

Aims of Assamese Women's Self-Help Groups for Atmanirbhar Bharat

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Abstract

In western nations, the idea of feminism first emerged as a result of the discrimination against women in society. Women had to fight for their political rights in western countries as well. We Indian women are extremely fortunate to have obtained political rights without the necessity for a revolution or insurrection. In retrospect, we can say that women in India during the Mahabharat era enjoyed a great deal more independence in a number of domains. Despite the fact that since India's independence, women have had access to economic and sociopolitical rights, the majority of them are still unable to achieve financial independence. Many women continue to rely on their family members, including their husbands, sons, daughters, or other relatives, without realizing their economic rights.

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Introduction

It is stated that women "hold up half the sky" and that they make up almost half of all people on Earth. But the world does not treat women fairly. As everyone knows, women did not have the same status as males not just in underdeveloped nations but also in industrialized nations. The discrimination against women in society led to the emergence of the concept of feminism in western countries. For their political rights, women in western nations also had to battle. It is our great fortune as Indian women to have gained political rights without the need for an uprising or revolution. Looking back at our past, we may conclude that women in India during the Mahabharat era had considerably greater freedom in several areas. Even though India's women have enjoyed economic and sociopolitical rights since the country's independence, the majority of them are still unable to establish financial independence. Many women are unaware of their economic rights and remain dependent on their family members, such as their husbands, sons, daughters, or other relatives, which has been causing them serious problems in their later years or old age. This is often the result of conservative family members or a lack of proper political representation.

These days, every nation is working to strengthen its economy, and both societal segments must work together to achieve this. Since the nation's economic growth is crucial to human development, the Indian government has made an effort to include everyone in developmental initiatives. Since it has been shown that poverty is a key barrier to the nation's development, the government's primary goal is to reduce poverty.

One of the main concerns in the fight against poverty is ensuring that people have a stable source of income. To this end, the Indian government is implementing Mahatma Gandhi's idea of integrating the villagers in the establishment of cottage industries. The government has offered assistance in this regard by launching a number of projects. One of the main initiatives of the Indian government to support women's economic security or way of life is the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM).

Objective

This paper's primary goal is to investigate how women's self-help groups (SHGs), namely those from Assamese villages, contribute to economic growth within the framework of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Data

The Assam State Rural Livelihood Mission is chosen as the study's focus since the government launched it with the goal of forming women's self-help groups (SHGs) and strengthening handholding support to lower poverty. To reach a conclusion, both primary and secondary data have been utilised. ASRLM's website and block data are used for secondary data, while a questionnaire is used to gather primary data directly from the ASRLMS office in Guwahati.

Atmanirbhar Bharat

The phrase "self-reliant India," or "Atmanirbhar Bharat," has been used and popularized by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Indian government in reference to the nation's economic progress and vision. The phrase is used as an umbrella term in this context. The phrase "Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan," or "Self-Reliant India Mission," was initially created in 2020 in conjunction with the introduction of an economic package relating to the Covid-19 pandemic. Under the auspices of NRLM, the Assam State Rural Livelihood Mission has been spearheading the economic growth of society by improving the lot of women. Following the announcement of the term "local" for vocal, the Mission has undertaken a number of livelihood security-related projects.

About Assam State Rural Livelihood Mission

The Government of India's Ministry of Rural Development (MORD) established a committee to look at credit-related problems and other areas of the scheme's execution following the collapse of the Swarajayanti Gramin Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), which was chaired by Prof. Radhakrishna. A "Livelihoods Approach" to reducing rural poverty was suggested by the committee. Four interrelated tasks were included in the strategy.

In order to give poverty reduction a stronger and more focused focus as well as more impetus, the government adopted the Committee's advice and reorganized SGSY into the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) in FY 2010–11. In addition, the decision sought to fulfill the MDGs by the year 2015. The Mission was formally launched on June 3, 2011, after the Ministry approved the Framework for Implementation for N.R.L.M. on December 9, 2010. The government of Assam has also launched the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), which is being implemented by the governments of several states. On November 11, 2011, the Assamese Panchayat & Rural Development Ministry formed the Assam State Rural Livelihood Mission with the goal of promoting social and economic empowerment.

Agri-Nutri Gardens

The entire state is involved in this endeavor. It began in 2020–21 and is currently active in every Assamese block. There are 7,000,00 beneficiaries of this scheme. Growing food on the homestead and selling the extra to the market is the project's anticipated result. Clusters of Integrated Farming.

Value Chain project on Hill Broom and Maize

The Karbi Anglong (Lumbajong Block) and West Karbi Anglong (Rongkhong Block) districts saw the start of this project in 2016–17. The project covers 2000 beneficiaries in total. Despite the initial one-year duration, this project has been extended. The goal of this project is to link maize and hill brooms in a backward and forward manner to boost income and production.

Development of Value Chain for Mushroom Cultivation

The Kamrup Metro Districts' Chandrapur, Dimoria, and Rani Blocks are included in this initiative for the development of the mushroom value chain. There are 400 beneficiaries in all from this project.

Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana (AGEY)

24 Districts under ASRLM are involved in total, with 111 SHG/VO/CLF working on this project. The primary objective of this project is to give SHG members under DAY-NRLM an alternate source of income in addition to more transportation options to Assamese rural areas.

Solar Related Projects

Eleven ASRLM demanding blocks are part of this project; three further blocks are suggested. 8,03,442 lakh students from all blocks are the total number of schools targeted. January 2017 saw its launch. For the price of one lamp, schoolchildren in classes I through XII will receive a solar study lamp that has been assembled and distributed by SHG, VO, and CLF members.

Conclusion

Despite all of these issues, we hope that our nation's women will be prepared to engage in all government processes that contribute to their economic development. The goal of the Assam State Rural Livelihood Mission is to encourage rural communities to lead sustainable lives. The Mission provides market support, finance linkage, and capacity building to rural women's Self Help Groups (SHGs).

Additionally, during COVID-19, the majority of Assamese women's self-help groups (SHGs) produced masks, which allowed them to benefit from their endeavors. Under the brand moniker "ASOMI," 84 booths have been set up to sell masks in 33 districts of the state. The women's self-help groups have sold masks for a total of Rs 715 million, and more than 4 lakh masks have been given away for free. A few of the female Self-Help Groups were actively involved in cultivating their own kitchen gardens or vegetable fields, and they were able to make money by purchasing vegetables. Finally, but just as importantly, if women fully participate in a range of economic development activities, then nobody.

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