



## Summary of the Discussion

*(December 05, 2019 – December 19, 2019)*

### *Topic of the Discussion:*

*Promoting SHG based collectives of women has been a major focus under the DAY- NRLM programme. Since its inception in 2011, around 25 lakh SHG Federations and more than 58 lakh SHGs have been promoted and are functional across India. However, are these women collectives self- sustainable? Are the current institution building processes adequate? What could be the possible way forward?*

*by Binju Abraham, Manohar Singh Bhati and Neha Joshi*

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*Posted by PRADAN: A consolidation of views and insights shared on the discussion held at Sampark.Net – The Rural Connect*

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PRADAN has started an on-line knowledge platform called Sampark.net. The platform provides an ‘interactive, informative and creative online space’ where the members can debate and discuss on specific development issues.

### The Discussion Process

The Discussion was posted on the on-line platform Sampark.net on December 05, continued for two weeks and was finally closed on December 19, 2019. For seamless discussion, the discussion was moderated by Binju Abraham, Manohar Singh Bhati and Neha Joshi. At the end of the discussion, the moderators also consolidated the views and insights shared by the respondents.

### Summary of Responses

The entire discussion revolved around the question of the self sustainability of women collectives. It was either a form of experiences, challenges, concerns or thoughts.

The group was very much concerned about the current approaches of the government to use these collective in-service delivery mechanism. The major concerns shared were grooming/building leadership, non-rotating leadership, the involvement of government, capacitating these collectives for out their delivery of services and architecture of these institutions.

With these concerns, the group discussed many way outs to build self-sustainable collectives. The suggested possible interventions were: -

- Building the leadership of institutions with larger perspectives (citizenship, gender, caste class)
- Indicative to build memberships
- Strengthening the internal systems for CLF (transparency and accountability)
- Tightening/ thinking about the loaning system
- A collaborative action of Government and other agencies for nurturing and strengthening of collectives
- A proper business plan with proper forecasting and future activities needs to be developed jointly shaped by the context
- A huge investment in various effective capacity building events, right from emphasizing the need for women collectives in a woman's life, building an understanding on organization and institutions functioning, management and building more transparent communication systems

This discussion also raised many questions for those who were engaged with this collective.

- What should these organisations be like?
- Do we want them as CSOs or Co-operatives, or what is the suitable form?

This is the time for Gov. and CSOs to collaborate and build these collectives in the form of self sustain collectives.

## Responses Received

Till the closing day, 28 comments were received with thanks, from following:

1. Manohar Singh Bhati
2. Anjali Agarwal
3. Abhilasha Handa
4. Sukanta Sarkar
5. Kuntalika
6. Jitendra Kumar Yadav
7. Sahana Mishra
8. Neha Joshi
9. Shailendra Singh
10. Subhajit Ghosh
11. Heerak Jyoti Mahanta

## Disclaimer

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