

## **Executive Summary of the Minor Research Project under UGC XIth Plan**

entitled

***“Evaluation of Rural Women Participation in Higher Education; Problems, Strategies & Empowerment – A case study of Vijayapur (Bijapur) District”.***

UGC File No: MRP(H)-0153/12-13KAKW004/UGC-SWRO

of

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Education is important as it teaches on the right behavior and good manners and equips him/her with all that one would need to make to realize him/her dreams in the long run, and it is also important for the social & economic growth of a nation. Women empowerment is a key factor for achieving sustainable economic growth, social development and environment sustainability. Though there is remarkable change in the position of women in free India, there is still a great divergence between the constitutional position and the stark reality of deprivation and degradation. Technology should be extended to rural women who take up a number of onerous tasks. The rural women's contribution to the national economy is significant.

The project also focused that higher educational institutions which are established in rural areas must play a major role in transformation and up gradation of women's personal and social status through proper instruction and guidance.

The investigator evaluated the participation of rural women in higher education and her problems, then how to overcome these problems and to become empowered through her education. The role of higher education becomes very crucial, especially for Rural India which is a significant field of our national interest as well as integrity.

Objectives of the Study:

The following objectives are framed related to the study –

1. To study the socio-economic conditions of rural women going for higher education.
2. To study the educational parameters of the rural women.
3. To know the role of rural women in decision making.

Most of the rural women who took their admission in higher education are the first generation learners & their parents were illiterate. Many have transportation problem, poor Sanitation like no toilets & safe drinking water in colleges, no security, lack of higher educational institutions nearby, no well equipped libraries, no sufficient Lecturers, early marriages, heavy house-hold work, parents discourage, parents discrimination against females, malnutrition, poverty, humiliation, isolation, unhealthy atmosphere, powerlessness, not getting nutritious food, no good health centres, inferiority complex, no role in decision making, parents thinking that Girls should look after their family & house-hold works only & they will get married & after that they have to look after her husband, children, in-laws, etc. are the problems of rural women to go for higher education.

Empowerment of Women involves many things such as economic opportunity, property rights, political representation, social equality, personal rights and so on. Empowerment of women is the prime objective of all development programmes and policies. These programmes should be planned properly and implemented effectively in order to attain self-sufficiency and

self-reliance. The Governments have made many Policies and Programmes for the Development of Women, Laws in Constitution to help & support Women.

This study undertakes, not only to evaluate the rural woman participation in higher education but also mention some strategies –

- a) To empower the rural women through her participation in higher education.
- b) To strengthen the rural women in decision making through new strategies like participating in Self Help Groups, NGOs & others.
- c) To encourage the rural woman to contribute to the Society through socio-economic development.
- d) To solve rural women's problems through encouraging her to have higher education.

The Three most important needs for women are –

***Higher Education, Security & Equality.***

Through these, we can make them empowered.

SHGs & NGOs approach have proved successful not only in improving the economic conditions through income generation but in creating awareness about health and hygiene, sanitation and cleanliness, environmental protection, importance of education and better response for development of schemes and empowerment of women.

Making the rural women highly educated, we can turn them to be empowered & their dreams to reality. But, a village with 100% literacy is the true symbol of progress.

Recently, our Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has started a new initiative called “*Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao*” meaning “*Protect Girl Child, Educate Girl Child*”. This initiative is formed under the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India.

The objectives of this initiative are :

- Prevention of gender biased sex selective elimination
- Ensuring survival & protection of the girl child
- Ensuring education and participation of the girl child.

***If you ask any girl, “Do you like to study”?***

***Every girl would say, “Yes, of course”.***

Hence, I conclude by saying that this places a greater responsibility on Parents, Colleges, Universities, Governments, NGOs & SHGs, Social Organizations and above all the stakeholders themselves.