

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH WELFARE SCHEMES IN ANDHRA PRADESH

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ABSTRACT

Women Empowerment refers to increasing and improving the social, economic, political and legal strength of the women, to ensure equal-right to women. Women empowerment helps women to control and benefit from resources, assets, income and their own time, as well as the ability to manage risk and improve their economic status and wellbeing. Many of the barriers to women's empowerment and equity lie ingrained in cultural norms. Many women feel these pressures, while others have become accustomed to being treated inferior to men. Empowering women to participate fully in economic life across all sectors is essential to build stronger economies, achieve internationally agreed goals for development and sustainability, and improve the quality of life for women, men, families and communities. Women Empowerment is a process whereby women become able to organize themselves to increase their own, self reliance to assert their independent right to make choice and to control resources which will assists in challenges and eliminating their own subordination. The government of India has implemented many programmes for the empowerment of women. In addition, Andhra Pradesh state government also implementing various women development programmes, like the gender component of SERP under APRIGP program focuses on enabling the women of the poorest of the poor households of Andhra Pradesh to overcome their poverty through the self managed institutions like self – help groups, village organizations, mandal samakhyas and zilla samakhyas. Gender programme aims to ensure gender equity, equality and a dignified way of living for rural women. Mobility, participation and decision making will be enhanced through their self managed institutions by providing capacity building trainings. These schemes plays an effective dimensional role in creating rural livelihood at sustain, the savings and group activities in eliminating poverty by active participation of women at village level committees. It was observed that there is a drastic development occurred in their life with their active participation, and they are getting awareness in all aspects. Through these schemes, traditional Indian women have started proving themselves more skilled and competent in many professions. This article explains complete data of SHG'S, village and mandal samakhyas etc which empowered rural women of Andhra Pradesh.

Key Words: - Women Empowerment , Economic status, Participation, Govt. SERP , APRIGP, SHG'S schemes and samakhyas and zilla samakhyas.

Introduction:

Women Empowerment means promoting women in their social and economic development, providing them equal opportunities of employment, education, economical development and allowing them to socialize; the freedoms and rights that were denied before. It is the process which empowers women to know that they too can achieve their aspirations as the men of the society and help them do that. Why Do We Need Women Empowerment in India The need of women empowerment arose because of the gender discrimination and male domination in the Indian society since ancient time. Socio-political rights (right to work, right to education, right to decide for themselves, etc) for the women were completely restricted by the male members of family. In the recent years, various constitutional and legal rights have been implemented by the government of India in order to eliminate ill practices and gender discrimination against women. However, in order to solve such a big issue, the continuous effort of everyone including women is required. Modern society is being more aware about the women rights which results in the increasing number of several self-help groups, NGOs, etc working in this direction. Women are being more open minded and breaking the societal barriers in order to achieve their rights in all dimensions even after crimes are going side by side.

Some of the acts passed by the Parliament Equal Remuneration Act-1976, Dowry Prohibition Act-1961, Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act-1956, Medical termination of Pregnancy Act-1971, Maternity Benefit Act-1961, Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act-1987, 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.

Objective of Women Empowerment Schemes:

1. To provide women with access to education.
2. Financial assistance.
3. Opportunities for employment.
4. To promote women's health and well-being.

Vision

Empowered women living with dignity and contributing as equal partners in development in an environment free from violence and discrimination. And, well nurtured children with full opportunities for growth and development in a safe and protective environment.

Mission

Promoting social and economic empowerment of women through cross-cutting policies and programmes, mainstreaming gender concerns, creating awareness about their rights and facilitating institutional and legislative support for enabling them realize their human rights and develop to their full potential.

Ensuring development, care and protection of children through cross-cutting policies and programmes, spreading awareness about their rights and facilitating access to learning,

nutrition, institutional and legislative support for enabling them to grow and develop to their full potential.

Women Empowerment Welfare Schemes:-Andhra Pradesh Government initiatives for women Empowerment Government of Andhra Pradesh has been promoting Gender Equality in all Spheres. Economic analyses recognize that low levels of education and training, poor health and nutritional status and limited access to resources not only depress the quality of life of a woman but also limits productivity, hinders economic growth on the whole. Vision 2010 is the guiding policy document for the Government of Andhra Pradesh. Empowering women by building awareness of gender issues and providing them with education, health and employment opportunities is the one of the main objective of Vision 2020. The state is committed to ensure equal participation of women in the Development. Andhra Pradesh declared the year 1997 as the year of 'Gender Equality with Social Justice'. Various steps have been taken to provide specific provisions for women towards equality in all fields i.e. social, economic, political and cultural. Hence an attempt is made to study different policies, programmes and schemes of women empowerment initiated by Government of Andhra Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh is one of the few states in the country where a separate department is created to look after the Development and Welfare of Women and Children. Andhra Pradesh Women Commission has been constituted to improve the status of women in the state and to enquire into unfair practices affecting women. It also monitors implementation of the laws in courts concerning women. Different institutions are set up by the Government for the women. Total 34 Institutions are being run such as State Homes, Rescue Homes, Working Women Hostels, Old Age Home, Homes for Collegiate Girls. Schemes and Programmes by Government of Andhra Pradesh

a) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS): The ICDS Scheme is a centrally sponsored single largest Integrated Programme of Child Development. It was started in Andhra Pradesh in 1975-76. There is a close relationship between Child Development and Women Development. In 2007 ICDS was revised and the key objectives to be addressed were reduction of malnutrition in 0-6 year Children, reduction of Children with low Birth Weight, reduction of Infant Mortality Rate, Maternal Mortality Rate and other measure for improving the over-all health and nutrition condition women and children.

