

Women Empowerment through Socio-Economic-Political Development in Bihar

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INTRODUCTION:

Bihar is the third most populous state in India with 8.58% of the country's population, and only 2.8% area of country India. Bihar recorded poor economic growth through the nineties and grew at 4 percent during the 10th plan period, against the national annual growth rate of 7 percent for the same period. But during the just next five year plan, Bihar has been the top performer among the major states in terms of economic growth during the 11th Five Year Plan. According to a Planning Commission report the nominal Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) growth rate of Bihar was 21.9 percent during the 11th Plan spread over 2007 to 12. No doubt Bihar is growing faster. On the basis of secondary data which is published by central and state government and important articles it is analyzed clearly in this paper that socio-economic changes are taking place. The facts & reasons are also discussed in the paper.

Without women empowerment we can't think about social development and if we focus on women empowerment in the society, development of society will automatically occurred. Bihar is an actual example to show the relationship between women empowerment and socio-economic development of society. 50% reservation to women in the panchayati raj system and recruitment of primary teachers, 35% posts of police constables and sub-inspectors have been reserved for women in Bihar.

"Mukhya Mantri Balak and Balika Cycle Yojana" witness a significant shift towards gender inequality in some spheres of life such as educational enrollment, school attendance, this policy laying an emphasis on girls' education has started showing results, which is also visible in the rural area of the state.

Under "JEEViKA" scheme till now 2,10,140 Self Help Groups, 8,884 village organizations and 159 cluster level federations have been organized and credit linkage of 75331 Self help Groups has been done. "Mukhya Mantri Nari Sakti Yojana" and "Sabla Scheme" also helped to improve the social status and condition of women in the society.

LITERATURE REVIEW

A brief review of the literatures which the researchers have undergone regarding his research work is as follows:-

- ❖ Sandhyarani, G., Development of women: issues & challenges, Discovery Publication House Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi, 2012.

The concept of women's empowerment is the outcome of the women's movements throughout the world, particularly be the third world feminists Its source can be traced from the interaction between feminism and the concepts of popular education development in Latin America in the 1970's. The empowerment approach was first clearly articulated in 1985 by Development alternatives with women for New era (DAWN).

In India the Central government in its welfare programmers shifted the concept of development to empowerment in the Ninth Five Years plan (1997-2002) and observed the year 2001 as women empowerment year.

Components of Empowerment

- Sense of Internal strength and confidence to face life
- The Right to make choices

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- The power to control their own lives within and outside the have and
- The ability to influence the direction of social change towards the certain of a more just social and economic order nationally and internationally

Process of empowerment Empowerment as and individual and collection process is based on the following principles

- Self reliance
 - Self awareness
 - Collective mobilization and organisation
 - Capacity building
 - External exposure and Interaction
- ❖ Singh, K., '*Rural Development: Principle, Policy and management*', Sage Publication, New Delhi, 1986.

In this book author explains the various aspects of rural development in context of India. He describes the theoretical concepts, determinants, measurements of rural development. He also explains policy, strategy and planning for rural development. According to author there are significant gaps in the application of requisite management and technical tools, techniques and skills in planning and implementation of rural development programmers.

- ❖ DATTA, UPAMANYU. "*Socio-Economic Impacts of JEEViKA: A Large-Scale Self-Help Group Project in Bihar, India*" World Development, Vol. 68, pp. 1–18, 2015

In this article author has considered results from JEEViKA, a large-scale rural livelihoods program in Bihar, India. He uses a retrospective survey instrument, coupled with PSM techniques to find that JEEViKA has engendered some significant results in restructuring the debt portfolio of these households; additionally, there is evidence on women's empowerment, as measured by various dimensions.

Author has analyzed and interprets the results which are as follow as:-

- (a) JEEViKA was unable to change the number of income earners in beneficiary households, irrespective of the person being a seasonal or year round earner.
 - (b) Although there are some positive results on change in holdings of other assets like watches, they are small and non-robust. No effects could be found on land ownership or leasing in, in line with the lack of results on any shifts in agricultural activities.
 - (c) Quality of housing and food security has increased in the past three year. Now people are awaring to use private toilet facilities.
 - (d) Enrolment figure for girl child are significantly higher in treated area. 8-13% more children are attended school in treated area.
 - (e) Around 70% treatment HHs started regular saving over the last 3 years, compared to 12% control areas. JEEViKA members are highly encouraged (in fact, required) to deposit a weekly saving in their Self Help Group.
- ❖ Tiwari, M. (2010) "*Didi of Rural Bihar: Real Agent of Change?*" Economic and Political Weekly, 45 (33) August 14 - August 20, 2010

This article focuses on SHGs network in Bihar formed by JEEViKA. Here the term 'Didi' means member of JEEViKA SGHs. JEEViKA SHGs provide a platform for the bottom up approach to development. She discussed about social and economic empowerment of women in rural area of Bihar.

