

An Impact of Corporate Social Responsibility Activities on Wives of Farmers That Committed Suicide in Nanded District

Waghmare Shreerang Datta

Ph.D. Research Scholar

School of Social Sciences, Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada

University, Nanded – 431606, Maharashtra, India

Email - shreerangdw2012@gmail.com

Abstract: *The term Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is growing day by day. It comes under section 135 of The Companies Act, 2013 and it is mandatory to the entire establishments who fulfill the criteria of previously mentioned section. CSR is in a very much sprouting stage in India. There are some lacunas for effectiveness of CSR programs. These are lack of understanding, untrained personnel, lack of awareness about this concept, unhealthy mentality of social responsibility, subterfuges from the law etc. Very few CSR implementers (companies) who especially work on women empowerment because generally the overall approach of the society towards women is always secondary. There is an NGO in the area of this research who has worked on women empowerment. This research paper focuses on the development of women through CSR activities who are wives of farmers that committed suicide. The study shows that women can execute their responsibilities very well towards the family after losing their husband with the help of CSR.*

Key Words: *Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Women Empowerment, Development.*

1. INTRODUCTION:

Human being is a social animal. He cannot live without society. We find that he has always connected to the society by various means from his birth to death. It is not going to be possible for any human being to be alone while living as human. If he will be live alone then we do not count him as a human being. Since birth, he gets so many things from the society. When he born, he becomes a factor of a particular society. Family is also one of the factor of the society. In the beginning phase, he learns various things from his family. Human being gets knowledge of speaking, walking, good behavior, good thoughts, culture, customs and traditions, relations etc. from his family. After that, he gets the knowledge about caste, religion, friendship, cooperation, state, country etc. from the society. His existence becomes a responsible factor of the society. He knows as a social animal. There is special relation of human being with the nature also. Human being gets so many things from the nature like water, plants, land, air, sunlight etc. from the nature without giving any cost. The most essential factor for alive is an oxygen. This is the precious gift for human being to live, which he gets from the nature. Nevertheless, the development of human being grows on, progress on; he only took so many things from the nature instead of giving back. In this wayfaring, the balance of nature, balance of environment becomes spoil by the human being. Human being realize this fact too late.

It is also the responsibility of human being to give back something to the nature, environment as like it. So human being was thinking with the emotion of generosity and the feeling of giving something to the society has developed in his mind. From the view point of giving something back to the society has emerged and the concept of social responsibility raised. Human being has also done progress in the field of science & technology as he developed. Industries has started in a huge percentage due to industrial revolution. Industrialist has been used various natural resources like land, water, air, trees, minerals etc. for smoothly functioning of the industry. They have been used all these things excessively for the production of so many things to fulfill various type of needs of human being as well as other animals. In this process, we can see the picture of the progress of human being has done in one side but on the other side, there is huge loss of nature/environment. The health of human being who lives around the industry has also hampered due to the pollution of water and air that produces by the industry. In the beginning, few leading Industrialist in India like Tata, Birla, Bajaj, Mahindra, Reliance etc. tried to overcome on it with implementing some social activities on voluntary basis as a social responsibility. These activities were like memorial hospitals, schools for their employee as well as society, religious temples for the people etc. Therewithal, rich people in the society helped to the needy people by various means as their social responsibility. However, social activities did not implement as compare to the loss of environment/health of human being, which has done by prosperity of industries. Because of this situation, the gap increased day by day and balance of nature has spoiled. Therefore, Government had to take the decision of making a law for spending some amount of the profit of each and every establishment which comes under The Companies Act for the development of the society so that they will execute their social responsibility healthy & intentionally. This was the beginning of the concept of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

Firstly, the term Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) included under section 135 of The Companies Act, 2013. According to this section, every company having net worth of rupees five hundred crore or more, or turnover of rupees one thousand crore or more or a net profit of rupees five crore or more during any financial year shall constitute a Corporate Social Responsibility Committee. Moreover, spends in every financial year, at least two percent of the average net profits of the company made during the three immediately preceding financial years. (The Gazette of India: 2013) Even though The Government realized that companies are not serious about this thing. Therefore, The Ministry of Corporate Affairs of Government of India issued a notification on 27 February 2014 and made a rule. Thereafter, CSR became mandatory to the entire establishments who fulfill the criteria, which comes under section 135 of The Companies Act, 2013 to spend minimum two percent of amount of their net profit for the development of the society.

