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Self Help Groups (SHGS) And Women Empowerment In Rajasthan

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ABSTRACT: Women empowerment signifies that women should be given equal opportunity in every field, irrespective of any discrimination. Women have undergone a lot over the years in this patriarchal society. Even the basic right of education is not being provided to them. Their capabilities to perform any task was always questioned. But with time, they understood their rights. We can now see women in almost every field: architecture, lawyers, financial services, engineering, medical, and IT jobs. They have also made their way in service occupations such as a nurse, a beautician, a sales worker, a waitress, etc.

To make the world a better place for women, the individuals and government must come together. To ensure equality, security, participation, and all other rights of women and girls in society, it is very important to empower women and to provide them a supportive and friendly environment. The development of women and girls is not possible only with the participation of women, participation of men will also be necessary for this. The Rajasthan government acknowledges the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment in its overall planning, budgeting, and implementation of state policies, plans, and laws.

CM Shri Ashok Gehlot announced in his recent budget the establishment of Indira Mahila Shakti Kendra at all district headquarters to provide counseling regarding the problems of women. Also, In order to empower women financially, a provision of direct government procurement of material of up to one lakh rupees made by rural women self-help groups of Rajivika will be made on the lines of Amrita Society.

KEYWORDS: Rajasthan, empowerment, self help groups, women, financially, jobs, education

I. INTRODUCTION

For the betterment of Women's health, the Rajasthan government also announced to provide free sanitary napkins to women especially from rural areas under the 'Chief Minister Free Medicine Scheme'.¹

Rajasthan Government has been very serious in empowering women through its various programs and policies. For the good health of the women in Rajasthan, the state government had launched Indira Gandhi Matritva Poshan Yojana to provide proper nutrition to pregnant mothers and children up to the age of 3 years. It is an important step taken by the state government towards women's empowerment. If a pregnant woman gets adequate nutrition, then the baby will also be born healthy. This imperative scheme of the state government will also increase awareness amongst the people in regard to the importance of a mother's health and her nutrition level for the proper development of children.²

The government had also started the 'Indira Mahila Shakti Udyam Protsahan Yojana' for the overall development and empowerment of women in the state. Under this scheme, a credit facility is provided for various sectors like industry, service, trade, dairy, agro-based enterprises, etc. through banks.³ Loan facility of up to Rs. 50 lakh to individual women entrepreneurs or self-help groups and credit facility up to Rs. 1 crore to existing clusters or federation as a group of groups. A 25 percent grant will be given to the applicant on the approved loan amount and a 30 percent grant will be given to the underprivileged on the sanctioned loan amount.

At the individual level, we should start respecting women and start giving them opportunities equal to men. We should promote and encourage them for jobs, higher education, business activities, etc.

The government is already working towards women's empowerment through various policies. But we as individuals can also empower women by abolishing social evils like the dowry system, child marriage. These small steps will change the situation of women in society and make them feel empowered.⁴

Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan

The project is an effective initiative in the direction of economic empowerment of poor, landless, BPL, marginalized women. Rajasthan Samgrah Kalyan Sansthan, with the support of Global Giving Foundation, has successfully organising the project in the rural area of Pisangan, Ajmer. Under the project, a significant effort is being taken to provide better livelihood to poor women by associating them with agricultural and non-agricultural activities. Poor



deprived women are being associated with women self help groups and with the support of banks, loans are sanctioned for their self-employment which gets them better livelihood and builds up their confidence. Thus, deprived women are becoming empowered.⁵

Demand of project

Rural people in Ajmer district of Rajasthan are uneducated, socially and economically weaker section and dropout from the school. This kind of rural people is mostly depending upon her husband or father for their needs. The poor and rural people included farmers dropout women's girls artisans communities forcible migrating to different places (Like sex trade, construction workers, daily wages etc.). Agriculture is also zero due to decreased water level.⁶

Objective

To develop skill for improving their social life

To reduce poverty through handicraft skill

To provide livelihood promotion and social inclusion services to the poor and low income in rural and slum urban area with innovative solutions.

To develop leadership and confidence in rural community.

To ensure the employment security and income generation in local sources

Activities

Provide earthworm to poor women farmer

Establishment of Self help Group

Credit linkage to women self help group for economic activity

Provide sewing machine

Goat husbandry, livestock and vermi compost training to women self help group

Establishment of vermi compost pit

To Provide vocational Tailoring training to women self help group

Potential Long Term Impact

Income generating sources was achieved at the local level.



Above 500 Women Beneficiaries was trained and assisted in placement with the micro and relevant industry.

The social cause of the project is to improve the quality of life among the beneficiaries was addressed properly and they were made aware in day to day life.

