

## A STUDY ON WOMEN EDUCATION AND SOCIAL REFORMS, THE ROLE OF DAASYA - NGO: SELECTED CASE STUDIES

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**Abstract:** Women education is very important for women empowerments in the current society. Women education refers to improve knowledge, skill, occupation of girls and women. This Paper brings to focus on success stories of Women Empowerment in the Society with the able Aid and Guidance by the NGOs. Namely Daasya, it is one such NGOs in Chennai; who are continuously helping and bringing out a change in the lives of several women and girls students from Tamil Nadu which includes both Rural and Urban areas. This paper will cover the few case studies with three major aspects in women empowerment such as School Education, Health Care and Occupation in the different part of Tamil Nadu, India. This research paper also tries to focus on the role of NGOs is social reforms. Daasya helps to implement various government schemes in the society as needed. This paper also discuss about Daasya's social activities and their role in developing the destitute women, girls from poor families in Chennai, Thiruvallur, Kumbakonam and Salem districts of Tamil Nadu, India.

**Keywords:** Women Empowerment, Social Reforms, Girls Education, Health Care, and Occupation.

**Introduction:** In India, women education has been given importance and it needs to be improvised to bring about our country's growth and also needs to be addressed irrespective of culture, community, religion, education, economics and various aspects. In olden days, majority of women / girls were not educated as their families didn't allow them, even though they were capable to run their families. In our present in social economic status, women education is a must to improve the women's empowerment and social reforms successfully with the aid of well supported family, government and NGO sectors. Women's education is now improved in urban area as we have seen an increase in number of girls in schools and opting for higher education. Also, the percentage strength of girls and meritorious rank holders has increased in large numbers.

Government supports women education and empowerment by providing lots of schemes, relaxing rules and giving them proper guidance. Now a day's both Rural and Urban area girls students are doing well and the recorded rank holders for state / district levels has risen up considerably.

In modern society women education and their empowerments awareness is on an increase as we are able to see a change and women power established in various sectors, industries and societies. In current society girls and women's are aware about the education and its importance and are ready to stay free / paid hostels for their education and occupation.

In Poor families even though the women are uneducated they motivate their kids to get educated and are sending their wards to schools / colleges. Earlier we had gender issues but modern society genders are equal and contribute to the success of women.

Women empowerment is a significant topic in current society and it includes the various activities like

security, education, development of skills, economics, etc.

In India, women education and empowerment significantly increased more and both central and state government monitor and support more and motivate girls education, women's occupation, reservations for women's category in various sectors, etc. Other than that Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) helps more for child and women's education and empowerment. Some of NGO's doing great job to support women with respect to providing shelters, education, self-help groups, jobs, etc.

India has a rich history of social reformers who have helped to establish the foundations of modern India, and, in some cases, have affected a worldwide impact through political action and philosophic teachings. Especially given India's leaning towards oral and mythical rather than a written tradition throughout much of its history it is almost impossible to put together an exhaustive list of social reformers who have lived through the ages. Below are some of them.

**Social Reforms:** Beginning of 19th century women's social reform activities started and 20<sup>th</sup> century onwards we saw women progressing in various areas like politics, social activities, government sectors, education, socio economics improvement etc. All this was possible due to the basic nature of a women being soft and bold and the ability to serve humanity. Their helping tendency towards other human beings has enabled Social Reforms to a great extent and uplifted women from diverse backgrounds.

**Mother Teresa:** Mother Teresa, who is simple by nature and did great work for humanity and remarkable social services. People still think her to be God as she has helped so many families. Because of her humble nature and unbounded love for people she was able to serve the society laded with poor people to an unimaginable extent. She helped to clean and

dress the leprosy disease patients and also street children, men and women.

**Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa:** Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa was a popular saint of India. He had a strong faith in the existence of god. He regarded every woman of the society, including his wife, Sarada, as holy mother. He helped society based on his tradition and spiritual capabilities. Because of his speech and mantras people always crowded without distinction of case. Swami Vivekananda was one of the prominent disciples of Ramakrishna, who later formed the Ramakrishna Mission.

**Swami Vivekananda:** Swami Vivekananda who did social reforms in the society with faith of God not only in India and help spread all over the world. He was popular in Western countries and he started speech in USA like "Brothers and Sisters of America" which is popular. He spoke in Parliament about the World's Religions at Chicago on 11 September, 1893, where he introduced Hindu philosophy to the west and he taught how a nation with such a vast diversity can be bound together by a feeling of humanity and brother-hood.

