



Article : NON FORMAL EDUCATION AND WOMEN MOBILIZATION

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Education is the process of change. India has witnessed this process of change working in the society very effectively, before independence. Many reformists used education 'as a tool' to bring up reform in the society, especially in the case of women and socio economically vulnerable group.

After independence education is being imparted more systematically, though the question lies before us that in spite of all these efforts of 60 years, the literacy rate has not been touched the distinction mark nor it has solved the issues connecting equality, social justice and empowerment.

The institutionalization of education has restricted number of people from formal education. Diversity is a social aspect of Indian society. It is so churned officially and politically but could not lift the marginal groups prominently in the main stream of development. Thus education can be evaluated in two levels that are formal education and non-formal education. Non-formal education is also very significant because it brings up those who are being excluded, in the process of development.

The present status of literacy focuses the disparity among men and women and school drop out rate of girls. According to the 2011 census male literacy rate is 71.22 and female literacy rate is 56.99. it shows the that there is great disparity among male female literacy rate.

Year	School Drop out rate			Male/Female disparity
	Primary	Elementary	Secondary	
1961	70.9	85.0	NA	0.45
1971	70.9	83.4	NA	0.38
1981	62.5	79.4	86.6	0.35
1991	46.0	65.1	76.9	0.28
2001	39.9	56.9	68.6	0.21

Source: Trends in Gender Disparity in Literacy in India (Ref. Social Development Report 2005)
Education in India Dept. of secondary and Higher education, Ministry of Human resource development. (Women's Link Jan-March 2007 Dr. Shital sharma)

Hence non-formal education can be stated perfectly in the words of Krishnamchari V.T. **it is a continuous process designed to make people aware of their problems and of indicating them to ways and means by which they can solve them. It involves not only education of rural people in determining their problems and methods of solving them, but also inspiring them towards positive action in doing.**

Journey of Non formal Education :

In the journey of non formal education women were focused only on the ground of family planning programme or population education programme. After 1990 the holistic approach has been adopted by govt. The involvement of non governmental organizations, voluntary groups in social development have given a broad coverage to the participation of women in the process of development. The outcome of this is prepared different modules of non formal education through the experiments of NGOs in and outside the India. The concept of Self Help Group confined a platform for women to share economic as well as social matters. It previlaged NGOs to educate women non formally for eg. Grammen Mahila Okutto, Kolar is a federation of rural women's Self Help Groups established in Karnataka in 1992. Non-formal education through capacity building workshops, have created a process of collective sharing, learning and planning. It enabled and motivated than come to out for change whenever they find something wrong or unfair (NCAS) ¹

Right to information: A tool for development

Hence mobilizing people is a process of sharing the knowledge and understanding. However, information and understanding by women are not enough to use their understanding to assert their rights. Here NGO plays very vital role. NGOs have emerged as major social, cultural and ideological actors of civil society. The increasing alienation of people from the process of social change and development initiated by the state and the market has led many towards the cause of civil society in general and to the NGOs in particular. NGOs are looked upon as social agents working for people empowerment and capacity building of civil society. They are

seen to be active from the micro level. They focus either on specific issue to adopt a holistic approach to community development, with roles varying from welfare and development delivery agencies to advocacy and mobilization of the target groups. The Right to Information Act. (RTI), 2005 will be implemented as means to increase social awareness, consistent efforts to empower weaker sections including women, to fight social exploitation and evil. It is expected to expand the democratic spaces available and empower the ordinary citizen to exercise of state power. Many NGOs believe that, this act will help them for social audit.

Here I want to discuss the social issues in the context of non-formal education. I try to bridge all the points and references to lead the discussion towards the study of mobilization among women with the effect of non formal education.

Objectives of study –

- To understand the effect of non formal education in mobilizing women
- Role of non-governmental organization in the context
- To evaluate the guided process of social change through SHG

Moreover I evaluated the activities carried by an advocacy come help line center, Jansahayog started by NGO.