Youth & dropout was mobilized in a proper manner so that they were training in the respected trades.

The employment and retention of the trainee was ensured.

As a result of this training skills was improved of rural women and girls.

The economic and social level was upgraded.

Self confidence was build up of them and economic development also were done though training.

Gram Chetna Kendra

GCK aims in the formation of Self Help Group to create small informal associations within each village that will motivate the community to take initiative encourage the community to implement new income-generation activities, and provide women Socio-economic empowerment. To start with GCK turn out creating Self Help Groups in the focus area and ensured that they were fully functional within the community. Through successfully establishing the initial Self Help Groups and spreading awareness about the positive impact they were capable of having on villagers, GCK was able to expand its influence and provide more villages with this alternative form of community development. These SHG groups were linked with banks and other financial institutions which thereby made a positive impact in attaining financial assistance for income generation activities.⁷ To make a positive impact and provide through knowledge amongst the SHG members various trainings were organized to clear the concept of SHG, how to manage SHG, record keeping tactics thereby formations of federations as a future concern and perspective and identification –initiation of various income generation activities. In addition, GCK ensured that the Self Help Groups were capable of managing funds, conducting effective meetings, and providing participation opportunities to every gender and social status. Seeing the present trend of development sector, it is very essential to empower the women. Women plays an important role among running the family program and also see the welfare, apart from domestic works women also helps in agriculture and animal husbandry work. In rural sector most of the families depend on farming and animal husbandry, while men go for farming/labour work, entire families' responsibility comes on her shoulder⁸. The good future of children also depend on her, therefore, now we can't ignore the women for a long time, we have to make her literate and organize them through SHG's so that they can also manage their day to day economic program and can help in raising the family income. Hence, GCK focused to ship their economic development to self reliance. Through promotion of savings and Credit groups and building their capacity, additional employed opportunities created by income generation activities. GCK adopted the concept of formation and promotion of SHG's since beginning and now 125 such groups are working in the area villages and in near future all these groups will be linked with the central federation. These groups conduct their meeting's in each month and do the regular savings, also discusses their problems and find out the solution jointly GCK have managed to link some of these groups with the local rural banks for their additional financial needs.⁹

The RCH programme envisages provision of client centered, need based, good quality, integrated RCH services for improving the health of women and children.

Under the RCH program of Gram Chetna Kendra all aspects of women's reproductive health across their reproductive cycle are covered. RCH program addresses the needs that have emerged over years of implementing and aims to be more in tune with the ground realities concerning...



➤	Overall health needs of women and children
➤	Implementation needs of health workers
➤	Local demographic needs and conditions

Under this Programme the emphasis shifted to decentralize planning at district level based on assessment of community needs and implementation of programme at fulfillment of these need. New interventions such as control of reproductive tract infection, gender issues, male participation and adolescent health in addition to the services offered are also taken up. Women's health is important during all phases for their lives, from childhood to adulthood. The Reproductive and child health program addresses women's health across their life cycle.¹⁰

The components that have been taken care of are as under:

1.	Effective Maternal & Child health care
2.	Increased access to contraceptive care
3.	Nutritional services to vulnerable groups
4.	Prevention and Treatment of RTI/STI
5.	Reproductive Health Services for adolescents
6.	Prevention and treatment of Gynecological Problems
4.	Iron and folic acid supplementation
8.	Exclusive breast feeding for six months
9.	Exclusive breastfeeding of the first six months of life to be propagated

II. DISCUSSION

Women Empowerment is the primary need to save nature's balance and humanity. Saving Girl child is a first and foremost responsibility of the society for its own sake. However, the alarming increase of Female Foeticide has drawn attention and generated a greater concern amongst the intellectuals, social activists and philanthropists. HCMS has taken up this issue and working vigorously on this highly sensitive social concern. It has initiated various awareness programs on saving dignity of the Girl Child. HCMS is focused on addressing sex discrimination issues leading to gender disparity in education & sex selection amongst the most vulnerable sections of society in urban and rural locations.¹¹

HCMS is focused on addressing sex discrimination issues leading to gender disparities in different sector of rural and urban society. For mitigating these disparities HCMS has conducted different practices at rural level. HCMS has strong orientation towards women empowerment with the formulation of Self-Help Groups. HCMS started work on the path of women empowerment from 2006-07 and created 1527 SHGs in different district of Rajasthan. Every group has 10 to 15 members, it means HCMS has collected about 20,000 women under its banner and push them on the path of empowerment. They are become financially strong and solving their problems with the help of their group and supporting each other in their problems. This cooperation and coordination make them economically and socially strong. Today these deprived women are feeling more dignified life in the society by the practices of HCMS and its staff. These group formations are supported by NABARD¹²

