



Impact of NGOs on Rural Women: A Sociological Study Special Reference to Ajmer District

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Abstract: *The objective of the article is to analyze the impact of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) on the mobility of Ajmer rural women in the public sphere, as this is an area where only men generally come, while women are confined to their homes and neighborhoods. Lives. In other words, the author explored how, and to what extent, NGOs have brought about changes in women's freedom of movement in the public sphere. The authors were influenced by existing literature that portrays Ajmer as a district characterized by poverty, patriarchy and inequality, where rural women have no tradition of participating in the labor force, and where women's mobility is severely restricted. In this study, indicators of women's mobility were explored which included the movement of women in various public places such as markets, medical centres, children's schools and cinemas.*

Keywords: NGO, Impact, Rural, Women, Public etc

I. INTRODUCTION

Social development has emerged as an important concern in contemporary society today. Most of the parameters of social development are getting more attention than ever before. The success of the World Summit on Social Development is proof that economic upliftment without social emancipation is not considered real development. It is a very important fact that human development

The paradigm, which puts people at the center of its concern, is now a universally accepted strategy for the development of a nation. There is a growing consensus among development thinkers that people are and should be the starting point, center and target of every development intervention. The real asset of a nation is its people, both male and female, and development aims at creating an environment to enable them to enjoy long, healthy and creative lives. However, the harsh reality is that "in no society do women have the same opportunities as men".

For countless centuries in India, women have been kept under men and socially oppressed women have been excluded from the race of development in the name of customs, traditions and religion. The various religions practiced in India as well as the personal laws based on them gave women a lower status than men. Women had no significant existence of their own. She existed for men and always played second fiddle to them. Women in India were expected to have no personality of their own apart from their relationship with their husbands. They could find no other expression of their innate talents or desires than as housewives. In fact they were only seen as complementary to men.

As a result, they have been denied opportunities for their social, economic and political development, thereby reducing their status in society. Since women constitute almost half of the country's total population, this denial has contributed in no small part to India's continuing under-development in terms of three main indicators of development, namely life- expectancy, educational attainment and income. India ranks 134 out of 174 countries, so if development is to have any meaning then women should also be given their due place in development, perhaps even more consciously because of their already relatively more disadvantaged position.

In advanced countries, women have been powerful agents of social change. According to a World Bank report, increasing women's well-being has significant inter-generational benefits and productivity gains in the future.

Women empowerment can be achieved through political power, education, employment, NGOs and SHGs. These are dominated by NGOs and SHGs and fruitful success of women empowerment must take place in multiple dimensions including economic, socio-cultural, familial/interpersonal, legal, political and psychological. Since these dimensions

cover a wide range of factors, women can be empowered within any one of these sub-domains. The Human Development Report from 1999 demonstrated that practically no country in the world treats its women as well as its men according to measures of life expectancy, wealth and education. The female work participation rate in Rajasthan is reported to be 11% with a gender gap of 52% which is comparable to West Bengal but less than Punjab. 56% of women are in community service, 17% in manufacturing and 8.6% of rural women are in agriculture. Only 4% of women are in the formal sector, compared to 10% of men.

II. CURRENT STATUS OF RURAL WOMEN

After independence there have been many changes in all walks of life, scientific and technological. The impact of industrialization and urbanization has brought about a perceptible change in the socio-economic and political scenario of the Indian society. As a result there has been a drastic change in the ideas and values, manners and customs, way of life and culture, resulting in a change in the age-old tradition of Indian civilization. But this thrust of change is not uniform among all sections of the population as the major share of technological development was shared by the urban masses. Despite this technological and scientific development, the age-old social values of gender discrimination still prevail in our country. Many women's liberation movements were launched to eradicate this gender discrimination but male supremacy is still prevalent especially in rural areas. This age-old value of male supremacy is still prevalent. Women are not getting proper status to play their special role in the society. The female population, especially the rural areas, is far behind in the field of economy and education.

The wide gap between male and female literacy in rural and urban areas in India is emblematic of gender disparities.

Education:

As elsewhere, education is one of the most important determinants of women's development in India. Women's economic and social returns are higher than men's, 2001-02 According to the Sixth Report of the Parliamentary Committee on the Empowerment of Women on Educational Programs for Women, 2001-02 Education helps girls get better work opportunities and better productivity. Apart from this, it will also reduce the pressure of population.

HEALTH:

Women's access to health care is both an outcome and a determinant of their status in society. Broadly speaking, four groups of factors are found to influence women's access to health care. They are need (i.e. the extent of ill health), affordability (i.e. the social factor that determines whether women can obtain health care outside the home), ability (primarily economic status) and availability of health care service for women.

