

5.0 SUMMARY

5.1 Introduction:

Even after 61 years of democratic governance where the marginalised sections of the society are being given reservations for their development, women have been excluded through socio-economic cultural disadvantages inherent in the system. The present study on “Empowering Disadvantaged Women; An Analysis of Entrepreneurship Development Programmes in Karnataka State” is an attempt to evaluate the government programmes for women’s development especially “Entrepreneurship Development Programmes” and their impact on the empowerment of the disadvantaged women.

Women for centuries have been excluded from many aspects of development process, particularly from entrepreneurship. At the same time, the country suffers from severe unemployment and poor economic growth. From both the development and equity, and equality and empowerment perspectives, it is necessary to investigate those processes which pave the way for full participation of women in entrepreneurial career, especially the disadvantaged women.

Inclusive growth in the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007- 2012) envisions respect for the differential needs of all women, with targeted interventions to meet the special needs of different groups. The “National Policy for the Empowerment of Women” focuses on mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development process. Poverty eradication, micro credit facilities offer women a range of economic and social options, along with necessary support measures to enhance their capabilities. Entrepreneurship training to women is assumed to bring about total development.

Entrepreneurship is the key element in any development process. The factors that contribute to economic development are labour, technology, natural resources, capital and entrepreneurship. Unless the driving force of entrepreneurship is available, other factors remain mere factors without producing anything. It is entrepreneurship

which activates, utilizes and coordinates other factors for economic growth and development. Entrepreneurship is the propensity of mind to venture into calculated risk with self-confidence to realize pre-conceived ends. Entrepreneurship is today regarded as an important tool for development in all parts of the world. Developing countries need entrepreneurs where capital is scarce, investors are hesitant, markets are limited and many a times not properly identified because of low purchasing power and inexperience in the industrial or non-traditional occupational fields. Entrepreneurs of developing countries generally start with small scale operations. The need for a broad based entrepreneurial class in our country gathered momentum to gear up the process to activate production factors for accelerated economic growth, dispersal of economic activities, upliftment of backward and tribal belts, generation of more employment opportunities, raising the standard of living of the weaker sections and partnership of all segments of the society in economic growth processes.

The development of Indian women will be the biggest source of enrichment for our country's development. Empowering of women pre-supposes a dynamic and democratic change in the perception and expectation from women in our society.

Liberal Feminists argued that women, if given education, will develop equal rational capacity with men, and will have equal opportunities. Liberal feminism is linked to mechanization and economic growth model. Modernisation is seen as economic growth, eradication of poverty, development assistance in the form of capital inputs and technical assistance from rich developed country. It is a form of linear growth and benefits are supposed to trickle down to the poor.

With the emergence of gender as an important issue in development, public policy has come to gradually focus on gender planning. It has been realised that in order to ensure adequate representation to women in development, it is essential to incorporate gender awareness in all the development projects, policies and programmes. Gender planning takes into account the different needs and priorities of men and women and enable policy makers, planners and administrators to improve

the impact of development programmes. Gender planning has led to the integration of women's issue in anti-poverty programmes such as the IRDP, TRYSEM etc. Infact, it was the review of IRDP, which led to the introduction of the DWCRA programme. One of the early reviews of IRDP pointed out that women were not partaking and participating in IRDP effectively because of the distorted gender relations and called for an empowerment approach to promote the effective participation of women in development. This led to the introduction of DWCRA in 1982.

5.2 Empowerment Process

Empowerment is a long process. It has to pass through different stages. In the first stage, women should be trained to look into the situation from a different perspective and recognize the power relations that perpetuate their oppression. At this stage, women share their feelings and experiences with each other and build a common vision and mission. In the second stage, women try to change the situation by bringing about change in gender and social relations. In the third stage, the process of empowerment makes them more mature to realise the importance of collective action. As empowerment seeks to alter the gender and power relations, there can be a certain social or gender conflicts. The process of empowerment can also face certain obstacles emanating from the patriarchal system, traditional beliefs and political system. The results of empowerment, however, will not be confined to women. The other members of the families will also benefit from the empowerment process.

5.3. Review of the literature

Review of the literature relevant to the topic of research "Empowering Disadvantaged Women : An Analysis of Entrepreneurship Development Programmes in Karnataka State" which has been made. The reviews have been discussed in a chronological order under each sub- topic;

- Women Entrepreneurship
- Entrepreneurship and Women's Empowerment

- Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment
- Entrepreneurship and Social Empowerment
- Entrepreneurship and Political Empowerment
- Marginalized Women & Empowerment

Most studies of women entrepreneurs in India have studied women entrepreneurs their non-entrepreneur peers or VIS-a-vis male entrepreneurs. Many programmes have been implemented by the central / state governments to motivate people to take up self- employment. This researcher work aims to evaluate the government programmes for women's development especially on the disadvantaged women.

5.4 Need for the Study:

There was not much of study being conducted in the empowerment process of disadvantaged women, especially in the field of entrepreneurship development. Though earlier it was mandatory to cover 18 % of SC's / ST's in each of the EDP's, their participation is less. At present under Special Component Plan, 100% coverage of SC/ST beneficiary oriented Schemes have been implemented by the Central and State Government through their Specified Boards / Corporation. Due to Social-economic, cultural backgrounds the active participation of these women remain low. The holistic analysis demands the use of both quantitative and qualitative methods so as to bring about a qualitative change in the lives of these women. Hence the input to the research is maximized using both quantitative and qualitative methods which give breadth and depth to the analysis.

