

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES

* **Dr. Anjali Bhusari**, Assistant Professor Department of Economics C.S.P.M Arts senior college

INTRODUCTION

Cooperation means working together. The principle of cooperation is as old as human Society. It is truly the basis of domestic and social life. Cooperative effort is ultimately the group instinct in man, which enables him to live together and help each other in times of stress and strain. Unconsciously, the principle has always penetrated the life of human race. The history of modern civilization is in fact, the history of cooperation, for without it social and economic progress would have been impossible.

Concept

In the primitive societies the germs of cooperation could be observed in religious institutions and traditional customs. The working of these customs and institutions throw light on the instinct and tradition of mutual assistance, joint possession and joint management, which are found in the thinking and in the life of the people in all ages and all countries. In India, for instance, the principle of cooperation has been practiced from times immemorial. The spirit of village communities of India was almost entirely cooperative. The villages have throughout the ages worked together on an informal corporate basis with regard to their religious and social and cultural life. In the modern technical sense the genesis of cooperative movement and its applications in the economic field can be traced after the industrial revolution which took place in England during the second half of eighteenth and the first half of the nineteenth century. Today, cooperatives are the most important type of voluntary organization throughout the world. In some countries, they are principal form of organization in agriculture, marketing and provision of credit and distribution of consumer goods. The movement now covers about 98% of the villages and 62% of the total rural population. The caste, color, Religion etc., have not been any bar for the development of the cooperative movement. The working of the cooperative movement all over the world clearly demonstrates that there is hardly any economic need that cannot be met by organizing cooperative societies and hardly any form social or political organization with which they cannot be reconciled or integrated. The cooperative societies have helped to improve security of tenure of land; to consolidate holdings; to promote conservation of natural resources; to facilitate land settlement to foster the all important growth and speed of technical knowledge for better farming to secure savings and administer credit; to reduce the charges made for production requisites and use of the larger capital items for farm and small scale industrial production to reduce charges for consumer goods and services including housing to improve the marketing of farm products to minimize risks and to lower the costs of insurance. They have promoted education both general and vocational. They have provided effective training in democracy and self -government. They have been neither class-bound nor state-bound. They have maintained or increased that sense of interdependence so important for social progress.

Economic and Social Benefits

From the economic stand point, cooperatives are engaged in securing for their members services of various socio-economic activities in the consolidation of holdings, the establishment of irrigation schemes, the contouring of land, the procurement of technical knowledge, the administration credit, the buying of fertilizers, pesticides, seeds, electricity and machine services, of consumers' goods and services, the processing and marketing of produce, the provision of insurance, health and medical care or education. Cooperation has

also played an important role in checking monopolistic tendencies. The social purposes of Cooperation are more diverse than economic purposes. They may be to provide a unique education in democracy, responsibility and toleration to train for political power to evolve an industrial relationship in which the element of authority is much more evenly distributed than in private business to preserve a strong friendly or family spirit and a sense of pride and power which is impersonal to encourage a general advance rather than the advance of particular individuals to secure rational, constructive and unifying approaches to social and economic problems to prevent under-employment to secure the moral as well as the physical satisfaction of pure, quality, correct weight, honest measure, fair dealing in trade or to achieve better physical and mental health. The distinguishing characteristic and social features of Cooperative societies may in many circumstances make these essential to the achievement of their purposes. Women are not only acting as a primarily obedient daughters, wives and mothers in the society, but also they are acting as Women entrepreneurs in the modern society to make themselves independent and support family in the economic background and to keep social prestige. The rapid growth of women owned business is one of the most important economic developments of recent times. They have started their business at more than twice the rate of men. A majority of women owned business are small retail or service firms and tend to be owned by one person. The areas chosen by women are retail trade, restaurants, and hotels, education, cultural, cleaning, insurance and manufacturing. The Cooperatives play an important in uplifting their lives through various schemes.

CONCLUSION

On an overall assessment, it can be concluded that cooperatives are rendering fruitful services to the society concerned especially to women. The survey reveals that the women are able to enrich their lives. They are fully satisfied with services rendered by these cooperative societies. They got recognition in the society and also economic interdependence in the family. Hence, it is needless to say that cooperatives are playing a very important role in the empowerment of women through various schemes.

REFERENCES:-

1. Awotide, Diran Olawale. (2012). Assessment of Women's Participation in Cooperative Societies and its Determinants in Yewa North Local Government Area of Ogun State, Nigeri Asian Journal of Agriculture and Rural Development, Vol. 2, No. 3, September, pp. 344-350.
2. Bedi, R.D. (1997). Theory, History and Practice of Co-operation. Meerut: R. La Book Depot. Mukhi, H.R. (2000). Co-operation in India. . Delhi: R.B. Publications
3. Padmini, C. (2003). Women Industrial Co-operatives - An Analysis of its Structure, Performance and Growth in Kannur District. Ph.D Thesis of Cochin University of Science and Technology.
4. Roy Partho Pratim. (2000). Co-operative Movement-Genesis and Moves, Problems and Prospects. SEI Monthly Review, Vol XXXIX, November, pp. 141-155.
5. Trivedi, J., Priyan, P. K., & Bhinde, V. (2011). The Role of Dairy Cooperatives in Women Empowerment. The IUP Journal of Agricultural Economics, 8(1), 41-51.