

**AN INTRODUCTION
TO
DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN
IN
INDIA**

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PREFACE

“An Introduction to Development of Women in India” is taught as a core subject in MRM/ M.A in Rural Development Course programmes in Indian Universities and Rural Management Institution as a post graduate diploma in Rural Management. In some institution, it is called Constitutional and Legislation Safeguards for the Development of Women in India; in some other institution it is titled as Empowerment of Women in India, in some others, it is women and Development. But the basic content and focus are the same- to teach basic principle, preamble, status of women, constitutional and legislation provision, right by act, programme, models and application of IPC & SIL in Indian society for the empowerment of women. Traditionally, an Indian woman had four fold status-role sequences. These were her role as a daughter, wife, housewife (homemaker), and mother. The woman, whose status and role traditionally was well defined and almost fixed in the society, is now experiencing far-reaching changes. The woman in modern times is entering into certain new fields that were unknown to the woman’s sphere of role-sets. They are activating participating in social, economic, and political activities. The women of the present generation have generally received higher education than the women of their preceding generation. There have been far reaching consequences in the economic status of their families.

Education of women has not only helped them to become aware of the political problems, but they are gradually becoming active participants in the political life. Some are enrolling themselves as members of political parties, attending party meetings, conventions, and carrying out political programs. Some women are attaining influential political stature of their own and have become instrumental in shaping the public opinion for the betterment of women’s conditions in society. The woman in modern times is entering into certain new fields that were unknown to the woman’s sphere of role-sets. These are the woman’s participation in economic, political, and social life. The modern woman keenly desires to enter into a work career because of the pressing economic needs of the family. In middle class families, much emphasis is given to the maintenance of high standard of living. To fulfill the economic needs of the family and to achieve higher standard of living the woman participates in economic activities. Women’s equality in terms of education, employment, and power is still an individual rather than a universal achievement. The majority of our women are still content to accept an inferior status. This is by and large due to the fact that, although legally women have equal rights with men, there are not enough jobs for women and working women are not adequately protected from exploitation. Women are generally not aware of the provisions related to the improvement of their own position. Even if they know about some of the provisions related to their rights of succession, marriage, or family, they do not desire to invoke them. Traditional dominance of the authority of the male parents, husband, and other elder members of the family often restricts the enjoyment of their legal

rights by the women. The materialization of these problems still depends largely upon the attitudinal changes in society. Gandhiji's vision that women must play an equal and important role in national development. However, the movement for raising the socio-economic status of women had involved generally the middle-class educated women in major urban centers while the great mass of rural women are yet to enjoy the rights and privileges as enshrined in the Constitution. Among the national level, the important organizations are Young Women Christian Association, All India Women's Conference, National Council of Women, Inner Wheel (Women's section of the Rotary International). In many cities, local organizations exist such as MahilaMandal, MahilaSamiti, and Recreation Clubs, etc.

The Approach: Most of the books on Development of Women presently available in the Indian market written by foreign authors. Therefore, the illustration, examples and cases mostly relate to foreign societies. Few textbooks have been written by Indian authors. Not all of them are comprehensive enough to be prescribed as complete textbooks. Some were written quite some time back, but have not been regularly updated. So those not is exactly contemporary. There is, therefore, a gap or a void, and it has been felt that there is scope for a book that takes care of the needs of the Indian students. And my experience of teaching Development of Women in M.A in Rural Development Course, Ranchi University, Ranchi over a number of years has prompted me to endeavor writing book on the subject. The present book is an attempt in this direction- a textbook which is written in the context of Indian Rural Development environment.