b) Indiramma amrutha Hastham: This programme was started in 2013. This scheme is to provide one full meal for pregnant and Lactating women. Under this programme one full meal consisting of Rice, Dal with leafy vegetables, Sambar/veg curry, one boiled egg and 200ml milk to all the pregnant women at each Anganwadi Centre atleast 25 days a month.

c) MAARPU: The decline in Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) and Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) between 1997 and 2010 has been slow in the state and when compared to other southern states. Still the IMR, MMR low birth weight Children and anemia in pregnant women is very high and a matter of concern. In view of the above circumstances Government has taken the initiative to achieve convergence between the different departments to focus on key parameters related to health, nutrition and sanitation under the efforts called MAARPU.

d) Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (SABALA): It is a centrally sponsored scheme launched in 2011 in Andhra Pradesh. The Scheme aims to

empower adolescent Girls in the age group 11 to 18 years by promoting their education, health, nutrition, life skills and vocational skills.

e) Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY): This is a centrally sponsored conditional Cash Transfer Scheme. This scheme is implemented in selected districts of Andhra Pradesh from 2011-12. An amount of Rs.4,000 is paid to the Pregnant and lactating women in three installment on fulfillment of prescribed conditions.

f) Kishori Sakthi Yojana: This is also centrally sponsored scheme introduced in 2000. Its main objective is empowering adolescent Girls by breaking the inter-cycle of nutritional and gender disadvantages and to provide a supportive environment for self development.

g) YSR Cheyutha: - YSR Cheyutha is a welfare scheme introduced by the Government of Andhra Pradesh in India. The scheme is aimed at providing financial assistance and empowerment to women from marginalized communities. Please note that there may have been developments or changes since then, so I recommend checking with official government sources or news outlets for the most current information. YSR Cheyutha is a program launched by the Government of Andhra Pradesh to assist women aged 45 to 60 from weaker socio-economic background by providing financial benefit of ₹75000 over the period of four years.

h) DRDO Scholarship Scheme:-Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) has launched “DRDO Scholarship Scheme for Girls“ through Aeronautics Research and Development Board (AR&DB), DRDO HQ.

Objective of this scholarship scheme would attract such women power from various institutes through a transparent process with an objective to tap the talent of bright students across the country. Chief minister Jagan Mohan Reddy laid emphasis on women empowerment through YSR Asara and YSR Cheyutha schemes. Officials informed that over 8 lakh DWACRA groups were benefited under Aasara scheme, where the government has given Rs 6330.58 crore in the first tranche. They also said that the social audit on the list of beneficiaries for the second tranche has been completed and the lists have also been displayed in the village secretariats. Similarly, through YSR Cheyutha in the first installment almost 3 lakh women have set up businesses like retail shops, rearing cattle, buffaloes, sheep, and goats. In the second phase, the government is aiming to create employment opportunities for 2, 21,598 women. The chief minister said that, AP government is working to build partnerships with corporate such as Procter & Gamble, ITC, Hindustan Unilever, Reliance Retail, Amul and Allana among others to ensure sustainable development.

Empowering women economically, socially, and politically has been the motto of YS Jagan Mohan Reddy Government, and this year it was no different. Right from Volunteers to Mayors, women were given their place of pride with Amma Vodi, YSR Cheyutha, and registering the house sites in the name of the woman of the household has taken empowerment to new heights and raised their standard of living. Jagananna Amma Vodi, YSR Cheyutha, YSR Aasara, implementation of 50 percent reservation for women in nominated posts and nominate contract works, collaboration with Amul dairy, Disha

initiatives and house sites for women beneficiaries are the glaring examples. Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) are being provided financial support under the YSR Zero Interest Loan Scheme. The Chief Minister strongly believes that if a woman is happy, healthy, and content, the community around her will flourish. Keeping this in mind, the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister has worked out the dynamics for the economic empowerment of women which include employment, access to money and credit and ownership of assets. Starting with Jagananna Amma Vodi, this year in June, the State Government disbursed the financial assistance of Rs 6,595 crore directly to the mothers' accounts of the students studying from classes 1-12. So far, the state government has spent Rs 19,617.53 crore benefiting 44.50 lakh mothers and 82.31 lakh students.

The Chief Minister who is determined to empower the women dairy farmers and make them self-reliant virtually launched 'Jaganna Palavelluva' in Anantapur this January partnering with On the political front, the government has been gender-sensitive and has assigned important portfolios in the cabinet to women. The State has also enacted legislation providing 50 percent reservation to women in all nominated posts, which is a revolutionary step taken by the Chief Minister. Of the total 13 Zilla Parishad chairpersons, seven are women. Among 202 AMC chairpersons, 101 are women. Of the 1154 directors to Corporations and Trusts, 586 are women. All these speak of the government's commitment to the empowerment of women on the political front. The parliamentary standing committee had also praised the performance of the Disha Police Stations introduced for women's safety in AP. He said, "In the last three and a half years, a sum of 280.39 crore has been spent for the welfare of women in the Vijayawada central constituency. This has helped women achieve financial independence."

CONCLUSION : -

Andhra Pradesh is one of the few States in the Country where a separate Department is created to look after the Development and Welfare of Women & Children. Government has accorded high priority to the issue of malnutrition and is making serious efforts to address this issue. Nestam, Kapu Nestam and house titles under the mega housing programme reached the state's women. DRDO Scholarship Scheme for Girls.

Women's sense of self-worth; their right to have and to determine choices; their right to have access to opportunities and resources; their right to have power to control their own lives, both within and outside the home; and their ability to influence the direction of social in Andhra Pradesh.

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