

Role of Digitalization in Rural Women Empowerment: A Critical Analysis of Madhya Pradesh

Jaya Acharjee¹, Dr. Vijay Singh²

¹Research Scholar, AISECT University Bhopal (M.P.) India.

²Registrar, AISECT University, Bhopal (M.P.) India.

ABSTRACT

Since the rural women takes 50% of the population and also plays significant role in the economy of the Madhya Pradesh. In spite of their contribution the women in general suffer from various kind of deprivations. It also focuses on all kinds of initiatives taken by Government and Private Institutes to improve their all over status prominently with reference to Madhya Pradesh. The paper is an attempt at understanding the real situation of women in Madhya Pradesh now a days and what different kinds of health programmes and provisions made by the Government of M.P. The whole paper is based on secondary data and descriptive study carried through diverse Journals and Research Papers.

Keywords- Empowerment of women, Status of women in rural area in M.P., Government Plans for empowerment of women in India and in M.P., future Scope of study.

I INTRODUCTION

Women empowerment is the Buzz Word now a days. It is the tool which helps them to take their own decisions by breaking all personal confines of the society and family. It is to transmit equality in the society for both male and female in all areas. Women need fresh and more capable environment so that they can obtain their own right decisions in every area. In order to make the country fully developed, women empowerment is an essential tool to get the goal of development. Women are represented in diverse social, economic and geographical locations. Due to these differences their problems are also diverse and unique. No country can afford the development without considering women, who constitute nearly half of the human capital in the country. Women are an integral part of every economy. Rural women may contribute in national economic development by household based works like knitting, weaving, embroidery, bakery, flour milling, food preparation and its preservation.

II REVIEW LITERATURE

- (a) **Mukhtar ahmed & et. Al.(Feb 2014)** - This paper is based on the impact of micro-finance on women's empowerment in Madhya Pradesh where we found that SHG(Self Helped Group) and NGOs has a great impact on upgrading of poor rural women. It is a group of 10-20 people and they raised funds by investing their savings in it. They take loans from it time to time. They have their own rules and regulations. Now SHGs linked to the Bank through Programme by NABARD and now they
- are capable to do more investment and start their own business without difficulty.
- (b) **Naari Jyoti.com(Website for Women empowerment)-** In countryside area, empowering of women is a great challenge, but small scale industries helps a lot. It increases national productivity and contribution of rural women in the Indian Economic World. These Industries develop leadership and decision making quality for women entrepreneur. The government also established NABARD for counselling and consultancy to improve all over status of rural women.
- (c) **ICT Report on Enhancing Women Empowerment through Information and Communication Technology by VAPS –** In this Report, VAPS (VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION FOR PEOPLE SERVICE) says that ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) is an effective tool to develop human resource and boost Government Economic activities efficiently. But in case of women empowerment, it should be used in a much more concrete manner.
- (d) **Siriginidi Subha Rao (2009)** - Information is the key to democracy for each and every woman. It has become possible for every person to access global information. Information in a broader sense includes oral communication, voice on the phone, text in fax and newspapers, images in television broadcasting. **In M.P. 73% population lives in rural areas.** ICTs play a major role in a nation's politics, economy, social and cultural development. These fuels the global economy and relate to human rights, helping at its best, to

support freedom of expression and right to information .But there are many factors which preventing to enter digital technologies in rural areas specifically. Because they don't know about digital equipment properly and very less number of service providers giving their services in these rural areas. Basically. **The language issue is a very great barrier as English is the main language using for accessing any internet content.**

III OBJECTIVES & METHODOLOGIES

- (a) To study the present status of women in rural area.
- (b) To study the ancient status of women in India
- (c) To study the government plans to empowerment of women in rural area.
- (d) Role of NGO (Non-Government Organization)and SHGs(Self Help Groups)

IV STATUS OF INDIAN WOMEN IN ANCIENT HISTORY

Women during the early period enjoyed equal status with men in all aspects of life. Works by ancient Indian grammarians such as Patanjali and Katyayana suggest that women were educated in the early Vedic period. Rig Vedic verses suggest that women married at a mature age and were probably free to select their own husbands. Scriptures such as the Rig Veda and Upanishads mention several women sages and seers, notably Gargi and Maitreyi.

In approximately 500 B.C., the status of women began to decline. Although, the reform movements such as Jainism allowed women to be admitted to religious orders, by and large women in India faced confinement and restrictions. The practice of child marriages is believed to have started around the sixth century.

Some kingdoms in ancient India had traditions such as *nagarvadhu* ("bride of the city"). Women competed to win the coveted title of *nagarvadhu*. Amrapali is the most famous example of a *nagarvadhu* Indian women's position in society further deteriorated during the medieval period.

- (i) Among the Rajputs of Rajasthan, the Jauhar was practiced.
- (ii) In some parts of India, some of Devadasis were sexually exploited.

- (iii) Polygamy was practiced among Hindu Kshatriya rulers for some political reasons.
- (iv) Some exceptions were Rani Durgawati, Razia Sultan, Chand Bibi, Nur Jahan some of the names who were prominent in their field.

(a) Some Acts on Women Empowerment in India :

- (i) Some of the acts passed by the Parliament are Equal Remuneration Act-1976, Dowry Prohibition Act-1961, Inmoral Traffic (Prevention) Act-1956, Medical termination of Pregnancy Act-1971, Maternity Benefit Act-1961, Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act1987, Prohibition of Child Marriage Act-2006, pre-Conception & pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act-1994, Sexual Harassment of Women at Work Place (Prevention, Protection and) Act-2013, etc. in order to empower women with legal rights.