2. MEANING OF CSR:

If we want to know what is actually mean by Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) we will have to understand few definitions. These are as follows-

- Business Dictionary defines CSR as

“A company’s sense of responsibility towards the community and environment (both ecological and social) in which it operates. Companies express this citizenship (1) through their waste and pollution reduction processes, (2) by contributing educational and social programs and (3) by earning adequate returns on the employed resources.” (Ravichandran R S: 2016)

- The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) posits a wide and comprehensive scope for CSR as

‘The continuing commitment by business to behave ethically and to contribute to economic development while improving the quality of life of the workplace and their families as well as the local community and the society at large’. (Shashank Shah and V. E. Ramamoorthy: 2014)

Thus, Corporate Social Responsibility means an ethical responsibility of the companies towards the society as well as nature to take care of it while performing their operations. Companies should spend some amount of their income for the development of the society as well as for the protection and conservation of an environment because they use many natural resources for the production of so many things and get benefit from it. Nevertheless, at the same time society and nature has to tolerate many losses because of the process of production of the companies. Therefore, it is a responsibility of all companies to give back something to the society as well as nature. That means Corporate Social Responsibility.

3. SELECTION OF TOPIC:

As per the CSR rule, it is mandatory to every establishment to spend at least two percent of amount of its net profit on social development. Every establishment is spending its CSR expenditure on the activities that mentioned in Schedule VII of The Companies Act, 2013. The activities, which are included in Schedule VII of The Companies Act, 2013, are as follows —

- eradicating extreme hunger and poverty;
- promotion of education;
- promoting gender equality and empowering women;
- reducing child mortality and improving maternal health;
- combating human immunodeficiency virus, acquired immune deficiency syndrome,
- Malaria and other diseases;
- ensuring environmental sustainability;
- employment enhancing vocational skills;
- social business projects;
- contribution to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund or any other fund set up by the Central Government or the State Governments for socio-economic development and relief and funds for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, other backward classes, minorities and women; and
- Such other matters as may be prescribed. (The Gazette of India: 2013) Researcher thought that he should study those activities, which has done or is doing by any establishments for Women Empowerment. Therefore, he selected this topic for study.

4. OBJECTIVES OF RESEARCH:

Every research has carried out with some objectives. It should be purposeful. Therefore, researcher has formulated some objectives. That are as follows -

- To study the status of women before getting the benefit of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities.
- To take a review of an impact of CSR on wives of farmers that committed suicide.

5. IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCH:

It is most important that research should be useful for the society. Because importance proves the utility of that research. Here are some points, which shows the importance that how this research is useful for the development of women and the change in them.

- ✓ This research will be useful for the change of overall status of women through the benefit from Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities.
- ✓ This research will also be useful for changing the family & social status of women and become self-alliance to them.
- ✓ This research will also useful for increasing confidence of women and becoming them self-defense.
- ✓ This research will also useful for underlining various aspects such as women get respect from the family and society also, the willpower of women is to be increase when they became economically empowered.
- ✓ NGO's, private sector, academician, etc. will be motivate from this research for doing developing work.
- ✓ This research will also useful to the government for the policy formation.

6. RESEARCH METHOD:

Research work finalize by using different research methods in social sciences. Therefore, Researcher has decided to adopt following research method for this research study.

