



A Review of Women Policies in Rural Areas and their Awareness

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Abstract 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 paper discusses the general situation of rural Indian women, the awareness of rural women's policies, and the effects of those policies on rural women. In contemporary Indian society, women play a critical role. Women in rural areas have a crucial role in helping their families and communities achieve food and nutrition security, generate income, and enhance their general well-being. They support local and international economies by bolstering agricultural and rural businesses. The government has implemented numerous programmes and policies for the empowerment of women out of concern. All forms of physical and mental violence against women, whether at the domestic or societal levels, including those resulting from customs, traditions, or accepted practises, shall be dealt with effectively with a view to eradicating its incidence, according to the National Policy on Empowerment of Women adopted in 2001. However, some good intentions on the part of local officials and beneficiary knowledge can actually bring about a transformation in the conditions of Indian rural women. The study emphasises both theory and practise. Both primary and secondary data sources were used to create the study. Books, journals, websites, and other related sources are used to get the necessary data on Policies for Women Empowerment and its numerous components. The researcher will investigate rural areas' awareness of women's policies.

Keywords Rural women, women's policies

Introduction

"Women" is a strong term. It's charming because it reflects love, care, nourishment, obligations, responsibilities, strength, eternity, maternity and so on. A woman is the mirror of the society in every society. When it is marginalised, it is oppressed; if it is brought up, society is brought up; if it is strengthened, it is empowered. A woman is like a society atom, without which nothing would be there. She maintains culture and customs and brings them out. She's the one who cares about her husband and his family. In other words, she creates everything in society. A woman (mother) is her child, the first teacher; she is the first doctor to treat her children lovingly. She is the first teacher to teach her children, the first partner to play games with her children. Her function is enormous in the development of her child. A woman cannot be thanked enough for her indefinite position and constant responsibility towards her children, family, community and society.

Today, most people think of working women as independent when we speak about women's empowerment. But empowered women are those who decide to remain or have to remain at home to play the part of a wife, daughter-in-law, and mother. They are the start of growth. They are the ones without whom a man cannot go to work. It is by the support of a mother who lives at home that society works, the country develops. Her various unpaid and unknown works are the cause of the development of every society.



People are part and parcel of the culture. When people hit four, they become aware of the world they have to know beyond their homes. The family is considered the cornerstone from which individuals grow and develop, giving priority to members of their families. But aside from family members, individuals have a crucial role to play in society, thus within society. In the social, political, economic, religious and cultural spheres of society, the role of women is recognised. Women are remembered mainly in the ways that their well-being promotes. They are generating a source of income to sustain the livelihoods. They also work to protect society, impart knowledge, and generate awareness among the people as in the cases when they are employed in the teaching profession.

Women's contributions to society are also made available on an honorary basis. Women from all ages and backgrounds participate in honorary work to promote people's well-being. Some of the honorary ways are to provide coaching to children belonging to marginalised and socioeconomic backward parts of society or donate food, clothes, and everyday products to poor people. Many women in India live in poverty, have no access to adequate medical services, are victims of violence and harassment, suffer discrimination, are neglected and do not enjoy the rights and opportunities as men. These variables are observed by almost all of the women social workers working to promote the well-being of families.

List of Women Empowerment Schemes in India

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme

Working Women Hostel Scheme

Women Helpline Scheme

Mahila Police Volunteers Scheme

SWADHAR Greh

STEP (Support to Training and Employment Program for Women)

Mahila Shakti Kendras (MSK)

Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme

UJJAWAL Scheme

Issues and Problems Faced by Women In India

- **Selective abortion and female infanticide:** It is the most common practice for years in India in which abortion of female fetus is performed in the womb of mother after the fetal sex determination and sex selective abortion by the medical professionals.
- **Sexual harassment:** It is the form of sexual exploitation of a girl child at home, streets, public places, transports, offices, etc by the family members, neighbors, friends or relatives.
- **Dowry and Bride burning:** It is another problem generally faced by women of low or middle class family during or after the marriage. Parents of boys demand a lot of money from the bride's family to be rich in one time. Groom's family perform bride burning in case of lack of fulfilled dowry demand. In 2005, around 6787 dowry death cases were registered in India according to the Indian National Crime Bureau reports.
- **Disparity in education:** The level of women education is less than men still in the modern age. Female illiteracy is higher in the rural areas. Where over 63% or more women remain unlettered.
- **Domestic violence:** It is like endemic and widespread disease affects almost 70% of Indian women according to the women and child development official. It is performed by the husband, relative or other family member.
- **Inadequate Nutrition:** Inadequate nutrition in the childhood affects women in their later life especially women belonging to the lower middle class and poor families.
- **Women are considered as inferior to men:** So they are not allowed to join military services.



Data Analysis

Awareness about Policy

100 women respondents were asked about awareness about policies and the result shown in table no 1.

Table 1: Awareness about Policy

S. No.	Policy	Yes	No
1	Educational facilities	36	64
2	Health facilities	44	56
3	Political facilities	23	77
4	Legal service and assistance	25	75
5	Gender issues	40	60

When respondents were asked about awareness level of government policy, majority of the respondents were not aware about policies.

Conclusion

Empowering women is essential to the health and social development of families, communities and countries. When women are living safe, fulfilled and productive lives, they can reach their full potential. Contributing their skills to the workforce and can raise happier and healthier children. Sustainable rural development is vital to the economic, social and environmental viability of nations. It is essential for poverty eradication since global poverty is overwhelmingly rural. The manifestation of poverty goes beyond the urban-rural divide; it has sub regional and regional contexts. In this way Government has initiated so many Policies for Women empowerment and Awareness about Women Policies in rural areas is also essential and needed.

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