Priyadarshini Yojana:-

The 'Priyadarshini Yojana' was aimed at forming a women's self help group to make them capable through orientation and skill building programs so as to generate income of each group at least 1100 per month. In this view, HCMS has benefited 80 women by forming their groups as SHGs in Kanota & Kacholia villages of Jaipur district. The key



objective was to strengthen the rural women by skill upgradation which ultimately led to improve the income generation of their respective SHGs and by sustaining minimum monthly income targets (1100/ month or more), in future they will attain the position titled as 'Priyadarshini Adarsh SHGs HCMS initiated this Livelihood generating program for the villagers and poor ones residing in hamlets who had no access to credit facilities for starting income generation activities as means of livelihood due to poverty and lack of awareness¹³

In view of faith & creditworthiness, HCMS promoted the notion of Self Help within Women so as to build their capacities, up skilling, raising awareness, inculcating marketing skills etc. Thus, it formed numerous Self Help Groups and looking after them in the means of technical backstopping. HCMS is extending its help in providing trainings & awareness to these deserving & energetic women groups in the form of vocational trades as mentioned below:

- Farming
- Kitchen gardening
- Animal Husbandry
- Sewing
- Dressmaking
- Handicrafts
- Dairy
- Knitting
- Basket weaving
- Aari Taari
- Embroidery
- Broom making

SHGs Bank Linkage Program of NABARD:

The program was launched as a pilot project by NABARD in 1992 (with a target of linking 500 SHGs in a year's time) has transformed into the world's largest micro-finance program, touching a phenomenal over 41 crore rural poor through 86 lakh SHG's.¹⁴

We are feeling proud to state that we also became a partner of this program. NABARD has sanctioned us 4 projects under SHGs Bank Linkage Program. These are:

- 100 Bassi block of Jaipur district
- 200 SHGs Bank Linkage Program at Malpura block of Tonk district
- 300 SHGs Bank Linkage Program at Bassi & Chaksu block of Jaipur district
- 200 SHGs Bank Linkage Program at Todaraisingh block of Tonk district

Out of above first 3 projects have been completed & 4th one is under progress. We have developed & bank linked 640 SHGs in above projects.¹⁵

As per needs of the project we mobilize about 7000 women & organized them in 640 SHGs. Out of above SHGs 625 SHGs are linked with bank. They availed bank loan of more than 8.5 crors. Not even this we also identified suitable economic activity on the basis of available infrastructure.

SHG members are also provided skill development training on the selected economic activity including managerial skills. The SHGs are also linked with market. Now the working woman are able to earn about 6-7 thousand a month¹⁶

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- NULM:

Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana (DAY) with an aim to uplift the urban poor folks by enhancing sustainable livelihood opportunities through skill development. Keeping in view the objective of Make in India, Skill Development is essential for socio economic betterment. Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana was launched under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (HUPA). Government of India has provisioned Rs.500 crore for the scheme.

The scheme is integration of the National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM) and National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM).



National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM) is renamed as Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana-(DAY-NULM) and in Hindi as - Rashtriya Shahri Aajeevika Mission. Under the scheme urban areas extends the coverage to all the 4041 statutory cities and towns, thereby covering almost the entire urban population. Currently, all the urban poverty alleviating programs covered only 790 towns and cities. One of its components is Social Mobilization and Institution Development.¹⁷

Social Mobilization and Institution Development:-

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) shall rest on the foundation that the mobilisation of urban poor households to form their own institutions is an important investment for an effective and sustainable poverty reduction programme. These institutions of the poor would partner with local self-governments, public service providers, banks, private sector and other mainstream institutions to facilitate delivery of social and economic services to the poor.¹⁸

As per guidelines it will be done through formation of Self-Help Groups (SHG) for training members and hand holding, an initial support of 10,000 is given for each group. Assistance of Rs.50,000 is provided to Registered Area Level Federations.

We are also selected as RO for the following municipal areas

- Nagar Nigam Kota,
- Nagar Parishad Tonk,
- Nagar Palika Niwai.
- Nagar Palika Malpura,
- Nagar Palika Deoli
- Nagar Palika Todaraisingh

We have developed 652 SHGs & 40 Area Level Federations (ALFs) in above municipal areas under the scheme. An Area Level Federation (ALF) is an association of SHGs consisting of representatives from all member SHGs, with the objective of supporting member-SHG, (guiding and monitor the functioning of SHGs and forming and training new SHGs). The federation of SHGs is essential to deal with larger issues like bank-linkage, inter-group lending, negotiations with higher level structures and to gain greater bargaining power over the rights and privileges of SHGs. We identified suitable economic activity on the basis of their qualification & available local infrastructure for each group. We provide skill training to the members of SHGs & linked them with banks.¹⁹

Revolving Fund to SHGs :

Government provides a Revolving Fund of Rs.10000 to each SHG after 6 months of its constitution. Similarly Government provides a Revolving Fund of Rs.50000 to each Area Level Federation after registration.