LABOR PARTICIPATION:

The National Sample Survey on Employment and Unemployment in India during 1999–2000 estimates the number of women in the workforce to be around 124 million. This was about 31 per cent of the total workforce, of which over 88 per cent belonged to rural areas. The female workforce participation rate is as low as 29.5 percent in rural areas and 12.4 percent in urban locations. **Economic condition:**

Measuring the contribution of women to the betterment of society is a challenging task. A woman's unpaid domestic labor is usually ignored because what she creates is a 'use value' and there is no reliable way to calculate its economic value. Even if women do join the labor force and produce 'exchange value' through their paid employment, it is unlikely that we may be able to assess their actual contribution, as is present. The sometimes huge male female wage gap across all sectors of the Indian economy.

WELFARE AND EMPOWERMENT OF RURAL WOMEN:

Well-being and empowerment are distinct but interrelated and overlapping concepts in the context of women. The terms welfare or development typically refer to socio-economic development measured in terms of income, literacy, health, savings, employment, etc. In contrast, empowerment refers to the strengthening of groups and individuals through interactions in all levels of social organization. It is a social mental and to some extent an external process. It has to grow over time in the case of socially and economically poor and disadvantaged groups at the individual, family and community levels and among both genders. Empowerment of women comes from assessing women for what they are and where they are. It is not wrong to use these two words synonymously in the context of women.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT SCHEMES

- BetiBachaoBetiPadhao Scheme
- Archive - One Stop Centre Scheme
- Archive - Women Helpline Scheme
- UJJAWALA : A Comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of trafficking and Rescue, Rehabilitation and Re-integration of Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation
- Sakhi Niwas
- Ministry approves new projects under Ujjawala Scheme and continues existing projects
- SWADHAR Greh (A Scheme for Women in Difficult Circumstances)
- NARI SHAKTI PURASKAR
- Awardees of Stree Shakti Puruskar, 2014 & Awardees of Nari Shakti Puruskar
- Women Helpline Scheme
- Mahila police Volunteers
- Mahila Shakti Kendras (MSK)
- NIRBHAYA

WELFARE SCHEMES FOR WOMEN IN INDIA

Under Article 15(3), the Constitution of India allows for positive discrimination in favor of women. The article under Right to Equality states that: "Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any special provision for women and children." Furthermore, Directive Principle 39(a) of State Policy states that: "The State shall, in particular, direct its policy to ensure that citizens, men and women equally, have adequate means of livelihood." Right."

Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (National Credit Fund for Women) was established in 1993 to provide loans to low-income women in India. Programs recently launched by the Government of India include the Mother and Child Tracking System (MCTS), the Indira Gandhi MatritvaSahyog Yojana, the Conditional Maternity Benefit Scheme (CMB), as well as the Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for the Empowerment of Adolescent Girls - SABLA.

IMPACT OF BENEFICIARIES OF NGOS

The NGOs have also considered the impact of programs on beneficiaries, the participation of beneficiaries in programs, and the opinions of beneficiaries about NGOs. Impact is the positive or negative effect an organization has i.e. it measures the effectiveness. The following impact indicators were selected to assess the impact of NGOs.

- a. Beneficiary participation.
- b. Programs for development of knowledge and skills of the beneficiaries.
- c. Beneficiaries' opinion about NGOs.

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION (NGO)

The growth of NGOs has emerged as a force to reckon with because of their involvement in the contemporary socio- economic development process and to fill the void created by the apathy and audacity of the two major sectors i.e. public and private. NGOs have been considered as the third sector, which have focused on various issues of contemporary importance, such as women empowerment, ecology, environment, human rights, distribution of natural resources, etc. Their mission is often social change and the upliftment of millions of underprivileged people. These organizations try to play the role of development catalysts and pressure groups so that the power system of the state can be closely scrutinized. They give morality to the people; Encourage them to raise their voice against ecologically damaging industries, local power nexuses and vested interests against government policies/decisions/laws and in the process create a united and unified force in the form of people's protests, movements build out.

Non-governmental means that the organization is not accountable for receiving operational finance, such as staff salaries, from a government department. This does not mean that it cannot cooperate with the government in planning and implementing programs. In India, however, the term NGO is often used interchangeably with "voluntary organization". Many "voluntary organizations" in India are started by government employed officials and funded by the

government. For example, some Mahila Mandals (women's clubs) are started by a village level worker; who is a government employee while others are initiated by persons who are not employed in the government. Mahila Mandals established in both ways receive government funding but are officially called "voluntary organizations". The term non- governmental organization (NGO) is preferable to avoid confusion and to correctly classify the types of development organizations.

