**Rural Development Programmes for Farm Women**

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Women's socioeconomic 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 Indian women farmers who struggle to define their identity at the grassroots level due to patriarchal customs and gender socialization. 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.

**Facts about rural women**

* In India, the agricultural industry employs 80% of all economically active women; they make up 33% of the agricultural labor force and 48% of farmers who work for themselves.
* In India, 85% of rural women work in agriculture, yet just 13% of them own land, despite the fact that women are crucial to many agricultural tasks.
* According to the Economic Survey 2017–18, as more males move from rural to urban areas, the agricultural industry is becoming more "feminized," with more women taking on several jobs as farmers, business owners, and workers.
* 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, rural women are involved at all stages of the value chain, including production, pre-harvest, post-harvest processing, packing, and marketing. According to Pingali et al. (2019), the proportion of women to males employed in the agricultural industry has grown over time and contributed more to GDP per capita. 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 progrmmes/Schemes have made significant contributions in socio-economic empowerment of women in India.

1. Program for the Generation of Employment under the Prime Minister (PMEGP)
2. National Livelihoods Mission
3. The DDU-GKY (Deen Dayal Upadhayay Grameen Kaushalya Yojana)
4. PMKVY, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana,
5. Beti Padhao Beti Bachao
6. 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 Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME). The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) serves as the sole nodal agency for the implementation of the program.

**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.
1. **National Livelihoods Mission**

The DAY-NRLM is mainly a Central government initiative to fight poverty. In 2011, the Government of India's Ministry of Rural Development 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
1. **Deen Dayal Upadhayay Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY),**

India's rural development is the emphasis of the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), a government program that is placement-driven. 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**

* Diversifying the incomes of rural impoverished families
* Addressing the professional aspirations of rural youth
* The program focuses on rural youngsters between the ages of 15 and 35 who are in poverty.
* It is a placement-linked, demand-driven skills training program.
* As part of the Skill India campaign, it supports the social and economic initiatives of the government, including Digital India, Make in India, Smart Cities, Start-up India, and Stand-up India.
* It is also intended to play a significant role in the Prime Minister's "Make in India" initiative.
1. **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 kids free, brief skill training and compensates them financially for obtaining skill certification. The overall goal is to increase young people's employability and industry.

**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 existing workforce's productivity and match skill development with the actual demands of the nation
* Encourage the uniformity of the certification procedure and lay the groundwork for establishing a skills register.
1. **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao:**

The Indian government launched the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme in 2015 to address issues with gender inequality and women's empowerment in the nation. The phrase "Save the girl child, educate the girl child" is the meaning behind the name Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao. The program aims to increase the effectiveness of welfare services for girls and educate the public about gender bias with initial finance of Rs. 100 crore.

**Objectives of Yojana**

* Enhance the child sex ratio.
* Ensure women's empowerment and gender equality
* Prevent discrimination based on gender or sex,
* ensure the survival and protection of girls child and
* Encourage girl child education their involvement in school
1. **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY):**

In 2017, the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana was introduced. For the first live birth, it is a conditional cash transfer program for lactating and pregnant women who are at least 19 years old. 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**

* Encouraging women to adopt (optimal) nutrition and feeding practices, including early and exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months
* Offering financial incentives for improved health and nutrition to expectant and nursing mothers.
* Promoting appropriate practice, care and institutional service utilization during pregnancy, delivery, and lactation.

**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 for better future prospects. For rural women, access to education, healthcare, and the digital ecosystem can make a big difference in their lives. Suitable instruction and capacity development on new agricultural technologies can help women farmer. ( Patel and Sethi, 2021)

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