Shahari Smraddhi Yojana:

Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs, announced a series of events named 'Shehri Samridhi Utsav' from February 1, 2019 to February 15, 2019.²⁰

The event, organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, is to focus on urban livelihoods and extending the outreach of National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) to the poorest of the poor and the most vulnerable, and facilitate access of SHG members to the other government schemes.

We are also provided a task to organize rallies at all the cities & towns of our designated area. The SHG members across cities participated in a state level rally to spread awareness about DAY-NULM. The rally was organized on 1st February from Gandhi Circle, JLN Marg to Jawahar Kala Kendra at Jaipur. More than 600 women of SHGs developed by us at Kota & Tonk districts participated in this rally.²¹

Similarly we also organized rallies at Kota, Tonk, Malpura, Niwai, Deoli & Todaraisingh. The rally was taken out by SHG members of these areas.

Around 600 SHGs & ALFs participated in these rallies. The rallies were led by respective chairpersons/ Executive Officers / Project managers, Urban Community Development & the senior staff of HCMs. The rally in Malpura is green flagged by Chairperson, Nagar Palika Malpura



Our Over All Achievements Under SHG program:-

- We have developed 640 SHGs with the help of NABARD in Jaipur & Tonk districts. & Empowered more than 7000 rural and deprived women.
- Similarly we have developed 652 SHGs under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana –NULM in the district Kota & Tonk.
- Except it we have Covered 10 districts of Rajasthan (Bundi, Dausa, Jaipur, Jhunjhunu, Karauli, Kota, Pratapgarh, Sawai Madhopur, Tonk, Sikar)
- Organised 1527 SHGs²²
- The women of these SHGs are engaged in Essence-Stick making, Dung Products making, Paper Bags Making, Sewing, Packaging, Dress Making, Dairy, Organic Cultivation, Trading of Sanitary Napkins & other cosmetics, Aari Taari work, Gota Zari Work, Black & White Phenyl, Hand Wash, Liquid Detergent, Purses, Bags, Folders, and other local handicrafts.
- The members of the SHGs are trained in appropriate Skill. They are also trained in financial inclusion & provide knowledge of ongoing central & state government programmes²³

Present Practices:-

- Engaged in credit linkages for better development in personal business.
- Market Linkage through Buyer Seller Meet & Exhibitions.
- Creation of marketing facilities to the products at national and international level.
- To develop consumer and producer relationship for better earning.
- Working with women community, especially with SC, ST, Minority class²⁴

Future Goals :-

- More intervention of women in development process.
- Development of entrepreneurship skills in normal Indian women
- Mainstreaming of skilled but resource less women
- We are taking more projects in Jaipur, Dausa districts under NULM.
- Our target is to reach 5000 more women in the financial year 2019-20

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III. RESULTS

Women Self Help Group In Rajasthan Is Boosting Rural Economy With Small Scale Agriculture, Textile Units

Hindustan Zinc's 'Sakhi Utpadan Samiti' runs 4 Agri-businesses and 2 Textile units which employ 130 Sakhi women and source good quality and chemical-free products from women farmers living in villages.²⁶

In a bid to contribute towards nation-building and empowering rural economy, Hindustan Zinc, claimed to be the country's only integrated producer of Zinc-Lead and Silver under its micro-enterprise initiative – Sakhi Utpadan Samiti, has been providing sustainable livelihoods to the women belonging to the rural and tribal communities in five districts of Rajasthan. Udaipur, Ajmer, Chittorgarh, Bhilwara, and Rajsamand are the districts covered under the initiative. Now, Uttarakhand's Pantnagar has also become part of the list. It is creating women self-help groups (SHGs) to upskill them in entrepreneurship. The organisation is running four agri-businesses and two textile units that employ at least 130 Sakhi women and produce good quality and chemical-free products, according to the India CSR. Spice, pulses and pickle production units are also being run by the women of these groups²⁷. A wide range of agricultural and textile



products are offered for sale across the country. The Sakhi Self Help Group program aligns with the government's efforts on the financial inclusion of women to encourage their entrepreneurship.

