

Training and Employment programme), Swawlamban enable economic empowerment. It is proposed to continue these schemes in the Eleventh Plan and also to take up new schemes.

The National Policy for Empowerment of women proposes to make poverty eradication programmes with special targets of the deprived rural poor women. The strategies for the empowerment of women consist of the greater access to knowledge and resources, greater autonomy in the decision-making process, greater ability to plan their lives, greater control over the circumstances that influences the lives of the women. An effort has been made to describe the various recommendations based on the report of the working group on Empowerment of women for the Eleventh and Twelfth plan of the Ministry of the Women and Child Development, Govt. of India.

Therefore, the various policies, plans, programmes related to social, economic, political, legal, institutional empowerment of women should be implemented with the continued participation of the deprived, resourceless, helpless poor women surviving in the remote villages to meet the increasing demand of ever growing human cattles and population including women and girl child. The empowerment of below poverty line village women can be achieved with the involvement of women for the women and by the women at village Panchayat level. Recommendations suggested for social, legal, political, institutional and economic empowerment of deprived poor women can be ensured through the appropriate, justified, genuine and honest implementation through the women's participation for their self-sustenance and to improve their Socio-economic conditions through creating more employment opportunities and increasing the income of the women and girls and also protecting the women from various crimes against domestic violence and any type of discrimination, at the village level and at the district level. To ensure women empowerment in a true sense, all the aforesaid framed policies and programmes should be properly implemented.

7.6 Conclusion

From our empirical findings we may thus conclude that though women-work participation has been increased during different periods in Nadia district, there is a lack of women empowerment in all areas of Nadia district. This is also more or less true in West Bengal as a whole and also in

India. It is also evident from our findings that women have limited decision making power, limited mobility and limited control over resources and a high acceptance of domestic violence. Though employment plays an important role in the process of improving women's empowerment in India, there are some barriers to overcome. These structural barriers to women's right and equality must be addressed in the household, in the community, in the state, in the nation and around the globe. The women workers of Nadia district are not Self-sufficient. A woman can't make independent decisions regarding income-generating activities rather all such decisions are taken in consultation with her husband, son and daughter-in-law. The local community leader (or Chairman) and village elite make important community related decisions. The real picture is that women are powerless. The women workers in our study area have not been empowered (empowered in few cases only) in a true sense. The Govt. adopts different policies and programmes for empowerment of women in Nadia district. Inspite of increase in work-participation of women in the study area, most of the population live below the poverty line. They remain poor. There exists low-level of education among the people. They are not fit to get jobs in the formal sector. Most of them are thus engaged in informal and low paid jobs. Government policies, plans, programmes and legislation should be appropriately implemented with the sustained involvement of the women to ensure the empowerment of women and fulfill the missions, so that women can also contribute equally as the men for ensuring socio-economic development not only at village Panchayat level but also at the block level, district level, State level and National level. The empowerment of women may be regarded as an asset for Socio-economic development of a nation. Through active participation of women in the work force adds income to their families and the families are enriched but women do not get back their expected respects from their families as well from the society at large. Formation of policies alone is not sufficient to mitigate this chronic social problem. It is totally an issue of mentality and we should have to broaden our mind and heart accordingly. There should not be any discrimination between men and women. Lastly I frankly admit my weakness as I have used very simple statistical methods in analyzing surveyed data. I have just tried to capture the ground reality on the basis of information collected from the grass root level. Myself, alone is responsible for any kind of deficiency of the present work. We may be tempted to conclude with the famous words of Nazrul "... ei bisher ja kichu mohan chiro kalian kor ardhek tar aniache nari ardhek tar nor".