In this paper we are going to discuss about the Chennai based NGO named as Daasya (Registered NGO) and its support for women's education and empowerments with few case studies.

**NGO - Daasya:** Daasya was started in June 2000 with a like-minded group of self-motivated individuals hailing from the Ramakrishna Missions of thoughts and influenced by the inspirations and teachings of Swami Vivekananda. This NGO's activities mainly focusses on poor people's health care and education by conducting various programmes across many districts in Tamilnadu like, Thiruvallur, Villupuram, Salem, Pudhukottai, Thiruvaroor and Kumbakonam.

The founder of this Daasya NGO is P Raman who is award winner of various organisation and societies (Director of Medical Services, Tamil Nadu, Lions Club, Rotary and Rotract Clubs, Schools, etc) for his dedication and invaluable social activities and contributions.

To focus about the education, primarily address about school education for Government and Corporation schools in both rural and urban areas. Part of this program the following activities are conducted:

- Vidhyasahai – Free note books distribution for High school & Higher Secondary students who are coming for poor families.
- Nambikkai – Personality development programs for higher education students (especially girls students), conducted by renowned HR professional, professors and talented, motivating Government officials.
- Healthy India – Exclusive health camps conducted for students and lower sector people for vision

screening, dental check-up and haemoglobin check-up for girl students.

The other milestone of this NGO is village adoption project and as a part of this they have constructed a school in an area of 5 grounds at Poongulam village, Thiruvarur District with the necessary infrastructure required for basic sanitation and hygiene like providing private motor jet, toilets facilities, water purification, laptops. Upon successful completion of the project, the same was handed over to the Government, periodic visits are made by the committee members every year and prizes are distributed during the annual day celebration. A good number of children have benefited out of the initiative and have been provided with basic education up to primary level.

To support the Tribal people and their kids education this NGO selected village from hill station which is Kalvarayan Malai, Salem District: It has been supported with various activities like donation of books and creating library, providing computers, uniform for school children, personality development campaign on how to boost brain power, etc and still supporting them.

Daasya NGO, is successfully conducting various Health campaigns including the following activities:

1. Periodic vision screening camps, Dental check-up, Hepatitis B & C Screening, cancer awareness programs, ENT check-up, general health check-ups are conducted in alliance with various Health institutions.
2. Starting from June 2010 every week Wednesdays Leprosy affected out patients are fed morning breakfast at Saidapet, after obtaining subsequent approvals from the Tamil Nadu Government. This has been an ongoing activity happening without any break for the last 5 years with the support and good will of numerous donors.
3. Blood donation camps are conducted in association with Rotary Club, Lions Club and other service minded donors. Kidney check-up and awareness programs are being done periodically with the help of Tanker Institution.
4. Other Activities:
  - Committee members and their associated well-wishers sponsor food for mentally deprived, visual impaired, senior citizens by providing monthly groceries, dress materials, blanket, diapers and other medical needs like clutches, spectacles etc on special and auspicious occasions.
  - Ananda Deepavali – Last year Diwali was celebrated along with 100 Leprosy families by providing end to end needs for aiding in their celebrations. Oil, hair wash, comb and other accessories along with sweets were distributed to those families.
  - Daasya had a joint venture along with Mahila Bank in successfully assisting numerous general public in creating new bank accounts under the

Prime Minister's Jan Dhan yojana, future activities are also planned for spreading awareness and implementing the Insurance scheme in the coming days.

There are various ongoing activities conducted with the support of many kind hearted donors and many other instant supports provided to the needy. Monthly activity details are circulated to all the respective people who are in long term association, in support of Daasya.

At times of natural disasters hit places, like Gujarat, Nepal earthquake and Tsunami hit areas like Tamilnadu, Daasya has collected funds from various people as part of relief fund in material and kind.

The various activities / programmes are conducted by Daasya as listed below and still they are continuing the activities with help of goodness people and god's grace.

