

SUSTAINABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN THROUGH NGO's

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ABSTRACT

This study explores the pivotal role of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in promoting sustainable human development for women across Karnataka, a state characterized by significant socio-economic disparities. The abstract provides an in-depth analysis of NGO interventions aimed at addressing multidimensional challenges faced by women, particularly those in rural and marginalized communities. Sustainable human development is framed within a holistic context, encompassing economic self-reliance, social empowerment, environmental stewardship, and legal awareness. Research indicates that NGOs function as vital conduits, bridging the gap between government schemes and vulnerable populations. Key strategies employed include the promotion of women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs), a model pioneered in Karnataka by organizations like MYRADA since the mid-1980s. These SHGs have proven effective in mobilizing women for thrift and credit activities, which serves as a foundation for broader empowerment initiatives. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) mobilize people for constructive community work and often reach the most deprived sections of society and contribute to the socio-economic development of the country. This study shows the cooperation between the Government and the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) to implement the government programmers in Karnataka. Karnataka is one of the growing states of India which has bundle of schemes for the empowerment of Women and development of children implemented with the help of the NGO's. Government of Karnataka has come up with varieties of programs for the benefit of women and children. Empowerment of women is high on the agenda in the development plan and policies in the state. NGOs have the potential to initiate this process and they have been actively involved in planning process and implementing of various policies related to women. They are also enhancing government efforts to work together. They are responding to the needs and aspirations of the women and children. NGOs have been making remarkable efforts for the upliftment of the women. They are fighting for their rights and making them more self-reliant. They empower women by conducting training programs that promote a solid base of conceptual, theoretical, and practical skills. There are various NGOs involved in solving the issues of women and promoting the related laws, safeguarding the interest of women in the framework of local or national policymaking. In this paper we throw light on the role of NGOs in the implementation of the government programmes to empower women and children.

Keywords: Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's), Empowerment, Programmes, Implementation.

INTRODUCTION:

NGOs in Karnataka promote sustainable human development for women by using self-help groups, which focus on thrift and credit, and by providing training for vocational skills, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy. These efforts build economic independence and some NGOs also work on environmental sustainability, legal awareness, and supporting women in crisis situations. The ultimate goal is to improve women's social, economic, and political status, giving them greater control over their lives. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) perform an important role in the social development of India as a developing country by providing services to society through welfare works for community development, assistance in natural disasters, sustainable development, and popular movements. NGOs fulfil a number of functions in areas which tend to be neglected by the private and public sectors. Due to declining public sector/governmental provision of services in many countries, NGOs have played an increasingly influential role in a variety of activities which impact upon the lives of many people especially women and children. After independence, in order to develop and empower women, the government has been framing policies and plans that have been executed by either five-year plans or other development projects. Since 1980's and 1990's, in the areas of women and child development, a number of women development schemes have been implemented through the Panchayath Raj Institutions (PRIs) everywhere in the country. During the 1990's, NGO's emerged as the major stakeholders in the area of the development and welfare of the society.

OBJECTIVES:

The main objectives of the study being undertaken can be seen as below.

- To understand the different programs planned by Karnataka Government to empower the Women and Children.
- To investigate the impact of NGO strategies on the status and living conditions of women.
- To examine the role of NGO's in empowerment of women and children.

Our aim, here is to clearly explore the appropriate roles of the NGO's that will well work for the welfare of the target group, particularly in empowering women and children.

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's), the name itself says about the nature of the organizations that keep themselves outside the governmental relations and execute for the welfare of the society. Bhose (2003) provides a definition given by the National Conference on the Role of Voluntary Organisation in Health Care in India that reads as: A voluntary Organisation is a social service and a development institution motivated to meet the needs of the most disadvantaged in society, either through direct services to the people or through facilitative/indirect services to other voluntary organization or government, non-profit making and not undertaken to be fully funded for its maintenance, directly or indirectly by the Government. Non -Governmental Organizations (NGOs) also called Voluntary Organization have long history of active involvement in the promotion of human welfare and well-being. NGOs come in to existence voluntarily, spontaneously and without any compulsion or control to fulfil the particular needs of some groups of people. NGOs are flexible and do the human services with dedication. It measures the health and strength of a democratic society. It flourishes in a society where NGO's actively participate with Government projects to reach out the needy people on time.