Structure of the Book: To give comprehensive coverage to the subject of An Introduction to Development of Women in India, the book has been structured in seven chapters. **Chapter-I** is devoted to status of women and problems of women. Status of women is describing that in historical perspectives- Ancient, medieval and modern. A problem of women also specifies the gender discrimination, domestic violence, social violence, dowry, exploitation, sexual harassment, rape, widowhood, witchcraft, economic dependency and social taboos in India. **Chapter-II** deals with the various constitutional and legislation safeguards for women in India. **Chapter-III** deals with the various women and legislation act. Analysis of various acts are- Hindu marriage Act 1955, Hindu Succession ACT 1956, Special Marriage Act-1954, Hindu adoption and maintenance Act 1956, Immoral and illegal trafficking prohibition Act 1956, Dowry prohibition Act 1961, Maternity benefit Act 1961, Family court Act 1984, Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act 1986, National women commission Act 1990. **Chapter-IV** is devoted to Women Emancipation Movement in India. This chapter provides a comprehensive analysis of various emancipation movements to the country. This is done through four parts: History of Feminist Movement in India, The struggle for women emancipation went through three stages, Social Reform Movement in India and Role of Women, The institutions established during this period are as follows. **Chapter-V** is concerned with Women and Five

Years Plan and Women Development Programme. These are First Five-Year Plan (1951-56), In the second Five-Year Plan (1956-61), The Third and Fourth Five-Year Plans (1961-66 and 1969-74), The Fourth Five-Year Plan (1969-74), The Fifth Five-Year Plan (1974-79), The Sixth Five-Year Plan (1980-85), The Seventh Five-Year Plan (1985-90), The Eight Five-Year Plan (1992-97), The Ninth Five-Year Plan (1997-2002), The Tenth Five-Year Plan (2002-07), The Eleventh Five-year Plan (2007-12), National Perspective Plan For Women 1988 – 2000 A.D., The National Policy For Empowerment Of Women, Policy Planning And Programming, Schemes For Women And Child Development, Schemes For Economic Empowerment, Support Services, Implementation Of Protection From Domestic, Women Welfare Programmes In Andhra Pradesh, Women Welfare Programmes In The Country. **Chapter-VI** deals with analysis and evaluation of Women Empowerment through Voluntary Organization and NGO's. This has been covered in sub-chapter (6.1-6.12). This include analysis of Women empowerment in India, Self Help Groups as an instrument of economic empowerment of women, Development of Self-Help Groups in India, Genesis of SHGs in India, Goals of Self-help groups (SHGs), Formation of Self-Help Groups, Structure of Self Help Groups, The Self Help Group Bank Linkage model, Potential for SHG Bank Linkage Programme, SHG-Bank Linkage Programme, Role of NGO's in Women Empowerment, Function of NGOs in Women Empowerment. **Chapter-VII** is concerned with Role of Women in Rural Development. This has been covered in sub-chapter (7.1-7.9). These are a statistical profile, Multi-Dimensional Role of Women, Role of Women in Road Construction, Motivating Factors and Constraints to Participation, Drinking Water, Health, Value-building resistance against exploitation, oppression, Education: Women's education, Role of Women in development of Rural Marketing, Rural Women Empowerment by Communication (Information Communication Technology), Role of Women in Rural Development by Trade & Exchange.

For Whom: The book has been designed as a core textbook in An Introduction to Development of Women in India for MRM/M.A in Rural Development Course in Indian universities. This book addresses the vital issues of women welfare and women empowerment in the light of the Globalization. This book is useful to the Planners, Administration, Policy maker and who are concerned with the issues of women welfare and women empowerment apart from academicians. The book can be used as a text at post-graduate diploma in rural development programmes. In addition, practicing lawyers, women commission, consultants and researchers may find the book useful.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: In the end, I would like to thank the anonymous reviewer for his/her positive comments and suggestions for improvement of the book.