(b) Key factors for Women Empowerment

- (i) According to the provisions of the Constitution of India, it is a legal point to grant equality to women in the society in all spheres just like male.
- (ii) The Department of Women and Child Development functions well in this field for the proper development of the women and child in India.
- (iii) Women are given a top place in India from the ancient time however they were not given empowerment to participate in all areas.
- (iv) Women constitute half population of the whole country's population and need to be independent in every area for the holistic development of women and children.
- (v) She is the creature of this world means future of the nation so only they can better involve in making the bright future of the nation through the proper growth and development of the children.

(c) Present Scenario of Rural women in M.P.

Digital India slogan of Narendra Modi government rings hollow in Madhya Pradesh with just 19.1% women has mobile phones. If compared to data released for other 12 states by ministry of family and health welfare, MP has the lowest percentage in rural areas as well as

total usage of mobile phones by women on their own in rural and urban area.

As per State Planning commission Report on “women status in MP and planned intervention” by Mangesh Tyagi & et. al. (2008) :

The literacy rate is changed from 44.67 in 1991 to 64.11 percent. Women participation in Government job is also increased by 2% and a historic bill passed in for reservation of a women candidate in the Panchayat Raj institute.

Madhya Pradesh has the highest infant mortality rate (IMR) among Indian states. The state ranked second in child mortality and anemia in children under On similar lines, it ranked third in infant mortality and maternal mortality in the country.

(d) Work started for women empowerment in Rural Area to penetrate digitalization-

- (i) Many programs have been implemented and run by the government such as International Women’s day, mother’s day in order to bring awareness in the society about the true rights and the value of women in the development of the nation.
- (ii) According to the National Mission for the Empowerment of women (NMEW) launched by the Indian Government, this step has shown some improvement in the 2011 census.
- (iii) 108th Constitutional Amendment Bill (also called Women’s Reservation Bill) was passed to reserve one-third of the seats for women only in the Lok Sabha to make them actively involved in every area.
- (iv) The Widow Remarriage Act, 1856 was initiated by the continuous efforts of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar in order to improve the conditions of widows in the country.
- (v) Through the continuous efforts of the Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Britishers were forced to eliminate the ill practice of Sati pratha.
- (vi) Government of India has taken many steps to improve the economic status of women in rural area. NABARD was established for counselling and consultancy and to organize training for the development of rural areas. Government of India started a program named The Rural and Women Entrepreneurship Development to create a business environment in rural areas especially in women.

(vii) M.P. Government has also started many plans for women and Girls of rural area

Some of the aforesaid programs are as follows:

(i) Supplementary Nutrition Under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)- In this programme Supplementary nutrition under ICDS aims to cater nutritional requirements to children in 0-6 age group, pregnant and lactating mothers and adolescent girls.

(ii) Project Shaktiman - The state government is implementing this programme in order to reduce incidences of malnutrition among the pockets of malnutrition in tribal areas of 19 districts of the state.

(iii) Ladli Laxmi- It is the state government’s one of the most ambitious schemes being implemented to bring in change in the society’s attitude towards girl child and improving the sex ratio. Under it, Rs. 6,500 would be deposited by the state government in the name of a girl child on the day she is born, which would accumulate to Rs. 1 lakh after 18 years. This money will be then handed over to the girl.

(iv) Usha Kiran- This is very important scheme started in state related to Domestic Violence Act, 2006 is implemented in the state through Usha Kiran Scheme.

(v) Swayam Siddha- Under this scheme. self-help groups of the women are formed and are trained to become financially capable.

(vi) Swadhar Scheme- The scheme is implemented to provide shelter, nutrition and other necessary facilities to rehabilitate those women, who are living in difficult situation.

(vii) Tejaswini Rural Empowerment Programme- The project is aimed at empowering 12000 women Self Help groups in these districts i.e. Chhatarpur, Umariya, Dindori, Balaghat, Panna and Tikamgarh.

In order to reach the objectives linked to women 11th five years lays down following monitorable targets-

- (i) Raise the sex ratio for age group of 0-6 from 935 by 2011-12 to 950 by 2016-17
- (ii) We must make sure that at least 33% of the direct and indirect beneficiaries of all women and girl child positively.
- (iii) To decrease IMR (Infant Mortality Rate) from 57 to 28 and MMR (Maternal Mortality Rate)

from 3.01 to 1 per 1000 live births.

- (iv) To reduce Anaemia among women and girl by 50% by the end of the eleventh plan.

V FUTURE SCOPE OF STUDY

- (a) Still ,there are lots of ways to go for empowering rural women in our country.
- (b) Many NGOs are doing a good job but need to increase the numbers of the same.
- (c) 73% of the population living in rural area so we need to penetrate digitalization 100% in Rural Area specifically.
- (d) Gender Ratio is still waiting to compete with Nation Gender Ratio at all.
- (e) Literacy Rate is needed to be improved as comparison to National Literacy Rate.

VI CONCLUSION

It is obvious through all Reviews, Government Plans and NGOs work, that women have established their entity as a strong personality at least. But we need to do something more on the concrete level for women , especially in rural areas of M.P. ,where we didn't get 100% literacy Level at all.

So we have to boost literacy level as well as seek to start some more Health Care workshops to maintain the hygiene level of girl child and women.

We need to engage rural women more and more with NGOs so that they can able to know their rights and all Government Plans as well.

Madhya Pradesh is basically based on tribal people so if we improve the lifestyle and literacy level of these tribes, then we can improve and make over a strong Madhya Pradesh easily.

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