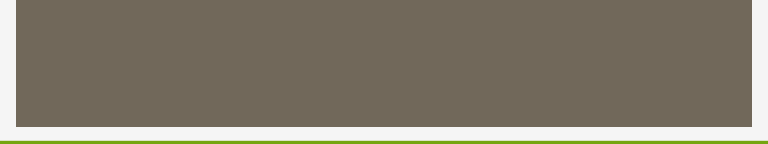


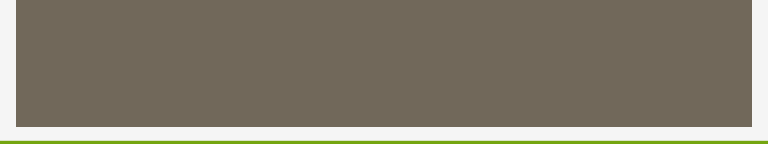
Women and Social Exclusion

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India is the new global buzz word. It is at the cusp of a paradigm change both in its growth and its position in the world. It is the 7 largest country by area in the world and 2nd by population. It is the 12 largest economy at the market exchange rate and fourth largest by PPP. Yet it is at cross roads today.



India is the biggest democracy in the world in its true sense. Of the eight richest person in the world, four are Indians. Compare with many other nations, the economy is growing at phenomenal rate, salaries are going through the roof of the employees of highly educated, there are window of opportunities mushrooming in the IT hubs of the nation, disposable income for the call center crowd, accessibility for several luxurious goods that never seen before the nation. However, the facts remain that it is far from reaching true potential.



Why this miserable condition? Even after 60 years of independence we are unable to overwhelm this trouble.

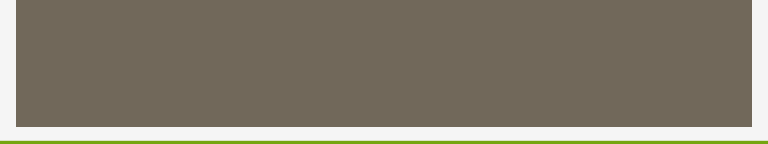
When even after implementing 10 five year plans with high-sounding ideas as Garibe Hatao, our efforts are not yielding.

Is it because of lack of planning, the poor planning or legacy of high thinking and no action or by anything else? Answer to this question is social Exclusion Social Exclusion in general and Social Exclusion of women in specific

- Women constitute almost 50% of the world's population but India has shown disproportionate sex ratio where by female's population has been comparatively lower than males. As far as social status is concerned, they are treated as second sex in the social order and confined within four walls. Paradoxically sometimes women considered as Goddess and at other times merely as slaves.

- After Independence, many acts have been passed and many schemes have been launched to empower the women. However, there is a wide gap between the goals enunciated in the constitution, legislation, policies, plans, programmes and related mechanisms on the one hand and the situational reality of the status of women in India, on the other. Hence the government has come forward to implement the programmes with the help of NGO's.

- NGOs in India were taken up charitable services up till 1980 and concentrated only on distribution of required resources to the target groups. Later they started focusing on empowerment during early 1990s after the emergence of SHGs.



Empowerment of women is essential for the creation of good nation with stability. Women empowerment in all walks of life shall bring the necessary balance that is required in nature. It will help in promoting structures which are more inclusive, progressive, creative, constructive and generative in nature and which are in sync with nature.