CHARACTERISTICS AND SPECIALTIES S OF NGOS:

- 1) **Voluntary:** They are formed voluntarily, there is an element of voluntary participation in the organization. NGOs are built on the commitment of a few individuals.
- 2) **Legal Status:** The NGO is registered with the Government under the Societies Act Trust Act and some Trade Union Act etc. The NGO is also registered under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. This is to be entitled to receive money abroad.
- 3) **Independent:** NGOs are free in planning and implementation of their programs, they are not bound by hard and fast rules like government institutions.
- 4) **Flexible:** NGOs are flexible in intervention they are not bound by red tape and bureaucratic constraints. They will not stop people's initiatives in the name of audit objections.
- 5) **Non-Profit Oriented:** NGOs do not run on profit objectives. Surplus profits from economic projects if any are not distributed to the members or stakeholders are reused for development purposes.
- 6) **Value Driven:** NGOs are motivated by social values and humanitarian principles and hence they try to promote a value based society.
- 7) **Catalyst:** NGOs facilitate communities for social action but they do not undermine or distort themselves in the process of intervention.

TYPES OF NGOS:

Thus eight types of NGOs could be distinguished as per the above categorization.

- 1) Charity NGOs
- 2) Relief and Rehabilitation NGOs
- 3) Service providing NGOs
- 4) Social Development NGOs
- 5) Economic Development NGOs
- 6) Empowerment NGOs
- 7) Support NGOs
- 8) Network NGO

DEVELOPMENTAL ROLE OF NGOS:

The role of NGOs in the socio-economic development of the country is noteworthy. They have been contributing to national development for a long time traditionally voluntary organizations were social service organizations with changing times and humanitarian activities. Along with the broad base, voluntary organizations also changed. The earlier discussion on their origin shows how the organization took reformation on religion into national movements and at present they occupy a prominent place in promoting developmental efforts.

(a) RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

Promoting rural development is another important area of concern for NGOs. NGOs that are dedicated to rural development inspire people's perspective through education, training and decision making. This, in turn, helps societies especially those that are transactional and aim for rapid socio-economic development.

(b) NGO IN WOMEN DEVELOPMENT

While looking at the role of NGOs in development in general, it would be appropriate to look at their specific role in women's development. Voluntary efforts for the cause of women began (in their modern form) in the late 19th century. They were altogether the work of a few individuals who were devoted to the welfare of the society. Origins like

Brahmo Samaj, PrarthanaSamaj, all were against the prevailing evils in the society. He fought against the practice of sati, was successful in stopping child marriage and encouraged widow remarriage and female education.

(c) TO SUPPORT GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES.

Linking people and government can be considered as an important role of NGOs in the process of development, they add in their own way the funds sanctioned by the government by using locally available resources in fulfilling the objectives. In addition, by providing information about local conditions, priorities, local resources, NGOs are assisting governments in local planning and target setting.

III.

CONCLUSION

Rural women have the power to change many things in the society and the country. If we have to make our country a developed country, then first of all it is very important to empower women through the efforts of men, government, lowly and women. In India, the scope of development is not narrow, but very wide, as it includes not only economic development but also development on the social front, quality of life, empowerment, women and child development, education and awareness of citizens. To achieve this, a holistic approach and collaborative efforts involving various departments, agencies and even NGOs are required. NGOs or non-governmental organizations have more advantages of working in rural areas than government organizations because NGOs are more flexible, NGOs are specific to a particular locality and moreover they Committed to serving the public and the community as a whole. Inspired by Mahatma Gandhi, women in independent India have worked for women empowerment through various organizations. Indian women became self-reliant after getting education and worked for the upliftment of women through many institutions. He alerted everyone for the development in the social, economic, cultural and political vision of women. After independence, due to the efforts of many non-governmental organizations, poor and uneducated women got information about the benefits of self-reliance through legal rights. All these women's organizations made arrangements for adult education center, vocational education center, sewing center, working women's housing, home for old age, home for neglected etc. In the second half of the 19th century, many national level women's organizations were functioning. In the villages of Ajmer city, so far no work has been done on NGOs on rural women, so the researcher has chosen this topic. This study is also suitable for awakening the rural women. NGOs work only with the help of the government. Strengthened links between civil and public society through public support for NGOs will provide new opportunities for joint action.

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