Little about Janasahayog

Manavlok (M^Arathwada N^AVnirman L^OKayat) a voluntary organization, situated at Ambajogai Tehsil, Dist. Beed Maharashtra since 25 years. It has been working in the rural area focusing issues related to small farmers, landless labourers and women. round and about 125 villages.

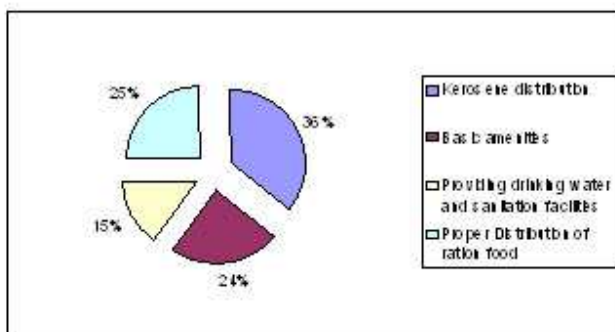
Recently it has started an advocacy center named ‘Janasahayog’ at Ambajogai to improve civil administration with the help of people’s initiatives. It is observed by the organization that villagers are being exploited in the Tahsil office and Panchayat Samiti. A mediator system between government officials and needy person sprawled in a different level so a common people easily get deceived and exploited. Hence the organization started center to break this system and make the people approach directly.

Objectives of Janasahayog

- It aims to realize people their rights and duties
- Building capacities among women to fight for better situations.
- To give information about Government schemes and programmes.

Janasahayog center has been highlighting many issues that face the common man. In 2009-10 there are 59 memorandum given to authorities at tahsil office and municipal corporation for demanding proper distribution of kerosin, water supply etc. by SHG women.

Graph of issues raised by SHG women



Research Methodology

To put this discussion on reality ground I have studied the issues raised by women at Ambajogai Dist. Beed Maharashtra. I selected the issues raised by women against non-availability of Kerosene and its black marketing, basic amenities and facilities. These issues are protested by women in the period 2006-07 at Tahsil Ambajogai Dist, Beed Ambajogai is a town of having 287 BPL self help groups registered at municipal cooperation. Out of that almost all SHGs are in the contact of Janasahayog center. Beside BPL SHGs, APL SHGs have also been in touch with Janasahayog. All these groups are from different community areas, of having average poverty line. Most of women work in unorganized sector on daily wages. I discussed with 22 such groups and observed two rallies. The rallies were organized against malpractices in the Govt. subsidies rated fair shops, denied basic services and delayed facilities.

Besides group discussion I prepared an interview schedule to understand women's personal opinion about their role in the mobilization process. For data collection I selected 22 SHGs, which represent different community area of Ambajogai and are socially active. I selected one member of such groups for its representation.

Non formal education moves from vision to action

I feel that non-formal education is a basic education that creates entitlement to the deprived sections of the society. Though it is non-formal it requires a system from beginning to the state of awakening. A constant vision and mission is a precondition for effective action. The NGO adopted the certain steps in mobilizing women.

Attention

Interest

Desire

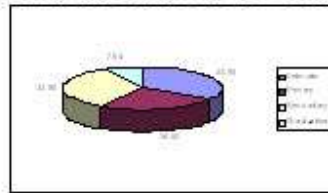
Conviction & Action

Satisfaction

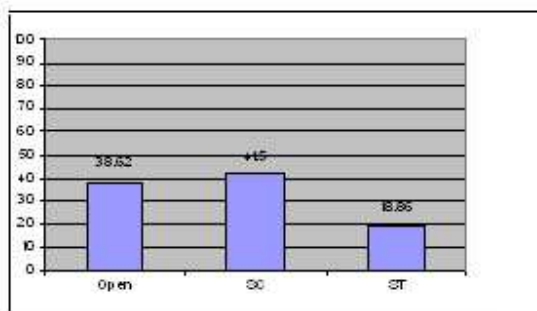
Attention:

In the initial stage just providing information does not carry the purpose. Social workers of Janasahayog told that for constructive share of people needs systematic working methodology. For the principle of acceptance they needed to build up rapport with women. They selected SHG as the appropriate means to communicate with number of women. Social workers visit SHGs once or twice in a month. In the meetings they provide latest information about various subjects in the society and let the women notice many issues. Slowly women try to participate in the discussion. They get voculed about the problems in the daily sphares. Such discussions lead to high light specific issues. For instance the issues like high prices of kerosene per liter than that of original, malpractices in quality and quantity of Govt.'s subsidized rated shops etc.