'Katori' and 'Upaya' – Sakhi's marketing entities work in sequence with women's collectives to help in their evolution into independent and long-lasting businesses. They also help in bridging the gap between rural women and the end consumer. 'Vocal For Local' "Our core principle of being 'Vocal for Local' promotes the growth of small industries, mostly in our local communities. With the power of entrepreneurship and skill development, we tend to empower our local communities to become 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'. Our Sakhis are the catalysts of bringing social change in our local communities.²⁸ We have skilled them through collective microenterprises of our Sakhi Utpadan Samiti, supported them and granted them with a platform to mainstream the social and financial inclusion of women in an equalitarian society," Arun Misra, CEO, Hindustan Zinc, as quoted by India CSR. Gudiya Kanwar, a woman entrepreneur, employed in the pickle unit in Kayad village in Rajasthan's Ajmer said that the pickling unit has improved her life and she hopes to transform the little unit into a pickle factory soon. "I am now able to single-handedly meeting the financial needs of my son's education and financing the construction of our new home," she said, as quoted by the India CSR. Being the family's sole earner, she now earns ₹4,000 to ₹5,000 per month. Jamna Khatik, on the other hand, earns over ₹25,000 and is now able to make a fixed deposit to secure her children's higher education. She shared that she had humble beginnings but now is able to earn more than expenses. "I have a dream to start my own stitching center where I can be a source of employment to other Sakhis," she said, as per India CSR²⁹.

Hindustan Zinc has been providing women empowerment interventions in local communities since 2006 and will continue to push the boundaries on this front. The project involves 194 functional village organisations (VOs) and five federations with more than 27,000 women across seven places. Reportedly, with around 36.1 million units, the MSME's contribute nearly 6.11 per cent of the manufacturing GDP and 24.63 per cent of the GDP from service activities. MSME industries employ 120 million people and have the potential to enhance their contribution to GDP to nearly 50 per cent by 2025.³⁰

Rajasthan self-help groups help low-income women with farming, dairy

Women are also being involved in honey production, making solar energy equipment, online marketing, and training to make digital videos

The Rajasthan government is taking steps to strengthen the financial position of low-income rural women.

The Rajasthan Grameen Aajeevika Vikas Parishad (Rajeevika), through innovation, is taking the lead in this. Some of the measures are linking women in self-help groups (SHGs) to organic farming, and setting up a bank for women and milk dairies. Women are also being involved in honey production, making solar energy equipment, online marketing, and training to make digital videos.³¹

The Government is implementing Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY – NRLM) across the country in a mission mode with the objective of organizing the rural poor women into Self Help Groups (SHGs) and continuously nurturing and supporting them till they attain appreciable increase in incomes over a period of time and improve their quality of life and come out of abject poverty. The programme is being implemented in all the States. As on 30th June, 2022, about 8.39 crore rural poor women have been mobilized into more than 76.94 lakh SHGs. DAY-NRLM is working on the universal access of the affordable cost-effective reliable financial services to the rural poor SHGs and has now expanded the outreach of interest subvention scheme to all the blocks of the country, which will ease SHG women in accessing credit. From FY 2013-14 an amount of Rs. 5.20 lakh crore bank credit has been accessed by SHGs under DAY-NRLM.³²

Under the livelihoods component of DAY-NRLM the Ministry is implementing the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP) and Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP), as sub-schemes under DAY-NRLM. The objective of SVEP is to help the SHG members to set-up enterprises at the village level in non-farm sectors. About 2.08 lakh enterprises have been formed across 29 States/UTs and 1750 enterprises have been formed. MKSP has the primary objective of empowering women in agriculture by making systematic investments to enhance their participation and productivity, as also create and sustain their agriculture-based livelihoods. About 1.77 crore women farmers have been covered under Farm interventions.

Naari Utthaan Rajasthan
Self Help Groups³³

- Economic development by self help groups (SHG)

Financial dependence is the root cause of the plight of women in rural areas in Rajasthan. This problem is far worse for ladies belonging to disadvantaged sections of society. On one hand they are mostly illiterate and ignorant about their rights and on the other they are financially dependent on their husbands who are with scanty sources of income. Such



scarcity of resources makes them unable to take any decision for themselves and incapable for standing for their rights. Right from its inception, NUS is striving to help these ladies to get rid of this situation. We have been constantly trying to promote financial independence among women since last 23 years by providing them short term vocational training courses for various trades like dairy products, sheep and goat rearing, carpet making, pickle & jam making, mangodi & papad making, soap making etc. With the objective of exploring the collective strength, increasing the social and economical level and increasing the participation in development activities of women, we make self help group (SHGs) of the ladies trained in the same trade. We facilitate their banking solutions as well as marketing solutions for prepared products and services by our ensured marketing tie-ups. So far, NUS has made more than 650 such SHGs independently and also with help of NABARD. We have trained more than 7000 ladies in 3 blocks in 2 districts: Alwar and Jaipur. Today, these trained ladies are successfully running their enterprises of various trades. It has added a new dimension to their lives and to the lives of their families. Regular monthly meetings of the so formed SHGs are organized on specific dates. Women are briefed about the importance of SHGs and savings.³⁴

