Kishore Choudhary (2011), Effect of Globalization on Rural Entrepreneurship in India).

### **Conclusion**

Sustainable community building through women

empowerment needs an integrated policy formulation with decisive participation of women in all policy formulation processes. Mechanism towards sustainable community building can become a success with good management system aided with simple raining modules to promote women to participate in decision making process at all levels. The governmental supervision in this regard will ensure community sustainability through proper & timely identification of community issues with women as key players.

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