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Women Empowerment through NGOs: A Case Study of SKDRDP

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ABSTRACT

Shri Kshethra Dharmasthala Rural Development Project, popularly known as SKDRDP. It was launched in 1982. It is undertaking the rural development in various parts of Karnataka. It was launched its microfinance Programme in 1996, following a Self-Help Group (SHG) model where in group of 15-20 members are collectively responsible for use of loans for self-employment sanctioned to each individual. SKDRDP encompasses all aspects of enriching the rural life. It is currently expanding its developmental activities to all the districts of Karnataka. It is currently engaged in development activities in Kerala also. Empowerment of women is one of very important issues in developing countries. As women are integral part of society, her status and participation in decision making as well as economic activities is very crucial, but progress in this dimension in India is poor. This paper has been explained about the programmes launched by SKDRDP for development of women. Further, the study has also suggested the implications to improve the SKDRDP in Karnataka. Thus, there is a need to study and evaluate this project's working for the betterment of women. SKDRDP not only provides financial aid to the women but empowers them. With the loans, people are equipped with the abilities to make something for their future and to improve their standard of living. Also it bestows upon them the responsibility of them making their own decisions and controlling their fate. Empowering the poor and enabling them with the capabilities is what SKDRDP strives to do with its programs. Therefore, it has become one of the crucial projects for the development of women.

Key words: Women, Empowerment, NGOs, Rural, Development.

Introduction

This paper is based on the fact that economy of a nation can be improved only when the quality of life of the citizens of a nation can be effectively improved by raising the standards of living of the people on the street and in backward

technology in uplifting the society is really appreciated. Hence we can conclude that the steps taken by the SKDRDP is a initiative which needs to be extend for huge period of time to ensure sweet results. The major findings in the study justify the greater role played by the SKDRDP in increasing empowerment of women, by making them financially strong, as well as it helped them to save some amount of money and invest it in further development.

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