- Dairy Initiative – Maha Shakti Milk Producer's Company

In the year 2015 in January, Nari Utthan Sansthan with an objective to secure the livelihood of women from three blocks of Rajasthan initiated to register a milk production company namely Maha Shakti Milk Producer Company Limited under Companies Registration Act., through which more than 778 farmers (women) secured their livelihood over the profit of company. Presently, MahaShakti Producer Company's milk is being supplied in 180 schools under Annapurna Milk Scheme. Its members started to earn by selling of chilled milk, about 1600 litres per day to dairy production companies. The payment is accordingly delivered to the personal bank accounts of the members within an interval of ten days. Milk is collected from 45 collection booths from 2 blocks of Alwar and each booth represents one village. People from Rajasthan and other states also come to visit the Maha Shakti FPO and learn the work from the women of Maha Shakti. Maha Shakti FPO achieved an award at the national level .

- Joint Liability Group (Amrita JLG , Sarjan JLG)

Nari Utthan Sansthan adopted JLG model to make women financially independent and created two JLGs: – 1. Amrita JLG – Women in Amrita JLG work to make food products like pure desi cow ghee, khoya, kalakand, spices, flour, pickles, raw ghani oil and other products. A Rural Mart has been created in collaboration with NABARD to sell the product of JLG . Many women are dependent on this JLG.³⁰

- International women's day

The Nari Utthan Sansthan celebrates InterNational Women's Day every year to commemorate the empowerment of women and encourages them to move forward. Nari Utthan Sansthan honors women who are doing great work in their field and further motivates them towards greater achievements.

- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Abhiyan

As an organization at a grass root level, Nari Utthan Sansthan is at the paramount position in Thanagazi Block of Alwar District to step beside the government with in the area of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Abhiyan. The main essence of the Abhiyan was:

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

On the basis of this essence, Nari Utthan Sansthan ,set a bench mark within its working area, such that, the villagers, not only rejoice at the birth of a son but also at the birth of a daughter. In accordance to this, villagers took an oath and are now following it. By promoting Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Nari Utthan Sansthan has made successful progress which is evident by the achievement of Mithlesh Bai, daughter of Koshlya Devi, who has completed her MBBS. She belonged to a poor family where she couldn't have even dreamt of becoming an MBBS. We encourage he to become a great doctor in the times to come.³¹

- Plantation programme:

To protect the Mother Nature, Nari Utthan Sansthan has constantly contributed towards its endeavours since the very first day of establishing its foundation stone. Every year, it celebrates Plantation Ceremony with the village women. In the last three years, Nari Utthan Sansthan has already planted over 4500 trees within the surrounding villages which



was a very fruitful contribution towards the protection of environment. The major purpose was to spread awareness about the need to preserve and enhance the environment.

- Swatch Bharat Mission

In accordance with the Swatch Bharat Mission, Nari Utthan Sansthan adopted two villages namely Vijayapura and Gadi from Thanagazi Block with a motive to make "Open Defecation Free villages". Through this mission, a total of 76 toilets were constructed for the poor villagers. Nari Utthan Sansthan inspired all the women of its 650 groups and also guided the women who did not have toilets were to build their own toilets.

- Snehalaya -The Shelter Home

Thanagazi block of Alwar district of Rajasthan is a very remote & underdeveloped area. For the last two decades NUS has been working for the holistic development of community, especially for women empowerment, health, and water & sanitation sector. Snehalaya is a shelter home, where the poor & needy children both boys and girls as well as the elderly are provided a stay. NUS provides ultimate love & care for their better future & rest. Some of the very brilliant students have established themselves during their stay at Snehalaya. Goal: To provide proper shelter & care to the poor & needy children as well as the homeless elders, devoid of care. Objectives: The objectives are as given:-

- To provide proper shelter
- Provide care with love for their better future
- Make them skilled & educated for a better future
- Provide them proper food & nutrition
- Provide homely atmosphere to the homeless & deprived

