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ROLE OF INCLUSIVE GROWTH IN WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

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Abstract:

Inclusive growth is concept that ensures equitable distribution to each and every section of society in conformity with this meaning inclusive growth can be termed as process in which economics growth measured in terms of sustained increase in GDP contributes towards creating and security of livelihood and access to education and opportunities for harnessing the individual's capacity. Women empowerment is all inclusive in Inclusive growth. Women empowerment is an imperative issue. Perhaps now the government has seriously started thinking about it and all the development programmes embrace requirements and concern of women, so that they do not fall behind in the race of development.

Key words : Inclusive growth, economic growth, economic class, gender, sex, disability

Introduction

Inclusive growth is economic growth that creates opportunity for all segments of the population and distributes the dividends of increased prosperity, both in monetary and non-monetary terms, fairly across society. The approach to Inclusive Growth is multidimensional, going beyond income, and that the proceeds of economic growth must be shared. Inclusive growth is a concept that advances equitable opportunities for economic participants during economic growth with benefits incurred by every section of society. Inclusive growth basically means making sure everyone included in growth, regardless of their economic class, gender, sex, disability and religion. Inclusive growth approach takes on long term perspective and the focus is on productive employment rather than merely direct income redistribution as a means of increasing income for excluded groups. Thus inclusive growth approach took a long term perspective of development. According to World Bank, the growth said to be inclusive when the growth to be sustainable in long run and it should be broad based across the sector and inclusive of large part of countries labour

force. Inclusiveness should understand in the sense and focusing on equality of opportunity in terms access to markets, resources and unbiased regulatory environment for business and individual.

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Inclusive growth approach is a long term perspective as if focuses on productive employment rather than on redistribution of income as a total to include the excluded group in short run government could resort to policies of income redistribution but such measure of income transfer are not conducive for long run. Therefore inclusive growth is about policies and perspective necessary for long term sustained economic growth this should be broad based arrears sections and inclusive of large part of

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women's. Inclusiveness cannot to equality interms of access to market recourses and unbiased regulatory environment for individuals and firms. A report published by world Bank. Identifies gender equality as both development activity in it self and means to promote growth, reduce poverty and promote better governance. The eleventh five year plan emphasized on sustainable balance between growth and inclusion and keeping in view to this theme of eleventh five year plan approach, women empowerment occupies the center stage of inclusive growth.

Empowerment is a continuous process of realising the goals of equality human liberation and freedom. Women empowerment implies equality of opportunity and equality between the genders, ethnic groups, social classes and age groups.

Objectives of Study

- 1.To examine the issues of inclusive growth.
- 2.To focus on strategies to revamp women empowerment programs for inclusive growth.
- 3.To analyze the role of government in promoting women empowerment and inclusion.

Methodology

This research paper has been prepared through studies relating to government

publication & official reports, journals, articles, this paper based on secondary data.

Empowerment of Women

Empowerment of a concept was first introduced as the international women conference at Nairobi in 1995 and was defined as a redistribution of social power and control of recourses in favour of women. It was a general opinion that empowered women become agent of their own development able to exercise. Choices to set their own agenda and be strong enough to challenge and change their position in the society empowerment is self governance self sufficiency and self maintenance and above all it is economic independence. Through information, knowledge and necessary skills.

The UN population information network (2005) defines women empowerment, 'their rights have control over their own lives, both within and outside home. Their ability to influence the direction of social changes to create a more just social and economic order nationally and internationally.

Women's equality and empowerment are seen as pillars of holistic approach towards establishing new patterns and process of development.

