

## **Role of Voluntary Organizations in Promoting House Hold Livelihoods**

**Deepmala Singh<sup>1</sup>, Prahalad Mishra<sup>2</sup> and D.K. Singh<sup>3</sup>**

### **ABSTRACT**

Women are the key contributors to house hold economy and to combating poverty through remunerative and non-remunerative activities at home, in community and at working place. The present study was undertaken to assess the role of Voluntary organizations towards livelihood security of Rural Women. The study was conducted with 200 respondents randomly selected in 8 villages of Jabalpur district, results showed that majority of respondent found in low category of social status, medium personal assets, low physical assets, low human assets and low financial assets of livelihood security. The majority of respondent were low in overall Livelihood assets of livelihood security.

**Key words:** Livelihood, community, voluntary organizations

### **INTRODUCTION**

Women empowerment has justified in eradication of poverty through micro enterprises. Women's participation and decision making power in income generating activities is believed to increase their status. The economic contribution of women is realized by their role in the family as well as in the society. If a woman is economically parasite, she can never claim an equal status with men. If women are to be economically empowered they are provided to be alternative forms of informal credit, training, employment, management skills and social security.

Voluntary organizations and Non-governmental organizations have been a part of the historical ligancy of rural development in India. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, several voluntary efforts were started in development programmes. The NGO, s came to prominence after 1970s. This was partly because of the limited success of past development policies pursued by the government. Opportunity for face-to-face interaction provided by participation in voluntary organizations not only teaches essential civics skills, such as trust, compromise and reciprocity, but also binds society together by creating bridges between diverse groups.

Voluntary organizations can play a crucial role in rural development by supporting government efforts as they are close to the mind and hearts of the rural people. In the changing scenario of the liberalization, they can assess the new approaches for rural development and self employment. Now a day, there is huge investment made by voluntary organization in rural development and self employment training in rural area. Here, there is a scope for researchers to measure efficiency for fund utilization by the voluntary organizations in contrast to the Government. There is need to evaluate voluntary organizations owing to their changed role.

There are around 2200 voluntary organizations (VOs) working in India. The NGO division in the ministry of social justice and empowerment disburses grants under 11 schemes to these VOs. A review taken in early 2000 highlighted several areas of concern such as delay in release of fund and poor service delivery to concern are the challenge before the ministry, therefore it was ensure to streamlined the function of VOs so that only the right kind of organizations could get funds and that services delivered to the target groups are at least commensurate with the grants released. Also it was ensured the release of grants timely. It was also kept in view to VOs that large areas of the country which remain un-served are

addressed and the full budgetary allocation for the schemes implemented through the voluntary sector has to be utilized. Keeping in view the present study is concentrate on the aspects of social assets, personnel assets, physical assets, human assets as well as financial assets for the livelihood security of rural women. The "Role of Voluntary Organization in livelihood security of rural women: A sociological study (with special reference to Jabalpur district M.P.) was conducted: To assess the role of VOs towards livelihood security of the beneficiaries and the association between profile of beneficiaries and role of VOs.

### METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Jabalpur district of Madhya Pradesh state in 2014-15. There were many Voluntary organizations working in the district out of which only four VO namely, Gramin Mahila Uthan Samiti, Phutatal Panagar; Amaniya Mahila Seva Samiti, Gohalpur, Jabalpur; Mashal Mahila Samaj Seva Samiti, Thakkar gram, Jabalpur and Durga Gram Chetana, Adhartal, Jabalpur were selected purposively for the present study on account of their smooth and continuous working in rural areas for development of livelihood security of rural women.

A list of adopted villages of these four Voluntary organizations was prepared out of which two villages of each Voluntary organization were selected. Total eight villages were selected with the help of random sampling technique. The respondents of these Voluntary organizations of each village were prepared separately. Out of which, 25 respondents from each villages were selected on the basis of random sampling who were involved in activities of Voluntary organization. Thus the total sample size for the study was 200.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stress and shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in the future. The framework draws attention to the variety of assets that contribute to making a sustainable livelihood and to ways in which they are interdependent. Within the five broad categories of assets like – social assets, personal assets, human assets and financial assets it presents. The detail distribution of respondent according to their role of voluntary organization in livelihood security of rural women was presented in table 1.

**Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to their Social Assets of Livelihood Security**

| Categories   |           | No. of Respondents | Percentage    |
|--------------|-----------|--------------------|---------------|
| Low          | (Up to 3) | 122                | 61.00         |
| Medium       | (4 to 6)  | 69                 | 34.50         |
| High         | (7 to 10) | 09                 | 4.50          |
| <b>Total</b> |           | <b>200</b>         | <b>100.00</b> |

The data presented in table 1 showed that majority of the respondent 61.00 per cent found to low social assets of livelihood security of rural women followed by medium social assets of livelihood security 34.50 per cent and high social assets of livelihood security 4.50 per cent respectively. Thus, it can be concluded that in study area, majority of respondents were found to low social assets of livelihood security (61.00 %) followed by medium and high social assets of livelihood security of rural women.

**Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to their Personal Assets of Livelihood Security**

| Categories   |           | No. of Respondents | Percentage    |
|--------------|-----------|--------------------|---------------|
| Low          | (Up to 3) | 94                 | 47.00         |
| Medium       | (4 to 6)  | 99                 | 49.50         |
| High         | (7 to 10) | 07                 | 3.50          |
| <b>Total</b> |           | <b>200</b>         | <b>100.00</b> |

The data presented in table 2 showed that majority of the respondent 49.50 per cent found to medium personnel assets of livelihood security of rural women followed by low personnel assets of livelihood security 47.00 per cent and high personnel assets of livelihood security 3.50 per cent respectively. Thus, it can be concluded that in study area, majority of respondents were found to medium personnel assets of livelihood security (49.50%) followed by medium and high personal assets of livelihood security of rural women.