A Selfless and Compassionate Open to All Shelter Home Especially for Socially Ignored Elderly, Orphans and Destitutes at Narayanpur in Alwar District of Rajasthan. Bringing a smile on every face and providing a sense of belongingness is our sole motive at 'Snehalaya – The Shelter Home'. It's neither an old age home nor an orphanage or asylum, but an ideal merger of the three, this is because long back Mrs. Uma Ratnu had pledged to support the deprived humanity irrespective of age, gender and caste, and Snehalaya is the mirror image of this strong determination. As of now, there are 25 children, as well as elderly inmates in Snehalaya. It has a cozy homely environment and has dedicated staff which includes caretakers, cooks, cleaners and managers with rotational shifts to provide 24x7 care to our valuable inmates. Besides this, for the well-being of inmates, we provide a medical examination on regular basis conducted by our committed medical team. Snehalaya began in a rented accommodation in year 2007 and now we have our very own well developed building. Over this one decade Snehalaya has supported 51 children. Some of them have qualified AIPMT, some of them have scored more than 90% in Board examination.³²

- Rajasthani Doll Making

Rajasthani Doll Making is the first project by NABARD for Nari Utthan Sansthan. For this work, the Nari Utthan Sansthan chose the Senani Group and made the group so strong that many women could be benefited by this work. Nari Utthan Sansthan has trained the women of Senani group by NABARD to manufacture dolls and empowered them to carry forward this work. Today, women of Senani group are working very well to make beautiful dolls which are exported to foreign markets.

- Kanya Janmahotsav

Nari Utthan Sansthan has been celebrating the Kanya janmahotsav by giving importance to a daughter's birth. Whenever a daughter of a woman associated with Nari Utthan Sansthan is born, the institute director of Nari Utthan Sansthan goes to that woman's house and celebrate the Kanya janmahotsav and the director of nari uthan Sansthan, Mrs. Uma Ratnu, enrolls her daughter under Sukanya Samridhi Yojana.

- E- Shakti

Keeping in view of the Government of India's mission for creating a digital India, Nari Utthan Sansthan has digitized the SHG'S with the support of NABARD and launched a project for digitization of Self Help Group (SHG) in the country. The project is being implemented in Thanagazi & Bansur Block of Alwar District.



- Rural Mart

A Rural Mart was established in collaboration with NABARD to sell products manufactured by JLG made by Nari Utthan Sansthan and was named Amrita Mart. Two women have been appointed to run this mart. Currently the products made by JLG are sold through Amrita Mart, thus the women of JLG with the help of Nari Utthan Sansthan and NABARD do not have to depend on anyone and the products made by women are being sold by women.

- National Balika Divas

Nari Utthan Sansthan has been ready for women and girls since forever. Nari Utthan Sansthan celebrates National Balika divasevery year to promote girls and highlight their talent, on January 24, 2019 in presence of the Director of Nari Utthan Sansthan, Mrs. Uma Ratnu, along with the girls of Snehalaya. The main reason due to which girls are not able to move forward is because of the mentality that a girl is meant to take care of their homes and younger siblings, which becomes an obstacle in the path of improvement. In order to eradicate all these situations and discrimination, the emphasis is on celebrating National Balika divas for the girls of Snehalaya and spread awareness about great woman personalities like Indira Gandhi, Kalpana Chawla. It needs to be celebrated to bring out the root causes for the lack of recognition of the girl child by understanding the social perception as well as taking the girls out of the realm of sister, daughter, wife or mother and enable them to socialize to participate with the real world. Important things like health, nutrition and education for girls need to be taken care of so that they become physically, financially, mentally and emotionally self-reliant and capable. Girls should be made aware of things like domestic violence, child marriage and dowry as well as their rights. For the welfare of adolescent girls, the government runs schemes like 'Samagra Child Development Service', 'Dhanalakshmi'. The recently implemented 'Sabla Yojana' is dedicated to the empowerment of adolescent girls. The purpose is to empower girls, especially adolescent girls, so that they can contribute towards building a better society in the future.³³

- Education for girls (drop outs)

For the last decade, the Nari Utthan Sansthan has been working for the education of the poor and slum dwellers, whose education is missed and for whom education is not a major priority. Nari Utthan Sansthan has formed a team for this work which serves from door to door in such areas enabling the girls to be educated. The entire team finds out the cause and through Nari Utthan Sansthan, a meeting is organized with the family of such girls, where in the issues are discussed and the girls are enrolled into government schools. A link to education is the first important aspect of women empowerment. Nari Utthan Sansthan connects women with education to empower them and makes them understand the importance of education, especially, rural women through small programs.

- Chupi todo syani bano (stree swabhimani)

Nari Utthan Sansthan has been working for women empowerment as well as ironing self-respect. By organizing a meeting with women and girls of Nari Utthan Sansthan Self Help Group, women and girls are told to be health conscious without any hesitation and how women should take care of their health. The director of Nari Utthan Sansthan, Mrs. Uma Ratnu, told the women and girls that 'stay clean only then you will be healthy'.

