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## **GR<sub>T</sub> STREE SHAKTI PROGRAMME IN HYDERABAD KARNATAKA**

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**Abstract:-**Even though the Government of Karnataka has formulated and implemented various schemes for the furtherance of the social, economic and overall development of rural women, when the present position of women in taken into account these schemes do not appear effective in enhancing the confidence and capability of these women. The government, with the joint collaboration of various departments, has taken up the work of woman development with only one aim and adherence to achieve the overall development women by rendering them financial support in the form of subsidy through different projects directly or through banks to eradicate poverty of these women. With a view to make women financially independent the State Government has established the State Women Development Corporation (Stree-Shakti: Women Empowerment, 2003).

**Keywords:**Stree Shakti Programme , social, economic , woman development .

### **INTRODUCTION**

Even though the Government of Karnataka has formulated and implemented various schemes for the furtherance of the social, economic and overall development of rural women, when the present position of women in taken into account these schemes do not appear effective in enhancing the confidence and capability of these women. The government, with the joint collaboration of various departments, has taken up the work of woman development with only one aim and adherence to achieve the overall development women by rendering them financial support in the form of subsidy through different projects directly or through banks to eradicate poverty of these women. With a view to make women financially independent the State Government has established the State Women Development Corporation (Stree-Shakti: Women Empowerment, 2003).

In achieving women empowerment, many government and non-government organizations have organized small groups since a decade at national as well as state levels and have inspired them towards savings and also to manage their daily requirements and the financial commitments from out of the savings from out of the savings and to increase their financial resources, thereby eradicating poverty. Many rural poor women have proved that they can save money and if they take loans they also capable of repaying them and if awareness is created among them they can also prove themselves able in many more fields (Chetana Kalbagh Ed., 1991).

Such successful attempts have been made in countries like Bangladesh, Philippines and some states in our country.

### **THE DESIGN OF THE STREE SHAKTI PROGRAMME**

In this background, it is very meaningful that Hon'ble ex Chief Minister of Karnataka S.M.Krishna has called the project has 'Stree Shakti' in which the main aim is to make rural women

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self dependent through organizing twenty lakh women into one lakh Stree Shakti Groups. This project has been launched on 2000-01. The State Government has taken a revolutionary step by setting up this project attempting to invest Rs.72 crore at a time in the projects taken up for the development of women and organizing women in such huge numbers (Vidya Maria Joseph and Uday Shanker Bhat, 2003).

#### **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STREE SHAKTI PROGRAMMES**

1. Accelerate the process of economic development and create a conductive atmosphere for social change of rural women.
2. Formation of Stree Shakti based on thrift and credit principles.
3. Increase the income levels of rural women by engaging them in income generating activities and creating financial stability and thereby achieving eradication of poverty.
4. Convergence of services and benefits of various Government departments and financial institutions.

#### **SCOPE OF THE STREE SHAKTI PROGRAMMES**

The implementation of this scheme covers villages spreading in 175 talukas in the state. About 20 lakhs women will be organized through one lakh Stree Shakti groups. Since Swarna Jayanthi Urban Rojgar Yojana is being carried out in urban areas, they are excluded from this scheme.

#### **OUTLINES OF THE STREE SHAKTI SCHEME**

Stree Shakti will be formed through the Anganwadi workers in rural areas. About 15-20 lakh women will be organized under the scheme consisting of 15 to 20 women in each group and one lakh self help group will be formed throughout the state. In the first stage 50000 groups will be formed and measures for the formation of the remaining 50000 groups will be initiated later.

#### **THE ROLE OF STREE SHAKTI GROUP**

A stree shakti is a group where 15 to 20 like minded women coming from the lower strata of society having similar social and financial background with a feeling of oneness, organize themselves voluntarily into a group for their social and economic development (Pillay, J.K., 1995).

This group creates Stree Shakti among the members by codifying the rules essential for the all round development of the members as well as the village. This group, having 15 to 20 members, must adhere to the rules and regulations framed by them with mutual faith, common interest and self-awareness. The main features of such groups are regular savings, lending money on the principles of initiating common fund and finding redressal to their problems through unanimous decisions thereby achieving development.

It is left to the decision of the whole group to decide the rate of interest to be levied on the load given to the members of the group. The leadership will be decentralized. Various records have to be maintained in the group and a savings account in the joint name has to be opened in a bank.

#### **STATE-LEVEL COMMITTEE**

A committee is constituted at the State Level, in which the Honourable Chief Minister is the Chairman and Minister for Women and Child Development is the Deputy Chairperson and Chief Secretary and heads of the departments concerned are the members. The Secretary, Women and Child Welfare Department is the Member Secretary of this Committee. At the district level, Deputy Commissioner is the Chairperson and district level officers of the departments concerned are the members of the committee and Deputy Director, Women and Child Development will be Member Secretary (Vidya Maria Joseph and Uday Shankar Bhat).

#### **CONCLUSION**

The name of Stree Shakti programme has become well known in the villages and within the overall community. The success of Stree Shakti Programme in achieving social space, negotiation,

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building solidarity and confidence in collective action is laudable. Many issues mainly on community infrastructure like access to water, road repair, electricity has been taken up successfully.

Under the Stree Shakti Programme gradually women are realizing their own importance and have participated successfully in elimination of attract distillation and opium cultivation.

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