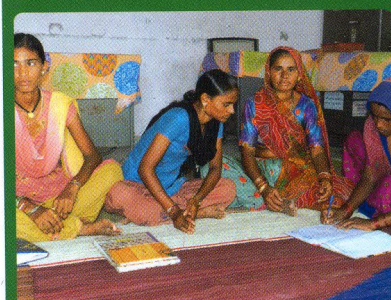


Savings / Credit Cooperatives
**Women's
Empowerment
in Gujarat**



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About the Book

Gandhi visualized cooperatives as an alternative development paradigm. Baring a few financial scams involving some cooperatives in recent years, a number of them have been catering to the urban elite, rather successfully. Over the years, attempts have been made by the government as well as Non Government Organizations (NGOs) to use Cooperative as organisational instrument to empower the marginalised women in Gujarat with a mixed bag of success and failures. This research based book focuses on the savings and credit cooperatives of Tribals, Dalits and Muslims supported by a few NGOs and Church groups with a view to organize and empower these women.

This book highlights the role of these women's cooperatives in empowering women in their economic, social and political life. The book has examined the extent to which their objectives are met and the contribution the cooperatives have made in lives of women, the marginalised communities they come from and gender relationship. Evidence indicates that cooperatives have provided the necessary impetus for economic wellbeing and human development in a society where women are discriminated against on the basis of caste, gender, class and religion. Women's experiences suggest that engagement with cooperatives has facilitated them to access sites of power and further create spaces to exercise power to empower themselves and their communities.

About the Authors:



Jacinta Canis MCJ., belongs to the Missionary of Christ Jesus Congregation, actively involved in women liberation movements for past 22 years. Having extensive experiences of working with marginalized women from Gujarat, Bihar, Jharkhand Maharashtra and almost all districts of Gujrat namely Kutch, Sabarkantha, Banaskantha, Baroda, Narmada, Kheda, and Anand; Ahmedabad. Jacinta has represented their experiences at various international social fora in Brazil, Spain, Germany, France and Afghanistan. She is a consultant for gender and microfinance training for different women's group. Known for her struggle against gender discrimination, she continues standing fearlessly for women rights, justice and empowerment.



Robert Arockiasamy S.J., is an Associate Professor of Economics at St. Xavier's College, Ahmedabad. He also worked as a Visiting Fellow at Universidad Ibero Americana, Mexico, and Research and Information System, an autonomous think-tank, under Ministry of External Affairs, GoI, New Delhi. He has a Ph.D. in economics with specialisation in Finance and Trade. His past work includes Impact of food safety standards and processed food exports, Prospects of Manufacturing exports from India, India-Mexico Preferential Trade Agreement, Export sector and employment potential.



Jimmy C. Dabhi S.J. is the research director at Behavioural Science Centre, Ahmedabad engaged in Human Rights and Human Development. His special interest is in Voluntary Sector Organisations and development management and he has M.Sc. in Voluntary Sector Organisations from London School of Economics and Ph.D. in Sociology with special focus on organisation culture of Non-governmental organisations and their effectiveness. He is also a professional member of Indian Society for Applied Behavioural Science, India. Besides social research he continues to teach at various academic, and Human Development Institutes. He also has number of articles and books to his credit.

