



Rural women: conserving environment and sustainable development

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Introduction

Women play vital role in the sustainable development of a nation. Because we know that basic unit of a nation is family. Other higher levels are society and country. If we think about families, mothers are the backbone of every family. In this situation family literacy, education and economic self-sufficiency as much important. Women act as the agents who transfer the cultural heritage of nation, various values in society and traditional knowledge etc. Sustainable development of a country determines poverty eradication and environmental conservation. Gender equality is a major fact to get sustainable development. Developed countries are providing equal opportunities and platform for both genders and ensuring women participation in national progress. India also needs to concentrate more and more to empower women by means of educationally and financially. Sustainable development is a plan to meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability to meet the needs of future generations. It involves balancing

economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection.

What are the 5 concepts of sustainable development?

Sustainable development can be facilitated through five guiding principles, i.e. Living within environmental limits, ensuring a strong, healthy and just society, achieving a sustainable economy, promoting good governance and utilizing information communication technology as a social responsibility.

In Indian agriculture women perform four different types of roles

- 1- As worker (A source of power)
- 2- As operator (A controller)
- 3- As manager (A farmer)
- 4- As entrepreneur (A business person)

Nayak P., Mahanta B (2012) [1] revealed empowering women can be defined as promoting women's feelings of self-esteem, their ability to determine their own choices, and



their right to influence social change for themselves and others.

Following are the key points, which will help in empowering-

Skill Empowerment.

By training in the area of various operations:

- i. Field operations
- ii. Conservation of biodiversity
- iii. Nutritional bio-security
- iv. Vocational training
- v. Organic farming

Technology development for women

- a. Designing of tools for various field operations
- b. Animal husbandry

i. Artificial insemination.

ii. Veterinary knowledge

- c. For side income

i. Mushroom cultivation

ii. Floriculture

Creation of self help groups

- A. For financial support
- B. For generation of employment

Projection of contribution of women by collecting and analyzing data

- A. Collection and display of data
- B. Projection of successful women in agriculture
- C. Representation of their contribution in economic terms

Providing Financial Powers

- A. Giving representation in land holdings

Technology has empowered women to make choices and shape their own lives in a move toward gender equality (Grabe, 2011)

Importance and involvement of women in sustainable development

Now days our country is using male resources as directly and mostly female human resource as indirectly. If we use these female human resources also as a direct manner easily our country can become developed. If women have to contribute in national development first we need to empower them through educationally and economically. Education and Economically self-sufficiency are the two keys for the empowerment of the women.

Meaning of sustainable development

Sustainable development is the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The ultimate aim is conservation of earth and different types of species. Various systems are involving in the development such as ecological, social, cultural, political etc.

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Throughout the history, Women have always been at the heart of environmental stewardship. In daily life whether it is rural and urban areas, they manage natural resources with multiple diverse roles within family, community, such as collecting water, fuel and food etc.

Sustainable development of a country by self sufficient women

Women empowerment and economic development is closely related. Female economic power also enhances the wealth and well being of a nation. Investments to advance women's economic opportunity include financial inclusion, women and agriculture, enterprises growth, technology access capacity building, business leadership. By ensuring women empowerment we not only promote gender equality (SDG-5) but contribute to other goals like- good health and well- being (SDG-3), decent work and economic growth(SDG-8),zero hunger (SDG-2) by improving food security, political empowerment is a key driver for achieving SDG- 16 (peace, justice and strong institution), no poverty (SDG-1).

Conclusion

It is concluded that attaining development among all the pillars of sustainable development is unthinkable without empowering women and obtaining gender equality, thereby using the entire potential of the country. Thus, this paper suggests that the government needs to work hard to change the existing position of women and achieve gender equality, which will have a positive spillover effect on the sustainable development of the

country. Women empowerment and economic development is closely related. Female economic power also enhances the wealth and well being of a nation. By ensuring women empowerment we not only promote gender equality (SDG-5) but contribute to other goals like- No poverty (SDG-1) good health and wellbeing (SDG-3), decent work and economic growth (SDG-8), zero hunger (SDG-2) by improving food security. Political empowerment is a key driver for achieving SDG- 16 (peace, justice and strong institution)

References

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