- **Sample Method:** When we go for sample selection, we have to select sample technic with consideration of the area and nature of study. Based on some samples, which has selected from the universe, it is possible to make some general findings about the universe. (Aaglave Pradeep: 2015) Findings are subjective and are based on experienced as a representative. That is why sample selection method has adopted with this purpose.
- **Sample Size:** It is inevitable to decide sample size for constrain of research. Therefore, six women has chosen as sample size for this research study.
- **Method of Sample Selection:** There are mainly two types of method of sample selection. One is Probability Sampling and another is Non-Probability Sampling. It has resorted Probability Sampling for this research study. Because exact statistics is available of NGO's and respondents in the research area.
- **Qualitative Research Method:** Qualitative research is concerned with qualitative phenomenon, i.e., phenomena relating to or involving quality or kind. This type of research aims at discovering the underlying motives and desires, using in depth interviews for the purpose. Other techniques of such research are word association tests, sentence completion tests, story completion tests and similar other projective techniques. Attitude or opinion research i.e., research designed to find out how people feel or what they think about a particular subject or institution is also qualitative research. Qualitative research is especially important in the behavioral sciences where the aim is to discover the underlying motives of human behavior. Through such type of research, we can analyze the various factors which motivate people to behave in a particular manner or which make people like or dislike a particular thing. (Kothari C. R.: 2004) Therefore, Qualitative Research Method has entailed in this research.
- **Research Design:** The formidable problem that follows the task of defining the research problem is the preparation of the design of the research project, popularly known as the "research design". Descriptive Research Design has used to entail this research.
- **Data Collection:** Different primary and secondary sources have been used to dada collection for fulfilling the objectives of this research work. Checklist and observation tool has used as primary resources and various research papers, project report, books, magazines, government record etc. has used as secondary resources for data collection.
- **Limitation & Scope of Research:** For this specific study, researcher has studied an impact of CSR on women who are wives of the farmers that committed suicide and who got the financial support from **Sanskriti Sanvardhan Mandal, Sagroli (SSMS)* through CSR initiatives. There are six women among which 1 woman is from *Panbhosi* village of *Kandhar* taluka, 1 is from *Kathkalamba* of *Kandhar* taluka, 1 is from *Balantwadi* of *Kandhar* taluka & 1 is from *Lath (Kh.)*, 1 woman is from *Adampur* of *Biloli* taluka and 1 woman is from *Navandi Tanda* of *Naigaon* taluka. The limit of this research is restricted for previously mentioned area & selected women only.

7. Case Study Analysis & Data Interpretation:

Patriarchal system is the base of Indian Society. Its prevalence is remaining. We see that the status of women is always secondary in Indian society. In rural India, the status of women is relate to only cooking and giving birth to

child. Those work has less importance is to be allotted to women. She does not get the permission to take sufficient education. She does not allow to take participation in any decision making process. She gets secondary treatment as compare to men. We can see that women faces the problem of injustice, oppressing from each level of the society today also. The exploitation of women has been existing still now. There are various factors, which are responsible for this situation. The main factor is mindset of menfolk in it. Men think that women become always loyal to them. That is why she is always deliberately vulnerable from all type of benefits of the society.

Lack of education is another factor, which is a barrier in the development of women. Either she does not allow to take the education or if she gets, it is too less for her development. So she unaware about the cognition of injustice on her. She thinks that this is her duty, responsibility. There is continuous hammering on her mind that the fruition of her life is in serving others. Therefore, she has not been feel that it is injustice. That is why she is to be undeveloped. The status of women in Indian society in rural area is ever so acute. It is recognizing that the responsibility of housekeeping, cooking, char, house cleaning etc. is only of women whether she belongs to any caste or religion. It is not going to be considered that she has own entity as a human being. The NGO by named *Sanskriti Sanvardhan Mandal, Sagroli* provided the financial support to the six widow underprivileged women who lives in nearby area of NGO. (*Kandhar, Biloli & Naigaon* talukas in Nanded District of Maharashtra state). These women are wives of the farmers that committed suicide. They got CSR fund as financial assistance for doing various business activities with an objective to make available livelihood to the family members of farmers that committed suicide. Four women has got Rs.35,000/- per head and two women has got Rs.32,000/- per head as financial support to start entrepreneurial activities.

7.1. Case Study 1:

Smt.Samtribai Sambhajirao Ekbote (original name has changed) who resides in *Panbhosi Tq. Kandhar*, has got Rs.32,000/- as financial support for cloth shop from *SSMS*. Her husband committed suicide in 2016 due to debt and her total family collapsed. There are five members in her family. She has one son of seven years old and one daughter of five years old, her father-in-law, her mother-in-law and herself in her family. Her in-laws are unable to work because they are old persons. Therefore she was facing lots of problem for survive after losing her husband.

