

Chapter No. 5

Women Participation

5.1	Introduction	73
5.2	Importance of women Participation	74
5.3	Women Participation under TSC in Kavathepiran	75
5.4	Status Of Women In Kavathepiran	81
5.5	Impact Of Women Participation on Kavathepiran	81

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Women Participation

5.1 Introduction :-

Women are the backbone of Indian society, who are soldering multifarious responsibilities in household chores and intending upbringing of children. Women do household work like cooking, cleaning, washing, child care and total house management. According to Desai and Krishnan, women in the rural economics, undertake expenditure substituting work that augment the family's resources like fetching fuel, fodders, fetching water for cattle and household use, managing kitchen, gardens, poultry and so on.

Rural women are an important segment of the society because of their active participation in home and farm affairs. The extent of participation in the decision making activities in household; agricultural, socio-cultural affairs reflect the status of women in the family as well as in the society. Their participation in decision making explains their control over household resources, health, education and agriculture etc. **'Real empowerment of rural women is possible when they will enter in rural governance.'** Self confidence of the rural women will be initiated with proper education and training. Proper education is the only way to change image of rural women whose work and sacrifice are undervalued. Education provides the opportunities to organize themselves and rural women will come up from their taboos and superstitions.

5.2 Importance of women Participation : -

Participation of women is most important to implement the TSC because if one woman of the family can know the problem then she will solve the problem with the help of other members of the family. So keeping in view the existing situation, it is necessary to have proper co-ordination, monitoring and implementation of Government functionary to improve the lot of the women. In order to empower women and for their effective participation in decision making process at various levels, the first and foremost requirement is to create awareness among them. Because of the political awareness to women, it is equally important to strengthen the participation of women in Panchayat Raj Institutions so as to bring them in the National Stream.



In village Kavathepiran, woman has been benefited by vocational education and training for generation activities and it is supported by Government through voluntary organizations.

5.3 Women Participation under TSC in Kavathepiran : -

Due to the traditional socio-cultural norms and ethics practiced by the community, there has been poor development of women's outlook, awareness and perception. The prevailing customs and traditions offered a secondary role to women who are denied independent status and economic freedom. Lack of health education and nutritional awareness is also an indicator of invisible plight associated with women. Women were feeling unsafe and hence they never dared to discuss their real problems. The traditional socio-cultural norms and ethics never allowed them to come out their house to participate in social activities for the same.

Due to the proper and regular propaganda of TSC objectives and benefits, women become aware of various aspects related to their daily routine life in the Campaign. After properly understanding these aspects, women started participating slowly in various TSC activities enthusiastically. This resulted in positive impact on following ingredients of the Campaign.

5.3.1 Environment :-

Women are very closely related to the Environment. Almost all daily household activities such as cooking, caring the cattle, maintain the health and hygiene of all family members etc are conducted by women only. Concerned to all these activities, the usage of water, management of solid and liquid waste are also handled by them. The

women in Kavathepiran are educated and trained properly about the environment and hence they usually practice the good habits of cleanliness of their house and its surroundings. They also participated in 'Swacchhata Abhiyaan' at public places, plantation etc. actively.

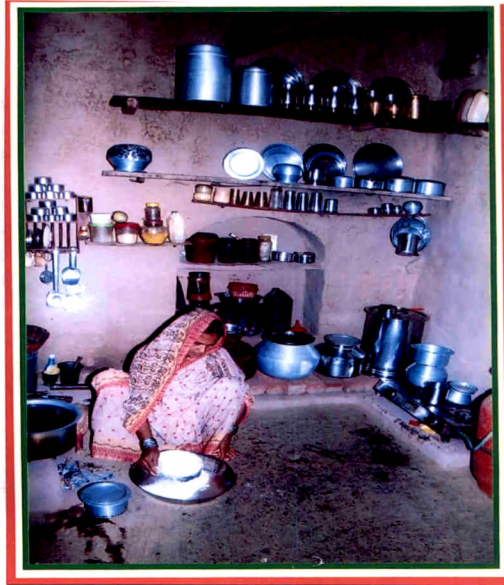
5.3.2 Health :-

An essential part of the usual duties of rural women is to take care of health and hygiene of all the family members. The women in Kavathepiran after receiving the proper training on good habits of health and hygiene are alert enough to keep everybody healthy and sound. Proper sanitation and private toilet facility have helped them to solve most of their health related problems. Neat and clean house and surroundings have helped a lot to improve the standard of health and living as well of the women. Their own knowledge and practice has resulted in overall improved standard of health and living of the entire village.

Impact Of Central Rural Sanitation Programmes on Kavathepiran Village in Sangli District



Impact Of Central Rural Sanitation Programmes on Kavathepiran Village in Sangli District



3



5.3.3 Social Development :-

To increase the active participation of women in TSC, various cultural activities such as *Haldi-Kumkum*, *Makar-Sankrant* etc. are conducted. This has helped a lot in the proper and regular communication, friendship and good relation among them. Due to these frequent gatherings, they could understand their problems, needs and requirements. The small saving groups have resulted in a good amount which is now utilized by the women for small household business purpose. These small businesses have kept the women busy, active and earning all the time. Independent income has built the self confidence in them and made them economically strong. They have earned a good reputation out of this. Women are now actively participating in Gram Sabha and some of them are members of the Panchayat governing and running the Gram Panchayat which is a proud for them and entire village too. The overall image of the women is now changed and it is accepted by all male community who earlier dominated them

5.3.4 Economical Development :-

The active and enthusiastic work participation by women in TSC has resulted in many small household businesses and thus new employment opportunities are generated. The women could add their family income due to these businesses. The awareness and good habits of health and hygiene, clean and healthy environment have resulted in the reduced expenditure on family health. All this has reflected in good health and their improved standard of living. This has strengthened and empowered the women really and they have now started to march ahead on the way of social and economical development and progress. Thus one

Impact Of Central Rural Sanitation Programmes on Kavathepiran Village in Sangli District

woman improved one family and all improved families have lead the entire village on the economical development and progress.



5.4 Status Of Women In Kavathepiran : -

In a largely male dominated society, females are not given adequate opportunities in education, employment and other economic activities which resulted in their lower status within the family and secondary role in the society. No doubt it is true, but the women in Kavathepiran proved that the unity of women make it possible to change the views of the people. As a matter of fact, all members of the Gram Panchayat Kavathepiran are women and it is the first of its kind in entire Sangli District. The *Gruha Swamini* Programme has entitled all the women as the owner of their family house and properties. Women are now confident enough to make decisions of their own and their family on their own and independently. In this way the women in Kavathepiran has earned an equal status as that of male in their family and in the village as well.

5.5 Impact Of Women Participation on Kavathepiran :-

The active participation of the women in TSC has resulted in the overall implementation of the Programme successfully in all manners. The successful implementation has reflected in overall development through many changes across the village. As it is well known to all, women are closely related to family health and environment, their complete participation has accelerated the TSC implementation. It caused the achievement of all TSC objectives in a very short span of time in Kavathepiran. The women have played a vital role in environmental protection and conservation. The road side plants across the village are totally maintained by the women. The family health and hygiene cared by women has resulted in good standard of health and living of the overall village.