- ❖ Haan, A.D., March 2010, '*Migration and Livelihoods in Historical Perspective: A Case Study of Bihar, India*' The Journal of Development Studies, vol 38, Issue 5. Routledge, London, UK.

In this article author has briefly explain on the relationship between migration and development. His study is on the context of Saran and Bihar. On the basis of demographic data, he gave a detailed picture of the extent of migration from Saran. Migration from this district has been predominantly by men. He also explains the effects of migration on livelihoods in this article. He describe link between the underdevelopment and poverty in Bihar and its high rates of out-migration.

❖ Economic Survey, 2014 – 15, Finance Department ,Government of Bihar.

In this report government published latest data related to Bihar economy. Report says the recent growth process of Bihar's economy has been strong and sustained one, and its growth rate was one of the highest among all the Indian states. During 2005-06 to 2009-10, the GSDP at constant prices grew at an annual rate of 10.2 percent; between 2010-11 and 2013-14, the growth rate was even higher at 10.4 percent.

During 2005-06 to 2009-10, the sectors which recorded a growth rate of more than 15 percent are — Registered Manufacturing (45.4 percent), Communication (24.7 percent) and Construction (19.8 percent). During the succeeding period of 2010-11 to 2013-14, the sectors whose growth rate exceeded 15 percent are — Banking and Insurance (19.2 percent), Trade, Hotels and Restaurants (17.3 percent) and Communication (16.4 percent).

❖ Deshingkar,P., Kumar,S.,Chobey, H.K, and Kumar D.,December 2006 “ *The Role of Migration and Remittances in Promoting Livelihoods in Bihar*” Overseas Development Institute, London.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:

The study is based on the following objectives:

1. To evaluate the effect of women empowerment policies, which is implemented by the Government, by focusing the genesis, formation and development of women through different women empowerment program in Bihar.
2. To explore the socio-economic-political status of the marginalized women, especially from down trodden level of the society in Bihar.
3. To evaluate the implication and implementation procedure of the policies related to women welfare and empowerment.
4. To check the capabilities of the women across the society irrespective of their caste and class.
5. To examine the core-factors and major indicators that helped in improvement of the women' lives through various empowerment based programmes.

DESIGN & RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

Research Design:

(a)Coverage: The universe of study will cover all the major aspects which fall under the proposed discipline, i.e., ‘Subjective’ and ‘Geographical’ universe of study by covering all the regions and populace, i.e. the area which would be provided to us based on the interest of the organizers of the proposed study, time and space, by Sample Surveys based on random sampling.

(b)Data Collection: Data from Primary and Secondary sources; a schedule pre-structured questionnaire from the selected respondents of the backward areas and populace with regard to nature of research and its requirements by conducting field study, will be administered to collect the data about their problems and socio-economic condition.

(c)Data Analysis: The collected data through the interview schedules and published/unpublished information will be classified and analyzed. The statistical tools and techniques, i.e. SPSS, STATA, E-views, MS-Excel, R-Soft will be used wherever is applicable in the

analysis of results. The discussions with the concerned officials/non-officials and stakeholders in the study area will be used in the analysis.

The researchers adopted simple stratified random sampling and convenience sampling method in the collection of data for the study purpose.

Data Collection:-

- ❖ Primary Data: In this research we will use primary data and data will be collected by questionnaire, focus group interview and self observation.
- ❖ Secondary Data: It may require to use time series data. It will be collected through various publications and statistical records of central & state government and national & international organizations.

Data Analysis:-

- ❖ Both qualitative and quantitative data will be analyzed in accordance with research plan and objectives.
- ❖ The relevant tools like M.S.Excel, SPSS, E-Views will be used.
- ❖ The relevant techniques like ANOVA, t-Test, Chi-Square etc may be required

OUTCOMES, SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

Our research endeavor will focus on to cover each and every aspects of women empowerment, covering the historical and present and prospect of the life and status of women, irrespective of their caste, creed and class. We would avail ourselves in the provided universe and populace of study to come across the major obstacles and challenges, which is faced by the women in their day to day life.

As far as, the scope and limitations is concerned, we would endeavor to make all it happen to come out with some important and crucial realities. It may be helpful in policies implications and implementations, considering the well being of all humanitarian, through socio-economic equality and justice, which is needed for the growth and happiness in form of development of a country It may be also helpful in the forthcoming policies of the Government for the betterment of the lives and living standard of the women

Since, women empowerment can be measured in many case and context and because of limited time and universe of measuring empowerment, which is in our hand, there may be different pros and cons of our findings, sometimes which may be, may not be generalized across the region and societies.

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