In the year 2017, *SSMS* has selected her to give financial assistance through CSR and she got it. Within one year, she is doing this business with full of confidence to overcome on her past. She brings all types of cloths from wholesale market of Nanded and sell it with getting 30-40 percent of profit. She is getting the benefit of Rs.6000/- per month from this business. She motivated for increasing her capital up to nearby Rs.15,000/- only because of this continuous income. All of her children are getting education with happiness. In addition to this, she has also started tailoring classes for women. She pointed out that I was only housewife before death of my husband. That is why I was not confident for doing any kind of business independently. Now I can confidently deal with different kind of people in this business. This change has done due to the benefit, which got from CSR activities.

7.2. Case Study 2:

Smt.Anjanabai Sadashiv Chikhle (original name has changed) is 43 years old woman who is resident of *Kathkalamba Tq. Kandhar*. She was living with her husband and 21 years of old son. Her husband was a farmer with 2 hector of agriculture. When her husband was alive he had taken Rs.80,000/- of debt from a lender. He could not pay back it within the given time. Therefore, compound interest has increased. Therefore, the sum amount of debt also increased. Moreover, it was difficult to pay back so he committed suicide. *Anjanabai* tumble-downed due to this incident. She lost the backbone of her family. Her son was studying at that time. He had to leave his education.

After few days, *SSMS* approached to this family for giving financial support under CSR. *Anjanabai* has got Rs.35,000/- as financial support from *SSMS* and she started grocery shop in her village. She is to be always busy with this activity. She gets Rs.4000/- per month from this business. Now she became more confident than before. This year, she also brought new pair of bulls for farming. She runs grocery shop and her boy works in the farm. She gives all credit to *SSMS*.

7.3. Case Study 3:

SSMS gave financial support of Rs.35,000/- to *Smt.Darubai Kisan Pawar* (original name has changed) who belongs to *Navandi Tanda Tq. Naigaon* and she purchased 8 goats. She had 1.5-acre agriculture but she had to sell it for pay back debt of Rs.1,15,000/- after her husband's death. Now she does not have agriculture.

There are six members in her family. *Darubai* has three children. She lives with her in-laws and her children in the village. After death of her husband, she used to go to other's farm for farm work with her mother-in-law to survive. Her father-in-law used to work in other's farm as a servant (*Salgadi*). They were not able to fulfill their family's needs. Most of the time her children also used to work in the farm with her. In this situation, they could not attend the school. When she got financial assistance from *SSMS*, she decided to purchase some goats. Because she knew very well how to conserve goats. She purchased eight goats and started her own business. When researcher

asked to her that, why did you choose this business? She told that it is very good business. Each female goat deliver two times in a year and every time she gives birth to more than one child. Furthermore, we can get milk also from the goats. Now, she became self-dependent and self-reliant due to this small business of goat maintaining. She put on the market two goats and got Rs.9000/- profit last year. Now her total capital is near about Rs.60,000/-. Her financial condition is better than before. She is very happy with this activity. There is no need to do other work of her family. She is going to purchase few agriculture in upcoming days.

7.4. Case Study 4:

Smt.Koushalyabai Ramrao Vichare (original name has changed) who is dweller of *Balantwadi* Tq. *Kandhar* has got Rs.35,000/- as financial help from *SSMS* and brought 8 goats. The figure of goats increased and reached up to 12 in one year. She got Rs.7,500/- by selling 3 goats among them. Her seventeen years old son helps her in this business. He goes to *Kandhar* daily in the morning for selling milk because *Balantwadi* is only three km away from *Kandhar*. *Koushalyabai* told that she got Rs.250/- to Rs.300/- daily from selling milk. Presently, her total capital is Rs.50,000/-. The figure of goats is going to be increase by 6 approximately in next three months because three goats are pregnant and it is expected to get Rs.30,000/- income from selling them after that.

7.5. Case Study 5:

SSMS gave financial support of Rs.35,000/- to *Smt.Savitabai Sunil Bhise* (original name has changed) who is resident of *Lath (Kh.)* Tq. *Kandhar*. She is 37 years old. There are only three members (her in-laws and herself) in her family. She has not any offspring. Her husband has committed suicide before two years. Her husband had taken Rs.2,00,000/- debt from the police patil of the village for cultivation of sugarcane and done it. However, due to the poor rainfall since last two years he did not get good quality crop and that is why he could not repaid his debt. Finally, he committed suicide.

