

The Role of Women Co-Operative Societies in Socio Economic Development in State of Karnataka

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Abstract

Co-operative societies are autonomous and jointly owned enterprises. These co-operative societies are owned and managed majorly by women members of the society to meet and fulfill their socio-economic needs of women members. The main function of co-operative societies is significant in the development of our nation. More over co-operative societies solve the socio-economic difficulty of our nation. There are various types of co-operative societies which are carried out at various Districts. Various co-operatives are working based on gender equality, women's education, empowering rural women. Getting women's education in rural areas is lacking behind. Educating women can also lead to reduce the gender equality and it also empower with better financial status and socially independent.

Keywords: Women Socio Economic, Gender Equality, Women's Education, Empowering Rural Women

Introduction

“Our Matru Shakti is our pride. Women empowerment is very crucial to our development.”

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**

Co-operative societies is playing vital role in developing of our nation. A co-operatives society is concentrating more on women welfare development. Women power is very much crucial for aspiring millions of women in Karnataka. We have seen co-operatives in two movements one is before independence and the other is after independence. Co-operatives have many wide areas nut concentrating mainly on women by providing facilities like education to rural women, Women handloom weavers, Women community on weaker section. The greatest challenge we come across in civilized society is in the economic development and social

development. The principles of co-operative society in Karnataka are particularly on **“Women Feeling of Self-worth”**. The government of Karnataka has various departments in co-operative societies which are mainly functioning with the socio-economic schemes.

Women in Karnataka

Women in Karnataka are adapting the social position of equality in society with men both with the constitutional aspect and even with the legal aspect. We can say that women in Karnataka have stepped many millstones to achieve this position. In the olden days we see that gender inequality was playing vital role because women was completely dependent on the male members of family. Factors such as lack of information, education and gender inequality affected women in many ways. The main other reasons are

women does not have a place in social or even it might be in economic life in society.

History of Co-operative Societies in Karnataka

The “Sahakara Sindu Department of Co-operatives” Which is headed by government of Karnataka playing a vital role for the betterment of co-operative societies. These co-operative societies are providing many beneficiary schemes for the purpose of serving women in socio economic condition. These co-operative societies initially termed as Co-operative movements which was established in the year 1904 by attachment of co-operatives societies Act, which is celebrating its “**Millennium**” with more expectations and hope.

These co-operative societies guided by principles their own

1. Voluntary and open membership
2. Democratic member control
3. Member economic participation
4. Autonomy and independence
5. Education, training and information
6. Co-operative among co-operatives
7. Concern for community

The first co-operative societies were registered in 1905 at Kanaginahalli village Gadag District in Karnataka. Sri Siddanagowda, Sannaramanagowda Patil is the founder and was president to co-operative societies of Karnataka. Mysore co-operative society Act 1959 was the first legislation in the year 25/05/1960. We are to set a milestone that Karnataka is position in Third place in co-operative movement in India. Karnataka is the first state to provide agricultural loans through co-operative societies at 3%, not only that co-operative societies also provide them to self-help group

people at 4% so that women take all these facilities for the betterment of life.

Importance of Women Co-operative Societies in Karnataka

As we came across co-operative societies played significant role in women welfare and fulfilling their socio-economic needs. Not only those women can be financially independent and have a proper education. While co-operative society are providing various types of loan facility women can take up these facilities from co-operative societies and can build her own community. Community building trustee strengthen the back bone system inspire many other women in the society too. Co-operatives also help in providing facility of educating women. This also helps women to be more empowered. We can say that a co-operative society plays a very important role because women’s have involved themselves in various activities like marketing, fishing, weavers, industrial area etc. with the assist of these co-operative societies compare to a man, we can identify that women are utilizing this co-operative society in a effective manners.

Obstacles

We come across that co-operatives societies have been providing area. But the drawback is many women in rural area are unaware of these societies. Not only those rural areas even in the urban cities we can observe that women are not completely into these co-operatives. Many women don’t know the rules, regulations and objectives of the society. Likewise other elements which are affecting these co-operative societies are lack of capital, lack of leadership, internal conflict, and lack of expertise and misuse of funds.

Women Empowering through Co-operative Societies

The services which are provided by the co-operative society are very immersive in nature. A woman plays all roles in her personal life. We can say that there is no doubt women's succeeding in all the fields. Co-operatives societies will be women's backbone supporting system because it's providing a space for the women to exhibit her skill development activities, leadership quality, ability, entrepreneurship, social awareness more than all these she can educate herself and can educate other members also. The main objective of co-operative society is to empower women and create a new platform for betterment and her socio-economic needs.

According to NCVUI (National co-operative Union of India) has already planned set of 5 years goals (2021 – 2025). This mainly talks about providing the employment opportunity for 5000 people, providing training for professional's workers, Conducting welfare programs. By providing all these facilities to women can also empower women for better nation.

Review of Literature

1. Aregawi Tesfasy, Haileslasie Tadele (2013) Co-operative societies can be used as foundation for socio economic development of women. To this light, the major concern of this study is to analyze and understand the role of co-operatives in promoting the socio-economic empowerment of women. The study also stressed mainly providing the education on the rural area. Both primary and secondary sources of data collected analyzed using descriptive statistics and found that women participation is limited.