Some indicators related to status of women:

Indicators	Male	Female
Literacy rate (%) census 2011	82.14	65.46
Maternal mortality rate (per 100000 live births) SPS, 2009-10		212
Sex ratio, census 2011	1000	943
Child sex ratio (0-6 years) census 2011	1000	919
Worker population ratios (per 1000)	819	336
MPs in Loksabha (%)	89.18	10.82

Indicators of Women Empowerment

The Human Development Report of 1995 by UNDP introduced two new complementary indices: Gender Related Development Index (GDI) and Gender Empowerment Measure

(GEM). Inequalities between Men and Women for basic needs are measured through GDI and GEM measures women access to political and economic posts. GDI focuses on extension of capability and GEM

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is concerned with those advantages that are accrued by the uses of capacities through opportunities in life. UNDP suggest strong correlation between these two indices. Apart from these indices, Women's household decision making capacity and freedom of mobility are considered to be indicators of Empowerment. Besides several other indicators, women's control over resources is the most debatable aspect of women empowerment. Some scholar like Blumberg (2005) suggest, women's control over income and other key economic resources is imperative for gender equality, empowerment and development. The empowerment indicators; decision making capacity, freedom of movement and control of resources are in tuned with the paradigm of inclusive growth.

We know that a woman is the nucleus of the family not only in rural areas but in urban too. She gets up first early in the morning, collects water from the tap, wood to burn the chullah, fodder for the cattle and what not for others images all the household activities and works for almost more than 15 hours a day and always last one to sleep in the family. She also plays vital role in preserving the culture of the society along with grooming the children for their bright future. Women may be representing nearly 50% of the population but contribute more than that in the development of the society, despite that their contribution is being ignored by the male dominated society since generations. Rural women constitute nearly 77% of total female population in our country and after contributing 2/3rd of total working hours earn only 1/3rd of the total income with an ownership of only 1/10th of the total resources. Generally the work of rural women is not recognized in terms of money and hence very less recognition is given to their hard work. Rural women are ignored even in the matters which are exclusively

concerned to them like; giving birth to child, acquiring education, health and many others.

Rural development is not only increasing the per capita income in rural areas but also increasing the living standard of both men and women which generally depends upon the tatus of nutrition, health, sanitation, education, social security, etc. But in real life situations it is not the same what we expect from the society because of various disparities shown towards the women in the society specially in rural areas where women are less informed in comparison to urban areas. It is general perception in the society that male child should be given priority in comparison to female child especially in the rural areas and forget the nucleus status of the women in the family. We should not forget that when women are economically and socially empowered they become the potent force to bring change not only in their own family but in the whole society. But the agony of the time is that the inequality which resides in our minds makes it difficult for women to fulfill their potential and as a result women have rarely access to the resources that would make their work more productive and ease their work load.

Despite getting appreciation from United Nations and having achieved little bit to bring change in the status of the women, there still exists a wide gap in many respects when compared to men. Especially rural women are being denied of their rights in the family, access to better health and sanitation, say in the family matters, and above all the ownership issues and as a result they always feel ignored in the family. The reasons for this ignorance may be discussed in few points as:

Lack of Education The government might have many plans and facilities towards educating the girl child (rural) but despite all we have not been able to uplift the

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standard of the rural women education as expected. Education plays an important role in increasing the awareness level on women's rights. When both boys and girls go to same school and grow up with mutual respect and understanding, women are likely to find more rightful place in the family and society. But the general perception of the rural people is that boys are superior to girls and with this perception and attitude girls are given less attention in comparison to boys. As per the Census India as on Jan 2012, female literacy rate in rural areas is 58.75% in comparison to 79.92% in urban area. If we bifurcate the education level of rural female then as per the NSSO Jun 2010, 46.7% are not at all literate, 31.8% are literate up to primary level, 11.1% up to middle level and only 10.3% are educated up to secondary level. This shows the miserable status of the women education in rural areas.

Access to Health Facilities Most women in the rural areas face severe health problems because of hand to mouth existence and a large family to feed which results in women sacrificing their meals which led them to get anemic and this manifests into major health issues. Government might be having so many plans to improve the health status in the country especially in rural areas for which NHRM was started in 2005 with an objective of improvement in public health delivery system in the rural areas. Data may be showing some improvement in the various areas like Infant Mortality Rate, Crude Birth Rate, etc but lot more need to be done especially in rural areas to make sure that the facilities meant for the rural people are reaching to them effectively and timely. Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram (JSSK) is also important initiative in this direction.

Perception of having Lack of Income Generation Capacity In rural areas, the contribution of women in household work is

not recognized as a part of any economic contribution to the family income. Women are generally not perceived to have any meaningful income generation capacity and hence are neglected mainly to household duties and cheap labor and as a result without power to work and earn good income their voices are also silenced.