Educational status of SHG Women



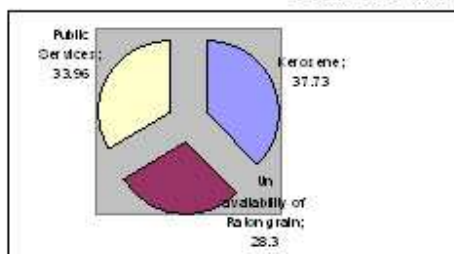
Caste Background



Interest:

In the second stage both NGO and women get acquainted with each other. The noticed issues which have significance in daily fairs of life are again and again talked. Moreover such issues put forth wide discussions. It helps to create awareness. In groups everybody tries to speak on that issue. It enables women to participate in the process of learning and listening. The social workers provide them the details of all these Govt. policies and govt. systems. Here they get realized how they are being easily deceived by others. The little money they earn by exhausting themselves goes to vain due to ignorance. This situation creates realization and interest about existing condition among women. The social workers answer the doubts raised by them. Some women accept the exploitation as a fate but some do not. They try to think logically. Thus the issue gets discussed eventually. The role of social workers here is to stimulate the discussion on a right direction.

Problem faced by women

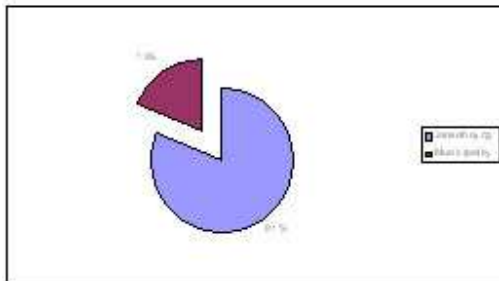


Desire:

The interaction accelerate in the next phase. That is the phase of desire. The mere interest turns in to determination women go on thinking to overcome residing

problems. Here social workers provide information of issues that have been tackled by women. They try to give examples. For proper decision making social workers show them documentary films are paper cutting of such events in those women have got successful in their mission. They also put alternative measures before them as to solved problems. It helps women to take common decision. It builds up the micro networking among them. They get prepared to raise voice against the issue. Here the social workers acknowledge them the democratic ways to handling issues. The 'we feeling' develops here. In some events the issues may not be directly related to some one but for the cause of common benefit. Women agrees for the role.

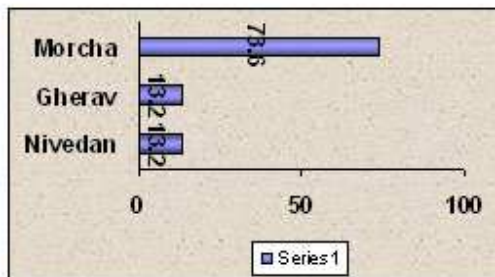
Guidance of Janasahayog



Conviction & Action:

This phase is very important the feeling of unity, confidence and trust on NGO can be tested. With this non-formal education, women get mentally prepared to take an action. The plan of action is being made the positive and negative effects get discussed. For instance, one of the community areas of Ambajogai, Hawker was charging kerosene more than govt. controlled price. SHG women of that area made aware to other women about original price and demanded the kerosene. The hawker denied and tried to assault. Women encircled the hawker. He frightened and celled the kerosene on the Govt. said price. In many places such event are common. The Janasahayog social workers used the right to information and collected the information about distribution and price of kerosene. They drafted an application to Tehsildar (Magistrate) with due signed by women and demanded to follow the rules of kerosene distribution, place of distribution and displaying rates etc. In this phase long term action and short term action also get discussed by women.