Nearly from two and half decade, NGO's have been working as the important actors in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the development programmes. This gives the best opportunity to the NGO's that were just to existence with the growth oriented approaches. The NGOs became prominent after independence. Development practitioners, government officials and foreign donors Consider that Non-Governmental organizations by the virtue of being small-scale, flexible, innovative and participatory, are more successful in reaching the poor and in poverty alleviating. This consideration has resulted in the rapid growth of NGOs involved in initiating and implementing rural development programs and empowerment of deprived sections of the society. This growth has reached each and every section of the social development and each state prominently. Now, there are more than 3 lac NGOs working in India indifferent levels and in different sectors (Registered and Non registered). According to the latest NITI Ayoga Web portal NGO DARPA total 29546 NGOs are registered in Government of India and 1497 in Karnataka state as on June 30th2017. These numbers are increasing day by day because of the government's policy to bring all the NGO's under one roof and Accountability in NGO's so that they can utilize the foreign contribution, government's funds to implement the programs properly and reach out to the concerned people.

Women Empowerment: Women empowerment is very essential for the development of society. Empowerment means individuals acquiring the power to think and act freely, exercises choice and fulfil their potential as full and equal members of society. As per the United National Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the term women empowerment means: •Acquiring knowledge and understanding of gender relations and the ways in which these relations may be changed. Developing a sense of self-worth, a belief in one's ability to secure desired changes and the right to control one's life. Gaining the ability to generate choices exercise bargaining power. Developing the ability to organize and influence the direction of social change, to create a more just social and economic order, nationally and internationally. Women Empowerment refers to increasing and improving the social, economic, political and legal strength of the women, to ensure equal-right to women, and to make them confident enough to claim their rights, such as:

Freely live their life with a sense of self-worth, respect and dignity.

- Have equal rights to participate in social, religious and public activities,
- Have equal social status in the society,
- Have equal rights for social and economic justice,
- Determine financial and economic choices,
- Get equal opportunity for education, and employment without any gender bias.
- Get safe and comfortable working environment.

Key strategies used by NGOs

- Self-Help Groups (SHGs):
- Organizations like MYRADA introduced SHGs in Karnataka in the mid-1980s, a model that has proven sustainable, especially for women's groups.
- These groups focus on thrift and savings, and through collective action, they build creditworthiness to access loans.
- SHGs also address other issues through training programs and capacity building.

- Vocational training and entrepreneurship:
- NGOs offer vocational activation programs to build self-esteem, competence, and freedom.
- They support women's entrepreneurship and provide training to generate sustainable income, which helps reduce economic disparities.
- Capacity building:
- Training helps women gain knowledge on government programs, financial management, and planning.
- NGOs work to increase financial literacy and provide support for self-employment.
- Environmental sustainability:
- Some NGOs involve women in development projects related to environmental management, such as watershed management.
- This approach acknowledges the crucial role women play in promoting environmental ethics and water resource management.
- Legal and Social Support:
- NGOs provide legal awareness and support for self-employment.
- Services like the "SANTWANA" helpline offer immediate assistance to women facing harassment, domestic abuse, and dowry-related issues.
- Collaboration:
- Many NGOs collaborate with government bodies like the Karnataka State Women's Development Corporation (KSWDC) to implement programs.
- Partnerships help NGOs reach grass-root levels more effectively.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

This study has been done on the Karnataka Government's Schemes for empowering women and development of children. Also the NGOs' role in implementing the schemes but there is no such latest data available in Government website which states the exact no of beneficiaries benefited from those schemes and how many NGOs worked on those schemes. Even though many NGOs are not registered in Government's NITI Ayog DARPAN portal, lot of other NGOs are working for the development of Children and Empowerment of Women without using Government's funding. There is scope for further study to know more about the Government schemes and the role of NGOs in the implementation of schemes. Also scope to find out the beneficiaries list so that in future Government can plan the improvement of schemes and increase the NGOs' role by providing them more funds from government and maintain the Accountability mechanism so that schemes should properly reach the beneficiaries in the society.

CONCLUSION

NGOs are associated in development and social welfare activities for the Women and Children. The State Government is providing sizeable monetary assistance to such organizations to enable them to play a notable role in the development process. The aim of the Government is to reach the neediest in the society through innovation and experimentation of the NGOs. In all the Government programmes implementation Non-

Governmental Organization involvement is very high. Without the support of NGOs it is very difficult to reach to the beneficiaries. Therefore NGOs work parallel with the Government to reach women and children of deprived sections of the society. Finally, the voluntary sector is best placed to be a conscience-keeper for government programs on the one hand and to be the voice of the disadvantaged on the other. While it is fruitful to engage NGO resources to complement Government programs, a certain section of the voluntary sector needs to remain independent to perform this role.

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