



A Study of Sustainable Development of Rural Women by Prakruti Mahila Vikas Kendra, Chandrapur, Maharashtra, India.

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Abstract:-

Prakruti Mahila Vikas Kendra, Chandrapur (Maharashtra) is a reputed NGO working for women's sustainable development since 2003. The NGO is working in Chandrapur district's five talukas; Chandrapur, Rajura, Ballarpur, Jivti, and Korpana, and functioning for the development of women and the rural community. Women's economic empowerment, Health, Panchayat Raj, Self-Help Groups, Atrocities against women, Employment, and Family Counselling are the issues on which the NGO is striving endlessly.

The vision of the NGO:- To establish a society based on equality, freedom, justice, and fraternity by removing oddities in class, caste, sex, color, religion, and gender.

To work for women's financial, social, political, and cultural development.

Objectives of the NGO:-

1. Creation of women's strong organization through Mahila mandals and their self-help groups.
2. Creating gender equality and social equality
3. Organizing various awareness programs for leadership development and personality development of women.
4. Economic, Social, Political, and Cultural development of women.

Keywords:- economic empowerment, Leadership skills, upliftment, Sanjivani, gender equality

Introduction

The Empowerment of women is essentially the process of upliftment of the economic, social, and political status of women. The traditionally underprivileged ones, in society. It is the process of guarding them against all forms of violence. Women's empowerment involves the building up of society. Marking the International Day of Rural Women, the United Nations today affirmed the role of women as significant and crucial for the progress of rural households, and local and national economies. They are farmers and farm workers, horticulturists and market sellers, businesswomen, and community leaders.

Rural women are the backbone of sustainable livelihoods and provide food security for their families and communities said. UN secretary general BAN KI MOON in his message marking the occasion.

Women's empowerment and achieving gender equality help society ensure the sustainable development of a country. Many world leaders and scholars have argued that sustainable development is impossible without gender equality and women's empowerment. Sustainable development accepts environmental protection, and social and economic development, including women's empowerment. In the context of women and development, empowerment must include more choices for women to make on their own.

Thus this paper will focus on the sustainable development of rural women by PRAKURTI MAHILA VIKAS KENDRA.

This NGO was working continuously for the last 20 years for the development of rural women.

Methodology:- The methodology used for conducting the present study is a personal interview and discussion with the president of the Prakruti Mahila Vikas Kendra and documented reports.

Activities organized by Prakruti Mahila Vikas Kendra for women's development.

Economic Development:

Efforts are being made for the economic empowerment of tribal and Dalit women through self-help groups in sixty villages of five talukas for the sustainable development of women. 14000 women are connected through the formation of 761 online self-help groups by creating a mobile app. A bunch of 200 self-help groups have culminated into a federation of 3000 women and formed Prakruti Mahila Urban Cooperative Credit Society aimed at sustainable economical development of women. During Covid-19, women who were deprived of their livelihood were assisted with a fund from NABARD of Rs. 50000/ each. The groups named "Join Abilities group" consisting of 5 women each were formulated by allotting Rs. 250000/ loan each. 1250 such women were helped to re-establish their businesses by paying Rs.50000/ each. All these women are successfully conducting their businesses.

These women are successfully rearing goat farms, broom business, and managing a Butterfly garden in the village of Agarzari.

Prakriti Mahila Vikas Kendra has started Van Dhan Vikas Kendra in the tribal village Vaigaon Dudhala Nimbala in collaboration with the Integrated Tribal Development Project. There are 300 women active participants. A group of 20 women is working like 15 groups. In the village tree gum etc. are spun in the processing unit as raw material. Identification of the goods, use, sale, etc. 5 sizes of land in Vaigaon village is given to the women's self-help group for tribal forest rights, 50 women work here.

The central government has started Van-Dhan Vikas Kendra for the upliftment of tribal women. In this regard, forest-based occupations and cottage industries have been started. Prakriti Mahila Vikas Kendra has started Van Dhan Vikas Kendra in the tribal village Vaigaon Dudhala Nimbala in collaboration with the Integrated Tribal Development Project. There are 300 women active participants. A group of 20 women is working like 15 groups. In the village tree gum etc. are spun in a processing unit as raw material. Identification of the goods, use, sale, etc. 5 sizes of land in Vaigaon village is given to the women's self-help group for tribal forest rights, 50 women work here.

Health-related Work

The organization works in creating awareness about women's reproductive health only in villages with a 100 percent tribal population. Somewhat educated two women called *Sanjivani* are trained to be aware other women of their reproductive health, BP, sugar, hemoglobin, menstruation, cleanliness, malnutrition, diet, etc. similarly special attention is provided to the children of 0 to 3 yrs age group regarding their malnutrition, diet, pregnant women's diet, etc.

Atrocities on Women

The organization conducts various mass awareness programs on laws prohibiting atrocities on women. Women conduct *gramsabhas* to disseminate guidance. A committee comprising 20 women each disseminates information in nearby 15 villages about women's safety, atrocities, legal aid, etc. programs on gender equality are also organized. Adolescent girls are made aware of physical literacy, cleanliness, and self-defense.

To be brief and exact, the organization has been striving effortlessly for the last 20 years for rural women's sustainable development. President of the organization Mrs. Prabhatai Chilke, Vice-President Shri Mohan Hirabhai Hiralal, Secretary Mrs. Bharti Ramteke along with other office bearers and employees are working tirelessly for the upliftment of women.

Current activities run by the NGO's :

- Working since 2011 in people-based monitoring and planning projects after health care in Chandrapur and Jivati talukas under National Health Mission.
- Under the LEAP program is to create public awareness about celiac disease in Rajura taluk and to survey and refer celiac patients.

- Running Kotombic Counseling and Guidance Center at Police Station, Ballarpur with the help of the State Ministry of Women Health and Women and Child Development, Mumbai.
- Formation and Training of Savings Groups in Chandrapur Taluk under the Women Empowerment Project
- However, in collaboration with Trust Pune, the Sanjeevani project is underway in Chandrapur and Bhadravati talukas on Women's Reproductive Health.
- Working as a training organization on Panchayat Raj, Gender, etc. through Mahila Economic Development Mahamandad.
- Working at Jalswarajya Project and other voluntary organizations in Chandrapur as Health, Water and Sanitation, Gender, Panchayat Raj, Youth Development Guidance, and Coaching Organization.
- Awareness program in fifteen villages under employment guarantee scheme program under Collectorate, Chandrapur
- Jayavam skill program for Kishori native girls is going on in Panch School
- The organization is working on the issue of the safety of girls in ashram schools in Chandrapur and Balarpur talukas

Conclusion:-

The organization is found successful in its mission.

+ Rural women have become self-reliant and self-sufficient by having small industries and cottage industries.

Economic incapacity is hampering the family financially and due to financial empowerment, the debt of millet women has gradually reduced.

.Special attention is paid to the welfare and health of rural women

.Women's health has become a real issue.

There has been awareness about law among women and girls.

The above research shows that many women have benefited from the Prakriti Vikas Mahila Kendra, especially the backward class Dalit women and tribal women in rural areas have been encouraged to come forward and develop these issues

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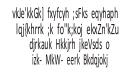
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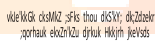


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