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CONTENTS

CHAPTER	TITLE	PAGES
	Preface	III-V
	Acknowledgement	V
	List of Tables	IX
	List of Figures	X
	Abbreviation	XI-XII
I	Problems of Women	1-30
1.1	Status of Women in Historical Perspective- Ancient, Medieval and Modern	3-9
1.2	Problems of Women	9-15
1.3	Violence against women in India	15-28
1.4	Taboos in our Indian Society	29-30
II	Constitutional and Legislation Safeguards for Women in India	31-40
2.1	Introduction	33
2.1.1	Preamble	33-34
2.1.2	Fundamental Rights	34-35
2.1.3	Directive Principles of State Policy	36
2.2	Important Constitutional and Legislation Provisions for Women in India	36-40
III	Women and Legislation	41-106
3.1	The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955	43-51
3.2	Hindu Succession Act, 1956	51-57
3.3	The Special Marriage Act-1954	57-69
3.4	The Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act, 1956	69-74
3.5	The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956	74-86
3.6	The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961	86-89
3.7	The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961	89-95
3.8	The Family Courts Act, 1984	95-100
3.9	The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986	100-102
3.10	The National Commission for Women Act, 1990	102-106
IV	Women Emancipation Movement in India	107-122
4.1	History of Feminist Movement in India	111-112
4.2	The struggle for women emancipation went through three stages	112-115
4.3	Social Reform Movement in India and Role of Women	115-116
4.4	The institutions established during this period are as follows	116-118
4.5	Several organizations were formed for fighting women's issues	118-122
V	Women and Five Years Plan and Women Development Programme	123-144

5.1.1	First Five-Year Plan (1951-56)	126
5.1.2	In the second Five-Year Plan (1956-61)	126
5.1.3	The Third and Fourth Five-Year Plans (1961-66 and 1969-74)	126
5.1.4	The Fourth Five-Year Plan (1969-74)	126
5.1.5	The Fifth Five-Year Plan (1974-79)	126-127
5.1.6	The Sixth Five-Year Plan (1980-85)	127
5.1.7	The Seventh Five-Year Plan (1985-90)	127
5.1.8	The Eight Five-Year Plan (1992-97)	127
5.1.9	The Ninth Five-Year Plan (1997-2002)	127-128
5.1.10	The Tenth Five-Year Plan (2002-07)	128
5.1.11	The Eleventh Five-year Plan (2007-12)	128-129
5.2	National Perspective Plan for Women 1988 – 2000 A.D.	129
5.3	The National Policy for Empowerment of Women	129-130
5.4	Policy Planning and Programming	130
5.5	Schemes for Women and Child Development	130
5.6	Schemes for Economic Empowerment	130-131
5.7	Support Services	131-132
5.8	Implementation of Protection From Domestic Violence	132
5.9	Women Welfare Programmes in Andhra Pradesh	132-135
5.10	Women Welfare Programmes in the Country	135-144
VI	Women Empowerment through Voluntary Organization and NGO's	145-158
6.1	Women empowerment in India	147-148
6.2	Self Help Groups as an instrument of economic empowerment of women	148-155
6.3	Role of NGO's in Women Empowerment	155-158
VII	Role of Women in Rural Development	159-200
7.1	Role of Indian Women in Agriculture	162-164
7.2	Role of Women in Road Construction	164-167
7.3	Women Role in Drinking Water	167-171
7.4	Women Role in Health	171-176
7.5	Value-building resistance against exploitation, oppression	176-180
7.6	Education; Women's Role in education	180-187
7.7	Role of Women in development of Rural Marketing	187-191
7.8	Rural Women Empowerment by Communication (Information Communication Technology)	191-197
7.9	Role of Women in Rural Development by Trade & Exchange	197-200
	References	201-204

LIST OF TABLES

Table No.	Title of the Table	Page
Table 1.1	Literacy rate census of India 2001 and 2011 comparison	10
Table-1.2	Crime head-wise incidents of crime against women during 2010 - 2014 and percentage variation in 2014 over 2013	17
Table 1.3	State wise incidence of IPC crimes under sexual offences during the year 2014	20
Table 1.4	Rape and Sexual Harassment cases in India: 2007-2014	23
Table1.5	Witchcraft Killing: Worst States	25
Table 1.6	Jharkhand top in witch-hunt murder	26
Table 3.1	This is a list of current and former chairpersons of the NCW	103
Table 4.1	Women Participation in the LokSabha and the RajyaSabha	110
Table 5.1	Selected Indicators on Status of Women	125
Table 5.2	Participation in the Labour Force	126
Table 5.3	Child malnutrition (Infants and preschool children)	128
Table 6.1	Highlights of the SHG-Bank Linkage Programme 2014-15	155
Table 7.1	Selected Indicators on Status of Women	161
Table 7.2	Distribution (per 1000) of usually employed women (principal status) by broad industry division	162
Table 7.3	Release of Funds under PMGSY to the States (2000-01 to 2013-14)	166
Table 7.4	States affected by various water quality problems	169
Table 7.5	Overall Subscriber base and Tele density	193

