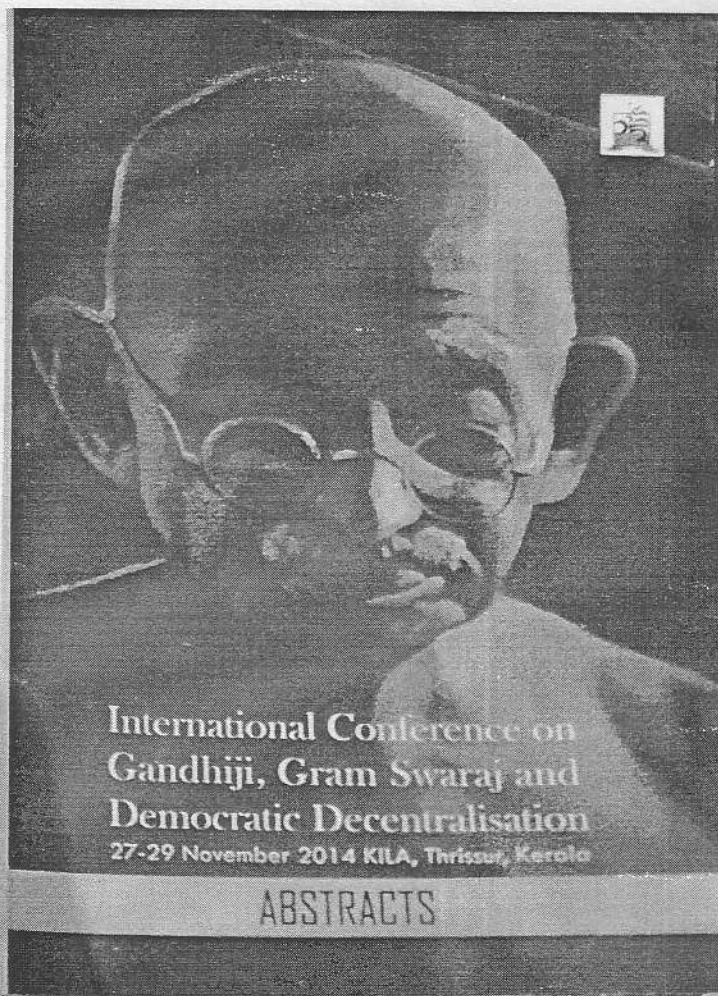




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## Realization of Gandhiji's Dream on Women Empowerment - A Kerala Model

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To Gandhi, the three important factors that promote women empowerment are: education, employment and change in social structure. All the three components are equally important and mutually related. Kerala has got an appreciable track record of women empowerment in the whole of India. Kerala's move towards women empowerment got its power with the introduction of KUDUMBASREE, an innovative community based women-oriented initiative to fight against poverty.

Major objectives of this study are-

- > To measure the extent to which Gandhiji's dream of women empowerment is realized in Kerala.
- > To analyses the role played by Kudumbasree towards achieving the goal of women empowerment.

This study is descriptive and analytical in nature. The study is primarily based

on the existing literature. Quantitative and qualitative data collected from different sources are used in this study. Primary data used in the study are collected through interaction with members of Kudumbasree and local government bodies.

On analysis of the data collected from various sources it can be seen that Kudumbasree is playing a major role in the upliftment of the Kerala women especially in the educationally and socially backward rural areas. As a result the women of the state became active participants in the planning and implementation of various women empowerment and antipoverty programmes. The results of the project show that the women who were regarded as voiceless and powerless started identifying their inner power, their strength, opportunities for growth and their role in re-shaping their own destiny through kudumbasree.