**Table 1:** Daasya's various programmes, activities and accomplishments over the past three years

Sl. No	Programme Name	Programmes / Activities	No. of Camps
1.	Vision camp	School Students and Public people vision screening activities	20
2.	Blinds supports	Kits provided like, Blue tooth, Blind CDs, pen drive, Slides, etc	8
3.	Old age homes	Food, Blankets, Provisions, etc	8
4.	Heart Camp	Diagnosis	2
5.	Blood test and Blood Donations	Sugar, Haemoglobin tests, etc And Blood donation (mobile team)	6
6.	Dental camp	Dental check-up and treatment	3
7.	Child Home	Food, Blankets, Provisions, etc	4
8.	Girls student Pooja for Board Exams	High School and Higher Secondary students	4
9.	Women's day	Motivational program and SHG activities	2
10.	Girls students Personality Program	Motivational and Security related programs	4
11.	Teachers day	Competition of Teachers and Students	2
12.	Note books distribution	Academic year starting Corp & Govt. school students	5
13.	Mahila Bank program	Awareness program for SHG	2
14.	Mental Care Centre	Food, Dresses, Provisions	5

Apart from the above activities Daasya has created some milestone activities for Women's education and Women's empowerment. Here are few case studies about Daasya's successful motivation of women's empowerment.

#### **Case Study 1: School to College and College to Job – Success**

**History:** Parvathy (name changed here) who is from poor family and was studying 8th standard in the

government school, Thirupambaram Village, Thiruvavur District, Tamil Nadu. During that period she was suffering from a severe pain in the heart and upon further medical diagnosis her family came to know that she needed a Heart Valve replacement. Daasya came to know this girl's situation and took the initiative to help the child with her with the surgery.

**Diagnosis & Treatments:** She was brought to Chennai and admitted in one of the hospital and doctors

did a remarkable job on the heart valve replacement for this girl. Daasya took care of the complete medical expenses (pre surgery and post-surgery) and her parent's accommodation in Chennai as well.

**Achievements:** Parvathy wanted to do higher education after completing her school education and was inspired about the value of nursing course and she again reached out to Daasya and they helped her complete the degree in three years. Based on her academic accomplishments service minded, she got job from the same hospital and she is now well settled with family and is now married as well.

#### **Case Study 2: Health to Job and Job to Service – Success**

**History:** Maha (name changed here), a 38 years old physically challenged lady who is working in private job to support her family. She is very calm, enthusiastic in nature. She wanted to stand with her own income to help herself and her family and does not care about her physical challenges.

Daasya Supported her well and they provided her wheel chair to her who helps her travel from her home to job place and back. During this period Maha had health issues and Maha, her family and Daasya came to the shocking news about her breast cancer and Daasya decided to extend help and they have taken immediate actions for her medical treatment.

**Diagnosis & Treatment:** Maha as admitted in one of the leading hospital in Chennai and doctors did wonderful job on this historical milestone surgery. Pre and Post surgery treatment expenses Daasya taken care and she is perfectly pleasing now.

**Achievements:** Since her honest and dedication, she wanted to involve the social activities and ready to travel anywhere to help the people as a result she is now Member –in Daasya, Multimedia division.

She travelled various districts in Tamil Nadu and visiting schools with Daasya and she has motivated girls students to develop their personality and educations.

#### **Case Study 3: School to College and College to Computer Job – Success**

**History:** Daasya conducted 5 years continuously free Tuition and Vocational (Computer) Training program Ashok Nagar, Chennai for Corporation and Govern-

ment Girls schools students. The first batch (2005-2006), one of the 11<sup>th</sup> student Manimala (Name changed here) from corporation school were studying in Daasya's tuition centre. She lost her father and came from poor family but she is good academic student with more skill sets.

**Motivation:** Manimala wanted to do computer related degree after her completion of Higher Secondary. Since she was studying well she secured 900+ out of 1200 in her board examinations. She was struggling for her further studies and Daasya considered her situation and took care of steps for her higher studies fees.

**Achievements:** Due to her academic record and supports from Daasya, she got admission in Bachelor of Computer Science course from one of the Leading Women's college in Chennai. After successful completion of her course with good academic records she got placement in of the MNC Company and now she settled well and she is supporting her family and others.

**Other Milestone Activities of Daasya:** With collaboration of Snakara Nethralaya Eye Hospital, Chennai and Daasya did screening campaigns for schools and especially more than 10,000 girls students examined their visions and provided eye glasses with free of cost to needy students in Nannilam, Thiruvavur and Kumbakonam Districts in Tamil Nadu.

Daasya did a great job by conducting NCC and NSS camp in Kaya Kolathur, Echangadu with help of 675 girl's students with 10 days camp. They took care of accommodations and food, safety and security levels.

**Conclusion:** To support women's education, empowerment and social reforms, Non-Government Originations activities have been helpful to the society. Through this presentation we have touched upon the various activities and case studies of the Daasya NGO. We conclude that the success of women's education is driven with help of support from NGO's. NGO support is helping women from economically poor background by empowering and will hope to see social reforms in the society and a bright future for India.

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