Savitabai had to sell 2 acre of agricultural land to the police patil in favour of debt after death of her husband. Now she has only 2 acre of agricultural land remain. When she got an assistance from *SSMS* she bought a milky buffalo. The buffalo was pregnant when she bought it. After three months, the buffalo delivered and she gave birth to a heifer. *Savitabai* gets Rs.3000/- per month income from selling 2 liters milk daily. Last year, she got profit of Rs.25,000/- from this business. Her father-in-law helps her in this activity. He goes to farm daily for grazing buffalo. Gradually, she is trying to overcome on her past.

7.6. Case Study 6:

Smt.Gayabai Housaji Sawant (original name has changed) is only 25 years old woman who lives in *Aadampur* Tq. *Biloli*. She was living with her husband and one girl child along with her mother-in-law. Her husband committed suicide before two years back. Now there are only three members in her family. Her father-in-law has already no more. He dead after one year of her marriage due to cancer. She has 2.5 acre of agriculture land. Her husband was working in his own farm. He had taken Rs.50,000/- debt from a money lender in his village for digging a well in the farm before two years back of his death. He could not pay back it and he committed suicide.

Gayabai got financial support of Rs.32,000/- from *SSMS* and bought 4 goats. The augmentation of two more goats has taken place in one year. She vended 3 goats in a local market and got Rs.20,000/- from it. Her total capital has increased nearby Rs.38,000/- in this year. Now a day she is living more confidently & with self-respect. This year, her six years old girl goes to school also. Altogether, women have a source of self-employment as per their capabilities after getting the benefit from *CSR* activities. Now they known as women entrepreneurs in their respective villages. Their confidence & leadership qualities boosted like anything. They are doing self-employment with performing their family responsibilities. They proved that they could contribute to upgrade the economic condition of their family. The capacity of decision-making build up in themselves. They got self-assurance to talk. Therefore, the status of women in society is changing. People behave respectfully with them. These all women challenge the patriarchal system of the society and proudly saying that all these changes has done due to the benefit of *CSR* activities. Therefore, we can say that the benefit of *CSR* activities has succeeded useful for upholding the standard of living of women. This is the impact of *CSR* on wives of farmers that committed suicide.

8. CONCLUSION:

It concluded from above discussion that the status of women in India is still secondary. Women are not allow to participating in the process of decision making regarding family, religious, economic, social, educational and political sectors. Disappearing and uneconomic work are allotted to women as compare to men. There are adverse effects on mentality of women due to patriarchy. In the current scenario, women are developing through the coordination of *NGO's* & government institutions. Women are empowering by various social work activities. In the era of post-modernism, most of the women are taking eagle-flight in various sectors. The status of women under *CSR* is being changing on the viewpoint of development. The socio-economic status of many women is improving due to

economic benefit of CSR. Those women who got the benefit from CSR activities are becoming powerful as compare to those women who did not get the benefit from CSR activities. In short, we can say that CSR activities are playing an important role in changing the status of rural women.

REFERENCES:

Government Gazette:

1. The Gazette of India, (2013), The Companies Act, Section 135, Ministry of Law and Justice, New Delhi, Page No. 80.
2. The Gazette of India, (2013), The Companies Act, Schedule VII, Ministry of Law and Justice, New Delhi, Page No. 294.

Books:

3. Ravichandran R S, (2016), CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY Emerging Opportunities and Challenges in India, LexisNexis Publication, Haryana, Page No.08.
4. Shashank Shah and V E Ramamoorthy, (2014), Soulful Corporations A Values-Based Perspective on Corporate Social Responsibility, Springer India, Page No.157.
5. Aaglave Pradeep, (2015), Social Research Methodology & Technics, Shri. Sainath Publications, Nagpur, Page No. 187.
6. Kothari C. R., (2004), Research Methodology Methods & Technics, New Age International (P) Limited Publishers, New Delhi, Page No. 20.