

# RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES FOR FARM WOMEN

## Abstract

Women play an important role in agriculture. Farm women day begins prior to sunrise and lasts past sunset. About 60-80 per cent food are produced by rural women. Despite the fact that women are essential to many agricultural jobs, just 13.00 per cent of rural women in India own land, while 85.00 per cent of them labor in agriculture. Though women share is very high in agricultural and they are spending more hours for work on farm than men still they are paid less than males for the same work. To support and strengthen the rural farm women several rural development programmes were Prime Minister's Employment Generation Program (PMEGP), National Livelihoods Mission, The DDU-GKY (Deen Dayal Upadhyay Grameen Kaushalya Yojana), PMKVY, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, Beti Padhao Beti Bachao ,Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY). Gender equality need to be promoted and have access to government programs and schemes.

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Women's socio economic emancipation is a dream, but it won't be realized till the last remaining fringe of India is also empowered. Those whose day begins prior to sunrise and lasts past sunset. These are rural Indian women who fight with gender socialization and patriarchal practices to determine their identity. Their voices frequently go ignored due to their gender. In addition to their responsibilities as a wife, daughter-in-law, and mother, women also work in agriculture. However, prejudice based on gender persists in many forms: Indian rules do not recognize women as farmers, depriving them of institutional supports from the bank, insurance, cooperatives, and government offices.

## **I. FACTS ABOUT RURAL WOMEN**

- Eighty percent of all economically active women in India work in agriculture, where they make up 33% of the labor force and 48% of independent farmers.
- Despite the fact that women are essential to many agricultural jobs, just 13% of rural women in India own land, while 85% of them labor in agriculture.
- The agricultural sector is becoming more "feminized," with more women taking on multiple roles as farmers, business owners, and employees, according to the Economic Survey 2017–18, while more men move from rural to urban areas.
- The agricultural workforce in Bihar is heavily feminized, with women making up 50.10 percent of all agricultural workers.
- 70 per cent of the women who work in agriculture come from homes where people migrate.
- Rural women generate between 60 and 80 percent of the food we eat.

“Empowered Women, a Nation in Power. Female participation is prevalent in agriculture and related industries. Compared to urban women, who participate in the labor at a rate of 35.31 percent, rural women's involvement rates are much higher (MoSPI, 2017).

Eighty percent of all economically active women in rural areas rely on agriculture and related industries as their main source of income, with 48 percent of farmers operating on their own and 33 percent working in the industry. In order to boost agricultural output, All phases of the value chain, including production, pre-harvest, post-harvest processing, packing, and marketing, entail participation by rural women. The ratio of women to men working in the agricultural sector has increased throughout time and has increased the GDP per capita, as reported by Pingali et al. (2019). According to FAO (2011), they represent a crucial population for a sustainable food system. According to projections, women-focused policies that provide equitable access to resources, skill-building opportunities, and agricultural opportunities would boost agricultural output in

The following programmes/Schemes have made significant contributions in women's economic and social independence in India. Program for the Generation of Employment under the Prime Minister (PMEGP)

- National Livelihoods Mission
- The DDU-GKY (Deen Dayal Upadhyay Grameen Kaushalya Yojana)
- PMKVY, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana,
- Beti Padhao Beti Bachao
- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)

### **The Details of Each Project/Yojana/Scheme Mentioned Below**

**1. Prime Minister's Employment Generation Program (PMEGP):** Developed in 2008, this program is from the federal government. managed by the Micro, Small, and Medium-Sized Enterprises Department (MSME). The only nodal agency for carrying out the program is the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).

- **Objectives of Programme**

- To establish new self-employment ventures, projects, or microbusinesses in both rural and urban locations in order to create job opportunities throughout the nation.
- To bring them together at their location and to offer self-employment options to widely dispersed traditional artisans or unemployed rural and urban youngsters.
- To offer jobless youth artisans in rural and urban areas a steady and long-term source of employment
- To enable craftspeople to earn more money so they may help boost job growth rates in both rural and urban areas.

**2. National Livelihoods Mission:** The DAY-NRLM is mainly a Central government initiative to fight poverty. India's Ministry of Rural Development published a report in 2011 that unveiled it as the "Aajeevika - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM)". It took up the moniker DAY-NRLM in 2015.

