

**Women Empowerment for Sustaining Development**



*Workshop on*  
**Mainstreaming Social Capital for  
Women Empowerment**

*Organized by*



**DHAN Kalanjiam Foundation**

**Madurai Symposium 2019**

**Thamukkam Grounds, Madurai  
September 18, 2019, Wednesday**

## Madurai Symposium

The Madurai Symposium is a development platform where development stakeholders – community institutions, government and non-government institutions' (NGOs), banks, donors, philanthropists and academia would converge at Madurai for people conventions, workshops, seminars and conferences so as to share and learn from each others experience and practices for setting up collaborative endeavors. Since its inception in 2003, so far eight such biennial events have been organized that has attracted over 10000 participants every year. The one being organized in 2019 is the Nineth edition on the theme of '**Women Empowerment for Sustaining Development**'.

## Women Empowerment

Historically and culturally, women have been subjugated and treated as “Weaker Sex their arginalization individually. There are growing with Male dominance widely prevalent

in the society”. This situation stems from being un-organized and inability to address evidences across the globe, that when women, more particularly from the poor segment have been organized, they have been able to meet the legacy challenges and charter their own way with confidence.

Self-Help Group movement of poor women, for instance, is the best example of how Social Capital has played vital role in women empowerment in multi-dimensional ways in different contexts. Even more noteworthy, from empowerment perspective is the assumption of leadership role and the attendant appreciation and practice of good governance at the grassroots with the potential to transform the quality of governance upstream. The experiences of the stakeholders on the theme when shared in Madurai Symposium would enhance our understanding of many effective processes in women empowerment.

## Mainstreaming the Women Empowerment

Women Empowerment is the process and enables their participation socially, economically, politically and academically for ensuring the sustainable development at national level. Empowerment calls for equitable space for women without disparity. Still there are a lot of gaps in mainstreaming these processes. Their voices are needed in development planning for country and they have to set the agenda and lead their planning on Women empowerment. During the time of budgeting at National level, women need to be consulted and fund allocation to be ensured for developing the issues based products and services.

The forum like National Commission for Women has to take up the agenda based on current issues and actively engage them for mainstreaming this process. For this collective action is needed and this provides confidence to them to raise their voices based on their issues. On account of this,



there are emerged an umpteen number of institutions that created the social capital to ensure the empowerment. Institutional theorists Mr.Robert Putnam defined 'Social Capital' as “connections among individuals-social net works and the norms of reciprocity and trustworthiness that arise from them”. According to his definition Social Capital is a key component to building and maintaining democracy. Social capital is significant because it enhances people's capacity by organising them for development. Social capital in the form of primary groups are performing in four key development tasks effectively such as, plan and evaluate to make decisions; mobilise resources and manage them; communicate with each other and coordinate their activities; and resolve conflicts. People institutions are recognized as “fourth sector” considering civil society organization and community based organization.

In these aspects, lot of institutions like Kuch Mahila Vikas Sangathan, Seva Mahila, Lijjat Papad, Kudumbashree and

other women based institutions are created on their own or by created with the mission of mainstreaming the women empowerment process through the social capital. SHG movement is one such important movement that plays vital role in this process along with various stakeholders like banks and government institutions. DHANs Kalanjiam Mutual Movement is a good example for this. With the help of SHG movement, women members are having easy access to satiate the credit needs from Banks, initiate/ expand livelihoods, enroll in insurance products etc. it is just a start and there are miles to go in terms of chasing these opportunities for their holistic empowerment. Still gaps are there in social and legal terms that have to be consciously addressed. Apart from this, there exists huge contextual variations in rural, urban and tribal that makes the women empowerment efforts further complicate. In attempt to address these grassroots challenges, Kalanjiam Foundation has been organizing the workshop with the following objectives,



## Objectives

- To exchange experiences of social capital with scope for mainstreaming through their institutional leadership processes
- To enhance the perspective of women empowerment to sustain development
- To identify the areas for experimentation, scaling up and model for replications
- To consolidate the organizational experiences & work out action plan for mainstreaming the Women Empowerment

## Participants

A total of 60 participants are expected to participate in this event. The participants include, representatives from Kalanjiam SHGs, federation level leaders from various states, staff of federations, NGOs representatives and resource persons from Government Programmes, Academia, etc.

## Expected Outcomes

This workshop will help in appreciating and consolidating the current Women Empowerment initiatives by effective social capital. Apart from providing cross learning among its participants to get inspiration from each other's experiences, the workshop also envisages in working out an action plan in advancing the Women Empowerment.

## Date of the event

September 18, 2019 (Wednesday) from 02.00 PM to 05.30 PM

## About DHAN Kalanjiam Foundation

DHAN Kalanjiam Foundation is the first subsidiary of DHAN Foundation, established in 2002 to upscale the Kalanjiam Community Banking Programme. The institution envisages stabilizing the livelihoods of poor and empowering the women by providing access and control of microfinance by poor women by promoting Kalanjiam Self Help Groups and their federations. The institution promotes linkages between the people institutions and public & private mainstream development institutions. Kalanjiam Foundation operates in 12 states of the country with an outreach of over eight lakh poor women organized into 52851 groups and 174 federations as on March 2019..

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