LIST OF FIGURES/ DIGRAMS

Figure No.	Title of the Figures/ Diagram's	Page
Figure 1.1	Crime Head- Wise Percentage Distribution under Crime against Women during 2015	16
Figure 1.2	Acid Attack Trend (1999-2013)	19
Figure 1.3	Percentage Change in Case Registered and Rate of Crime against Women during the year Over 2005	27
Figure 4.1	The (Slow) Rise of Women-Oriented Parties	111
Figure 4.2	Literacy Levels in India	113
Figure 4.3	Level-wise percentages Females Pass out	114
Figure 7.1	Strategies to Foster Women's Participation and Agency in Rural Road Works and Productive Activities	165
Figure 7.2	Planned investments in WSS Sector in India	168
Figure 7.3	Trend in Maternal Mortality Ratio	173
Figure 7.4	Crime against women (in lakhs) 2006-10	179
Figure 7.5	Increase in education between 2004-05 and 2009-10(by age, gender, residence, millions)	181
Figure 7.6	Expenditure on Education in Five Year Plan (2002-07) in %	185
Figure 7.7	Government Spending as % of GDP on Education	186
Figure 7.8	Rural FMCG Market (US \$ billion)	188
Figure 7.9	Participation of rural women in India in the labour force	199

ABBREVIATIONS

NFE	Non-Formal Education
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
GGI	Global Gap Index
WEF	World Economic Forum
SIGI	Social Institutions Gender Index
UNDP	United Nation Development Programme
SHGs	Self Help Groups
GEEI	Gender Equality in Education Index
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
UNICEFs	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
IPC	Indian Penal Code
SIL	Special & Local Laws
BRIC	Brazil, Russia, India, China
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
NCRB	National Crime Records Bureau
SEWA	Self-Employed Women's Association
UNO	United Nation of Organization
MDS	MahilaDakshitaSamiti
SSS	StreeSangarshaSamiti
FNC	Feminist Network Collective
FWFP	Freedom Without Fear Platform
CSWI	Committee on the Status of Women in India
WIA	Women's India Association
INA	Indian National Army
IWD	International Women's Day
AIWC	All India Women's Conference
INSC	The Indian National Social Conference
JWP	Join Women's Programme
NCWI	National Council of Women in India
NCW	National Commission of Women
DWD	Diverse Women for Diversity
SWO	Single Women's Organization
NJWA	Nav Jargon Women's Association
MWA	Madras Women's Association
APRACA	Asian and Pacific Regional Agricultural Credit Association
MMR	Maternal Mortality Ratio
MPs	Member of Parliament
CSWB	Central Social Welfare Board
CSWI	Committee on the Status of Women in India
NPA	National Plan of Action
WDC	Women Development Corporation
SCs	Scheduled Castes
STs	Scheduled Tribes
OBCs	Other Backward Classes

STEP	Support to Training and Employment Programme
RMK	RashtriyaMahilaKosh
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
NGOs	Non-Government Organizations
WTTI	Women Technical Training Institute
IRDP	Integrated Rural Development Programme
TRYSEM	Training for Rural Youth for Self-Employment
DWCRA	Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas
MSY	MahilaSamridhiYojana
SGSY	Swarnjayanti Gram SwarozgarYojana
MNREGs	Mahtma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
TSC	Total Sanitation Campaign
NABARD	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
WHO	World Health Organization
NRHM	National Rural Health Mission