5.5 Subjectivity of the Researcher

The social location of the researcher plays a role in shaping the research process. The researcher has been an insider to the environment. She had worked in the field for more than 25 years and organised many entrepreneurship development programmes, Training of trainees programmes for the promotion of micro enterprises. Her affiliation with the training institutes was advantageous in a way that the

respondents felt comfortable with her and established an “inter-subjectivity”. Thus the researcher was able to interact with the target group and establish a close rapport. This helped in collecting qualitative data to a great extent.

The researcher was motivated to do her research on what has been the subject of her field activities. Hence her active involvement in the field for the last two and half decades, helped her to understand the change in the priority of women from welfare to development and to empowerment having understood overall women empowerment the researcher felt the need to focus on the disadvantaged women, who faced multiple marginalization among the (Marginalized) women.

5.6 Methodology:

There was not much of study being conducted in the empowerment process of disadvantaged women, especially in the field of entrepreneurship development. Though earlier it was mandatory to cover 18 % of SC's / ST's in each of the EDP's, their participation is less. At present under Special Component Plan, 100% coverage of SC/ST beneficiary oriented Schemes have been implemented by the Central and State Government through their Specified Boards / Corporation. Due to Social-economic, cultural backgrounds the active participation of these women remain low. The holistic analysis demands the use of both quantitative and qualitative methods so as to bring about a qualitative change in the lives of these women. Hence the input to the research is maximized using both quantitative and qualitative methods which give breadth and depth to the analysis.

The administration of the questionnaire to the respondents and collecting data was not an easy task. The researcher collected information from 210 respondents who underwent entrepreneurship development programme during 2000 to 2010 in the Bengaluru rural area belonging to socially and economically disadvantaged groups. Secondary data was collected to identify various training institutes conducting entrepreneurship development programmes and primary data was collected from respondents with a structured interview schedule. A census method was used as the available trained women from the disadvantaged group was only limited during the

period of study. The study was restricted to Bengaluru rural district covering four taluks v.i.z Devanahalli, Doddaballapura, Hosakote, Nelamangala. The statistical tools used in the study are one way; two way tables, percentages, simple bar diagrams and the qualitative analysis used were the case study method, focus group discussions etc.

5.7 Secondary Data

The secondary data was collected from the published reports, documents and papers viz. The Human Development Report of Karnataka, vision document, Bengaluru rural district at a glance. The secondary data was collected to identify various training institutes conducting entrepreneurship development programmes in the state and the central and state government institutions, boards and corporations, financial institutions, departments who were sponsoring the entrepreneurship development. These programmes were organised by the government and non-government institutions spread over the state. The number of disadvantaged women who were trained was short listed among all the women trained.

5.8 Limitation

The study is limited only to Bengaluru rural district, the data was collected from disadvantage women who underwent training and were available at the addresses provided by the trainer institutes.

5.9 Analysis of data :

The fourth chapter presents the analysis of data. It includes both quantitative and qualitative analysis of data. The total respondents for the study are 210. Section ‘A’ contains quantitative analysis of data for the 210 respondents using one way, two way tables and graphs. Section ‘B’ of the chapter deals with qualitative analysis of data, where case studies and focus group discussions are presented. Photographs were also included wherever necessary.

5.10 Major Conclusions:

Entrepreneurship development programmes which were covered by the researcher reveals that the major objective of the programmes were only to “ritually” complete the training programme without the ultimate goal of empowering the disadvantaged women. This is categorically seen from the following observations.

- The trainees were not selected through a selection process to suit the training that was given.
- The age group of trainees ranged from as low as 19 to as high as 57 years.
- For sophisticated electronic oriented training illiterate women were selected without giving them any orientation prior to the training programme.
- The stereo typed vocational training like agarabathi making, dairying, tailoring were given without proper market linkages or hand holding support when they ventured into business / manufacturing.
- None of the training programmes had any bank / financial linkage and no bank or financial institution were made to provide handholding support to EDP trainees apart from merely providing loan / subsidy
- The EDP trainees had no aptitude towards certain training skills and therefore they went back to their earlier traditional low paid jobs and attended training programmes only as participants

5.11 Policy Recommendations:

- Many of the government programmes like National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) scheme beneficiaries were included in the EDP and the trainees found the assured employment programme, better suited to them as they were familiar with the work than venturing into an area of un-known space.
- The EDP training institutes should view ‘EDP’ with more seriousness as they lead to a better empowerment status for the women, but institutions see them as any other government programmes with given target to be fulfilled.

- Any grant giving agency for projects submitted for EDP should insist on a three phased programme whenever EDPs are sanctioned.
 - First phase: selection of appropriate candidates and a two week orientation programme prior to EDP
 - The Second phase: training women under the specific EDP programme
 - Third phase: post EDP hand holding support .Unless the EDP are integrated as a single window agency for pre- training and for post training orientation EDP and economic empowerment will be two parallel lines which will never meet.
- A focus group discussion with the prospective trainees to assess their training skills and suitable programmes should be a pre- requisite before the sanctioning of EDP's by the Government / Non- Government Organisations.
- The EDP trainers / training institutes should be exposed to gender sensitization training programmes before the EDP's are undertaken.
- A brief socio-economic profile of the proposed trainees by the training institutes will give a meaningful result during the post EDP period as it would provide the basic characteristics of trainees and the EDP components to be modified if any.
- The EDP programme should be spread over at least a six months time period to help pre- programme orientation, incorporate backward- forward linkages into the programme and implement post EDP hand holding support.