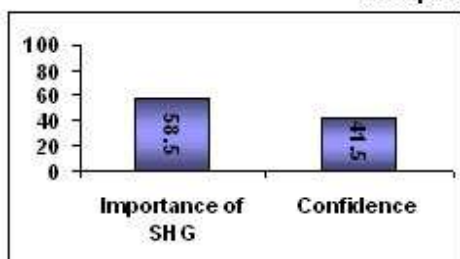
Social Action by women



Satisfaction:

Applications of demands did not make any difference. At last with the networking, huge rally was organized to put forth the demands at Tehsil office of Ambjaogai. In the Tehsil office many women spontaneously expressed their experiences. They never had talked before in front of men and women. Social workers carried persuasions in the matter. Women followed it on the area level. The situation changed. Hocker are warned to follow the govt. rules. The success of these efforts are that kerosene hockers stay at ordered places with displaying government controlled rates on the tank. It followed the image of confidence due to organized efforts among women. In this evaluation phase the action and the future action get discussed by women. It is a phase of learning by doing. In some problems strategy of action has to change for better results.

Group feeling



Besides these mobilizing phases experienced by Jansahyog, I took the personal opinion of SHG women who were participated in social action.

Findings in the light of Hypothesis-

- Non-formal education can create social awareness and mobilization among women.

- Organizing women for social issues and their rights can be effective with the help of N.G.O.s.

Educational status of these women is very poor most of them are school dropout due to economic condition and early marriage. 99 % women work on daily wages. Actually they can not afford one day loss in the work though they have prepared themselves to bear a one day wage loss for common benefit.

All the respondents are in the contact with Janasahayog office. They have participated in the processions or rallies carried for demands to improve local administration under the guidance of Janasahayog. They trust Janasahayog for proper guidance. Whenever they feel doubts about anything they take help of Janasahayog.

All the respondents feel that the SHGs should be guided by such voluntary organizations. Without their intervention they will not get proper information. In some cases they were missing led by leaders and mediators. They demanded money for acquiring schemes. At Janasahayog they do not have spent money. They can approach the govt. officials directly and can see the matter properly done.

The non formal education regarding legal literacy, changing policies of Govt. can bring transformation into women. Corner meetings SHG gatherings (Melave) by the organization provide information and guidance in maintaining and observing records and rules of SHGs. Before Janasahayog assistance the existence of SHG is only on paper. Monthly meetings, sharing of thoughts were not followed. Many women even did not know the name of SHG. It shows that the aim of SHG was almost lacking.

Due to participation in the Morchas and demonstration women have got a feeling of confidence they felt that women can come together and fight against exploitation. They can work as a pressure group in to civil administration.

Guidance of an NGO can make women to think about their problems and take an unanimous decision. NGO can lead a significant role to build up capacity for social development among women by providing information and exercising it in the daily facets.

Women have realized importance of unity that coins for power. It is noticed that they are quite enthusiastic to exercise their rights in the frame work of law.

Equality and social justice can come to exist when SHGs get mobilized. Information and guidance enable women to participate in the developmental task. The we feeling created in the group due to regular meetings. The interactions among women inculcate the value based understanding.

Suggestions

In the process of mobilization SHG can play a vital role. More ever it is observed that SHG movement restricts only on economic activities such as monthly saving micro finance and economic improvement. Without socially attentiveness there may not create democratic values among women.

Non formal education should not be limited to only demonstration it should enhance with constructive and concrete activity. The intervention and support of NGO should get withdrawn according to the state of awakening of people.

Application of knowledge in the life is very important the organizing effort recognizing responsibility sharing information perception in decision and planning and conscious contribution in the application of common people can bring mobilization.

In the ERA of shopping molls, Information Technology (IT), and Special Economic Zone (SEZ) the village culture is on the way of erosion. The growing slum population is the outbreak of globalization. In such situation non formal education will help people for conscious social activity and satisfaction.

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