**Table 3: Distribution of respondents according to their Physical assets of Livelihood Security**

| Categories   |           | No. of Respondents | Percentage    |
|--------------|-----------|--------------------|---------------|
| Low          | (Up to 3) | 171                | 85.50         |
| Medium       | (4 to 6)  | 24                 | 12.00         |
| High         | (7 to 10) | 05                 | 2.50          |
| <b>Total</b> |           | <b>200</b>         | <b>100.00</b> |

The data presented in table 3 showed that majority of the respondent 85.50 per cent found to low physical assets of livelihood security of rural women followed by medium physical assets of livelihood security 12.00 per cent and high physical assets of livelihood security 2.50 per cent respectively. Thus, it can be concluded that in study area, majority of respondents were found to low physical assets of livelihood security (85.50 %) followed by medium and high physical assets of livelihood security of rural women.

**Table 4: Distribution of respondents according to their Human Assets of Livelihood Security**

| Categories      | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
|-----------------|--------------------|------------|
| Low (Up to 3)   | 114                | 57.00      |
| Medium (4 to 6) | 76                 | 38.00      |
| High (7 to 10)  | 10                 | 5.00       |
| Total           | 200                | 100.00     |

The data presented in table 4 showed that majority of the respondent 57 per cent found to low human assets of livelihood security of rural women followed by medium human assets of livelihood security 38 per cent and high human assets of livelihood security 5 per cent respectively. Thus, it can be concluded that in study area, majority of respondents were found to low human assets of livelihood security (57.00%) followed by medium and high human assets of livelihood security of rural women.

**Table 5: Distribution of respondents according to their Financial Assets of Livelihood Security**

| Categories      | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
|-----------------|--------------------|------------|
| Low (Up to 3)   | 165                | 82.50      |
| Medium (4 to 6) | 29                 | 14.50      |
| High (7 to 10)  | 06                 | 3.00       |
| Total           | 200                | 100.00     |

The data presented in table 5 showed that majority of the respondent 82.50 per cent found to low financial assets of livelihood security of rural women followed by medium financial assets of livelihood security 14.50 per cent and high financial assets of livelihood security 3.00 per cent respectively. Thus, it can be concluded that in study area, majority of respondents were found to low financial assets of livelihood security (82.50 %) followed by medium and high financial assets of livelihood security of rural women.

**Table 6: Distribution of respondents according to their Overall Livelihood Security of Rural Women**

| Categories        | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Low (Up to 17)    | 134                | 67.00      |
| Medium (18 to 33) | 62                 | 31.00      |
| High (34 to 50)   | 04                 | 2.00       |
| Total             | 200                | 100.00     |

The data presented in table 6 showed that majority of the respondent 67.00 per cent found to low over all Livelihood assets of livelihood security of rural women followed by medium over all Livelihood assets of livelihood security 31.00 per cent and high over all Livelihood assets of livelihood security 2.00 per cent respectively. Thus, it can be concluded that in study area, majority of respondents were found to low over all Livelihood assets of livelihood security (67.00 %) followed by medium and high Over all Livelihood assets of livelihood security of rural women.

**Table 7: Correlation coefficient between overall livelihood assets of livelihood security and independent variables**

| Independent variables                                       | Over all Livelihood Assets |
|---|----------------------------|
| Age   | 0.116                      |
| Education   | 0.137                      |
| Family Size   | -0.177*                    |
| Land holding  | 0.292**                    |
| Annual Income   | 0.333**                    |
| Material possession   | 0.002                      |
| Social participation  | 0.365**                    |
| Rural women Contact with VOs                                | 0.449**                    |
| VOs using different method for communication of rural women | 0.434**                    |
| Decision making of rural women                              | 0.695**                    |
| Attitude of beneficiaries towards the VOs activities        | 0.638**                    |

\*\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).  
 \* . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

The last column of the table (7) indicated that over all livelihood security assets of respondents have positive and significant association with their land holding, annual income, social participation, rural women contact with voluntary organization, voluntary organization using different method for communication of rural women, decision making of rural women and attitude of beneficiaries towards the voluntary organizations activities. The characteristics namely family size of respondents has negative correlation with their overall livelihood security assets of livelihood security of rural women indicating that large size of rural women with more family size no further role of voluntary organization over all livelihood security assets of livelihood security of rural women. The remaining characteristics of respondents like age, education and material possession did not show any significant relationship with the overall livelihood security assets of livelihood security of rural women.

### CONCLUSION

The study indicated that the majority of respondent found in low category of social status, medium personal assets, low physical assets, low human assets and low financial assets of livelihood security. The majority of respondent were low in overall Livelihood assets of livelihood security. Thus, it can be concluded that in study area, majority of respondents were found to low categories of livelihood security.

Correlation coefficient between overall livelihood assets of livelihood security and independent variables revealed that over all livelihood security assets of respondents have positive and significant association with their land holding, occupation, annual income, social participation, rural women contact with voluntary organization, voluntary organization using different method for communication of rural women, decision making of rural women and attitude of beneficiaries towards the voluntary organizations activities only family size has negative correlation with overall livelihood assets of livelihood security. But characteristics like age, education and material possession did not show any significant relationship with the overall livelihood security assets of livelihood security of rural women.

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