Control by Men In rural areas everything is being controlled by men only and women are ignored to participate and give their opinion in the family matters even if it is related to them so in a society where men control the destiny of women, how it is possible to empower women. Even in the matters of sex and child bearing rural women do not have the permission to oppose the wishes of their men and if they are encouraged to do so it will create mistrust rather helping the rural communities. Women can gain power only when men start respecting the feelings of women and accept their contribution what they are devoting to the family matters.

Gender Equality Even many countries have made progress in developing the capabilities of women but still the inequalities continue to exist between women and men specifically in the rural areas. The low status of the women in the society is the outcome of our patriarchal system which is in force by traditions. This women's oppression have to be sensitized to improve the gender equality.

Unequal Access to Economic Opportunities Women are more likely than men to work as unpaid family laborers or in the informal sector. Women farmers tend to farm smaller plots and less profitable crops than men. Women entrepreneurs operate in smaller firms and less profitable sectors. As a result, women everywhere tend to earn less than men. If we see the status of employment of rural women than 54.2% are self employed, 40.3% are casual laborer and

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only 5.5% are regular employer in different sectors.

Less Voice in Households and in Societal Decision Making In most of the countries, especially poor rural women have less say over decisions and less control over resources in their households. And they even participate very less in formal politics than men and are under-represented in its upper echelons. As per the World Development Report 2012, 1/5th of married women in India are not involved in spending decisions, even about their own incomes. Women's ability to own, control, and dispose of property still differs from that of men-sometimes legally, often in practice.

Suggested Ways and Approaches to Rural Women Empowerment

Educational Empowerment Education is the key which opens the doors not only to men but women too, develop humanity and promotes national development. And the requirement of such initiative is more at rural level where women are lacking behind in education field and education can be an effective tool for women's empowerment to acquire knowledge to perform better. It is suggested that there should be some centre in each village which can provide literacy training to not only young women but senior citizens too.

Economic Empowerment Educationally empowered rural women can contribute more not only to her own economic development but in the overall development of the country. We know that rural women contribute not only in household work but equally in agricultural activities and if they are give ownership and control over productive assets it will create a sense of belonging and owing along with decision making abilities which will further enhance their self esteem and confidence. The rural women need to be extended access to land, financial decision making, household budgeting, bank accounts, etc.

Social Empowerment Rural women are deprived in all the areas whether it is health, nutrition, sanitation, education, etc. Addressing all these gender gaps in human capital endowments requires fixing the institutions that can deliver public services in timely manner to expectant mothers and improving the availability of clean water and sanitation to households will go a long way to closing these social gaps. Other areas where rural women suffer most are female mortality and skewed sex ratios at birth which need to be addressed at the earliest. There is no doubt that in present time rural women have become more aware about these sensitive issues.

Capacity Building Capacity building and empowerment are two important attributes complementary to each other. There should be separate agency to provide skills and capacity building in various areas particularly to rural women. SHG is the core areas where rural women can have their own business through micro-financing to get economic liberty. In this direction government has taken many initiatives like STEP (Support to Training and Employment Programme) to encourage rural women so that their productivity can be increased and they can keep themselves abreast of the various changes occurring in the competitive environment. Training is such programme which can enhance the knowledge, skill and abilities firstly on need basis and then can be provided on essential needs.

In addition to all the above points some more areas may be taken care of like; Reducing gender gaps in human capital development, Limiting the reproduction of gender inequality across generations, Disparities between women and men in earning and productivity to be narrowed down, Gender differences in household and societal voice to be reduced, and many more.

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Conclusion

Women empowerment is all inclusive in Inclusive growth. Women empowerment is an imperative issue. Perhaps now the government has seriously started thinking about it and all the development programmes embrace requirements and concern of women, so that they do not fall behind in the race of development. Thus, for

the holistic empowerment of women, an inter-sectoral approach has to be adopted which will end exploitation and discrimination against women enabling them to develop their full potential to be active participants in nation building, sharing the benefits of economic growth and prosperity.

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