This program replaces the outdated Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY).

- **Objectives of the Scheme**

- The Mission's goal is to encourage the disadvantaged to live more sustainably.
- Obtaining official credit
- Encouragement of livelihood diversification and augmentation and
- Availability of public benefits and services

**3. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY):** The Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), a government program that is placement-driven, targets rural development in India. It aspires to develop India's rural youth into a trained, labor force that is prepared for the future. It is one of a number of projects the Ministry of Rural Development of the Government of India is pursuing to support rural livelihoods. By offering long-term employment, the program will help more than 55 million

young people in rural areas who are in need of education and training. This is a fantastic step towards decreasing poverty and unemployment in the nation.

- **Objectives of the Yojana**

- Changing course the incomes of indigent rural families
- Speaking to the professional aspirations to the young generation
- The program emphasizes on rural youngsters between the ages of 15 and 35 who are in poverty.
- It is a placement-linked, demand-driven skills training program.
- It supports the social and economic programs of the government, such as Digital India, Make in India, Smart Cities, Start-up India, and Stand-up India, as part of the Skill India campaign.
- The Prime Minister's "Make in India" project is also expected to benefit greatly from it.

**4. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY):** The Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship's (MSDE) major outcome-based skill training program is called Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY). In order to stimulate and promote skill development in the nation, PMKVY was established in 2015. It offers young people with free, rapid instruction in skills and pays them for earning skill qualification. The primary purpose is to foster young people's industry and employability.

- **Objectives of Yojana**

- Encourage and assist many young people in enrolling in industry-designed, high-quality skill training so they can find employment and support themselves.
- Boost the productivity of the present workforce and coincide skill development to the a nation real requirements
- Advocate for certification standardization of procedures and build a base for creating a skills document.

**5. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao:** The Indian government launched the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme to address the nation's problems with disparities in gender and women's empowerment in 2015. The meaning of the word Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao is "Protect the girl child, educate the girl child." The program's initial investment of Rs. 100 crore aims to enhance the performance of social services for girls and inform everyone about gender bias.

- **Objectives of Yojana**

- Enhance the child gender ratio
- Ensure equal opportunities for women and freedom for women
- Prevent discrimination based on gender or sex,
- Look after the healthy development and safety of girls' children and
- Encourage girl child education their involvement in school

**6. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY):** In 2017, the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana was introduced. In honor of the first live birth, for breastfeeding and pregnant women who are not less than nineteen years old, this program offers cash transfers with conditions. A maternity benefits scheme that offers pregnant women a monetary incentive of 5000/- The three payments of the incentive must be made within 150 days, 180 days, and at the time of delivery, respectively. The program is intended for women who were employed but lost their jobs owing to pregnancies. The incentive can be utilized to provide pregnant women with their daily nutritional needs. Through the Anganwadi Centers (AWC), PMMVY is implemented. With the Department of Social Welfare's cooperation, it is being implemented in the States and UTs.

- **Objectives of Yojana**

- Enticing women to practice (optimal) devouring and nutrition practices, especially creating and maintaining lactation early on for the initial period of six months
- Offering financial incentives for improving diet and health for seeking and feeding women.
- Fostering the use of appropriate habits, care, and institutional resources for the lactation period, their delivery, and gestation.

## II. TOWARDS MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS@2030

In accordance with the Global Gender Gap Index Report 2020, India's performance increased from 0.665 in 2018 to 0.668 in 2020. Initiatives to mainstream women's engagement in economic activities may operate as a stimulus for reaching the Sustainable Development Goals outlined by the United Nations. Women will be more likely to participate in agriculture if gender equality is promoted and they have access to government programs and schemes. This will boost the improvement of the nation's economy while assisting in the reduction of extreme poverty and hunger. Additionally, sufficient funding for pro-rural women programs and increased community involvement will hasten the empowering process a greater chance at destiny. For rural women, the ability to access the internet for business, medical services and education can make a big difference in their lives. Suitable instruction and capacity development explores the ways of contemporary technology for agriculture to benefit female farmers. ( Patel and Sethi, 2021)

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