- Counselling for the oppressed and destitute women of the society

Nari Utthan Sansthan is working for those women who are tolerating the violence of the society silently and are denied rights by their family, Nari Utthan Sansthan depicts the way to live a new life by giving right opinion to women. It provides a direction to the oppressed women of the society and what action they should take against harassment by organizing a meeting and providing consultancy. Nari Utthan Sansthan also provides legal assistance to the oppressed women. Everyday, these women suffer the wrath of the society in the form slaps, lashes, beatings, insults, threats, sexual abuse and many other violent incidents and are even killed in certain scenarios. These incidents are rarely reported since the tortured and exploited are nervous, afraid and hesitant to discuss.

- Building a self sustainable model for women empowerment, supported by: ONGC

The project "Building Self Sustainable Model for Women Empowerment" is implemented with 51 selected. existing SHGs in Bansur and Thanagazi Blocks of Alwar District. Project agreement was signed on 31 December 2018 and actual date of implementation was 1 January 2019. The project was commenced with the appointment of one Project Coordinator, 2 Field Workers and 2 Trainers. After that staff regularly conducted SHG meetings and finalized 51 SHGs to be covered under this project. The main purpose of this project is to develop these SHGs into vibrant & self-sustainable models for replication. The project objectives are as under.



- Nurture already existing SHGs as self-sustainable, hence creating an environment of gender equality
 - Develop a model of sustainable entrepreneurship by ensuring forward market linkages
 - Human Resource and project mobility support.
 - Infra-structure Support
 - Women based livelihood enhancement and eradication of drinking water problem in Bairawas & Nangalhedi. Bairawas & Nangalhedi villages of thanagazi block of alwar district of rajastha are about 39 km away from our office . The area is mountainous with agriculture fields between the mountains. The area scarce water aquifers. As a result tube wells are dried. Few tube wells are working with limited draft for 20 to 30 minutes at a time. Water is insufficient for drinking purposes. Agriculture is mostly rainfed.
 - Community-Based Peer-Led Intervention(CPLI)
- Community-based Peer-Led Intervention would be launched in the Jaipur district of Rajasthan as a focused preventive measure to curb the menace of drug abuse. The objectives of Community based peer led interventions are.
- To assess drug use in the community.
 - Implement early prevention education led by trained peer educators.
 - To provide referral and linkage to counseling , treatment and rehabilitation
 - Services for drug dependents identified in the community.
 - Target beneficiaries 9-18 age group³⁴

IV. CONCLUSIONS

The average living condition for women in Southern Rajasthan is very poor. Women have little if any representation or freedom in society. Since its inception MSS has recognised that the socio-economic and cultural status of women in the area frequently dehumanises them, and for this reason women's empowerment has always been one of the organisation's top priority issues. MSS believes that there are three pillars to women's empowerment: participation in the community, personal security and a positive self-image. It is only through establishing all three pillars that women's empowerment can become a sustainable movement.

Self Help Groups

An SHG is a village-based financial group usually composed of 10-15 local women. Members make small, regular savings contributions to the group, which can then be used to provide loans to group members. These SHGs play a vital role in the field of social development, providing a forum in which women can come together, take out loans, improve their standard of living and become financially independent.

A systematic approach has been introduced to MSS's SHGs through implementing child-centred activities and income generational activities such as alternative agriculture. Through their meetings we have identified problems and discussed solutions, such as agricultural problems, the need to identify school dropouts and working with children with disabilities. Members have visited each other's fields and enterprises in order to learn and share new methods and ideas.

Capacity building programmes are organised for all SHG members, including on topics such as savings and credit, record keeping, accounting and linkages with the Rajasthan Rural Livelihoods Project (RRLP). Exposure visits are also held to various other SHGs in order for members to witness income generating activities that other SHGs have set up. Finally, training and advice is provided to SHG members on MGNREGA, including how to register for the scheme, what it entails and the kind of work that is undertaken.²⁸

Empowerment of Rural Women through Handicrafts

By initiating artisan SHGs in Jhadol, Kotra and Dungarpur, MSS is enabling women artisans to expand their livelihoods and bring security to their families in terms of health, education, finance and social status. The project aims to improve income levels and provide education and training for these women.



Women artisans are provided with Artisan Identity Cards issued from the Development Commissioner. Artisans attend many exhibitions and melas (fairs) in places such as Shirohi, Delhi, Chandigarh and Bhopal. During these events, they display their work and sell products to various customers. MSS also holds training programmes to help artisans build on and improve their skills. Such programmes explore possible new designs and concepts, along with improved production techniques, and better equipment and raw materials.

MSS is working to create a new for-profit entity that will support the work of rural artisans through creating a permanent space to sell their handicrafts.³⁴

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