2. Rajendran (2007) an empirical study was conducted on women co-operatives in south India to study the impact of co-operatives in

the socio-economic conditions of women members. The study found that there is considerable change in the socio-economic conditions of members in the study area. The study also suggested such types of studies be conducted for broader generalization. After joining co-operative society's lifestyle of women members have also changed, they have started creating small job facilities to other women. Society also started accepting the women members by her abilities and accepting her as a leader.

3. Chandrasekhar (2014) the study tries to analyze the growth and development of women co-operatives in India and Karnataka particular. Co-operatives have a wide opportunity providing various facilities but recently it is largely neglected, in connection with the women of India. The study concentrates the region because there is negligence in connection on women members or less initiative have been carried in encouraging women members to co-operative societies. The present study analyses are to tries to analyze the growth and development of women co-operatives in India and Karnataka particularly.

4. Veranda S (2017) In India, Rajasthan based study evaluated the problem faced by the women co-operative society. All together 120 respondents were chosen for the study. The study reveals women members were facing issuing like illiterates, inequality and issuance of loans. It also observed that women economic constraints are also major problems.

5. Sasmita D (2020) A study was conducted on women co-operative in rural women at Odissa state to examine the socio-economic impact of the co-operatives. The study found that there is a significant change in the socio-economic conditions of the members. The study also stressed that education is mandatory for women for the betterment of

the region. Primary education is been provided for the betterment and women have women self-motivated, enthusiastically participating in all the activities building confidence among themselves and becomes an entrepreneur in their locality.

Methodology

The procedure to collect data of the current study is from secondary sources, such as other the secondary data are extracted from various sources like newspapers, Journals, Magazines, books, other publications and also from relevant websites.

Data Collection and Analysis

According to the Department of Co-operatives of Karnataka (**Sahakara Sindu Department of Co-operatives**) there are 45472 co-operative societies working in Karnataka. Among them 1310 are Women co-operative societies. The District wise Co-operatives Societies in Karnataka is presented in Table 1. The present study is confined to several district of the Karnataka state and the study excludes co-operatives carried out by men in the study area.

17	Kalaburgi (Gulbarg)	155
18	Kodagu	9
19	Kolar	69
20	Koppala	25
21	Mandya	27
22	Mysuru	39
23	Raichur	62
24	Ramanagara	13
25	Shivamogga	29
26	Tumakuru	32
27	Udupi	19
28	UttaraKannada (Karwar)	16
29	Vijayapura (Bijapur)	90
30	Yadgiri	28
	Total	1310

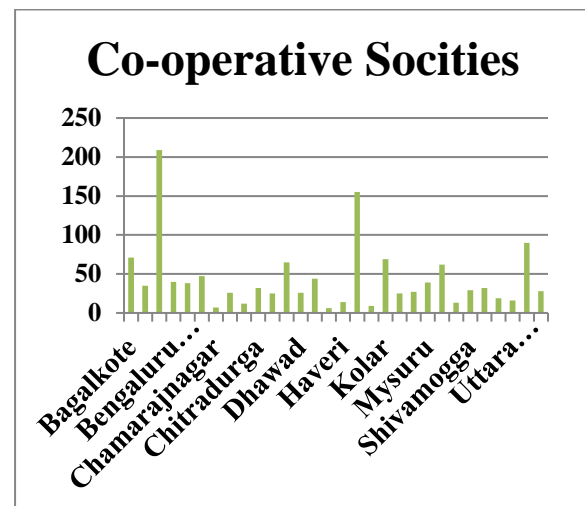
Sources: (Sahakara Sindu Department of Co-operatives)

According to the **Table 1** District wise Co-operative Societies are listed and the total co-operative societies in Karnataka are 1310. We can get a clarity that North Karnataka has a greater number of cooperative societies compare to other part of Karnataka. Women are growing well in the North Karnataka by utilizing all the benefits provided by co-operative societies.

Table – 1

District wise Women Co-operatives Societies in Karnataka

SL.NO	Name Of District	Total
1	Bagalkote	71
2	Ballari	35
3	Belagavi (Belagaum)	209
4	Bengaluru (Rural)	40
5	Bengaluru (Urban)	38
6	Bidar	47
7	Chamarajnar	7
8	Chikkaballapura	26
9	Chikkamagaluru	12
10	Chitradurga	32
11	Dakshina Kannada	25
12	Davangere	65
13	Dhawad	26
14	Gadag	44
15	Hassan	6
16	Haveri	14



Conclusion

According to Sahakara Sindu Department of Co-operative Societies Karnataka is concentrating more on weaker section of women to make them powerful in all the ways. In a developing country like India,

among poor people, rural women are very poor and also more vulnerable. Co-operatives societies can be utilized to meet their socio-economic needs of women members. Co-operative societies in India are playing an important role in the socio-economic transformation and development of a country like India particularly Karnataka. This study concludes by identifying the factors that are influencing women to join co-operative societies especially in the rural areas, understand the importance of co-operative societies helping women to achieve their socio-economic needs not only that but it also empowers women and promote gender equality among the society.

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