TRANSITION FROM SGSY TO NRLM: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE TWO SCHEMES

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ABSTRACT:
The objective of Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) was to bring the assisted poor families (Swarozgaries) above the Poverty Line by ensuring significant sustained level of income over a period of time. It strived to achieve the objective by organising the rural poor into Self Help Groups (SHGs) through the process of social mobilization, their training and capacity building and involving them into the various income generating activities. The SHG approach helped a lot to the poor in building their self-confidence through community action. Interactions in group meetings and collective decision making enabled them in identification of their needs and resources. This process would ultimately lead to the strengthening and socio-economic empowerment of the rural poor as well as improve their collective bargaining power. Very recently the scheme has been renamed and modified as National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM). With the objectives of making the scheme more universal, more focused and time bound for poverty alleviation by 2014. Accordingly, a target has been fixed to enroll 50 per cent of rural women in self-help groups over the next five years. This transition will definitely have some positive impact on the basic objectives of the scheme of poverty alleviation. All these prospects, possibility, comparative advantages and some suggestions have been highlighted in the paper.

KEY WORDS: Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY), National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), Self Help Groups (SHGs), Poverty Alleviation, Women Empowerment,